

## Reporting template – Information for inclusion in Australia’s sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

As Australia’s national focal point for the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Department of the Environment and Energy is producing Australia’s 6th National Report to the Convention.

To meet our international obligations, Australia is required to report every four years on the measures we have undertaken to implement the Convention, the effectiveness of our actions and general progress against the targets we have previously set in our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030.

To create a holistic report which encompasses not only action taken at the Commonwealth and State levels, we are seeking your input on any case studies that have been previously prepared that we could utilise for this Report.

### Case Study

If you have an existing case study/example of activities which you would like to put forward for inclusion in the report, please use the below template or if it is already freely available on the internet, please provide the link.

*If you are reporting more than one case study, please duplicate the below table for each case study.*

<b>Name of activity</b>	Bush Blitz – Protecting Australia’s biodiversity and building resilience in landscapes
<b>Location where activity is happening (State or region is fine)</b>	Australia wide
<b>If applicable: Which National Target(s) does the activity best contribute to?</b>	Target 1. By 2015, achieve a 25 per cent increase in the number of Australians and public and private organisations who participate in biodiversity conservation activities.
<b>Which Aichi Target(s) does the activity address?</b>	Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably
<b>Case Study text</b>	<p>Bush Blitz is Australia’s largest nature-discovery program formed through a strong partnership between government, industry (BHP) and an environmental organisation (Earthwatch). Bush Blitz is an encompassing program with a long term vision for sustainable land management that includes biodiversity data collection and research, land manager capacity building, education and public awareness.</p> <p>Since the program began in 2010, thirty-three Bush Blitz expeditions targeting under-surveyed areas across Australia have made a major contribution to the understanding and conservation of Australia’s biodiversity. These surveys have discovered more than 1,600 new species, added over 2,000 new records to species lists for conservation management, generated more than 500 records of species</p>

	<p>listed as threatened, vulnerable or endangered, along with over 1200 records of pest species and more than 32,000 individual occurrences of plants, animals and other organisms. These records are publically accessible for land managers, scientists and the general public. The program has also supported ex-situ conservation of threatened plant species through seed banking and propagation; and has informed multi-level policies and management plans such as the State of the Environment Report.</p> <p>Through the program, Bush Blitz also engages BHP employees and school teachers as research assistants on survey expeditions with a total of 32 teachers and 86 BHP employees involved since 2010. Through a structured program, they are required to communicate education and awareness on science and biodiversity conservation to their extended networks; including students, friends, family and colleagues. It has been estimated these participants have shared their experience and positive learnings with at least 38,000 Australians, raising the awareness of the significance of biodiversity to sustainable ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>If applicable:</b>  <b>Does your activity include engagement with/participation by Indigenous Australians?</b>   <b>If yes, please provide details.</b></p>	<p>Yes – Indigenous rangers are engaged when a Bush Blitz survey occurs on native title land. Prior to the survey, consultation occurs with traditional owners to understand their priorities. During the survey, indigenous rangers are invited to participate in survey activities, with a focus on capacity-building. Post-survey engagement may also occur to further build capacity of rangers. All data collected from the expedition is supplied to the Indigenous land owners to help shape their species management plans.</p>

## Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/australias-biodiversity-conservation-strategy>

### Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Targets

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

Target 2. By 2015, achieve a 25 per cent increase in employment and participation of Indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation.

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

Target 4. By 2015, achieve a national increase of 600,000km<sup>2</sup> of native habitat managed primarily for biodiversity conservation across terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments.

Target 5. By 2015, 1,000km<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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

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

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

## Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Targets

<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

### Aichi Targets

Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2 - By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3 -By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4 -By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Target 5 -By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6 -By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Target 7 -By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8 -By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9 -By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10 -By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Target 11 -By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 12 -By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Target 13 -By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Target 14 - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15 - By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Target 16 - By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Target 17 - By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18 - By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19 -By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20 -By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.