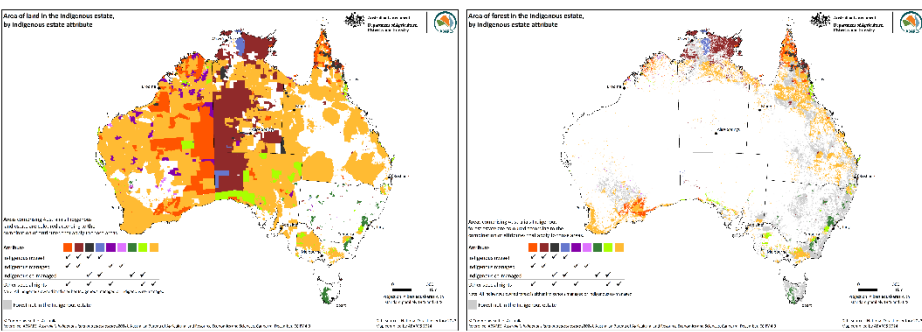


Resource title	Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024) dataset
Graphic	
Citation	ABARES (2024), <i>Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)</i> , Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, December. CC BY 4.0
Digital object identifier (DOI)	https://doi.org/10.25814/6wms-8x73
Custodian	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest – Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)
Jurisdiction	Australia
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Email	Info.ABARES@aff.gov.au
Abstract	<p><i>Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)</i> is a continental spatial dataset of forest and non-forest land over which Indigenous peoples and communities have ownership, management or co-management, or other special rights.</p> <p>It was developed from multiple data sources, including national, state and territory datasets related to land in which there is an Indigenous interest. The Indigenous land dataset is then combined with forest cover information from the Forests of Australia (2023) dataset.</p> <p>The dataset was compiled by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) for the National Forest Inventory (NFI), a collaborative partnership between the Australian and state and territory governments. The role of the NFI is to collate, integrate and communicate information on Australia's forests. The NFI applies a national classification to state and territory data to allow seamless integration of these datasets. Multiple independent sources of external data are used to fill data gaps and improve the quality of final datasets.</p> <p>The following attributes are applied in this dataset:</p> <p>Indigenous owned: Freehold land or forest that is owned by Indigenous communities, or land and forest for which ownership is vested through other mechanisms.</p>

	<p>Indigenous managed: Land or forest that is managed by Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Indigenous co-managed: Land or forest that has formal, legally binding agreements in place to include input from Indigenous people in the process of developing and implementing a management plan.</p> <p>Other special rights: Land or forest subject to native title determinations, registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements and legislated special cultural use provisions.</p> <p>In this dataset, the attributes of Indigenous ownership, Indigenous management or co-management, and other special rights are applied separately.</p>
Purpose	For describing the extent of land and forest under Indigenous ownership, management or co-management, or other special rights; and informing updates to indicators in Australia's State of the Forests Report . Specifically, Indicators 6.4a Area of forest to which Indigenous people have use and rights that protect their special values and are recognised through formal and informal management regimes, and Indicator 6.4c The extent to which Indigenous values are protected, maintained and enhanced through Indigenous participation in forest management.
ANZLIC search words	<p>FORESTS</p> <p>FORESTS Natural</p> <p>FORESTS Plantation</p> <p>LAND Ownership</p> <p>HERITAGE</p> <p>HERITAGE Aboriginal</p> <p>VEGETATION</p> <p>VEGETATION Floristic</p> <p>VEGETATION Structural</p>
Keyword(s)	<p>Indigenous</p> <p>Indigenous estate</p> <p>Indigenous land</p> <p>Indigenous forest</p> <p>Indigenous forest management</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</p> <p>First Nations</p> <p>Forest</p> <p>Forest use</p> <p>Forest ownership</p> <p>Australia</p>
Sources used to generate this resource	<p>Information used to develop the <i>Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)</i> dataset was sourced from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry • Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Native Title Tribunal • NSW Land Registry Services • NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics • Queensland Department of Resources • Land Services SA • Tasmania Department of Natural Resources and Environment • Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action • WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions • WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage • WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate
Publication date	24 October 2024
Latest date of information/currency	30 June 2023
Data file name	Ind_for24
Stored data format	<p><u>Spatial data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esri Grid (raster) and Layer files (compatible with Esri ArcGIS software) • GeoTIFF (raster) (compatible with open-source GIS software) <p><u>Tabular data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel workbook containing all attributes (for joining to GeoTIFF and to support tabular analysis) • CSV workbook containing all attributes (for joining attributes to GeoTIFF and to support tabular analysis) • Excel workbook containing lookup tables (LUTs) for symbolising components of the Indigenous land and forest estate dataset. <p>Six layer files (compatible with Esri software) are included that display the extent of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Indigenous forest estate, by Indigenous estate attribute 02. Indigenous land estate, by Indigenous estate attribute 03. Land and forest that is Indigenous owned 04. Land and forest that is Indigenous managed or co-managed 05. Land and forest that is subject to other special rights 06. Land and forest that is in the total Indigenous estate <p>Documentation on attribute data descriptions and lookup tables for the <i>Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)</i> dataset is available from the Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024) spatial data webpage</p> <p>Due to the complexity of this dataset a version in vector format is not available.</p>
Compressed file size	Esri Grid, zipped (102 MB) GeoTIFF, zipped (70 MB)
Geographic extent	Australia's mainland and close offshore islands, excluding external territories.

	<p>North bounding Latitude: -8.2° South bounding Latitude: -44.4° East bounding Longitude: 157.2° West bounding Longitude: 109.5°</p>
Spatial resolution/ cell size	1 hectare/100 x 100 metre
Spatial reference	<p>ESPG:3577 GDA94 Australian Albers</p> <p>Coordinate system: GDA_1994_Albers False Easting: 0 False Northing: 0 Central meridian: 132° Standard parallels: -18°, -36° Latitude of origin: 0° Datum: D_GDA_1994</p>
Positional accuracy	<p>Horizontal: ±100 metres Vertical: not applicable</p>
Attribute accuracy	Attributes are compiled exercising due care and skill. However, accuracy of attributes is in part dependent on accuracy of data supplied to ABARES and therefore cannot be guaranteed.
Completeness	<p>Coverage: Dataset provides coverage of 100% of Australia excluding external territories.</p> <p>Attributes: Indigenous estate information is present for 100% of the coverage extent. Forest information is present for over 99.0% of the coverage extent.</p>
Update frequency	At least every five years
Licencing	Creative Commons by Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)
Access constraints	No restriction, nil cost.
Use constraints	<p>CC BY 4.0 permits:</p> <p>Share – users may copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.</p> <p>Adapt – users may remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.</p> <p>Attribution – users must give appropriate credit using the citation listed, provide a link to the licence, and indicate if changes were made. Users may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses the use.</p>
Disclaimer	<p>The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, represented by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, ABARES, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.</p>

Metadata date	14 October 2024
Additional metadata	Dataset lineage is described in Appendix 1. Documentation on attribute data descriptions and lookup tables for the <i>Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)</i> dataset is available from the Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate spatial data webpage .

Appendix 1: Lineage of the development of the *Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)* dataset

Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024) is a continental spatial dataset of land and forest over which Indigenous peoples and communities have ownership, management or co-management, or other special rights.

Jacobsen et al. (2020) describe the process for reporting separately on each of the individual attributes of Indigenous ownership, Indigenous management or co management, and other special rights for Indigenous peoples and communities.

The method and data in this data package represents the information on the Indigenous land estate by the above separate attributes in accordance with Jacobsen et al. (2020) and primarily uses data with information current between 2021 and 2023. Additional data previously sourced for the Indigenous forest estate dataset that informed *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018* was also used in this compilation. The Indigenous land dataset is combined (intersected) with forest cover information from the *Forests of Australia (2023)* dataset (ABARES 2023). The resulting output dataset provides information on the Indigenous estate over forest and non-forest land.

The Indigenous estate land attributes are as follows (ABARES 2020; Jacobsen et al. 2020):

Indigenous ownership

- **Indigenous owned:** Freehold land or forest that is owned by Indigenous communities, or land and forest for which ownership is vested through other mechanisms.

Indigenous management arrangement

- **Indigenous managed:** Land or forest that is managed by Indigenous communities.
- **Indigenous co-managed:** Land or forest that has formal, legally binding agreements in place to include input from Indigenous people in the process of developing and implementing a management plan.

Other special rights for Indigenous peoples and communities

- **Other special rights:** Land or forest subject to native title determinations, registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements and legislated special cultural use provisions.

This dataset was developed from multiple data sources, including national, state and territory datasets related to land in which there is an Indigenous interest. Table 1 describes each of the data sources used and the source agency, with allocated Indigenous land attributes. Further information on each of the data sources used is included in Table 1.

Table 1 Datasets used as inputs for the *Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024)* spatial dataset, and the Indigenous attributes associated with these datasets

Data source	Source agency	Date accessed	Allocation to Indigenous land and forest estate attribute			
			Indigenous owned	Indigenous managed	Indigenous co-managed	Other special rights
Indigenous Protected Areas	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	November 2023	Yes ¹	Yes	–	–
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation owned and transferred lands	Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation	May 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
NSW Freehold Aboriginal Land Council lands	NSW Land Registry Services	April 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
NT Aboriginal Lands Trust lands	NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)	November 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
Queensland Deed of Grant in Trust	Queensland Department of Resources	May 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts	Queensland Department of Resources	May 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
SA Indigenous land interest	Land Services SA	June 2022	Yes ²	Yes ²	–	–
Tasmania Aboriginal land	Tasmania Department of Natural Resources and Environment	May 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
Victoria Land granted under <i>Aboriginal Lands Act 1970</i>	Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	2016	Yes	Yes	–	–
WA Freehold Aboriginal Community held	WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate	February 2022	Yes	Yes	–	–
Indigenous owned Commonwealth national parks	Commonwealth DCCEEW	March 2023	Yes	–	Yes	–
NSW Aboriginal-owned parks with lease-back agreements	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	September 2022	Yes	–	Yes	–
NT Indigenous freehold parks with joint-management governance	NT DIPL	November 2022	Yes	–	Yes	–
Qld Conservation reserves with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-management arrangements	Queensland Department of Resources	May 2022	Yes	–	Yes	–
WA Indigenous owned co-managed national parks	WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	February 2022	Yes	–	Yes	–
NSW Aboriginal Land Council Indigenous managed lands	NSW Land Registry Services	April 2022	–	Yes	–	–
SA Aboriginal Land Trust lands with Crown land tenure	Land Services SA	June 2022	–	Yes	–	–
WA Aboriginal Lands Trusts estate	WA DPLH	February 2022	–	Yes	–	–
WA Indigenous pastoral leases	WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate	February 2022	–	Yes	–	–
ACT Indigenous co-managed parks ³	DCCEEW	March 2023	–	–	Yes	–

Data source	Source agency	Date accessed	Allocation to Indigenous land and forest estate attribute			
			Indigenous owned	Indigenous managed	Indigenous co-managed	Other special rights
World Heritage areas with Indigenous advisory committees	ACT Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate & DCCEEW	July 2021	–	–	Yes	–
Victoria Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) Aboriginal Title joint management of conservation reserves	Victoria DEECA	April 2023	–	–	Yes	–
WA parks and reserves with joint management arrangements	WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	November 2023	–	–	Yes	–
Other government owned co-managed nature conservation reserves ⁴	Various state and territory government conservation agencies ⁴	Various	–	–	Yes	–
Native title determinations	National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)	October 2023	–	–	–	Yes
Indigenous Land Use Agreements	NNTT	October 2023	–	–	–	Yes
Victoria RSA Natural Resource Agreements and Land Use Activity Agreements	Victoria DEECA	April 2023	–	–	–	Yes
Other areas with customary practice rights, access or purposes for Indigenous peoples ⁵	Various state and territory government conservation agencies ⁴	Various	–	–	–	Yes

DCCEEW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; DIPL, NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics; DEECA, Victoria Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action; DPLH, WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; NNTT, National Native Title Tribunal; RSA, Recognition and Settlement Agreement (Victoria).

1 Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) occur on multiple land tenures. IPAs on freehold land were allocated as Indigenous owned and Indigenous managed, IPAs on Crown land tenures were allocated as Indigenous managed only.

2 Indigenous land in South Australia on freehold land was allocated as Indigenous owned and Indigenous managed. Indigenous land in South Australia on Crown land tenures was allocated as Indigenous managed only.

3 Information on parks in the ACT with Indigenous co-management arrangement were extracted from the Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database.

4 Includes information derived from multiple spatial and non-spatial data sources identified from instruments that have formal or legally binding joint management agreements.

5 Includes information derived from multiple spatial and non-spatial data sources identified from instruments that have formal arrangements that providing rights to access or use for Indigenous peoples.

References

ABARES 2020, [Australia's forests and forestry glossary](#), ABARES, Canberra, CC BY 4.0.

ABARES 2023, [Forests of Australia \(2023\)](#), ABARES, Canberra, December, DOI: doi.org/10.25814/6cay-a361. CC BY 4.0.

Jacobsen R, Howell C, Read SM 2020, [Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate: separate reporting of Indigenous ownership, management and other special rights](#), ABARES technical report, Canberra, DOI: doi.org/10.25814/bqr0-4m20. CC BY 4.0.

Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia (MIG) and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee (NFISC), [Indicator 6.4a: Area of forest to which Indigenous people have use and rights that protect their special values and are recognised through formal and informal management regimes](#), *Australia's State of the Forests Report*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, October. CC BY 4.0.