



## Kaṯiṯi Petermann Indigenous Protected Area Declared

Aṅangu traditional owners today declared more than five million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land surrounding the Uluru Kata Tjuṯa National Park an Indigenous protected area (IPA).

At Tjitjingaṯi, a significant site between Uluru and the West Australian border, over 250 Aṅangu and their guests launched the world's newest Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Australia's fourth largest IPA on the mainland is larger than Switzerland and completes a vast network of nine protected areas in the heart of the continent.

In these areas Aboriginal elders work with Indigenous ranger groups to protect natural and cultural values in the national interest.

The IPA agreement they signed with the Commonwealth today offers Aṅangu additional resources to tackle significant threats to cultural sites, native plants and animals.

"We really hope we can extend the program so we can do more trips on country and learn more about the bush tucker and all the traditional foods and important places," said Ruby James.

One of the first female Indigenous rangers from Kalṯukatjara (Docker River), Ms James has been teaching children skills such as tracking, fauna surveys and water monitoring.

"By taking them out on country they see and learn about places. It will allow them to protect their country themselves in time," she said. "This is their schooling, this is the education we need our children to have and this is the way we do it."

Traditional owners performed an emu *inma* (ceremony) with their children and elected a management committee.

IPAs support Aboriginal landowners who volunteer to manage the cultural and environmental values of their country as part of Australia's National Reserve System.

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