

Virginia Young



Virginia contributes through the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society to an international research project on primary forests lead by Griffith University. Working with global science leaders to understand ecosystem dynamics, the importance of ecosystem integrity and stability for climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity. Her work is focused on the nexus between biodiversity and climate change and its relevance to international policy arenas, notably the UNFCCC, CBD and SDG's.

Her voluntary roles include, Chair of Gondwanalink Ltd (GLL) and Board member of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER). These collaborative, 'connectivity' programmes deliver integrated climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity

protection and restoration outcomes. Both initiatives are grounded in community partnerships and collaboration with landholders and indigenous and local communities.

GLL, in the south of Western Australia – is Australia's first major connectivity conservation initiative encompassing 1000 kms along the south coast region of Western Australia and many local and indigenous communities. GER encompasses the entire east coast zone of Australia. These regions are biodiversity hotspots and are home to the vast majority of the Australian population.

She contributes through the Board to the US based, 'Partnership for Policy Integrity', and through the steering committee of a science based international collaborative initiative called IntAct

A past president of the Australian Committee of IUCN, she continues to support the work of IUCN through involvement in the IUCN Task Force on 'Primary Forests including Intact Forest Landscapes' and is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group

Her recent experience in the private sector was as Managing Director of Forests Alive Pty Ltd, an Australian company that helped landowners develop projects that deliver a financial return from the carbon value associated with protecting natural forests for their climate and biodiversity benefits.