Factors resulting in positive outcomes for Landcare and threatened-species recovery-team projects

Project information

Resilient Landscapes

National Environmental Science Program

Landcare groups have been improving the habitat of the critically endangered regent honeyeater since 1996

This project analyses data from land managers and people involved in landcare, coastcare, bushcare, threatened species recovery and citizen science, to identify factors that make conservation, restoration, wildlife and other natural resource management activities 'successful'. It will integrate new data within an existing national-scale database that describes various regions, analysing data to generate insights to better design - and demonstrate - the effectiveness of those activities.

Project details

More than 30 years of research has generated a wealth of information about factors that influence the success of conservation, restoration, wildlife and other natural resource management activities. However most of that work has had a relatively narrow focus and researchers have used different metrics / variables in their assessments. There are also numerous confounding and interacting elements that determine ecological, social and economic outcomes. This makes it difficult to compare findings across settings.

We are conducting a nation-wide study, collecting and analysing information from land managers and people involved in landcare, coastcare, bushcare, threatened species recovery, and citizen science, about activities their members have been involved in. We will generate new insights that can be leveraged to design programs and demonstrate their success at multiple scales and in diverse contexts.

Key research areas

To identify factors that lead to positive outcomes for natural resource management activities, this project is:

- Developing a conceptual model for success to guide data collection and analysis.
- Creating a national-scale database that describes both the ecological and social characteristics of regions and some of the conservation, restoration, wildlife and other natural resource management activities that have been undertaken within them.
- Analysing the blended data to learn more about what factors help make those activities 'successful', in different contexts (regions).

What is the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub?

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) funds environment and climate research. NESP currently supports 4 multi-disciplinary research hubs, each hosted by an Australian research institution. The program:

- provides evidence for the design, delivery and on-ground outcomes for environmental programs
- helps decision-makers, including those from Indigenous communities, build resilience
- supports positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

This project is funded by the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, which is hosted by the University of Western Australia. The Resilient Landscapes Hub's research supports the management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and makes them more resilient to extreme events and pervasive pressures.

Landcare groups are restoring habitat for the endangered Southern brown bandicoot

Further information

The project is being led by Professor Natalie Stoeckl (University of Tasmania).

This document and further information are available from the project website at nesplandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rlh/landcare-and-threatened-species

Contact:
natalie.stoeckl@utas.edu.au,
partnerships@nln.org.au or
nesplandscapes@uwa.edu.au

Or scan this code:

Resilient Landscapes

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This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program