



EcoAustralia

Mount Sandy Conservation Australia

Promoting partnerships for conservation
between Traditional Landowners and
non-Indigenous Australians



Nestled between the Coorong National Park and Lake Albert in South Australia, Mount Sandy protects one of the last pockets of bush and wetlands in the region. The project brings together non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians by promoting land conservation using methods that have been employed by Traditional Custodians, the Ngarrindjeri people, for millennia.

The Context

The Coorong National Park and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are the meeting point where the Murray – Australia’s largest river, with a catchment of over one million square kilometres – feeds into the Southern Ocean. Part of South Australia’s Limestone Coast, this region features some of the country’s most breathtaking landscapes. However, land surrounding these national treasures has been largely cleared for agriculture.

The Project

Located on the traditional lands of the Ngarrindjeri people, Traditional Custodians of the Coorong, Mount Sandy is a rare pocket of intact native vegetation in a region now dominated by farmlands. The 200-hectare project site features a unique mix of coastal shrublands and saline swamplands that provide strategic habitat for iconic native wildlife, such as the short-beaked echidna, purple-gaped honeyeater and elegant parrot. Over thousands of years, the Ngarrindjeri people have cared for Coorong country, developing an intimate connection to the land that sustains them. Project management itself is made possible through close collaboration with local Ngarrindjeri Elders, Clyde and Rose Rigney, who oversee the ongoing management and conservation of vegetation at the Mount Sandy site.

The Benefits

The Mount Sandy project ensures permanent protection for a regionally and culturally important pocket of biodiversity-rich land in partnership with its Traditional Owners. Local birds, animals and plants flourish undisturbed, while native plants for revegetation will be supplied by the local nursery at Raukkan Aboriginal Community, a self-governed Indigenous community 30 kilometres northwest of the project site. Raukkan community members are also employed for onsite works including vegetation monitoring and mapping, fencing, and pest and weed control.

About EcoAustralia

EcoAustralia is a stapled product that blends carbon credits with biodiversity protection. Each EcoAustralia credit consists of **one Australian Biodiversity Unit**, equal to **1.5m²** of government-accredited, permanently protected Australian vegetation, and **1 tCO₂e of avoided emissions** from a Gold Standard certified project.



5 job opportunities

for Indigenous Ngarrindjeri Australians



Gold Standard carbon credits

stapled to each government accredited Australian Biodiversity Unit purchased from Mount Sandy, meeting stringent standards for NCOS eligibility



200 ha

of strategic habitat protected and registered on the South Australian Native Vegetation Council Credit Register



Partnerships for Reconciliation

between non-Indigenous Australians and Ngarrindjeri Traditional Owners for conservation management

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: South Australia Coorong Project: Mt Sandy |

Registry link: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/offsetting/turn-your-native-vegetation-into-income/native-vegetation-credit-register> |

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