

Cairns

Smart Green

Economy

CASE STUDY: BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON MARKETS

Cassowary Credits

Terrain NRM

The Wet Tropics of Queensland is not just one of the world's most irreplaceable World Heritage locations, but also the oldest rainforest on Earth, providing critical habitats for countless species. Its preservation is a shared responsibility, and the Cassowary Credits initiative is a significant step towards fulfilling this responsibility.

The Cassowary Credits initiative, developed by Terrain NRM, aims to protect and restore this vital ecosystem while delivering economic and social benefits to regional communities and Rainforest Aboriginal people. By investing in Cassowary Credits, stakeholders can contribute to both environmental conservation and community resilience.

20,000 HECTARES OF RESTORATION

Cassowary Credits is an innovative environmental rewards program designed to deliver verified, measurable improvements in rainforest condition. The project focuses on the Wet Tropics, a region that connects two World Heritage areas—the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics Forests. This area is one of the most biodiverse on the planet and a crucial environmental and cultural resource.

The project's primary goal is to restore 20,000 hectares of rainforest, enhance climate resilience, improve connectivity for wildlife, and increase landscape resilience to future threats.



"What we've found as managers of this region over 20 years, is that the investment in managing both the World Heritage area and the area around it has dropped in real value. But the investment that is required to create climate resilience for this region is a hundred, if not a thousand, times more than what is provided. So that's the reason why Cassowary Credits is needed to bring other investment vehicles to the Wet Tropics."

Sarah Hoyal, Biodiversity and Climate Strategy Leader, Terrain NRM

HOW IT WORKS

The project follows a rigorous and practical methodology involving multiple stakeholders:

Landholder engagement: Landholders conduct restoration activities, which include planting native species, controlling invasive species, and managing threats to encourage natural regeneration.

Maintenance and monitoring: These activities are maintained and monitored to ensure long-term success.

Verification and credit calculation: Independent governance ensures that outcomes are accurately verified, and credits are calculated based on the ecological improvements achieved.

Credit purchase: Investors purchase these credits, directly contributing to the environmental and social benefits in the region.

This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that the project provides benefits beyond environmental restoration, including economic opportunities for local communities and Indigenous people, enhancing their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management practices.

WHY IT MATTERS

Cassowary Credits offers a multitude of benefits:

Biodiversity: Improved habitat conditions for wildlife, particularly the endangered Southern Cassowary, and increased biodiversity.

Climate resilience: Enhanced carbon sequestration and climate resilience through the restoration of native rainforests.

Economic opportunities: Long-term investments provide economic benefits to local communities, including job creation and business opportunities.

Social benefits: Strengthening the connection between regional communities and their environment, and promoting Indigenous knowledge and participation.

The program supports long-term commitments to sustainable land management, making it an attractive investment for corporations looking to meet regulatory requirements, mitigate environmental risks, and respond to consumer demand for sustainable practices.



"Cassowary Credits offer a distinctive financial mechanism for investors, providing a way to unitise the results of our biodiversity projects. This comes at a time when businesses, investors, and funds are seeking dependable and meaningful nature-positive outcomes. With the strong governance of our region, investors can have confidence that the environmental outcomes they seek are delivered with Cassowary Credits."

Bronwyn Robertson,
Biodiversity and Climate Project Leader, Terrain NRM

Disclaimer: This case study showcases an innovative approach in Cairns' Smart Green Economy. While this project is not owned by Cairns Regional Council, and the presentation of this case study does not imply Council endorsement, it is our aim to highlight some of the exciting initiatives in our region and inspire positive change within our community.

20,000

Hectares of rainforest restored

300+

Threatened species supported

40+

Contributors including scientists and community

20+

Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups can participate and benefit

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

Opportunities are available to support this project and contribute to sustainable change. Please contact us to get involved.

For more information visit terrain.org.au

