

# Nature Conservation Output: Overview, key priorities and challenges

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Kalbarri NP

Parks and Visitor Services  
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# Talk Outline

- The Nature Conservation Output
- The Big Five – Sub-outputs
- SPAs
- NC Review
- Future priorities
- Output integration
- Summary & Challenges



Two Peoples Bay NP

# The Nature Conservation Output

“The development and implementation of programs

- for flora and fauna conservation,
  - for threatened species and ecological communities, and
  - for commercially exploited species in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainability,
- the acquisition, conservation and protection of representative ecosystems, and
- encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation services and policies”.



# The Nature Conservation Sub-output

## The Big Five Key Result Areas

- Biodiversity inventory and conservation assessment;
- Terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system;
- Off-reserve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wildlife;
- Recovery of threatened species and ecological communities and;
- Partnerships, public appreciation, compliance and support.

# The Nature Conservation Big Five Key Result Areas

## 1. Biodiversity inventory and conservation assessment

*“We will achieve an understanding of our States natural biodiversity and biodiversity conservation needs”* through:

- conservation status evaluation (threatened or not?)
- research into plant and animal taxonomy (what species)
- operating the Western Australian Herbarium
- investigations and research related to the conservation of key species and ecological communities.

# The Nature Conservation Big Five Key Result Areas

## 2. Terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system

*“We will achieve a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system that conserves our natural biodiversity”* through:

- investigation and identification of areas to incorporate into CAR reserve system;
  - incorporating high nature conservation value areas into reserves until a CAR reserve system is achieved
- the pursuit of other means, such as management agreements for areas that will complement the reserve system.
- management plans and actions for biodiversity conservation, maintaining natural processes and abatement of threatening processes;
- research for reserve management

# The Nature Conservation Big Five Key Result Areas

## 3. Off-reserve Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable use

*“We will achieve a network of private conservation activities that conserve biodiversity and are complementary to the conservation reserve system ”* through:

- private conservation enhancement and encouragement (Land for Wildlife, Covenants, etc.
- targeting key private areas for conservation management ;
- input into regional NRM strategies, plans and actions;
- promoting sustainable use of wildlife; and
- management programs for major wildlife use operations.

# The Nature Conservation Big Five Key Result Areas

## 4. Recovery of threatened species and ecological communities

*“We will recover threatened species and ecological communities, while also preventing others becoming extinct as a result of human activity”* through:

- up to date lists of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities
- development and implementation of recovery plans;
- research into threatening processes;
  - salinity, introduced pests, diseases, weeds and inappropriate fire; and
- implementing broad scale programs such as Western Shield and Western Everlasting.



# The Nature Conservation Big Five Key Result Areas

## 5. Partnerships, public appreciation, compliance and support

*“We will work effectively with the wider community to achieve biodiversity conservation and a community that is knowledgeable about, interested in, supportive of, and involved in, biodiversity conservation.”* through:

- external partnerships with the community, the Commonwealth, State/Territory agencies, local gov’t etc;
- internal communications/liaison;
- sound advice and effective communication with the Government on nature conservation matters;
- modern legislation for biodiversity conservation, a State Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and effective licensing and compliance operations; and
- education/information and experience based activities to raise awareness and appreciation of biodiversity conservation.

# The Nature Conservation Output and SPAs

Tool for:

- Strategic planning for real achievements and outcomes
- Resetting priorities and strategies
- Categorization and ranking activities/services
- Investment framework
- Measuring our success/failure
- Reporting framework



Shark Bay MP

# Service Provision Agreements

## Contract to:

- define what will be done, by whom (Regional Services, Science, Corp Serv etc) and using what resources;
- list services to be purchased;
- linked to the Department's Budget papers and Corporate Plan; and
- Chart of Accounts.



Cat trap

# Service Provision Agreements Funding



Noisy scrub bird hide & pens



Captive breeding pens, Peron NP

## Nature Conservation Output

= ~\$60 M

– SPA covers ~\$40M

### ● Break up of ~\$60M

– Regional services 26%

– GMS, WS, SAP 14%

– Science 12%

– NC Div 8.8%

– Corp Serv 7%

– Strat Dev & Corp Affairs  
1.5%

– PVS 0.9%

– Other ~22%

# Internal Review of Regional Services SPA

## Aims of review

- *Develop a shared understanding of Nature Conservation Output priorities.*
- *Identify and prioritize the outputs that we can achieve over the next 1 to 3 years*
- *Align the budget to priorities and meeting outcomes*
  - *Turn around historical allocation of funding to invest in priorities*
- *Better communication*

# Internal Review of Regional Services SPA

Iterative review process with a view to invest in better defined priorities

- Evaluation of a sample of projects across 9 regions (~70+);
- Workshops to develop 3 year strategic operational plans & identify needs/priorities;
- Identification of training requirements to meet new needs;
- Identification of priorities at a State and regional level;
- Examination of NC delivery
  - Organizational structure
  - Quality of services
- Preparation for 2003-2004 SPAs and redistribution of ~\$5-6M across regional services



Parry Lagoons NR & Ramsar site



Weed control, Millstream, Chikara

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- ❑ **Develop a Biological Diversity Conservation Bill and a Western Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**

# Output Integration



Vegetation rolling Corackerup NR



Peron NP

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- Development of consistent framework for implementation of outputs?



Vegetation rolling Corackerup NR



Peron NP



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- Combine outputs' 3 year operational plans?



Vegetation rolling Corackerup NR



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- Development of consistent framework for implementation of outputs?
- Combine outputs' 3 year operational plans?
- Joint training between staff, e.g. planning and management?



Vegetation rolling Corackerup NR



Peron NP

# Summary

- NC Output covers an extensive range of activities
- NC is undertaking an evaluation:
  - to identify and better define State/regional priorities;
  - to restructure and align with the big 5;
  - to focus on strategic and bioregional planning; and
  - to develop and implement better central Output liaison, consultation, and coordination

# Challenges for the future

- Redistribute of funds against priorities to maximise outcomes for biodiversity conservation
- Better integration of programs at regional/district level – increase coordination and reorganisation
- Better integration of Outputs to maximise outcomes
- Refine NC strategic planning - Output business plan and strategic plan, performance indicators
- Continue Output review of other service providers - Science etc

# More Challenges for the future

- Coping with change to respond creatively, while still meeting new priorities:
  - facilitate culture shift;
  - capacity building (knowledge, people, training);
  - continuation of support to service providers.

# The end

Thank you



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Thank you



“Knowledge speaks but wisdom listens”

Jimi Hendrix