

NVF Outcomes using Plausible Process

Annex 5 : Plausible indicators for the NVF Vision and ACT Work Plan

NVF Goal	Plausible process indicators	Comments on Progress
A reversal in the long term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation	Planning undertaken.	Absolutely. A lot of planning activity already undertaken and likely to be implemented
	Plans resourced and being implemented	Yes. Only issue is that sometimes there is such a complex web of planning initiatives underway that difficulties trying to get be aware of, and integrate them within activities.
	People with required knowledge and skills	Enormous accessibility to broad skills and knowledge – CSIRO, ANU, library etc are all excellent sources of information. In terms of people capacity (rural extension and organisation), people are stretched thinly
	Monitoring and evaluation of all aspects leading to revision of plans	Slowly achieving monitoring and evaluation. Currently putting a structure in place. Aware that monitoring can be very costly and onerous, but working to develop systems that are simpler and not so costly. Don't have the resources to ensure rigorous and statistically valid monitoring and evaluation, except in targeted areas, but always trying to work toward best management practice monitoring and evaluation.
.Conservation and where appropriate, restoration of native vegetation to maintain and enhance biodiversity, protect water quality and conserve soil resources, including on private land managed for agriculture, forestry and urban development	Native vegetation is protected by effective clearing controls on all land	Perception that the ACT is probably doing this better than other jurisdictions, remembering that 54% of the ACT is already under reserve. Cutting down of trees pretty well controlled. Clearing of native vegetation (remnant vegetation) of area greater than 0.5 hectares is under statutory control. Uncertain if remnant vegetation applies to secondary growth.
	Programs in place to restore, where appropriate, native vegetation to maintain/enhance biodiversity and protect land and water resources on all land	Greening Australia have programs underway that target revegetation on private land, with support also provided in the forms of the Rural Conservation Fund, Environmental Grants Program and other NHT initiatives. Areas in reserves allowed to naturally regenerate. Under Land Management Agreements, there is scope to identify areas where revegetation may form contribute to an agreed conservation outcome.
	Programs and measures in place to encourage development and adoption of best management practices for native vegetation management in agricultural, forest and urban enterprises	Programs and management in place, except for forestry owned native vegetation land (5,000 hectares), do not have management plans. ACT has established firewood strategy. Strategy includes encouraging use of mixed plantation timber and native wood, plus a host of other actions. Informing the national firewood strategy currently being developed.

	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation quality and geographic extent	Perception that still need to get a strategic position on monitoring and evaluation in terms of comprehensiveness. Current M & E is being undertaken well, but limited by resources. Not able to easily identify change to vegetation communities over the long term. The current M&E is targeted to threatened communities and remnant woodland. Tree cover is more easily measured. Difficult to document revegetation activities does not appear to be well coordinated to allow for direct monitoring and evaluation – base line data requirements being addressed through community data base development.
Retention and enhancement of biodiversity and native vegetation at both regional and national levels	Appropriate environment protection policies and measures are in place to protect biodiversity at regional and national levels	Comprehensive and effective policies and measures are in place.
	Biodiversity and native vegetation targets are set and measures are in place to achieve those targets at both regional and national levels	Do not have targets – 54% of the ACT is already under cover; the targets need to be set in regional context with the New South Wales jurisdiction. Regional biodiversity strategy under development.
	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation biodiversity	Targeted, but not comprehensive programs for monitoring and assessment. Currently examines sites of risk such as threatened species and plant communities.
An improvement in the condition of existing native vegetation	Policies and programs are in place to manage native vegetation to conserve condition as well as cover- through duty of care; native vegetation covenants, partnerships etc	Land Management Agreements for all rural leases – no covenants included in Land Management Agreements. Native vegetation condition is specifically addressed in LMA's; part of reserve planning; and legislative controls are quite strong on public land (unleased land to include roadside vegetation).
	Policies and programs are in place to restore native vegetation quality where appropriate	Not going to achieve outcomes everywhere, but programs and policies are in place (eg. Rural conservation fund, weed strategy, and a feral animal strategy is currently being developed).
	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation quality	Targeted, not comprehensive monitoring and evaluation in place.