

Side event

Collaborative Governance of Protected Areas in Australia

IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014,
Monday 17 November 2014, 18:30 – 21:30, Hall 4A2

The side event will be facilitated by Melissa George and Dr Dermot Smyth who will also provide a historical and national overview of collaborative management of protected areas in Australia. The event will also involve framing talks by traditional owners and state and federal government representatives, followed by group discussions and feedback.

Key themes for discussion include:

- Resourcing and capacity
- Models and structures of collaborative management
- Youth engagement and learning on country
- Sustainable partnerships- what is the future sustainability of the arrangements in place?
- Land access and tenure

TIME	EVENT
18:30 – 19:00 (30 mins)	Welcome and statement of side event purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Permissions for recording workshop <p><i>National and historical overview</i> (Melissa George and Dermot Smyth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What has been the governance journey to date?• What were the first arrangements for collaborative management and how have they evolved in different communities and regions?• How has the community based model of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) emerged?
19:00 – 19:30 (30 mins)	Experience and issues throughout Australia <i>Group plenary discussions</i>
19:30 – 20:30 (60 mins)	Framing talks and Q and A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Australia's Indigenous Protected Areas</i> (Karman Lippitt and Marcus Sandford)• <i>Partnerships in New South Wales</i> (Maxine Walker and Petrice Manton)• <i>Customary activities as a mechanism for facilitating collaborative management in the South West of Western Australia</i> (Peter Sharp)• <i>Private sector partnerships in the Desert</i> (Peter See and Chantelle Murray)
20:30 – 21:00 (30 mins)	Panel session - identifying the ways forward Final panel sessions to draw together framing talks and identify ways forward

Come ready to talk about what has been going on in your country!

The workshop side event is open to all delegates.
Please register your interest with sideevent@aiatsis.gov.au

Session co-leaders:



Department of
Parks and Wildlife
Western Australian Herbarium



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



Kimberley
Land Council



Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet

Framing talks

National and historical overview (Melissa George and Dermot Smyth)

Melissa and Dermot will present on the origins of collaborative governance in Australian protected areas arising from Indigenous land rights in the 1970s and the development of collaborative management models in different Australian jurisdictions, each attempting to balance the interests of Traditional Owners with the interests of conservation and the general public. They will also talk about the development of the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) on Indigenous owned land beginning in late 1990s and now contributing about 40 per cent of the national protected area estate. This evolution of the IPA concept will be explored in the context of multi tenure, country based IPAs that can incorporate existing national parks and marine parks, providing an alternative, non-legislative pathway to collaborative governance of protected areas on land and sea.

Australia's Indigenous Protected Areas (Karman Lippitt and Marcus Sandford)

IPAs are voluntarily established by Indigenous groups on Indigenous owned or jointly managed land or sea country; then recognised by the Australian Government as being part of the National Reserve System. IPAs management plans describe how traditional knowledge combines with contemporary western science to promote a sensible balance between conservation and other uses to promote social and economic benefits for local communities. Recent IPAs illustrate the evolution from a management framework based on Indigenous land tenure to one based more broadly on 'whole of-country' planning involving multiple tenures (including sea country) and cooperative management arrangements. The Girringun IPA is an outstanding example of this new direction for Australian IPAs.

Partnerships in New South Wales (Maxine Walker and Petrice Manton)

The NSW Aboriginal Park Partnerships presentation will draw on a diverse range of experiences and outcomes from the range of NSW partnerships established between the Aboriginal Communities and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. These partnerships, including jointly managed national parks, promote and support Aboriginal Peoples' in caring for country, maintaining and protecting culture and nurturing each other. They acknowledge the natural and cultural importance of the national parks estate to Aboriginal Peoples' as part of their country. They support Aboriginal Peoples' to sustain culture and realise social and economic benefits for today and future. The presentation will discuss how and why these partnerships are relevant for today, what has been achieved and what is needed over the next ten years.

Customary activities as a mechanism for facilitating collaborative management in the South West of Western Australia (Peter Sharp)

The Department of Parks and Wildlife has made significant changes to legislation relating to the involvement of Aboriginal people on land and water managed by the Department in recognition of Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the lands and waters with continuing cultural, spiritual and social connections to the land and waters it manages. The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) and various regulations were amended in December 2012 to enable Aboriginal people to undertake certain activities for customary purposes on reserves and other lands. These changes recognise Aboriginal connection to lands, and will enable Aboriginal people to become more involved in managing land and using parks and reserves for customary activities. They will help the department build strong relationships with Aboriginal people and provide opportunities to resolve native title.

Private sector partnerships in the Desert (Peter See and Chantelle Murray)

Ngurrara rangers have been using their seasonal calendar to facilitate a two way learning project sponsored by Shell. Chantelle Murray is the Ngurrara Womens Ranger Coordinator working on this project with schools and young women. The project is aimed at understanding the water systems within the Great Sandy Desert which will assist Ngurrara Traditional Owners to make informed decisions about the management and use of country. Schools kids and youth are engaged in two way learning, exploring scientific and Traditional Knowledge understandings of country. Peter will discuss the experiences of Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa in leveraging private sector partnerships to support Martu land management.