Five Rivers Reserve

In the remote Central Highlands of Tasmania, Australia, an innovative global partnership between Conservation International and BHP Billiton has facilitated the conservation and ongoing management of 11,000 hectares of land by environmental NGO, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

This is the Five Rivers Conservation Project.
The Five Rivers Reserve incorporates open grassland valleys, old-growth forests and woodlands, native grasslands, cushion plants, endangered sphagnum moss beds and five natural river systems. It is habitat for endangered wildlife including the Tasmanian devil and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle and important endemic species, such as the *Clarence galaxias* fish, not found in any other region on earth.

Substantial areas of the land are in and adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and a neighbouring landscape-scale protected area is owned and managed by Tasmanian Aboriginal people for its natural and cultural values.

A critical component of the Five Rivers Conservation Project is the establishment of an efficient but effective long-term ecological monitoring program. This program has been designed to gather scientific data to inform conservation management using simple, repeatable and robust methodologies. In the future, the Five Rivers Reserve will become one of a network of national sites for long-term ecological monitoring across Australia.

This unique global partnership creates a world class, financially sustainable, effective nature conservation management model at a landscape scale and in doing so contributes towards meeting Australia’s international obligations and the Convention on Biological Diversity (established by the United Nations Environment Program) *Aichi Target 11*.

During 2013 and 2014, the Five Rivers Conservation Project completed the design of its long-term financing mechanism, which has now been endowed. In addition to achieving formal conservation status, the project also sold its first carbon credits.