

Appendix 3 Threatened Species Conservation Categories

Taxa	Source of Conservation Status		
	Regional	South Australia	Australia
Plants	Lang & Kraehenbuehl (1998)	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972) Schedules 7, 8 and 9</i> (2000 version)	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)</i>
Mammals	Kemper <i>pers. comm.</i>		
Birds	Carpenter & Reid (1997)		
Reptiles	Hutchinson <i>pers. comm.</i>		
Frogs			
Freshwater Fishes	None used	None used	
Butterflies	None used	Grund (1998)	
Other Invertebrates	None used	None used	

Definitions of Conservation Categories

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

- X** ***Extinct*** No reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.
- EW** ***Extinct in the Wild*** Species is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or it has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.
- CE** ***Critically Endangered*** Species is facing an *extremely high risk* of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.
- E** ***Endangered*** Species is not critically endangered, but it is facing a *very high risk* of extinction in the wild in the near future.
- V** ***Vulnerable*** Species is not critically endangered or endangered, but it is facing a *high risk* of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.
- CD** ***Conservation Dependent*** Species is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.

Under the previous *Endangered Species Protection Act (1992)*, there existed only three conservation categories- *Extinct*, *Endangered* and *Vulnerable*. The additional three categories of *Extinct in the Wild*, *Critically Endangered* and *Conservation Dependent* have been established following the promulgation of the EPBC Act. However, as of November 2000, there are no species listed under these categories. Following the next meeting of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, it is expected that some species will have their conservation category changed and some species not currently listed, will following nomination be listed under one of the six categories above (Sarah May *pers. comm.*).

National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972) Schedules 7 (Endangered), 8 (Vulnerable) & 9 (Rare)

- E** ***Endangered*** Taxa that are likely to become extinct in South Australia unless the circumstances and factors threatening their abundance, survival or evolutionary development cease to operate
- V** ***Vulnerable*** Taxa that are likely to move into the “Endangered” category in South Australia in the near future unless the circumstances and factors threatening their abundance, survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.
- R** ***Rare*** Taxa that occur in small populations in South Australia, that are not at present “Endangered” or “Vulnerable” but are at some risk due to their low numbers. These taxa are usually localised within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range. This may include taxa which are perceived to be at risk for which there is insufficient information available to assign them to any other category, and taxa that are considered to be dependent on ongoing conservation programs to prevent them moving into the endangered or vulnerable categories. Populations or rare taxa in Australia may be contiguous with populations interstate that are considered to be secure. The rare category does not include taxa that are considered to be vagrants in South Australia.

ROTAP (Briggs & Leigh 1995) (National Conservation ratings for plants)

The Distribution Code (can be 1, 2 or 3)

- 1** Known by one collection only
- 2** Geographic Range in Australia less than 100km
- 3** Geographic Range in Australia greater than 100km

The Conservation Status (can be X, E, V, R or K)

- X** **Presumed Extinct:** taxon not collected or otherwise verified over the past 50 years despite thorough searching in all known and likely habitats, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently.
- E** **Endangered:** taxon in serious risk of disappearing from the wild within 10-20 years if present land use and other threats continue to operate. This category includes taxa with populations possibly too small (usually less than 100 individuals) to ensure survival even if present in proclaimed reserves.
- V** **Vulnerable:** taxon not presently Endangered, but at risk over a longer period (20-50years) of disappearing from the wild through continued depletion, or which occurs on land whose future use is likely to change and threaten its survival.

- R** **Rare:** taxon which is rare in Australia (and hence usually the world) but which currently does not have any identifiable threat. Such species may be represented by a relatively large population in a very restricted area or by smaller populations spread over a wide range or some intermediate combination of distribution pattern.
- K** **Poorly Known:** taxon that is suspected, but not definitely known, to belong to one of the above categories. At present accurate field distribution information is inadequate.
- C** **Reserved:** indicates taxon has at least one population within a national park, other proclaimed conservation reserve or in an area otherwise dedicated for the protection of flora. The taxon may or may not be considered adequately conserved within the reserve(s), as reflected by the conservation status symbol assigned to it. Where applicable, the 'C' symbol immediately follows the conservation status symbol in the written code, eg 2RC.
- Size-class of all reserved populations (options are a, i or -)**
- a** 1000 plants or more are known to occur within a conservation reserve(s),
- i** less than 1000 plants are known to occur within a conservation reserve(s),
- reserved population size not accurately known;
- t** **Total known population reserved;**
- +** **Overseas occurrence** (included if the taxon has a natural occurrence overseas)

Lang & Kraehenbuehl (1998) (Regional Conservation ratings for plants)

- X** ***Extinct/ Presumed extinct:*** not located despite thorough searching of all known and likely habitats; known to have been eliminated by the loss of localised populations(s); or not recorded for more than 50 years from an area where substantial habitat modification has occurred.
- E** ***Endangered:*** rare and in danger of becoming extinct in the wild.
- T** ***Threatened:*** likely to be either endangered or vulnerable but insufficient data for a more precise assessment.
- V** ***Vulnerable:*** rare and at risk from potential threats or long-term threats which could cause the species to become endangered in the future.
- K** ***Uncertain:*** likely to be either threatened or rare but insufficient data for a more precise assessment.
- R** ***Rare:*** has a low overall frequency of occurrence (may be locally common with a very restricted distribution or may be scattered sparsely over a wider area). Not currently exposed to significant threats, but

warrants monitoring and protective measures to prevent reduction of population sizes.

- U** **Uncommon:** less common species of interest but not rare enough to warrant special protective measures
- Q** Not yet assessed but flagged as being of possible significance.
- N** **Not of particular significance/ Common** (also indicated by a blank entry)

Hutchinson *pers. comm.* (Regional conservation ratings for reptiles and amphibians)

- Extinct** No longer found in survey area.
- Endangered** Will become extinct if current processes continue or if populations continue to decline.
- Vulnerable** Not presently endangered, but likely to become so if current trends are not reversed.
- Uncommon** Found in only a few local populations, or widespread but seldom encountered. Conservation status not clear

Carpenter & Reid (1987, updated to 1999) (Regional conservation ratings for birds)

- X** **Extinct:** considered to be extinct in the area because it has not been recorded in the wild for at least 50 years. For animals, this also includes species which no longer breed in the area although individuals may visit occasionally.
- E** **Endangered:** in danger of becoming extinct in the wild in the immediate future given current trends in populations and reasons for decline.
- V** **Vulnerable:** likely to become endangered in the immediate future given current trends in populations and reasons for decline.
- R** **Rare:** at risk due to low numbers of individuals even though no or little decline in distribution has been detected.
- K** **Indeterminate:** Rare or Vulnerable but current information on populations are grossly inadequate to provide a better estimate of its conservation significance.
- U** **Uncommon:** animals or vegetation types which are inadequately conserved or declining but are not yet sufficiently threatened to be listed as vulnerable.
- C** **Common:** widespread throughout most of its known distribution and under no immediate threat.
- I** **Introduced:** native species introduced or re-introduced.