

## 16. National Parks in Australia

### Aim

Students will become familiar with the number and types of parks in Australia. They will compare the size of parks and other protected areas with population and land size of each state. Skills developed include graph construction and analysis as well as research.

### Materials

- Resource sheet 16a: Australia's national parks and reserves.
- Resource sheet 16b: Managers of Australia's parks and reserves.
- Workbook, pens, graph paper.
- Library and website resources for extended research.
- Brochures on Australian national parks.
- Atlas which shows Australia's conservation reserves.

### Activities

1. Look at Table 1 in Resource sheet 16a. Which State/Territory has the most national parks? Which has the least?

2. Which State/Territory has the most area set aside for conservation purposes?

3. Complete table 2. Is there any pattern between size of the State/Territory and population density?

4. In pairs, work out the percentage of protected areas in each State and Territory. Do this by dividing the total protected area (column 6 in Table 1) by the total land area (column 2 in Table 2). Convert square kilometres into hectares by multiplying by 100. (100 hectares = 1 square kilometre).

$$\frac{\text{Protected land area}}{\text{Total land area}} \times 100$$

5. Graph this information in rank order. Use a bar graph. Leave enough space under each bar to add the logos for each State and Territory department.

6. Briefly describe the information shown by the graph.

7. What other information would you need before you could make some comparisons between the States on their "conservation record"?

8. Read Resource sheet 16b. List the federal parks for which Environment Australia is responsible.

9. Most national parks in other countries are managed by a national authority. Why are Australia's national parks mostly managed by the States?

10. In pairs, choose an Australian national parks from the list below or another national park that you know about. Check first with your teacher that it is in fact a national park and that there is information available to complete this task. From your atlas, tourist brochures, internet or library references, complete the key facts in a table similar to the one below. Design an A3 poster or Powerpoint presentation to convey this information and include a location map and illustrations.

11. Each pair presents their poster or Powerpoint presentation to describe some of Australia's national parks.

### Some Australian National Parks

Ord River	Kakadu
Uluru	Royal
Kosciusko	Lake Eyre
Mount Field	Hamersley Range
Blue Mountains	Kalbarri
Nullabor	Lamington
Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair	
Carnavon	Freycinet

Key Facts	..... National Park
Size of the park	
Date declared	
Reasons declared	
Characteristics of the park	
Main activities of visitors to the park	

## 16a. Australia's parks and reserves

Table 1

State of Territory	No. of national parks	Area (ha)	No. of other reserves	Area (ha)	Total area protected (ha)
Australian Capital Territory	1	105 845	7	117 187	123 032
New South Wales	143	4 172 308	406	780 909	4 953 217
Northern Territory	10	1 962 204	80	1 050 386	3 012 590
Queensland	216	6 587 093	253	351 671	6 938 764
South Australia	18	4 337 430	304	16 787 144	21 124 574
Tasmania	18	1 424 345	472	777 617	2 201 962
Victoria	36	2 577 435	1929	800 133	3 377 568
Western Australia	63	4 874 282	1154	11 040 799	1 595 081

Source: Environment Australia. Protected Areas Database 2000.

Table 2

State of Territory	Area (sq km)	Population ('000) 2001 *	Percentage of population in each State or Territory (%)
New South Wales	801 600	6 549.7	33.7
Victoria	227 600	4 844.2	25.3
Queensland	1 727 200	3 642.4	17.6
South Australia	984 00	1 503.7	8.3
Western Australia	2 525 500	1 916.7	9.5
Tasmania	67 800	470.1	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	2 400	314.2	1.7
Northern Territory	1 346 200	198.0	1.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7 682 300</b>	<b>19 442.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## 16b. Managers of Australia's parks and reserves

### Who looks after Australia's national parks?

Despite their name, most national parks are established and managed by State or Territory governments rather than the Federal government. This is because the Australian Constitution gives these governments control over the use of land. State and Territory governments have organisations, usually a national parks and wildlife service, to look after parks and to provide facilities in them.

The Federal government has an organisation called Environment Australia. It manages Federal parks, namely Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Jervis Bay national parks in mainland Australia and national parks on Christmas and Norfolk Islands.



### Australian Capital Territory

Australian Capital Territory Parks and Conservation Service  
Environment ACT, 12 Wattle Street,  
LYNEHAM ACT 2602  
Phone +61 2 6207 9777  
<http://www.environment.act.gov.au>

### Park agencies in Australia



### Federal

Environment Australia  
<http://www.ea.gov.au/parks/>



### New South Wales

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service  
PO Box 1967  
Hurstville NSW 2220  
Phone (02) 585 6444  
<http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au>



### Northern Territory

Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory  
PO Box 496  
Palmerston NT 0831  
Phone (08) 89 995511  
<http://www.nt.gov.au/paw>



**Queensland**

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
PO Box 155  
Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002  
Phone (07) 3227 7111  
<http://www.env.qld.gov.au/environment/park>



**Victoria**

Phone 13 1963  
<http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>



**South Australia**

National Parks and Wildlife South  
Australia  
GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Phone (61 8) 8204 1910  
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks>

**Western Australia**

Conservation and Land Management  
<http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>



**Tasmania**

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service  
Department of Primary Industries, Water &  
Environment.  
GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001  
Phone 1300 368 550  
<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au>