Growing the Region's Ability to influence Investment in Landscapes (GRAIL) – the Limestone Coast pilot

Project information





This project is working to develop pathways to increase and sustain investment in nature that improves landscape and regional resilience to climate change and other threats while generating opportunities for people and communities.

NRM Challenges

Natural resource management (NRM) organisations across Australia face the significant challenge of safeguarding Australia's landscapes and biodiversity against multiple threats and challenges, including climate change.

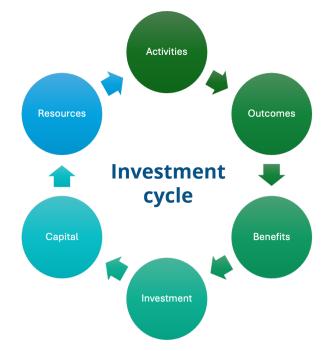
Enhancing natural ecosystems helps to strengthen the resilience needed for biodiversity, communities and economies to respond to a changing climate. The NRM sector is seeking improved understandings, pathways and capabilities to respond to this challenge by unlocking greater investment in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience at landscape scales.

Investment at landscape scale

Growing demands and stresses on natural systems require increased investment and innovation in how resources are deployed. Investment needs to be coordinated at landscape scales to address connected issues across production, nature, carbon, water, communities and climate risk.

Landscape investment involves coordinating resources and efforts at meaningful scales for both nature and people. It includes integrating the returns of investments across different groups and interests, blending private and public investment, and ensuring that investments in activities such as pest control that benefit both production and nature are appropriately rewarded.

By adapting CSIRO's 'Enabling Resilience Investment' approach to landscape investment scenarios, we aim to explore effective pathways and 'investment cycles' for projects that increase landscape resilience. CSIRO is working with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board and NRM Regions Australia to co-develop a landscape investment strategy for long-term environmental, social and economic benefits under a changing climate.



Nature of the opportunity

The Limestone Coast faces a changing climate. Natural resource managers are adapting by pursuing drought-resistant agriculture and by protecting and balancing the region's water resources.

Water underpins natural and production values in the region. Wetlands in the Limestone Coast region are major contributors to the condition and extent of surface and groundwater resources.

The project is exploring opportunities for scaling up investments to manage and restore groundwater-dependent ecosystems for multiple benefits, such as improved water resources, carbon storage, wetland habitats and threatened species, across landscapes in the region.

Key research goals

- Develop a pilot NbS investment case for restoring water across Limestone Coast landscapes.
- Create learnings and recommendations to grow NRM regions capabilities in landscape investment strategies.
- Share knowledge, guidance and skills across sectors to facilitate partnerships for scaling up NbS investments.



Further information

This project is being led by Dr Josie Carwardine, Dr Russ Wise and Dr Russell Gorddard from CSIRO in partnership with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board and NRM Regions Australia.

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