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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Science Applications Program

For more information contact:

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Scope

The Science Applications Program focuses on making available online databases of species occurrence, maps where species have been recorded, and lists of species that have been recorded for any sized area within Western Australia. It also ensures that the research activities undertaken by Science Division officers are based on statistically valid procedures, and the subsequent numerical analyses of the data collected are up-to-date, reliable and accurate.

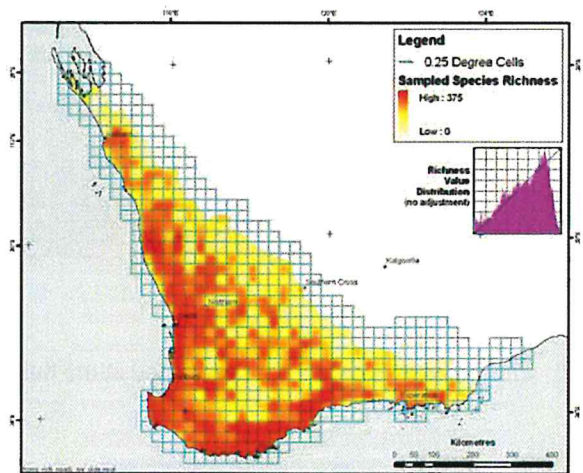
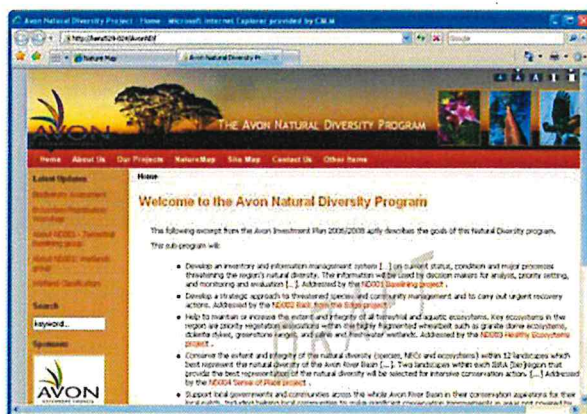


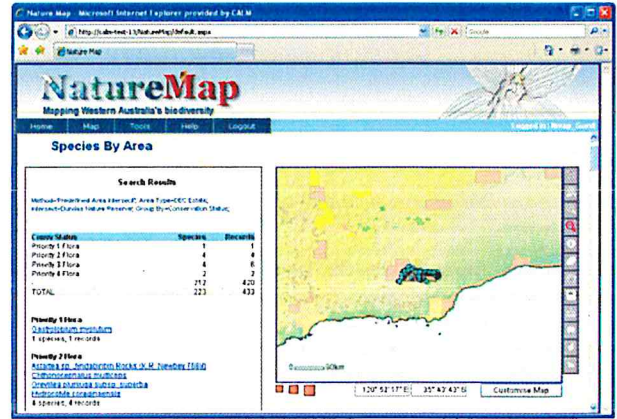
What we do

- Contribute to biodiversity conservation planning and the selection of reserved lands through improved knowledge management.
Effectively manage environmental data and knowledge of the natural environment through NatureMap.
Maintain a meta-database of divisional data.
Conduct targeted public communication and education programs.
Contribute to bioregional and area management planning.

Information systems are a primary mechanism for gathering, integrating, summarising and disseminating knowledge. Relevant knowledge can be located easily and in a seamless way, so that users, planners, and researchers can obtain the knowledge that they require.

Collaboration with the Avon Catchment Council, the Western Australian Museum and Western Australian Herbarium is providing the opportunity for a 'one-stop-shop' for online access to more than a million records of the occurrence of animal and plant species in Western Australia.





Current key activities and projects

- Biodiversity baselining – Avon Catchment Council NRM Project.
- Progressing the corporate protection and online accessibility of the c. 600 databases known to exist in the Science Division (Science Division corporate data directory and repository).
- Developing biodiversity indices based on species richness and endemism as an aid to acquisition of nature reserves and other conservation-managed lands.
- Developing an online system for spatially and textually querying a range of datasets, providing real-time GIS functionality over the web without the need for purchasing expensive desktop GIS software.
- Raising and maintaining standards of research planning and analyses.
- Managing Science Division corporate web sites.



Science Program staff are based at the Kensington research centre.