



Australian Government

Threatened Species

**STRATEGY ACTION PLAN
2021-2026**



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Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone 1800 900 090

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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF COUNTRY

throughout Australia and their continuing
connection to land, sea and community.
We pay our respects to them and their cultures
and to their elders past, present and future.



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SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS



Objective 1:

By 2026, all priority species on track for improved trajectory by 2031

Objective 2:

By 2026, all priority places on track for improved condition by 2031

Target 1:

Implement feral cat and fox management across 100% of the important habitat for susceptible priority species, using methods identified as best-practice by 2026

Target 2:

Implement feral cat and fox management in 100% of priority places where feral cats and foxes are identified as a key threat to condition, using best practice methods selected for the location by 2026

Target 3:

Reduce Gamba Grass to an area less than its 2021 range by 2026

Target 4:

Secure 100% of nationally listed species impacted by Myrtle Rust in insurance collections and populations by 2026

Target 5:

Reduce introduction and establishment of new exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases by 2026

Target 6:

Increase the area managed for conservation by 50 million hectares by 2026



Target 7:

Add 5 new species across the national safe haven network to improve representation of invasive predator-susceptible threatened species by 2026

Target 8:

Secure at least 80% of nationally listed threatened plant species in insurance collections by 2026

Target 9:

All jurisdictions and the Commonwealth improve and increase the overall inclusion of critical biodiversity assets into emergency response management and planning systems by 2026

Target 10:

Actions are underway to support the resilience and adaptive capacity of 100% of priority species and places at risk from climate change impacts by 2026

Target 11:

Track and publish the implementation of priority actions identified in conservation advices, recovery plans and relevant threat abatement plans for 100% of priority species by 2026

Target 12:

Develop at least 5 new tools to mitigate impact of broad-scale threats on threatened species by 2026

Target 13:

Establish a monitoring program to fill critical data and information gaps for 50% of priority species by 2026

Target 14:

Proactively engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the preparation of 100% of EPBC Act conservation planning documents for culturally significant threatened species and ecological communities by 2026

Target 15:

Partners and/or private investment will support 50% of projects that benefit priority species and priority places by 2026

Target 16:

Citizen science or community groups will lead activities for 50% of priority species and places, to help increase information base and assist recovery by 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2021-2026 identifies the priority species, places, actions and targets that underpin the Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 vision.

This Action Plan introduces 100 priority threatened species and 20 priority places, representing Australia's diverse land, sea and freshwater environments. The Plan also includes specific actions, outcomes, and targets for priority species, places and output targets for each of the 8 action areas identified in the Strategy as fundamental to the recovery of threatened species.

These species, places, actions and targets will be the focus of national efforts and investments from 2021 to 2026 and beyond. Actions to improve the recovery and condition of priority species and places will also benefit other threatened species and ecological communities.

Actions include new and existing initiatives and policies from across the Australian Government to benefit threatened plants, animals and ecosystems and contribute to Australia meeting its national and international responsibilities.

These include:

- Programs that can benefit threatened species and threatened ecological communities
- Policies including Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019 - 2030 (which enacts Australia's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity and is the overarching policy umbrella for all biodiversity related efforts), Biosecurity 2031, National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- The objectives and operation of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Action Plan was developed with input from the community, land managers, scientists, conservation groups, Indigenous land and sea managers and other stakeholders.

Australia's threatened species are valued, protected and on the path to recovery



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuing connection to land, sea and community, and in implementing this Action Plan, we aim to work in partnership to advance their aspirations to maintain and protect their culture and custodianship of Australia's native plants and animals.

This Plan is just the beginning. The Australian Government plays an important role to coordinate national efforts to conserve and protect our native plants and animals, but we cannot do this alone. Success relies on the collective effort and expertise contributed by partners.

This Action Plan is an invitation for all Australians to collaborate on the recovery of our threatened species and places.

IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2014, the Australian Government has mobilised more than \$660 million for projects directly supporting outcomes for threatened species and threatened ecological communities.

These investments are complemented by other Australian Government environment spending, such as more than \$2 billion in commitments through the National Landcare Program alone since 2014.

This Action Plan will be supported by continuing and new Australian Government funding programs.

- National Landcare Program
- Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat package
- Koala Conservation and Protection package
- Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program
- Ocean Leadership package
- Great Barrier Reef package
- Environment Restoration Fund
- National Environmental Science Program

Conservation is everyone's business and the Australian Government will support or build on contributions from other important partners working to help recover threatened species, including state and territory governments, land and sea managers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, scientists, environmental non-government organisations, businesses and community.





OVERVIEW

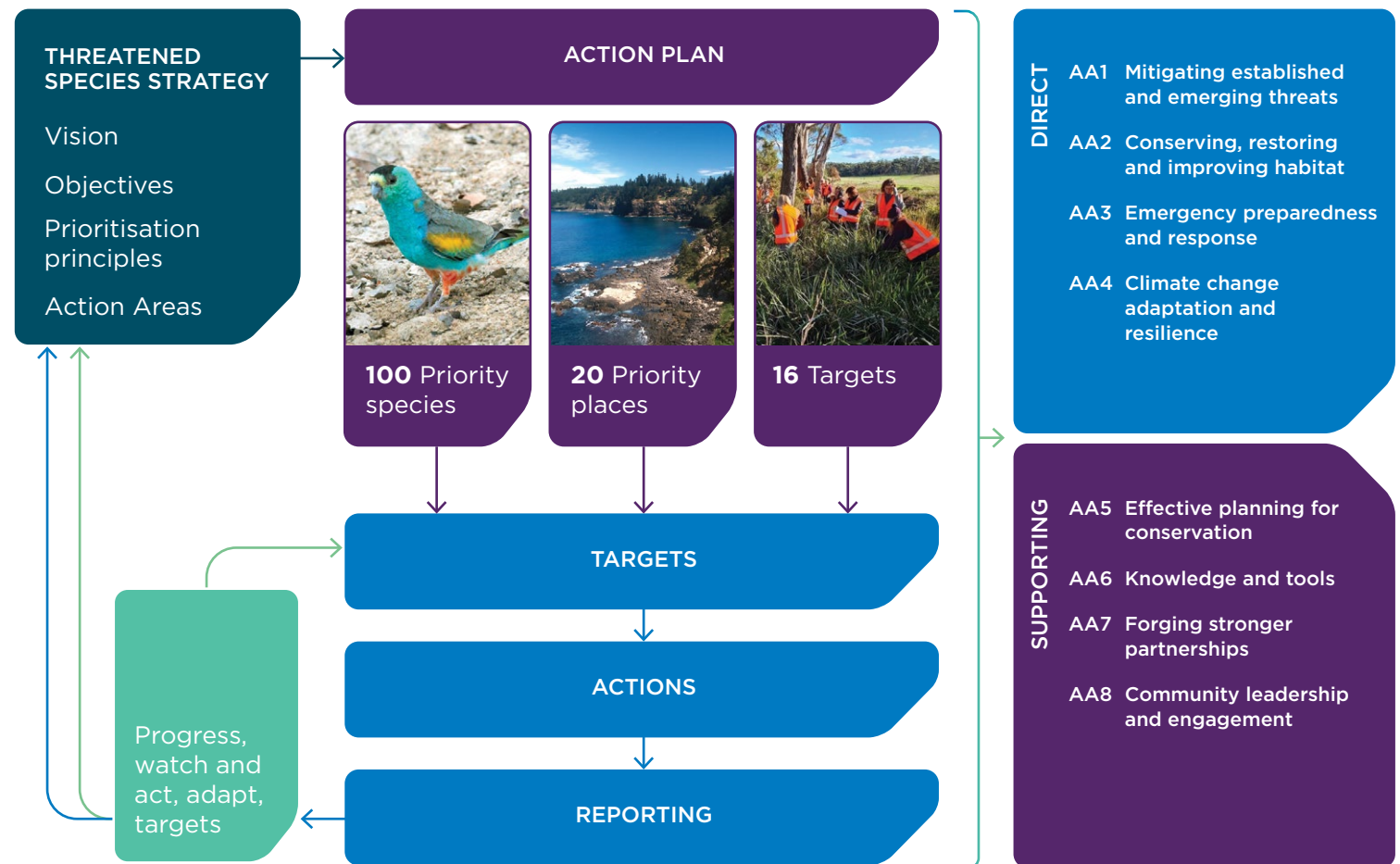
The 5 year targets and key actions set out in this Action Plan are based on significant input from experts and the community.

The objectives to improve the trajectories of 100 priority species and 20 priority places set a focus for targeted actions and reflect the Strategy's prioritisation principles. These priorities are listed in Appendix 1 and 2.

The targets ensure accountability, provide a measure for tracking progress under the Action Plan, and a common set of actions to coordinate collective efforts. They help focus action where it is needed most, where we know we can be effective, and where the greatest benefit to threatened species can be achieved.

Connected and complementary in nature, each target and range of actions will help us track toward achieving the Strategy's high-level 10 year objectives.

Figure 1: How the Action Plan underpins elements of the Strategy, applying the objectives, principles and action areas (AA) to identify 5 year priorities, targets and actions.



PRIORITY SPECIES AND PRIORITY PLACES

This first 5 year Action Plan of the Strategy sets actions in motion towards meeting these objectives

Objective 1:

By 2026, all priority species on track for improved trajectory by 2031

Objective 2:

By 2026, all priority places on track for improved condition by 2031

Why is this important?

While all threatened species and natural environments are important, focusing on a limited number of priority species and priority places helps target effort and resources so that tangible outcomes can be achieved, measured and shared.

A key finding from the Australian Government's first Threatened Species Strategy – launched in 2015 – was that recovery for many species takes time, especially for species that take many years to reproduce. To get priority species and places 'on track' for achieving improved trajectories when the Strategy expires in 2031, this Action Plan strives to ensure that a range of activities will be underway to support each priority species and place by at least 2026.

The 100 priority species and 20 priority places were carefully and strategically selected to ensure a good balance between the important prioritisation principles of extinction risk, multiple benefits, feasibility, importance to people, uniqueness and representativeness across Australia's widely varied species, landscapes and seascapes. Improving the trajectories of these priority species and places will not only have direct benefits for the identified species and places, but should also benefit many other threatened species, ecological communities and native wildlife that share the same range or have similar threats.

The Action Plan will begin by establishing baseline status and trends for each priority species and place, then guided by relevant conservation planning documents, identify key recovery actions to prioritise and finally measure and report on progress.





What will we do?

BY 2022

Collate and publish 2021 baseline information, define measures of success, and identify key activities for all priority species, including:

- population and distribution for the 2021 Strategy baseline year
- habitat that is important and threats that need to be addressed for the species' long-term survival and recovery
- define for each species how we will measure whether it is successfully on track at 2026* for an improved trajectory by 2031*
- key recovery actions to be supported are prioritised, guided by relevant species conservation planning documents and review of activities already underway by other partners.

BY 2022

Collate and publish 2021 baseline information and identify key actions for all priority places, including:

- key indicators for condition, to measure against the 2021 Strategy baseline year
- habitat that is important for threatened species and threatened ecological communities and threats that need to be addressed to secure or improve this habitat
- threats that need to be addressed to improve the place's overall condition for threatened species
- define for each place how we will measure whether it is successfully on track at 2026 for improved condition by 2031
- key recovery actions to be supported are prioritised, guided by existing conservation management and/or regional environmental plans and review of activities already underway by other partners.

BY 2022-26

Commence or continue key recovery actions and/or build on activities underway, expanding collective recovery and threat management.

BY 2026

Assess the trajectories of all priority species and condition of all priority places against the publicly available 2021/22 baselines and the measures of success.

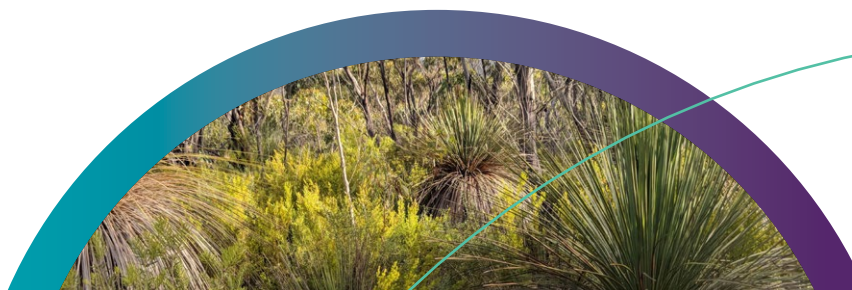
How does this fit with other work?

27 of the 100 priority species were also priority species under the first Threatened Species Strategy. Continuing to work on these species will build on previous actions and baseline information to achieve longer-term outcomes.

What can you do?

After the baseline assessments of each species and place are completed in 2022, information on key actions needed to improve their trajectories and condition will be shared on the Strategy home web page at: awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/strategy-home. Check back regularly to stay involved.

* measures could include, for example, the rate of change in population over time, and/or other measures or activities that provide a biologically meaningful indication that a species is on track to achieve an improved trajectory by 2031.





MITIGATING ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING THREATS

Reduce the impact of feral cats, foxes, Gamba Grass, Myrtle Rust and new environmental invasives on priority species and places

Target 1:

Implement feral cat and fox management across 100% of the important habitat for susceptible priority species, using methods identified as best-practice by 2026

Target 2:

Implement feral cat and fox management in 100% of priority places where feral cats and foxes are identified as a key threat to condition, using best practice methods selected for the location by 2026

Target 3:

Reduce Gamba Grass to an area less than its 2021 range by 2026

Target 4:

Secure 100% of nationally listed species impacted by Myrtle Rust in insurance collections and populations by 2026

Target 5:

Reduce introduction and establishment of new exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases by 2026

Why is this important?

Across Australia, feral cats and European red foxes kill native wildlife for food and threaten more than 120 nationally listed threatened species with extinction, and through impacting the balance of fauna species, can degrade the condition of threatened ecological communities.

In northern Australia, the spread of exotic Gamba Grass is threatening native plants by displacing them and threatening native animals by fuelling intense fires. On our east coast, the exotic Myrtle Rust fungus is causing death and disease in many species of Australian trees, including eucalypts, tea trees and bottle brushes.

Reducing the impact of these invasive predators, plants and pathogens will support the recovery of at least 80 priority species and many more nationally listed threatened species in priority places and across the landscape. Looking ahead, reducing the risk of new exotic, invasive species potentially entering Australia will help prevent future losses of native wildlife. We need to find out more about the 168 priority exotic pests, weeds and diseases known to pose significant environmental risk and their potential impact on Australia's threatened species and ecological communities.



What will we do?

Feral cats and foxes

When	
2022	Define best practice landscape-scale feral predator control for the priority species and/or locations targeted for action through to 2026. This includes locations identified within priority places and important habitat for predator-susceptible priority species.
2022-2026	Promote best practice landscape-scale feral predator management across priority places and important habitat for predator-susceptible priority species.
2022-2026	Promote best practice management through the National Feral Cat and Fox Coordinator and Feral Cat Taskforce to coordinate consistent on-ground action.

Gamba Grass

2022	Develop a best practice management manual for the control of Gamba Grass and promote to land managers and governments.
2022-2026	Promote best practice control activities to tackle the threat of Gamba Grass and other invasive grasses in priority places.
2022-2026	Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the community to take action to manage invasive grasses, through programs including Indigenous Protected Areas.
2022-2026	Work with Western Australia to eradicate Gamba Grass from the known location/s within the state.

Myrtle Rust

2022	Undertake a stocktake of nationally listed Myrtle Rust-affected Myrtaceae species held as specimens in seed/germplasm banks/botanical gardens, and their availability for research, recovery and restoration.
2023	Commence work with relevant groups to include missing specimens held in seed/germplasm banks/botanical gardens.
2022-2026	Commence ex situ conservation actions, based on relevant conservation planning documents, for all nationally listed Myrtle Rust-affected species.
2022-2026	Support a national coordinated approach to addressing the risks posed by Myrtle Rust, including through community action to prevent spread and raise awareness.

New exotic pests, weeds and diseases

2022	Establish a 2021 baseline for annual introductions and establishment of new exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases.
2026	In partnership with state and territory governments, industry, and the community, prioritise activities that will reduce introduction and establishment of new exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases.

How does this fit with other work?

This action area builds on progress under the first Threatened Species Strategy to manage feral cats and extends to other established and emerging invasive species. It focuses on areas where Commonwealth leadership can improve landscape-scale outcomes, including complementing the work of the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer and linking efforts between state and territory government and other environment conservation managers.

This includes work to assess risks to threatened species posed by pathogens identified by the National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Disease Implementation Plan.

The assessment of the impact of invasive species and pathogens on priority species and priority places will happen in 2022, under work to establish baseline information for priority species and places for Objective 1 and 2.

A focus on threat management where Commonwealth leadership can improve landscape-scale outcomes

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, resources to help Australians mitigate these threats will be shared on the Strategy home web page. Check back regularly to stay involved!

In the meantime, simple actions like keeping your cat inside or in a fenced cat run helps our native wildlife to thrive. You can also stop the spread of invasive plants and disease by buying seed locally, don't buy on-line and when planning to go bushwalking, set time aside to clean your footwear and camping equipment before leaving home.

Resources

National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases: awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/environmental/priority-list

Approved threat abatement planning documents: awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/threat-abatement-plans/approved

Feral cats control: awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia/feral-cats

Best practice manual for Gamba Grass (in development)



2

CONSERVING, RESTORING AND IMPROVING HABITAT

Increase the restoration and conservation of important habitat for priority species and places and expand Indigenous-led approaches to managing threatened species

Target 6:

Increase the area managed for conservation by 50 million hectares by 2026

Why is this important?

Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation (such as from weeds) diminishes the area that threatened plants and animals need to survive. It has a major impact on nationally listed threatened species, including at least 70 of the priority species.

Working with communities, organisations and land managers to restore and conserve habitat, including restoring connectivity where it's beneficial, will help threatened species and threatened ecological communities to persist in the landscape and adapt to climate change.

Increasing Indigenous-led land and sea management will make a significant contribution to restoring habitat and achieving healthy ecosystems and continue Traditional Owners' custodianship of land and sea country.

Existing conservation planning documents, environmental management plans and healthy country plans already in place, will guide where to take action to restore and conserve habitat.





What will we do?

	When
Identify habitat important to the survival of priority species and identify actions required to improve this habitat, including whether habitat could be connected to improve the trajectory.	2022
Identify key actions to restore habitat in priority places where this will be a key measure of condition change using conservation planning documents and other relevant conservation management plans.	2022
Support 45 million hectares of Indigenous-led place-based planning for integrated land and sea management, such as through Indigenous Protected Areas, and activities to improve habitat for priority culturally-important species and places.	2026
Focus activities on at least 5 million hectares of important habitat for priority species and within priority places.	2026
Coordinate activities across jurisdictional and regional borders to improve habitat and connectivity where appropriate.	2022-2026

Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation diminishes the area that threatened plants and animals need to survive

How does this fit with other work?

This action area will build on existing work under the Australian Government's Indigenous Protected Areas program and the National Landcare Program and can be supported by new measures such as the Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program and the Oceans Leadership package. This action area also complements the national environment law, the EPBC Act, by supporting activities to rehabilitate habitat and undertake landscape-scale restoration.

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, resources to help Australians restore and rehabilitate habitat will be shared on the Strategy home web page. Check back regularly to stay involved!

You can help our native species by planting your own wildlife garden with native plants, restoring the native habitat on your property, and by donating or volunteering your support to restore and maintain the patch of bushland or coast close to where you live. Find and join a 'friends of' group active in your community.

Resources

National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia, Society of Ecological Restoration Australasia: seraustralasia.com/standards/home.html

Landcare Australia's find a group: landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-get-involved/findagroup/



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Prepare for and respond to future emergencies to protect threatened species



Target 7:

Add 5 new species across the national safe haven network to improve representation of invasive predator-susceptible threatened species by 2026

Target 8:

Secure at least 80% of nationally listed threatened plant species in insurance collections by 2026

Target 9:

All jurisdictions and the Commonwealth improve and increase the overall inclusion of critical biodiversity assets into emergency response management and planning systems by 2026

Why is this important?

Catastrophic events can push species dangerously close to extinction. Being better prepared, such as through establishing insurance populations or collections, or having systems in place to respond to emergencies, can help avert extinctions.

Safe havens are mainland exclosures or islands which act as arks of safety for our precious wildlife. They provide the long term protection and resources needed to recover and increase species populations, through the permanent removal and exclusion of invasive predators. Safe havens were a key component of the first Threatened Species Strategy and we want to build upon this work to protect more species in more places in a strategic way.

Securing nationally listed plant species in managed populations and collections can provide some protection for these species from future natural disasters, and can complement research, recovery or restoration efforts.

Emergency events, such as bushfires and disease outbreaks, can significantly impact Australia's threatened species. We want to be better prepared going forward by reflecting upon and learning from the 2019 - 2020 Black Summer bushfires, to help improve our understanding and improve emergency response systems.



ACTION AREA 3

What will we do?

Threatened species insurance – animals	When
Undertake a stocktake of threatened species susceptible to invasive predators that are not adequately represented in the national safe havens network, using the 2020 baseline list prepared for safe havens grants opportunity and other research as a reference, and identify the appropriate actions required to improve species representation.	2022
Convene a national ‘Safe Haven Network’ working group to build collaboration, coordination and focus effort on improving species representativeness in the national safe haven network during the life of the Action Plan.	2022
Undertake targeted translocations of underrepresented predator-susceptible species and relevant works to strategically establish safe havens that will improve representation across the network during the life of the Action Plan.	2026
Threatened species insurance – plants	
Establish a national inventory of living collections (ex situ) of EPBC Act listed plants, including records of availability of material for research, recovery and restoration to ensure we focus effort on threatened plant species that are not currently represented in insurance collections.	2023
Support research and actions that will increase the number of EPBC Act listed plant species included in insurance collections, and ensure that 30% of these species will be available to support on-ground restoration activities.	2022-2026
Emergency response	
Capture the actions taken and the lessons learnt from the 2019-20 bushfire response to develop a preparedness framework that can support responses to future environmental emergencies across all jurisdictions.	2022
Undertake a national stocktake of the approaches by jurisdictions to include critical assets in emergency response management and planning systems.	2022
Support Commonwealth, state and territory government efforts to identify and incorporate critical biodiversity assets into emergency response management and planning systems to guide future responses to bushfires and other extreme events.	2024
Determine the risk of different extreme events, including bushfires, impacting priority species and priority places, and build this into Australian Government decision-making and response tools.	2026

How does this fit with other work?

This action area builds on progress under the first Threatened Species Strategy. At year 5, it was reported that 10 safe havens were established protecting 9 threatened mammal species; more than 67% of Australia’s listed threatened species were stored in seed banks; and there was increased understanding of many threatened species populations through targeted survey and monitoring.

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, resources and information to help Australians get involved and stay up to date with our work will be shared on the Strategy home web page. Check back in regularly.

Resources

Bushfire recovery for wildlife and their habitat: awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/bushfire-recovery



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION

Improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of priority species and places to climate change

Target 10:

Actions are underway to support the resilience and adaptive capacity of 100% of priority species and places at risk from climate change impacts by 2026

Why is this important?

The changing climate is driving changes in species distribution and the composition and function of Australia's ecosystems and ecological communities. Climatic shifts can exacerbate the impacts of existing pressures, such as habitat fragmentation and invasive species, on threatened species and places.

Targeted actions are needed to assist our species and places to adapt to a changing climate and ensure their persistence into the future. However, there is a paucity of information on how climate change will affect many of our species and ecosystems, making it difficult to know where and how on-ground management efforts should be directed.

As such, a critical first step in tackling climate change for our threatened species will be improving our understanding of how changes in climate are projected to affect threatened species and places, as well as their threats.

**Improving
adaptive
capacity of our
species and
places**



What will we do?

	When
Support relevant research to improve our understanding of how climate change will impact priority species and places, as well as the threats they face.	2022-2026
Update conservation planning documents where required to include active consideration of climate change risk.	2022-2026
Identify and undertake management activities to build resilience and/or improve adaptive capacity of priority species and places vulnerable to climate change. Actions to enhance resilience and adaptability could include restoring habitat that will be refugia in the future, re-establishing habitat corridors to help migration and addressing other threats to reduce pressures.	2026

How does this fit with other work?

This action area will complement the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and can be supported by programs such as the National Environmental Science Program Climate Adaptation cross-cutting mission and the National Landcare Program.

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, resources and information to help Australians get involved and stay up to date with our work will be listed on the Strategy home web page. Please check in regularly, and in the meantime scientific guidance on which actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on susceptible threatened species is listed in relevant conservation advices and recovery plans, also available on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website.

Resources

National Environmental Science Program: awe.gov.au/science-research/nesp

National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy: awe.gov.au/science-research/climate-change/adaptation/strategy

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's Species Profile and Threats Database: environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl



5

EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING

Maximising the effectiveness of conservation planning for species and places

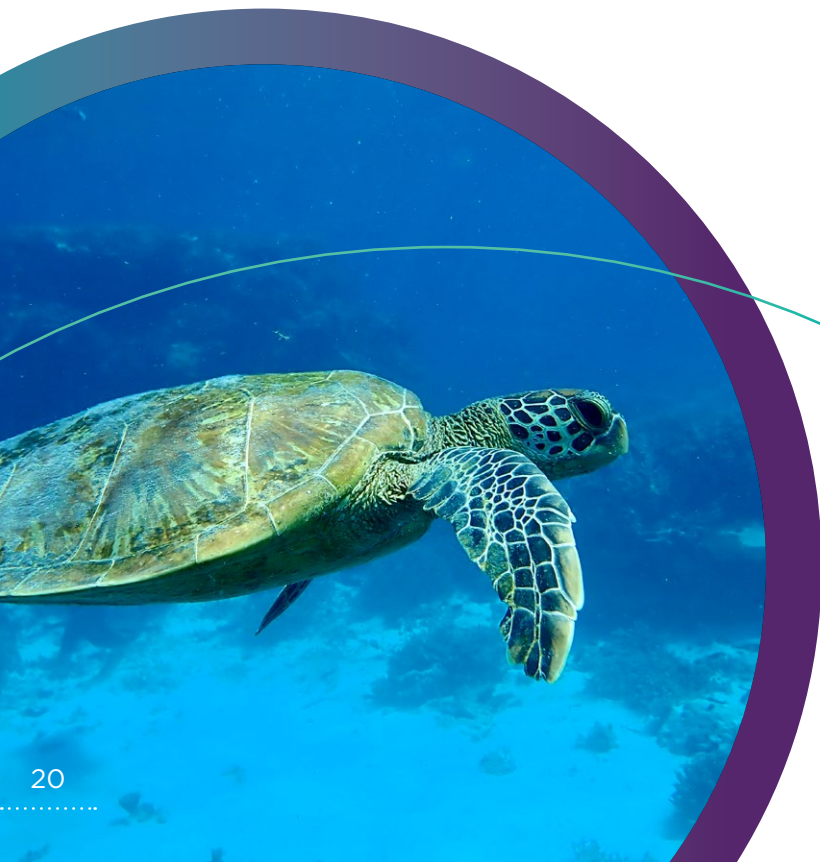
Target 11:

Track and publish the implementation of priority actions identified in conservation advices, recovery plans and relevant threat abatement plans for 100% of priority species by 2026

Why is this important?

Effective conservation planning is critical for recovery of threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Conservation planning documents provide a detailed, evidence-based and objective framework to direct action that will halt decline and/or support recovery of threatened species and ecological communities.

Having contemporary conservation and threat abatement plans will ensure that coordinated actions can be taken to support each priority species and place, enabling new approaches to be included as appropriate. Contemporary plans may also support landscape and marine based approaches such as regional planning. As these actions are undertaken by recovery teams and other groups, having these activities and related data reported consistently will allow progress towards recovery to be monitored.





What will we do?

	When
Develop and publish best practice governance for effective coordination and reporting of recovery team actions and implementation of threat abatement plans.	2024
Support the ongoing development of 'fit-for-purpose' conservation planning documents, including: - conservation advices and recovery plans for single, multiple or regionally clustered groups of threatened species and ecological communities that include information about key actions that will drive recovery, important habitat and climate susceptibility where appropriate - trial development of place-based plans to improve habitat condition for multiple threatened species found within priority places - threat abatement planning documents, including threat abatement plans, advices or action plans - ensure conservation and threat abatement planning documents that inform management of priority species and places are reviewed and updated in line with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's modernisation process.	2022-2026
Support recovery coordinators for priority species/species clusters that have complex recovery needs and multiple partners supporting recovery efforts.	2022-2026
Support and promote best practice guidelines for key recovery actions (including the use of standardised national monitoring protocols and data management standards, wildlife health guidance and protocols for translocations, ex situ conservation and seed collection).	2022-2026
Strengthen integration of conservation planning with other planning processes, and across levels of government and community initiatives, to maximise conservation outcomes.	2022-2026

How does this fit with other work?

This work will build on baselines determined in 2022 to clearly articulate priority conservation objectives for priority species and priority places, under Objectives 1 and 2. Actions will complement initiatives, including delivery of a pilot regional plan, as set out in *A pathway for reforming national environmental law* and accompanying *Proposed timeline for EPBC Act reforms* and the work being delivered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, updated resources to support recovery action will be shared on Strategy home web page. Check back regularly to stay involved or visit the [Species Profiles and Threats database](#) to learn more about conservation planning activities relevant to the threatened species of interest to you.

Resources

Best practice manual for effective coordination and reporting of recovery team actions and Threat Abatement Plan implementation (in development)

A pathway for reforming national environmental law: [awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/about/environmental-law-reform](https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/about/environmental-law-reform)

Proposed timeline for EPBC Act reforms: [awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/proposed-timeline-for-epbc-act-reforms](https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/proposed-timeline-for-epbc-act-reforms)

Species Profiles and Threats database: environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Tool (MERIT) online reporting tool: fieldcapture.ala.org.au/home/about



KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS

Having the best available information and tools

Target 12:

Develop at least 5 new tools to mitigate impact of broad-scale threats on threatened species by 2026

Target 13:

Establish a monitoring program to fill critical data and information gaps for 50% of priority species by 2026

Why is this important?

Many of our threatened species and ecological communities are poorly understood with a continuing need to improve our knowledge base through long-term monitoring and research. By modernising technologies and systems, national-level data and information can be more efficiently consolidated into a leading source of biodiversity information that is readily accessible to governments, conservation managers, industry and the community.

Better quality information that is easily accessible can underpin more informed decision making.

With real-time access to the best available information, and with the right tools, we can target actions most likely to succeed in order to recover priority species and restore priority places.

Better quality information supports better decision-making



What will we do?

	When
Support a national program of research to develop new tools to support threatened species recovery and threat management.	2022-2026
Refine and promote a national standardised monitoring protocol and best practice guidelines fit for priority species and places.	2022
Undertake a stocktake of nationally listed threatened species to identify and prioritise the critical information and data gaps relating to distribution, population and critical habitat requirements to inform the establishment of a national monitoring program.	2022
Establish national monitoring programs for species identified as requiring activities to fill critical data and information gaps.	2024
Promote Indigenous-led research and two-way knowledge transfer to benefit priority species and places.	2022-2026

How does this fit with other work?

This Action Area can be supported by programs such as the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program. It can also contribute to delivering components of the new national environmental standards and digital transformation initiatives as set out in *A pathway for reforming national environmental law* and the accompanying *Proposed timeline for EPBC Act reforms*.

What can you do?

As the actions listed above are completed, resources to support access to data, information and tools, best practice guidelines and protocols will be shared on the Strategy home web page.

If you have threatened species data to share or want to be involved in monitoring for species, head to the Atlas of Living Australia citizen science portal to find data and information being captured from across Australia.

Resources

The national program of research and national monitoring protocols (in development)

Atlas of Living Australia – Open access to Australia's biodiversity data: ala.org.au

Australian Citizen Science Association - Project Finder: citizenscience.org.au/ala-project-finder





Coordinating national research to support threatened species

There are a range of scientific and Indigenous-led institutions, agencies and groups across Australia conducting important research and data collection to support threatened species recovery and threat management.

Through supporting and coordinating actions in this Action Plan, the Australian Government is striving to:

- Improve our understanding about priority species, priority places and threats, in particular:
 - a. species resilience, response and susceptibility to extreme events (e.g. bushfires) and a changing climate
 - b. how species and threats are likely to move or change in response to climate change
 - c. what place-based and ex situ management actions are needed, including for example future seed banking, germplasm collection and storage, gene banking, captive breeding, ex situ conservation and translocation or reintroduction.
- Support development of new and improved tools and techniques to better monitor, protect and recover priority species and improve condition at priority places.
- Support development of new and improved tools and techniques to better detect, track and suppress one or more invasive grasses, feral predators and Myrtle Rust.
- Streamline and improve access to search and share national threatened species data and spatial information, research and published information, including digitising conservation planning and threat abatement documents.

What will monitoring protocols do?

Monitoring protocols will be used to capture consistent baseline and ongoing time-series data for all priority species and places compatible with the national data standards.

The protocols will be available and used for threatened species projects funded through Australian Government investments and progressively included in updates to conservation planning documents.

Data captured through monitoring will be compatible with national environmental standards for data and available on the national environmental systems and biodiversity data repositories managed by the Australian Government.



FORGING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening relationships with existing conservation partners and helping forge new partnerships

Target 14:

Proactively engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the preparation of 100% of EPBC Act conservation planning documents for culturally significant threatened species and ecological communities by 2026

Target 15:

Partners and/or private investment will support 50% of projects that benefit priority species and places, to help increase information base and assist recovery by 2026

Why is this important?

Conservation is everybody's business and it's only by working together that we can use collective expertise and resources to best effect. Strong partnerships between all levels of government, conservation land and sea managers, business, researchers, the community and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are essential to effectively coordinate action and link recovery efforts.

Previous reporting on the 2015 Threatened Species Strategy demonstrated the extensive contribution of all partners to improving the trajectory of priority species and tackling the impacts of feral cats. By setting more explicit targets, this Action Plan helps drive increased collaboration and partnerships.

Conservation is everybody's business



What will we do?

Strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Incorporate Indigenous ecological knowledge of priority species and places, as appropriate, into baseline assessments and development of indicators under Objectives 1 and 2 of the Action Plan.

2022

Undertake a stocktake of Indigenous-led recovery activities supporting culturally significant threatened species and ecological communities funded by the Australian Government.

2022

Incorporate Indigenous ecological knowledge and engage Indigenous land and sea managers in conservation activities and planning documents relating to culturally significant threatened species and ecological communities.

2022-2026

Design biodiversity conservation and natural resource management programs to actively facilitate Indigenous-led and Indigenous partnership projects.

2022-2026

Funding partnerships and private financing

Work with the financial and agricultural sectors to increase private financing of landscape conservation and restoration.

2022-2026

Support innovative market mechanisms for increasing biodiversity and conservation of remnant native vegetation in productive landscapes.

2022-2026

Promote initiatives to direct private and philanthropic investment in threatened species recovery projects and support collaborative partnerships.

2022-2026

Conservation partnerships with private land and water managers

Support long-term stewardship of high value habitat for threatened species and ecological communities by land and water managers contributing to landscape-scale conservation priorities.

2022-2026

Encourage and provide extension advice and support to land and water managers who are interested in long term stewardship of their lands.

2022-2026

How does this fit with other work?

This action area recognises the existing collaboration and contributions being delivered by existing partners who are leading threatened species conservation initiatives, both in Australia and internationally. It also complements emerging Australian Government programs on improving private sector investment in natural capital and increasing collaboration with Australia's agriculture sector through the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package. We will continue to support and promote the work of partners, create opportunities to build more awareness and capacity across a growing network of threatened species practitioners, acknowledging the collective efforts of all helping to put species on the path to recovery. Australia's Nature Hub provides an interactive platform for all biodiversity conservation actions underway being led by various organisations.

What can you do?

After the baseline assessments of each species and place are completed in 2022, information on partnership opportunities will be shared on the Strategy home web page. Check back regularly to stay involved!

Resources

Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship: awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/landcare/sustaining-future-australian-farming

Australia's Nature Hub: australiasnaturehub.gov.au/

Australia's Strategy for Nature: awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/strategy

Natural capital - unlocking private sector investment: awe.gov.au/science-research/climate-change/adaptation/publications/natural-capital



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Educating and empowering the community to participate in and lead on recovery efforts for priority species

Target 16:

Citizen science or community groups will lead activities for 50% of priority species and places to increase information base and assist recovery by 2026

Why is this important?

Successful conservation relies on collaboration. The knowledge, support and engagement of dedicated individuals, volunteers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community groups and the business sector are integral for the successful conservation of Australia's threatened species and ecosystems.

While there is much work to do to ensure our threatened species and ecosystems thrive in the future, by working collectively we can build on shared aspirations and bring together our unique values and strengths to solve complex environmental challenges.

Community connection to the local environment, participation and capacity building underpin all action areas and associated targets.



What will we do?

	When
Require community involvement in Australian Government projects where appropriate.	2022-2026
Work with the community to improve understanding of environmental threats and promote behavioural change to benefit threatened species through social media channels and engagement programs.	2022-2026
Support citizen science partners and initiatives to increase community engagement in threatened species monitoring and management.	2022-2026
Support schools, community groups, businesses and individuals to champion threatened species and undertake activities for local threatened plants and animals.	2022-2026
Share success stories online of the community members who champion threatened species or play a role in the stewardship of threatened species and ecological communities.	2022-2026

How does this fit with other work?

This Action Area builds on progress under the first Threatened Species Strategy to raise awareness and encourage action to recover threatened species.

What can you do?

You can volunteer for conservation work or visit the Australian Citizen Science Association for more ideas on how you can help scientists and field experts to collect and analyse data, contributing to real-time citizen scientist projects underway across Australia.

You can become a champion for threatened species in your school, your business and your community.

You can keep up to date with the latest news on threatened species management and implementation of this Action Plan by following the Threatened Species Commissioner's social media channels or the Strategy home webpage.

Resources

Stay connected:

- Follow the Threatened Species Commissioner on Facebook, Instagram or twitter: facebook.com/TSCCommissioner, instagram.com/tscommissioner/, [@TSCCommissioner](https://twitter.com/TSCCommissioner) - Twitter
- Visit the Australian Citizen Science Association: citizenscience.org.au

TRACKING PROGRESS AND REPORTING

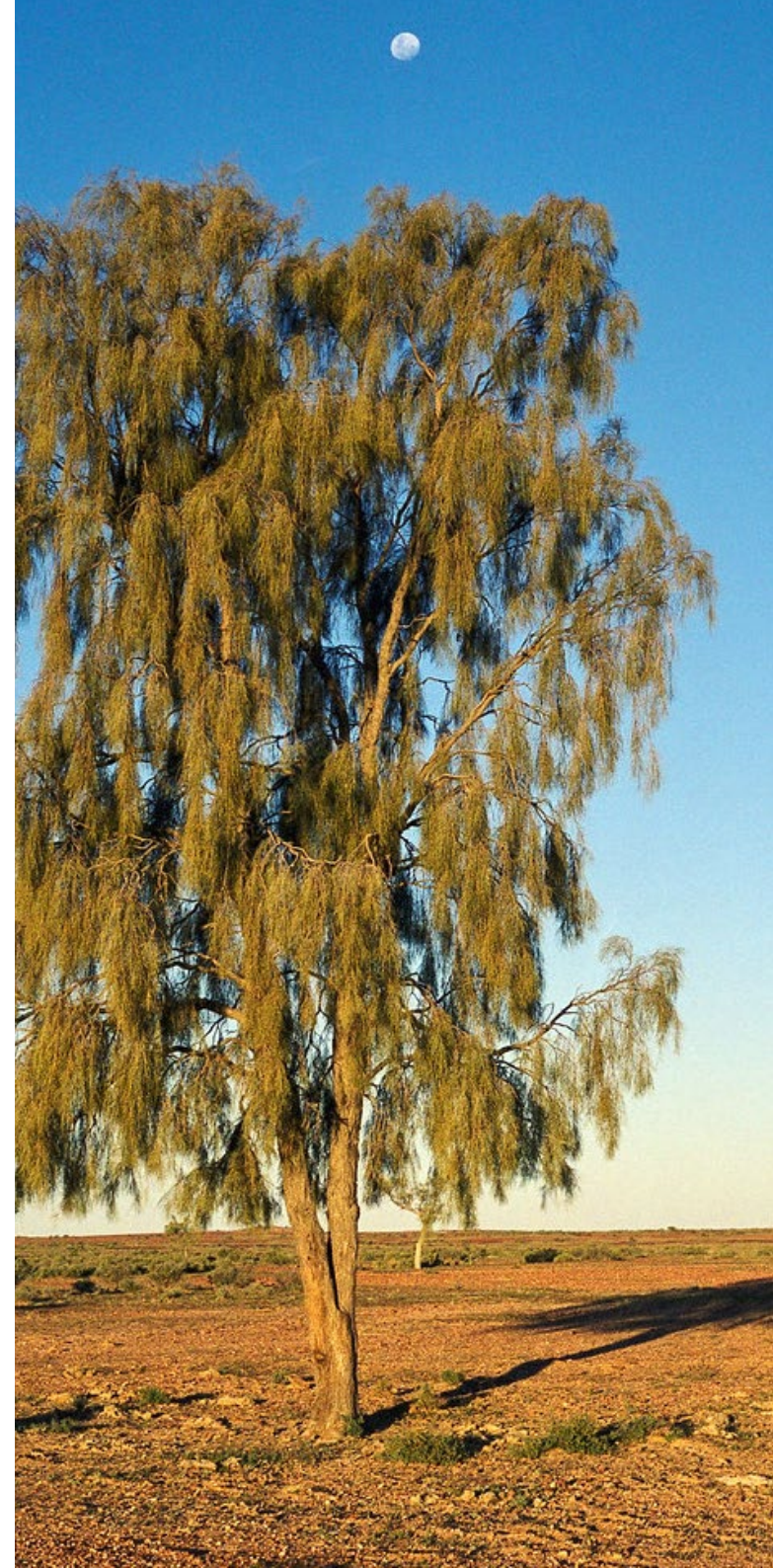
Reporting on the Action Plan objectives and targets will occur at the end of this plan in 2026 with a progress report prepared at the end of 2024.

A review will also be undertaken in 2026 to identify any improvements needed in developing the next 5 year Action Plan to meet the Strategy's 10 year objectives.

The Threatened Species Commissioner will work with existing and new partners to implement the Action Plan, providing guidance to support the design and delivery of projects aligned to the identified actions.

By the end of 2022, the Threatened Species Commissioner will publish priority species and places profiles, including assessments of the baseline information. Profiles for priority species and places will also identify key indicators for measuring success to assess whether species and places are on track for improving trajectory and condition respectively by 2031.

Priority species and places profiles, progress reports, and all related assessments, plans and reports supporting implementation of this Action Plan will be published and shared on the Strategy home webpage at awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/strategy-home.



DEFINITIONS

Action

Activities listed under the 'What will we do?' section of each action area, to be undertaken during the period of the Action Plan.

Adequate representativeness

Six or more genetically and demographically viable populations of species protected within the national safe haven network (See AA1 and AA3).

Climate susceptibility (AA4)

A measure of a species or places' susceptibility to climate change. Some species are at more risk from climate change than others due to ecological or physiological traits. The IUCN has a developed a framework for determining whether a species is 'climate change-susceptible': www.iucn.org/downloads/climate_change_and_species.pdf.

Condition (of places)

Key characteristics and functions of an ecosystem at a point in time, describing the state of the environment's physical features, species composition, community structure, ecosystem function, presence/absence of threats and external exchanges/influences.

Conservation planning documents

Statutory conservation plans provide guidance on the management and research actions to support the recovery of particular entities. The two types of planning documents under the EPBC Act include conservation advices and recovery plans. These documents can also extend in scope to include multi-entity conservation plans and bioregional plans.

Critical biodiversity assets

Biodiversity assets identified by jurisdictions, environment management agencies or environmental law as important to preserve during emergencies or natural disasters e.g., species, ecological communities, habitat features.

Ecological function

The collective term for the roles and processes that arise from interactions among living and non-living components of ecosystems. Examples include nutrient cycling and sequestration (through biomass accumulation, food production, herbivory, predation and decomposition), water filtration and cycling, soil formation, succession, disturbance regimes (fire, flooding and drying), water filtration and storage, provision of habitat, predation, dispersal, pollination, reproduction, disturbance and resilience.

EPBC Act

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – also known as national environment law.

Important habitat

Habitat described in conservation planning documents or research as being important to the survival of EPBC listed species or Threatened Ecological Communities.

Indicators of success – improved condition

A semi-quantitative rating system based on biotic and abiotic characteristics that provide comparative assessment of how well the attributes of an ecosystem are recovering after treatment, e.g. species composition, habitat integrity (structure, ecosystem function), presence to absence of threats, external influences – future prospects (Society for Ecological Restoration – National Restoration Standards 5-star recovery).

Insurance collections and populations

Relating to ex situ conservation of plant species including seed banking, tissue culture, cryopreservation and living plant collections in botanical gardens and plant populations in situ.

Myrtle Rust impacted

Myrtle Rust is a disease caused by the exotic fungus *Austropuccinia psidii* (formerly *Puccinia psidii*, initially identified as *Uredo rangellii*). There is only one strain of rust in Australia. Myrtle rust threatens trees and shrubs in the Myrtaceae family of plants which includes Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp., *Angophora* spp., and *Corymbia* spp.). The disease can cause deformed leaves, heavy defoliation of branches, reduced fertility, dieback, stunted growth, and plant death.

Objectives

Overarching goals for this Action Plan, to be achieved in 2026.

Predator-susceptible species

Threatened species that are at risk of extinction due to predators such as feral cats and foxes. A list of predator-susceptible mammals is attached to the safe havens grants opportunity – see resources for links.

Recovery

The process of an ecosystem regaining its composition, structure and function relative to the levels identified for the reference ecosystem. In restoration, recovery is assisted by restoration activity—and recovery can be described as partial or full.

Resilience

The degree, manner and pace of recovery of species after a disturbance or stress, or the potential or capacity for such recovery. This property is developed by natural selection under conditions of exposure of the species to disturbance over evolutionary time scales—and enables a species or population to persist despite disturbance.

Restoration

The process of returning of a degraded habitat to its original species composition, structure and function.

Target

Specific achievements to be completed within articulated timeframes, to support achievement of the Action Plan objectives.

Trajectory

A pathway of recovery over time, defined and monitored using sequential measurements pre-determined baseline parameters/indicators, e.g. species population, management actions (species, habitat, threats and research) and future prospects.

LINKS

A pathway for reforming national environmental law

awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/about/environmental-law-reform

Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package

awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/landcare/sustaining-future-australian-farming

Atlas of Living Australia

ala.org.au

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

awe.gov.au/abares

Australian Biological Resources Study

awe.gov.au/science-research/abrs

Australia's international role in conserving biodiversity

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/international and awe.gov.au/environment/water/wetlands/ramsar

Australia's Nature Hub

australiasnaturehub.gov.au

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030

australiasnaturehub.gov.au/national-strategy

Australian Weeds Strategy and the Australian Pest Animal Strategy

awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds

Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer

awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/environmental/cebo

Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030

awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/commonwealth-biosecurity-2030

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

awe.gov.au/water/cewo

Commonwealth Marine Parks

parksaustralia.gov.au/marine

Emissions Reduction Fund

cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF

Environment and Invasives Committee

awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds/eic

Environmental Restoration Fund

awe.gov.au/environment/environment-restoration-fund

Environmental law reform

awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/about/environmental-law-reform

Indigenous Ranger programs

niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/indigenous-ranger-program

Indigenous Protected Areas

awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/land/indigenous-protected-areas

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement

Natural capital: unlocking private sector investment

awe.gov.au/science-research/climate-change/adaptation/publications/natural-capital

National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy

dese.gov.au/ncris

National Environmental Science Program

awe.gov.au/science-research/nesp

National Indigenous Australians Agency

niaa.gov.au

National Landcare Program

nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-program

National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases

awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/environmental/priority-list

National Recovery and Resilience Agency

recovery.gov.au

National Reserve System

awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/land/nrs

National Standards for Ecological Restoration

seraustrolasia.com/pages/standards.html

Parks Australia

parksaustralia.gov.au

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au

Safe havens grant opportunity - list of predator susceptible mammals

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/strategy-home

Species of National Environmental Significance

awe.gov.au/environment/environmental-information-data/databases-applications/snes

Species Profile and Threat Database

environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl

The Reef Trust

awe.gov.au/parks-heritage/great-barrier-reef/reef-trust

Threat Abatement Plans: feral cats, foxes, invasive grasses and others

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/threat-abatement-plans/approved

Threatened Species Commissioner

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/commissioner

Threatened Species Strategy

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/strategy-home

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/tssc

100 PRIORITY SPECIES

Focused efforts will contribute to the Strategy's high-level objective:

To improve the trajectories of priority threatened species by 2031

The priority species list includes plants and animals found across Australia in a range of environments, from the arid deserts to rainforests, forests to grasslands, and inland waters to the sea. All taxonomic groups listed under the EPBC Act are included. Recovery actions for many of the priority species will also benefit other threatened species that share their habitat.

Selecting priorities

The 100 priority species were selected using a multi-criteria decision analysis process, using scores against the Threatened Species Strategy's 6 prioritisation principles. Over 1800 species listed under the EPBC Act as either Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable during the first quarter of 2021 were reviewed as part of this prioritisation process. Species were scored using national-scale data sets by independent ecologists and the Australian community was also invited to have a say on species important to them.

Prioritisation principles

Risk of extinction
Species under severe and imminent threat

Multiple benefits
Recovery action will benefit other species

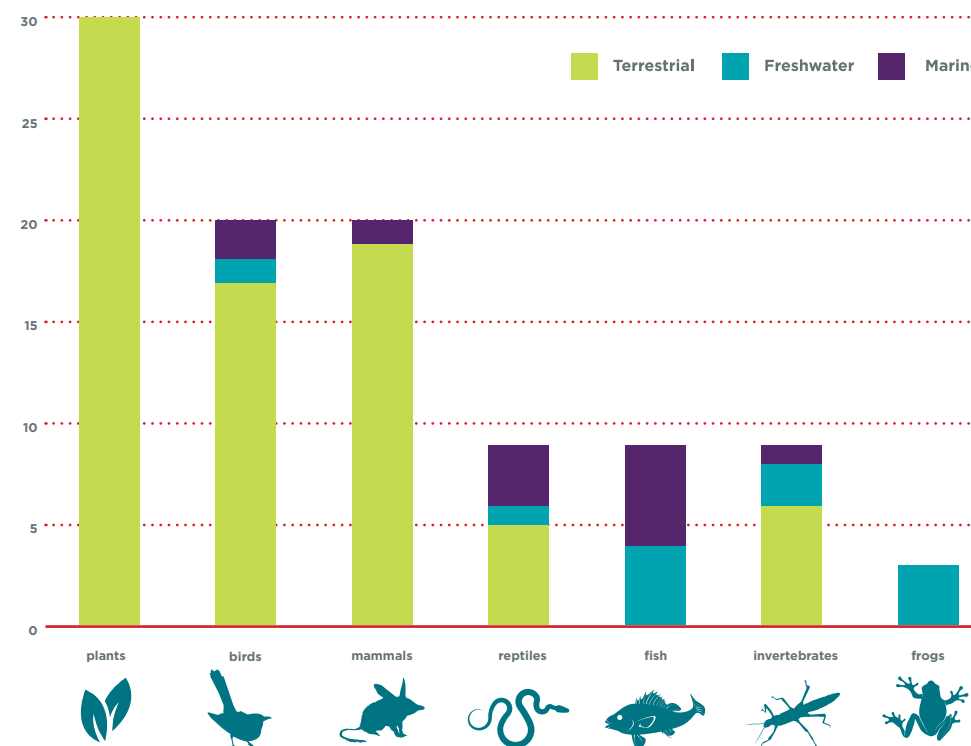
Feasibility and effectiveness
Action can make a difference and is cost-effective

Importance to people
Culturally significant species

Uniqueness
Species without close relatives and not found anywhere else

Representativeness
Balance the overall list across taxa, land and seascapes, tenures and jurisdictions

Figure 3. The spread of the 100 priority species across taxonomic groups and the environments primarily occupied.



Threatened Species Strategy

100 priority species



Birds

Australasian Bittern
Botaurus poiciloptilus

Black-eared Miner
Manorina melanotis

Carnaby's Cockatoo
Zanda latirostris

Christmas Island Goshawk
Accipiter hiogaster natalis

Eastern Curlew
Numenius madagascariensis

Golden-shouldered Parrot, Alwal
Psephotus chrysapterygus

Hooded Plover (eastern)
Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus

King Island Brown Thornbill
Acanthiza pusilla magnirostris

Malleefowl
Leipoa ocellata

Night Parrot
Pezoporus occidentalis

Norfolk Island Green Parrot
Cyanoramphus cookii

100 priority species
common names (scientific name)

Orange-bellied Parrot
Neophema chrysogaster

Plains-wanderer
Pedionomus torquatus

Princess Parrot
Polytelis alexandrae

Red Goshawk
Erythrorhynchus radiatus

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (SE)
Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne

Regent Honeyeater
Anthochaera phrygia

Swift Parrot
Lathamus discolor

Western Ground Parrot, Kyloring
Pezoporus flaviventris

**White-throated Grasswren,
Yirlinkirrkirr**
Amytornis woodwardi





Mammals

Australian Sea-lion
Neophoca cinerea

Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
Petrogale penicillata

Central Rock-rat, Antina
Zyzomys pedunculatus

Chuditch, Western Quoll
Dasyurus geoffroii

Eastern Quoll, Luaner
Dasyurus viverrinus

Gilbert's Potoroo, Ngilkat
Potorous gilbertii

Greater Bilby
Macrotis lagotis

Kangaroo Island Echidna
Tachyglossus aculeatus multiaculeatus

Koala (Qld, NSW, ACT)
Phascolarctos cinereus

Leadbeater's Possum
Gymnobelideus leadbeateri

Mountain Pygmy-possum
Burramys parvus

New Holland Mouse, Pookila
Pseudomys novaehollandiae

Northern Brushtail Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis

Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat, Yaminon
Lasiorninus krefftii

Northern Hopping-mouse, Woorrentinta
Notomys aquilo

Northern Quoll
Dasyurus hallucatus

Numbat
Myrmecobius fasciatus

Quokka
Setonix brachyurus

Spectacled Flying-fox
Pteropus conspicillatus

Western Ringtail Possum
Pseudocheirus occidentalis



Fish

Freshwater Sawfish
Pristis pristis

Grey Nurse Shark (eastern)
Carcharias taurus

Maugean Skate
Zearaja maugeana

Murray Hardyhead
Craterocephalus fluviatilis

Red Handfish
Thymichthys politus

Redfin Blue-eye
Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis

Stocky Galaxias
Galaxias tantangara

Swan Galaxias
Galaxias fontanus

White's Seahorse
Hippocampus whitei



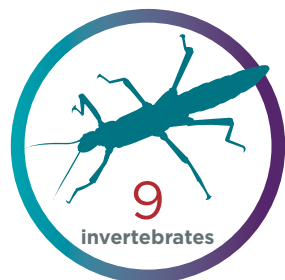


Frogs

Growling Grass Frog, Southern Bell Frog
Litoria raniformis

Kroombit Tinker Frog
Taudactylus pleione

Southern Corroboree Frog
Pseudophryne corroboree



Invertebrates

Ammonite Snail
Ammoniropa vigens

Cauliflower Soft Coral
Dendronephthya australis

Eltham Copper Butterfly
Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida

Giant Gippsland Earthworm
Megascolides australis

Lord Howe Island Phasmid
Dryococelus australis

Margaret River Burrowing Crayfish
Engaewa pseudoreducta

Mount Lidgbird Charopid Land Snail
Pseudocharopa ledgbirdi

Pink Underwing Moth
Phyllodes imperialis smithersi

Tasmanian Giant Freshwater Crayfish
Astacopsis gouldi



Reptiles

Arnhem Land Gorges Skink
Bellatorias obiri

Bellinger River Snapping Turtle
Wollumbinia georgesi

Collared Delma, Adorned Delma
Delma torquata

Great Desert Skink, Tjakura, Warrarna, Mulyamiji
Liopholis kintorei

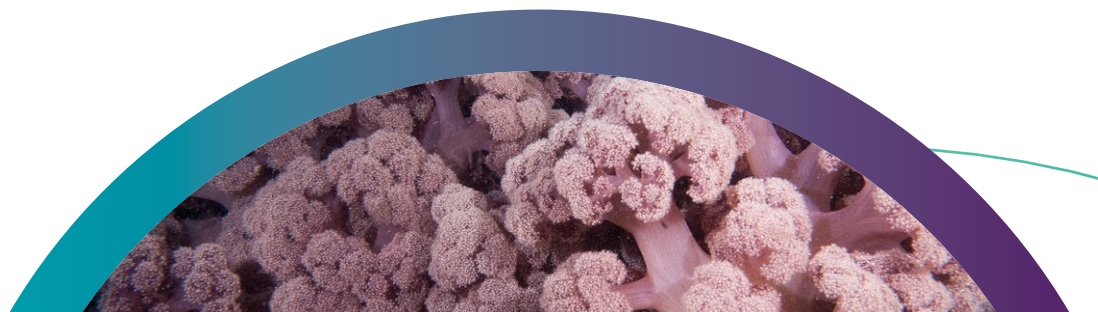
Green Turtle
Chelonia mydas

Olive Ridley Turtle
Lepidochelys olivacea

Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard
Tiliqua adelaidensis

Short-nosed Sea Snake
Aipysurus apraefrontalis

Yinnietharra Rock-dragon
Ctenophorus yinnietharra





Plants

Adamson's Blown-grass
Lachnagrostis adamsonii

Angle-stemmed Myrtle
Gossia gonoclada

Arckaringa Daisy
Olearia arckaringensis

Border Ranges Lined Fern
Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum

Bulberin Nut
Macadamia jansenii

Carrington Falls Pomaderris
Pomaderris walshii

Davies' Waxflower
Phebalium daviesii

Eremophila subangustifolia

Foote's Grevillea
Grevillea calliantha

Forked Spyridium
Spyridium furculentum

Giant Andersonia
Andersonia axilliflora

Graveside Leek-orchid
Prasophyllum taphanyx

Imlay Mallee
Eucalyptus imlayensis

King Blue-grass
Dichanthium queenslandicum

Lax Leek Orchid
Prasophyllum laxum

Little Mountain Palm
Lepidorrhachis mooreana

MacDonnell Ranges Cycad
Macrozamia macdonnellii

Native Guava
Rhodomyrtus psidioides

Pimelea cremnophila

Bolivia Hill Rice-flower
Pimelea venosa

Scaly-butt Mallee
Eucalyptus leprophloia

Small-flowered Snottygobble
Persoonia micranthera

Smooth Davidson's Plum
Davidsonia johnsonii

Stiff Groundsel
Senecio behrianus

Stirling Range Dryandra
Banksia montana

Tangled Wattle
Acacia volubilis

**Waddy, Waddi,
Waddy-wood,
Birdsville Wattle**
Acacia peuce

Wollemi Pine
Wollemia nobilis

Wongan Eriostemon
Philothea wonganensis

Woods Well Spyridium
Spyridium fontis-woodii

These top-ranking species were selected using a multi-criteria decision analysis process that reviewed all species listed under the EPBC Act categories of Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered and their score against the Strategy's 6 prioritisation principles. Species were scored with input from independent ecologists who are experts in their field and the latest available data.

PRIORITY PLACES

Twenty priority places will be the focus for targeted actions over 5 years from 2021 to 2026, contributing to the Strategy's objective:

To improve the condition of priority places by 2031

Why priority places?

All threatened species share habitat with other species. Priority places under the Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 will provide a place-based focus for research, support and recovery action for threatened species and threatened ecological communities that are present within identified places. The Strategy's objective is to improve the condition of priority places by 2031, benefiting both threatened and non-threatened species and ecological communities.

How are priority places selected?

Twenty priority places are being selected using prioritisation principles established in the Strategy. Nearly 2000 potential places have been considered, including all biogeographic (IBRA) subregions, all Key Biodiversity Areas, all Ramsar and Nationally Significant wetlands, as well as places identified by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and threatened species managers from state and territory governments.

These sites were initially scored by density of threatened species and ecological communities likely present, and the proportion of each site under Indigenous management. High scoring places were further refined by considering spread across different jurisdictions and biomes.

The final list will include a range of places across Australia, extending into our marine environment. Most places will have high densities of threatened species and threatened ecological communities, others will have significant cultural values for the Indigenous groups that manage them, and others will be places where targeted action on particular threats will benefit multiple threatened species.



What will happen in priority places?

During 2022, a profile for each priority place will be developed that describes key natural values for its threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Place profiles will identify important areas for support and recovery that the Strategy will focus on, including goals to meet to improve the place's condition and the actions needed to achieve these. Actions will be specific for each place and may include elimination of particular invasive pests or weeds, implementation of Indigenous ecological management practices, habitat restoration and/or augmentation and research to inform actions.

Support for these actions will be prioritised through relevant Australian Government policies and programs. State and territory governments, natural resource managers, land and sea managers and community groups will be encouraged to partner with us in working towards these goals. Our combined achievements will be measured in 2026 to determine if the Strategy's objectives are being met.

What does it mean for landholders and managers?

Land and sea managers at a priority place will be invited to participate in improving the condition of the place for threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Identification as a priority place is non-statutory – it does not involve a change in regulatory requirements under the EPBC Act at that location. Rather, designation as a priority place signals a focus in effort by the Australian Government in collaboration with willing partners, through on-ground management and complementary research to improve the condition of that place. As with any voluntary arrangement, the nature of the partnerships and the extent of engagement of land managers, is expected to vary within and between places.

Which places?

Finalisation of all 20 priority places is underway, with all places to be announced by early 2022.

Six places that have already been confirmed are natural islands, where actions to address particular threats are underway and there is strong interest in continuing. These islands are:

- Bruny Island, Tasmania
- Christmas Island, Indian Ocean
- French Island, Victoria
- Kangaroo Island, SA
- Norfolk Island, Tasman Sea
- Raine Island, Queensland

IMAGE CREDITS

Front cover:

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Craig RJD, iStock by Getty Images
Southern Corroboree Frog, Steve Wilson, DAWE
Giant Andersonia, Leonie Monks, DAWE
Female Red Handfish with baby, Molly Christensen
Yinnietharra Rock-dragon, DAWE

Inside cover:

Great Desert Skink, Steve Wilson, DAWE
Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Shutterstock

Page 2 – 3

Raine Island seascape view, S. Banks, Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)
Growling Grass Frog, Museum Victoria's Catching the Eye, Grampians Bioscan.
Kangaroo Island woodland, Oliver Tester

Page 4 – 5

Wollemi Pine, Tony Rodd
Eastern Curlew, Brian Furby, DAWE
Olive Ridley Turtle hatchlings, Shutterstock
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