

The Nature  
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

Australia

# Great Southern Seascapes Program

Conserving and  
restoring Australia's great  
southern seascapes  
for nature and people.



White mangroves  
© Lynne Hale

## The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organisation working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.

Globally we work in more than 35 countries with a staff of nearly 4,000 including 600 scientists. We began working in Australia in 2002 and since then we're proud to have collaborated with a wide array of partners to support conservation efforts across more than 127 million hectares of Australia's lands and waters.

## Great Southern Seascapes Program

Along the southern coast of Australia lie hundreds of bays and estuaries that contain important temperate habitats, including rocky reefs, seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and saltmarshes.

These habitats are home to many unique and iconic species such as handfish, seadragons and giant cuttlefish and play a vital role in supporting healthy fish populations, preventing shorelines from eroding and improving coastal water quality. Yet sadly, the health of our bays and estuaries is in decline and large-scale action is needed to repair coastal habitats and the critical services they provide for the benefit of both people and nature.



## Our approach

Through collaborative, partner-driven projects, we will undertake a number of activities focused on:

1. Protecting and restoring critical marine habitats and their ecosystem services;
2. Inspiring individuals, communities and coastal leaders to value the many ways nature supports people, and to actively engage in coastal conservation; and,
3. Transforming investment, policy and planning to enable large-scale, in-water restoration and conservation.



Seagrass meadows  
© Chris Gillies

The Conservancy has engaged in over **200 restoration projects** globally, with **community involvement** being a key pillar to their **SUCCESS**.



“Restoring our estuary habitats will have huge benefits for people and nature.”

~ DR CHRIS GILLIES  
*Marine Manager*



Weedy seadragon  
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Beyond 2020

Large-scale, financially sustainable marine restoration and conservation across southern Australia.

2018 – 2020

Scaling good practice to improve estuary health and productivity.

2014 – 2018

Building the foundation by developing good practice restoration models.

Our vision is to **improve** the **health** of bays and estuaries across southern Australia by increasing the scale of **conservation** and **restoration** of coastal habitats.

To find out more about our marine work and get involved, please visit [www.natureaustralia.org.au](http://www.natureaustralia.org.au) or email [ausmarine@tnc.org](mailto:ausmarine@tnc.org)

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