



Biodiversity ¹

2010 was the [International year of Biodiversity](#)

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

The [Global reporting Initiative aspect](#) for Biodiversity allows for the core indicators of;

- **Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.**
- **Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.**

And additional aspects of ;

- Habitats protected or restored.
- Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity.
- Number of [IUCN Red List species](#) and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk.

Australia is the most megadiverse developed country and supports almost 10 per cent of the biological diversity on earth. Australia's biodiversity makes a significant contribution to its economy and is essential to our identity and culture.

[Biodiversity](#) provides the fundamental building blocks for the many goods and services a healthy environment provides. These include things that are fundamental to our health, like clean air, fresh water and food products, as well as the many other products such as timber and fibre. Other important services provided by our biodiversity include recreational, cultural and spiritual nourishment that maintain our personal and social wellbeing. Looking after our biodiversity is therefore an important task for all people.

[Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species](#), many of which are found nowhere else in the world. About 84 per cent of plants, 83 per cent of mammals, and 45 per cent of birds are only found in Australia.

Changes to the landscape and native habitat as a result of human activity have put many of these unique species at risk. Over the last two hundred years many species of plants and animals have become extinct. For the other species of plants and animals whose survival is threatened, a range of management and conservation measures are in place. Ecological communities are unique and naturally occurring groups of plants and animals. Their presence can be determined by factors such as soil type, position in the landscape, climate and water availability.

The [Australian Yearbook](#) adds further information about our biodiversity.

¹ ¹The ebb and flow of web information allows us to share and travel with it in a community-centered way. Feel free to agree or take issue with the contents of these papers. They are the Aptly “take” on information and thought developed over many years and rely heavily on work already done in the field and referenced throughout.

Most specific regulatory information is available from State and Local web sources.

By local area, your own local Council's water information can be searched at the [Australian Local Government Association](#) website.

Each Australian State has its own Department with responsibilities for Biodiversity.

[ACT](#)

[NSW](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)