Progress Report CF 2021-044

BIO biodiversity data platform

BCS Biodiversity Information Office

Project Core Team

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X X
Project Team granted
Program Leader granted
Directorate required

BIO biodiversity data platform

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Context

The Biodiversity Information Office (BIO) has developed Dandjoo, a central platform that makes Western Australian biodiversity data more easily discoverable, searchable, and accessible. Dandjoo was launched in mid-2022, and will be enhanced with a range of new features and refinements during 2022-23 and 2023-24. It has been designed to mobilise biodiversity data from all environment-related sectors, including industry, government and community organisations, and to support seamless data sharing across the public, private and research sectors and the broader community.

This work will drive improved regulatory decision-making, providing data for the State's forthcoming Environment Online portal to support digital transformation of environmental assessment and approval, and to other State agencies to support evidence-based decision-making for better environmental outcomes. It also facilitates the automated exchange of biodiversity data between Western Australia and the Commonwealth to support decision-making at a national level.

Aims

- Allow users to easily discover, search, and access a range of Western Australian biodiversity data via a single platform.
- Provide streamlined access to biodiversity data for government agencies, including regulators, to enhance the quality and timeliness of decision-making.
- Develop a model that can be deployed in other States and Territories to automate the contribution of biodiversity data to an Australia-wide repository.

Progress

- Design and testing of a national best-practice methodology to allow users to securely access reduced-precision data about conservation listed species, with features using this approach to be rolled out in Dandjoo in the first half of 2023-24.
- Design and commencement of development of a wide range of enhancements and new features to be released progressively throughout 2023-24; these include expansion of search functionality, performance enhancements, and capability to display more complex data types, and are based on feedback from BIO's stakeholders.
- Collaboration has continued with the Western Australian Museum, Western Australian Herbarium and other DBCA experts to ensure data in the platform remains up-to-date and robustly curated.

Management implications

- Increased data availability for industry and government will support environmental impact assessments and facilitate transparent and evidence-based environmental decisions.
- Access to a broader range of high-quality biodiversity data will expand research opportunities and enhance the quality of research outputs.
- Biodiversity conservation outcomes will be enhanced by more information on the geographic distribution of species in Western Australia, supporting the effectiveness of conservation programs and identification of knowledge gaps that will inform priorities for future data collection efforts.

Future directions

- Rollout of high-priority enhancements, allowing public users to safely access conservation listed species data with an appropriate level of precision, and to export unique species lists.

- Ongoing development of Dandjoo to provide additional functionality, including expanded search options, additional data fields, and enhanced handling of systematic survey data.
- Ongoing consultation with data users and data custodians across all sectors to prioritise future enhancements and refinements of the platform and future years.