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: O2

Scaling and financing Landscape Rehydration an Innovative, Australian Nature-based solution

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Carolyn Hall	Mulloon Institute	carolyn@mullooninstitute.org

Abstract:

At the Mulloon Institute (https://www.mullooninstitute.org/) our mission is to rehydrate and restore the function of landscapes, building resilience to climatic extremes including drought, bushfire and flood. Degraded agricultural landscapes struggle to retain and cycle water, leaving them vulnerable. Landscape rehydration and sustainable farm practices combine to restore landscape function and help producers maximise rainfall use.

Natural Infrastructure—such as contours, brush packs and streambed control structures—boosts drought resilience by slowing, spreading and infiltrating water flows. These structures rehydrate landscapes, trap nutrient-rich sediment and improve soil health by building soil carbon and microbial activity. Healthier, hydrated soils enhance plant and animal health, supporting sustainable production.

Our Nature-based solutions rebuild the water cycle in agricultural landscapes in partnership with farmers, First Nations people and rural communities. This "landscape rehydration" work not only builds resilience to climate change, it restores biodiversity, increases agricultural productivity and empowers rural communities and Indigenous people to Care for Country.

The Mulloon Institute works with partners across Australia to deliver Nature-based solutions that can be a model for scaling up across Australia and globally through education and capacity building and demonstration sites, including co-design with Indigenous partners to ensure culture is part of Nature-based solutions.

We want to share our successes and challenges with the delegates from around the world. Sharing the financial benefits of drought resilience and the need for regulatory reform in Australia to support the delivery and scaling of Nature-based solutions.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Goals: to share innovative Nature-based solutions from across Australia with global colleagues who are delivering climate resilience, agricultural productivity, restoring biodiversity and empowering rural communities and Indigenous people.

Outline the financial benefits of those solutions with a focus on drought resilience and explore the regulatory barriers that are limiting take up and scaling in Australia.

Objectives: raised awareness of landscape rehydration and its potential as a Nature-Based solution that can be scaled up and delivered across Australia and the world.

Take up of landscape rehydration education and capacity building.

Engagement of colleagues in the financial sector to increase interest in funding shovel ready landscape rehydration projects and education and capacity building programs.

Planned output / Deliverables:

Summary of the following Economics of drought: Investing in nature-based solutions for drought resilience – proaction pays,' is co-authored by the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (ELD), the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) and the European Union.

Mulloon Institute was the Australian case study for the report and will distribute 4 page summaries of the key findings of the report.

Session format:

This session will include summary slide presentations of examples of landscape rehydration as Nature-based solutions across Australia along with a question-and-answer session. It can range from 45 to 60 minutes.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

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