Plant Cuttings

Australian Network for Plant Conservation

# **August 2021**

## IUCN Green Status of Species : a global standard for measuring species recovery and assessing conservation impact : version 2.0

The decline of many species towards extinction has largely focused conservation efforts on ensuring that species remain extant. However, conservationists have long recognised the need to complement this by aiming to recover depleted populations throughout a species’ range and to restore species to ecosystems from which they have been extirpated. The main objectives of the IUCN Green Status of Species are: to provide a standardised framework for measuring species recovery; to recognise conservation achievements; to highlight species whose current conservation status is dependent on continued conservation actions; to forecast the expected conservation impact of planned conservation action; and to elevate levels of ambition for long-term species recovery. These objectives together encourage conservation towards species recovery, throughout a species’ range. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49511>

## New IUCN green status launched to help species ‘thrive, not just survive’ The Guardian, 28/7/21

Conservation tool will focus on recovery efforts to give a fuller picture of threats to plant and animal populations.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/28/new-iucn-green-status-launched-to-help-species-thrive-not-just-survive-aoe>

## A new ‘green status of species’ will measure the recovery of threatened plants and animals. The Washington Post, 29/7/21

Rather than focus on decline, the new standard from the IUCN highlights successful conservation work — and incentivizes future efforts
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2021/07/28/green-status-endangered-species-iucn/>

## Conservation, recreation key to SA’s newest national park 8/8/2021

A new national park on the Fleurieu Peninsula is set to become an ecological haven for threatened native animals and plant species as well as an adventure-tourism destination for mountain biking and hiking.
[https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/conservation,-recreation-key-to-sas-newest-national-park](https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/conservation%2C-recreation-key-to-sas-newest-national-park)

## Wildflower season the best in years as WA Midwest winter rains bring bursts of colourABC Mid West & Wheatbelt, 21/8/21

The best wet winter rains in years have sparked a bumper wildflower season in Western Australia's Midwest. Wildflower viewing hotspots like Coalseam Conservation Park near Mingenew are awash with colour as whole fields transform into seas of yellow, white, and pink everlasting daisies. And those who take the time to get out of the car will discover a myriad of other flowers in intricate designs and dazzling hues in bushland across the region. But why is this ancient and often infertile land such a wonderland for wildflowers?
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-21/midwest-wildflowers/100386402>

## Conservation of Earth’s biodiversity is embedded in Indigenous fire stewardship

### PNAS, 10/8/21

Large and severe wildfires are becoming increasingly common worldwide and are having extraordinary impacts on people and the species and ecosystems on which they depend. Indigenous peoples comprise only 5% of the world’s population but protect approximately 85% of the world’s biodiversity through stewardship of Indigenous-managed lands. Much of this is attributed to long-term and widespread relationships with and dependence on fire, which has been applied as a tool for managing landscapes for millennia. Fortunately, the revitalization of Indigenous fire stewardship is demonstrating the value of routinely applying controlled fire to adapt to changing environments while promoting desired landscapes, habitats, and species and supporting subsistence practices and livelihoods.
<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/32/e2105073118>

## More than 100 new landcare projects for bushfire impacted regions

### 12/7/21

Training communities to monitor and recover critical mangrove habitat on the NSW south coast, the restoration of Macquarie Perch habitat in alpine waterways, and helping Greater and Yellow-bellied Gliders in South-East Queensland are among 111 new bushfire recovery Landcare grant projects. Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said the new projects are part of a $14 million Morrison Government commitment to deliver on-ground activities to aid in the recovery of native wildlife and habitat in seven regions severely impacted by the Black Summer bushfires.
<https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Shared-Content/News/2021/More-than-100-new-landcare-projects-for-bushfire-impacted-regions>

## **Planning to plant an Australian native like wattle? Read this first — you might be spreading a weed**

### The Conversation, 18/7/21, by Singarayer Florentine

Australian native plants are having a moment in the sun, with more of us seeking out and planting native species than in the past. Our gardens — and our social media feeds — are brimming with beautiful Australian native blooms. But not all Australian native species belong in all Australian environments. In fact, many have become pests in places far from their original homes.
<https://theconversation.com/planning-to-plant-an-australian-native-like-wattle-read-this-first-you-might-be-spreading-a-weed-165165>

## **1 in 2** primary-aged **kids have strong connections to nature, but this drops off in teenage years. Here’s how to reverse the trend**

### The Conversation, 16/8/21

Parents and researchers have long suspected city kids are disconnecting from nature due to technological distractions, indoor lifestyles and increased urban density. Limited access to nature during COVID-19 lockdowns has heightened such fears.
<https://theconversation.com/1-in-2-primary-aged-kids-have-strong-connections-to-nature-but-this-drops-off-in-teenage-years-heres-how-to-reverse-the-trend-165660>

## **Communicating climate change has never been so important, and this IPCC report pulls no punches**

On Monday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first instalment of their sixth assessment report. As expected, the report makes for bleak reading. It found all regions of the world are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, and its warming projections range from scary to unimaginable.
<https://theconversation.com/communicating-climate-change-has-never-been-so-important-and-this-ipcc-report-pulls-no-punches-165252>

## **480** million-year**-old fossil spores from Western Australia record how ancient plants spread to land**

### The Conversation, 13/8/21

When plants first ventured onto the land, evolving from freshwater-dwelling algae, more than 500 million years ago, they transformed the planet. By drawing carbon dioxide from the air, they cooled Earth, and by eroding rock surfaces they helped build the soil that now covers so much land.
<https://theconversation.com/480-million-year-old-fossil-spores-from-western-australia-record-how-ancient-plants-spread-to-land-166016>

## **Indigenous plants and food security: a South African case study**

### The Conversation, 3/8/21

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food. This must meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. In South Africa, some reports show that the country is nationally food secure. However, there are variations in reports from communities and at household level. Some studies show high levels of food insecurity in different parts of the nation.
<https://theconversation.com/indigenous-plants-and-food-security-a-south-african-case-study-164740>

## **We asked landholders how they feel about biodiversity offsets — and the NSW government has a lot to learn**

### The Conversation, 5/8/21

When land is cleared to make room for urban growth, infrastructure, mining, and so on, developers are often required to “offset” their environmental damage by improving biodiversity elsewhere. This could mean, for example, planting trees along a river, or building shelters for animals that lost their habitats. In New South Wales, one mechanism to fulfil this requirement is the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, and a NSW parliamentary inquiry into this scheme is currently underway. The inquiry will look into the scheme’s administration, transparency and oversight, and will investigate the ability for private landowners to engage in it.
<https://theconversation.com/we-asked-landholders-how-they-feel-about-biodiversity-offsets-and-the-nsw-government-has-a-lot-to-learn-164934>

## **How would planting 8 billion trees every year for 20 years affect Earth’s climate?**

### The Conversation, 23/8/21

Politicians, business leaders, YouTubers and celebrities are calling for the planting of millions, billions or even trillions of trees to slow climate change. There are currently almost 8 billion people on Earth. If every single person planted a tree each year for the next 20 years, that would mean roughly 160 billion new trees. Could massive tree planting actually slow climate change?
<https://theconversation.com/how-would-planting-8-billion-trees-every-year-for-20-years-affect-earths-climate-165284>

## **Pasha 120: Botanical gardens: why we need them and how they can also pose a risk**

### The Conversation, 19/8/21

The team behind our podcast, Pasha, has started a series called “Why We Need” and this first episode is about why we need botanical gardens. Botanical gardens are dedicated to the collection, cultivation, preservation and display of plants. Around the world, they contain 30%-40% of the known plant species. Not only do they maintain documented collections of plants, these institutions carry out research and contribute to education and conservation. So they’re really valuable resources for people interested in plants. <https://theconversation.com/pasha-120-botanical-gardens-why-we-need-them-and-how-they-can-also-pose-a-risk-166288>

## **Cockatoos and rainbow lorikeets battle for nest space as the best old trees disappear**

### The Conversation, 24/8/21

The housing market in most parts of Australia is notoriously competitive. You might be surprised to learn we humans are not the only ones facing such difficulties. With spring rapidly approaching, and perhaps a little earlier due to climate change, many birds are currently on the hunt for the best nesting sites. This can be hard enough for birds that construct nests from leaves and twigs in the canopies of shrubs and trees, but imagine how hard it must be for species that nest in tree hollows.
<https://theconversation.com/cockatoos-and-rainbow-lorikeets-battle-for-nest-space-as-the-best-old-trees-disappear-165973>

## **Land of opportunity: more sustainable Australian farming would protect our lucrative exports (and the planet)**

### The Conversation, 23/8/21

The European Union is pressing ahead with carbon border levies – charges on carbon-intensive goods from countries such as Australia that haven’t taken strong action to reduce emissions. The EU will impose such measures on a range of imported industrial materials including aluminium, steel and cement. But what if these tariffs are one day applied to another key Australian export industry: agriculture? In future, environmental border tariffs could well extend to a broader set of environmental harms, such as biodiversity loss.
<https://theconversation.com/land-of-opportunity-more-sustainable-australian-farming-would-protect-our-lucrative-exports-and-the-planet-166177>

## Rare plants damaged in Black Summer to be protected at National Botanic Gardens

### Queensland Country Life, 23/8/21

Some of Australia's rarest plant species hit hard by the Black Summer bushfires in Namadgi and Kosciuszko national parks will be protected as part of a new conservation scheme. The program, a joint-partnership between the ACT government, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and conservation groups, will help to collect seeds of plant species burnt out by the fires and help create a reserve population.
<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/7397416/green-shoots-planned-for-plant-species-damaged-by-black-summer-fires/?cs=4698>

## A pilot Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) Network

Australia’s first national Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) pilot network investigates two ecological challenges faced by many Australian NRM regions: the management of weeds and the recovery of ecosystems after fire.
<https://research.csiro.au/biodiversity-knowledge/projects/mer/>

## Gold Fields

### Gardening Australia, 20/8/21

Millie catches up with ecologist Dr Cassia Read near Chewton, on part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, a valuable slice of the Box-Ironbark Forest that once stretched from central Victoria up to south-east Queensland. Superficially it looks like remnant bush, but 120-150 years ago, the area was completely cleared of trees. If you look closely, you can see the upturned earth from that era.
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/gold-fields/13502334>

## Selected articles from The Botanic Gardener, Winter 2021

### A biologist who became infected with a passion for plants. An interview with Emma Bodley<https://issuu.com/bganz/docs/tbg_iss56_jun21_final_210602/s/12422983>

### Conserving alpine habitats and species challengers, collections and collaboration, by Megan J. Hirst

<https://issuu.com/bganz/docs/tbg_iss56_jun21_final_210602/s/12422985>

### Plant collection guidelines: where do I start?

<https://issuu.com/bganz/docs/tbg_iss56_jun21_final_210602/s/12422984>

### A retrospective – 20 years at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. By Dave Taylor

<https://issuu.com/bganz/docs/tbg_iss56_jun21_final_210602/s/12422993>

## More than 500 professionals now credentialed through SER’s CERP program

### Society for Ecological Restoration, 17/8/21

SER is pleased to welcome a new group of 20 CERPs and 21 CERPITs. This brings the total to over 500 certified practitioners since the program launched in 2017. The new group, which was approved for the credential in June 2021, comes from a variety of professions and backgrounds including ecologists, hydrologists, water resource engineers, landscape architects, and recent graduates (CERPITs).
<https://www.ser.org/news/575951/More-than-500-professionals-now-credentialed-through-SERs-CERP-program.htm>

## Establishing an International Biodiversity Certification

### Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), 10/8/21

<https://www.bgci.org/news-events/establishing-an-international-biodiversity-certification/>

## Botanical Ark in far north Queensland.

### The Science Show with Robyn Williams, 14/8/21

Alan and Susan Carle started a subsistence farm in 1982. It then became an ethno-botanical garden. The couple travel the tropical regions of the world collecting plants that indigenous rainforest cultures use for foods, spices, shelter, medicine, cosmetics, fibres, oils, dyes – supplying all their everyday needs. The property, bordering the Daintree Rainforest in far north Queensland is a registered quarantine station for introduced plants. Peter Hadfield reports. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/botanical-ark-in-far-north-queensland/13495920>

## One woman's crusade to revegetate Tasmania's northern Midlands grazing country

### ABC Rural, 31/7/21

Rae Young is on a mission to revegetate degraded parts of her family's grazing property in Tasmania's northern Midlands. The former botanist and her husband Lindsay corralled 27 volunteers, many of them international students, to help plant 3,000 native trees on a degraded section of their sheep grazing property. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-07-31/one-womans-crusade-to-revegate-northern-midlands-tasmania/100332540>

## How Aboriginal culture can teach us how to live with less and tread more lightly

### ABC Illawarra, 29/7/21

If you're looking to live more sustainably, ancient Aboriginal culture could give you some ideas for treading more lightly on the planet. Jamie Thomas comes from a timber industry town in Victoria's Far East Gippsland but he isn't anti-logging or anti-mining. "If I was anti-logging or anti-mining I wouldn't buy anything that was timber and I wouldn't have a laptop or a phone because all of those resources come from the forest or the ground," Mr Thomas said. But he does get upset by what he sees as people destroying the planet, taking too much from nature and not being aware of the biodiversity loss of their actions.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-29/living-with-less-an-ancient-aboriginal-practice/100318252>

## Big step forward for environmental assessment game changer

The McGowan Government (WA) has taken an important step forward in its commitment to reducing red tape for industry with technology company Insight awarded a $23 million contract to build Environment Online. Environment Online is a customer-focused, digital one-stop shop for environmental assessment, approvals and compliance for industry and developers in Western Australia. Led by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Environment Online will improve the transparency and consistency of water and environmental approvals, and reduce the time taken for major projects to navigate joint State and Commonwealth environmental assessment processes by up to 12 months. The Environment Online system will be built by Insight over the next three years and come on line progressively. Environment Online is complemented by the establishment of a Biodiversity Information Office (BIO) led by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. BIO will make biodiversity data more easily available to industry and environmental assessment officers to enable better up-front decision making, reduce duplication and cost, and result in better assessment standards and processes.
<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2021/08/Big-step-forward-for-environmental-assessment-game-changer.aspx>

## Golden Wattle headlines this month’s plant heroes at the Garden

### 2/8/21

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Stories/2021/Golden-Wattle-headlines-this-month%E2%80%99s-plant-heroes->

## Country Breakfast features

### ABC, 14/8/21

Some pastoralists in Western Australia's Murchison region are about to get their first carbon pay cheque. They're calling it a Godsend for them, the environment and their community. Ashley and Debbie Dowden are on Challa Station which is near Mount Magnet, about 600 kilometres north east of Perth. The Dowdens have had a Human Induced Carbon Regeneration Project in place since 2018.
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/countrybreakfast/country-breakfast-features/13493464>

## Rare Tree Reveals First Flower

### Discover + Share, 18/5/21

One of the world’s rarest trees is flowering in the greenhouses of the Missouri Botanical Garden for the first time. This latest development in the fight to save *Karomia gigas* from extinction is significant—it is the first time the flower of this plant has ever been observed by plant scientists or horticulturists, and possibly by anyone at all.
<https://discoverandshare.org/2021/05/18/rare-karomia-gigas-tree-reveals-first-flower/>