



Australian Government

**Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities**



Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030

Angela Williamson, International Biodiversity Policy

Spotted-Tailed Quoll (D.Watts) Southern cassowary (Wet Tropics Management Authority – QLD) Glossodia orchid (S.Bourne) Swift Parrot (T.Tonelli)



Overview

- Review process
- Content of Strategy
- Lessons learnt
- Where to next



Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland



Constitutional responsibility for environment

- Australia is a federation of states and territories with separate constitutions and responsibilities.
- The Australian government has limited constitutional responsibility for the environment so relies on cooperation, funding and limited legislation.





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Background to the review

United Nations *Convention on Biological Diversity* – Article 6 (a)

- 1996: *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*
- 2001: First five-yearly review; development of *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001 – 2005*. Only six out of the nine jurisdictions committed.
- 2006: Second five-yearly review on behalf of Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council



Review process

■ March – June 2009: *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 – 2020* (Consultation Draft)

- 174 written submissions
- 375 people at 12 information sessions
- Bilateral meetings with peak bodies
- Six independent expert reviews
- Main themes of feedback
 - ✓ principles, intent, approach, threats
 - ✗ urgency, threats, measurable targets, specific timeframes, implementation, resourcing, private land managers, marine

■ July 2009 – Feb 2010: substantial re-write, development of targets

■ March – October 2010: whole-of-govt agreement



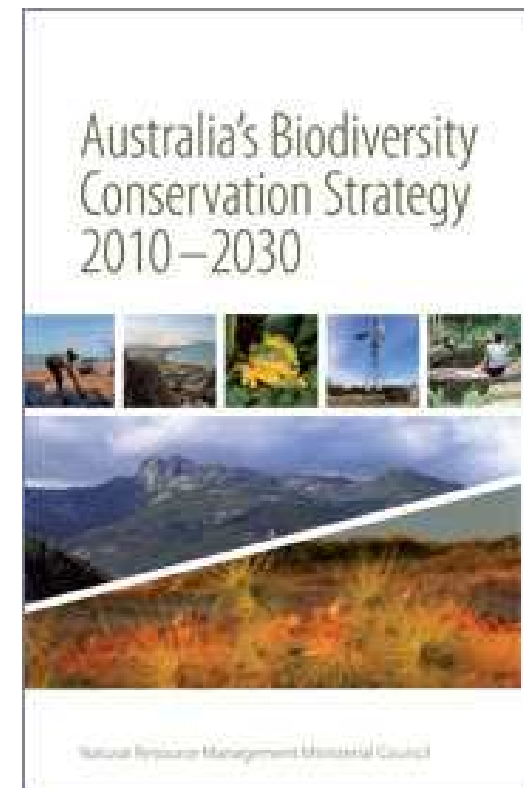
Responses to public input

- measurable targets and clear outcomes
- streamlined strategic framework and appendices
- revised vision
- extended timeframe: 2010 – 2030
- revised principles e.g. precautionary principle
- greater sense of the urgency
- greater recognition of farmers and other land managers
- better explanation of concepts e.g. resilience
- better treatment of threats to biodiversity
- better articulation of lessons learnt since 1996 strategy
- streamlined list of indicative actions
- case studies from non-government sectors



Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030

- Released by Minister Burke on 27 October 2010 during CBD COP 10
- A national policy document that will guide how all Australians – governments, the community, Indigenous peoples, farmers and other land managers, industry and scientists – manage and protect Australia's biodiversity.
- All jurisdictions are committed





Vision

- Australia's biodiversity is healthy and resilient to threats, and valued both in its own right and for its essential contribution to our existence

- Eight principles



(Photo: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)



Principles

- We share the Earth with many other life forms that have intrinsic value and warrant our respect, whether or not they are of benefit to us
- Biodiversity is best conserved by protecting existing natural habitats
- Effective conservation of biodiversity operates at the landscape and seascape scale across public and private tenures
- Natural ecosystems are dynamic but have a finite capacity to recover from external threats, impact and pressures



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Principles cont'd

- Building resilience recognises the critical links between ecological and social systems
- All Australians benefit from biodiversity; all Australians can and should contribute to its well-being
- Our efforts to conserve biodiversity must acknowledge and respect the culture, values, innovations, practices and knowledge of Indigenous peoples
- Knowing that our knowledge is limited, we should apply the precautionary principle when employing adaptive management approaches using new science and practical experience



Achieving the vision – strategic framework

- 3 priorities for action:
 - Engaging all Australians
 - Building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate
 - Getting measurable results

- Each of the priorities for action is supported by subpriorities, outcomes, measurable targets and indicative actions



(Mike Trenery)



Priority for action 1: Engaging all Australians

1.1. Mainstreaming biodiversity

Target 1: By 2015, achieve a 25% increase in the number of Australians and public and private organisations who participate in biodiversity conservation activities

1.2 Increasing Indigenous engagement

Target 2: By 2015, achieve a 25% increase in employment and participation of Indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation

1.3 Enhancing strategic investments and partnerships

Target 3: By 2015, achieve a doubling of the value of complementary markets for ecosystem services



Priority for action 2: Building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate

2.1 Protecting diversity

Target 4: By 2015, achieve a national increase of 600,000 km² of native habitat managed primarily for biodiversity conservation across terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments

2.2 Maintaining and establishing ecosystem functions

Target 5: By 2015, 1,000 km² of fragmented landscapes and aquatic systems are being restored to improve ecological connectivity

Target 6: By 2015, four collaborative continental-scale linkages are established and managed to improve ecological connectivity

2.3 Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 7: By 2015, reduce by at least 10% the impacts of invasive species on threatened species and ecological communities in terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments



Priority for action 3: Getting measurable results

3.1 Improving and sharing knowledge

Target 8: By 2015, nationally agreed science and knowledge priorities for biodiversity conservation are guiding research activities

3.2 Delivering conservation initiatives efficiently

Target 9: By 2015, all jurisdictions will review relevant legislation, policies and programs to maximise alignment with Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

3.3 Implementing robust national monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Target 10: By 2015, establish a national long-term biodiversity monitoring and reporting system



Lessons learnt

- Emerging sophistication of biodiversity conservation
- The public has high expectations
- Target development



(Photo: Dave Watts)



Lessons learnt

- Emerging sophistication of biodiversity conservation
 - Sectoral \Rightarrow integrated approach
 - Jurisdictions have matured
 - Species \Rightarrow whole-of-ecosystem approach
 - Indigenous peoples better acknowledged
 - Marine environment
 - Regulation \Rightarrow incentives and markets



Lessons learnt cont'd

- The public has high expectations
 - Consultation Draft fell far short of the public's expectations – targets, funding, responsibility
- Target development
 - Targets are not an end in themselves
 - Compromise between multiple goals/objectives
 - How best to use science



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Where to next?

- Momentum for setting targets; expectation they will be achieved
- Implementation
 - Owned by jurisdictions through ministerial council
 - Environment and Water Standing Council
 - Reporting on progress in 2012 and 2014
 - Review in 2015



For a copy of the Strategy and brochure:

visit our website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/strategy/index.html>



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(Nicole Middleton)