

## R-CM 8: Corridors, Connectivity and the Community

Strategically and collaboratively conduct restoration projects in priority locations across the Wet Tropics, to improve landscape connectivity and increase ecosystem resilience in the face of traditional and emerging threats, like climate change.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓	✓		✓
Outcome	<p>A coordinated and strategic approach to restoration of corridors in the Wet Tropics will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased habitat and connectivity, benefiting a range of species, including many threatened and iconic species.</li> <li>▪ Improved adaptability and resilience to impacts of climate change.</li> <li>▪ Strong community stewardship and ownership of projects, bringing social and community benefits through involvement in on-ground activities.</li> <li>▪ Improved water quality and waterway and riparian health.</li> <li>▪ Positive biosecurity outcomes, through long-term management of weeds and removal of pest habitat.</li> <li>▪ Potential for Traditional Owner involvement and benefits.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Based on outcomes from R-CM 4: Biodiversity Connectivity Strategy, and bringing together science and local priorities, a targeted, strategic approach to restoring priority corridors can make the most of the limited and highly contested funding available, while delivering strong biodiversity outcomes. Community groups have the capacity, skills and knowledge to effectively deliver on improved habitat and connectivity projects, and we can build on the successful community-driven work of the past. In the face of traditional challenges, like vegetation clearing, and emerging threats, such as climate change, the importance of connectivity to improving landscape resilience and ecosystem function is stronger than ever. Restoration projects also provide good opportunities for close collaboration and information sharing with Traditional Owners.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Access information from a range of sources (eg. Including from project R-CM 4: Biodiversity Connectivity Strategy) to help guide and determine priority locations for on-ground action.</li> <li>2) Maintain and enhance local and broader collaborative partnerships for sharing information and latest scientific data, to help inform the techniques and processes for on-ground action.</li> <li>3) Maintain and enhance community capacity to ensure good capability for planning, instigating and monitoring projects.</li> <li>4) Link with other projects eg. R-SR 1: Secure Novel Funding Partnerships, and access traditional funding sources, to obtain financial backing for projects.</li> <li>5) Build in effective monitoring of projects and follow up with strong communication of successful results.</li> </ol>				

Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There is already strong community capacity and support to plan and implement successful corridor restoration projects.</li> <li>✓ There are close links between researchers and the community to ensure the best available information is used for planning and implementation.</li> <li>✓ The development of the Wet Tropics Plan and Spatial Portal provides an opportunity for bringing together a lot of the science, in a way that makes it available for strategic, futures planning.</li> <li>✗ The task can seem overwhelming and corridor projects will require a long-term commitment to ensure success – difficult for many community groups, given short-term funding arrangements and volunteer succession.</li> <li>✗ We need to be realistic – there is only so much that individuals can take on.</li> </ul>	
Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	DG1 Revegetation – South Wonga	South Wonga
	NT6 Plant More Trees!	Kuranda Wildlife Corridors
	ST14 Corridors for Biodiversity	Southern Atherton Tablelands
	RM3 Corridor Restoration in the Russell	Figtree Ck, Harvey Ck and Eubenangee
	RM19 Connecting Corridors and Community	Upper Hemmings Ck
	NC9 Corridor Rehabilitation	Multiple priority locations
	SC15 Revegetation for Improved Connectivity	Tully R catchment, Maria Ck, Murray River