



Reclaiming Indigenous knowledge in land and sea management

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The Second Indigenous Knowledge Forum (IKF2): Comparative Systems for Recognising and Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Culture

3 October 2014

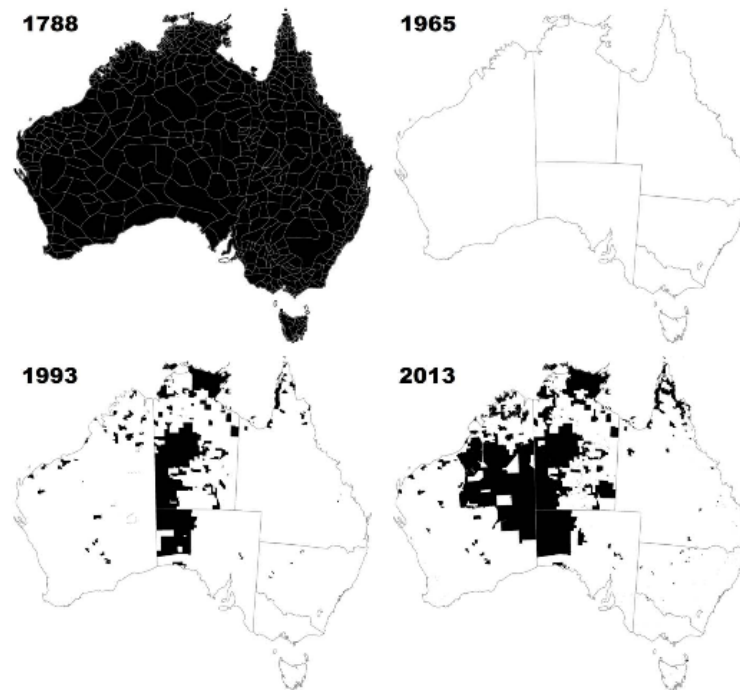
Common issues so far...

- Community control and access protocols
- Communal and individual rights
- Ownership and accountability
- Future applications of Indigenous knowledges

Outline

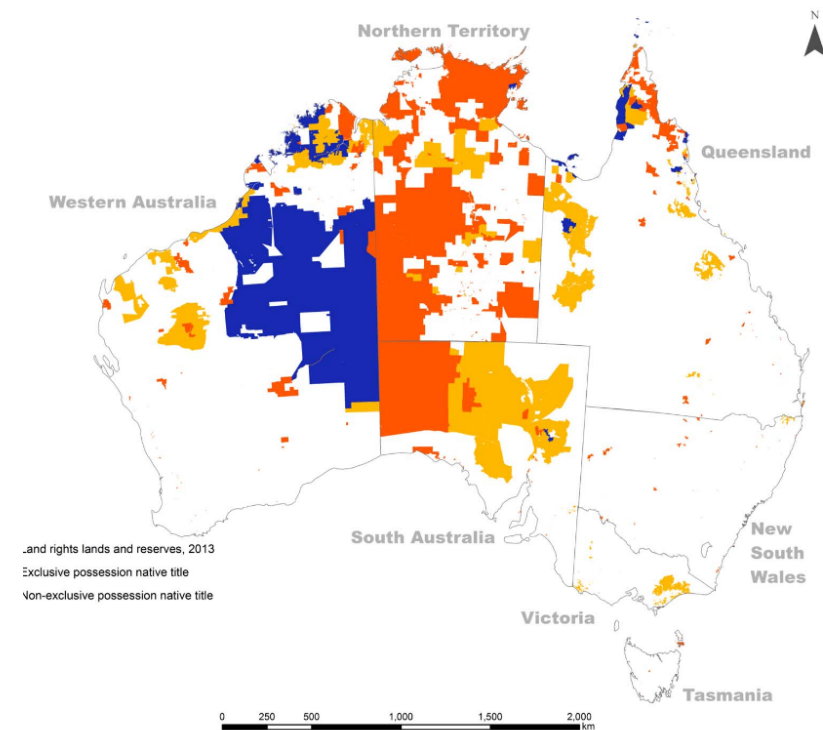
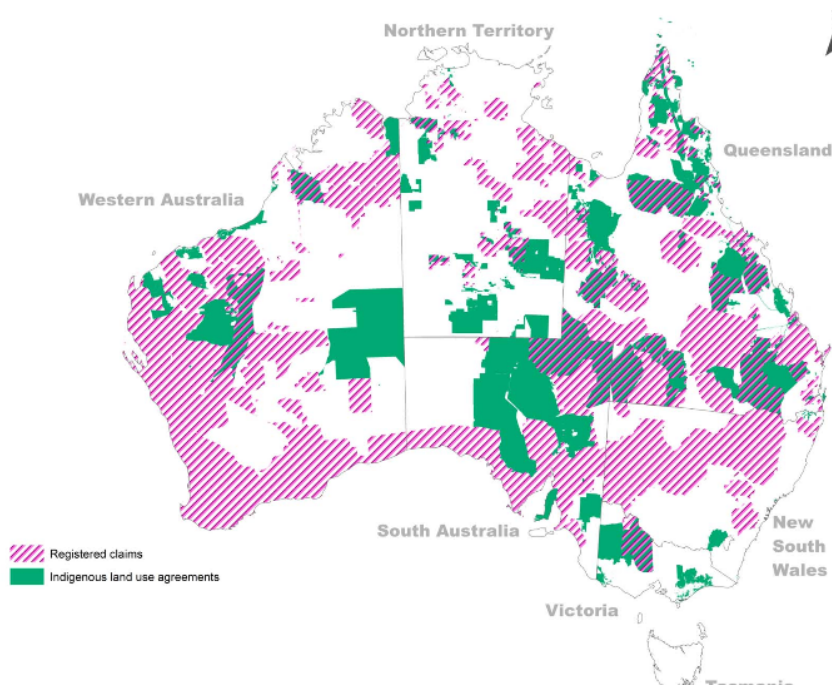
- The context of Indigenous land and sea management
- Indigenous cultural materials – historical, present and future
- Research processes and protocols
- Examples of Indigenous community archives

The context of Indigenous land and sea management



Source: Altman, J & Markham, F 2013, Value mapping Indigenous lands: An exploration of development possibilities, Alice Springs, 3-5 June 2013.

The context of Indigenous land and sea management



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The context of Indigenous land and sea management

- What is Indigenous land and sea management (ILSM)?

From Hill et al 2013: Indigenous land and sea management, also referred to as 'caring for country', includes a wide range of:

- environmental,
- natural resource and
- cultural heritage management activities

undertaken by individuals, groups and organisations across Australia for:

- customary,
- community,
- conservation and
- commercial reasons.

These activities have their **origins in the holistic relationships** between traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies and their customary land and sea estates—or 'country'—that have evolved over at least 50 000 years.

Increasing formal involvement of Indigenous peoples was highlighted in the 2011 Australia—state of the environment report as one of four standout trends in environmental management over the past decade.

These formal roles mean Indigenous land management (ILM) **requires cross-cultural engagement with non-Indigenous land management and managers.**



The context of Indigenous land and sea management

- What does ILSM involve?
 - Fire management
 - Water management
 - Controlling invasive species (weeds, feral animals)
 - Ensuring biosecurity
 - Monitoring endangered species



The context of Indigenous land and sea management

- Why is it different to other forms of land and sea management?
 - Consistent priority for traditional owners (Tran, Stacey and McGrath 2013)
 - Culturally embedded priorities
 - Knowledge and focus interlinked with relationships to land and waters
 - Creates opportunities for cultural transmission
 - Interlinked with health and wellbeing
 - Best match for holistic aspirations

Indigenous cultural materials

- Mapping the ILSM “effort”
 - Laws, customs and traditional owners identified over 22 per cent of Australia via native title
 - Corporations and representative organisations formed from Indigenous land tenures
 - Collaborative management opportunities
 - Cultural transmission and recording
 - Language revival



Indigenous cultural materials

- ILSM has generated a volume of Indigenous knowledges from:
 - The native title and land rights claim process (e.g. connection reports)
 - Heritage legislation (heritage assessment reports)
 - Research (collaborations with universities to produce ethnobiological reports)
 - iTracker and other GPS management systems
 - Environmental monitoring and compliance



Negotiating research

- With who?
 - Existing Indigenous governance arrangements (e.g. Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, land management organisations)
 - Nominated representatives (e.g. directors)
 - Meeting protocols (e.g. AGMs)

Negotiating research

- How?
 - Negotiated research priorities
 - Negotiated research agreements
 - Communal with governance structure
 - Individual for interviewees, community researchers
 - Self nomination from hierarchy for access and storage

Research Agreement: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Joint Management Project

This document seeks the consent of the Matuwa and Kurarra Kurarra traditional owners, represented by the Matuwa and Kurarra Kurarra Working Group to participate in an AIATSIS Action Research Partnership.

All aspects of this document are open to negotiation.

The Parties

This Research Agreement is an agreement between the Matuwa and Kurarra Kurarra Working Group (the working group) and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

1. Specified Personnel

The research will be carried out by Tran Tran, Gabrielle Lauder and Bhiame Williams (the researchers) who are employees of AIATSIS. The researcher(s) will be subject to the rules governing Res

Attachment F: Interviewee Consent Form

INFORMED CONSENT Agreement for Interview

Date: _____
Place: _____
Interviewer: _____
Contact details: _____
Researcher: _____
Contact details: _____

This is a binding agreement between the interviewee and the researcher named above. ☐
The following points are agreed:

- My interests in the Matuwa (Lorne Olin) and Kurarra Kurarra (Bhiame Williams) co-management area are represented by the Matuwa and Kurarra Kurarra Working Group
- The Matuwa and Kurarra Kurarra Working Group has indicated its agreement to enter into an action research partnership with AIATSIS.
- This research is for the AIATSIS joint management project, which is looking at the how traditional owners and government make shared decisions about how to manage country in the project area (next 24 months).
- Copyright of the content of the interview remains with the interviewee.
- Permission is given to the researcher to use words and information contained in this interview in the form of direct quotes, paraphrasing, and the formulating of concepts and arguments.
- Acknowledgement will be given to the interviewee in written materials where relevant.
- The interviewee is free to stop the interview and/or withdraw consent to this agreement.
- A copy of this agreement will be provided to the interviewee.

For the interviewee, please tick:
I give my permission for:

	Yes	No
• my name to be included in the research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the researcher to take notes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the interview to be tape or video recorded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the researcher to take photos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the interview is recorded, I give permission for:

	Yes	No
• copies of the tape to be lodged with:		
Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
QIA AIATSIS archives for anyone to listen to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
QIA AIATSIS archives for only the following people to listen to:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
• copies of photographs to be lodged with:		
Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
QIA AIATSIS archives for anyone to listen to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
QIA AIATSIS archives for only the following people to listen to:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Negotiating research

- Maintaining the relationship
 - Communication
 - Return of recordings, photos
 - Shared publications and community reporting
 - Resources?

Examples of community archives

- Community archives
 - Based where rangers are located (potentially remote)
 - Easy community access and control
 - Lacks access to resources
 - Not always secure
 - Trust based organisation



- **Regional archives**

- Held within a regional land management body (e.g. Native Title Representative Body, Local Aboriginal Land Council or Aboriginal corporation)
- Easy community access and control
- May lack access to resources
- May lack ability to enforce strict access protocols



- National archives
 - Held within a national body (e.g. AIATSIS)
 - Community access and control
 - ‘Backup’ of community archives
 - International standards of preservation and recording



Conclusions but more questions...

- Policy and legislation needs to catch up to best practice (contracts in the meantime?)
- Pocketed legal regimes - require looking for the best combination of artificial matches with cultural priorities
- Sui generis nature of rights and interests – creates further dismissal or greater protection?
- Funding and resources?



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References

- Altman, J & Markham, F 2013, Value mapping Indigenous lands: An exploration of development possibilities, Alice Springs, 3-5 June 2013.
- Hill, R, Pert, PL, Davies, J, Robinson, CJ, Walsh, F & Falco-Mammone, F 2013, *Indigenous Land Management in Australia: Extent, Scope, Diversity, Barriers and Success Factors*, CSIRO Ecosystem Services, Cairns.
- Tran, T, Stacey, C & McGrath, P 2013, *Background Report on Prescribed Bodies Corporate Aspirations*, Deloitte Access Economics for the FaHCSIA Review of Native Title Organisations, April 2013.