

# Interpreting Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and implications for Australia's national restoration targets

James Fitzsimons and Justine Bell-James



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

























# THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN

For Life on Earth

[GBF HOME](#) // [TARGET 2](#)

## Target 2

### Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

*Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.*



[GBF HOME](#)

[INTRODUCTORY SECTIONS OF THE GBF](#)

[2050 VISION AND 2030 MISSION](#)

[2050 GOALS](#)

[2030 TARGETS \(WITH GUIDANCE NOTES\)](#)

[IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS](#)

[RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY](#)

[COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND UPTAKE](#)

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# Aichi Biodiversity Targets



## Target 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.



## Target 15

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.



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## Correspondence

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## The Global Biodiversity Framework's ecosystem restoration target requires more clarity and careful legal interpretation

 Check for updates


**W**ith the passage of the one-year anniversary of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), substantial effort is still needed to progress Target 2 – the 'restoration target'. The restoration target guides parties to "ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity"<sup>1</sup>. This target is a critical step towards unscaling

The intention of the GBF should be clarified through the Conference of the Parties (COP) process.

The term 'degraded' (Supplementary Table 1) contemplates loss or decline, but it is unclear to what extent ecosystem functions or services must be reduced to be considered degraded. Classifying areas as degraded necessarily involves a comparison to an earlier, less degraded state, and the appropriate baseline to use in restoration is the subject of intense debate<sup>6</sup>. A global standard for the term degraded can ensure consistency and should be considered at a future COP. Without it

Effectiveness is also hard to define given the increasing influence of climate change on ecosystems and ecological processes and tendency towards 'shifting baselines'<sup>8</sup>. Past ecosystem states and conditions will become less and less feasible to achieve through restoration, and restoration programmes will require innovative approaches and a clear strategy to adapt to climate change in order to succeed. Finally, the baseline chosen and the definition of 'effective' restoration at a national scale will markedly influence reports of 'success'. This could be aided by articulation and communication of base-






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# Australia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

In December 2022, the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held. Australia was one of 188 countries to adopt the [Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)  (the GBF).

## Other contacts

State, territory and local government

**ACT:** [Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development](#)

## Priority degraded areas are under effective restoration by 2030

“Priority degraded areas (across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems) are under effective restoration by 2030 to recover biodiversity and improve ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

This national target aligns with GBF Target 2.”




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Email:  
[jfitzsimons@tnc.org](mailto:jfitzsimons@tnc.org)