

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 44
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

MAY 1992

1. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

To conserve and manage threatened, specially protected, or harvested taxa of flora and fauna and their habitats, threatened ecological communities and other taxa in need of intensive management by the preparation and implementation of written wildlife management programs.

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy -

"habitat" means the place or environment in which an organism lives.

"harvested taxon" means any animal or plant taxon that is subject to exploitation under a licence or open season pursuant to the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations, or is otherwise taken from the wild or used as a recreational resource.

"Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines" means guidelines approved by the Director of Nature Conservation for the management and protection of threatened or harvested taxa, threatened ecological communities or other taxa in need of management where no full Wildlife Management Program has been prepared.

"Recovery Plan" means a Wildlife Management Program produced by CALM with the overall objective of the recovery from current threat of extinction of a threatened taxon, of groups of taxa or of a threatened ecological community.

"specially protected taxon" means any animal taxon declared under Section 14(2)(ba) or any plant declared under Section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act as "in need of special protection".

"taxon" (plural taxa) is a general term for a taxonomic group, whatever its rank; e.g., it may be a species, subspecies or variety.

"threatened ecological community" means an integrated assembly of species that is threatened with severe degradation or destruction.

"threatened taxon" means any animal taxon declared under Section 14(2)(ba) or any plant taxon declared under Section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act as "likely to become extinct or rare". See policy Statements 9 and 33 for policy on threatened flora and fauna respectively.

"Wildlife Management Program" means a document produced by CALM providing an assessment of the current status of and detailed information and guidance for the management and protection of any taxa and their habitats, groups of taxa and their habitats, or a threatened ecological community.

3. BACKGROUND

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has statutory responsibilities for the conservation of flora and fauna, through the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

A major broad strategy of the Department's Strategic Plan is to "Prepare and implement wildlife management programs for wildlife throughout the State."

Wildlife Management Programs may be prepared for a single taxon of fauna and flora, for groups of taxa, or for a threatened ecological community. Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines may be prepared for a single taxon or groups of taxa or for a threatened ecological community. Wildlife Management Programs for a taxon or groups of taxa will address the conservation and management of habitat as necessary.

The conservation of threatened flora and fauna is an issue of high public profile, and one where the Department's activities are of great public interest and are subject to close public scrutiny. CALM has set up three committees to aid the process of public consultation in this area, especially in relation to the development of lists of declared taxa and in the development of priorities for research and management.

The Threatened Flora Scientific Advisory Committee and the Threatened Fauna Scientific Advisory Committee meet at least annually (Flora in February, Fauna in March) to review the lists of declared threatened and specially protected taxa. These reviews include consideration of nominations from scientists and the public for changes to the lists. The Endangered Species Consultative Committee, which comprises representatives from CALM and major non-Government Conservation Organisations, meets quarterly to promote consultation and communication between CALM and the voluntary conservation movement.

The harvesting of indigenous fauna and flora is also an issue of high public profile and concern. Additionally, under the Commonwealth Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982, management programs are required before products may be exported from wild populations of any indigenous species. Advisory Committees (e.g., relating to the harvesting of kangaroos) and other appropriate processes are followed by CALM to provide community input into wildlife management planning.

Some other taxa may be exploited by being taken from the wild, e.g., for mitigation of damage to primary production, or by being the subject of non-consumptive use (e.g. commercial and recreational whale-watching). Where this exploitation is significant, the preparation of Wildlife Management Programs or Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines may be required.

4. POLICY

The Department will:

- 4.1 Prepare Recovery Plans for threatened taxa, groups of threatened taxa and for threatened ecological communities according to priorities laid down by the Corporate Executive in consultation with relevant consultative communities and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.
- 4.2 Prepare Wildlife Management Programs for harvested taxa, groups of harvested taxa, specially protected taxa or other taxa (and their habitats) subject to significant human exploitation or interference, according to priorities laid down by the Corporate Executive in consultation with the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and relevant consultative committees.
- 4.3 Prepare Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines for taxa (and their habitats) or ecological communities that urgently require management, but where there are insufficient data available to prepare Wildlife Management Programs.
- 4.4 Implement Wildlife Management Programs and Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines once they are completed and approved.
- 4.5 Consult with interested non-Government organisations and the public concerning the implementation of Wildlife Management Programs and Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines via appropriate consultative committees and public consultation processes.
- 4.6 Carry out or seek to have carried out necessary research on threatened or harvested taxa and on threatened ecological communities so that Wildlife Management Programs can be prepared and monitored.
- 4.7 Provide information to the public and interested non-Government organisations concerning the preparation and implementation of Wildlife Management Programs and Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines.

5. STRATEGIES

To accomplish the above objective and policies, the Department will:

- 5.1 Develop mechanisms for the allocations of priorities for research into and management of threatened taxa. These mechanisms will include the use of a scoring system and consultation with the scientific advisory committees and consultative committees.
- 5.2 Each year allocate priorities for the preparation of Wildlife Management Programs and allocate appropriate resources for their preparation. Wildlife Management Programs will not be commenced without approval from the Corporate Executive. Guidelines for the preparation of Wildlife Management Programs are provided in Appendices I to IV.
- 5.3 Set up Recovery Teams for threatened taxa or ecological communities and Management Teams for other taxa with the responsibility of coordinating actions prescribed in Wildlife Management Programs. Recovery and Management Teams may include staff from any organisation funding, carrying out or helping carry out actions prescribed in a Wildlife Management Program.
- 5.4 Each year review the progress of approved Wildlife Management Programs. The review will be based on an annual report from each Recovery Team and Management Team.
- 5.5 Where appropriate, release draft Wildlife Management Programs for public comment.

- 5.6 Ensure that Wildlife Management Programs are published and made available to the general public.
- 5.7 Each year decide on priorities for the preparation of Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines and allocate the task to staff as appropriate.

Guidelines for the preparation of Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines are provided in Appendix V.

- 5.8 Seek additional resources for appropriate research and the preparation and implementation of Wildlife Management Programs from external sources, sponsorship from companies and individuals, as well as from normal State Government sources.
- 5.9 Disseminate information concerning the preparation and implementation of Wildlife Management Programs and Interim Wildlife Management Guidelines.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR