

news

BIODIVERSITY BLUEPRINT

A new report by a coalition of scientists and experts has set out a blueprint for protecting Earth's biodiversity and stabilising our climate. The 'Global Safety Net' report, published in *Science Advances*, provides a global-scale analysis of terrestrial areas essential for biodiversity and climate resilience. The authors say that by preserving and protecting approximately 50 per cent of the Earth's land, we could reverse further biodiversity loss.

"The Global Safety Net shows a way forward to conserve wild places and ensure that nature isn't something left in a few remote, far-off places," said co-author Carly Vynne, PhD. "All of humanity deserve access to nature and the myriad of benefits it provides to our mental, physical, and spiritual health."

More on this soon.

Reference: advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/136/eaabb2824

TOP BIRD!

THE SUPERB FAIRYWREN HAS BEEN VOTED AUSTRALIA'S BIRD OF THE YEAR FOR 2021, IN THE LATEST GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA/ BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA POLL. ACCORDING TO THE GUARDIAN, THE SUPERB FAIRYWREN WON WITH 13,998 VOTES. JUST AHEAD OF THE EVER-POPULAR TAWNY FROGMOUTH ON 13,332. MORE THAN 450,000 VOTES WERE CAST DURING THE 10-DAY COMPETITION, WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY.

THE SUPERB FAIRYWREN POPULATION IS SHOWING SIGNS OF DECLINE DUE TO HABITAT LOSS, ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS. HOLLY PARSONS, BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA'S URBAN BIRDS PROGRAM MANAGER, SAID GARDENERS COULD HELP SUPPORT POPULATIONS.

"WHAT'S GREAT IS THAT THIS IS A BIRD PEOPLE CAN HELP AT HOME. YOU CAN PLANT SHRUBS FOR THEM AND CREATE GREAT HABITAT IN YOUR SPACE TO HELP THESE BIRDS."

MEANWHILE, NEXT ISSUE WE WILL HAVE THE RESULTS OF BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA'S AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT WHICH WILL PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF BIRD NUMBERS NATIONWIDE. MORE DETAILS: [BIRDLIFE.ORG.AU](https://birdlife.org.au)



WA TO HALT NATIVE LOGGING

Western Australia will end logging its native forests on January 1, 2024. Premier Mark McGowan has committed to combatting rising greenhouse gases by setting aside 409,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo native forests, including protecting the highly unique and rich biodiversity of the south-west. WA's government will invest an additional \$350m to expand timber plantations, \$50m to retrain workers and retool their affected communities.

This is excellent eco-news, especially since WA already grows enough wood on its farms to satisfy both domestic and international markets. WA's crusade to fight the climate emergency upped the ante on Victoria's 2030 pledge to terminate its native forest logging. The remaining old-growth is indispensable as watersheds for cities, wildlife habitat, carbon storehouses, climate stabilisers, cloudmakers and inter-continental rainmakers.

"The south-west forests are incredibly precious and they are vital to climate and to wildlife, water and culture," said Jess Beckerling, of the WA Forest Alliance.

Reese Halter

PHOTOS: ISTOCK