

ESP 11 World Conference

“From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O9

Investing in Nature Now: How Australia's private land conservation sector is using finance to deliver for nature

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Steven Lynch	Australian Land Conservation Alliance	steven@alca.org.au

Abstract:

Nature is not just the scenery around us: it is the intricate web that supports all life on earth. Our connection with nature goes beyond a simple, and sometimes unrealised, appreciation; it sustains the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe, and underpins our wellbeing, cultural identities, communities and way of life.

Yet this invaluable resource faces unprecedented threats, with ecosystems collapsing and biodiversity rapidly declining. It is our responsibility to arrest this decline, to protect and nurture these vital systems – not only for ourselves but for future generations.

Australians care deeply about nature and are united in a desire for a healthy and resilient future. This vision is achievable, and within our grasp, if we act now, and together.

To create the Australia we need and want, we must invest in nature and in the people who steward it. Right across the country, thousands of landholders – including First Nations peoples, farmers and graziers, private landholders and conservation organisations – are managing, protecting and restoring biodiversity and building resilient communities. We must urgently scale up this work and the investment that will enable it. It cannot wait.

Protecting, stewarding and restoring our natural environment must be realised as an economic imperative. Healthy ecosystems contribute billions to the global economy through ecosystem services and reduce economic risks. By redirecting capital towards sustainable practices and conservation efforts, we can create a resilient economy that thrives in harmony with the environment.

This session will outline how integrating financial strategies with the ecological stewardship provided by the expanding private land conservation sector can unlock new opportunities, driving both profit and protection in a world where these 2 goals are increasingly intertwined.

It will demonstrate and showcase a variety of ways where investment in nature is happening now and how the private land conservation sector is using various mechanisms and approaches to make a real difference to Australia's nature.

It will also highlight current and emerging opportunities that would collectively, substantially scale up nature investment and close the nature finance gap specific to Australia's conservation, land management and restoration sector.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Nature is sometimes framed as, climate first, nature next. A clear goal is to highlight the opportunities available to invest in nature now.

Planned output / Deliverables:

ALCA will soon be releasing the Conservation Finance Handbook – which is an update to the 2018 Conservation Finance Scoping Paper. The session will be delivered utilising the handbook as the reference point for the session.

Session format:

The format would be a discussion followed by questions. It will seek to show the various finance mechanisms available by showcasing a range of case studies.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

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