Glossary of terms

adaptive management	Management practices that accommodate and respond to uncertain future events.
biodiversity	A word derived from 'biological diversity'. The variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the communities and ecosystems of which they are part.
bioregion	An ecologically and geographically defined area.
browsing	A type of feeding where herbivores eat woody twigs and leaves from trees and shrubs.
citizen science	Scientific research that is carried out, in whole or in part, by amateur or nonprofessional scientists.
connectivity	The extent to which particular ecosystems are joined with others of similar kind; the ease with which organisms can move across the landscape.
ecological niche	The relational position of a species or population within an ecosystem, with respect to both its role and the space it inhabits.
ecology	The scientific study of the distribution and abundance of life on Earth, and the interactions between organisms and their environment.
ex situ	A Latin phrase which translates literally to 'out of position'. In ecological terms it refers to an organism out of its natural habitat. Ex situ conservation refers to off-site protection of organisms.
endemic	Occurring only in the stated area.
fire regime	The combination of fire frequency, intensity, interval and season.

germplasm	A term used to describe a collection of genetic resources of an organism. For plants, the germplasm may be stored as a seed collection.
grazing	A type of feeding where herbivores eat grass or other low vegetation.
in situ	A Latin phrase which translates literally to 'in position'. In ecological terms it refers to an organism in its natural habitat.
invertebrate	An animal lacking a backbone (spinal column).
keystone species	Species that have a disproportionately large effect on an ecosystem, their presence or absence changing the interactions among the species in that ecosystem.
phenology	The study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate.
remnant	A remaining portion of natural habitat.
resilience	The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change so as to still retain function, structure, identity and feedbacks; the extent to which a system is able to change in response to a disturbance.
riparian	Relating to the interface between land and a watercourse
stygofauna	Subterranean aquatic invertebrates
tipping point	(or critical threshold or ecological threshold) The point at which a relatively small change in external conditions causes a rapid change in an ecosystem, often leading to an abrupt change in ecosystem health.
tropical nights	Indicated by overnight temperatures of 20 degrees Celsius or above.
vertebrate	An animal with a backbone (spinal column), including: sharks and rays; bony fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals.