



## **WWF-Australia Eminent Scientist Group (ESG) Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the WWF Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) is to provide advice and support to the CEO, staff and Board of WWF Australia. The WWF Eminent Scientists Group would:

1. Consist of some of Australia's most eminent and up-and-coming scientists and practitioners in areas of WWF Australia's priority programs, as articulated in the organisation's Five Year Plan.
  2. Have a maximum number of six - eight members appointed by the Board of Directors with experience across key areas of the conservation strategy. At least one member of the ESG would also sit on the Board of Directors.
  3. The Group would be Chaired by a scientist, appointed by the Board
  4. The WWF Australia governors would be a principal pool of the ESG, but eminent scientists and practitioners from outside could also be members to fill specific gaps in expertise.
  5. Each ESG member would serve a three-year term with the consideration of an additional term at the discretion of the Board.
  6. The primary roles of the ESG are to:
    - help, support and advise WWF-Australia so that it operates effectively as a science-based, solution-focused organisation; and
    - provide guidance on the use of appropriate, timely and relevant research and practice to underpin conservation outcomes.
- Secondary roles of the ESG are to: a) mentor senior staff, advising on best available science and practice to support WWF's Conservation Goals and on research that could be assisted by WWF to support the Conservation Goals; and b) advise the Board/CEO on the strategies, focus, and outcomes of the Strategic Plan.
7. Advice to the Board is conveyed via the committee representative(s) at the next Board meeting following a meeting of the ESG, and via the ESG meeting minutes being made available to the committee members and Board
  8. The WWF ESG would have one formal, face-to-face meeting annually with an additional 2-3 meetings convened as needed (maximum 4 meetings/year). The additional meetings will be either face-to-face or via conference call, at the discretion of the ESG.
  9. WWF staff should not limit their engagement with the Australian science and practitioner community to the ESG, but should develop additional networks of experts as informal 'reference groups' on particular topics. The ESG, working with the Conservation Director, would advise on the most appropriate external advice and 'reference group' members, some of whom could be considered as future candidates for the ESG and/or WWF Governors.