



Proposal Form – Participation in International Standards Development Programs

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Please click [here](#) for guidance on the proposal submission process.

Your name	John Fargher
Preferred contact number	0438 399 437
Email address	j.d.fargher@internode.on.net
Name of employer	Yundi Nature Conservancy
Job title or position	Director
Postal address	335 Yundi Road
Suburb	Yundi
State	SA
Postal code	5172
Web address	n/a

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation that is different than your current employer, please fill out the information below.

Nominating organisation	
Primary contact name	
Primary contact position	
Primary contact email	
Primary contact phone	

Section 1: International Committee Details

All Australian participation is subject to the rules and guidance laid out in [SG-015: Australian Involvement in International Standardisation](#). Any proposal for active participation on an ISO or IEC committee requires completion and approval of this proposal form. Observer members are not required to complete this form.

1A: Provide the full title of the international committee.

Include the title of International Technical Committee and any relevant Sub-Committees or Working Groups.

ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity

ISO/TC 331/AHG 3	Restoration, conservation and protection	Working group
ISO/TC 331/CAG	Chair's Advisory Group	Working group
ISO/TC 331/WG 1	Terminology	Working group
ISO/TC 331/WG 2	Measurement, data, monitoring and assessment	Working group
ISO/TC 331/WG 4	Organizations, strategies and sustainable use	Working group

1B: If there any Australian committees currently working in this field that may be affected by this proposal please note them below.

Australia is currently an observing member of TC 331 mirror committee **EV-021 Environmental Management and Sustainable Development**. Other committees that may have interest in the work include;

- EV-018 Arboriculture
- FT-032 Organic and BioDynamic Products
- EV-009 Sampling and Analysis of Soil
- FT-038 Smart Farming Reference Group
- FT-039 Bee Products
- FT-024 Food Products
- HE-032 Biotechnology
- PC-004 Agri-Food and Supply Chain Technology Taxonomy Handbook

1C: Indicate the size and complexity of the proposed program of International Standards development?

Include expected number of national and international meetings per year and the expected size of Australian delegations.

The number of Australian meetings is to be determined as is the size of an Australian delegation. International meetings and deadlines for 2023 include:

- WG 1 Terminology - ISO/AWI 13208 => a online meeting to be set up by September 2023
- WG 2 Measurement, data, monitoring and evaluation: online meeting to be set up before September-October 2023 on the Biodiversity Net Gain project (led by UK);
- AHG 3 Protection, conservation and restoration: a Form 4 to be proposed by IUCN on "ecological networks - mapping of standardization needs"
- WG 4 Organizations, strategies and sustainable use
- ISO/AWI 17298 Biodiversity – Strategic and operational approach for organizations – Requirements and guidelines (France) => finalisation of the CD draft for CD ballot
- ISO/AWI 17317 Biodiversity - Guide for the characterization of products from native species (Peru) =>

online meeting of the Task force TF 17317 on June 19, 2023

- ISO/AWI TS 18244 Biodiversity and the food sector - Guidelines on how to improve the biodiversity performance of food companies and food retailers (Germany) => online meeting to be planned by the end of 2023

Section 2: Scope

2A: Write a clear and concise statement of the need for Australian participation?

Describe the issue(s) for which Australian participation is the answer. What are the consequences of not participating?

Australia's 2021 State of the Environment Report found that the state and trend of the environment are poor and deteriorating as a result of increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction. Multiple pressures create cumulative impacts that amplify threats to our environment, and abrupt changes in ecological systems have been recorded in the past 5 years. The report concluded that our inability to adequately manage pressures will continue to result in species extinctions and deteriorating ecosystem condition, which are reducing the environmental capital on which current and future economies depend.

Looking forward, the report identifies a need for coordinated action and investment to address environmental issues. To enable Australia to measure progress and undertake effective adaptive actions, the report identifies the need for consistent management, monitoring and reporting of the state and trend of our natural assets, and to significantly extend our current efforts in data collection, curation and analysis to provide an open and accessible framework for adaptive and integrated management. These needs are also consistent with Australia's commitments under various international conventions including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Ramsar.

Partly in response to this, the Australian Government has initiated measures to establish a Nature Repair Market to encourage investment in restoration, conservation and protection of biodiversity in Australia. Proposed enabling arrangements include technical measures to define methods for nature repair and standards for measurement, data, monitoring and assessment to ensure market integrity. Attracting investment in nature repair is a key focus of Government interventions, and this includes investment from international sources.

A 2020 comprehensive overview of global biodiversity finance prepared by the OECD estimated that global biodiversity finance is between USD 78 - 91 billion per year. Linking the nature repair investment need in Australia and the pool of global biodiversity finance requires a market system with integrity. One way to achieve this is to ensure it aligns with emerging international standards such as ISO/TC 331. By engaging in the standards development program for ISO/TC 331 Australia will share its many lessons with other countries and also ensure any resulting international standard aligns with our national interests.

If we do not engage in the standards development program, there is a risk that our national interests will not be addressed in any resulting standard, and that international biodiversity finance may not be attracted to Australia. This may have implications for multi-national corporations operating in Australia – for example they may feel less need to address emerging requirements being developed by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures with meaningful nature repair investments in Australia.

2B: Briefly summarise the scope of work of the international committee and outline how it will address the identified need.

Outline any specific inclusions and exclusions from an Australian perspective. Attach a copy of the work program or supply a web address link to the international committee.

As noted above, the Australian Government has initiated measures to establish a Nature Repair Market to encourage investment in restoration, conservation and protection of biodiversity in Australia. Proposed enabling arrangements include technical measures to define methods for nature repair and standards for measurement, data, monitoring and assessment to ensure market integrity.

The initial legislation that will prescribe the framework legislation, regulator and governance rules is yet to pass through Parliament. If, as expected, it passes, the Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will begin work on developing and consulting on the new rules, standards, method development and additional regulations. Current timelines suggest that consultation will continue over next 12-18 months, with the Government hoping to have a market ready to open for trading in the second half of 2024. Aligning with, and using Australian developments to inform, development of an international biodiversity standard is anticipated to form part of this consultation process. In part, this is to ensure Australia continues to meet its CBD obligations but it is also to ensure Australia remains attractive for competitive international investment in nature repair and biodiversity conservation.

In addition to the work of the Australian Government, various states and private organisations are considering their impact and related risks in regard to the degradation of nature and biodiversity. Awareness of the need to invest in and demonstrate improved outcomes for biodiversity restoration and conservation is growing. Particularly, in an effort to meet Australia's commitments under the CBD, including the commitment protect 30% of Australia's oceans and land mass by 2030, and respond to the work happening under TFND.

The ISO TC 331 Roadmap and work plan to develop standardization in the field of Biodiversity is occurring at a critical time of development and consultation for the proposed Nature Repair Market and the broader voluntary efforts in Australia.

There are clear reciprocal benefits in having Australian representation on the international committee as it progresses the principles, framework, requirements, guidance and supporting tools for TC 331. In addition to the opportunities outlined in Section 2C, the committee will be able to stay in touch with the developments in Australia and potentially provide a timely and important contribution to national regulatory and policy development related to the proposed Nature Repair Market. It could also be a useful and practical demonstration of the role of the ISO standards in this emerging field and help to ensure international best practice is promoted in early market outcomes.

2C: Describe the objective of Australian participation by explaining how it will support international alignment

Identify if any of the International Standard published under the responsibility of the international committee are expected to be used or adopted in Australia or by key trading partners.

It is anticipated that Australia and important sources of global biodiversity finance (*e.g.* financiers and multinational corporations from EU, Japan, UK and USA) will adopt standards where they enable consistency and comparability between projects and countries. The objective of Australian participation is explored here under each of the four related standards in development.

ISO/WD TS 13208 Biodiversity — Vocabulary

The objective here is to take advantage of this opportunity, for Australia to contribute to the vocabulary used for global biodiversity standards, to ensure international consistency, comparability, and alignment with international conventions (*e.g.* CBD, Ramsar) and national interests. The timing for this is especially useful for Australia, since the Nature Repair Market is under development now, and will have regulations and market instruments (*e.g.* methods, monitoring, reporting) that may benefit from using an international, standard vocabulary. For example, consistent definitions of biodiversity, change and net gain. The vocabulary is also anticipated to support on-going implementation of the Emissions Reduction Fund and related carbon market initiatives in Australia that align with international commitments under the UNFCCC.

ISO/WD 17298 Biodiversity — Strategic and operational approach for organisations-- Requirements and guidelines

The Nature Repair Market Bill and related explanatory information addresses operational approaches for organisations in biodiversity restoration and maintenance. This body of work is under consultation and so will likely benefit from Australian participation in development of this standard. The objective would be to ensure Australia's national interest is reflected in the standard as well as identifying any international good practice approaches that should be reflected in final market instruments in Australia. This is also likely to be support Australian efforts to attract sources of global biodiversity finance including multinational corporations.

ISO/WD 17317 Biodiversity — Guide for the characterization of products derived from native species

First Nations peoples, and others in Australia, have a growing portfolio of enterprises and projects that derive products from native species. Food and other standards already apply to these products, but the link to biodiversity conservation is inconsistent and sometimes missing. Similarly, certification of origin and sustainability of native species products is inconsistent, and may not contribute to biodiversity net gain. So the objective of Australian participation here is to add value to First Nations and others developing and making products derived from native species by ensuring this standard reflects the unique Australian context and opportunities as well as ensuring sustainability and enabling export market access. Participation at this time will also allow international trends and good practice approaches to characterisation of products derived from native species to be reflected in Australian policy and regulatory instruments. For example, the Nature Repair Market instruments do not yet reflect a clear approach to treatment of products derived from native species in a biodiversity restoration or maintenance project supported through that market.

ISO/WD 17620 Biodiversity — Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain

Australia is currently in the process of designing and enabling a Nature Repair Market that includes methods and approaches for designing and implementing investments for biodiversity net gain. Accordingly, the objective of Australian participation here is to ensure that the standard addresses processes for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain in ways that are consistent with the strategic intent of the Nature Repair Market and Australia's national interest. At the same time, participation at this time will allow international trends and good practice approaches to designing and implementing biodiversity net gain to be considered for the market enabling instruments. This is more likely to be attractive for sources of global biodiversity finance including multinational corporations, as it is likely to enable consistency and comparability between projects and countries.

Section 3: Net benefit

3A: What will be the impact of the proposed project in the below categories? Explain this in terms of a positive or negative impact on the following “Net Benefit” criteria.¹

Public health and safety (max 200 words)

The impact of the proposed project is anticipated to have a positive impact on public health and safety. Australian participation in standards development program is anticipated to contribute to national efforts to reverse biodiversity loss and attract investment in initiatives that deliver biodiversity net gain. International research shows that public access to biodiverse, green spaces measurably improves public physical and mental health, reduces demand for medical care, and contributes to resilience from health and safety impacts of climate change (e.g. by reducing extreme heat or suppressing air-borne allergens).

Sources include, *inter alia*:

- Stanhope, J., Breed, M. and Weinstein P. (2022) *Biodiversity, Microbiomes, and Human Health* In: G. A. W. Rook, C. A. Lowry (eds.) (2022) *Evolution, Biodiversity and a Reassessment of the Hygiene Hypothesis. Progress in Inflammation Research 89*. Springer Nature, Switzerland.
- Rigolon, A. *et al.* (2021) Green Space and Health Equity: A Systematic Review on the Potential of Green Space to Reduce Health Disparities. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **18**, 2563.
- Yang, B-Y, *et al.* (2021) Greenspace and human health: An umbrella review. *The Innovation* **2** (4)
- Lai H. *et al.* (2019) The impact of green space and biodiversity on health. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* **17** (7): 383-390
- Amano, T. *et al.* (2018) The importance of green spaces to public health: a multi-continental analysis. *Ecological Applications* **28** (6): 1473-1480

Social and community impact (max 200 words)

The impact of the proposed project is anticipated to have a positive social and community impact. Particularly for First Nations peoples and other landholders, a strong nature repair market that aligns with international standards and can be demonstrated to meet those standards is anticipated to provide net benefits to their livelihoods and sense of place. Being able to demonstrate that caring for country, biodiversity restoration and maintenance activities, and resulting products from native species meet agreed standards is anticipated to enable access to markets as well as contribute to sustainability and market monitoring, reporting and verification.

Sources include, *inter alia*:

- DCCEEW (2023) Indigenous Protected Areas. See: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/indigenous-protected-areas> Accessed June 18, 2023.
- Tupala, A-K., *et al.* (2022) Social impacts of biodiversity offsetting: A review. *Biological Conservation* **267**
- Cardinale, B.J., *et al.* (2012) Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity. *Nature* **486** (7401):59-67.
- Nursey-Bray, M. *et al.* (2010) Australian Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity. *Society and Natural Resources* **29**:13-19.

Environmental impact (max 200 words)

The impact of the proposed project is anticipated to have a positive environmental impact. Because standards are part of the enabling architecture for an efficient market system, Australian participation in the development of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity, and subsequent consideration of its adoption in Australia, is expected to contribute to effective investment in biodiversity restoration and maintenance across the country. Because ISO/TC 331 includes a focus on biodiversity net gain, a positive environmental impact is anticipated.

Sources include, *inter alia*:

- DCCEEW (2022) Biodiversity Conservation. See: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation> Accessed June 18, 2023.
- DCCEEW (2021) State of Environment Report. See: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/soe> Accessed June 18, 2023.
- Pimentel, D., *et al.* (1997) Economic and Environmental Benefits of Biodiversity. *BioScience* **47** (11): 747-757.

Competition (max 200 words)

The impact of the proposed project is anticipated to have a positive impact on competition. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022 identifies the importance of trade-related policy action and cooperation to achieve most of the GBF targets. For example, Target 16 requires an increase of biodiversity related financial resources. In addition, the WTO rule book permits governments to restrict trade when the objective is protecting the environment. In addition, on-going work by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is leading towards new reporting obligations for multi-national and larger Australian corporations.

Wide adoption of agreed biodiversity standards will support international trade to function in Australia's national interests as well as in the interests of corporations that contribute to the Australian economy. This might include maintaining or acquiring market access (e.g. EU, Japan); updating the codification of biodiversity dimensions of international trade agreements; and better codification of non-tariff trade barriers for biodiversity. Participating in the development of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity will ensure Australia's commitment to international rules-based trade and free agricultural trade is considered by the Committee, and is used by like-minded countries to enhance competition that leads to biodiversity net-gain.

Sources include, *inter alia*:

- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (2023) See: <https://tnfd.global/> Accessed June 18, 2023.
- EU (2021) *Trade and biodiversity: new methodology to better assess impacts*. Directorate-General for Environment. European Union, Bruxelles, Belgium. See: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/trade-and-biodiversity-new-methodology-better-assess-impacts-2021-05-19_en Accessed June 18, 2023.

Economic impact (max 200 words)

The impact of the proposed project is anticipated to have a positive economic impact. Australia's prosperity depends on nature, and a recent analysis of the costs and benefits of restoring Australia's terrestrial ecosystems demonstrated a positive net benefit to the economy. In addition, 2022 analysis by PwC assessed that a biodiversity market could unlock AUD137 billion in financial flows to advance Australian biodiversity outcomes by 2050. For these economic net benefits to be optimised, a standardised approach to biodiversity is needed – for global consistency and ensure Australia's approach to restoring and maintaining biodiversity is both competitive and aligned with international good practice. Participating in the development of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity will contribute to the design and implementation of a Nature Repair Market in Australia and is anticipated to ensure that it operates efficiently and effectively, in ways that attract international investment.

Sources include, *inter alia*:

- ACF (2022). *The nature-based economy: How Australia's prosperity depends on nature*. Nature Dependency Report. Australian Conservation Foundation, Melbourne, Australia.
- Mappin, B., *et al.* (2022). The costs and benefits of restoring a continent's terrestrial ecosystems. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **59(2)**: 408–419.
- PwC Australia (2022) *The value of an Australian biodiversity market*. Report to DCCEEW. See: <https://www.pwc.com.au/government/A-nature-positive-Australia-The-value-of-an-Australian-biodiversity-market.pdf> Accessed June 18, 2023.

¹ Add specific facts and examples if possible. Refer to the [Guide to Net Benefit](#). Not all categories may be affected, in which case, leave these blank.

Section 4: Evidence of support — Stakeholder support

4A: Describe the process taken to gain stakeholder support for your proposal (max 100 words)

To inform their advocacy and feedback into Australian Government consultation on the Nature Repair Market, the Australian-arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts partnered with John Fargher, Yundi Nature Conservancy to investigate the role, opportunities and limitation of current monitoring, reporting and verifying (MRV) approaches with biodiversity conservation. As part of this project, work was undertaken to identify and consult with a range of related stakeholders – including those investing in and delivering conservation outcomes, as well as related technical services and broader tertiary expertise. Those who participated in a Roundtable Meeting to discuss standards for a biodiversity change market included:

Airborne Logic, Heuris Pty Ltd, University of Adelaide (both Adelaide Business School and Environment Institute), SmartSat CRC, AgEx Alliance, Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), RegenCo, FlintPro/Mullion Group, Duxton Assets, Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, Yundi Conservancy, Perennial Earth, Auricht Projects, The Forktree Project, Bush Heritage Australia, Climate Friendly, Nature Foundation SA, Australian DCCEEW and Australian DAFF. This list of stakeholders continues to be engaged and support project outcomes and can be utilised to inform future engagement in relation to this proposal

In addition, Yundi Nature Conservancy facilitates a network of more than 30 landholders managing their Fleurieu Peninsula landscapes for net biodiversity gain as well as agricultural enterprises. These stakeholders offer a practical “user” test of proposed standards and their relevance and utility for landholders – who own and manage the majority of land in Australia and so are critical for achieving net positive change in terrestrial biodiversity.

4B: Identify the Australian stakeholder organisations that you have consulted with.

Evidence of stakeholder support MUST be provided in a letter (on company letterhead) or email (company email only).

Key stakeholder groups	Organisation Name	Contact name	Position	Letter or email evidence is attached: Y/N	Interested in membership of standards committee: Y/N
<i>Research and academic organisations</i>	University of Adelaide – Environment Institute	Professor Andrew Lowe	Interim Director		
	Charles Sturt University	Distinguished Professor Alan Cooper	eDNA research leader		
<i>Manufacturer associations</i>					
<i>Testing bodies</i>					

<i>Certification and auditing bodies</i>	Accounting for Nature (AfN)	Peter Cosier Chrissy Elmer	Chair General Manager	pcosier@accountingfornature.org Y	Y
<i>Supplier associations</i>	n/a				
<i>User and purchaser associations</i>					
<i>Employer and industry associations</i>	Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) National Farmer's Association (NFF) Australian Retailers Association (ARA) Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)	Michael Cornish Warwick Ragg	Policy Advisor General Manager – NRM		
<i>Professional and technical bodies</i>	Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA)				
<i>Unions and employee associations</i>					
<i>Consumer and community groups</i>	Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)				
<i>Government and regulatory agencies</i>	DCCEEW DAFF DFAT	Ryan Wilson	A/g Assistant Secretary Biodiversity Markets		
<i>Independent experts</i>	Hugh Possingham John Fargher				

	Pollination (JH)	Jane Hutchinson	Co-CEO, Pollination Foundation		
	Climate Friendly (JH)	Skye Glenday	Co CEO		
	Greencollar	Alex Nankivell Kelly Arbon			
	NFSA (AN)		CEO Ecologist		
	Bush Heritage	Jen Barwick			
	Pew Charitable Trusts (JB, MG)	Michelle Grady	National Nature and Climate Coordinator National Director		
<i>Other</i>					

Section 5: Declaration

Please check your proposal is complete, read and complete the declaration, then forward this proposal and any attached documents to Standards Australia at SEM@standards.org.au. The named proponent is deemed to have approved the information contained within this proposal and this declaration. This is required prior to formal consideration of this proposal.

The information provided in this application is complete, true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I believe the proposed program of work will result in Net Benefit ² to Australia. I have consulted with, and have the support of, national organisations with a relevant interest in this project.	
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Name of proponent	
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Date of declaration	
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²As defined in the [Guide to Net Benefit](#)

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See the Standards Australia [Privacy Policy](#) for more information.

Section 6: Instructions and notices

To submit this proposal for Standards Australia consideration:

1. You must complete every section of this form and then submit your initial proposal draft to an [Engagement Officer](#). Use simple, non-technical and concise language and do not use jargon of any kind. For additional information, visit the "[Submitting a Proposal](#)" page on our website.
2. The Engagement Officer will conduct the preliminary review of this form and then guide you as to the next steps.
3. Final submissions, along with evidence of stakeholder support, have to be provided electronically to Standards Australia (SEM@standards.org.au). Please note: you should circulate your proposal to stakeholders and collect evidence of support before submitting this form to SEM@standards.org.au.

If you have any trouble with the form, you can contact us on (02) 9237 6000, 1800 035 822, or email us at SEM@standards.org.au.