Progress Report CF 2023-041

Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Biodiversity Knowledge

BCS Species and Communities

Project Core Team

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Project Team granted
Program Leader granted
Directorate required

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

Biodiversity and Conservation Science

Threatened Species and Ecological Communities
Biodiversity Knowledge

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Context

This project is the core ongoing function of the Biodiversity Knowledge team within the Species and Communities Program. The team is responsible for the maintenance of legislative lists for threatened species and ecological communities and the ongoing curation and maintenance of data, information and knowledge systems for conservation significant species, communities and wetlands.

The threatened species and communities databases are end-of-life legacy systems that are to be replaced with a new database, Boranga. This one-off project is addressing databasing, legacy systems, curation and ongoing sharing arrangements. Following the initial delivery, maintenance of this system will also be managed by the Biodiversity Knowledge team.

Aims

- To ensure that the list of threatened species and communities ecological communities under the Act, remains up-to-date as threats change and our scientific understanding improves.
- To deliver the listing through a robust process that has involved scientific, operational, community, stakeholder and government consultation in a manner consistent with contemporary expectations and the Common Assessment Method Framework and administer the Scientific Committees.
- Deliver contemporary, integrated and accessible databases, data catalogues, and data management systems, with appropriate data standards.
- Improve the quality and quantity, and trustworthiness of threatened species, communities and wetlands datasets held by DBCA.
- Maintain databases of known locations, conservation status and all other relevant information about conservation listed (threatened, extinct/collapsed, specially protected and priority) species and ecological communities.
- Collect and curate data for conservation listed species (locations, threats, management actions, ecological and biological attributes).
- Provide location data for conservation listed species and ecological communities.
- Maintain relevant departmental policies for the administration of the legislative process for maintaining conservation lists, and administrative process for Priority listings.

Progress

- The first list of threatened species under the Biodiversity Conservation Act was gazetted in September 2022.
- There are 436 (163 critically endangered, 143 endangered and 130 vulnerable) threatened flora species. There were ten additions to the list, three delistings, and 16 name changes recognised.
- There are 248 (57 critically endangered, 59 endangered and 132 vulnerable) threatened fauna species. There was one delisting, and five name changes recognised.
- The first list of threatened ecological communities under the Biodiversity Conservation Act was gazetted in May 2023.
- There are 65 (45 critically endangered, 9 endangered and 11 vulnerable) threatened ecological communities. There were 35 category and criteria changes from the previous list as a result of the standardised International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red list for Ecosystems assessment process.
- Priority lists were maintained. There are 3454 species of Priority flora, 220 species of Priority fauna, and 390 Priority Ecological Communities.
- Work on the Boranga database continued with the Office of Information Management and engagement with the BIO team to ensure integration and functionality with other Corporate systems.
- Data for conservation listed species continued to be entered and curated into existing data bases. This included 3685 records for flora, 21593 records for fauna, and

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Management implications

- The threatened species list is maintained for conservation and government decision making purposes.
- The Priority species and ecological communities list provides protection for species which may meet criteria for threatened, for which survey or other information is insufficient for listing.
- Biodiversity knowledge is made available to government, consultants and other external stakeholders to improve conservation outcomes.

Future directions

The threatened species and communities databases are end-of-life legacy systems that are to be replaced with a new database, Boranga. This one-off project is addressing databasing, legacy systems, curation and ongoing sharing arrangements. Following the initial delivery, this system will continue to be built upon, to improve sharing through the Dandjoo platform, and increasing the visibility of conservation actions, threats and management requirements for threatened species and communities.