Reporting Back – Kimberley Workshops Fire Discussions

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

Facilitated by Ro Hill (CSIRO)
## Kimberley Workshops

### Fitzroy Crossing (16th November 2015)

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<td>Anne Poelina</td>
<td>Nyikina Mangala</td>
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<td>Lynette Shaw</td>
<td>Gooniyandi</td>
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<td>Natalie Davey</td>
<td>Bunuba</td>
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<td>Brendan Fox</td>
<td>Ngurrara Healthy Country Coordinator</td>
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<td>Hugh James</td>
<td>Gooninyandi Rangers</td>
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<td>Steven Heggie</td>
<td>Bush Heritage/Bunuba</td>
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<td>Ian Perdrisat</td>
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<td>Cissy Gore-Birch</td>
<td>Ngurrara Knowledge Project (Jaru/Balanajarra)</td>
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<td>Chantelle Murray</td>
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<td>Melinda Sheppard</td>
<td>Bunuba Staff</td>
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<td>Peter Murray</td>
<td>Ngurrara</td>
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<td>Michael Douglas</td>
<td>Uni of WA/NESP Hub Leader</td>
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### Kununurra (20th November 2015)

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<tr>
<td>Imran Paddy</td>
<td>Kija</td>
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<td>Thomas Grounds</td>
<td>Kija Healthy Country coordinator</td>
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<td>Katherine Mitchell</td>
<td>Wilinggin Healthy Country Coordinator</td>
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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 Balanggarra, 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. Balanggara 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 plans, 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*
This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government’s National Environmental Science Programme.

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