



The Darwin Agreement

June 2021

This collaboration agreement, among the undersigned Australian environmental organisations, supports the aspirations of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, June 2021 to June 2030.

Against a backdrop of environmental crises, the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) urges concerted action by all countries to retain native ecosystems, to reduce our impacts upon them, and to repair ecosystems to optimise potential for humanity to revive the natural world that supports us all. The clear message is that if we do not succeed in achieving this within the next 10 years, we lose our best chance of averting the twin (and linked) crises of biodiversity decline and catastrophic climate change. Although biodiversity decline arises from a host of causes not confined to climate change, failure to substantially address all causes including climate change will result in further biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse. What we stand to lose irreversibly is untenable – millions of plant and animal species, the livelihoods of billions of people, and the lifestyles upon which previous generations have strived to build stable and successful societies.

Each of the undersigned environmental organisations works in environmental conservation including ecosystem restoration. We commit to establishing an Australian UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Alliance of environmental organisations to promote the [strategy of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). This is the [Restoration Decade Alliance](#).



Australian restoration organisations supporting the
United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
2021 - 2030

Participating environmental organisations agree to form an Alliance on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The goals of the Alliance are to:

1) Reinforce and clarify our common purpose to help conserve and restore Australian ecosystems by:

- Communicating within the Alliance our individual organisations' goals, targets, and any ideas for collaboration.

2) Promote public awareness of the UN Decade as a focal opportunity for integrated restorative action and engagement of all sectors of society through, for example:

- Aligning promotion of our activities with the UN Decade goals as appropriate;
- Cross-promoting other Alliance members' (and, where appropriate, other stakeholders') UN Decade activities that share our common purpose and are consistent with our organisations' principles and goals;
- Sharing improved management and restoration success stories through journals, media, and social media as a means of empowering others; and,
- Supporting, mentoring, and celebrating leaders of ecosystem restoration in all sectors of society, particularly youth (Gen R / Generation Restoration).

3) Promote best practice ecosystem restoration through:

- Acknowledging Indigenous peoples for their many thousands of years of sustainable custodianship and deep spiritual connection to nature, and ensuring Indigenous Ecological Knowledge is considered when planning ecological restoration projects;
- Encouraging community consultation and participation in restoration projects, wherever appropriate;
- Continuing to build and share our own knowledge and lessons learned about best practice approaches and methodologies, informed by traditional and local knowledge, science, and practice;
- Disseminating international, national, regional, and local guides and standards that aim to build robust and resilient ecosystem outcomes;
- Supporting and expanding accreditation systems for ecosystem restoration practitioners; and,
- Contributing materials for training and education programmes that deliver skills and knowledge critical for managers implementing retention, impact reduction, and repair actions in the UN Decade.

4) Create a mechanism for a single voice that effectively communicates and advocates UN Decade aspirations to:

All policy makers, so they act to:

- Retain native ecosystems by setting ambitious and robust targets for the conservation, protection, and improved management of biodiversity (including prevention and control of invasive species) on private and public land and expanding the National Reserve System (including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine protected areas);
- Reduce threats to native ecosystems through expanding incentives and strengthening regulation and compliance across jurisdictions to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, land clearing, and other degrading practices and progressively shift to restorative practices; and,
- Repair native ecosystems through sustained and significant funding and incentives for best practice reconnection of fragmented ecosystems and return of native biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, setting high and clear targets for biodiversity and restoration outcomes.

All industry sectors, so they act to:

- Reduce impacts upon native ecosystems through:
 - Continuous improvement in applying environmentally sustainable practices;
 - Innovation in environmentally sustainable practices; and,
 - Progressively shifting to restorative practices.
- Retain native ecosystems wherever possible and applicable; and,
- Repair native ecosystems wherever possible and applicable.

All communities, so they act to:

- Retain native ecosystems wherever possible and applicable;
- Reduce impacts by shifting consumer behaviours towards a circular economy; and,
- Repair native ecosystems through:
 - Undertaking on-ground actions to support conservation and restoration activities.



Signatory organisations:



Australian restoration organisations supporting the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030