

Concept Plan SP 2007-014

Development of interactive identification platforms and content

Plant Science and Herbarium

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist	DrKevin Thiele (Eubio Consulting)
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Project status as of Aug. 27, 2017, 6:35 p.m.

Update requested

Document endorsements and approvals as of Aug. 27, 2017, 6:35 p.m.

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

Development of interactive identification platforms and content

Science and Conservation Division Program

Plant Science and Herbarium

Parks and Wildlife Service

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

Aims

Accurate and effective identification of specimens of plant and animal taxa is essential for biodiversity survey, ecology, conservation assessment, and almost all other branches of biological research that require a taxonomic assignment of specimens. In particular, surveys conducted as part of the environmental assessment process, such as by environmental consultants working on development approvals, require that identifications of plants be accurate and can be done in an efficient and timely manner. Without accuracy in identifications, the presence and occurrence of rare or other conservation-listed taxa in development areas may be missed, resulting in negative conservation outcomes; conversely, the presence and occurrence of such taxa outside development zones may also be missed without effective means of identification, with negative consequences for resource development and planning.

In addition to these formal uses of identification tools, broad community engagement with plant biodiversity is enhanced by the availability of simple, effective and accessible means of identifying wildflowers and other plants. Many botanical resources such as floras and their identification keys are relatively inaccessible and intractable for community users. The development of user-friendly and accessible identification keys helps encourage active community participation in this area.

While a number of platforms and mechanisms exist for identification of specimens, this project focuses on two, the Lucid suite of programs (<http://www.lucidcentral.org>), and the IdentifyLife platform (<http://www.identifylife.org>). Lucid is a mature and globally recognized software suite for creating, managing and deploying computer-aided interactive identification tools. IdentifyLife is a new, web-based collaborative framework for managing the descriptive data that underpins interactive identification keys.

The project has is developing and deploying keys to some of the largest and most important families of flowering plants in Western Australia.

Expected outcome

Outcomes are twofold. Firstly, accurate, effective and efficient identification tools bring benefits both to DEC staff and to key DEC clients, particularly the environmental consultants community. Secondly, provision of user-friendly and accessible identification tools encourages broad community engagement with the plant biodiversity of Western Australia and increases linkages between DEC and the community.

Strategic context

Expected collaborations

Proposed period of the project

None – None

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist			
Technical			
Volunteer			

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)			
External Funding			