



Protecting our Natural Assets through Responsible Travel



About Conservation Volunteers



- Independent, not for profit, community based organisation
- Supports conservation and natural resource management
- Operates eco-certified eco-tours and volunteer holidays
- Embraces sustainable tourism principals
- Australia's leading provider of volunteer tourism experiences
- Founded in 1982
- 24 offices Australia wide and now also New Zealand
- Delivers 1,000,000 managed volunteer hours each year
- Attracts over 12,000 people from Australia and overseas each year



UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL 500



CVA partnerships:-

- Achieve greater tourism, community and environmental outcomes
- Are diverse - tourism, government, protected areas, community, NGO's
- Provide mutual benefits:
 - CVA creates quality volunteer tourism experiences
 - Volunteers achieve significant conservation outcomes for partners
- Help to address management needs of protected areas, conservation estates and threatened species



- Eco-certified volunteer and ecotourism experiences
- Wild Futures, protecting our threatened and endangered wildlife
- Action for Climate Change
- Subcontracting management of National Parks and Reserves

Aims of partnership models:

- Improve funding, management and conservation outcomes
- Provide positive community engagement in parks
- Support sustainable visitation
- Enhance the visitor experience
- Contribute to the local economy
- Promote parks and protected areas in Australia and overseas
- Increase management resources through a partnership approach

“The involvement of **CVA** has **significantly increased the efficacy of our environmental land management programs**. Each year, over 80 people contributing over 360 volunteer days participate in the Grampians mammal trapping program alone. This one project has **greatly reduced Park staff’s labour requirement, reduced project delivery time, provided exceptional positive media** and, **provided an opportunity for staff to show case their skills and engage with the public.**”

- Mike Stevens, Parks Victoria Grampians National Park.



Sustainable tourism achieving conservation outcomes

- Voluntourism rapidly growing tourism sector
- Estimated worth USD 1.7 – 2.6bn per annum / 1.6 volunteers globally
- CVA tourism products:
 - Focus on giving back to the environment
 - Engage people in hands-on conservation
 - Adhere to ecotourism principals
 - Have achieved eco–certification



- Generate income through tourism to support ongoing conservation.
- Create innovative, authentic and quality experiences through which tourists can participate in practical conservation activities.
- Provide natural and cultural educational opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of our natural environment.
- Support and benefit local communities, through positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

CVA tourism and protected area partnership examples:-

- Parks Champions, Victoria
- Naturewise Montague Island Tours, NSW



- A Parks Victoria partnership
- Brands volunteer programs in Victorian Parks
- Collaboration leverages greater conservation and financial outcomes
- Reduces work loads for Park Rangers
- Frees up resources for other critical park activities
- Program success has expanded opportunities:-
 - Development of Naturewise eco-tours in parks
 - Positive media exposure
 - Increased profile for Parks Victoria



Naturewise, Montague Island Tours

- A partnership with NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change, Parks and Wildlife Service
- Eco-tours support long term conservation outcomes on Montague Island
- Program success has led to further opportunities:-
 - New ecotourism product models which contribute to conservation and tourism outcomes in National Parks
 - Use of a volunteer house at Sydney Harbour National Park
 - Expanded and well managed volunteer programs
 - Professionally managed corporate / incentive programs



- CVA adds considerable value to tourism and conservation partnerships
 - ‘We (the Department of Environment and Climate change) are **good at managing areas for conservation** but **lack the entrepreneurial acumen and time** to progress a project of this type. The development of an **effective partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia** has **contributed significantly** to the **award winning Montague Island Tours** and, **the development of a leading ecotourism business in Australia.**’
- Preston Cope Area Manager Far South Coast Region Parks and Wildlife Group Department of Environment and Climate Change.

- Wild Futures supports threatened and endangered wildlife species
- Rigorous species selection based on official recovery plans
- Targets on ground conservation outcomes to support species recovery
- Funded through corporate sponsorship and individual donations
- Provides interesting programs for volunteers who play an active role in wildlife conservation efforts
- Example Red-tailed Black Cockatoos:-
 - Protection of existing habitat
 - Planting targeted trees for food
 - Baseline monitoring of habitat and species



Wild Futures Ambassadors



Leatherback
sea turtles



Tree Kangaroos

Flatback
sea turtles



Superb Parrots



Red-tailed
Black Cockatoos

Brush-tailed
Rock Wallabies



Action for Climate Change

- A CVA program delivered in Australia and New Zealand
- Targets businesses and individuals
- Provides practical actions to reduce environmental impact
- Carbon forests supporting native biodiversity plantings
 - The W. James Whyte Island Reserve, Vic
 - Padaminka Nature Refuge, QLD
- 2 key ways to support Action for Climate change:
 - Donations to offset carbon footprint
 - Active participation in tree planting



CVA management of conservation of Parks and Reserves to:

- Address resource and funding shortages in Parks
- Meet conservation needs of our Parks
- Allow Park agencies to utilise resources elsewhere
- Develop volunteer tourism product to enhance visitation and generate funds to support ongoing conservation needs

Three models currently being trialled with Park Agencies:-

- Brookfield Conservation Park, SA
- Tasman National Park, Tas
- Volunteer Interpreters, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve ACT



Brookfield Conservation Park, South Australia

- Conservation estate protecting national, state and regional threatened flora and fauna
- Important research location for Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat
- Model will see the Government lease the Park to CVA

Tasman National Park, Tasmania

- CVA management of Fortescue Bay camping ground
- Management fee and percentage of camp ground takings are paid to CVA
- Funds injected back into CVA conservation volunteer activities in Tasman National Park

Volunteer Interpreters, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

- Partnership with the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS), ACT
- Specialist CVA trained volunteers act as Park Interpreters
- The program:-
 - Provides local community benefits
 - Brings visitors and community together
 - Enhances the visitor experience
 - Frees up Park resources to focus on conservation management issues
- CVA will also manage the visitor centre and develop tourism product to support conservation at the reserve



Each year CVA:-

- Completes over 2,000 conservation projects
- Manages over 100,000 volunteer days
- Plants more than 1 million trees
- Works in partnership to provide conservation outcomes and volunteer experiences
- Operates eco-certified product as a commitment to sustainable tourism

CVA is committed to being a strategic partner, working in protected areas and national reserves to provide experiential voluntourism and ecotourism opportunities, which aid conservation outcomes.





www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

www.actionforclimatechange.org.au

