



Call for case studies to develop *Our Knowledge, Our Way* Guidelines

A new set of guidelines, *Our Knowledge, Our Way Guidelines*, are being developed as a resource for Indigenous land managers to learn from others about issues and options for bringing Indigenous knowledge into environmental management and economic development. A secondary audience for the guidelines is the partners of Indigenous land managers, including those in co-management arrangements.

The development of the guidelines is Indigenous-driven. The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) and CSIRO have received funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program and the project team is being guided by an Indigenous-majority Steering Group. The Australian Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) is supporting the project through the engagement of its national networks and facilitating international exposure when completed.



Rangers across Northern Australia gathered at the Kimberley Ranger Forum in 2017 explained how cultural connections through dance, language and family are vital to their sense of comfort and ability to grow and learn from peer-to-peer exchanges and one-on-one interactions at such gatherings.

Why are these guidelines important?

Indigenous peoples have responsibility for management of large areas of land and sea across Australia. They also hold an enormous stake in ensuring a sustainable future for their communities and natural and cultural environments. Indigenous land managers draw on their knowledge to make management decisions on a daily basis, including running businesses and enterprises based on natural resources. There is also increasing interest from non-Indigenous people in Indigenous knowledge as a management tool. The way in which knowledges are shared is therefore important.

We seek your help in understanding what 'our knowledge, our way' means

To inform these guidelines, the project team is seeking case studies from across the country. These case studies will be used to help highlight what Indigenous groups believe have worked for them. The guidelines will be created by combining the case studies with background information on the importance of 'our knowledge, our way', how knowledge is being recognised and used in Australia and internationally, and potential policy that can support 'our knowledge, our way'. It is expected that draft guidelines will be available in 2019.



Dja Dja Wurrung People of central Victoria are bringing back Wi (cultural fires) onto their Djandak (Country), and have established a monitoring point to record changes using both Indigenous and scientific knowledge.

As part of this learning we are seeking your involvement to identify case studies where:

- Indigenous people are using their Indigenous and traditional knowledge to care for their country, including in the development of business opportunities and enterprises
- Indigenous people have experienced positive engagement and good outcomes when their Indigenous knowledge has been brought into co-management or research projects
- Indigenous people and their knowledge have been treated the right way when engaging with others (government, NGOs, researchers, industry, etc)
- Indigenous land managers share lessons learned about knowledge-sharing
- Indigenous land managers identify the conditions under which good knowledge sharing can occur.

Developing the guidelines will initially involve a 2-step process

First step: We want to hear from people who are happy to share their ideas and experience, no matter how small. Many Indigenous land managers will have an experience that can contribute to this project – the more people that are involved, the more useful we can make the guidelines to land managers. We also want to hear from non-Indigenous partners (NGOs, government agencies, etc) who'd like to co-develop a case study with one or more of their Indigenous partners.

Second step: Once you send us an email we will get in contact with you and find the best way for you to tell your story or provide your ideas and experiences.

To be part of this important project please send an email to one of the project partners:

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Indigenous-led publications about Indigenous knowledge.

Background to *Our Knowledge, Our Way Guidelines*

The project 'Knowledge brokering for Indigenous land management' seeks to support improved Indigenous land management and decision-making. The project is co-led between CSIRO and NAILSMA. Together, these organisations design and test culturally tailored knowledge brokering methods and tools, and facilitate the sharing of these through a pan-northern Indigenous knowledge network.

The project is governed through a Steering Committee made up of representatives from Indigenous organisations across northern

Australia. The Steering Committee decided that the development of knowledge brokering guidelines, developed by and for Indigenous land managers, could be a useful tool for supporting Indigenous knowledge to be applied in land and sea management, alongside science and other knowledge. The ACIUCN was approached, and together the decision was made to create a set of guidelines, *Our Knowledge Our Way*, that aligned with an ongoing series of other ACIUCN guidelines (see www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications/guidelines).



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