

So from one extreme to another. Shhh, you have to be quiet for this next lot. It's the data for conservation and a lot of them have sick, injured or orphaned wildlife with them. It's also a bit smelly sometimes and watch where you step.

How to use the internet for Conservation

- saving habitat
- applying political pressure
- fund raising and easy access to grants
- Living with wildlife

The best way to maintain biodiversity is to maintain existing habitat. The black cockatoo rescue site is a classic example of how the internet is helping to do this.

Black cockatoo rescue (WA)

http://blackcockatoorecue.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Developers are planning to bulldoze a large parcel of land that is currently home to some of the last stands of wild cockatoo habitat. This local action group are enlisting the help of the global community to stop that happening. It's a great example of how a world wide resource can be vital in a local action. This site keeps followers up to date on news, it's being used to explain the situation and provide research data. This is vital to educate both the general public and those in authority about an issue. This information is available 24/7 and has source material that you control. Sites like this can quickly become a central point for the action.



Fundraising

Adopt a wild animal

Central to many conservation efforts is fundraising. The internet has allowed for environmentalists to become creative in value adding to funding raising.

Animal adoption has become a popular way of supporting charities that care for endangered and threatened species. By adopting a wild animal one can help finance conservation research, the upkeep of the animal, anti-poaching patrols, habitat protection and restoration, wild animal rescue, rehabilitation & reintroduction, education and political lobbying for species under threat.

<http://www.squidoo.com/adoptwildanimals>



Sites like this allow you to feel like you're involved in the conservation process and not just putting money into a tin. You can view photos of the wildlife or flora conservation, you can read stories about work being carried out, get to know who is running the project.

National grants

Research is critical to conservation and research takes money. So access to national grants for research and conservation is essential but how do you find them? The National Environmental Research Program (NERP) site details how to apply for an environmental research grants.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/nerp/about.html>

You'll also find information on research funding for environmental projects at the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) program.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100219a.html>



Creating habitat

The next best thing to natural habitat in the wild is artificial habitat creation. There are websites dedicated to doing this such as the native nursery, how to create a frog bog and nesting box project at Latrobe University. These sites make it easy for the average citizen to become a conservationist.

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife/nursery/nestboxes>

Conservation at home

Zoos Victoria

<http://www.zoo.org.au/>

The conservation at home program is being run by Zoos Victoria. It has lots of hands on information about creating habitat, conserving habitat and watching wildlife. These sites have a wealth of information about the enormous variety of creatures they have under their care and give the public access to their expertise. They are also promoting online actions like the current palm oil campaign.

Conservation at home is such an important initiative. Sites like Fungi net and veg net allow you to study your own environment and gain a new appreciation for what is around you. Once you understand that you're just one part in a larger picture, you are far more likely to think of it as important and something to be preserved.

Fact sheets on living with wildlife

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Topics/LJEM-6V66VT?open>

Last but not least in the conservation stakes, are the living with wildlife websites. They provide grass roots information on what to do when a possum makes a nest in your roof, how to remove a bat from your lounge, who to ring if you get a snake in your backyard. Included in this category are the sites put together by wildlife shelters such as Hepburn Wildlife Shelter, BADGAR, Wildlife Victoria.

These sites are usually run by time poor but dedicated environmentalists. They have information on how to save a bird brought in by the cat or a roo hit by a car. They list emergency numbers of people who will come out and pick up injured wildlife as well as first aide techniques. They are a wealth of data about the creatures they care for and allow us, the general public an insight into an area usually reserved for a few.

