



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Guidelines to nominate a Western Australian species for listing as threatened, change of category or delisting 2014.

Thank you for your interest in nominating a species or subspecies as threatened with extinction. Nominations may be submitted by individuals or individuals acting on behalf of bodies and organisations (incorporated and unincorporated). These guidelines contain the information you need to help you prepare your nomination.

For more information on threatened flora and fauna and related links, including these guidelines and the nomination form, refer to the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) [Call for public nominations](#) web page.

The purpose of the nomination form is to bring your nomination to the attention of the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) for its consideration and subsequent advice to the Minister for the Environment, who makes the final decision on changes to the threatened species lists. Please read through both the guidelines and the nomination form to familiarise yourself with the information required before filling out the nomination form.

The assessment of the conservation status is according to IUCN red list category and criteria, and whilst it is a State listing process, the TSSC will consider the status of Western Australian species throughout their total natural range in Australia, and where appropriate (eg, for species that do not breed in Australia), their range and status outside Australia. Therefore, information provided in the nomination should include information on populations outside of WA where applicable.

Queries and completed nominations should be directed (preferably in electronic format) to:

Species and Communities Branch
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DC WA 6983

Telephone: (08) 9334 0455

Email: tssc@dpaw.wa.gov.au

The closing date for nominations for TSSC meetings is the last Friday of January that year.

Nominations may be considered by the TSSC at any time of year, but the formal meeting takes place in the first quarter of each year. After the meeting, once changes to the threatened species lists are approved by the Minister, a new threatened species notice will be published in the Western Australian Government Gazette. If your nomination has not been accepted, you will be notified about the outcome after the meeting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is it worthwhile making a nomination to list a species as threatened?

Preparing a nomination can be time consuming and the circumstances under which taxa may be eligible for listing as threatened can be complex. This is why DPaW would like to encourage you to discuss your proposed nomination with staff from the Department's Species and Communities Branch before preparing a nomination. In addition to providing you with advice on the validity of a proposed nomination, they may be able to assist you with your nomination by providing data, maps and unpublished information on surveys.

2. How do I find out the current conservation status of the species (Question 1.5)?

You will be asked to state the current conservation status at three levels: International, National and State. You can search for your species via the web links shown in Table 1 and the categories and criteria are shown in Table 3.

Table 1 Web links to search for current status of taxa. See Table 3 below for IUCN categories and criteria.

Level	List	Website
International	IUCN Red List	www.iucnredlist.org
National	EPBC Act Fauna	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna
	EPBC Act Flora	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora
State	Western Australian flora and fauna	http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/listing

3. What conservation statuses are used for species in Western Australia and how do they compare to other lists (Question 1.5)?

Under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, specially protected species are listed on the [Wildlife Conservation \(Rare Flora\) Notice](#) and [Wildlife Conservation \(Specially Protected Fauna\) Notice](#) under one of three schedules:

Schedule 1 – Species that are rare or likely to become extinct. Species listed under Schedule 1 are also referred to as 'Threatened' (T) for fauna or 'Declared Rare Flora' (DRF) for flora.

Schedule 2 – Species that are presumed to be extinct.

Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement.

Schedule 4 – Other specially protected Fauna.

Although it is not shown in the legislation or on the notices, Threatened Fauna and Declared Rare Flora are classified into the following International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List categories to rank the level of threat: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN); and

Vulnerable (VU). These categories are determined by the total distribution of the species, and not just their distribution within Western Australia and this is why we need to know if the species is threatened in other states or other nations (where applicable). IUCN Red List categories are also used to classify species at the national and international level, but different categories are used at each level (see Table 2).

If a species does not meet the criteria for listing as Threatened Fauna or Declared Rare Flora (e.g. due to lack of information), but may potentially be threatened, you may like to nominate it as a Priority species. **You do not have to fill out a nomination form to nominate a species as a priority species**, but the provision of any known information as presented through a nomination form will assist in the future conservation of the species (see Table 2 and refer to 4. What is a priority species, below). However, if you are filling out a nomination form to **remove a species from the threatened species list (delisting)**, you should nominate a Priority number appropriate for the species.

Table 2 Categories used to rank the status of species at international, national and state of WA levels (*IUCN Categories and Criteria for Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable are shown in Table 3 below).

Level	Governing Body and Website	Categories
International	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Extinct (EX) Extinct in the Wild (EW) Critically Endangered (CR) Endangered (EN) Vulnerable (VU) Near Threatened (NT) Least Concern (LC) Data Deficient (DD) Not Evaluated (NE)
National	Department of the Environment (DotE) <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i>	Extinct Extinct in the Wild Critically Endangered Endangered Vulnerable Conservation Dependent
State of WA	Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> and policies (priority classifications)	Threatened/DRF (Schedule 1) Critically Endangered Endangered Vulnerable Presumed Extinct (Schedule 2) Schedule 3 (Fauna only) Migratory birds protected under an international agreement Schedule 4 (Fauna only) Other specially protected fauna Priority species Priority One Priority Two Priority Three Priority Four Priority Five

4. What is a priority species and do I have to fill out the form to nominate a species for the DPaW Priority list?

A priority species is a species that does not meet the criteria for listing as Threatened Fauna or Declared Rare Flora (e.g. due to lack of information, or not currently threatened), but which either

may be suspected to be threatened; or is not threatened, but is rare and in need of ongoing monitoring; or is dependent on ongoing management intervention to prevent it from becoming threatened.

Summary definitions for Priority species are shown below, and full definitions for the [Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna](#) are on the DPaW website. :

- Priority One:** Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands.
- Priority Two:** Taxa with few, poorly known populations, some of which occur on conservation lands.
- Priority Three:** Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands.
- Priority Four:** Taxa in need of monitoring.
- Priority Five:** Taxa that are conservation dependent (i.e. their conservation status is dependent on ongoing active management).

You do not have to fill out a nomination form to nominate a species for the DPaW Priority list, but such a form may be filled in where relevant information is available. To nominate a species for priority listing, send an email to DPaW at tssc@dpaw.wa.gov.au. Your email should contain the information required to demonstrate how the species meets the Priority you suggest (one to five). Nominations for Priority species may be sent at any time of year, and species may be placed on the DPaW Priority list at any time of year.

5. How do I determine the IUCN Category and Criteria for the species nominated (Question 1.6)?

Based on the information presented in your nomination, you need to make an assessment of the threat Category and Criteria presented in Table 3 and you need to make an interpretation of the information in the current [IUCN Guidelines](#). The Category refers to the table columns i.e. Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable, and the Criteria refers to the table rows i.e. A-E in letter and number combinations. You must nominate a Category and Criteria for your species e.g. Vulnerable B1ab(iv); D1 based on an assessment of the species' national status. It is not possible to put a species into a Category without reading the IUCN Guidelines, because they explain the conditions and restrictions that apply to each Category and Criteria. It may be best to fill in Question 1.5 of the nomination form after you have filled out all the species information in the form. Contact the DPaW Species and Communities Branch for advice if required.

Table 3 Summary of the five criteria (A-E) used to evaluate if a taxon belongs in a threatened category (Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable), IUCN Guidelines, version 10 February 2013.

A. Population size reduction. Population reduction (measured over the longer of 10 years or 3 generations) based on any of A1 to A4			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
A1	≥ 90%	≥ 70%	≥ 50%
A2, A3 & A4	≥ 80%	≥ 50%	≥ 30%
<p>A1 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected in the past where the causes of the reduction are clearly reversible AND understood AND have ceased.</p> <p>A2 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected in the past where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.</p> <p>A3 Population reduction projected, inferred or suspected to be met in the future (up to a maximum of 100 years) [(a) cannot be used for A3].</p> <p>A4 An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected population reduction where the time period must include both the past and the future (up to a max. of 100 years in future), and where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.</p>	<i>based on any of the following:</i>		<p>(a) direct observation [except A3]</p> <p>(b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon</p> <p>(c) a decline in area of occupancy (AOO), extent of occurrence (EOO) and/or habitat quality</p> <p>(d) actual or potential levels of exploitation</p> <p>(e) effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites.</p>
B. Geographic range in the form of either B1 (extent of occurrence) AND/OR B2 (area of occupancy)			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
B1. Extent of occurrence (EOO)	< 100 km ²	< 5,000 km ²	< 20,000 km ²
B2. Area of occupancy (AOO)	< 10 km ²	< 500 km ²	< 2,000 km ²
AND at least 2 of the following 3 conditions:			
(a) Severely fragmented OR Number of locations	= 1	≤ 5	≤ 10
(b) Continuing decline observed, estimated, inferred or projected in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat; (iv) number of locations or subpopulations; (v) number of mature individuals			
(c) Extreme fluctuations in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) number of locations or subpopulations; (iv) number of mature individuals			
C. Small population size and decline			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
Number of mature individuals	< 250	< 2,500	< 10,000
AND at least one of C1 or C2			
C1. An observed, estimated or projected continuing decline of at least (up to a max. of 100 years in future):	25% in 3 years or 1 generation (whichever is longer)	20% in 5 years or 2 generations (whichever is longer)	10% in 10 years or 3 generations (whichever is longer)
C2. An observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline AND at least 1 of the following 3 conditions:			
(a) (i) Number of mature individuals in each subpopulation	≤ 50	≤ 250	≤ 1,000
(ii) % of mature individuals in one subpopulation =	90–100%	95–100%	100%
(b) Extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals			
D. Very small or restricted population			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
D. Number of mature individuals	< 50	< 250	D1. < 1,000
D2. Only applies to the VU category Restricted area of occupancy or number of locations with a plausible future threat that could drive the taxon to CR or EX in a very short time.	-	-	D2. typically: AOO < 20 km ² or number of locations ≤ 5
E. Quantitative Analysis			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
Indicating the probability of extinction in the wild to be:	≥ 50% in 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 20% in 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 10% in 100 years

¹ Use of this summary sheet requires full understanding of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* and *Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*. Please refer to both documents for explanations of terms and concepts used here.

6. What information, and how much, is needed for the main sections of the nomination form?

The nomination form is divided into six sections:

Section 1. Nomination – summary of the species, its current status, and status for which you would like to nominate it.

Section 2. Species – details of the taxonomy, biology and ecology of the nominated species.

Section 3. International Context – for species that are found both in Australia and in other countries.

Section 4. Conservation Status and Management – information on population, survey effort, threats, management and any other information that is then used to determine IUCN category and criteria. This needs to include all subpopulations known in Australia.

Section 5. Nominator – your name and contact details.

Section 6. References – written material and advice you used to prepare the nomination.

When filling out the form, provide as much information as possible about the nominated species, but minimise repetition by cross-referencing to relevant sections of the form e.g. (Refer to Section 2.3). If no information is available for a particular species, simply state this by typing 'unknown' or 'no data available'. DPaW may be able to obtain information to assist with knowledge gaps in your application.

Support your nomination with references to relevant scientific literature, providing full bibliographic details for references in Section 6. Scientific experts may also be cited in support of a nomination, but you must have their written approval and you must date their statement as follows: (J. Citizen, pers. comm. 12/04/2005). In Section 6, State the full name, contact details and qualifications (in relation to the nomination) of experts consulted. If you refer to your own unpublished data or opinion, you must make this clear with citations e.g. (nominator's opinion) or (nominator's unpublished data). If you have provided any confidential material on the form, please state this and explain its sensitivity so that it can be kept confidential.

Provide additional information at the end of the nomination form in attachments or separate electronic documents. Ensure that you number items e.g. (Attachment 1) and refer to the attachment in the relevant sections of the form.

7. Why is taxonomy important (Question 2.1)?

Taxonomic treatment must be comprehensive and generally accepted, and have been conducted or supported by a person experienced with the group to which the taxon belongs. This does not preclude the nomination of taxa which have not been formally named; but it does require that the taxon has been studied sufficiently that they can be clearly and reliably distinguished from other known taxa.

8. Has the survey effort for the species been adequate to assess its threat category (Question 4.2)?

The TSSC must be confident that the species has been searched for thoroughly in the wild by competent observers, in the most likely habitats, before it can be listed as threatened. Guidelines

have been prepared to assess the adequacy of survey and these are also used by the TSSC when assessing nominations.

Flora

The intensity of survey necessary to understand the conservation status of a plant varies according to a number of factors. Important considerations are:

Geographical range – a taxon extending over 10km of terrain will take less time to survey than one that occurs over 100km.

Area of available habitat – taxa confined to specific localised habitats (e.g. granite outcrops) will require less time to survey than those more generalised in habitat preference.

Plant size – large conspicuous perennial plants (e.g. eucalypts) can be identified and counted more quickly than small inconspicuous herbs.

Seasonality and identification – some plants are identifiable and conspicuous on vegetative features at any time of year. Others only stand out during flowering or fruiting, which may be confined to just a few weeks in the year, and may also be dependent on good seasonal conditions.

Disturbance opportunism – some plants only germinate and / or flower following disturbance events such as bushfire or soil disturbance, and hence can only be surveyed after such events.

Based on these considerations, and the accumulated survey experience of many botanists and other DPaW Officers, who have searched for hundreds of Western Australian plants over the past decades, the following matrix provides guidelines as to the duration of search necessary for plants to be considered for addition or deletion to the schedule of Declared Rare (threatened) flora. It should be noted that the survey effort is of potential habitat for new populations, not the continued re-surveying of known occurrences of the species.

Extremes of plant taxa in terms of ease and seasonality of identification are given			
Geographical Range	Area of available habitat	Recommended period of full time field survey	
		*Taxon easily identified any time	#Taxon identifiable with difficulty over short flowering period in certain years
<50km	small	0.5-1 month	1-2 months over several years
	large	1-2 months	3-6 months over a decade
>50km	small	3-6 months	6-12 months over a decade
	large	6-12 months	not possible

* e.g. large perennial plants identifiable any time on vegetative characteristics e.g. *Eucalyptus crucis*, *Banksia tricuspis*.

e.g. short-lived small annuals with inconspicuous flowers e.g. *Hydrocotyle* spp., annual sedges.

Fauna

1. Surveys should encompass the range of available techniques, and sampling should have been conducted throughout the possible (as distinct from the known) geographic range of the species.
2. Surveys should be conducted in a range of seasonal and environmental conditions consistent with the biology of the species.
3. species confined to geographically restricted or specialised habitats may require less time or effort to survey than those occurring in more widespread habitat.
4. In the case of species known from very few specimens, a fact pertinent to the nomination, the nominator should demonstrate that all available collections have been examined.

9. What definitions do I need to know?

The following terms appear on the form and have been defined here to help you clarify the information required. Additional definitions are in the [IUCN \(2013\). Guidelines for using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Version 10 \(February 2013\).](#)

Species entity nominated, which may be a species, subspecies, variety, or an undescribed taxon that is accepted by the Western Australian Museum or Western Australian Herbarium, and supported by a voucher specimen lodged in a recognised public institution.

Population “The term ‘population’ is used in a specific sense in the Red List Criteria that is different to its common biological usage. Population is here defined as the total number of individuals of the taxon. For functional reasons, primarily owing to differences between life forms, population size is measured as numbers of mature individuals only. In the case of taxa obligately dependent on other taxa for all or part of their life cycles, biologically appropriate values for the host taxon should be used.” (IUCN 2001)

Subpopulation “Subpopulations are defined as geographically or otherwise distinct groups in the population between which there is little demographic or genetic exchange (typically one successful migrant individual or gamete per year or less).” (IUCN 2001)

Location “The term ‘location’ defines a geographically or ecologically distinct area in which a single threatening event can rapidly affect all individuals of the taxon present. The size of the location depends on the area covered by the threatening event and may include part of one or many subpopulations. Where a taxon is affected by more than one threatening event, location should be defined by considering the most serious plausible threat.” (IUCN 2001)

Continuing decline “A continuing decline is a recent, current or projected future decline (which may be smooth, irregular or sporadic) which is liable to continue unless remedial measures are taken. Fluctuations will not normally count as continuing declines, but an observed decline should not be considered as a fluctuation unless there is evidence for this.” (IUCN 2001)