



REGIONAL COMMUNITY NATURAL CAPITAL PROGRAM

A SUSTAINABLE AND THRIVING FUTURE FOR ALL



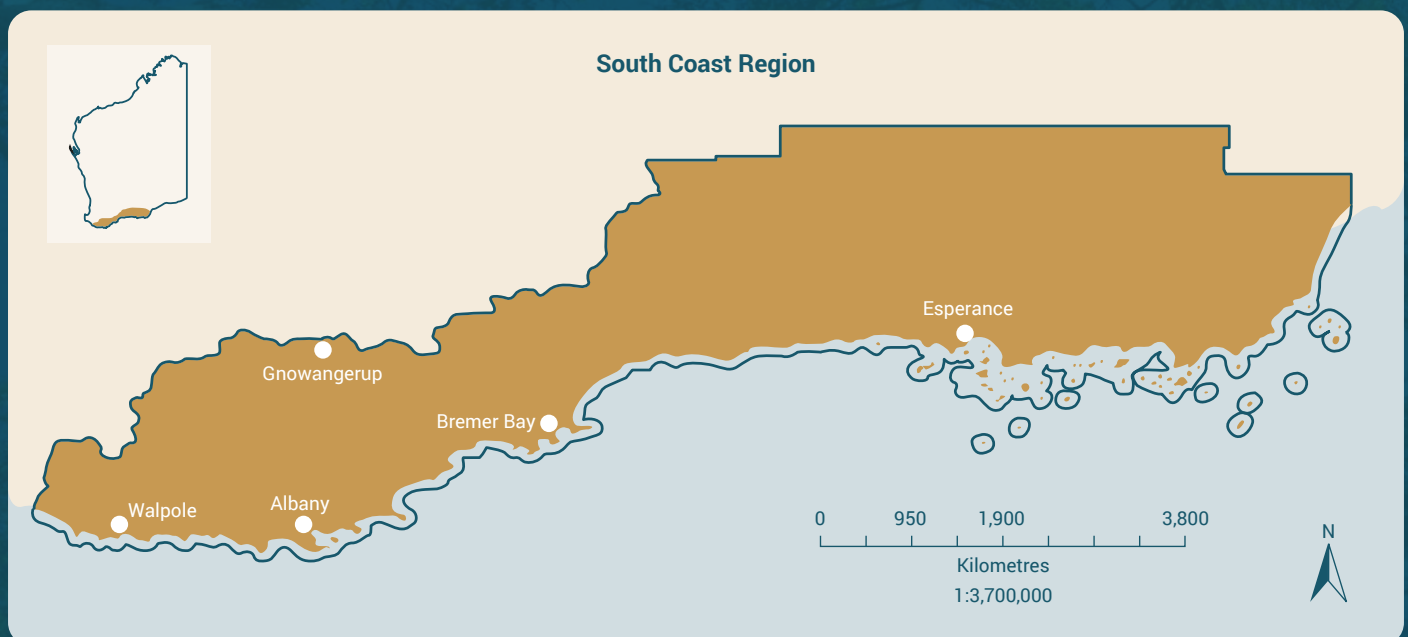
WHAT IS SOUTH COAST NRM?

South Coast NRM is a community-driven, independent organisation dedicated to restoring and safeguarding the natural wealth of the South Coast region in Western Australia. As stewards of approximately 8.6 million hectares, including islands and coastal waters, we are deeply committed to managing, conserving, and enhancing the region's rich environmental, cultural, and economic resources. Our focus extends beyond preservation – we aim to inspire sustainable practices that nurture both people and nature.

At the heart of this work is a shared vision of restoring harmony between communities and the environment. The South Coast region, a global biodiversity hotspot, is home to Australia's highest concentration of rare and endangered species, ancient mountain ranges, majestic forests, and internationally recognised ecological sites. Through collaboration and innovative natural capital initiatives, we seek to protect and regenerate these unique ecosystems while fostering prosperous agricultural lands.

By partnering with other NRM bodies across Western Australia and beyond, we are committed to developing scalable, repeatable models that demonstrate how regional stewardship can lead to meaningful global change. Our work will lead to revitalised ecosystems, resilient communities, and a restored balance between human activity and nature. Together, we can drive big-picture projects that not only sustain biodiversity but enhance collaboration across sectors for a sustainable and thriving future for all.

**OUR WORK WILL
LEAD TO REVITALISED
ECOSYSTEMS, RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES, AND A
RESTORED BALANCE
BETWEEN HUMAN
ACTIVITY AND NATURE.**



WHAT IS NATURAL CAPITAL?

Natural capital refers to the rich array of natural resources and ecosystems found along the South Coast region in Western Australia, which provide essential services for the well-being of local communities and the region's economy.

This unique environment—encompassing pristine beaches, lush forests, and diverse wildlife—underpins livelihoods, supports agriculture, and helps regulate the local climate. Investing in natural capital projects in this region not only aids in the restoration and conservation of these vital ecosystems but also enhances resilience against environmental challenges, promotes sustainable economic growth, and fosters community well-being. By valuing and protecting our coastal natural capital, we can create a sustainable future that benefits both the people and the vibrant ecosystems of South Western Australia.

BY VALUING AND PROTECTING OUR COASTAL NATURAL CAPITAL, WE CAN CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THAT BENEFITS BOTH THE PEOPLE AND THE VIBRANT ECOSYSTEMS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

POLICY CONTEXT

This initiative is informed by global and national developments, including:

- UK Government's The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review.
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the intergovernmental 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity.
- Federal Nature Repair Act (2023), establishing framework for a world-first legislated national biodiversity market designed to mobilise private finance.³
- Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), a tool and impetus for companies to recognise and report upon environmental risks and opportunities.

BLENDED FINANCE APPROACH

Public and private funding will both be required to achieve the outcomes sought.

Public funding is required to establish a baseline account and to develop pilot projects to support community education and 'trailing'. Once the environmental account platform and regional pilot projects are in place, private investors will be attracted to commercial opportunities as projects offer up timely and high-integrity options to invest at scale and in aggregate. Further natural capital projects will then be identified and developed across the region, achieving ecological restoration alongside planned economic growth. This project is estimated to cost \$7.85 million over three years, with the private sector fully funding further industry by the end of year 3.

³DCCEEW (2024) Nature Repair Market <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/environmental-markets/nature-repair-market#daff-page-main>.

INTEGRATING FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL VALUES



South Coast NRM is committed to valuing Noongar knowledge and supporting First Nations community objectives in natural resource management. We acknowledge the spiritual connection First Nations people have to land and water and seeks their guidance to integrate cultural values into our work.

In collaboration with Traditional Owner (TO) groups and using Accounting for Nature® methods, South Coast NRM will co-design criteria that reflect TOs' priorities for protection and value in natural capital accounting. Projects will follow the principles of free, prior, and informed consent, recognising that consent is an ongoing process.

In partnership with the ARC Training Centre for Healing Country, a framework will be co-designed to align cultural values with natural capital accounting data, including cultural mapping and exploring value in reforestation and agricultural supply chains.

**THIS COLLABORATION
WILL FOSTER CULTURAL
CAPABILITY AND BUILD TWO-
WAY STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
BETWEEN INDIGENOUS
AND NON-INDIGENOUS
ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACHES.**



BUILDING A REGIONAL ACCOUNT



DATA COLLECTION, AGGREGATION, AND ANALYTICS

Gather comprehensive data on natural resources, ecosystems, and community interactions. Utilise advanced analytics to identify trends, assess health, and inform decision making.

PRODUCT FORMATION

Develop marketable products such as carbon credits and biodiversity credits. These financial instruments can drive investment in conservation efforts while providing economic opportunities for local communities.

POLICY ADVICE AND INFORMATION

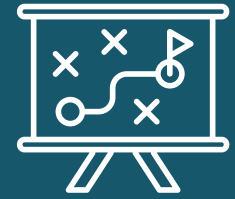
Provide evidence-based policy recommendations to support sustainable resource management and conservation initiatives. Share insights with stakeholders to promote informed decision-making and collaboration.

INTEGRATING FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL VALUES

Acknowledge and incorporate the traditional knowledge and cultural values of First Nations peoples. This collaboration ensures a holistic approach to natural resource management that respects heritage and promotes sustainability.



LINKING UP REGIONAL NATURE RESTORATION PROJECTS



PRODUCTIVE FORESTS – BIODIVERSITY VALUATION

As native tree logging comes to an end in Western Australia, new opportunities to manage forest estates to preserve and augment natural capital are being sought. South Coast NRM will work with respected forestry companies to develop opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity and carbon through existing forest estates and biodiverse replanting.



PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION – BIODIVERSITY UPLIFT

Many groups in the South Coast region have begun engaging in the carbon market to support their efforts to sustainably manage natural habitats on private land estates. These landholders are now seeking leverage additional value through emerging biodiversity and water markets. This project will work with selected stakeholders to apply methodologies to create additional value via improvements to the ecological condition of these areas in a way that is complementary to existing carbon projects.

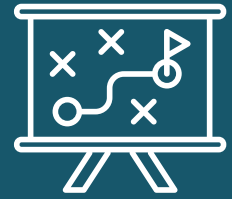


FARM-SCALE – NATURAL CAPITAL EVALUATIONS

South Coast NRM will work with interested farmers across the region to develop their skills in evaluating, developing and monetising natural capital opportunities at a farm-scale. Opportunities would focus on a range of values, including soil, forestry, biomass recycling, and waterways.



DEVELOPING REGIONAL PILOT NATURE RESTORATION PROJECTS



VINEYARDS AND NATURE IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN

This project plans to work with the Great Southern wine industry to achieve outcomes aligned with nature capital values, supporting economic sustainability in a changing climate. Interventions may include improving soil health through cover cropping; efficient water use, essential in water-scarce Western Australia; enhancing biodiversity to aid in pest control; and/or carbon sequestration through agroforestry and reduced tillage, lowering carbon emissions.



REGIONAL SOIL NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

South Coast NRM is working with the WA Government Department of Primary Industries and Development to develop a region-wide soil natural capital account. Problems associated with ongoing soil degradation are of particular concern given the confluence of climate change and global food demand projections. Soil health significantly influences agricultural production, drought resilience and the delivery of other essential ecosystem services including climate regulation.

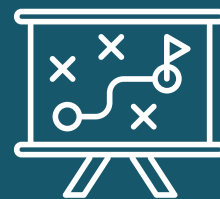


PROJECT CO-DESIGN WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Upon invitation, South Coast NRM will support the region's Traditional Owners to access and leverage natural capital opportunities to benefit their communities and lands. This may include assisting in strategic planning to determine economic natural capital values from land estates, development of cultural evaluation frameworks to align with and complement natural capital accounting schemes, and establishment of protection and restoration projects in the terrestrial and marine environment.



DEVELOPING REGIONAL PILOT NATURE RESTORATION PROJECTS



BLUE CARBON – SOUTH COAST SEAGRASS

South Coast NRM is exploring the development of culturally and ecologically appropriate approaches to protecting and restoring seagrass habitats found along the 700km of coastline in the region. With historic agricultural runoff over generations, there is an opportunity to empower local stakeholders to engage in coastal regeneration and protection. As co-managed marine parks are gazetted along the coast, South Coast NRM will work with all stakeholders to develop locally beneficial opportunities.



BIOMASS HARVESTING FOR BIOCHAR

Working with broad acre farmers, South Coast NRM plans to test opportunities to develop closed-loop biochar production and application systems at a regional scale. By reducing burning and working with emerging technologies to bundle and convert wheat stubble to biochar fertiliser, the project aims to develop an ecologically beneficial scheme that will economically benefit local farmers by improving soils and generating carbon credits, while reducing carbon emitting burning practices.



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PEATLAND ECOSYSTEM

Valuations of potential peatland restoration and protection outcomes will be developed as part of an economic modelling exercise to be completed in collaboration with a range of partners, including Traditional Owner groups. This analysis will be based upon existing methods for validation of carbon emission reductions from peatland restoration. It is hoped to lead to establishing long-term financing for management of the extensive peatlands of the Walpole Wilderness Area.



PLANNED OUTCOMES



▶ SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM REVENUE GENERATED FOR REGIONAL PRIORITIES – CREDITS, INVESTMENT, PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE

▶ ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL INDUSTRY OF SELF-FUNDING NATURE REPAIR AND PROTECTION PROJECTS ACROSS THE REGION

▶ QUANTIFIED UNDERSTANDING OF ECOLOGICAL CONDITION OF GREAT SOUTHERN REGION – SUPPORTING DECISION MAKING BY COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY, AND GOVERNMENT


▶ ENABLING A HOLISTIC AND COMMUNITY-LED VISION FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN REGION





THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

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