

# PATHWAYS TO PROTECTING 30 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA'S LAND BY 2030

Australia is the only nation to span a continent and is home to a diversity of unique species and stunning landscapes. Billions of dollars in economic activity and many thousands of jobs depend on our natural environment. However, Australia is facing one of the highest species extinction rates in the world and the state of our environment remains on a consistent downward trend.

As part of efforts to meet this challenge, Australia has signed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and committed to action on Target 3 by protecting at least 30 per cent of our lands and oceans by 2030.

Australia is making progress towards this target, with approximately 22 per cent of land already protected, and bipartisan political support across federal, state and territory jurisdictions for a coordinated national approach.

**A clear pathway is required to protect at least an additional 60 million hectares of land – to meet Australia's target under the GBF – in a way that represents the diversity of habitats and species across Australia.**

In 2023, The Nature Conservancy, WWF-Australia, the Australian Land Conservation Alliance and the Pew Charitable Trusts collaborated on the *Protecting Australia's Nature: Pathways to protecting 30 per cent of land by 2030* report, which outlines recommendations built around a robust science-based framework that, if adhered to, will deliver a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas on land which will protect the full range of Australia's landscapes.

With this will come economic, social and cultural benefits whilst also playing a critical role in preventing new extinctions.

**Three principles and four recommendations are integral for the Australian Government to progress the most effective pathways to protect at least 30 per cent of Australian land in a comprehensive, adequate and representative manner and meet Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**

## PRINCIPLES

1. **Recognise the rights and interests of First Nations peoples.** Practical steps to recognition can include dedicated, financially supported and leading roles in policy design, governance, implementation, and management of protected areas.
2. Continue to use Australia's **science-based framework and the CAR (Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative) principles** to guide the prioritisation for new protected areas.
3. **Increase ecosystem representation across the National Reserve System** through investment in public, private and Indigenous protected areas across all levels of government.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Establish a new dedicated \$5 billion fund** for the purchase of land of high biodiversity importance to create new public, private or Indigenous protected areas.
2. Rebuild government capacity and continue to **support the creation of new Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs)** to meet Traditional Owner demand and aspirations and establish secure long-term funding for IPA management.
3. Increase support for the uptake of permanent conservation covenants through:
  - a. Providing direct **federal support to state and territory conservation covenant programs** with an explicit focus on expanding the uptake and execution of new conservation covenants expanding the protected area estate in under-represented bioregions and ecosystems.
  - b. **Supporting states and territories to develop enhanced protection conservation covenants** in their jurisdictions, in order to attract larger scale private conservation investment.
  - c. Instigating a **Treasury or Productivity Commission review** into federal and state tax and financial incentives and barriers to private land conservation.
4. Partner with states and territories to **systematically review Crown land** to identify areas of high conservation significance and subsequent protected area opportunities consistent with the principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR), and enable jurisdictions and Traditional Owners to undertake the necessary negotiations.

**ACCESS FULL REPORT AT  
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