



Wildlife Conservancy Enterprises in Regional Development

The Past

"This land is cursed; the animals hop not run, birds run, not fly ..."

wrote Dirk Hartog, 1688.

The lessons repeatedly told to us by this flat, dry, infertile land are still hard to accept. Drought and flood are regular, constant companions in this ancient land.

While the coastal fringes and tablelands might have soils and climate suited to some forms of agriculture and livestock production, much of the inland, marginal rangelands cannot sustain constant stocking of hoofed animals.

The Future

Nevertheless, this country cannot be abandoned; it needs rehabilitation, management, and an alternative future. Growth in tourism shows some potential, but this also requires management and stewardship of the land.

Can the land be productive in other ways?

Some scientists and business people believe it can and that the natural assets of the inland, with careful monitoring and management, can support commercial enterprises while restoring and maintaining primarily natural habitat and a healthier environment.



Biodiversity and Business Diversity

The Institute for Rural Futures in partnership with the Australian Museum FATE program are examining the economics of utilising our naturally resilient biodiversity in diverse enterprises for regional landholders and communities, where value adding might be undertaken.

Such an enterprise clearly aims to be profitable, however, a key criterion of success will be whether benefits in environmental health and wildlife conservation can be demonstrated.

Nature's Enterprises

The Institute and the Australian Museum are interested in developing capacity building partnerships with landholders and community networks to explore feasibility of a developing an experimental model.

Base-line monitoring and on-going adaptive management will be a major part of building a model, followed by development of various novel wildlife enterprises.

Free-range, natural habitat, farming of kangaroos and emus are priorities to investigate.

Other bird populations could be enhanced. Replanting and regeneration of native habitats including Acacias, saltbush, native grasses, quandongs and she-oaks would occur and may supply other enterprises.



Project Details

Project Title: "Economics of conservation through the commercial use of native species"

Partners: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Australian Museum, FATE program

Contact

Richard Stayner & David

Brunckhorst

02 6773 2220

Fax 02 6773 3245

Institute for Rural Futures

UNE, Armidale, NSW, 2351

