

Sunnyside Permanent Planting Forest Initiative Factsheet

TRANSITIONING A PLANTATION FOREST TO A PERMANENT FOREST



THE PROJECT

The Sunnyside Permanent Planting Project is a joint Carbon Farming Initiative between Carbon Neutral, Gondwana Link and Forever Carbon Corridors. The project is located in the Southwest Australia Ecoregion, one of only 36 global biodiversity hotspots.

The initiative's ecological impact extends beyond carbon sequestration, incorporating active forest management, biodiversity enrichment and conservation of over 750 ha of precious natural habitat for endemic flora and fauna.

Registered under the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Fund in 2022, the initiative is guided by the expertise of Gondwana Link and has a core focus on First Nations engagement and participation.

TRANSITIONING A PLANTATION FOREST

The project safeguards 560 hectares of established Eucalyptus plantation forest by protecting it from conversion into land cleared for farming or harvested for timber. By halting the carbon loss that would have otherwise resulted from land conversion, the project is reducing emissions and generating high conservation and community value Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).

This project has a 100 year Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant registered on the land title. The Carbon Covenant details land and tree management obligations that protects the trees for the next century.

ECOLOGICAL RICHNESS

The Sunnyside property is located within Western Australia's Great Southern region near Wellstead, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Albany, in an area of recognised biodiversity significance.

Sunnyside is home to over 300 species of native flora, including 13 species listed as conservation priorities by the Western Australian Government. Additionally, much of the property's bushland, a form of [Kwongkan](#) Shrublands, is classified as a nationally listed Threatened Ecological Community.

ENDEMIC WILDLIFE

The natural habitats that are now protected are in such good condition they support strong populations of many fauna species. Several significant threatened or vulnerable wildlife species are found on or near Sunnyside, including Carnaby's Cockatoo and Malleefowl. Sunnyside occupies a key position adjoining a wide coastal belt of vegetation which extends over 80 kilometres to the east and with 'restorable' habitat connectivity to the west extending almost to Albany, across several key nature reserves and other habitat areas.

PROJECT KEY FACTS	
PROJECT NAME	Sunnyside Permanent Planting Project (ERF177664)
METHODOLOGY	Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative - Plantation Forestry) Methodology Determination 2022. Transitioning a plantation forest to a permanent planting (Schedule 4).
AUDITOR	GHD Pty Ltd
INITIAL CREDITING PERIOD	2022 - 2023
ANNUAL EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS	19,736 tCO ₂ -e
LIFETIME PROJECT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (15 YEARS)	296,040 tCO ₂ -e



While not yet measured, the outcomes of this initiative have been created to align with the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



ECOLOGICAL PLANTING

Ecological plantings are well underway at Sunnyside. In July 2023, 33 hectares of former pastureland were direct seeded using more than 40 mixed native species including eucalypts, melaleucas, casuarinas, acacias, hakeas, banksias and dryandras. In line with the project's aim to enrich and support local biodiversity, most of these species were sourced from Sunnyside or nearby properties.

LOCAL FIRST NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The Sunnyside initiative will support the local Menang people, (part of the Noongar nation). Recognising the area's importance and First Nation's connection to Country, the intent to support direct Noongar project participation and engagement was identified in the project's earliest stages, with engagement increasing as restoration planting areas continue to expand.

Hands-on indigenous project participation has so far incorporated a broad range of collaborative planning and operational processes including:

- Seed cleaning, smoking and scarifying for the 2023 direct seeding program
- Restoration area mapping, incorporating culturally- informed placement of tracks and future walking trails
- Observing significant bush tucker plants and fauna species
- Developing a pioneering companion planting technique integrating bush tucker, to enrich plant populations in the old plantations without compromising the carbon status of the existing Eucalyptus plantation
- Uptake of property management employment and training opportunities, with the long-term prospect to extend to adjoining coastal areas that are planned to come under Noongar management.

Potential future opportunities for local First Nations participation in the project are being explored, and may include:

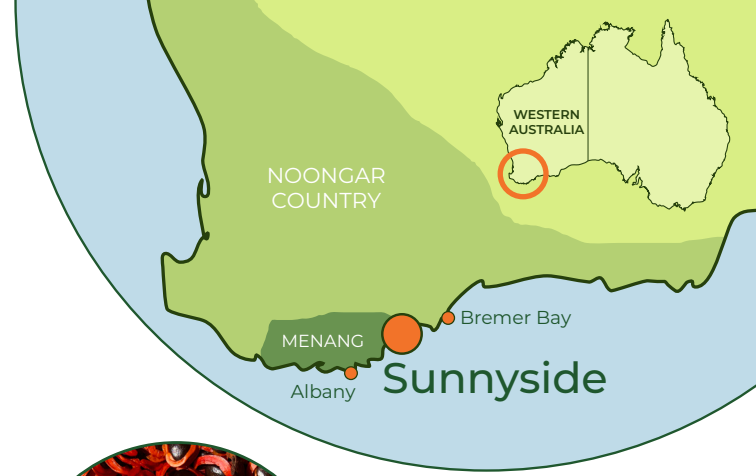
- Creating and developing substantial opportunities for future food harvesting and bushfood species cultivation, while simultaneously improving habitat outcomes for local wildlife if current bush tucker integration activities are successful
- A home base at Sunnyside for a future Noongar Ranger team to care for Country and provide numerous other cultural and conservation benefits.

CONNECTED AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & ECOSYSTEMS

Sunnyside is part of the much larger Gondwana Link, an initiative working to improve and increase ecological health and resilience in a connected band of habitats stretching from Margaret River to the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia.

Sunnyside is one of a small number of strategically critical private properties secured to increase the area of wildlife habitat across the Link and provide opportunities for Noongar families to return to Country. Noongar Elders are helping to develop a broad Healthy Country Plan which includes Sunnyside, exploring specific arrangements to restore some endemic wildlife species to their natural habitat.

The Sunnyside Permanent Planting Project underpins all the elements described in this factsheet by directly supporting more projects on the site that deliver these additional outcomes.



Acacia cyclops seeds for the plantings



First Nations involvement is a key aspect of this initiative



The Carnaby's Cockatoo is endangered due to habitat loss



Isopogon cuneatus



Seed collection and sorting



Malleefowl are endemic to the region.



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