

# Saving our Species through purposeful partnerships



## Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.


We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.



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A dense forest with sunlight filtering through the canopy, creating a starburst effect. The scene is filled with green foliage and tree trunks, with a person visible in the distance.

Humans have pushed biodiversity to the brink. Our needs continue to apply increasing pressure on plants, animals and ecosystems.

The power of partnership in biodiversity conservation cannot be overstated. In the face of complex and pressing environmental challenges, collaborations between government and partners have proven to be essential for effective conservation efforts.

# Biodiversity, it's everybody's business

Humans have pushed biodiversity to the brink. As human populations continue to grow, we put increasing pressure on plants, animals and ecosystems through land clearing, pollution, introduction of foreign species, and climate change (Guterres 2024).

Halting biodiversity loss is possible, but it requires collaborative action to protect and restore habitats, address drivers of nature loss and prevent extinctions.

## What is biodiversity and why should I be concerned?

Biodiversity is the collection of all the different types of life found in any one area. It is the trees and plants that grow there, the animals that call them home and even the microorganisms, like bacteria, which live on the plants and animals.

Biodiversity is all these things living together to create an ecosystem, which allows life to thrive. Every part of it is essential to provide valuable services such as pollination, water purification and climate regulation. It underpins our survival – from the air we breathe to the food and materials we consume. It is fundamentally connected to and drives our business economy.





## Positive impacts on nature have positive impacts on business

The Saving our Species NSW Threatened Species and Community Awareness Survey conducted in 2021 by YouGov Galaxy reveals the NSW community is concerned about our environment and conservation of threatened species, and would like to see the business sector more involved in this area (see data graphic below). This is reflective of national and even global attitudes towards the value of nature (Marshall et al. 2019) and the risks associated with environmental issues (DNRE 2001; UNDP 2021). Amongst the top environmental issues that cause anxiety are natural disasters and threatened species going extinct, with national research conducted by the Australia Institute revealing 82% of Australians are concerned that climate change will result in more bushfires, more droughts and flooding, and animal and plant species extinction (Quike 2021).

Businesses that recognise and incorporate sustainable practices to conserve biodiversity often enjoy long-term resilience, reduced operational risks, and access to unique opportunities for growth and development (Whelan and Fink 2016). Research conducted by Future Focus in 2023 identifies greater staff satisfaction in organisations with a commitment to sustainability, which translates to better business outcomes (Future Focus 2023).

A strong biodiversity supports a strong and healthy local economy and community, making it everyone's business.



### 85% of NSW residents

agree that businesses in Australia can play a larger role in environmental conservation, with

### 4 in 5 people

more likely to support a business that contributes towards conservation.

# About the Saving our Species program

In New South Wales, over 1,000 species and ecological communities are listed as threatened with extinction. The NSW Government is committed to and responsible for acting to save these at risk species and ecological communities.

Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, New South Wales must operate a biodiversity conservation program to maximise the long-term security of all threatened species and threatened ecological communities in nature. The Saving our Species program is the NSW Government's critical lifeline to help our threatened species and has been praised as one of the leading conservation programs in Australia.


Saving our Species assesses each threatened species statewide and identifies necessary on-ground actions for their conservation in the wild. It's strategic and scalable – offering a unique approach that ensures the greatest return on investment in conservation, and clear steps to maximise the impact of any additional investment.

Conservation efforts for threatened species involve various approaches, including habitat protection, captive breeding and reintroduction programs, population monitoring, research, public education, and policy advocacy.

Threatened species conservation is a complex and ongoing process. It requires sustained efforts, financial resources, and a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, from scientists and conservation organisations to governments, businesses, and local communities.

Saving our Species is working today so we can secure our native plants, animals and ecosystems for generations to come. Our goal is to increase the number of threatened species that are secure in the wild in New South Wales for 100 years and control the key threats impacting their survival.



A man wearing a light blue shirt, dark green trousers, and a white hat with a dark band is standing in a field. He is looking down at a clipboard or a set of papers he is holding. The field is filled with green grass and numerous small yellow flowers. In the foreground, there are several tall purple flowers with large, ruffled petals. The background shows a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Partnerships can facilitate impactful changes across vast geographical areas on a scale and at a speed that would be impossible if we worked alone.

Partnerships also nurture a sense of collective responsibility, motivating people from all walks of life to actively engage in preserving the natural world.

# The power of partnership

The power of partnership in biodiversity conservation cannot be overstated. In the face of complex and pressing environmental challenges, collaborations between government and partners have proven to be essential for effective conservation efforts.

The goal of the Saving our Species program is to maximise long-term impact and investment in threatened species conservation through collaborative efforts. Saving our Species has a strong network of partners and volunteers that help us make a positive impact on our biodiversity, but with a challenge so great we can never have enough support. Every contribution, idea and action – big or small – makes a huge difference to conserving threatened species.

The power of partnership increases the reach of conservation efforts, to ensure our unique and admired natural environment is alive and healthy for generations to come.

## Partnerships achieve change

The Saving our Species program represents one of Australia's biggest government investments in threatened species conservation. In the 2022–23 financial year, the Saving our Species program delivered projects across more than 800 sites within New South Wales, providing conservation benefits to 364 threatened species and ecological communities (DCCEEW in prep.).

This important work was supported by 257 partners across many sectors, who contributed almost one-third of the total investment into conservation projects during 2022–23.

Investing in nature in your local area increases the beauty and biodiversity, which has other flow on effects such as strengthening your region's visitor economy –and that's good news for all businesses.







Partnering with Saving our Species does not replace government efforts. Increased resourcing and support are required to ensure New South Wales can halt and reverse the decline in its biodiversity.

Fujitsu's purpose is to make the world more sustainable by building trust in society through innovation; however, we can't achieve this mission without collaboration. That's why Fujitsu is proud to have partnered with Saving our Species in developing and deploying innovative technology for biodiversity benefits, and to unlock the power of innovation to create a more sustainable future for the planet and its people.

Fujitsu Australia Limited

Partnerships like the one that WWF has with Saving our Species are vital for leveraging investment so that we have impact at scale. I wish every state had an SoS (Saving our Species) team like the NSW Government has.

World Wildlife Fund Australia

A big part of our purpose is working together for a better tomorrow. A great example is being able to work with Saving our Species to help some incredible species and seeing the survival rates, these are incredibly proud moments for the business.

Woolworths Group



## How you can help and the potential benefits to your organisation

As the NSW Government's leading threatened species conservation program, Saving our Species is uniquely positioned to identify specific species needs and actions, and match them with businesses and philanthropic organisations who are passionate about contributing to our environment.

The Saving our Species program seeks partnerships that can support a diverse range of conservation projects. As such, we engage with partners across many sectors, including all levels of government, non-government organisations, not-for-profit organisations, research institutions and universities, Indigenous communities, landholders and land-managers, community groups, and corporate partners.

Partnership support typically consists of:



direct investment – direct funding of Saving our Species conservation projects via investment, co-investment or grants



value in-kind – products or services that directly support Saving our Species conservation projects; for example, consulting, technology or operational delivery



strategic support – may include program or project support such as research, community engagement or communications and public relations.

Partnering with the Saving our Species program also offers your organisation valuable opportunities for staff engagement, including participation in conservation projects, team building, educational opportunities, and on-Country experiences.

We invite you to speak to our partnerships team to learn more about how your organisation can be part of this movement for change.



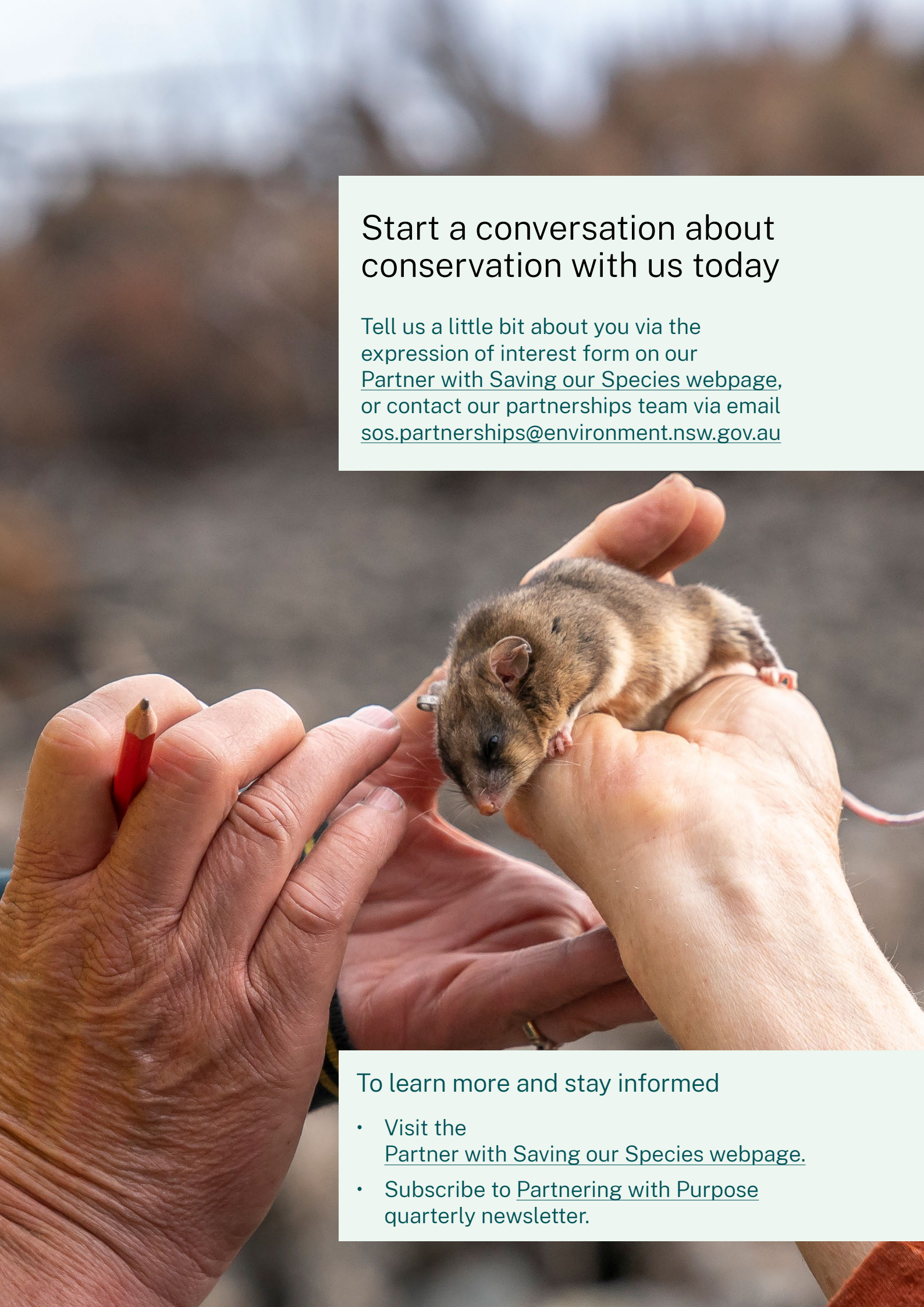
In the 2022–23 financial year, the total investment into all Saving our Species conservation projects was

**\$38.4 million.**

Of this,

**\$12.6 million**

was contributed by partners  
(DCCEEW in prep.)

A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently holding a small, brown and white mouse. The person's left hand is holding a red pencil. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

## Start a conversation about conservation with us today

Tell us a little bit about you via the [expression of interest form](#) on our [Partner with Saving our Species webpage](#), or contact our partnerships team via email [sos.partnerships@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sos.partnerships@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### To learn more and stay informed

- Visit the [Partner with Saving our Species webpage](#).
- Subscribe to [Partnering with Purpose](#) quarterly newsletter.

# References

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Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency Boss Lady Creative Designs created the People and Community symbol.

## Photos:

Cover photo: Green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) (Lyn Raffan/DCCEEW); Page 3: Mustr (Alex Pike/DCCEEW); Page 4: Naree (Alex Pike/DCCEEW); Page 5: Corroboree Frog (Alex Pike/DCCEEW); Page 6: Purple copper butterfly, Bathurst copper butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*) (David Roma/DCCEEW); Page 7: Small purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*) (Alex Pike/DCCEEW); Page 8:

Greenspots (Alex Pike/DCCEEW); Page 9: Volunteers tree planting in Glenrock State Conservation Area (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 10: Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus*) (Peter Sherratt/DCCEEW); Page 11: Mountain pygmy possum (*Burramys parvus*), Kosciuszko National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW).

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ISBN 978-1-923132-81-8

EH 2024/0047

April 2024