

M.V.S. - MOST VALUABLE SPECIES CAMPAIGN

We know conservation is important, but why might a particular species get protected while another one misses out? The following activity will help you think deeper about what influences our views on conservation and how this impacts how flora and fauna are valued.

Follow the steps below to create a winning campaign to have your chosen coastal species named the Conservation M.V.S. (Most Valuable Species) in need of the most conservation protection.

A list of Online Resources on the last page to help with your research.

Step 1: Choose your candidate

Below is a list of endangered species found within our coastal environment. Choose one of these species as your candidate to research.

NATIVE ENDANGERED COASTAL SPECIES	
Common Name	Species Name
Anglesea Grevillia	<i>Grevillea infecunda</i>
Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>
Australian Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>
Growling grass frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>
Hooded Plover	<i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i>
Moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>
New Holland mouse	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>
Otway Cray	<i>Geocharax gracilis</i>
Powerful owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>
Rufous bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti caryochrous</i>
Southern brown bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>
Spotted-tailed quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>
Swamp skink	<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>
Swift parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>

Step 2: Do your research

Time to learn everything you need to know about your candidate species. See the list of online resources on the next page to help get you started. You will also need to do your own species specific research online, in addition to using any books and scientific articles or magazine articles online or print.

During your research, consider the following questions:

- What is the conservation status of your species?
- What is the population size of your species?
- What is your species distribution locally, nationally, internationally?
- What role does your species play in the ecosystem?
Eg. pollinator, predator, prey, ecosystem engineer
- What resources does your species rely on in its habitat?
- What are the major threats to your species?
- What other reasons do you think your species should be conserved?

Step 3: Write your campaign speech!

You have your candidate, you've completed your research, now it's time to write a winning speech!

You can choose to write this in the first-person (well animal) perspective, or as someone vouching for them. As with any great speech or debate, it's important to make a plan and decide the most important points you want to make. There is also a list of campaign examples on the next page for inspiration.

Using your research material, consider the following questions to help get you started.

- Why is your species in more need of more conservation than others?
- What might people like (or dislike) about your animal?
- How is your species important to the wider ecosystem?
- What could be the result of not prioritising your species for conservation?

Online Resources

Native Coastal Flora & Fauna

Surfcoast Nature Search

<https://scnaturesearch.com.au/>

ANGAIR Fact sheets

<https://www.angair.org.au/knowledge-bank/factsheets>

Endangered Species resources

S.W.I.F.F.T. Threatened fauna Surf Coast Shire

https://www.swift.net.au/cb_pages/threatened_fauna_surf_coast_shire.php

Flora and Fauna Action Statements

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988/action-statements>

Australian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act: Threatened Species List

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/115827/2019114-FFG-Threatened-List.pdf

Threatened species advisory lists

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-species-advisory-lists>

Conservation campaign links

What is the point of saving endangered species?

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150715-why-save-an-endangered-species>

Australian Koala Foundation:

<https://www.savethekoala.com/our-work/koala-protection-act>

Why we need to save tigers:

<https://www.dw.com/en/why-we-need-to-save-tigers/av-49786884>

Asian elephant conservation:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/asian-elephant>

11 Reasons why sea turtles are super heroes:

<https://www.destinationwildlife.com/blog/11-reasons-why-sea-turtles-are-super-heroes>

Teachers Notes & Curriculum Links

This resource has been designed to cater for year 7 through to VCE students. It can be completed as an individual or small group, with students producing either a written or aural presentation, or combination of both.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM LINKS	
YEARS 7 & 8	
Science Understanding: Biological Sciences	Elaborations
Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs and can be affected by human activity (VCSSU093)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> constructing and interpreting food chains and food webs to show relationships between organisms in an environment researching examples of human impacts on specific ecosystems, for example, the use of fire by traditional Aboriginal people, the effects of palm oil harvesting, deforestation, agricultural practices or the introduction of new species
YEARS 8 & 9	
Science Understanding: Biological Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring interactions between organisms, for example, predator/prey, parasites, competitors, pollinators and disease vectors
Ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment, matter and energy flow through these systems (VCSSU121)	
Literacy: Creating texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting arguments that advance opinions, justify positions, and make judgments in order to persuade others about issues such the importance of maintaining balance in the biosphere creating informative and argumentative texts with explanations, details and evidence following the structure of an argument which has a series of sequenced and linked paragraphs, beginning with an outline of the stance to be taken, a series of supported points that develop a line of argument, and a conclusion which summarises the main line of argument
Create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that present a point of view and advance or illustrate arguments, including texts that integrate visual, print and/or audio features (VCELY449)	
VCE	
Environmental Science: Unit 3 – Area of Study 1: Is maintain biodiversity worth a sustained effort?	Outcome 1. Explain the importance of Earth's biodiversity, analyse the threats to biodiversity, and evaluate management strategies to maintain biodiversity in the context of one selected threatened endemic species
Biology: Unit 1 – Area of Study 2: How do living systems sustain life?	Outcome 2. Explain how various adaptations enhance the survival of an individual organism, investigate the relationships between organisms that form a living community and their habitat, and analyse the impacts of actors that affect population growth.