



CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September 2015

Position Statement No. 6:

The preparation of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

This Position Statement updates and replaces *Position Statement No. 6: the preparation of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (March 2012).

The Conservation Commission, through its service unit, participated in the 2014 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress. Representation at the Congress heightened the Conservation Commission's understanding of global trends in protected area management, including the importance of ecological representation and connectedness, traditional ecological knowledge and connecting communities to nature. This Position Statement has been drafted with those lessons in mind as they relate to the Conservation Commission's functions under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (the Act).

Process for the preparation of management plans

In accordance with section 54(1) of the Act, management plans are required for —

- (a) all land that is vested in or under the care, control and management of a controlling body, whether solely or jointly with an associated body; and
- (b) all section 8A land.

As required under section 54(3)(a) of the Act, the Conservation Commission prepares management plans for vested lands through the agency of the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife).

In relation to management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission, a period of not less than two months after the day on which the notice is published in the *Gazette* is required to provide the opportunity for public submissions on draft management plans. Subject to stages of referral to relevant Ministers, local governments and other bodies (s59 of the Act), the Conservation Commission submits management plans to the Minister for Environment for approval (s59A of the Act).

Once approved under section 60 of the Act, a management plan remains in force (unless it is revoked) until a new plan is approved (section 55(2)). Management plans may be amended or revoked and a new plan substituted for it (section 61).



The procedure to amend a management plan follows section 61 of the Act which requires the same processes as those that apply to the preparation of management plans.

Contents of Management Plans

Management plans shall contain the following in relation to vested lands for a period not exceeding ten years (see section 55 of the Act):

- a statement of the policies or guidelines proposed to be followed; and
- a summary of operations proposed to be undertaken.

In addition, a management plan for an indigenous State forest or timber reserve shall specify the purpose, or combination of purposes, for which it is reserved, being one or more of the following purposes (see section 55(1a) of the Act):

- conservation
- recreation
- timber production on a sustained yield basis
- water catchment protection; or
- other purpose prescribed by regulations.

This Position Statement addresses the preparation of management plans to support the delivery of requirements under the Act whilst providing for:

- consistency in the structure and content of management plans; and
- the integration of species conservation and cultural and heritage strategies.

The Conservation Commission values information that complements requirements under s55 of the Act and provides a context of biodiversity conservation to guide the prioritisation of management actions and strategies. The illustration below shows the Conservation Commission's functions in the context of management plan preparation under the Act.

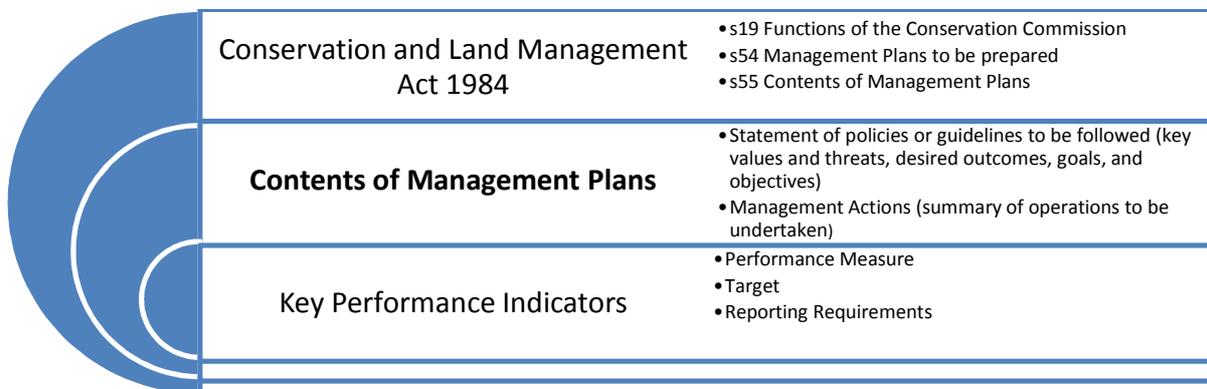


Figure 1: Contents of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission



The Conservation Commission Position Statements Nos. 9 and 10 deal with the development of Key Performance Indicators and the implementation of management actions (see www.conservation.wa.gov.au).

Baseline components of management plans

In general, management plans contain management directions for the following:

- key values and threats
- natural environment (physical and biological)
- cultural heritage
- visitor use
- managing resource use

In addition to the core components outlined above, management plans may also have *Vision* statements which are an inspirational description of the desired future state for the planning area including its biodiversity, cultural and recreational values. If a vision is included in the management plan, objectives in management plans should relate to the vision and capture in greater detail what needs to be achieved and where; thereby reflecting the vision in operational terms (see IUCN/Species Survival Commission 2008).

Key values and threats

The relevant specialists from the Department of Parks and Wildlife need to be involved in developing the vision, objectives and actions that are aimed at protecting key values of the planning area and managing pressures affecting its biodiversity and cultural components.

The customary territories, lands, and marine areas of Indigenous Peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles are among the most critical, biodiversity-rich lands and seas. These areas are critical for sustaining and strengthening biological and cultural diversity (IUCN, 2014a). It is therefore important that the section on key values and threats is based on a thoughtful and inclusive analysis of both scientific and traditional knowledge and be inclusive of the major stakeholders necessary for participation in the management planning process.

In addition, protected areas are an effective tool for the conservation of wild fauna, flora, and fungi; the persistence of well-functioning, intact ecosystems; and offer solutions for addressing biodiversity loss. In addition, they are considered to offer solutions to a range of environmental problems and social problems on land and sea, and to maintaining essential ecosystem services that underpin human welfare and livelihoods. Protected areas must therefore be considered as mainstream contributions to true sustainable development as they are essential for biodiversity conservation (IUCN, 2014b).



Figure 2 denotes the socio-cultural and scientific aspects of biodiversity values in lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the Act and follows the IUCN strategic planning for species conservation (see IUCN 2014c and Maffi and Woodley 2010).

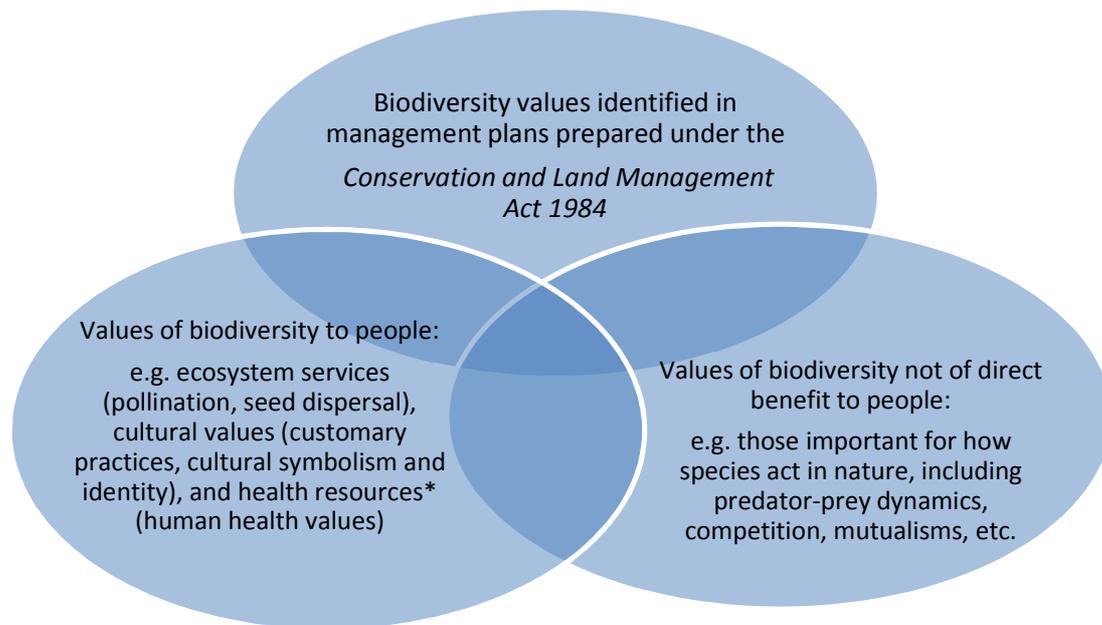


Figure 2: Biodiversity values in management plans prepared under the CALM Act

*(see IUCN 2014c)

Objectives, desired outcomes and goals

Management objectives for categories of lands vested in the Conservation Commission are outlined in section 56(1) of the Act and include in the case of:

- national parks and conservation parks “to fulfil so much of the demand for recreation by members of the public as is consistent with the proper maintenance and restoration of the natural environment, the protection of indigenous flora and fauna and the preservation of any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest” (section 56(1)(c));
- nature reserves “to maintain and restore the natural environment, and to protect, care for, and promote the study of, indigenous flora and fauna, and to preserve any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest” (section 56(1)(d));
- section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves “to achieve the purpose for which the land was vested in, or for which the care, control and management of the land were placed with, the controlling body” (section 56(1)(e)). These areas are managed for a wide variety of



- purposes, including recreation, conservation of flora and fauna and historical features; and
- indigenous State forests or timber reserves “to achieve the purpose, or combination of purposes, provided for in the proposed management plan under section 55(1a)” (section 56(1)(a)).

These management objectives for categories of lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the Act provide the fundamental components that should be reflected in the particular objectives and desired outcomes developed in management plans.

In 2012, the Act was amended to include the protection of the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people (section 56(2)) (see Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014, *Guide to Aboriginal customary activities on Parks and wildlife managed lands and waters*).

Management Actions: summary of operations to be undertaken

Management actions are the activities that need to be implemented to achieve the objectives of a management plan. In general, proposed management actions are diverse and may include activities that support legislative requirements for the protection of species and habitats (for example, biodiversity surveys, research, capacity development, education, and policy development). Whilst some actions may succeed, others may fail and it is important to develop strategies to document these successes and failures within a continual improvement framework. (see the Conservation Commission’s Position Statements Nos 9 and 10 relating to the Conservation Commission’s continual improvement framework available at www.conservation.wa.gov.au).

References

Conservation Commission of Western Australia 2014a. Position Statement No. 9: *Criteria for developing Key Performance Indicators for management plans prepared under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. Conservation Commission of Western Australia, Perth.

Conservation Commission of Western Australia 2014b. Position Statement No. 10: *Monitoring strategy for assessing the implementation of management plans under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. Conservation Commission of Western Australia, Perth.

Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014. *Guide to Aboriginal customary activities on Parks and Wildlife managed lands and waters*. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.

IUCN 2014a. *A strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations for respecting indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture in the next decade*. Submitted on 22 December 2014, following the deliberations of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. International Union for the Conservation of Nature available at www.iucn.org.

IUCN 2014b. *A strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations to reach conservation goals in the next decade*. Submitted on 22 December 2014, following the deliberations of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. International Union for the Conservation of Nature available at www.iucn.org.



IUCN 2014c. *A strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations to improve health and well-being in the next decade*. Submitted on 22 December 2014, following the deliberations of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. International Union for the Conservation of Nature available at www.iucn.org.

IUCN/Species Survival Commission 2008. *Strategic Planning for Species Conservation: An Overview*. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 22pp.

Maffi, L., & Woodley, E. (2010), *Biocultural Diversity Conservation: A Global Source Book*, Earthscan, London.