

# RESTORING RESILIENCE ACROSS Subtropical and tropical ex-rainforest landscapes

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Rainforests in Australasia have been extensively cleared, and what remains is often fragmented and vulnerable. These diverse ecosystems face pressures from climate change, invasive species and anthropogenic demands. These cumulative pressures require decision-makers, landowners and managers to increasingly consider holistic and adaptive strategies to facilitate their restoration and conservation. To achieve landscape scale benefits, forest restoration projects require careful integration into agricultural landscapes. When developing restoration projects, practitioners need to align operational activities closely with landowners' objectives and cultural context. Market mechanisms designed to facilitate restoration of forests, such as carbon sequestration programs and payments for ecosystems services also need to closely consider landholder context if programs are to develop lasting engagement in agricultural landscapes.

Large-scale forest restoration projects are being established across Australasia. In subtropical and tropical eastern Australia, efforts to enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity in degraded ex-rainforest catchments are also closely aligned with improvements in water quality and catchment function. Long-term success of these plantings and regeneration systems has been closely linked to landholder engagement. Understanding and responding to stewardship values of landholders in these agricultural and post-agricultural landscapes is seen as a critical consideration when developing restoration programs. In the Pacific Islands, where traditional cultural values and development pressures are markedly different to those of Australia, the importance of stewardship values and cultural context are also critical to restoration and conservation of these tropical landscapes. This presentation will outline the importance of understanding landholder values and local context in both Australia and the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu.