

## Savanna Walkabout Overview

- Why is biodiversity important in Australia's tropical savannas?
- How do we conserve biodiversity in Australia's tropical savannas?

<u>Inquiry Model</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Key Questions</u>	<u>Key Understandings</u>
Tuning in	<b>Living Savannas</b>	<p><i>What are the characteristics of the Tropical Savannas Biome?</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity is not just about endangered species - it encompasses the variety of all life on Earth. Biodiversity include: ecological diversity, species diversity, genetic diversity and cultural diversity. The Tropical Savannas Biome is one of the Earth's major ecosystems. Australia's tropical savannas are similar to other savannas yet unique in many ways, including its natural and cultural history.</p>
Finding Out Sorting Out	<b>Termite Trails</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Meet the Termites</li> <li>□ Interdependence</li> <li>□ Impacts</li> </ul>	<p><i>What is the social structure of termite colonies?</i></p> <p><i>Why are termites the life-blood of savanna ecosystems?</i></p> <p><i>How do weeds, feral animals and wildfire threaten savanna ecosystems?</i></p>	<p>Communities of plants animals and people live and interact in Australia's tropical savannas. Insects, especially termites as decomposers and herbivores, play an important role in Australia's tropical savannas. Feeding interactions can be shown using food chains and food webs.</p> <p>Biodiversity is reduced by changes in the environment that exceed the ability of populations of plants and animals to adapt. Key factors that threaten Australia's tropical savanna ecosystems include: introduced species (weeds &amp; feral animals) and changed fire regimes.</p>
Going Further	<b>Research Tracks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Meet the Researchers</li> <li>□ Join the Researchers</li> </ul>	<p><i>Who are the people researching biodiversity issues in Australia's tropical savannas?</i></p> <p><i>What's happening to the northern quoll in Kakadu National Park?</i></p>	<p>Researchers working scientifically have a major role to play so people can make well-informed decisions about planning and management to ensure we have healthy ecosystems and conserve biodiversity. Indigenous Knowledge and Western Scientific Knowledge both play a key role in understanding and conserving biodiversity.</p>
Taking action Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>Savanna Treasures</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>What benefits do healthy ecosystems provide us for life?</i></p> <p><i>What opportunities exist to conserve our biodiversity?</i></p>	<p>It is in Australia's social, environmental and economic interest to conserve our biodiversity. It takes less energy and fewer resources to protect biodiversity than it does to restore the ecological systems after they have been altered.</p> <p>We can act individually or as part of a group or organisation and make lifestyle choices and take actions that help protect biodiversity.</p>