



Nature
Impact
Collective

Joining Forces for Nature

Bringing together funders to increase
giving for environmental protection
and restoration in Australia.

Time to Act

Nature is under extreme pressure, with the climate and biodiversity crises needing all of our attention in this critical decade. We need to act quickly, bringing much-needed resources to the table.

Better Together

Nature Impact Collective (NIC) is a unique opportunity for funders who value working with like-minded people to leverage their giving.

By coming together, we make more informed and strategic decisions about how to support environmental NGOs. We harness significant funds to support eNGOs to work more sustainably and deliver better outcomes for nature.

We ensure more effective and efficient delivery of our grant programs by uniting the experience and expertise of our members and investing collectively in expert guidance and support.

As a collective, the decision on grantees is made in agreement between members and equal contributions are made towards each grant. The three inaugural members have committed \$500,000 per annum to this process, 10% of which is allocated to running costs.

We aim to highlight – through our collective vision, focus and strategy – how increasing resources to environmental causes results in positive change. Our goal is to inspire others to give as much as they can.

Grants for Nature

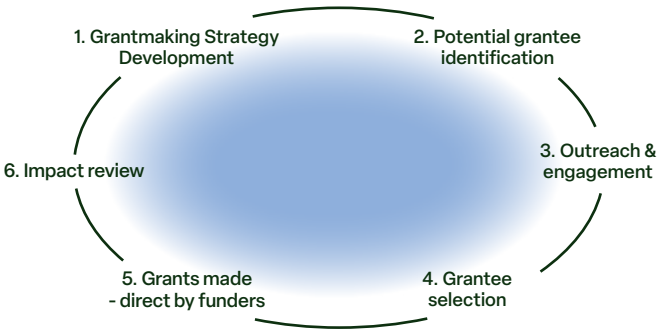
We understand that the path to creating long-term protection and restoration of nature, is not linear, and requires flexibility and sustainable inputs.

We provide ‘fit for purpose’ funding that empowers organisations to deliver the impact we collectively aim to achieve.

NIC’s grantmaking is guided by a shared strategy developed and owned by the members. This is informed by discussions with environmental leaders, scientists and practitioners, along with consideration of the AEGN Nature Funding Framework.

As part of our trust-based approach, the organisations we select are supported with core funding, and can choose to allocate funds over their preferred time frame.

Collective grantmaking cycle



We are committed to:

- Growing** philanthropic funding for nature – land, sea, freshwater, ecosystems, threatened species.
- Giving** significant and sustained funding in this critical decade.
- Demonstrating** effective and collaborative philanthropic funding.
- Building** stronger, more effective environmental NGOs capable of leading transformational change.

We understand that:

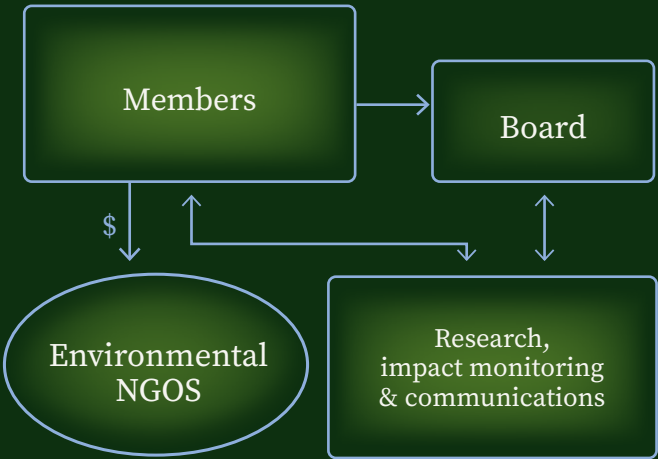
- Collaboration** makes us stronger as funders and improves outcomes for the organisations we fund.
- Trust** is essential to the relationship between us as a collective, and to the relationships we develop with environmental NGOs.
- Learning** is an ongoing cycle as we strive to make good decisions.
- Sharing** our learnings enables everyone to benefit and grows care for nature.

Joining Forces

We welcome other foundations, charitable trusts and individuals to fund in alignment with NIC, building more momentum and capacity for the organisations we have selected. We are happy to do the research and due diligence, and to share our work with you.

Foundations and trusts may also wish to discuss becoming a member of NIC. Members commit to allocating \$500,000 annually over multiple years and participate in the collective giving process.

NIC operational structure



Achieving Impact

We achieve our impact through the grants we make and are committed to monitoring, measuring and sharing the results.

We are committed to building relationships with our grantees towards understanding the results of our funding on their operations and outcomes for nature. These learnings will be shared through our annual Impact Report.

Our Founding Members

The three founding members of NIC met through the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) and were inspired by the AEGN's goal to significantly increase philanthropic funding for the environment. Driven by their own commitment to giving to protect and restore nature, each member is motivated to grow their reach and effectiveness by working together, guided by the networks and knowledge of the AEGN and the Nature Funding Framework.

Rendere Trust

Founded by the Phillipson family from the Gippsland region of Victoria, Rendere is a recognised leader in environmental philanthropy. From their beginnings in restoring and reconnecting properties for nature, Rendere supports and strengthens lead organisations throughout the region with core funding.

Jim Phillipson
NIC Ltd Chair

Upotipotpon Foundation

Upotipotpon Foundation focuses on impactful financial assistance in the Environment, Education, Social Justice and Health. We are increasing our environmental focus significantly as we seek to make a positive difference to the world in which we all live.

Jo and William Crothers
NIC Ltd Director

Gum Tree Foundation

The Gum Tree Foundation is a charitable trust supporting organisations to do good for our planet, and the lives that depend on it. In Australia, the Gum Tree Foundation provides core funding to environmental and First Nations organisations driving change through applied conservation, education, collaboration and advocacy.

Ella Colley
NIC Ltd Director

We look forward to building relationships with like-minded funders and exploring opportunities for collaboration.



To discuss NIC further, please reach out to one of our members:

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ella@gumtreefoundation.org.au



Sign up to follow our progress.



Nature
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Nature Impact Collective's (NIC) first collective funding round selected five organisations championing the ecological health of Australia's inland waters. Each organisation will receive \$270,000, made up of three \$90,000 grants from NIC members. This funding is untied.

As the driest inhabited continent, Australia's fresh water systems are some of our most valuable natural resources, sustaining ecosystems and communities and holding deep cultural meaning for Indigenous people. Unfortunately, they have often been grossly mismanaged, and continue to face new threats.

The AEGN Nature Funding Framework identifies "Funding Waterways for People and Nature" as one of the top ten big gaps in nature funding.

The following organisations collectively lead change from the grassroots to Parliaments, protect intact ecosystems and restore damaged wetlands and waterways, engaging many communities including First Nations.



Budj Bim Ranger Ben Church. Photographer Annette Ruzicka. Courtesy Country Needs People

Supporting Champions for Australia's
Inland Waters | April 2024

Environment Centre Northern Territory

The Environment Centre NT works closely with communities to protect the territory's unique biological diversity, building more capacity to defend massive, aquifer-fed rivers that are under threat from agribusiness, fracking and inadequate environmental laws.

"Northern Australia is an ecological and cultural treasure, and unprecedented threats to these extraordinary values often out of sight and out of mind to most Australians. This funding will be transformational for the Environment Centre NT, and the growing movement across the north to achieve durable

protections for some of the last free-flowing rivers and largest intact savanna landscapes in Australia and the world."

– *Kirsty Howey,*
Executive Director

"We're impressed with Environment Centre NT's considered and strategic approach, and their commitment to collaboration and support for local communities, especially First Nations. They have an outsized impact and a critical role to play. We are thrilled to provide this support to help strengthen their capacity in this crucial freshwater fight."

– *Ella Colley, NIC Director*

Country Needs People

Country Needs People (CNP) supports Indigenous communities to manage land and sea Country. Their advocacy builds government funding and support for Indigenous ranger roles and the Indigenous Protected Area program. They work closely with around 50 Indigenous partner organisations.

"Country Needs People is very thankful for this funding, which will allow us to continue to campaign strongly to strengthen Indigenous land and sea management, which plays a major role in biodiversity and threatened species protection, including in many key inland waterways.

Having donors like NIC that are prepared to invest significant sums in core operational support makes a huge difference. It helps us deliver quality work now, with more confidence in the future." – *Paddy O'Leary,*
CEO Country Needs People

"Country Needs People have a clear role in supporting, amplifying and advocating for community-led Caring for Country initiatives and have worked to bring impressive resources to the sector. We are delighted to provide funds that help them grow their operational capacity."

– *Ella Colley, NIC Director*

Environmental Justice Australia

Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) combines environmental legal expertise with strategic campaigns to protect the environment. With a long history of work on water and the Murray-Darling Basin, they are stepping up their focus on Ramsar-listed wetlands in the southern Basin.

“The legal strategies that have the biggest impact are often multi-year. This untied funding means we can move ahead with our Murray-Darling Basin work with confidence, while giving us the flexibility to innovate and adapt swiftly

to emerging challenges over two years, ensuring the legal work we are doing will have the greatest impact.”

– *Nicola Rivers & Elizabeth McKinnon, CEOs*

“EJA has proven to be really effective in highlighting national issues, focusing on campaigns that move the dial and bring change to legislation and public policy. They are also fantastic at connecting with local community groups, supporting grassroots community action with the power of law, advocacy and policy influence.”

– *Jim Phillipson, NIC Chair*

Nature Glenelg Trust

Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) started life in the cross-border area of South Australia and Victoria to increase on-ground environmental action in the region. Taking a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation, NGT has restored around 70 wetlands and established 10 of its own reserves.

“NIC’s untied investment will underpin a much-needed upgrade of our internal systems to ensure we can sustain and grow our environmental impact in the future. Core operating requirements of this type are fundamental to the success of

not-for-profit environmental organisations. It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognise this tremendous, very generous form of strategic support.” – *Mark Bachman, Managing Director/Founder*

“I really admire the way Nature Glenelg Trust have bootstrapped their way to success, based in the communities in which they invest and care for and working to ‘fill the gaps’ to ensure nature needs and opportunities in regional areas get resources and on-going attention.” – *William Crothers, NIC Director*

NIC invites other funders to join with us in supporting these organisations, creating more shared impact as funders.

Investing in Nature

“The satisfaction of the journey of learning and investing has delighted my partner Jo and I and encouraged us to increase our contribution to the environment so that we are now giving 3 times greater than our original plan. NIC is our next step in giving with friends, learning and making a difference in nature.” – *William Crothers, Upotipotpon Foundation*

To learn more please contact with one of our members: jim.phillipson@mtw.com.au | ella@gumtreefoundation.org.au



Photo: Murray River

Murray Darling Conservation Alliance

A new alliance of state based organisations, the Murray Darling Conservation Alliance (MDCA) is ramping up a high profile campaign to restore the health of the Murray-Darling Basin. Heavily cleared, degraded and over-extracted while facing a hotter, drier climate, the future of the Basin rests upon an upcoming review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

“This generous grant from NIC will enable us to mobilise community support in the lead-up to the next federal election and translate this into a political commitment to restore Australia’s largest river system. This will lay the foundation for a revitalised Murray-Darling Basin Plan supporting resilient wetland ecosystems and healthy regional communities.” – *Jono La Nauze, CEO Environment Victoria*

“There is a clear need for a body to represent the voice of the community, environment and the long term sustainability of the rural sector covered by this enormous catchment. MDCA’s ability to have a big influence from a small resource platform dramatically amplifies the impact from our investment.”

– *Jim Phillipson, NIC Chair*