

EcoEducation Strategic Plan

for

South West Region

2010 – 2012



ecoeducation

Relationship with Corporate Plan 2007 - 2009

This strategic plan supports the Department of Environment and Conservation's Strategic Directions, Objectives and Strategies, working towards the vision of "A healthy, diverse and well-managed Western Australian Environment".

It will assist in achieving this vision by:

- Maintaining community involvement and support.

To develop community awareness and appreciation of the State's natural environment and biodiversity and promote community involvement in and support for its protection and conservation.

Strategy

To increase opportunities for youth to learn about and gain hands-on experience with environment and conservation issues.

- *Continue to develop effective school and experience -based education and activity programs.*

Relationship with Wellington National Park, Westralia Conservation Park and Wellington Discovery Forest Management Plan 2008

This strategic plan supports the vision for the planning area:

'Over the life of the plan, a balance will exist between the conservation on the planning areas' natural values and the public demand for recreation and water supply. The area will make an important contribution to reservation of the Jarrah Forest, where natural values, such as granite outcrops, mature growth forest, ecosystems of the Collie River, and our knowledge of them, will be maintained and enhanced for future generations. Visitors to the area will enjoy a range of sustainable recreation opportunities in a variety of forest settings, and provide a benefit to the regional economy.

The community will regard the area as a natural asset and will have a greater understanding of its values, and support for their management, through Wellington Discovery Forest and other education and interpretive facilities. The ancient landscape of the Collie River valley will be recognised as a forest environment of great visual aesthetic appeal, and for its rich Aboriginal heritage, which will be kept alive through the active and ongoing involvement of local Aboriginal people.'

Under the Management Plan the objective of Wellington Discovery Forest is to:

'Promote community awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural values and management of the jarrah forest while being consistent with the purpose of the Wellington Discovery Forest reserve and the provisions of the CALM Act.'

EcoEducation in South West Region

Our Vision

School communities with an awareness and understanding of, and active involvement in, biodiversity conservation.

Our Mission

To manage, promote and deliver EcoEducation programs about biodiversity conservation, the multiple values and management of National Parks and Conservation Parks in the South West Region.

AWARENESS

Objective	Strategies	Performance indicators
<p>Increase school communities' awareness and appreciation of the biological and physical diversity of forest ecosystems in the South West Region.</p> <p>Increase school communities' understanding of current management procedures for the conservation of values for National Parks and Conservation areas in the South West Region.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver curriculum-linked EcoEducation programs supporting biodiversity conservation in the jarrah forest ecosystem to school communities at Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC).</p> <p>Continue to deliver curriculum-linked EcoEducation programs supporting biodiversity conservation in the tuart woodland ecosystem to school communities at Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park (LPCP) and Ludlow Tuart Forest (LTF).</p> <p>Promote EcoEducation in WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF through the local media.</p> <p>Conduct professional learning events for teachers at WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Present professional learning events at Department of Education and Training, Catholic Education Commission and Association of Independent Schools to promote and increase school community awareness and appreciation of the EcoEducation programs.</p> <p>Provide written literature promoting EcoEducation programs and the conservation values of the South West Region.</p> <p>Maintain the provision of information to and promote DEC's new website.</p> <p>Promote DEC's strategies and priorities for biodiversity conservation at every opportunity.</p>	<p>Level of participation of school communities in programs offered by EcoEducation in WDF.</p> <p>Level of participation of school communities in programs offered by EcoEducation at MREDC.</p> <p>Level of participation of school communities in programs offered by EcoEducation in the LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Level of participation of 'new' teachers in programs offered by EcoEducation.</p> <p>Level of coverage of EcoEducation events and programs in the media.</p>

EDUCATION

Objective	Strategies	Performance indicators
<p>Provide school communities with opportunities to develop knowledge of, and hands-on experience in, management and conservation issues in the South West Region.</p> <p>Provide resources and experiences that will assist school communities to understand that they are a part of nature and dependent on forest ecosystems for their daily needs.</p>	<p>Provide professional learning opportunities that relate to EcoEducation programs for school teachers and appropriate tertiary communities and in collaboration with district offices, universities, technical and further education institutions and professional organisations.</p> <p>Provide teachers with material that supports the Curriculum Framework for in-class educational opportunities linked to EcoEducation excursions.</p> <p>Provide safe and inclusive forest experiences for all school communities at all levels of education at WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Provide school-based incursion programs supporting biodiversity conservation for all school communities at all levels of education.</p> <p>Assist educators to link EcoEducation materials, excursion and incursion outcomes to the Curriculum Framework and specific curriculum content components for the involved school.</p> <p>Assist school communities to develop comprehensive cross-curriculum environmental strategies for school-wide programs linked through EcoEducation to WDF or MREDC.</p> <p>Encourage environmental responsibility and enhanced positive attitudes towards biodiversity conservation through successful, enjoyable, hands-on, educational experiences at WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Encourage environmental custodianship of WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF through exposure to EcoEducation programs.</p> <p>Expose students to possible career path choices in conservation through involvement with DEC's regional and district staff in EcoEducation programs.</p>	<p>Responses from evaluation of professional learning opportunities</p> <p>Level of recurrent participation of school communities in programs offered by EcoEducation in the South West Region.</p> <p>Number of classes in school communities involved in programs offered by EcoEducation in the South West Region.</p> <p>Level of recurrent participation of teachers in programs offered by EcoEducation in the South West Region.</p>

ACTION

Objective	Strategies	Performance indicators
<p>Provide school communities with field-based and participatory experiences that will develop and initiate changes in behaviour and attitudes in relation to sustainable use of forests and their resources.</p> <p>Encourage school communities to develop active involvement in and support for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Promote active citizenship and a responsible environmental ethic towards forest ecosystems through local action and research in WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Facilitate and provide opportunities for surveys and assessments of sustainable management of forest resources in WDF.</p> <p>Encourage and support project-based monitoring and evaluation of biological and physical resources of WDF.</p> <p>Encourage and support project-based monitoring and evaluation of management practices within WDF.</p> <p>Encourage and support participation of school communities in measuring baseline biodiversity at WDF and MREDC.</p> <p>Encourage and support participation of school communities in measuring baseline biodiversity on school grounds.</p> <p>Provide standardised frameworks for data collection and procedures by providing training and support resources.</p> <p>Facilitate the interpretation and assessment of data collected, and provide the opportunity for enhancing information with data from other sources.</p> <p>Facilitate whole school involvement in research-based activities at WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Encourage participation by school communities in community service activities at WDF, MREDC and LPCP through 'Caring for Places'.</p>	<p>Level of involvement of school communities in the research zone of WDF.</p> <p>Level of involvement of school communities in activities that benefit the biodiversity conservation of, and enjoyment of visitors to WDF, MREDC, LPCP and LTF.</p> <p>Level of participation in baseline biodiversity measuring.</p> <p>Level of participation in community service programs at WDF, MREDC and LPCP.</p>

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Objective	Strategies	Performance indicators
Maintain and develop networks and partnerships to share information and to support the continuity of EcoEducation in DEC's South West Region.	<p>Develop and support a local network of school communities involved in biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Create opportunities for collaboration and support for/from environmental education programs in the Region.</p> <p>Establish and maintain links with educational institutions, professional organisations and environmental education networks to facilitate sustainable education strategies.</p> <p>Maintain the integrity of EcoEducation in the South West Region as part of DEC's EcoEducation network.</p> <p>Consolidate and improve EcoEducation's relationships in DEC to provide security for long-term goals and outcomes on a regional basis.</p> <p>Promote EcoEducation as the vehicle for DEC's educational and community involvement objective.</p>	<p>Change in the number of beneficial alliances formed and maintained over the period 2010 to 2012.</p> <p>Evaluation of EcoEducation programs by customers</p>

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