

## Connectivity conservation and Nature-based Solutions

*Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as, “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”*

More simply, natural solutions employ nature to address many of the greatest challenges that our communities, environment and economies face. Global threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, forest loss and damage, habitat fragmentation, landscape degradation and increased disease spread.

### Fast facts



**US\$170b**

The estimated value of the global benefits provided by ecosystem services from climate focused nature-based solutions alone.



**37%**

The percentage that NbS can contribute towards the emissions reductions needed by 2030 to keep global temperature increases under 2°C.



**US\$57m**

The estimated savings that mangroves in China, India, Mexico, Vietnam and the United States contribute every year by averting flooding damage.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There is currently more carbon stored in our forests globally – in living and dead trees and in the soils beneath – than there is in the entire atmosphere. Australia’s remaining forests are some of the most carbon rich on the planet, storing an estimated 22 million tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>. Deforestation serves to release this carbon back into our atmosphere, increasing our emissions and contributing to climate change. By protecting these ancient trees and allowing degraded forests to regrow naturally, we can make a globally significant reduction to our carbon footprint.

## Connectivity conservation as a natural solution

By protecting, restoring, and connecting landscapes connectivity conservation provides comprehensive, integrated natural solutions to the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and declining human and environmental health.



By protecting intact forests, woodlands and other important habitats and restoring the vital connections between them, connectivity conservation maximises carbon absorption and storage, makes our landscapes more resilient to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters and provides vital refuges for wildlife.



Connectivity conservation maximises the biodiversity and carbon benefits of on-ground efforts by cushioning core habitats against land-use pressures and other threats, combining patches of vegetation to form more stable and resilient 'blocks' and reducing the risk of species going extinct.



By protecting and restoring native plants on private properties and improving land management, connectivity conservation increases the productivity of our farmlands, boosting soil health, stability and carbon storage, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining healthy natural processes, such as pollination, water filtration and pest control.



Wetlands protect our coastline from waves, reduce flooding, improve water quality, store vast amounts of carbon, and provide important habitat for thousands of animals. By restoring important wetland habitat, such as mangroves, and protecting them from development, connectivity conservation supports these critically important systems and the many benefits they provide.



By maintaining healthy natural processes and protecting the species that help to maintain robust ecosystems, connectivity conservation provides a natural panacea for people and planet - improving the health of entire landscapes, waterways and seascapes and reducing the risk of disease spillover and spread.



Connectivity conservation supports the identity, wellbeing, livelihoods and sense of place of local communities and traditional custodians by protecting the natural and cultural values that underpin them and draw tens of thousands of tourists to our shores.