

Conserving Adelaide's BIODIVERSITY Project Outlines

Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity has been developed to provide a regional approach for promoting the conservation, restoration and management of biodiversity in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

This publication provides a focus for the conservation and management of biodiversity within the urban environment and for integrating biodiversity conservation with other regional natural resource management issues and plans.

The resources will help co-ordinate priority on-ground conservation actions and can be used by individuals, private land managers, community groups, local government and State Government agencies involved in land management within the Adelaide region.

Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity Project Outlines comprises a series of information sheets. The outlines are based on priority projects identified by the South Australian Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (UFBP) and have been prepared to act as catalysts to promote on-ground projects in the region. Regional natural resource management officers can provide additional information and advice on these and other projects to assist in the conservation of biodiversity in the Adelaide metropolitan region.

A range of projects have been selected - restoration of plant communities and habitats, establishment of corridors and buffers, management of weeds and feral animals, revegetation and protection of threatened species. The outcomes of these projects will be improved biodiversity through:

- increased viability of existing bushland areas
- expansion of areas of native vegetation
- increased populations of threatened species
- increased genetic viability of populations
- increased public awareness of and involvement in biodiversity issues.

Taking Action

How can individuals or community groups go about getting involved with a biodiversity conservation

program? UFBP officers can assist interested persons or groups to get started on a project. The following example of how to organise a project may assist you in planning a project for your area. Please note that although it refers to a specific type of project, a similar approach could be used for any biodiversity/bushland conservation project.

Starting a biodiversity project

The SA Urban Forest Biodiversity Program is currently running a joint project with the Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board entitled Restoring Riparian Vegetation.

This project has used a series of simple, logical steps to identifying high priority sites for beginning this important work. If you are interested in embarking on a riparian project, consider following the steps:

1. Ask your local community to help you identify sites within riparian areas in your region that contain stands of remnant vegetation. Take nominations from community groups, naturalists, Councils, your colleagues, and ecologists that are familiar with your local area - in fact, anyone you think might help you to locate areas of remnant vegetation. Inform them that at this stage, you are focusing on existing remnant vegetation - other sites that have lost all or most of their native plants will come after existing precious remnants have been protected.
2. Once the nominations have been received, visit all sites and assess their condition and give them a priority for protection. This assessment should be based on criteria such as:
 - area of remnant vegetation present,
 - how well conserved that vegetation association is within your region,
 - the presence of rare and threatened species,
 - the use of the area by birds and other fauna,
 - the commitment of the landholder to assist you in protecting the site,
 - the degree to which the site has been degraded by weeds or other threats, and
 - whether the threats to that site are manageable.



This assessment should be used to provide an overall ranking of the sites. Identify the best sites to be managed and keep your records of the other sites, or hand them on to other groups that are interested in conducting a riparian remnant vegetation project.

This is a complex process and it may be necessary to employ an experienced person to assist in identifying sites and in the production of Action Plans. Plant identification skills and knowledge of vegetation associations are important in ranking the sites.

3. Produce an Action Plan for each of your selected sites. These Action Plans should identify the biological values of the area, the threats to the site and what management actions are needed. Be as specific as you can when recommending actions and remember to **produce your Action Plan in close consultation with the owners or managers of the land**. If you do not work with these people you cannot expect them to be interested in implementing your recommendations.

4. The final stage involves working cooperatively with the landholder to implement the plan you have written together.

You may find it useful to access technical advice and funding support from the SA Urban Forest Biodiversity Program and/or your local Catchment Water Management Board. Please contact UFBP for advice or support (see below for details).

Project Outlines

Each case study covers the following: - site/project description and its significance; pressures (threats/issues); responses (actions); potential outcomes.

Areas/localities

1. Bringing life back to the creek - restoring riparian habitat
2. Conservation on the green - biodiversity on the golf course
3. Hills Face Zone - Adelaide's 'Superpark'
4. Native freshwater fish

Communities and habitats

5. Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*) Grassy Woodlands
6. Saltmarsh along our northern coast
7. Adelaide Hills candlebarks - *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* Open Forest

Threatened species

8. Black-chinned honey-eater
9. Conserving threatened species



Revegetation

10. Cobbler Creek Recreation Park - a community revegetation project
11. Buffers to Bushland - a successful approach to bushland conservation

Managing threats

12. Recreation activities - minimising the impacts
13. Weeds in the bush - controlling weeds in bushland areas

For further information on conserving biodiversity in the Adelaide region see *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: A planned approach* (summary biodiversity plan for the region) and *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources* (includes species lists, descriptions of areas of remnant vegetation and priority projects).

Acknowledgements

These project outlines were prepared by Geoffrey Bishop and Angela Colliver with the assistance of the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program officers - Fiona Chambers, Philip McNamara, Greg Sarre, Kate Smith, Matthew Turner and Steve Clarke.

Illustration by Chris Bigwood, courtesy NPWSA Design - Robert Colliver

Project Co-ordination - Ross Oke, Project Manager, South Australian Urban Forest Biodiversity Program

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Urban Forest Biodiversity Program
Natural Resource Centre
5 Fitzgerald Road
Pasadena SA 5042
Telephone (08) 83720180
Facsimile (08) 83720199
E-mail info@urbanforest.on.net
www.urbanforest.on.net

UFBP Project Officers:-
Northern Metropolitan (08) 84068506
Southern Metropolitan (08) 83840512
Central Metropolitan (08) 83664282
Hills Face (08) 83720175

The UFBP is a collaborative program supported by: The Natural Heritage Trust, The State Government through the Department for Environment and Heritage and the Department of Transport Urban Planning and the Arts, the Torrens, Patawalonga, Onkaparinga and Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Boards, SA Local Government Association, Local councils and a range of community groups and individuals.