



Research Participant Information Sheet

CSIRO Wild Watch

Project overview

You are invited to take part in CSIRO Wild Watch, CSIRO's first annual National Science Experiment. It has been developed by CSIRO Education and Outreach in partnership with the CSIRO National Collections Research Team Australia and the Atlas of Living Australia and will be delivered through the iNaturalist platform. The 'citizen science' information to be collected is linked to CSIRO science and will contribute to solving our greatest challenges. The project is funded by CSIRO and an external National Science Week grant from Inspiring Australia. The purpose of this project is to increase student awareness of CSIRO's research and its real-world applications and provide access to CSIRO's research and expertise to all Australians, targeting young people in year 5 to 8.

What does participation involve?

Participation in this project involves participating in a biodiversity blitz that will run during National Science Week (9-17 August 2025). Biodiversity data (images and locations of wild local flora and fauna from across Australia) will be collected by participants using the iNaturalist platform.

Once you have registered to be involved in CSIRO Wild Watch at www.csiro.au/WildWatch you will receive an email with everything you need to participate, including resources and links to webinars. You then need to create an account in iNaturalist which you will use to upload observations (images and any shared observation data, including location) taken during National Science Week.

Observations that are verified as research grade in iNaturalist are shared with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). This includes the username, images and data associated with the observations. The ALA is an open access research database hosted in Australia by the CSIRO.

There will be a social media campaign encouraging people to upload their observations to iNaturalist during National Science Week. Those people will be contacted on the iNaturalist platform and asked to provide their name and postal address to receive a prize. The first 10 educators and 10 parents to upload Wild File observations will receive prize packs including education vouchers, t-shirts and/or CSIRO publications.

Risks and benefits

Aside from giving up your time, there are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this project. Whilst your participation may not benefit you directly, your participation will contribute valuable data to benefit biodiversity research. [Resources](#) have been created by CSIRO for educators and parents which participants should read, and include links to existing iNaturalist guides. The resources include information on general safety (eg: do not touch, just observe) and child safety (only adults can register, create an account in iNaturalist and upload images). In particular, participants should not upload images to iNaturalist that include people's faces, and selfies are identified as inappropriate content in the [iNaturalist Educator's Guide : iNaturalist Help](#).

Withdrawal from the research project

Participation in this project is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at CSIRO. You are free to withdraw at any time during the event. Participants can delete their iNaturalist accounts and observations at any time. Unless requested, we will retain any other personal information collected prior to your withdrawal. If you request that we delete your personal information, we will do so if permitted by and in accordance with any applicable laws (including the Privacy Act and the Archives Act 1983 (Cth)).

Confidentiality

iNaturalist collects an email, username and password upon sign up and requires consent to use uploaded images, sounds and location data and the storage of these overseas, as well as their terms of use and privacy policy. Any other information shared during the project, for example during registration, will only be published with your consent and will not be used for research purposes. All data collected as part of this project will be securely stored as per CSIRO's Recordkeeping Procedure.

How will my information be used?

The iNaturalist community will use uploaded images to identify observations shared to the platform and report back to the user. If verified as research grade these images are shared with the ALA for use by researchers in Australia and internationally. This includes the username, images and data associated with the observation.

Ethics clearance and contacts

This study has been approved by CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023)*. If you have any questions concerning your participation in the project, please contact the project leader via their contact details provided. Alternatively, any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study can be raised with the Executive Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61 7 3833 5693 or by email at csshrec@csiro.au.

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Thank you for taking the time to help with this project. Please keep this sheet for your information.

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the greatest challenges through
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