



Classroom Activity

Big Question: How will we conserve species diversity?

How would you manage recovery after fire?

Imagine you work for a local natural reserve or park. A fire sweeps through the area and it's your responsibility to manage its recovery. What would you do?

Undertake some research into the methods used to manage the regeneration of forests and scrub following fire. You may like to start with those listed in the 'Useful Websites' resource supplied with this article.

Make a plan for your response over the next 3 years beginning immediately after the fire. Here are some questions you should answer in your plan:

- How will you deal with soil erosion immediately after the fire and until the vegetation grows back?
- What do you think the impact will be on waterways?
- Which plant species can you expect to regenerate quickly and which more slowly?
- What adaptations do these plants have to allow them to regenerate?
- What parameters should you measure to monitor recovery of soils and the forest?
- What are some of the things you will need to prevent or avoid in order for the vegetation to grow back?
- What considerations do you need to make for wildlife?
- How can you tell if soils and the forest have recovered?
- How might any of the above differ if instead of natural bushland, you were managing farmland?

Present your ideas to a friend. Talk through the different ways you have planned for regeneration.