

R-CM 11: Wetlands in the Wet Tropics

Undertake restoration work in key wetlands across the Wet Tropics to restore their function and protect their value to aquatic and terrestrial species and ecosystems.

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	Restoration of priority wetlands in the Wet Tropics will assist with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving water quality in associated waterways and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. ▪ Improving the condition of habitat, nursery grounds and feeding areas for a range of aquatic species. ▪ Slowing the flow of water in the landscape, particularly during high intensity rainfall events, reducing erosion potential and improving recharge of groundwater aquifers. 				
Justification	Many wetlands throughout the region have been heavily modified, reducing their level of ecosystem function. Wetland projects will help restore their value to aquatic species, as well as to migratory birds and other terrestrial wildlife. Properly functioning wetlands can significantly reduce sediment and pollutant loads in associated waterways, including the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Many ecological communities associated with wetland habitats will also benefit from wetland restoration projects.				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access existing information on the region's wetlands, including mapping, scientific data and condition reports. 2) Identify and engage stakeholders from a range of relevant sectors, to ensure appropriate technical expertise and community input. 3) Identify gaps in information and collaborate with research organisations, community and Traditional Owners to ensure appropriate information is available to guide the prioritisation, development and implementation of projects. 4) Develop action plans and implement on-ground projects to restore wetland function in priority areas. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is already a strong focus and high capacity within the region for improving water quality. ✓ The environmental outcomes resulting from restoration of wetlands is high, providing the impetus for developing and implementing wetland projects. ✗ Wetland projects can be complex, requiring expertise and collaboration across a wide range of disciplines. ✗ Effectively restoring wetlands can be a relatively high cost process. 				

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	RM17 Wetland Restoration at the Mouth of the Mulgrave / Russell	Lower Mulgrave Wetlands
	RM20 Restoration of Wyvuru Swamp	Wyvuru Swamp
	RM21 Reinstatement of Babinda Swamp	Babinda Swamp
	NC7 Restoration of Wetlands	Across the region, based on priorities
	SC13 Healthy Wetlands	Tully River lowlands / floodplain, Maria Ck flats
	UH4 Upper Herbert Wetlands	Wetlands in the Upper Herbert