

Wilson's Promontory Conservation Action Plan

Overview January 2017

Achieving our vision to:

Increase the resilience of natural assets in the Wilson's Promontory Park Landscape and maintain ecosystem services in the face of climate change and other stressors

The Wilson's Promontory Park Landscape includes mountains, forests and fern gullies fringed by granite headlands, sandy beaches and sheltered coves backed by coastal dunes, heathlands and swamps. Its topography and unique position also creates a zone of diverse marine habitats.

It is significant to the Gunaikurnai, Bunurong and Boonwurrung Indigenous people, who are traditionally and culturally associated with the area.

Conservation Assets

Six terrestrial and four marine habitats have been identified as conservation assets. Within each of these assets a range of nested assets, such as threatened species and important ecological assemblages, have also been identified.

Condition

The plan also identifies a range of key ecological attributes (components that are believed to best reflect the health of the asset). The plan describes their current condition (very good, good, fair, poor) and the trend in condition (improving, stable, declining), and sets the anticipated future condition of each key ecological attribute. These measures then allow the overall condition of each asset to be assessed:

- Coastal (including islands) and all Marine habitats are in very good condition,

however some islands are heavily invaded by weeds.

- Heathland, Mixed Dry Forest & Woodland, and Wet Forest & Rainforest habitats are mostly in good condition.
- Riparian & Wetland habitats are in fair condition.
- Coastal Grassy Woodlands are in poor condition.

Threats

Sixteen key threats to the conservation assets in the Park Landscape are identified in the plan. Five of these are considered extreme threats and are therefore the priority threats considered in this plan. They are:

- Total grazing and browsing pressure (by introduced and native animals).
- Inappropriate fire regimes.
- Marine invasive or overabundant species.
- Predation by cats and foxes.
- Weed invasion.



The Conservation Action Plan identifies strategies that target our conservation efforts to achieve the best outcomes for ecosystems and species with the available resources.

Conservation strategies

The following conservation strategies will be undertaken to tackle these threats. They have been selected for their impact, feasibility and cost in achieving the desired conservation.

- **Coastal Grassy Woodland restoration** — burning invasive Coast tea-tree and control of exotic and native grazers, to restore canopy and understorey species so that the full range of native species in this Coastal Grassy Woodland can flourish.
- **Landscape-scale control of deer** — by volunteer and specialist hunters, to enable the regeneration of key canopy species and increase the diversity and viability of all terrestrial assets.
- **Broad-scale fox and cat control** — to increase the density, diversity and distribution of predation-sensitive native terrestrial fauna throughout the Wilsons Promontory Park Landscape.
- **Marine and estuarine management** — to reduce the likelihood of new populations of marine pests establishing in the Park Landscape, ensure that the eradication of populations of new pests is rapid and targeted, and minimise disturbance to fish, invertebrates and other marine-dependent species.
- **Integrated weed program** — to improve the health of specific conservation assets, particularly Coastal (including islands) through control of high-risk weeds and local eradication where possible.
- **Landscape-scale ecological fire program** — to improve the structural diversity and distribution of vegetation growth stages in various habitats, ensuring that the condition of all conservation assets improves.

- **Establishment of collaborative partnerships to address key knowledge gaps** — to enable threats and opportunities to be more readily identified, which will result in an increase in the effectiveness and efficiency of conservation asset management.

Performance measurement

For each strategy, component actions and monitoring indicators have been developed. These will be used to track the achievement of threat mitigation objectives and conservation outcomes defined for each of the assets.

Implementing the plan

The Conservation Action Plan will be implemented by a regional team, with detailed planning and design often assisted by researchers, and in collaboration with Traditional Owners, other agencies, Friends groups and volunteers.

Restoring Coastal Grassy Woodland
Yanakee Isthmus



Global Practice

Conservation action planning is an internationally recognised process developed by The Nature Conservancy, and used by many conservation managers around Australia. Adaptive management is a critical component of the model.

The Plan provides directions for environmental conservation management for the next 15 years. After 5 years, the plan will be reviewed, and progress will be evaluated against outcomes identified for the conservation assets, threat mitigation objectives and implementation of identified priority actions, in order to revise the plan.

More information

For more information, look for the plan at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au> or contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963

10 Step Process:

Parks Victoria uses a ten step process for conservation action planning: the Plan covers the first seven steps in the process

