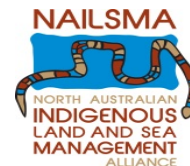


Reporting Back – Kimberley Workshops Fire Discussions

November 16th (Fitzroy Crossing) and 20th (Kununurra) 2015



Facilitated by Ro Hill
(CSIRO)



National Environmental Science Programme

Kimberley Workshops

Fitzroy Crossing (16th November 2015)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Anne Poelina | Nyikina Mangala |
| Lynette Shaw | Gooniyandi |
| Natalie Davey | Bunuba |
| Brendan Fox | Ngurrara Healthy Country Coordinator |
| Hugh James | Gooninyandi Rangers |
| Steven Heggie | Bush Heritage/Bunuba |
| Ian Perdrisat | |
| | Ngurrara Knowledge Project (Jaru/Balanajarra) |
| Cissy Gore-Birch | |
| Chantelle Murray | Walmajarri/ Gooniyandi |
| Melinda Sheppard | Bunuba Staff |
| Peter Murray | Ngurrara |
| Michael Douglas | Uni of WA/NESP Hub Leader |
| Ro Hill | CSIRO |

Kununurra (20th November 2015)

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Imran Paddy | Kija |
| Thomas Grounds | Kija Healthy Country coordinator |
| | Wilinggin Healthy Country Coordinator |
| Katherine Mitchell | |
| Ro Hill | CSIRO |

Workshops discussions

- What are some good stories about fire projects and partnerships?
- What are some of the challenges and issues you faced?
- What are the most important institutional factors for supporting good fire projects?



Successful projects, activities

- Qantas project with Balangarra, price has enabled aerial burns plus cultural work
- Ngurrara fee-for-service work with pastoralists nearby. Not much fire work in the desert.
- Bunuba getting resources from parks to be engaged in burning
- Kija – Gouldian finch project. Pastoralists asking them to come and help on Violet Valley mapping areas to burn for the finches.
- Willinggin – fire planning workshops. Start with the Elders each year and then work with the neighbours.
- Northern Kimberley TO cooperation. Chopper rotates between 4 groups. Balangara have 2 different base camps, chopper out doing comping, Rangers back at camp learning about country, fire management, cultural knowledge, fishing etc.
- Protective burn around rock art sites etc. leveraged off carbon \$
- Fire maps, scars, plans, paper, projected onto white boards
- Monitoring with remote camera, photo points, biodiversity surveys
- Fire important cross-IPA and cross-targets e.g weeds, ferals

Fire Walks (and camps)

- Fire walks really important, rangers and elders together, feels good, see different side of people, atmosphere great
- Combine with training e.g. remote navigations, Ranger Courses
- Not just fire, look at rock art, cultural sites, feral animals, weeds, native plants, animals e.g. extent of cane toad invasion only realised during fire walk.
- Finding new rock art on Fire Walks, documenting these
- Base camps for choppers for aerial burns can support fire walks
- Need big chopper to fit senior custodians, and fire managers.
- Management of cultural sites with fire involves lots of stuff:
 - Transmission of cultural knowledge – way they used to burn in the past, stories for country, important sites to protect, language
 - Why they doing it, for bush tucker and stuff, reasons behind it.
 - Pride that prevents suicide and social problems
 - Environmental benefits
 - Helps control feral animals like cats, weed management
 - Protection of habitat for animals

Challenges and issues

- Current price for carbon farming below break-even
- Bigger chopper needed to combine cultural, on-ground and aerial burning is expensive
- Being able to put a \$ figure on multiple benefit outcomes from fire
- Measuring carbon – carbon offset-reporting
- Fires have to be fought when there is a potential when threats to carbon credits, grass for cattle, buildings, tourists
- Working with Remote Jobs Community Program to establish an emergency fire fighting crew
- Rangers have helped pastoralists with late emergency fire control
- Pastoralists get reimbursed by FESA for fire control activities, but then they don't pay the rangers
- Currently works through “hybrid economy” e.g. money from carbon market, government funding of rangers, IPA – carbon not enough

Challenges and issues

- Roads - pastoral lessees trying to stop people driving through their station to exclusive possession native title land
- Air – new mail plane contract doesn't allow people on the plane, used to be fairly cheap way to get around
- Licences – State asking TOs to get an additional licences, claiming
- Tenures – fragmentation of landscape, hard to conduct a burning program
- Boundaries – cooperation with pastoralists around fires crossing boundaries, but not Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW)
- New WA legislation - restricting burning on conservation lands to DPaW, can't burn according to customary practices, even when rangers are involved, even under joint management
- Some non-indigenous groups trying to lock TOs out of rock art sites
- Some burning slip-ups by TOs – fire crossing into tourist area, minor infrastructure burnt
- Southern fires increased risk-avoidance - unintended consequences e.g. no permits for fires on high winds in wet when easiest managed

Institutions for success

- Tenure that supports TO fire practices e.g. exclusive possession over ALT lands
- Measurements of carbon outcomes *plus* co-benefits, cultural, individual well-being
- Price that pays for co-benefits e.g. big enough chopper to support Fire Walks
- Cultural institutions, language, practices, sites, traditional indicators like emus, abundance of bush tucker, cultural resources e.g. books, recording knowledge
- Research partnerships to support new methodologies and measurements
- Kimberley-specific guidelines for fire permits, matched to local conditions
- Fire emergency control crews being available

“Knowing where cultural sites are, maintaining connection by being there, knowing stories, cleaning vegetation around them, burning around them”

Knx Workshop

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