

Legacies: Biodiversity Conservation for the Future

WetlandCare Australia's Coastal 20 project has delivered long-term outcomes to protect and enhance biodiversity for generations to come, including:

- Creating and protecting habitat to safeguard the survival of threatened and iconic wetland fauna species;
- Restoring habitat connectivity and corridors to enhance ecosystem resilience and function across the landscape;
- Increasing the knowledge and capacity of land managers, Traditional Owners and the community continue their biodiversity stewardship; and
- Addressing threats to the Great Barrier Reef and Moreton Bay to preserve their environmental, social and economic values for the future.



Biodiversity and Natural Icons



Coastal wetlands are amongst the most bio-diverse and productive ecosystems on earth. They provide essential habitat that supports many threatened and iconic plants and animals such as the nationally threatened Water Mouse, wallum frog species and migratory shorebirds. Coastal wetland loss has been extensive and many wetland types are now endangered. Restoring the extent, condition and resilience of these wetlands is essential in providing habitat and corridors to support flora and fauna species and maintain biodiversity.



Thank you to all our Partners and Supporters

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Coastal 20 Strategies for Wetland Biodiversity

The Coastal 20 project focused on enhancing the condition, connectivity and resilience of coastal wetland ecosystems to deliver biodiversity benefits. Strategies included:

- Surveying and mapping threatened species and endangered communities;
- Assessing key threatening processes to biodiversity at these sites;
- Building ecosystem resilience through weed and vertebrate pest control;
- Reducing threats to coastal wetland biodiversity such as poor water quality and restricted biopassage;
- Restoring connectivity through revegetating important habitat corridors; and
- Engaging community groups, Traditional Owners and land managers to undertake biodiversity conservation.



Case Study 1: Protecting Water Mouse habitat in south east Queensland

The nationally vulnerable Water Mouse inhabits saltmarsh, mangroves and coastal freshwater wetlands. WetlandCare Australia worked with Traditional Owners, community groups, farmers, state agencies and local government to address threats to its habitat such as clearing, fragmentation, stock, pest animals, weeds, erosion and recreational vehicles. Key outcomes included:

- Water Mouse surveys through **200 ha** of potential habitat in south east Queensland;
- Discovery and mapping of **205** previously unrecorded Water Mouse nests;
- Remediation of threats and rehabilitation of **850 ha** of critical Water Mouse habitat; and
- Capacity building of Traditional Owners, students, private landholders and community groups to undertake Water Mouse surveys and increase awareness.



Coastal 20 Biodiversity and Natural Icons Outcomes

ACHIEVED

Stock fencing and vehicle exclusion to protect over **1000 ha** of threatened species habitat



ACHIEVED

Reduced populations, distribution and impacts of vertebrate pests over **4404 ha**



ACHIEVED

Revegetation with **55,000 plants** over **20 ha** to increase threatened species habitat and enhance corridor connectivity



ACHIEVED

Reduced threats to biodiversity and enhanced wetland condition over **4758 ha**



ACHIEVED

Reduced the spread and impact of nationally significant weeds over **324 ha**



Case Study 2: Increasing threatened species habitat through biodiverse plantings

Continued threats to remaining native vegetation on the east coast of Australia limits the resilience and habitat condition for fauna species such as the Koala. Revegetation to expand habitat is needed to combat habitat loss and restore connectivity for biodiversity conservation.

WetlandCare Australia engaged landholders, state and local agencies and the community in northern NSW with the following outcomes:

- **7,000** Koala food trees over **2 ha** of cleared land to improve connectivity with Nature Reserves;
- **3,500** wetland plants adjacent to Cape Byron Marine Park to restore **1 km** of riparian habitat and improve water quality;
- **4,000** trees and shrubs at Cudgen Plateau to restore riparian habitat for the Wallum Sedge Frog; and
- **1,000** trees and shrubs to restore riparian habitat and improve water quality entering Mon Repos Turtle Rookery.

