Concept Plan SP 2021-010

Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Biodiversity Knowledge

BCS Species and Communities

Project Core Team

X X **Supervising Scientist** Jessica Donaldson
Data Custodian Claire Sands

Project status as of June 26, 2023, 2:27 p.m.

X X New project, pending concept plan approval

Document endorsements and approvals as of June 26, 2023, 2:27 p.m.

X X
Project Team granted
Program Leader granted
Directorate required

Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Biodiversity Knowledge

Program

BCS Species and Communities

Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

Background

This project is for the development, implementation and maintenance of a database for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities.

This system replaces several existing database systems and information not captured in corporate systems (only in corporate records). The main focus of this system will be to capture, maintain and share conservation listing data, occurrence (location) data and monitoring data for conservation listed flora, fauna and ecological communities in Western Australia. The system is planned to also include components for the following:

- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) and the Threatened Ecological Communities Scientific Committee (TECSC) Meetings
- The workflow for changes to conservation listings (including the nomination process via the TSSC and TECSC)
- Recovery Teams and Recovery Team Meetings
- Threatened Flora and Threatened Fauna Translocations, including an approval workflow.
- Additional information on attributes of conservation listed flora, fauna and ecological communities.

This new system is required as the three main existing databases where this data is held are legacy systems, i.e. in technology no longer supported. These systems are also limited in functionality and there is a need to improve the capability of the system that holds this data. The improved functionality that is required relates to efficiencies in data input (including bulk importing data), data sharing, data queries, custom and standard reports, and integrating the system with other internal and external systems.

Aims

Continue development of up-to-date, integrated and accessible databases, data catalogues, and data management systems, with appropriate data standards.

The **development** of the new system will provide increased access to Threatened Species and Ecological Communities data and improve the quality and quantity of data held by DBCA. This will lead to improvements and efficiency gains in conservation status assessments and listings, environmental impact assessments, management advice and implementation of DBCA's legislative responsibilities in relation to Threatened Species and Ecological Communities under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The new system will be designed in a way to improve efficiencies in data input, curation, management, extraction and sharing. It will also be designed to improve access to data to those that require it i.e. internal staff, external persons and systems required to integrate with this system.

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.

Undertake activities to support the statutory listing process, including using up to date scientific information to prepare nominations for the conservation status of species and ecological communities, undertaking public consultation and administration of Scientific Committees.

Expected outcome

This project will deliver the development, implementation and ongoing maintenance of a database system for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities to ensure biodiversity knowledge is available:

- Biodiversity data for conservation significant species is maintained in the Boranga dataset and is trusted for biodiversity conservation planning and decision making.
- High quality curated and effectively maintained biodiversity data is available for ingestion to Dandjoo for discovery and access by environment- sector users.
- Data sharing protocols for sensitive data that are contemporary, shared and consistently applied.
- Up to date and accurate information for threatened species is available for recovery planning.
- Information and advice to minimise impacts of prescribed burns on threatened species and ecological communities is available for planning.

Lists of specially protected, threatened, extinct, and priority species, threatened and collapsed ecological communities, threatening processes and critical habitat that are maintained in accordance with statutory requirements and departmental policy.

Strategic context

This project directly relates to the "Conservation of threatened species and ecological communities" theme from the Science Strategic Plan 2018-21, and is also relevant to several other strategic themes within this plan including: Biodiversity knowledge, Innovative science and effective use of technology, Effective data management, Fire science to inform fire management and biodiversity conservation, Collaboration with science providers, science users and other stakeholders, Science operates with a collaborative culture, and Corporate science knowledge.

Expected collaborations

- Biodiversity Information Office (BIO) and Environment Online (The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation - DWER). BIO and DWER will require the data from this system to share on their proposed online systems, as such DBCA need to collaborate with them to ensure the new system can be integrated with these future systems and provide the required information.
- DBCA Staff from Regions, Science and other groups within DBCA. The Regional staff are largely responsible for undertaking the monitoring of conservation listed species and and as such they will be responsible for providing and/or entering this data. Likewise Scientific research undertaken will capture data required to be provided/entered into the new system. As such collaboration is required within DBCA to facilitate this sharing of data.
- OIM will be responsible for the technical maintenance of the database, and as such collaboration is required to ensure functionality of the database is maintained.
- Many other government agencies and also external groups (e.g. educational institutions, environmental consultancies) use and want access to the data that will be held in the Threatened Species and Ecological Communities database. These groups, particularly environmental consultancies, will also be a large source of data contribution (as an outcome of surveys informing environmental impact assessment) and as such government requirements for reporting this survey information requires streamlining across government agencies to remove duplication in reporting where possible (e.g. IBSA, Wildlife licencing reports, *BC Act* Authorisations reports).

Proposed period of the project

June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025

Staff time allocation

to | X | X | X |

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Ongoing
Senior Database Officer	1	1	1
OIM Project Management (Salary covered by OIM)			
OIM Developer			
Technical Officer (3 existing staff paid by re-coup)	4	4	4

Indicative operating budget

to | X | X | X |

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Ongoing
Consolidated Funds (DBCA)			
External Funding			