



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Implementation of CMS in Australia

Their Future is Our Future



Ratification of CMS in Australia



- Australia ratified CMS in 1991
- Facilitated the protection of a range of native species including:
 - Marine turtles
 - Dugong
 - Crocodile
 - Whales and dolphins
 - Shorebirds
 - Albatross and petrels
 - Sharks and rays

Matters of National Environmental Significance



Under Australian environmental law there are eight matters of national environmental significance:

- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- **migratory species protected under international agreements**
- Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- the Commonwealth marine environment
- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and
- Nuclear actions.

National Implementation



- CMS is implemented through the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) migratory species list (section 209).
- Migratory species list must include:
 - (a) all **migratory species** that are:
 - (i) native species; and
 - (ii) from time to time included in the appendices to the **Bonn Convention**; and
 - (b) all **migratory species** from time to time included in annexes established under **JAMBA** and **CAMBA**; and
 - (c) all native species from time to time identified in a list established under, or an instrument made under, an international agreement approved by the Minister under subsection (4) [**ROKAMBA**]
- The list must not include any other species.

Offence provisions under the EPBC Act

Commonwealth areas

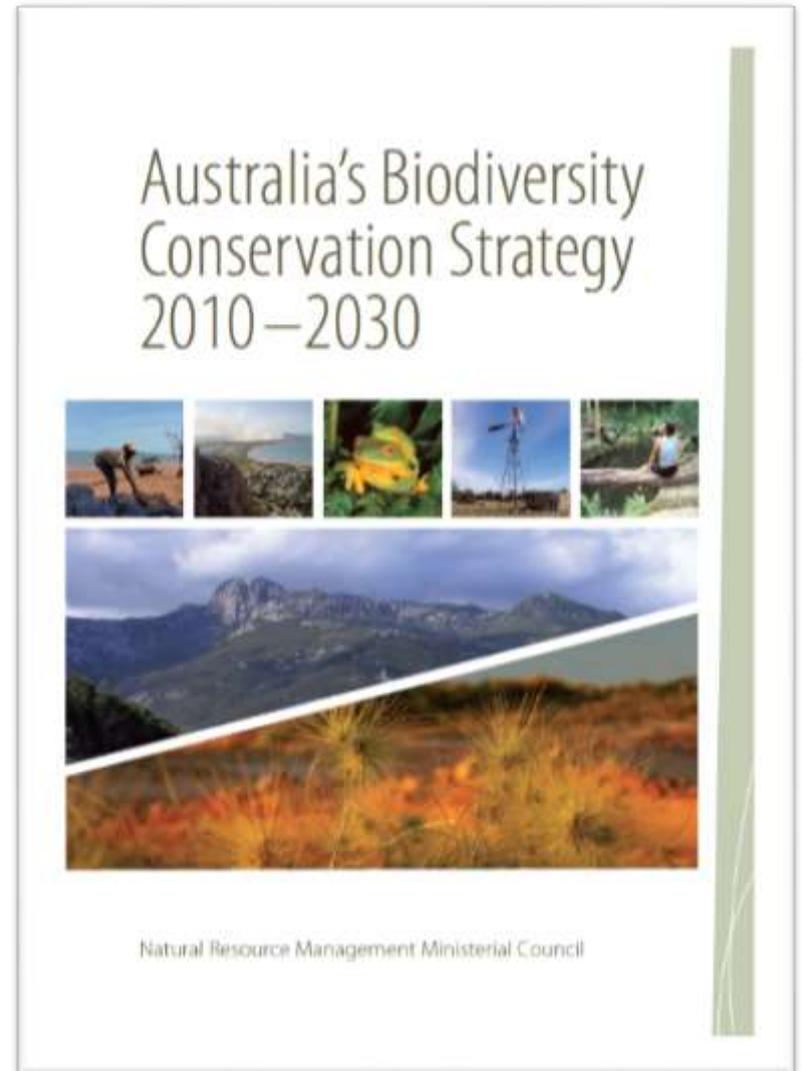
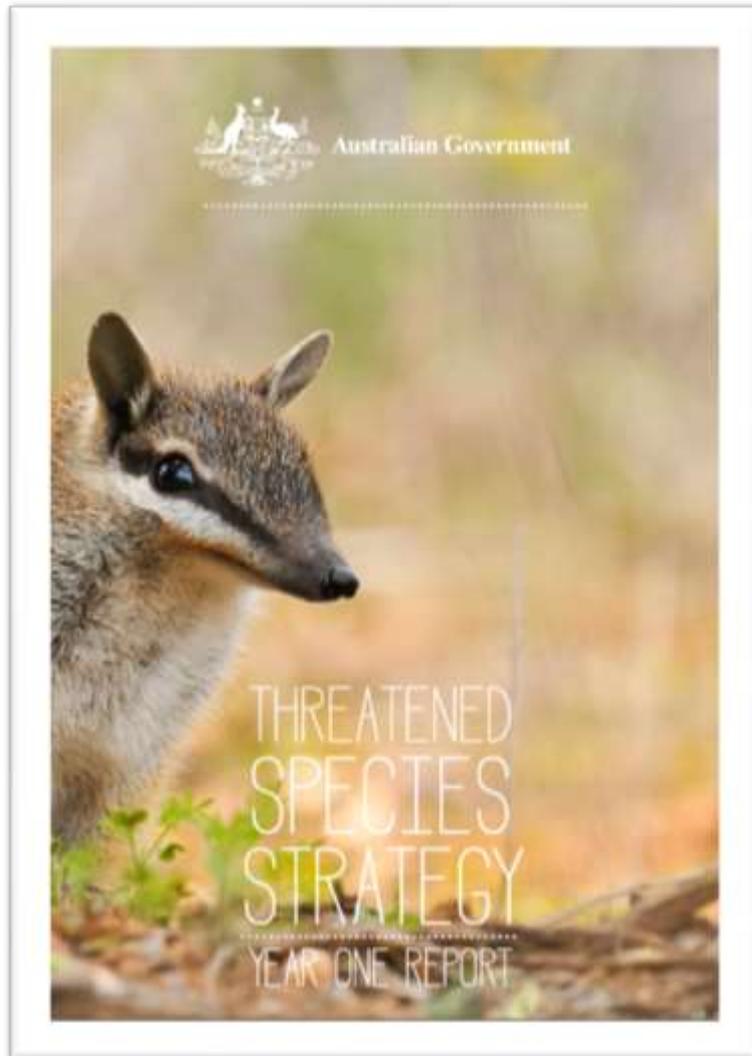
- Once listed as migratory, it becomes an offence to kill, injure, take, trade, keep or move the species in Commonwealth areas.
- If a species is listed on Appendix I or II of the CMS, Australia is obligated to list the species as migratory under the EPBC Act.
- *No distinction* between Appendices.



State land and waters

- Any **action** that has, will have, or is likely to have, a **significant impact** on these **matters of national environmental significance** must be referred to Australia's Environment Minister for decision.
- An '**action**' is defined broadly as a project, a development, an undertaking, an activity or a series of activities, or an alteration of any of these things.

Commonwealth policy documents



Recovery plans and wildlife conservation plans



Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia



2017-2027



Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds



August 2015

National Landcare Program

- The Australian Government's National Landcare Program invested **\$1 billion** over four years from 2014-15 to help drive sustainable agriculture as well as supporting the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's natural environment.
- For example, across Australia, the National Landcare Program invested approximately **\$26 million** in migratory birds and their habitats.
- A further **\$1 billion** was announced in the 2017 Commonwealth Budget.



National Environmental Science Programme

- The National Environmental Science Programme will assist decision-makers to understand, manage and conserve Australia's environment by funding world-class biodiversity and climate science.
- **\$124.5 million dollars**
 - Marine Biodiversity Hub
 - Threatened Species Recovery Hub
 - Tropical Water Quality Hub
 - Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub



Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy



Far Eastern Curlew © Dean Ingwersen



Far Eastern Curlew - One of 20 high priority species in Australia

Saving the Far Eastern Curlew

- CMS Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- EPBC Act: Critically Endangered
- SSAP for Far Eastern Curlew at CMS CoP12



Critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew © Dan Weller



Migration of Far Eastern Curlew Driscoll and Ueta 2002 *Ibis*

Synergies and Partnerships

- Ramsar Convention
- CITES
- World Heritage Convention
- International Whaling Commission
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Bilateral migratory bird agreements (Japan, China and the Republic of Korea)
- MOU on Dugong
- MOU on Sharks
- IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU
- SPREP
- East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership



