

Progress Report CF 2015-024

BioSys – the Western Australian Biological Survey Database

BCS Ecoinformatics

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Update requested

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Project Team

required

Program Leader

required

Directorate

required

BioSys – the Western Australian Biological Survey Database

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Context

A key strategy in conserving biodiversity is collecting field observation data that can be transformed into information, and then knowledge to inform decision-making. This biological survey is an important component of conservation programs and because of Western Australia's size, remoteness and inaccessibility of many sites, data collection is typically expensive and data sets are often irreplaceable. A corporately accessible database is required to capture biological survey data and ensure they are readily available. The Western Australian Biological Survey Database, BioSys, is a corporate application designed to load, curate and export complex ecological data. It aims to address the risks and issues described above by providing a secure, central, scalable, and accessible data repository based on modern, modular architecture.

Aims

- Build a corporate application for storing, curating and distributing ecological data, that allows users to manage their own data sets and increases accessibility of ecological data to departmental users and systems.

Progress

- Data held in BioSys was maintained.
- Documentation for BioSys was updated.

Management implications

- Reporting, research and analysis will be more effective and efficient through improved data consistency and availability. In turn, this will better inform decision-making and enhance conservation outcomes.
- Data will be better protected from loss arising from staff turnover or changing storage technologies, and will benefit from improved security and backup.
- Improved integration between systems will reduce the implementation cost of new projects through software re-use and more efficient data access.
- The system will facilitate improved compliance with government requirements for knowledge management and open data.

Future directions

- Requirement for a data repository will be reviewed when the Biodiversity Information Office data system is available.