



OUTPUT GROUP 1

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT

1.1 PERMITS

1.2 LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

OUTPUT 1.1

PERMITS

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The permit system is authorised by section 73 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) and contained within the *Aboriginal Land Act* (NT). The system provides all visitors, workers and researchers with a system of regulated access to Aboriginal land which is administered by the land councils. The CLC offers entry, transit, media (news-of-the-day), mining and special purpose permits.

In 2007 amendments were made to the system so permits are not required for public areas in main communities. Notwithstanding those amendments, permits to visit Aboriginal land outside community 'common areas' are still required. However, as traditional owners requested, many visitors to communities are still applying for permits to areas where permits are not required, i.e. in public or 'common areas', and the CLC has issued 390 entry permits to such areas this year. Visitors apply for permits in communities because they wish to have peace of mind about the consent of the residents, and the CLC appreciates the goodwill shown in this area by members of the public.

Nonetheless, the CLC is concerned that the dilution of the permit system has led to an assumption by the public that they are free to visit Aboriginal land outside communities as well. Traditional landowners are particularly concerned that uninvited visitors may be responsible for theft of equipment (most commonly solar panels and bore equipment) and damage to sacred sites. The permit system administered by the CLC does ensure that all the traditional owners are in agreement about access to their country rather than just one or two.

Protecting cultural and environmental heritage

Permits also have a role to play in environmental protection by minimising the impact on Aboriginal land. The CLC has referred two serious cases of unauthorised access to the police for prosecution. One involved unauthorised access to Lake Amadeus, which is a significant sacred site. Motorbike riders were responsible for significant degradation of the lake's surface and the resulting visual impact. The other incident involved uncontrolled access to the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal

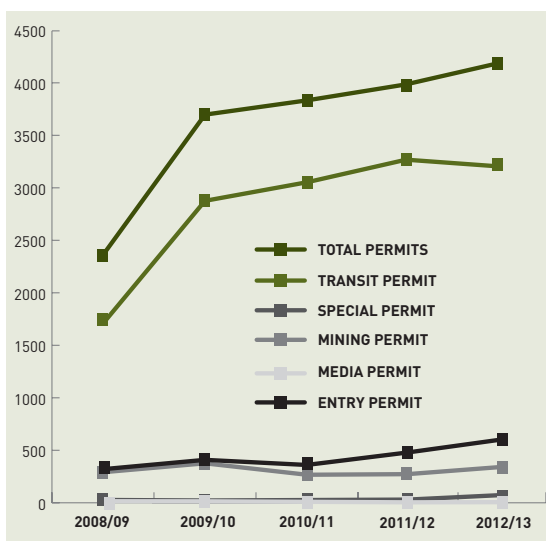
Land Trust associated with the 2011 irruption in the population of the endangered princess parrot and the possibility of criminal behaviour in relation to the illegal bird trade.

Special purpose permits

Considerable resources are expended by the CLC on special purpose permits. This year these have involved consultations and successful negotiations regarding films, cycle races across Aboriginal land, academic research, fauna surveys and private tourist visits. In line with new Northern Territory legislation, the CLC now requires an Ochre Card to be produced with the permit application if access could require contact with children.

Achievements

| PERMITS ISSUED | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Entry permits | 302 | 438 | 390 | 453 | 594 |
| Media permits | 15 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| Mining permits | 299 | 372 | 273 | 270 | 349 |
| Special permits | 26 | 23 | 32 | 36 | 38 |
| Transit permits | 1,808 | 2,908 | 3,079 | 3,232 | 3,211 |
| Total permits | 2,450 | 3,755 | 3,779 | 3,997 | 4,194 |



OUTPUT 1.2

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Traditional owners are assisted to manage their land and natural resources in a sustainable manner.

In the Central Land Council's region of 776,549 square kilometres, more than 400,000 square kilometres is owned by traditional owners as Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The CLC's constituents also live under a number of different land tenure arrangements within the region, besides Aboriginal freehold land, including townships, Community Living Areas and pastoral leases.

While the land continues to be of immense cultural and spiritual significance to its Aboriginal owners, much of it is arid or semi-arid with few surface waters. It is ecologically fragile, remote and often inaccessible. Much of the land is unsuitable, or only marginally suitable, for pastoralism.

The region contains natural environments of national significance. Not only are these areas often dynamic cultural landscapes, but they support many of Australia's most threatened species and have high conservation values. However, there are a number of complex and difficult management issues facing Aboriginal landowners in Central Australia, including the impacts of weed management, feral animal control, fire management, mineral exploration and mining, tourism, and other threats to biodiversity conservation.

One of the CLC's main objectives is to build the on-ground capacity of traditional landowners to deal with the challenges and opportunities involved in the management of their country. This approach ensures that core environmental and cultural values are protected and managed, community development is advanced and progress is made towards more economically viable futures. The CLC's programs endeavour to facilitate this through providing skilled ranger groups, entering partnerships with other agencies, by securing and acquitting project funding, and through supporting

the maintenance of cultural practices and the inter-generational transfer of knowledge.

There are a number of key programs which form the basis of the CLC's approach. Fire management, feral animal and weed control, biodiversity and conservation projects, cultural heritage and the facilitation of Indigenous Protected Areas form part of our land management work throughout the region. Our ranger groups, tourism projects, joint management of national parks, employment and rural enterprise projects are dedicated programs applied in specific areas.

Good planning, advocacy and evaluation ensure that the CLC's significant successes in these critical areas are continued.

OUT OF POVERTY AND INTO WORK: THE CLC RANGER PROGRAM

Since its inception, this program has been an outstanding success and competition for places within it is intense.

There are now 10 established community ranger groups operating across the CLC region, with 91 rangers and 16 supporting staff employed across the program under funding agreements with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) Working on Country (WoC) Program and the Indigenous Land Corporation's (ILC's) Real Jobs Program. After four years of operation under a consolidated funding model, the groups within the CLC Ranger Program are now viewed as a significant provider of on-country employment for Aboriginal people living in remote communities in the CLC region.

RANGER GROUP

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Munguru Munguru Rangers | Daguragu |
| Wulain Rangers | Lajamanu |
| Warlpiri Rangers | Yuendumu, Nyirripi and Willowra |
| Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers | Tennant Creek |
| Anmatyerr Rangers | Ti Tree |
| Anangu Luritjiku Rangers | Papunya |
| Ltyentye Apurte Rangers | Santa Teresa |
| Kaltukatjara Rangers | Docker River |
| Arltarpilta Inelye Rangers | Atitjere (Harts Range) |
| Tjuwanpa Rangers | Ntaria (Hermannsburg) |

Achievements

- Senior ranger positions have been introduced in most ranger groups to reflect the growth in skill and ability of some rangers. In addition, three Indigenous support officers have been appointed to assist with the coordination of the Ranger Program.
- During interviews for ranger positions, it has been noted that the quality of applicants has improved and general job readiness skills have increased in the region.
- In the last year, there was a 62% retention rate of Indigenous ranger staff (also refer to section 3.2), which is relatively high compared to other remote-based Indigenous employment programs.
- There has also been a significant shift toward rangers taking more responsibility for resolving issues impacting on their ongoing employment.

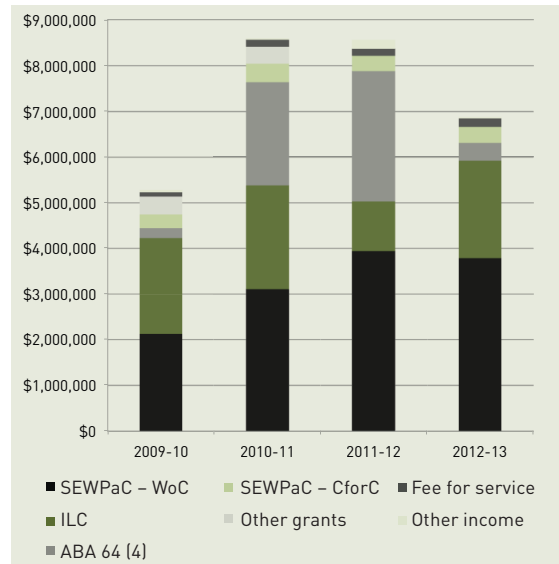
Challenges

- High turnover of coordinators and support staff, broadly reflecting the labour market in Central Australia.
- Housing for remote-based ranger coordinator staff continues to be a challenge for the program and one that puts significant constraints on our ability to recruit and retain staff.
- High demand for ranger programs in other areas.

Funding

A funding agreement was signed with SEWPaC for WoC funding for 2013–2018, and a funding offer was received from the ILC for Real Jobs funding for 2013–2015. This ongoing investment in Indigenous ranger programs by the Australian Government is very welcome, and it is a positive endorsement of the significant economic, environmental and social outcomes attributable to ranger activities.

CLC Ranger Program Funding 2009–13



Income generated by rangers' engagement in contract-based environmental service delivery has remained a relatively minor source, peaking this year at 2.6% of the total program funding. The majority of the fee-for-service income is derived from contracts on parks and reserves in the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine regions through joint management arrangements with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) and fauna survey contracts paid for by mining companies as part of the Tanami Biodiversity Monitoring Program.

Significant progress was made this year on a project to develop a business plan for the CLC Ranger Program to look at broadening the funding base of the program and exploring alternative hosting models for new ranger groups in the CLC region.

Increased emphasis has been put on finding a balance between traditional owner aspirations for their country and the need to deliver outcomes related to the broader environmental issues that are associated with taxpayer funding for the program.

Recruitment and staffing

Angas Downs

Midway through the year SEWPaC approached the CLC to take on temporary management of the Angas Downs Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and the ranger group. The CLC will provide management support for six months while efforts are made to build the capacity of a local Indigenous organisation to take over management again.

New positions

Two new positions were created this year – a full-time ranger coordinator for the Arltarpilta Inelye ranger group and an Indigenous support officer position was created to enhance Warlpiri Ranger involvement in the management of the Southern Tanami IPA (funded by the Nature Conservancy).

Senior ranger positions were formalised this year and eight rangers appointed in these roles.

Loss of positions

Funding constraints within the NT Government saw the demise of the Parks and Wildlife Commission–seconded Tjuwanpa Coordinator position mid-way through the year.

Equipment, infrastructure and operational resources

Significant progress was made this year in improving ranger coordinator housing, office and shed spaces at Docker River, Lajamanu, Santa Teresa and Yuendumu. Infrastructure upgrades are planned for Tjuwanpa, Anangu Luritjiku, Arltarpilta Inelye, Munguru Munguru and Anmatyerr Ranger groups.

Housing for remote-based staff continues to be a challenge for the program and puts significant constraints on the CLC's ability to recruit and retain staff.

This year also saw the near completion of works at the new ABA-funded Ranger Operations Hub facility in Alice Springs, for new offices and shed space.

Healthy eating, healthy lives

Bad diets impact significantly on Aboriginal people's health. One of the program themes this year was building rangers' understanding and practices around healthy lifestyles and healthy diets. Changes were made to deliver healthier food for ranger work trips, and health education and practical cooking demonstrations have been delivered at ranger events.

A mental health awareness workshop was delivered at the 2013 Ranger Camp to build people's understanding of mental health issues and to alert them to early warning signs.

Ranger work

Fire management

Fire management is a very important component of many rangers' work during the fire season and the rangers were involved in burning more than 3,780 square kilometres of country in ground-based or aerial burning. The rangers also responded to a number of emergencies in collaboration with Bushfires NT staff. Rangers attended regional fire planning meetings as part of either the Warlu or Waru Fire Management Committees in the south-west, Tanami and Barkly regions.

Feral animal control

Many ranger groups were involved in feral animal management work during the last year. Rangers attended community meetings to discuss the impacts of high numbers of horses, camels and donkeys and how to manage them. Rangers were also involved in helicopter fuel drops, yard installations, and musters and culls, resulting in more than 850 camels and 120 horses being removed (see more about the CLC's other work in managing feral animals later in this section). More than 78 kilometres of fencing was done by the rangers to fence off culturally significant sites. The rangers also set up water points at a number of locations to lure camels away from communities or important cultural sites.

Weed management

CLC rangers did a significant amount of work this year eradicating weeds including parkinsonia, Athel pine, prickly pear, rubberbush, bellyache bush, and devil's claw on Aboriginal land, national parks and surrounding pastoral properties. Rangers are trained in weed management and it forms a significant part of their duties.

Biodiversity and fauna surveys

Rangers collected a substantial amount of biodiversity data this year to help build up the picture of the plants and animals that exist on Aboriginal lands in the region and also help inform management needed to protect important cultural sites, habitats and significant species. More than 20 fauna surveys were undertaken by rangers. Targeted surveys were carried out

for bilbies, Slater's skinks, night parrots, the central rock rat, black-footed rock wallabies and possums. The rangers also monitored predator pests such as foxes.

Parks

Under joint management, some ranger groups have been able to access contracts under the Flexible Employment program in the Territory's national parks to help build park infrastructure and perform other park work.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire is an important part of the Australian landscape, and although Central Australia contains some of Australia's most well-known deserts, bushfires are common after high rainfall years when fuel loads are high. Wild bushfires can burn for weeks across vast and remote tracts of land in the Northern Territory. Sometimes they are destructive; sometimes they clean up country and promote new growth. All of the plants and animals in Central Australia react to fire in different ways, from needing it to survive, to being killed by it.

There is a chance that climate change will increase the incidence and impact of these fires and improved management is becoming more and more critical to deal with the cultural and ecological impacts of climate change. In response the Central Land Council has expanded its role in fire management with more staff and more training of its ranger groups to deal with bushfires. Each year CLC rangers carry out prescribed burning over thousands of square kilometres, helping to reduce fuel loads, decrease the size of spring and summer fires, protect communities and sacred sites, and promote new plant growth.

In recent years the rangers have been at the forefront of fire management technology, using aerial incendiary devices dropped from a helicopter. This allows burns to occur in areas which were previously inaccessible and over vast areas of land. While this method is expensive, it has been successful in reducing the impact of recent fires.

The CLC has facilitated the creation of several regionally-based fire committees of traditional owners – local experts who know the country intimately and are best placed to direct fire

Other work

The rangers do a significant amount of work in their communities and on Aboriginal land. They are also used extensively within the communities to provide support to projects like school camps, festivals, landscaping and restoration works, fencing off significant sites and other activities important to traditional owners and residents. In addition, the ranger groups provide an important opportunity for older and senior traditional owners to pass on their knowledge about land and culture.

management across Aboriginal land. The Warlu Committee directs work across the Tanami, while the Waru Committee operates in the south-west of the Territory and directs work involving three states.

To maximise its efforts, the CLC works closely with other agencies such as Bushfires NT, Parks Australia and the Parks and Wildlife Commission NT. The CLC rangers have provided valuable support to pastoralists and other land holders fighting and containing fires in recent years, along with fire management during the cooler months of the year. The CLC's capacity in this area was improved through the creation of an additional two temporary fire management positions funded through two Australian Government grants (Caring for our Country [CFOC] project entitled 'Anangu Tjuta Tri-state Cooperative Fire Management' and Natural Disaster Mitigation Program).

Achievements

- Extensive involvement from traditional owners in remote areas due to the operation of the representative Warlu and Waru management committees.
- Partnerships with Bushfires NT, Parks and Wildlife Commission NT and Aboriginal land management organisations in SA and WA are strong and critical to our success.
- CLC and Bushfires NT staff collaborated during the year to create a bushfire awareness campaign for the Tanami region which focused on preventing roadside ignitions and campfire escapes.
- Provided fire planning advice to all CLC-sponsored Aboriginal ranger groups including a variety of maps and satellite imagery showing fire histories, fuel loads and areas of high fire risk.

- Completed comprehensive fire management strategies for particular land trusts to guide ranger group and traditional owner fire planning priorities.

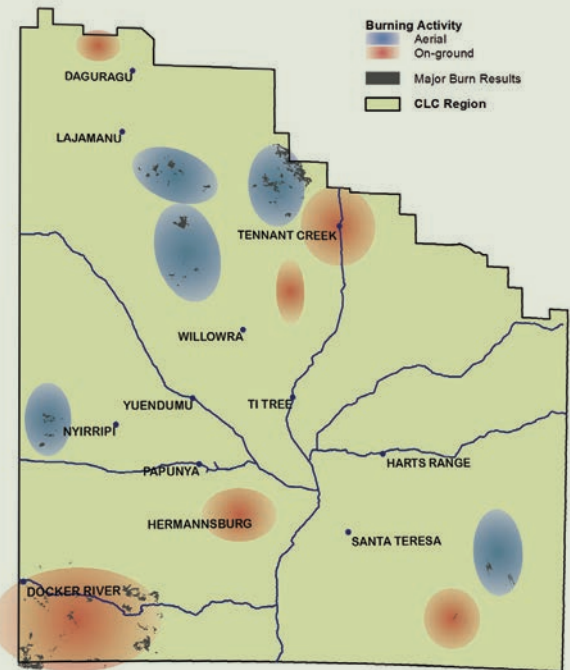
The Warlu Committee made fire planning decisions to conduct four aerial incendiary burning trips on the Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT), the Central Desert ALT and Karlantijpa North ALT. All of these trips involved the Aboriginal ranger group entrusted with the responsibility for managing these places and the appropriate traditional owners.

The CLC continued to provide significant fire management assistance to the traditional owners of the Katiti and Petermann ALTs through funding secured under SEWPaC's Caring for our Country program. The CLC supported the Waru Committee in the south-west to do more than 200 separate prescribed burns over 41 field trips in the Kaltukatjara, Lake Amadeus and Britten Jones Creek areas, which involved 124 traditional owners. A feature of the south-west fire management program continued to be the conduct of joint burning exercises with traditional owners of neighbouring parts of SA and WA and staff of APY Land Management and Ngaanyatjarra Council. These included an aerial incendiary trip along the NT/WA border and three ground-based burning trips.

A coordinated fire management program in the south-east region included several consultation meetings and several aerial incendiary and

ground burning trips in the Plenty River region of Atnetye ALT, the Pmer Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre ALT and the Pmere Nyente ALT. In the Tennant Creek region fuel reduction burns were carried out on the Warumungu ALT and fire breaks established on the Warumungu ALT and Kanttaji ALT. Elsewhere, senior traditional owners and members of the Munguru Munguru ranger group conducted a series of burns in the Wattie Creek area of Daguragu ALT.

CLC Fire Management Activity 2012-13



Azariah Martin using the R2 aerial incendiary machine at Yinapaka, June 2013.

LAND RESOURCE INFORMATION AND THE CYBERTRACKER PROJECT

CyberTracker is software which can be loaded onto a personal digital assistant (PDA) device and used to collect field data in a very easy and structured way. It makes use of GPS and camera and voice recording functions built into a PDA to enhance the richness of the data.

The National Indigenous CyberTracker Project finished in June 2013. The CLC hosted the project's support officer for Central Australia. It has compiled all weed management and fauna data collected by the CLC rangers over

the last three years and provided that to the Australian Government as part of the contractual requirements of the project.

The CLC's focus shifted from on-ground capacity building support to resolving technical issues related to the program specificity of CyberTracker software. Work included developing programming scripts to enable CyberTracker data to automatically download to a centralised database and devising helper scripts to find CyberTracker data to be downloaded from handheld devices.

FERAL ANIMALS

Camels

Camels continue to impact heavily on biodiversity, infrastructure and livelihoods in Central Australia, and the CLC continued to play a substantial role in feral camel management. The progress achieved during the year was possible due to the ongoing engagement of a dedicated camel management officer funded through the Australian Feral Camel Management Project (AFCMP), which expires in December 2013.

Traditional owner directions regarding the broad-acre management of feral camels on Aboriginal lands were gained during the first three years of the AFCMP. These included consent for particular management methods and the development of associated conditions, including the delineation of cull exclusion zones. Since then, traditional owner consultations have focused on site-specific matters like the identification of an emergency cull zone near Docker River when large numbers of camels invade the community. Watering points have also been installed at various locations to create decoy water sources to discourage camels from seeking water in communities or to protect important sites.

A total of 36,680 feral camels were culled on Aboriginal lands during this period through AFCMP-funded aerial culling operations conducted by NT Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) personnel with assistance from the CLC. These culls occurred on the Petermann, Katiti, Lake Mackay, Haasts Bluff and Atnetye ALTs. An additional 181 camels were removed by water trapping from near Docker River to relieve pressure on water infrastructure in the community.

The CLC continued to progress traditional owner training and skill acquisition directed at managing camels at a regional level on a long-term basis. Two camel musters were done to familiarise people with camel handling and mustering techniques and a number of rangers were trained in ground-based camel shooting programs. Staff are being trained in aerial camel surveys and shooting, so the CLC will have a licensed aerial shooter on staff.

Horses

The table below outlines a range of management actions undertaken predominantly for the control of feral horses.

| Aboriginal Land Trust | Feral animal management action |
|--|---|
| Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri ALT – Tempe Downs | A very successful aerial cull of feral horses was conducted on the land trust through the CFOC funded Red Centre Biodiversity project administered by the Parks and Wildlife Commission NT – more than 3,500 feral horses were shot |
| Hermannsburg area (Ntaria, Uruna, Ltalaltouma, Rodna ALTs) | An aerial survey of feral horse numbers, funded through the Red Centre Biodiversity project |
| Iwupataka ALT | Meetings with traditional owners and residents to progress feral horse management strategies |
| Loves Creek ALT | Muster of feral horses as part of Greening Australia’s MacDonnell Ranges Biodiversity Hotspots grant project for the property |
| Daguragu and Hooker Creek ALTs | Aerial cull of feral horses and donkeys in the McDonald Yards area |
| Malngin 1 and 2 ALTs | Aerial cull of feral horses, donkeys and camels |
| Anurrete ALT and Davenport Ranges National Park | Donkey cull and an agreed feral animal management strategy with traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife Commission NT |
| Petermann ALT | Consultations about feral horse management |

Given the importance of feral animal-related issues on Aboriginal lands and the need for ongoing management and follow up, the CLC submitted a proposal to ABA, as part of its growth estimates, for the creation of a permanent feral animal management officer position.

WATER – A PRECIOUS RESOURCE IN AN ARID LAND

In an arid and semi-arid environment like Central Australia, good management of precious water resources is critical. Rockholes and soakages are an integral and hugely significant part of the ecological and cultural environment. But feral animals like camels and horses and infestations of weeds can severely impact these resources.

The CLC had a number of external grants to help traditional owners to ameliorate these impacts and protect these precious sites. These grants have funded strategies like erecting camel-proof fences, creating alternate water sources, culling feral animals and controlling weeds. One project concentrated on Ulambara rockhole, near the community of Papunya. In the Tennant Creek region stock-proof fences were erected at five water sites on the Mungkata ALT. At the Dulcie Ranges National Park and adjoining Aboriginal-owned Huckitta significant water sources were surveyed, fenced and monitored.

Another Territory NRM-funded project concentrated on removing Athel pine and monitoring various waterholes along the Finke River on Henbury Station.

Camel-related impact monitoring continued at a suite of water places on Aboriginal land as part of the Australian Feral Camel Management Project, of which CLC is a partner organisation. This collaborative work involved staff of the CLC and NT Department of Land Resource Management, members of relevant Aboriginal ranger groups and senior traditional owners. AFCMP funds were also utilised to recommission Ilpili bore on Haasts Bluff ALT as part of a strategy to reduce feral camel impacts at nearby Ilpili Springs. Water monitoring and surveys were carried out at a number of other locations. Monitoring has been used to determine the effect of removing feral animals.

BIODIVERSITY UNDER THREAT

The rangers have proved to be the ideal resource to collect information about some of Australia's most threatened species. They know the land and its flora and fauna, they enjoy the days and nights camping out on their country and they greatly benefit from collaboration with the scientific specialists provided by Parks and Wildlife Commission NT and the Department of Land and Resource Management, or through consultant ecologists and partner organisations.

Guided by the traditional owners and advised by the scientists, the CLC rangers carried out a number of biodiversity surveys and monitoring projects.

Biodiversity surveys and monitoring projects

| Location | Type of activity | Group |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Yinapaka (Lake Surprise) in Central Desert ALT | Fauna survey | Warlpiri Rangers |
| Yirninti Warrku Warrku (Lake Mackay) in Lake Mackay ALT | Fauna survey | Warlpiri Rangers |
| Petalu | Fauna survey: tjakura (great desert skink), mulgara | Kaltukatjara Rangers |
| Kalumpurlpa | Bilby and other fauna survey | Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers |
| Hanson River | Bilby survey | Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers |
| Duck Ponds | Bilby survey | Wulain Rangers |
| Newhaven | Fauna tracking at 75 sites | Warlpiri Rangers and Newhaven staff |
| Ti Tree region | Night parrot survey | Anmatyerr Rangers |
| Finke and Ellery Rivers | Fish surveys | Tjuwanpa Rangers |
| 8 Mile | Slater skink bi-monthly monitoring | Tjuwanpa Rangers |
| Lherepwerle Waterhole on Angarapa ALT | Endangered lily <i>Typhonium</i> sp. | Staff and traditional owners |
| Arletherre ALT | Fieldwork on endangered Slater's skink | Staff and traditional owners |

In addition, funding was obtained through Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) for a number of species and location-specific projects. Survey work was done for the black-footed rock wallaby in the Murchison Range area and the Mann Ranges region. There were also a number of field trips to Sangster's Bore in the Central Desert ALT to monitor bilby populations. Searches for the endangered common brushtail possum were carried out on the Petermann, Haasts Bluff and Arletherre ALTs and surveys done for the central rock rat.

The Tanami Biodiversity Monitoring Project (TBMP)

This project is primarily to assess the impact of mining operations on the Tanami. As previously mentioned the Warlpiri and Wulain Rangers have been closely involved in carrying out the survey and monitoring work for this project.

WOMEN'S LAND MANAGEMENT – BUSH MEDICINES

The third CLC Women's Land Management Forum was held this year, with attendance from 30 women from Docker River, Ulpanyali, Santa Teresa, Ti Tree, Willowra, Tennant Creek and Murray Downs. The themes of the forum were Indigenous ecological knowledge (IEK) transfer and retention and two-way education.

One of the two main projects developed and facilitated by the forum was a bush medicines workshop that grew out of traditional owner and community concern about issues associated with harvesting of bush medicine species in eastern Central Australia. The project has generated a lot of interest. The outcomes were mapping bush medicine resources, identifying issues impacting on the health of these plant communities and developing harvest protocols.

A second major project to reinvigorate Warumungu and Warlmanpa women's cultural heritage was successful in obtaining funding from the Australian

Government's Indigenous Heritage Program to support senior Warumungu and Warlmanpa female traditional owners to teach successive generations the knowledge and practice required to manage the cultural heritage values of two dreaming lines, the Munga Munga and the Milwayijarra. The project is quite complex, involving many different family groups. Senior women play a lead role in all aspects of the project planning. Project activities started with the repatriation of audio-visual materials relating to the two dreaming lines and field trips to visit and document sites and to film ceremonial activities.

Continued support was provided for a Pertame waterhole project, which involves facilitating and recording Indigenous knowledge related to the water places along the Finke River. Pertame is the smallest extant language group in Central Australia, with very few speakers remaining, and it was significant that the young participants learnt more of the language by editing the material.

JOINT MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

NT Parks and Reserves

The CLC has statutory functions in respect to the management of Northern Territory Parks and Reserves under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2006* [TPWCA] and lease-back arrangements.

Title transfers of Watarrka National Park and the West MacDonnell National Park occurred during this period, completing formal joint management arrangements for all of the 20 scheduled parks and reserves listed in the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future Act) 2003* within the CLC region. Beyond the tenure change and lease-back arrangements, joint management arrangements require preparation of joint management plans to come into full effect. At the start of this period eight plans had been completed and brought into effect by passage through the NT Legislative Assembly, two were in draft form awaiting tabling in the NT Legislative Assembly and three ready to go to public comment.

Joint management plans completed and passed through the NT Legislative Assembly prior to July 2012

- Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve
- Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve
- Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve
- Judbarra/Gregory National Park
- Finke Gorge National Park
- Trepkina Gorge Nature Park
- N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park
- Corroborree Rock Conservation Reserve

Joint management plans are at an advanced stage and expected to go to public comment in the second half of 2013

- West MacDonnell National Park (re-submit under new NTG)
- Watarrka National Park (re-submit under new NTG)
- Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park (slowed by legal dispute)

- Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historic Reserve (slowed by capacity of Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate)
- Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park (slowed by Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority [AAPA] issue)
- Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve

Joint management planning not yet begun

- Arltunga Historical Reserve (affected by PWCNT planning capacity)
- Ruby Gap Nature Park (affected by PWCNT planning capacity)
- Dulcie Range National Park
- Kuyunba Conservation Reserve
- Mac Clark Conservation Reserve
- Native Gap Conservation Reserve

The CLC represented traditional owners in participating and contributing to the development of a number of PWCNT joint management policies.

Achievements

- PWCNT has agreed to a name change for the West MacDonnell Ranges Park to the Tyurretye/West MacDonnell Ranges National Park.

- Traditional owners have taken an active role in promoting and facilitating commercial 'exclusive use' on the Larapinta Trail in the West MacDonnell National Park. The operator said that without joint management of this park this could not have happened.
- Joint management of Tyurretye/West MacDonnell National Park officially started during this period with the handing back of the park to traditional owners on 18 July 2012.

Challenges

- The reduction in joint management positions by the NT Government due to cost cutting has taken a heavy toll on progress.
- The CLC has continued to place pressure on PWCNT to table the joint management plans for the Tyurretye/West MacDonnell National Park and the Watarrka National Park after they were updated by PWCNT after lengthy delays in handing them back to the traditional owners.
- Traditional owners have made it very clear that they do not support an application to explore for oil in Watarrka National Park. The application is currently before the NT Government.



Marie Jaban teaching young girls to dance on a joint management trip to Judbarra/Gregory National Park, August 2012.

ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK (UKTNP)

The CLC has statutory functions in respect to the management of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park under the terms of lease-back upon transfer of title to the traditional owners in October 1985. Negotiations regarding a five-yearly review of the UKTNP lease were resumed in this period between the CLC and Parks Australia in accordance with lease requirements.

A dedicated capacity to consult traditional owners and support their involvement in joint management of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) has been maintained since 2002, largely through the employment of a park-based joint management officer (JMO) under external funding arrangements with the Director of National Parks. The most recent two-year agreement was extended for a further year, expiring on 30 June 2013. Successful negotiations with Parks Australia for a new three-year renewal of funding arrangements have enabled the CLC to retain the joint management officer position to 30 June 2016.

The JMO provides broad support to the UKTNP Board of Management to carry out its functions, including the making of decisions about management of the park that are consistent with the plan of management and monitoring the

effective management of the park. Wider representation of the interests of the CLC and UKTNP traditional owners is also provided by the JMO as a member of the Joint Management Partnership (JMP) team. Other members of the JMP team are the Mutitjulu Community liaison officer, the Board secretary and the UKTNP park manager.

The JMO conducted traditional owner consultations in relation to a range of park management activities and infrastructure developments including issues like the provision of toilets at the sunset viewing area for buses, the upgrades of radio repeaters within the park, contractor access in the park, the Men's Keeping Place for sacred objects and signage for sacred sites, as well as many other administrative matters like research applications and filming proposals.

Achievements

A Men's Keeping Place was constructed to provide a safe place for sacred objects to be stored. The project involved collaboration by the CLC with the director of National Parks, UKTNP staff, traditional owners, architects and project managers using a SEWPaC Indigenous Heritage Program (IHP) grant.

CO-MANAGEMENT – INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

The CLC continued to support constituents in the ongoing management and development of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) in Central Australia. The IPA program provides traditional owners with an opportunity to manage their land for its cultural and natural values, under a voluntary agreement with SEWPaC. In addition SEWPaC funds three positions within the CLC to coordinate this work and significant milestones were achieved in 2012–2013.

Southern Tanami IPA

An area of more than 10 million hectares of the southern Tanami Desert was declared as an Indigenous Protected Area on 10 July 2012, making it the largest protected area on the Australian mainland. The ceremony was held at Lungkardajarra (Sangster's Bore) in the Central Desert ALT.

The Tanami Desert lies to the west of Alice Springs and has some of the highest densities of Australia's most threatened wildlife species. The IPA is managed and maintained by the CLC's Warlpiri Rangers and traditional owners of the area with support from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Nature Conservancy group. The declaration also means that the area is managed to international standards and will create important employment, education and training opportunities and other social benefits for the three Aboriginal communities of Nyirrpri, Yuendumu and Willowra, where most of the traditional owners live.

The Southern Tanami IPA was the subject of a presentation at the World Indigenous Network Conference in Darwin. Constructive relationships with partners and neighbours have been

established and the rangers from the IPA have assisted with school visits to country.

Northern Tanami IPA

Work continued on this IPA, which was declared in 2007. Planning and implementation of a range of cultural and natural resource management actions were carried out across the IPA and the Lajamanu-based Wulain Rangers were used extensively in work involving rockhole protection, exclusion fencing, weed management, feral horse and donkey control, bilby surveys and a number of mining proposals. Senior traditional owners were also heavily involved.

A significant population of bilbies exists within the IPA and monitoring cameras were installed at a number of locations, and the tracking skills and IEK held by senior traditional owners were used. A feral horse harvest agreement to supply small numbers of horses as meat to the Coolibah Crocodile Farm at Timber Creek was negotiated, which overcame the traditional owners' reluctance to shoot and waste animals.

Proposed Katiti-Petermann IPA

Work continued on preparation of the draft plan of management for the proposed Katiti/Petermann IPA with the aim of making a decision about an IPA declaration during the 2013–2014 financial year.

RURAL ENTERPRISE – PASTORAL

The CLC is a member of the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP), a cooperative partnership operating between the CLC, NLC, the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), the NT Department of Resources (DOR), the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the NT Cattleman's Association (NTCA).

The Indigenous Land Corporation funds an Indigenous pastoral development officer, which enabled the CLC to increase traditional landowners' awareness of pastoral management issues such as pastoral land monitoring, environmental mapping, soil conservation and invasive species control.

Wild fires and feral animals have threatened several properties this year and the CLC's efforts greatly assisted these Aboriginal pastoralists to manage the threats. It has also provided assistance to help build capacity by providing training and ongoing governance support. A consultant has provided five property management plans to help guide the operations of Huckitta, Loves Creek, Mangarlawurru, Mungkarta East and Daguragu.

The Plenty Pathways program at Harts Range, east of Alice Springs, continues to be successful. It involves young people training in pastoral activities as part of their school curriculum and is well supported by the CLC.

Animal welfare continues to be a priority for the CLC. It has met with a number of traditional owners, agencies and communities in order to address some critical issues in this area. It is a concern that the grazing licensee on Yuendumu ALT has not yet taken action in regard to an animal welfare matter the CLC raised during the year.

The CLC assisted Malngin 1 and Malngin 2 ALTs licensee (Mistake Creek Station) with advice and support for a feral animal cull conducted in November 2012, which resulted in nearly 2000 donkeys culled.

Staff also carried out a number of audits of infrastructure, aerial surveys and feral animal musters.