

Glossary

Accreditation

Acceptance by one government or organisation of data and methods used by another government or organisation.

Biological diversity (biodiversity)

The variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. Biological diversity is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. It is sometimes considered at the level of landscape diversity.

Comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system

A reserve system to conserve all native forest types as well as the plants and animals that depend on them. Comprehensive - the full range of forest communities recognised by an agreed national scientific classification at appropriate hierarchical levels; Adequate - the maintenance of the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities; Representative - those sample areas of the forest that are selected for inclusion in reserves which should reasonably reflect the biological diversity of the communities.

Comprehensive regional assessment (CRA)

A joint Commonwealth-State assessment of all forest values - environmental, heritage, economic and social - leading to the establishment of a CAR reserve system, agreements on forest management, and the signing of a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

Conservation

The protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

Dedicated reserves

Reserves where the management regime equates to specific protected area management categories defined by the IUCN Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas—categories I, II, III and IV. Security of tenure, as demonstrated if parliamentary action by Commonwealth, State or Territory governments is required for revocation of the reserve, is fundamental to the establishment and management of dedicated reserves.

Deferred Forest Agreement

Agreement signed by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments in July 1996, defining those wood-production areas to be set aside from logging until 30 December 1997 while a comprehensive assessment of their wood-production and conservation values was undertaken. At that stage, it was considered that the areas identified in the Agreement included those that might be required for inclusion in a CAR reserve system.

Disjunct

Individual flora or fauna populations which are physically separated from one another; that is, there is no or minimal gene flow between populations. They are formed over time as a result of the appearance of a barrier in a formerly continuous distribution. Disjunct populations often have features that are distinctive in an evolutionary sense from those of the “parent” population and in time may become separate species.

Ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM)

The National Forest Policy Statement specifies three requirements for sustainable forest use:

- maintaining ecological processes within forests (the formation of soil, energy flows and the carbon, nutrient and water cycles);
- maintaining the biological diversity of forests; and
- increasing the net social benefit derived from the mixture of forest uses, within ecological constraints, whilst maintaining options for the future.

Ecosystem

The aggregate of plants, animals and other organisms and the non-living parts of the environment with which these organisms interact.

Endangered forest community

A forest community whose mapped distribution has contracted to less than 10% of its estimated former range or whose total area has contracted to less than 10% of its estimated former area or where more than 90% of the area of the community is in small patches that are unlikely to persist for more than 25 years.

Endemic species

Native species confined to a specific region or locality.

Endangered species and biological communities

Species which are in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue. Included are species whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that the species are deemed to be in danger of extinction. Also included are species that are possibly already extinct but have definitely not been seen in the wild in the past 50 years and have not been subject to thorough searching.

Export woodchip licence

A licence issued by the Commonwealth Government authorising the export of woodchips.

Farm forestry (agroforestry)

The growth and management of trees on farms as part of the farm enterprise for the purpose of producing wood and/or non-wood products.

Genetic Diversity

The variety of genetic information contained in all individual plants, animals and micro-organisms. It occurs within and between populations of species.

Gross state product

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in a State within a given period after deduction of the costs of goods and services used in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Also referred to as Gross State Product at market prices. For a discussion of the sources and methods used to calculate Gross State Product, refer to the explanatory notes in the Australian National Accounts - State Accounts, Australian Bureau of Statistics catalogue number 5242.0.

Habitat

The place or environment where an organism naturally occurs.

Hardwood

Timber from broad-leaved, flowering trees, irrespective of physical hardness. Includes eucalypts, wattles and rainforest species.

Hardwood plantation

Plantations of hardwood species; in Western Australia, particularly eucalypts.

JANIS

A joint Commonwealth-State sub-committee responsible for preparing reports on the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement for the information of the relevant Ministerial councils (the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council and the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture).

LVL

laminated veneer lumber.

MDF

medium density fibreboard.

Mill-door value

Value of wood at the mill before processing.

Mill-Gate Value

Value of wood product after processing and before transport to market

Multiple-use forest

Multiple-use in forest, or in land management generally, means the management of a particular area for a variety of uses concurrently or sequentially. The uses may be permitted over the entire multiple use area or in defined parts or zones and priorities may be assigned particular uses. The range of uses permitted depends on the tenure category for the forest; for example, State reserve, State forest or private forest. Multiple-use management is designed to achieve optimum management results in areas where a range of values and potential uses overlap.

National Estate

Those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia which are listed on the Register of the National Estate as having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community.

National Estate areas and places

Natural or cultural areas and places that have been entered on the Register of the National Estate or the Interim List by the Australian Heritage Commission for their aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value.

National Estate values

Aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values attributed to places by the Australian Heritage Commission.

Native forest

Any locally indigenous forest community, the dominant species of which are trees. It includes forests that have been regenerated with human assistance following disturbance. It excludes plantations of species which are not locally endemic and previously logged native forest that has been regenerated with non-endemic native species.

National Forest Policy Statement

A joint Commonwealth, State and Territory government statement which outlines agreed objectives and policies for Australia's public and private forests. This statement is published in booklet form.

National Wilderness Inventory

An environmental database and set of modelling procedures which are designed to assist in the planning and management of remote and natural lands in Australia.

Old-growth forest

Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbance are now negligible. The definition focusses on forest in which the upper stratum or overstorey is in the late mature to over mature growth stages.

Pulpwood

Logs that are below sawlog quality but are suitable for manufacture of pulp, paper and panel products, including woodchips.

Rare species

Species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable.

Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)

An agreement between the Commonwealth and a State government about the long-term management and use of forests in a particular region. Its purpose is to reduce uncertainty, duplication and fragmentation in government decision making by producing a durable agreement on the management and use of forests.

Recovery plan

A comprehensive plan that details, schedules and costs all actions deemed necessary to support the recovery of a threatened species or ecological community.

Refugia

Biological communities or geographic entities that, because of their moderating structural characteristics or physical isolation, or both, provide a sanctuary to which species or groups of species have retreated or have been confined in response to threatening processes, including climatic change.

Regrowth forest

Native forest containing a substantial proportion of trees that are in the younger growth phase. Regrowth forests may contain scattered individuals or small occurrences of ecologically mature, or old-growth trees.

Reserves

Areas such as national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves which are subject to an established degree of. *See* also dedicated reserves.

Sawlogs

Logs for processing into sawn timber, veneers, poles and sleepers.

Sawmill residue:

Material left following the processing of logs into sawn timber.

Scoping Agreement

Agreement signed by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments in July 1996, establishing the broad parameters for undertaking a CRA and finalising a RFA for Western Australia.

Softwood plantation

Plantations of softwood trees, particularly radiata pine.

Softwood

Timber of coniferous trees, irrespective of physical hardness. Includes pines and cypresses.

Species

A group of organisms capable of interbreeding freely with each other.

Species diversity

The variety of living species.

Sustainable yield

The sustainable yield of a forest is the maximum level of commercial timber which can be maintained in perpetuity under a given management regime.

Thinning

The selective removal of some trees from a stand. Usually applied to relatively even-aged stands.

Threatened species or community

A species or community that is endangered, vulnerable or presumed extinct.

Threatening process

A process that threatens, or may threaten, the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a species or ecological community.

Value-adding

The increase in value to the economy of a natural resource product by manufacturing within the economic area, as opposed to exporting the raw material to be manufactured elsewhere.

Vulnerable species or ecosystems

Species or ecosystems that are approaching a reduction in range of 70% or are subject to threatening processes that may cause their loss at the bioregional level.

Wilderness

Land that, together with its plant and animal communities, is in a state that has not been substantially modified by, and is remote from, the influences of European settlement or is capable of being restored to such a state; is of sufficient size to make its maintenance in such a state feasible; and is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation.

Wilderness Quality

A measure of differing levels of human impact on the natural environment, as part of a continuum of conditions varying from pristine to urban. Wilderness quality is measured in terms of four variables: remoteness from settlement, remoteness from access, apparent naturalness, and biophysical naturalness.

Wildlife corridor

A strip of forest of varying width reserved from harvesting to facilitate fauna movement including gene movement between patches of forest of varying ages and stages of development.

World heritage

Areas deemed to have universal value for humankind under an international convention to which Australia is a signatory.