

Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance:

Frequently asked questions

September 2022

What is the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance?

- The Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance (the Alliance) is a coalition of organisations working together to ensure the survival of Wet Tropics forests under a changing and unstable climate. The Alliance is about supporting members' existing work and developing capacity and income streams, while also identifying key areas where upscaled investment and on-ground action is required. As an Alliance member, organisations will have access to networks of peers in the field of landscape restoration and natural capital financing to learn, collaborate and seek new resources to support their work. The Alliance will support a hub of shared resources, knowledge and learnings. It is important for members to acknowledge this partnership will develop in its intent, impact and membership over time.

What is the cost to be a part of the Alliance?

- There are no up-front financial costs proposed for members at this stage.

What is the governance model for the Alliance?

- The governance model is simple, consisting of members assisted by a small group of supporting partners—these include the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Terrain NRM and James Cook University. The role of these supporting partners is to provide ongoing support to members to maximise their impact by scaling up on-ground action and investment, coordination and knowledge sharing. Supporting partners have employed a full-time restoration project officer based in the Wet Tropics Management Authority to provide secretariat support to the Alliance.

What commitment is required from me or my organisation?

- Alliance members commit to continue their work on improving the resilience of Wet Tropics forests, and also to collaborate where possible on key initiatives such as investment planning. This is outlined in more detail in the [Statement of commitment to establish the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance](#). There is an expectation members would provide in-kind support (for example, time, expertise, co-contributions to projects where this makes sense) and participate in Alliance events (when able) and projects that are of specific interest to members.

Who is in the Alliance and who can join?

- The Alliance is open to any organisation with an interest in working together to ensure the survival of Wet Tropics forests under a changing and unstable climate. This can include Traditional Custodians, landscape restoration practitioners, research organisations, conservation entities and investors.

How will the Alliance evolve and function into the future?

- This is up to the direction set by Alliance members. Now that the Alliance is established, supporting group partners have proposed and committed to progressing a number of key next steps over the 2022–23 financial year, including development of an investment strategy to help increase upscaled investment in on-ground works, identifying priority restoration research needs, refining estimates of carbon storage in Wet Tropics forests (updating the current FullCAM model), and developing models for engaging land managers at sub-catchment scales.

Will participation in the Alliance impact members' organisational work priorities?

- Yes—but only in a positive way! The Alliance recognises all landscape restoration work across the Wet Tropics bioregion delivers significant benefits, and the purpose of the Alliance is to support members' work to be even more successful. Another focus of the Alliance will be to target key areas of landscape restoration with constitute priorities in terms of climate refugia and connectivity.

How is the Alliance funded?

- The Queensland Department of Environment and Science has provided two years of seed funding (2021–22 and 2023–24 financial years) to support foundational actions for the Alliance, including consultations on the Alliance model, strategic investment planning, and secretariat support.

How do the Alliance members work together?

- Alliance members will be offered the opportunity to come together at least once per year to plan, collaborate, learn and share experiences. There will also be field days and workshops organised of interest to members depending upon where they are based.
- Initial activities to focus the Alliance's collective effort will be to develop a strategic investment framework and identify research priorities for restoration in the Wet Tropics.
- It is up to Alliance members to establish partnerships and work collaboratively with others.

Will Alliance members receive funding for restoration projects and initiatives?

- There is limited seed funding secured for key events over the initial years, which will benefit Alliance members. Examples include an annual Alliance networking event, investment planning workshops, and field days. The role of the Alliance is to directly link investment to members (a 'match-making service'), as well as disseminate information about relevant grants and funding opportunities.

What is the Alliance investment strategy?

- The investment strategy will be developed in partnership with interested Alliance members to attract increased investment to save Wet Tropics forests. The strategy will tell a compelling story about why the Wet Tropics is a critical place for urgent investment in restoration and resilience actions. The strategy will also identify grant and market-based opportunities to support member's work, and identify priority areas for restoration (e.g. key areas of connectivity across the landscape).