

Abstract Submission Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES

- Abstract submissions open: **Wednesday 1 April 2026**
- Early Bird Registrations open: **Wednesday 1 April 2026**
- Abstract submissions close: **Friday 8 May 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **Friday 12 June 2026**
- Workshops: **Tuesday 6 October 2026**
- Conference sessions: **Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 October 2026**
- Post-conference Field Trips: **Friday 9 October 2026**

We welcome you to join us at the 2026 ALCA Conference (ALCA26) themed, **Nature-Climate Action – Our Opportunity to Lead.**

Climate impacts and nature loss are accelerating, but so is the momentum for action. Across Australia, and our broader region, there is clear demand: uphold nature commitments. Invest in solutions. Back the people delivering results on the ground. At the same time, innovative models of stewardship, investment, First Nations leadership, and cross-sector partnership are emerging, offering powerful pathways to deliver climate and nature outcomes together.

For over a decade we've convened our national conference, and it has grown into one of Australia's leading nature conservation events. We're excited to return to Nipulana/Hobart for the first time since 2017.

Ahead of COP31, we will be exploring what is needed to scale nature-climate action, unlock long-term investment and cross-sector partnerships, activate enabling policy levers and highlight our sector and Australia's leadership in land conservation and stewardship. We invite you to share your knowledge, perspectives, research or experiences that will contribute to this unique forum and shape and accelerate nature-climate action.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

The ALCA Conference is held each year to support and progress sector and stakeholder knowledge and capacity related to the following Streams. These streams remain the same year on year.

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| <p>Land and water</p> | <p>Conservation requires adaptive, ongoing and practical management to effectively steward and protect our natural and cultural values. We identify emerging challenges, explore new and innovative approaches to land and water management practices, and share new tools, technologies and research that push the boundaries to enhance land, sea, water, air and cultural management and protection.</p> |
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Australian Land
Conservation Alliance

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| <p>People and place</p> | <p>Nearly 65% of Australia is privately owned or managed. With so many people playing a role in building a healthy and resilient Australia, the opportunity to protect nature and cultures is significant. Recognising the diversity of our land management and use, we explore initiatives that support the involvement and participation of Australia’s landowners, stewards, users and managers. We share approaches and knowledge related to cultures, community, connection to Country, research and knowledge systems, community trust, social cohesion, environmental justice, and wellbeing.</p> |
| <p>First Nations</p> | <p>Australia’s Indigenous Protected Areas estate covers more than 70 million hectares, and accounts for more than 45% of Australia’s network of protected areas with Native Title close to 20% of Australia's total land mass. Joint management arrangements and private land holdings and partnerships build on access, ownership and stewardship responsibilities. We share and explore challenges and opportunities to build access, ownership and management of Country and cultures by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We explore opportunities for enhanced partnerships and learning. We explore the way Traditional Knowledge is being used in private land conservation to build biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. We consider the critical community and institutional factors for engagement and success.</p> |
| <p>Economics and Finance</p> | <p>Money is one of the critical components to conservation actions. Organisations and landholders are developing and accessing innovative tools, mechanisms, and solutions to generate and secure the financial capital required to advance the pace and quality of land conservation. We explore and share knowledge and experience related to conservation, including addressing threats like climate change impacts, through the use of markets, offsets, philanthropy, private-public partnerships, financial incentives and natural capital.</p> |
| <p>Future Leaders</p> | <p>This theme seeks to support and develop the skills and capabilities of our emerging practitioners. It seeks to involve, inform and inspire around a range of topics relevant and related to intergenerational transfer of knowledge, young people, education, ecological grief and climate anxiety, leadership, innovations to tackle the challenges of the future. It provides a platform for young career professionals and emerging leaders to demonstrate and promote their research, ideas and emerging programs.</p> |
| <p>Policy pathways</p> | <p>We share new and emerging national and global policy issues and trends facing PLC in Australia. We explore effective strategies to advancing policy priorities at all levels of government. We consider opportunities to develop effectual governance to enhance decision making and risk management strategies. We showcase the current enablers or game changers to unlock the greater potential of private land conservation.</p> |

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

** Aligned with ALCA’s First Nations Access and Engagement Strategy, we seek to increase the participation and voices of First Nations individuals and groups. We encourage submissions from First Nations peoples, land managers and organisations across all topics and intend to ensure adequate integration of content into each session. See also specific First Nations focused sessions below.

All abstract topics have been selected to align with and embrace the 2026 ALCA Conference theme of **Nature–Climate Action – Our Opportunity to Lead**. We welcome insights, knowledge and lessons learnt from across Australia, the Pacific and beyond. Where relevant, we will be looking for abstracts that demonstrate how you are advancing the protection, management and restoration of nature on private or non-government managed lands.

Abstracts are sought from a diverse range of people and perspectives, sections of society and business, areas of practice, research and policy.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ALCA Conference Programming Group. There are a limited number of sessions at the conference, so preference will be given to submissions that show impact and innovation, offer stimulating perspectives that promote discussion and debate, inspire collaboration and solutions and/or are delivered in a unique format.

Note: Presenters must register for the conference at their own expense using the discounted speaker rate and meet their own travel and accommodation costs unless otherwise advised in writing.

CONCURRENT SESSION TOPICS

Nature as a solution/Nature-based Solutions: We are seeking presentations that demonstrate how restoring, protecting and sustainably managing nature can provide solutions to our climate, health, wellbeing and economic challenges with real life examples of initiatives, programs and cross-sector partnerships that are delivering and amplifying impacts for nature and people – from forest, wetland and coastal restoration and regenerative agriculture to large-landscape connectivity conservation efforts. *Land and Water, People and Place*

First Nations knowledge and practice for contemporary conservation: We encourage submissions from First Nations peoples, land managers and organisations across all topics. We invite presentations that show how First Nations knowledge and practice can be applied to and enhance contemporary conservation practice and build resilience in a changing climate. In recognising that accessibility may be a challenge due to remote working environments, we may also be able to integrate on-country pre-recorded video content – please advise as part of your abstract submission if this would be preferred. *First Nations, Land and Water, People and Place*

The next generation of stewards: We invite presentations by young people, or that showcase initiatives where youth are leading the way in driving initiatives and projects that achieve nature-climate positive outcomes. This session will highlight the energy, innovation, and vision young conservationists bring to protecting, stewarding and restoring ecosystems, influencing policy, and mobilising communities. We welcome stories of impact, models of youth empowerment, and cross-generational collaborations. *Future Leaders*

Island conservation – threats and opportunities: Island ecosystems are unique, vulnerable, and globally significant. We are seeking presentations that explore the practical challenges and innovative solutions shaping conservation on islands in a changing climate. Topics could include new approaches to climate adaptation, invasive species management, threatened species recovery, coastal and wetland restoration, biosecurity, community-led stewardship and ecotourism. *Land and Water*

The benefits of integrating nature-climate positive practices on farms: We invite presentations from land managers, farmers, researchers and industry groups of how nature-positive, climate-smart farming practices can improve productivity, profitability, soil health, biodiversity, and resilience. Real-world examples showing how climate action and nature restoration can coexist with – and strengthen – agriculture and the many benefits that provides will be welcomed. Submissions could include regenerative agriculture, carbon and

biodiversity offset projects, water stewardship, farm-scale adaptation strategies or projects implemented through covenanting or other programs. *Land and Water, Economics and Finance*

Balancing land use trade-offs: As demands on land increase, so do the tensions between different stakeholders. We are seeking presentations that share approaches, frameworks, case studies, or decision-making models to help the conservation sector, First Nations peoples, governments, industry, and communities collaboratively navigate land-use trade-offs. We encourage submissions that explore cross-sector partnerships, regional scale planning and coordination, cost-benefit analyses and ecosystem service valuation. *Land and Water, Economics and Finance*

Valuing nature - Making the case through to investment: This session will explore new ways of valuing natural capital and how that can be used to build the case for nature as critical infrastructure to increase demand and mobilise investment. We are particularly interested in abstracts from the industry, business or finance sector who are valuing nature to inform decisions, unlock capital and drive measurable outcomes. Suitable presentations include case studies of how nature is being integrated into climate, financial or corporate reporting, tools being used for measuring the value of biodiversity or ecosystem services on private land, or how risks and dependencies on nature are being managed and articulated. *Economics and Finance*

Emerging and future markets, models and mechanisms: Presentations on emerging and new market mechanisms, economic models and investment frameworks, how policy levers can be shifted to drive private sector investment and demand, and how we scale investment in nature. Presentations could include environmental markets (including exploring how carbon markets can also deliver for nature), blended finance and catalytic capital, incentives and programs for landholders and examples of innovative new markets or enabling policy frameworks from around the world. *Economics and Finance, Policy Pathways*

Nature-Climate policy levers: This session will examine the policy levers, pathways and progress towards achieving our 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework and Net Zero goals and the role of the land conservation sector in this. This includes topics such as changing regulatory settings, landholder incentives and programs, land-use policy, or how to integrate climate and nature policy frameworks. Abstracts that highlight opportunities for government leadership on climate and nature at COP31, mobilising communities and scaling and accelerating on-ground efforts are welcomed. *Policy Pathways*

AI, technology and innovation: We are seeking presentations that demonstrate how new and emerging technologies, innovations and data systems can support and enhance conservation research and practice – including the ethical use, opportunities and pitfalls of AI. This could include remote sensing, predictive modelling, new monitoring technologies, and tools that enhance decision-making. Ideally, the presentation will include a practical example of how that technology or innovation has been used to increase efficiencies, streamline processes, and/or evaluate and amplify on-ground impacts while ensuring data sovereignty. *Land and Water*

Best practice science, research and knowledge: Abstracts are sought that highlight emerging and best practice science, research and knowledge that can – or is – being applied to amplify, monitor and evaluate land conservation efforts at the local, regional and national scale. This could include presentations showcasing the latest research, mapping and modelling, monitoring frameworks, evaluation tools, and evidence that can inform policy change, planning, and on-ground efforts. *Land and Water*

Healthy Country planning and adaptive management in a climate of extremes: Healthy Country planning and constantly adapting management practices are essential for delivering effective, culturally grounded and resilient outcomes. We invite abstracts that share case studies and lessons learned from practitioners, First Nations, researchers and organisations about how to plan, monitor and adapt on-ground efforts in response to environmental, cultural and climatic change. Submissions could include co-designed planning processes,

culturally informed indicators, adaptive decision-making, and approaches and collaborative models that strengthen learning and outcomes on Country and support shared stewardship. *Land and Water, First Nations, People and Place*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM GUIDANCE

1. It is preferred that Abstracts are submitted online via the abstract portal. If this is not possible for you, please reach out to ALCA for support at info@alca.org.au and we will assist you in completing your submission.
2. Abstract submissions close on **Friday 8 May 2026**. Please submit as early as possible prior to the deadline (in case you experience any technical difficulties or require additional information).
3. Please select the topic most relevant to your abstract and only submit your abstract once.
4. Write in simple, accessible language – if possible, avoid using jargon, acronyms, or complex technical or scientific terms.
5. Provide a clear, concise and engaging title (max 15 words) that reflects the content/topic of your presentation.
6. The Abstract summary must be no longer than 300 words and briefly describe:
 - The key ideas, insights, case studies and/or questions your abstract addresses and why this matters.
 - The broader conservation, community, sector or social context/background if relevant.
 - What makes this session valuable or different – consider impact and innovation.
 - What attendees could gain from this session (e.g. practical tools and approaches, new knowledge or evidence, insider/specialist intel, inspiration)
7. Identify your preferred presentation style: oral presentation, quick fire oral presentation, panel presentation, question and answer, workshop, case study, video, Storytelling. We will do our best to meet your preferred presentation style, however this cannot be guaranteed, and we may offer you an alternative presentation option.
8. Think about which audience/s you would like the presentation to target and who will benefit most from attending and select all that apply from the list provided in the form.
9. Please do not include references or diagrams. Please avoid abbreviations and citations in the abstract. Please avoid complex mathematical formulae and Greek letters.
10. All funding sources should be acknowledged at the end of the abstract and included in the word count. Should this information be extensive you will be able to send it separately after the submission deadline if necessary.
11. All presenters must register for the conference at their own expense using the discounted speaker rate and meet their own travel and accommodation costs unless otherwise advised in writing.
12. The first author will be considered the key contact author for the abstract, please no more than 3 abstracts per first author. Emails concerning the abstract will be sent to the first author of the abstract.
13. Abstracts may be published on the ALCA website. Please indicate if you do not want your abstract to published at the time of submission.