



First Nations
AMRA

OUR FUTURE OUR HANDS

Presented by: Dr. Donna Odegaard AM — Chairperson AMRA



www.amra.net.au



Meet Our Global Team



Global Indigenous Relations
Martina Hazelbane



Chairperson / CEO
Dr Donna Odegaard AM
Global Relations Lead



Senior Elder and Board Member
Christine Atkins



First Nations
AMRA

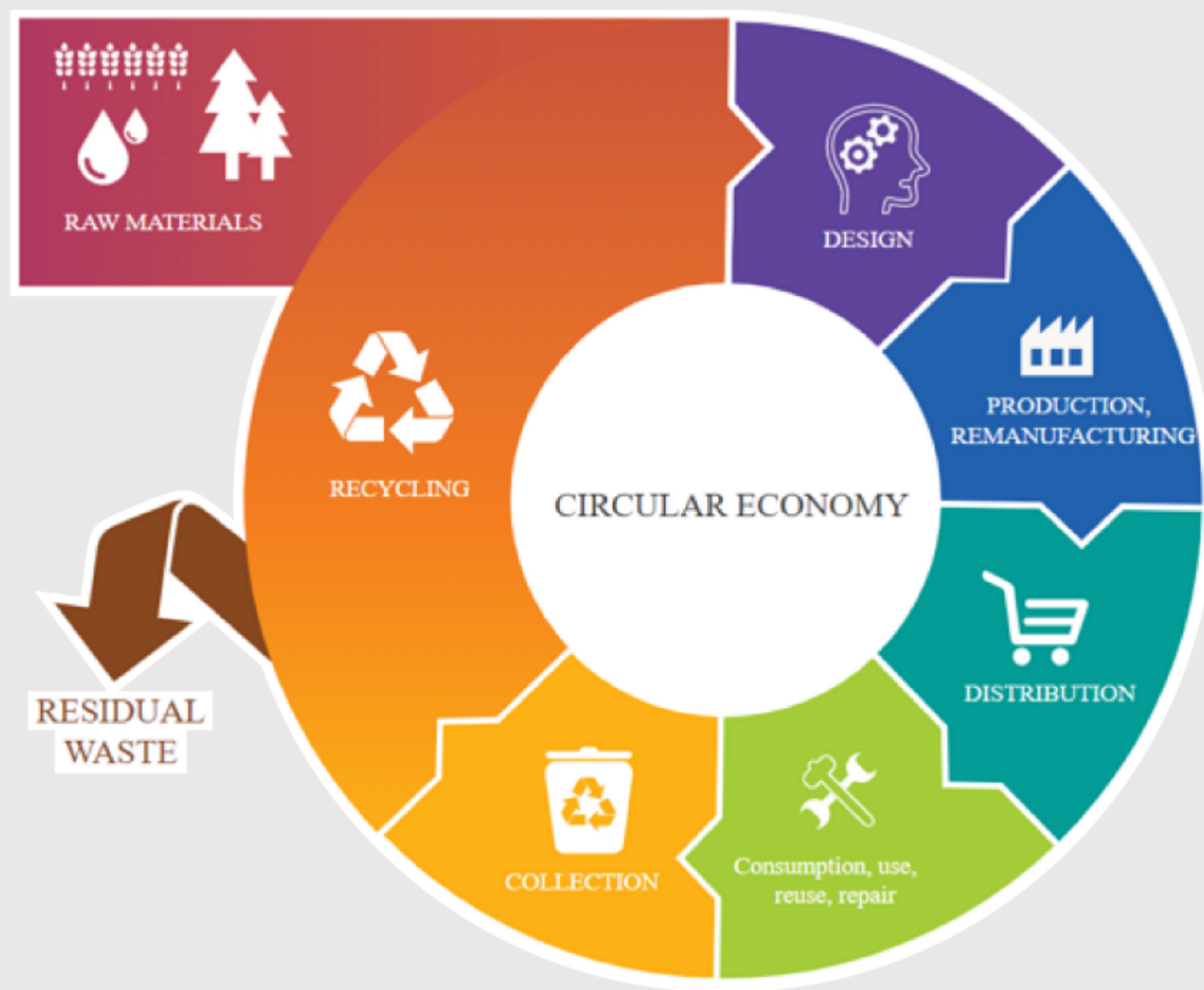
Transitioning to a Global Green Economy:

Why First Nations leadership is essential

- First Nations peoples have a unique understanding of the natural environment gained over tens of thousands of years and have developed sustainable practices that align and support the principles of a green economy, such as circular economies, conservation, and responsible resource management.
- First Nations peoples across the globe have been the Subject Matter Experts on the development and implementation of sustainable practices and circular economies for thousands of years and these deeply rooted traditional knowledges will underpin the effective transition to a scalable and sustainable global circular economy as we head towards 2040 and beyond.
- By valuing Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, protecting Indigenous rights, ensuring meaningful participation and ensuring equitable benefit sharing, the transition to a global green economy can be achieved in a way that is inclusive, just and sustainable for all.

Back to the Future:

First Nations circular economic practices



Circular economic systems are modern adaptations of traditional First Nations principles that aim to create closed-loop systems in which resources are reused, recycled, and regenerated.

These economies are based on the principles of efficiency, resource productivity, and environmental sustainability.

Circular economies aim to reduce waste, conserve natural resources, and minimize the environmental impact of economic activities. They also focus on creating economic opportunities and jobs through the development of new business models, technologies, and products.



First Nations
AMRA

Global issues need global solutions

The lack of access to clean drinking water presents significant social and economic impact costs to the global economy. According to the World Health Organization, 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, leading to waterborne diseases that cause 485,000 deaths each year.

We have First Nations led solutions to solve these issues right now!

www.amra.net.au

Immediate Opportunities:

First Nations led solutions that are available right NOW



Circular bio-remediation water & soil remediation technologies

Carbon Farming

Renewable Energy Solutions - Scalable solar and battery solutions

Small Scale to Community Grid scale

Tailing Dam and Toxic Water decontaminations

Heavy Metal harvesting, removal, and recovery

Scalable water decontaminations solutions

Environmental remediations - Heavy Metal,
PFAS, PFOS, Biological contaminations

AGRI-TECH soil recovery and soil
productivity enhancements through bio-tech

Water decontamination technologies - small scale,
large scale, household, off-grid

Global partnership and collaborations:

First Nations Transnational Centre for Environmental Excellence (FN - TCEE)



Establishment of a First Nations Transnational Centre for Environmental Excellence:

- A First Nations Transnational Centre for Environmental Excellence (FN-TCEE) to be established to support and facilitate global First Nations leadership in environmental research, remediation partnerships, investment in circular environmental remediation technologies, facilitate renewable energy technology adoption by first nations peoples and other circular economy based investments.

Alignment with the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):

- The FN-TCEE will be guided by the principles and provisions of the UNDRIP, which recognizes the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, including their rights to own, control, protect, and develop their lands, territories, and resources. In accordance with the UNDRIP, the FN-TCEE will be committed, and positioned, to promoting and protecting the rights of First Nations peoples in relation to the environment and natural resources.



First Nations Transnational Centre for Environmental Excellence (FN - TCEE)

Alignment with UN SDG's

FN – TCEE Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The FN-TCEE will also align with the UN SDGs, with specific alignment to:

- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life On Land

The FN-TCEE strategic aim will be to directly contribute to these goals by promoting sustainable environmental practices and technologies, reducing environmental degradation and pollution, enable access to clean drinking water and by supporting the conservation and restoration of ecosystems.



First Nations
AMRA



First Nations Transnational Centre for Environmental Excellence (FN - TCEE)

Strategic Objectives of the FN - TCEE



The strategic objectives of the FN-TCEE will be as follows:

- To support First Nations led environmental research, including the development and alignments of scientific and traditional knowledges related to the environment, environmental remediation practices and development of circular economic systems.
- To support First Nations-led environmental remediation partnerships, including the cleanup of contaminated sites and the restoration of damaged ecosystems.
- To support and facilitate First Nations investments in environmental remediation projects, including the development of sustainable and innovative solutions for widespread environmental contamination issues.
- To support First Nations-led innovation in environmental technology development, including the development of new technologies and practices for environmental conservation and restoration.
- To support and facilitate First Nations leadership in the areas of environmental academic research, environmental policy development and cross-sectoral research collaborations and partnerships.



First Nations
AMRA

Next Steps.....

AMRA is actively looking for partners and First Nations leaders whom we can collaborate with to deliver environmental remediation outcomes, drive innovation, develop new partnerships and to advance the FN – TCEE initiative as well.

Email us at: connect@amra.net.au or donna.odegaard@amra.net.au

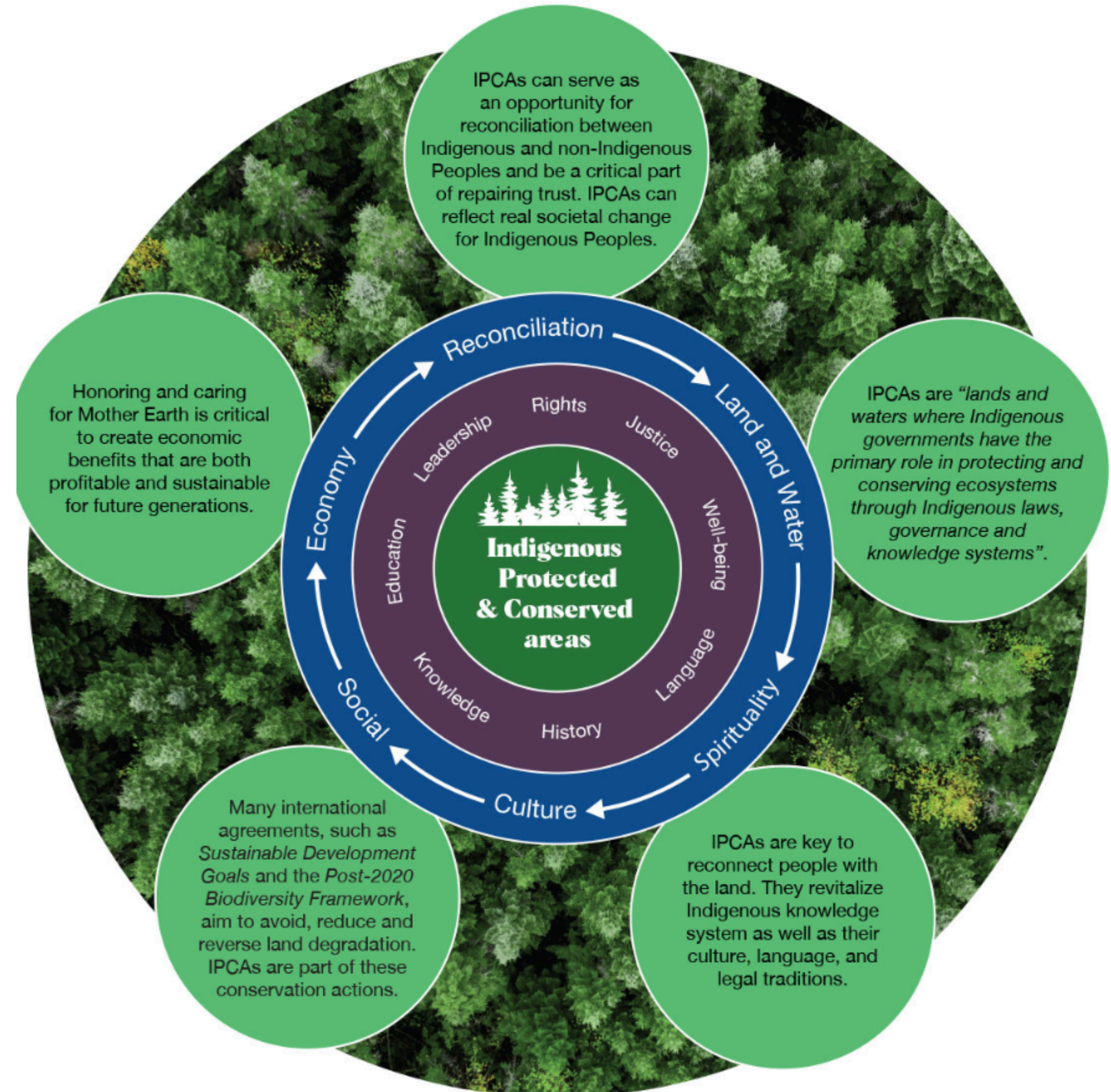
The future is in our hands - let's be the change we want to see!

www.amra.net.au



Canada and Australia

- Heal our Country, heal our people is a Global Indigenous-led movement - In Australia the Caring for Country campaign influenced our land claims, Ranger Programs, Land and Sea Country management
- Shared knowledge, shared values since time immemorial - Dreamtime, Ancestors and Oral History
- Indigenous led conservation and remediation of our land and sea Country is crucial for well-being of our people
- Climate Change, environmental conservation and remediation and water purification
- Indigenous women - led environmental initiatives, innovation and technology is growing in expertise
- Indigenous Global Alliance



KEY FINDINGS OF ‘THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT’

(Australian Government Report 2021)

The health of Country and Indigenous people are deeply interconnected

There is a deep interconnection between the health of Country and the health of Indigenous people. Healthy country means healthy people – and if people are healthy, they can look after Country. Mainstream management decisions that disconnect people from Country have a negative impact on health and wellbeing.

Indigenous peoples care for Country as kin

- Indigenous knowledge and sustainable cultural practice are key to environmental management. Indigenous peoples’ stewardship of Country is a deep connection, passed down through the generations and developed over tens of thousands of years. It involves songlines, totems, cultural principles, knowledge of the animals and plants, and land and sea management practices.
- Indigenous knowledge of Country and management practices provide a valuable approach for caring for the environment for all Australians. As Indigenous peoples’ lands and seas are returned to their care, so are cultural management practices. This has had good results. Indigenous Australians are the first scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians (STEM), and many respectful and reciprocal collaborations with other scientists are shaping a pathway for our nation’s future.

Self-determination is key

- There is much more to be done to enable Indigenous people to apply their knowledge, manage their Country and exercise their rights of self-determination, which can help restore the Australian environment and Indigenous wellbeing. Indigenous-led and governed caring for Country, undertaken via holistic and long-term programs, is key to future success.
- Indigenous cultural principles must be prioritised if we are to have healthy Country and people. Cultural principles need greater recognition in environmental management and development approvals where other values such as economic goals often override cultural principles. Indigenous heritage laws are not effectively focused on Indigenous cultural principles and fail to adequately protect Country, enabling destruction and harm of Country through inadequate consent processes.
- Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP) rights are important for protecting knowledge rights and practice management. Australian intellectual property laws do not effectively recognise Indigenous ICIP rights. Protocols have become an important means to recognise ICIP in the absence of law. Some Australian states have developed biodiscovery laws, but Indigenous people express that these are not effective, and there is no consistency nationally. Indigenous people call for new laws for the protection of ICIP to enable free, prior informed consent and mutual benefits. The Nagoya Protocol – Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provide an international foundation to recognise Indigenous knowledge rights.

Indigenous voices must be heard

- Since the beginning of colonisation – a circumstance that continues today – Indigenous peoples have faced many challenges in exercising their stewardship of Country. While Indigenous stewardship is widely recognised in national and international laws, including in the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act), the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, practical application is still marginalised in mainstream environmental management. This marginalisation has impacted all aspects of Country, the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and Indigenous people's wellbeing. As a nation, Australia can benefit greatly from using Indigenous knowledge in environmental management practices, and from enabling Indigenous people to care for Country.
- Land rights and native title have enabled recognition of some Indigenous rights across 57% of Australia's lands. Nevertheless, native title is not a full recognition of the connections between customary and nation-state laws as regards caring for Country. Approaches that focus on Indigenous self-determination and empowering Indigenous peoples are needed. Current laws, policies and management approaches continue modes of colonialism and are inherently limited in their ability to wholly support Indigenous self-determination.
- Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are growing and make up nearly half of Australia's National Reserve System, delivering multiple conservation, socio-economic and cultural benefits. However, there is a strong need for capability, governance and adequate resourcing, and the government needs to respect and support Indigenous agency and control: economic, social and cultural. There is a need to factor in the varied Indigenous estates that include land and sea Country beyond IPAs.
- The efforts of Indigenous rangers deliver environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes of benefit to Indigenous people and Australia more broadly. Security of funding and increased resourcing is critical to empower people to get back to, and to look after, Country. Collecting, storing and sharing information about the environment is also a significant emerging area in the management of Country. It is critical to respect Indigenous data sovereignty through cultural protocols such as the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance.

Global Indigenous Alliance

- UNDRIP
- Indigenous - Led Environmental Services
- Conservation and Remediation
- Climate Change
- Environment
- Closing the Gap
- Environmental, Social, Economic, Well-Being Framework



Uncle Moogie (Major Sumner, Ngarrindjerri Elder, Authority Healer and Cultural Leader “Heal Country, Heal Our People”)