



PLANET BIODIVERSITY

| benefitting from biodiversity



OUR GOAL is to improve biodiversity condition on farms and across the cotton landscape. This aligns to UN Sustainable Development Goal 15.5: reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

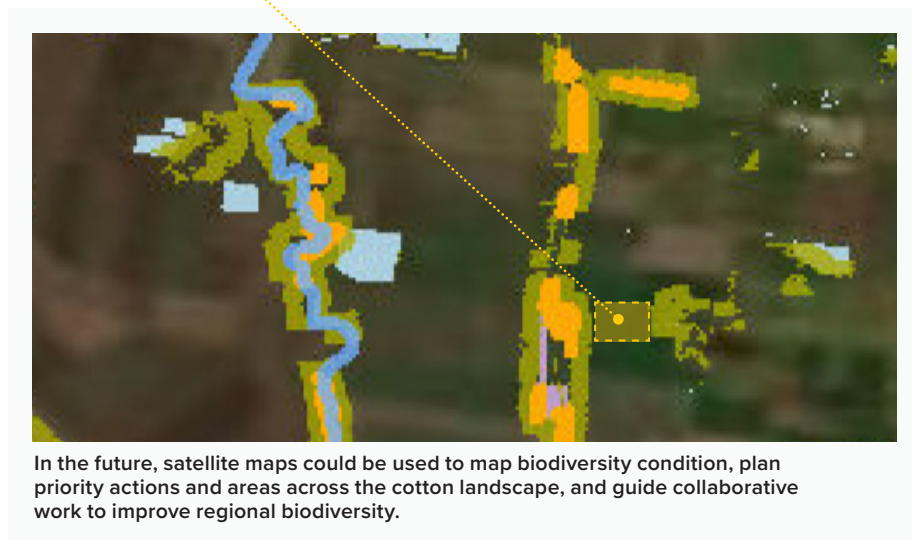


On average, about 21% of the area of a cotton farm has remnant native vegetation, and about 4% is managed for biodiversity.

Like other cropping landscapes around the world, Australian cropping farms were substantially cleared of native vegetation by farmers many decades ago when European farming practices were introduced. Approximately 21 per cent of the combined extent of all cotton properties retains a cover of remnant native vegetation^[1], and three to four per cent of the area of an average cotton farm is being managed for conservation^[2].

^[1] <https://cottoninfo.com.au/managing-biodiversity-cotton-landscapes>

^[2] CRDC grower survey data



Improving biodiversity takes time.

Biodiversity provides services to cotton growers including natural pest control and pollination, erosion control, carbon storage and sequestration and enhanced water retention. However, improving biodiversity condition on farms across the whole industry is not easy. It takes time to improve a habitat. Drought, costs and time are some of the barriers that may hinder a farmer's work to improve biodiversity.

We're targeting individual actions within regional plans for greater impact.

Biodiversity changes across landscapes and seasons. While individual farmer actions are needed, they will be much more effective if they are consistent with regional plans to protect threatened and iconic species.

OUR APPROACH IS TO: work with other stakeholders to identify threatened and iconic regional species, prioritise management practices, develop a credible and pragmatic way to measure change in biodiversity condition at industry scale, and work with growers to improve biodiversity condition through actions that contribute to regional priorities.

OUR TARGET for biodiversity condition will be set when consistent indicators and methodologies are agreed at a national level. To ensure our approach is consistent across farming landscapes we are participating in the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework project being coordinated by National Farmers' Federation.

OUR PATHWAY TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET IS:

1. Measure natural assets
2. Contribute to collaborative regional planning to scale up impact
3. Targeted on-farm practices to protect and restore biodiversity in cotton farming landscapes