



RESEARCH OVERVIEW 3.

# Indigenous research leadership

**Economic, social and cultural development across Australia’s Indigenous estate requires leadership and partnerships in environmental research that improve management of Country to ensure broader community benefits.**

Increased research and development support is needed to explore culture-based economies on Country aligned with better management of ecosystem services. Indigenous people seek to lead and implement research and on-ground actions relevant to their needs.

Marine and Coastal Hub research supports and works towards improved community outcomes and self-determination for caring for Country.

This involves collaborating with Indigenous leadership to prioritise, design and deliver projects that

value Indigenous knowledge and experience, and protect Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

The hub’s commitment to advancing these partnerships, values and community benefits is exemplified across the following areas of research.



University of Western Australia

## INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

- Progress towards a National Indigenous Environmental Research Network for inclusive engagement and research through coordinated regional governance.
- Promote understanding of cultural connections to southern right whale, humpback whale, orca, dolphins and sharks in south-eastern Australia.

## CULTURALLY IMPORTANT PLACES

- Develop a research strategy to meet Traditional Owner economic and cultural needs in Kakadu National Park.
- Partner with Cultural Custodians and Cultural Rangers in Australian Marine Park surveys on Wadandi Country, WA.
- Identify the targets, threats and viability of Tebrakunna Country and the wellbeing of the Coastal Plains Nation (north-eastern Tasmania).



Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

## COASTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

- Support participation in Emission Reduction Fund and Nature Repair Market frameworks to enable Indigenous-led feral animal management in northern Australia.
- Develop and trial integrated pest management of feral pigs to implement at coastal sites by Indigenous organisations.
- Map the characteristics and blue carbon value of seagrass across northern Australia in collaboration with Indigenous rangers and survey seagrass habitat of Tayaritja Sea Country around Tasmania’s Furneaux Islands.
- Establish knowledge and methods for seagrass habitat monitoring and management by Traditional Owners.

## CULTURALLY IMPORTANT SPECIES

- Partner with Indigenous rangers to tag Australian sea lions and investigate their habitat use in SA and WA.
- Develop Indigenous-led dugong monitoring in the Kimberley through research, knowledge and data sharing.
- Train and equip Indigenous rangers to monitor southern Gulf of Carpentaria sawfish.



Alex Pearse



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

OUTCOMES FOR RESEARCH USERS

**Progressing** a National Indigenous Environmental Research Network in partnership with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

**Sharing** knowledge on Indigenous connections to cetaceans, sharks and related species in south-eastern Australia

**Identifying** issues and developing a research strategy for Kakadu National Park

**Seafloor surveys** in Geopraphe Marine Park, with Cultural Custodians and Cultural Rangers

**Healthy Country Planning** and implementing agreed research priorities for Tebrakunna Country and the Coastal Plains Nation, north-east Tasmania

**Supporting** Indigenous people's participation in environmental markets

**Developing** integrated pest management for feral pigs, with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

**Mapping** the distribution of seagrass habitat in Northern Australia in collaboration with Indigenous rangers

**Mapping and surveying** seagrass habitat at Tasmania's Furneaux Islands in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and in the Gulf of Carpentaria with Yanyuwa Traditional Owners

**Tagging** Australian sea lions and investigating their habitat use in SA and WA with Indigenous rangers

**Assessing** dugong populations across northern Australia in collaboration with Indigenous rangers

**Training and equipping** Indigenous rangers to monitor Southern Gulf of Carpentaria sawfish

Indigenous leadership and knowledge

Culturally important places

Coastal restoration and protection

Culturally important species

**Traditional Owners, communities, researchers, management agencies** > coordinated national support for Indigenous-led environmental research and participation

**Indigenous communities, DCCEEW** > reawakening of Indigenous cultural connections to sea-kin and better use of Indigenous knowledge

**Bininj and Munggyu Aboriginal people and Parks Australia** > a strategy for research to meet Traditional Owner economic and cultural needs

**Parks Australia and Wadandi Karri Karrak Cultural Custodians and Cultural Rangers** > biodiversity surveys guided by Traditional knowledge; Traditional Owners credentialed to survey fish and shark assemblages on Wadandi Country

**Melythina Tiakana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation and Tebrakunna Rangers** > equipped to advocate for, manage and protect Tebrakunna Country

**Traditional Owners** > facilitation of Indigenous involvement in blue carbon markets

**Traditional Owners, communities and managers** > better turtle hatchling survival and less wetland damage

**Traditional Owners, communities, researchers and management agencies** > comprehensive seagrass map for improved regional planning

**DCCEEW and Pakana Community and Pakana Rangers; Yanyuwa sea Country Traditional Owners** > capacity for Aboriginal-led management of the proposed Tayaritja Sea Country IPA; Indigenous-led seagrass management in the Gulf of Carpentaria and knowledge for regional planning

**Indigenous communities, DCCEEW** > knowledge and skills for recovery of Australian sea lions

**DCCEEW, GBRMPA, Aboriginal land councils and corporations, state and territory governments** > Indigenous-led dugong monitoring; data for dugong management and regional planning

**Traditional owners, management agencies** > Indigenous-led sawfish monitoring

Top panel images left to right: Justin Perry, Shutterstock, Justin Perry, Christophe Cleguer