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Department of the Environment,  
Water, Heritage and the Arts

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ENVIRONMENT

WATER

HERITAGE

ARTS

# Australia's Biodiversity Strategy

Australia's first national  
biodiversity strategy:

*The National Strategy for the  
Conservation of Australia's  
Biological Diversity 1996*

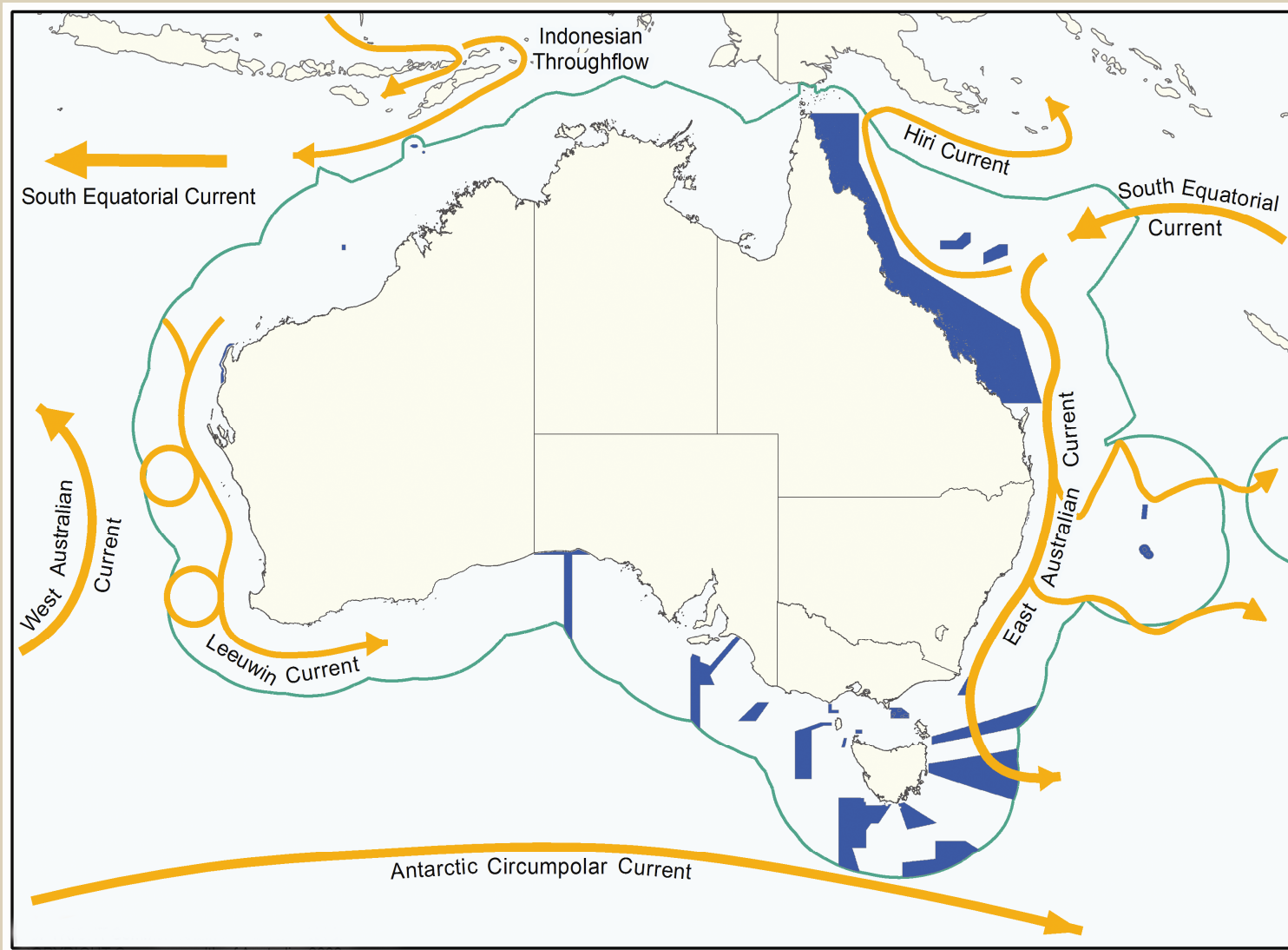


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# State and Territory boundaries and EEZ



# 1996 Strategy main features - 6 strategic elements

1. Conservation of biological diversity across Australia
2. Integrating biological diversity conservation and natural resource management
3. Managing threatening processes
4. Improving our knowledge
5. Involving the community
6. Australia's international role



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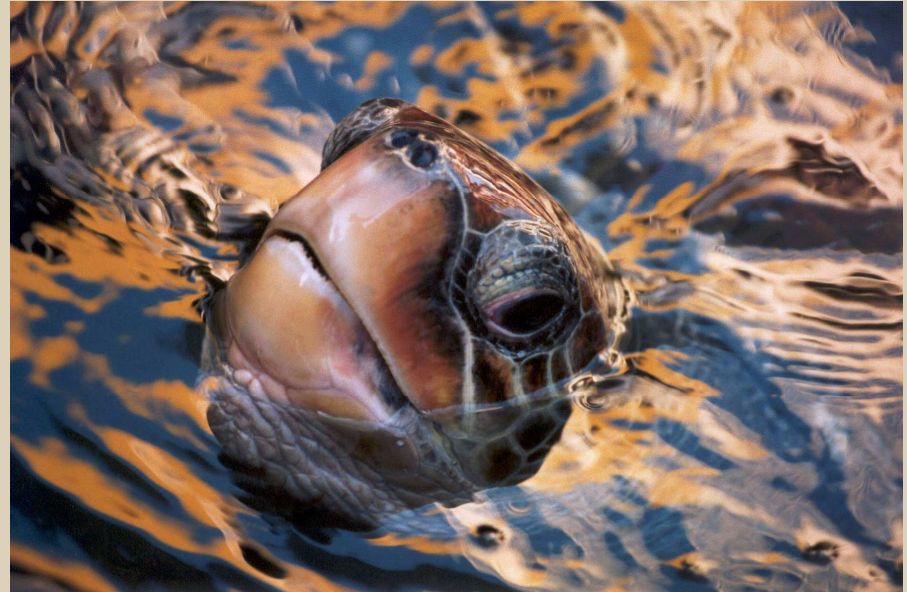
# Revisions

Five-yearly reviews

2001 Review

- Assessment report
- National Objectives and Targets for

Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005



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# 2001 findings- areas for improvement

- Recognition of the contribution of Indigenous peoples
- Adoption of ecologically sustainable practices in fisheries, agricultural and pastoral management
- Management of threatening processes
- Effective controls on the clearance of native vegetation.



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# Biodiversity knowledge - a big challenge -

We still don't know exactly how much knowledge we don't have, but we know it's a lot. This makes it difficult to accurately measure changes.



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# Implementation status

## 2006 review process

- Review task group
- Public consultation – building ownership, mainstreaming
- Consultation and joint drafting with Indigenous peoples
- New strategy is drafted
- Seeking clearance from Ministers for release for public consultation in February-May 2009



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# Draft revised strategy

- \*Ecosystem Resilience \* Connectivity \*
- \* Scale, landscape & seascape \*
- \*Mainstreaming biodiversity \*
- \*Indigenous peoples \*Information \*
- \* Climate change & other threats\*

## 6 draft priorities for the new strategy:

1. Building ecosystem resilience
2. Mainstreaming biodiversity
3. Knowledge for all
4. Getting results
5. Involving Indigenous Peoples
6. Measuring success



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# Mainstreaming

## Policy approaches

- Legislation – eg EPBC Act 1999
- Caring for our Country initiative – targeted funding
- Regional Forest Agreements
- Sustainable ag policy
- Marine bioregional planning
- Actions in new NBS



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# Integration of climate change

- National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan 2004 – 2007
- Cross sectoral adaptation approaches
- National Biodiversity Vulnerability Assessment
- Draft NBS with climate change integrated throughout



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# Implementation challenges & approaches

- Adaptation to climate change -  
Ecosystem resilience and connectivity
- Linking ecological and social systems -  
raising awareness, building  
partnerships, valuing biodiversity and  
use of market-based instruments
- Acting at the right scale – building  
flexible management
- Dealing with uncertainty –  
understanding thresholds



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# Questions?



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