CAEPR’S MISSION

CAEPR’s mission is to contribute to better outcomes for Indigenous Australians by informing constructive academic and public debates based on innovative research; analysing changes in Indigenous socio-economic status; and informing and influencing policy formation. CAEPR will do this with research, teaching and outreach that combines academic excellence of the highest international standards with realism, objectivity and relevance.

CAEPR’S VISION

CAEPR’s vision is to be a national centre at The Australian National University, leading in research and teaching excellence on Indigenous economic and social development and public policy.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH AIMS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE RESEARCH TEAM</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT PARTNERS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEERING COMMITTEE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT CAEPR IN 2011</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social benefits of Indigenous engagement in natural resource management in NSW</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom based land and resource management and the educational and social re-engagement of Indigenous youth in the Northern Territory</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) Network</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH SCHOLARS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djelk Rangers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warddeken Land Management Limited (LML)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yirralka Rangers</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugul Mangi Land and Sea Management Corporation</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECTS</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Indigenous environmental management and monitoring</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CyberTracker applications for Indigenous land and sea management</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance of Indigenous land and sea management</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-being and socio-economics associated with Indigenous land and sea management</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening policies and investment for Indigenous land and sea management</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATING THE PROJECT</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports and Project Documents</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions and Evidence to Enquiries</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars, Workshops and Other Presentations</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Engagement</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PoC Project Website</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANS FOR 2012</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX A: FINANCIAL STATEMENT</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPA</td>
<td>Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (Northern Territory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEGN</td>
<td>Australian Environmental Grant Makers Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANU</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASS</td>
<td>College of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAEPR</td>
<td>Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDEP</td>
<td>Community Development Employment Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDU</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Ecological Society of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>geographic information system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>global positioning system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA</td>
<td>Indigenous Protected Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKL</td>
<td>Karrkad-Kandji Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAILSMA</td>
<td>North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATSISS</td>
<td>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NERP</td>
<td>National Environmental Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLC</td>
<td>Northern Land Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRETA</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (Northern Territory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PoC</td>
<td>People on Country research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEWPaC</td>
<td>Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRAC</td>
<td>Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNC</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRaCK</td>
<td>Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSW</td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIF</td>
<td>Visiting Indigenous Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALFA</td>
<td>West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoC</td>
<td>Working on Country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

The People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures (PoC) project is a collaborative research project focusing on Indigenous land and sea management in the tropical savannah of the Top End and Gulf Country of the Northern Territory, Australia. The core objective of the PoC project is to assist Indigenous land and sea managers to build an evidence base on how their activities contribute to Indigenous well-being and to the health of land and sea country. This research is sponsored primarily by the Sidney Myer Fund, with additional support from the Australian National University (ANU) and an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery project titled ‘Hybrid Economic Futures for Remote Indigenous Australia’ awarded to Jon Altman (2008–2013). The PoC project began in late 2007, and this is its fourth annual report.

In April 2010 CAEPR received confirmation from the Sidney Myer Fund of their continued financial support of the People on Country (PoC) project for a further two years, until the end of October 2012. This continuation followed an independent review of the project completed by Dr Dermot Smyth in February 2010 (see <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/poc/research/reports.php>). The evaluation highlighted the significant contribution the PoC project makes to supporting Indigenous land and sea management in the Top End and Gulf Country, as indicated by our partners and other stakeholders; and to enhancing understanding in the policy community of the support required to maximise the benefits of the work of Indigenous land and sea management groups. Dermot Smyth also remarked on the effectiveness of the cross-cultural relationships and multidisciplinary methodologies that underpin the PoC project.

Throughout 2011, the PoC project’s team has spent a considerable amount of time on the ground with the project’s partners continuing to document the direct and indirect social and economic benefits associated with Indigenous land and sea management. While some research activities have been disrupted as a result of the prolonged and unusually heavy wet season, fieldwork has continued to focus predominantly on environmental management activities, monitoring, training and data collection, and governance issues. Results of the monitoring activities over the past three years particularly highlight the positive impact of the different fire abatement programs and feral animal management strategies used by the PoC partners, as well as the high biodiversity values of regions studied. Some of these results will be highlighted in this report. It is also becoming evident that education and related capacity issues are increasingly a subject of concern for the PoC partners.

2011 has been a prolific year in terms of dissemination of research findings and information about the project through a vast number of publications, presentations, submissions to government inquiries, and media engagements; reaching various audiences, from government officials and researchers to the broader Australian and international public.
The team members have also worked to facilitate the participation of the project’s partners in a number of conferences and workshops. Ensuring the voice of the people that actually live and work on country is heard has been invaluable, both in terms of building the capabilities of the participants and in disseminating the goals and aspirations of the PoC partners to a wide and diverse audience.

Towards the end of the year, the People on Country project has begun work on a major publication which hopes to encapsulate the broad themes and issues the team have been working on over the last four years. The book, with a working title of ‘People on Country: Indigenous livelihoods, land and sea management in Australia’, will be co-edited by Jon Altman and Seán Kerins and is due to be released in spring 2012.

**RESEARCH AIMS**

The core objective of the PoC project is to assist Indigenous land and sea managers to build an evidence base on how their activities contribute to Indigenous well-being and to the health of land and sea country. Working in partnership with traditional owners and their land and sea management organisations, the PoC project aims to benefit Indigenous land and sea managers and strengthen Indigenous land and sea management by making significant contributions towards:

- an evidence base on the environmental outcomes from Indigenous land and sea management initiative
- an evidence base on the links between Indigenous land and sea management and community well-being
- assisting Indigenous land and sea managers in making their voices heard in national debates on such issues as climate change, fresh water, fire management, wildlife use, and cultural and natural resource management
- providing, when opportunities arise, input into government policy and programs that recognise and support traditional owners caring for land and sea country
- attracting greater government and private investment in Indigenous land and sea management initiatives
- building the capacity of Indigenous land and sea managers, through the learning of new skills and practices and promoting empowering relationships.

**THE RESEARCH TEAM**

The PoC project team comprises a small multidisciplinary group with capabilities in social and biophysical sciences and in the development of online multimedia resources. In June 2011, Katherine May won a UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
scholarship to undertake research towards a doctorate at the School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent at Canterbury. This is a terrific opportunity and we congratulate Kat on her success.

With Ms May’s departure the research team has been reconfigured a little. The project has needed a research focus on education and training issues and we have been fortunate to recruit Dr Bill Fogarty as a post-doctoral fellow to assist this aspect of the project in particular. While this departure has left the project short of administrative support, we have been able to recruit Annick Thomassin and Gillian Cosgrove to assist us with administration and information dissemination.

The PoC team members are as follows:

**Professor Jon Altman**

Jon is the PoC Project Leader and was the Director of CAEPR from 1990-2010. He is the recipient of an ARC Australian Professorial Fellowship (Project No. DP0877549) working on a five-year project—‘Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia: Linking poverty reduction and natural resource management’—that is closely linked with the PoC project. Jon Altman is co-leading a National Environmental Research Program (NERP) ‘Northern Australian Hub’ project on Indigenous natural resource management and livelihoods with Sue Jackson from CSIRO. Beginning in October 2011, this project also builds on research carried out on the PoC project, with work to continue to 2015 with some of the PoC partners.

Jon has maintained vibrant and diverse research relations within the Arnhem Land region for over 30 years. He has also undertaken field research in north Queensland, the Torres Strait, the Kimberleys and Central Australia. Jon’s research interests include: sustainable economic development in Indigenous Australia; Indigenous people’s engagement with national and global economies; commercial utilisation of wildlife and fisheries; the Indigenous customary sector and its articulations with the market and the state; and land rights, native title and Indigenous land and sea management.

**Dr Seán Kerins**

Seán came to CAEPR at the end of 2007 to work on the PoC project as a Research Fellow. For the previous five years he worked at the Northern Land Council (NLC) in Darwin as Executive Officer of the Caring for Country Unit. In this role Seán assisted Indigenous land and sea management groups to develop land and sea management plans, secure funding and training opportunities, and lobby government to increase funding for Caring for Country projects. He has also worked for 10 years on sea rights with Maori in New Zealand and with Faroese whaling communities.
Dr Emilie Ens

Emilie joined the project team in July 2008 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and in 2010 she was promoted to research Fellow. Emilie is an ecologist whose previous research focused on understanding the ecology and impacts of invasive species with the aim of guiding land management practices. Her research for the PoC project centres on the establishment of monitoring programs that quantify the ecological outcomes of Indigenous land management activities. These programs have been developed with ranger groups and have included monitoring the impacts of feral ungulates and the outcomes of management effort, the development of local herbaria, frog surveys, ethnobotanical research, recording traditional ecological knowledge and extensive use of technologies such as CyberTracker.

Dr Bill Fogarty

Bill has joined the PoC team to examine education and training issues associated with Indigenous land and sea management. Bill has lived and worked in remote communities for over a decade and has extensive experience in research on remote Indigenous education and employment policy and service provision. He has qualifications in anthropology, communications, social research methods, education and applied development. He has worked on projects with a diverse range of organisations concerned with remote Indigenous Australia such as the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, the Northern Land Council and the Northern Territory Government. He has been the recipient of an Australian Research Council scholarship and has conducted research on Indigenous policy development, employment, education, land and sea management and remote service provision. Bill has a particular interest in the relationship between Indigenous and Western knowledge and the development of sustainable education and employment pathways in remote communities. He is currently employed as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at CAEPR.

Ms Gillian Towler

Gill has over 15 years botanical experience curating and developing the preserved collections of the National Herbarium of New South Wales and living collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. She recently completed a temporary appointment at the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research in Canberra working on the Australian Plant Census, an online resource providing a nationally-agreed list of scientific names for native and naturalised vascular plants in Australia. Gill has provided technical and field support on a number of plant systematics and ecological research projects. She joined Dr Emilie Ens in 2009 to assist with biodiversity monitoring training and ethnobotanical recording as part of the People on Country Project.

Mr John Hughes

John is CAEPR’s Publications Editor and E-Publisher. He has been at CAEPR since 2003 and works in a supporting role for the PoC project on publications, graphics and website management.
Ms Annick Thomassin

Annick is a PhD candidate from the Department of Anthropology of McGill University who has been a visiting student at CAEPR since March 2010. Her post-graduate research has focused on the politics of marine resource management in the context of Vietnam (2004) and the Torres Strait. Annick is replacing Katherine May as the editor of the PoC Project's reports and newsletters and is assisting with administration and information dissemination on a part-time basis.

Ms Gillian Cosgrove

After studying linguistics and English literature, Gillian moved into the world of books, type and publishing. She has worked as a graphic designer and editor in private firms, and in the public and tertiary sectors for 15 years. She currently works part-time in the publications unit at CAEPR.

Ms Katherine May

Katherine joined CAEPR in September 2008 and has been a Research Officer for the PoC project from March 2009 to July 2011. Her background is in international development, and prior to coming to CAEPR she worked with an international environmental NGO in the UK. Until July, her research focus for the PoC project was centred on identifying and analysing government support for Indigenous land and sea management and the social and economic benefits of Indigenous engagement in natural resource management activities. Katherine has been the editor of the PoC Project Reports and Newsletters. Her post-graduate research will continue work she has already started on Indigenous Protected Areas and will be an enduring result from the People on Country project.

PROJECT PARTNERS

In 2011, PoC project staff have continued to consolidate their partnerships with the seven land and sea management groups. These groups reflect the diversity of Indigenous land and sea management organisations, their various stages of development, governance arrangements, geography, management issues and priorities, and the tenures that traditional owners have over land and sea country.

The partners are:

- Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation (north-east Arnhem Land).
- Djelk Rangers (western Arnhem Land)
- Garawa Rangers (southern Gulf of Carpentaria)
- Waanyi/Garawa Rangers (southern Gulf of Carpentaria)
- Warddeken Land Management (western Arnhem Land)
- Yirrkala Rangers (north-east Arnhem Land)
- Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Land and Sea Management Corporation (south-east Arnhem Land)
The PoC Steering Committee was established in 2008. The 2011 Steering Committee meeting—the fourth since the project began—was held in Darwin on 7-9 November. The Steering Committee continues to provide ongoing links with key staff within Indigenous representative organisations, government agencies and academic colleagues. The members of the committee are:

- Mr Dan Gillespie – Independent Chair
- Kirsty Allen – The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund
- Professor Peter Kanowski – The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU
- Mr Bruce Edwards – Commonwealth Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) (formally DEWHA)
- Mr Joe Morrison – North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
- Dr Benedict Scambary – Northern Territory Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
- Dr Peter Whitehead – Independent consultant, formally at Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA)
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

In addition to the partnerships that have been developed with the seven Indigenous land and sea management groups, in 2011 the PoC project team has also established and maintained important research partnerships and collaborations with other researchers and projects, government agencies, private sector companies and non-government organisations. These include:

- ANU Climate Change Institute
- Bushfires NT
- Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre, Darwin
- Greening Australia NT
- Karrkad-Kandji Limited (KKL)
- Macquarie University (Indigenous Bio-Resources Group)
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
- National Herbarium of NSW
- Natural resource management and enterprise development (ARC Linkage Project), CDU
- Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Government (Formally DECCW)
- PEW Foundation Wild Australia Program
- School for Environmental Research, CDU
- Supervising Scientist Division, SEWPaC
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) Hub
- West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project
- Ecotrust Australia
- National Environmental Research Program (NERP)
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT CAEPR IN 2011

There are a variety of research projects currently underway at CAEPR that link directly to the PoC project. The researchers collaborate extensively, sharing knowledge and expertise, and co-authoring publications. These linkages bolster the PoC project by providing input about different facets of Indigenous land and sea management and in different contexts. The main collaborative projects are:

Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia

Jon Altman’s ARC Discovery Project ‘Hybrid Economic Futures for Remote Indigenous Australia’, is closely linked to the PoC project. Work on this project is currently focusing on issues related to water rights and climate change and utilisation of wildlife resources. Geoff Buchanan is a PhD student on this project. He completed 12 months of field work in May 2011, having worked with Bardi Jawi Rangers in the West Kimberley and with Djelk Rangers in Arnhem Land. Geoff’s PhD is exploring the economic development of caring for country in remote Indigenous Australia.

During 2011, work on this project has focused on promoting prospects for alternate development futures for Indigenous people living on the Indigenous estate. Particular issues addressed have included the nature of economic development possibilities in remote Australia, the fundamental significance of the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) scheme to community and economic development projects in remote contexts and the need for the Australian state to meet its obligations to equitable support the 1000 homelands in remote and very remote Australia.

Much of the work that has been undertaken on the theorisation of the hybrid economy has been summarized in an annotated topic guide by Susie Russell who has been assisting Jon since June 2010.

Social benefits of Indigenous engagement in natural resource management in NSW

Janet Hunt, Fellow at CAEPR is currently investigating the links between Aboriginal involvement in sustainable management of country and Indigenous wellbeing in New South Wales (NSW). The research is sponsored by a grant provided to CAEPR by the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Government (formally DECCW). Janet is working with Aboriginal groups at a number of sites throughout NSW to document the social, economic and environmental benefits of Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management activities and the necessary conditions to achieve these benefits more broadly.
In April 2011, Janet has contributed to a wider CAEPR People on Country team submission to the Review of Caring for Our Country program. Her inputs provided examples from NSW which are based on her work with three Aboriginal organisations: Banbai Business Enterprises which manages two Indigenous Protected Areas on the northern tablelands; Nyambaga Green Team which undertakes environmental contracts in Gumbaynggirr country near Nambucca; and the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council which has recently completed a major Land and Sea Country Management Plan. In collaboration with PoC team members, Janet’s contribution helps to portray the challenges which are faced by Indigenous groups under the current Australian Government’s Caring for our Country model.

This submission has also been included as a Topical Issue on the CAEPR website:


This working paper can be accessed from:


In 2012, Janet will continue her ongoing fieldwork with Eden’s Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Custom based land and resource management and the educational and social re-engagement of Indigenous youth in the Northern Territory

This linkage project through the Australian Research Council was conducted at CAEPR by Dr Jerry Schwab and Bill Fogarty in partnership with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, The Northern Land Council and The Department of Education and Training in the Northern Territory. The project is now finishing. Throughout this research, Bill Fogarty has worked closely with the PoC project and a number of its partners, especially the BAC Djelk Rangers. One of the major outputs from this collaborative project was the production of Dr Fogarty’s thesis Learning through Country: Competing knowledge systems and place based pedagogy. In September 2011, Dr Fogarty was invited to give a special report back on the project’s findings to the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) executive. This also gave Dr Fogarty the chance to officially hand the research back to the community of Maningrida and to thank the people he had worked closely with over the four years of his research and to especially thank the Djelk Rangers for their invaluable input.

Also under this project, Dr Adrian Fordham, a CAEPR visiting fellow, attended a workshop in Darwin on 26-27 September with a number of Indigenous Land and Sea Management Groups including PoC partners, the Yirralka and Dhimurru Rangers. This workshop focussed on policy and funding opportunities for bringing schools and ranger groups together. The workshop was also attended by representatives from the NT Department of Education and Training (NT DET), the Commonwealth Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Commonwealth Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities SEWPaC and NAILSMA.
Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) Network

In September 2011, the report 'Developing an Effective Conservation and Sustainable Use Economy: Two Arnhem Land Case Studies' by Dr Nanni Concu was completed with editorial assistance from Jennifer Koenig and Geoff Buchanan addressing comments from readers. This report was the final outcome from our involvement in TRaCK Project 6.3 and formed the basis of involvement by Jon Altman, Geoff Buchanan and Jennifer Koenig in a workshop convened in Darwin on 10 November 2011 that looked to synthesise findings from Dr Concu’s case studies in Arnhem Land with others undertaken in the West Kimberley and Cape York. Dr Concu has now taken up a position in at the University of Sassiri, Sardinia.

RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Sam Bentley-Toon, an Oxford University graduate, provided research assistance to Emilie Ens from October 2010 to April 2011. He provided valuable input into the PoC ecological research portfolio including on a Paperbark (Melaleuca spp) health monitoring project with the Djelk Rangers, creation of an ethnobotanical DVD with Warddeken LML and co-authorship of a number of papers.
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Jon Altman was a distinguished visitor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand in March and, in May and June, the Hallsworth Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester, UK. While overseas Jon made presentations based on his People on Country research around the theme 'Alternate development for difference: Refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the Indigenous estate in Australia'. He gave a public lecture on that theme at the University of Auckland and a seminar at the University of Manchester. In France, he presented this lecture to the multi-country project ‘Scales of Governance: Indigenous Peoples, the UN and the State’ at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris and the Centre for Research and Documentation on Oceania (CREDO) at the Maison Asie-Pacifique, University of Provence. Jon also gave a seminar on Land Rights and Native Title at the James Henare Maori Research Centre in Auckland.

In March Dr Kenichi Matsui, Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Tsukuba, Japan, visited CAEPR. Dr Matsui had hosted Jon Altman in Japan in 2010 and during his reciprocal visit he presented a seminar titled ‘From Native water law to indigenized water governance’ based on his research in British Columbia and Alberta (Canada). The purpose of his visit was the exchange of information mainly related to Indigenous water rights and governance. Kenichi’s visit has been an occasion to discuss and compare the advancement of Indigenous water rights and governance in the Canadian and Australian context, which are crucial aspects of the Indigenous-State relationship and Indigenous involvement in NRM in both countries.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Project partners

The next section provides highlights of the main activities undertaken with each of the seven PoC project partners during 2011.

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation (Dhimurru) is a community-based natural and cultural resource management agency established in 1992 by the Yolngu traditional owners of land and sea estates in the Gove Peninsula region of North East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation is the recipient of the 2011 United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day’s Biodiversity Award which recognised the effective partnership between Dhimurru, CSIRO and Rio Tinto. PoC congratulates the corporation for this important achievement.
Dhimurru is currently seeking funding to continue the vital work of monitoring and ultimately eradicating Yellow Crazy Ants from the Dhimurru IPA.

In June 2011, two Miyalk Dhimurru Rangers (Bawali Wendy Marika, Wangawuy Grace Mununggirrtj) attended the PoC Women Rangers Toolkit workshop.

Also in June Katherine May spent time with Dhimurru collecting information to write the 2010-11 Dhimurru Annual Report. Jon Altman and Frances Morphy assisted with editorial comments in the production of the report which has been designed by Gillian Cosgrove.

To access the report visit:


Djelk Rangers

The Djelk Rangers operate in the area around Maningrida in the north east of the Northern Territory, an enormous area of approximately 10,000 km$^2$ located entirely within the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust.

The Djelk Rangers have had a particularly busy year. As well as gaining a new co-ordinator in Brendan Bainbridge in 2010 and the usual land and sea management work within the IPA, for Customs and with AQIS, the Rangers had to contend with an unusually lengthy and heavy wet season, This hampered some research activities although the Djelk group still managed to work with Dr Emilie Ens, Dr Bill Fogarty, Mr Geoff Buchanan and Professor Jon Altman on a wide range of research topics including sustainable wildlife management, education, governance, economic development, customary production and ecological monitoring.

With the Djelk Women Rangers, Emilie Ens continued to monitor the health of 12 billabongs in the Djelk IPA where the Djelk Rangers differentially manage feral buffalos and pigs. Monitoring of ground surface, ground cover and water quality using purpose built CyberTracker sequences was conducted in the early and late dry seasons, for the third year. Results are showing that where buffalo are culled by the Rangers, billabongs are recovering rapidly so that the billabong health is similar to that of billabongs where feral abundance is low. On the floodplains, where safari hunting was taking place, the feral animal damage was highest.

This year we also added assessments of *kunkod* (paperbark, *Melaleuca* spp) tree health to the research in response to observations by the women that at some billabongs, many of the paperbark trees were dying. The research found indirect links to buffalo and pig activity which was suggested to be a result of increased water conductivity and ammonium levels. Community reports were written about these projects with the women to build local report writing capacity.
In late 2010, three women Rangers (Felina Campion, Selma Campion and Jodie Kelly) also won an Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) Indigenous Travel Grant to attend the Indigenous land management symposium at the 50th ESA conference, Canberra. At the conference they presented a DVD they made with Emilie Ens, Sam Bentley-Toon and Gill Towler about the work they are doing on country. The DVD was very well received and people commended the novel way they presented in Gune (Indigenous language) with English subtitles. Their presentation has been transformed into a journal article for the Special Issue of Ecological Management and Restoration on Indigenous and non-Indigenous land management collaborations which is based largely on the symposium contributions. This special issue of EMR can be downloaded for free from: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/emr.2012.13.issue-1/issuetoc>.

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Emilie Ens (left) and Felina Campion (Djelk Ranger) measuring kunkod tree circumference.
— Photo: Emilie Ens
In June 2011, five Djelk women Rangers (Felina Campion, Selma Campion, Jodie Kelly, Tara Rostron, Dorita Djolom) also participated in the PoC Women Ranger’s Toolkit workshop in Darwin.

Emilie Ens has also been working with the Djelk Rangers and Northern Territory Government’s ecologist Alys Stevens to analyse their CyberTracker weed data (2008-2011) and refine the weed sequence to enhance local useability. This information will be used to inform a revised IPA Weed Management Action Plan for the 2011-2012 wet season. The Djelk women also made some community awareness posters about grassy weeds, Weed of National Significance *Mimosa pigra* and chemical spray information.

**Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers**

The Garawa are the traditional owners of country in the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria: their country covers approximately 30,000 km². Garawa estates also include sea country in the southwest Gulf. On the Garawa ALT there is the community of Robinson River with approximately 150 people resident, and six outstations.

The traditional owners of the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) (also known as the Nicholson Block) are the Waanyi and Garawa peoples. The land trust is approximately 60 km from the coast in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria and abuts the Northern Territory/Queensland border, and is approximately 12,000 km² in area.
In late 2010 the traditional owners of the Waanyi/ Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust heard that their Indigenous Protected Area application developed by Seán Kerins and Jarrad Holmes of the Northern Land Council, to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (SEWPaC), had been successful. The funding is to consult with the traditional owners of the land trust to determine how they want to manage their country, and to assess their support and the pros and cons of an Indigenous Protected Area declaration for some, or all, of the land trust. With little institutional support, Seán has been working with traditional owners and Nic Gambold, IPA consultant, to develop a draft plan of management for the land trust. The southern Gulf is one of the remotest areas in Australia, combined with large wet seasons and vast areas of the region flooded for months at a time, meetings on the land trust have been difficult. Despite this Seán, along with Jarrad Holmes and Nic, have facilitated four IPA meetings during 2011, in Borroloola, Doomadgee, Branch Creek on Wollogorang Station and at Wangalini Outstation on the South Nicholson. Like all land management planning meetings that have been occurring over the last six years, there is large traditional owner participation demonstrating their on-going commitment to care for their country and create employment opportunities through their own development processes.

Land Owners for the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust, sheltering out of the rain, meet in Borroloola in February 2011 to discuss implementing an Indigenous Protected Area across some or all of the land trust. – Photo: Seán Kerins

April 2011 and it's still too wet to get out on the Land Trust so Waanyi/Garawa Land owners meet again in Borroloola to work with Nic Gambold through participatory planning methods to develop a plan of management for the land trust. – Photo: Seán Kerins
Jack Green, senior cultural advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa ranger groups and Robert O’Keefe, Garawa Ranger, undertaking controlled burning on the Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust (Robinson River) as part of the wider Gulf of Carpentaria Fire Abatement Project.

— Photo: Jimmy Morrisson, Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa ranger Coordinator 2011


— Photo: Jimmy Morrisson, Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa ranger Coordinator 2011
In August Seán, along with the Director of Bushfires NT nominated the Garawa and the Waanyi/Garawa Rangers for a Landcare Award—Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award—for their on-going success in managing fire on the Garawa and the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trusts (comprising approximately 20,000 km²). This nomination has been fruitful. The Garawa and the Waanyi/Garawa Rangers won the Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award on 14 October and PoC would like to congratulate them for this achievement.

Since the Garawa and Waanyi began their Caring for Country program in 2005 they achieved a substantial reduction in wildfires in the region. In 2010, it was estimated that through the efforts of the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers and traditional owners a 63 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has been made. A similar reduction in emissions was made in 2011. This is a significant achievement for the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa traditional owners considering they have limited organisational support and operate in such a remote area.

Jack Hogan and Lizzy Hogan, Land owners from the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust talking with Nic Gambold, IPA consultant, at Brumby Springs September 2011.
— Photo: Seán Kerins
Each year, in Borroloola, the NAIDOC week celebrations begin with a march down the main road to celebrate the survival of the southern Gulf’s Indigenous peoples. Here, Jack Green, senior Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Cultural Advisor leads the march.

— Photo: Seán Kerins

In October Mr Jack Green, Senior Cultural Advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Ranger programs was a keynote speaker at Amnesty International’s 50th Anniversary Conference, Change the World, held in Brisbane. Jack spoke on ‘Indigenous Rights – A Sustainable Future for Homelands’ in which he focussed on the Garawa and Waanyi Caring for Country program as a community-based development initiative assisting land owners manage their country and help them remain living on it.

— Photo: Seán Kerins
Also in October, Mr Jack Green, visited CAEPR at the ANU. During his visit Mr Green and Seán Kerins gave a seminar on the Southern Gulf Fire Abatement project titled ‘Still Building, From the Bottom Up: Community-Based Land Management in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria’. This has been part of his on-going working of informing wider Australia about successful Indigenous development initiatives occurring in remote regions of Australia.

The recording of this seminar can be found at:

‘A lot of good things comes out of our Caring for Country program with the fire work. We keeping fire, proper way, and it works very good for the country. Plus it’s good for us, to get back out there, so we can see where we going, it’s bringing more bush tucker back on the country, kangaroo and emu and things like that commin’ back now. We are really happy about that.’

— Mr Jack Green, senior cultural advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa ranger

Warddeken Land Management Limited (LML)

Warddeken Land Management Limited cares for country within the west Arnhem plateau of the Northern Territory, immediately east of Kakadu National Park.

In November 2010, Emilie Ens, Gill Towler and Sam Bentley-Toon worked with the Rangers and community members to film 30 bush tucker and useful plants of *Kunumeleng* (build up season). Together they also developed a DVD. About 50 copies of the DVD were made and distributed to community members.

For 3 weeks in February 2011, Emilie Ens, CAEPR and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research (CSIRO) hosted Manwurrk Rangers Victor Garlngarr and Barbara Gurwalwal in Canberra. This visiting fellowship allowed the Rangers to participate in the Australian National Herbarium Botanical Internship where they attended seminars and workshops on plant identification, botanical field work, mapping and herbarium curation. CSIRO staff also facilitated specific plant nursery and insect collection trips for Victor and Barbara. In addition to the Internship, Victor and Barbara also worked with the PoC team to co-author a paper on plant conservation on Aboriginal land for the magazine *Australasian Plant Conservation* titled: ’Victor Garlngarr and Barbara Gurwalwal: Caring for country in the Warddeken IPA’. The article was very well received and was inserted as the first article of the special magazine issue.

The article can be downloaded for free from:
In June 2011, five women Manwurrk Rangers (Carol Pamkal, Jenny Nadjamerrek, Lisa Miller and Georgia Vallance and a women ranger from Ngukurr who recently passed away) attended the PoC Women Rangers Toolkit workshop.

In July 2011, Emilie Ens introduced potential scientific collaborators (Prof Craig Moritz, Prof Steve Donnellan and scientists from the Victorian Museum) to the Manwurrk Rangers at Kamarrkawan and Kabulwarnamyo. These scientists are interested in conducting genetic studies of Arnhem Plateau fauna to better document the endemism in the area and potentially describe numerous new species and range extensions for species that have not previously been documented from the region.

As a follow-on from the November 2010 ethnobotanical film, Emilie Ens and Gill Towler worked with Rangers from Manmoyi, Kamarrkawan and Kabulwarnamyo outstations at Kamarrkawan to record bush tucker and ecological knowledge for Yekke (early dry season). This work was enthusiastically conducted by the Rangers and community members totalling 35 people from young to old. During this trip night frog surveys were also conducted (see photo).

Emilie Ens has also been working with Warddeken LML staff to update their regional weed strategy.
Manwurk rangers filming ecological knowledge on the banks of the Mann River near Kamarrkawann outstation.

— Photo: Emilie Ens

Night frog surveys with young people and Rangers near Kamarrkawann outstation.

— Photo: Emilie Ens
Yirralka Rangers

The Yirralka Rangers in association with Yolnu traditional owners manage both land and sea in the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which covers 6,900 km² in North East Arnhem Land, extending south from the Gove Peninsula to Blue Mud Bay.

Emilie Ens co-authored a paper with Yinimala Gumana and Daniel Barrow (NTPWS) for the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference, Sydney, June 2011, where Yinimala and Daniel presented their collaborative work on feral animal management in north east Arnhem Land. Their presentation was very well received with numerous offers of further collaboration and support by other conference participants, including the potential for a joint feral animal carbon emission project.

In May Katherine May spent time with the Yirralka Rangers collecting information to write the 2010-11 Yirralka Annual Report. Jon Altman and Frances Morphy assisted with editorial comments in the production of the report which was designed by Gillian Cosgrove. To consult the report visit: <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/poc/research/otherdocs.php>.

In June 2011, three Miyalk Rangers (Fiona Shaw, Gururrul Marika and Bungamana Gunambarr) also participated in the PoC Women Ranger’s Toolkit workshop.

Emilie Ens has been in discussion with the Miyalk Rangers about conducting some medicinal testing of the bush medicine products they are making with the Aboriginal Bush Traders.
Yugul Mangi Land and Sea Management Corporation

The Yugul Mangi Land and Sea Management Corporation is based in Ngukurr in southeast Arnhem Land. The area of operation is approximately 20,000 km² and includes the Roper River and sea country as far north as Wuyagiba to Limmen Bight in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. The Rangers also work inland as far as Womena.

Emilie Ens continued to work with the Yugul Mangi Rangers on their feral animal exclusion project where parts of three sacred billabongs have been fenced off. They monitored the ground surface, ground cover, water quality and lily cover in the early and late dry seasons at the fenced and nearby unfenced billabongs for the third year. Lessons were learnt after the 2009 wet season when two of the fences were damaged by floodwater which affected exclusion success. However at Nulawan, where the fence withheld the wet season floods, obvious improvements in grass cover, lily cover and water quality were quantified and photographed (see photo below). A report was written on the fences for the local *Ngukurr News* by Emilie Ens and Priscilla Dixon (Ranger).

In September, the Yugul Mangi Rangers, with the help of Emilie Ens, received a grant of $10,000 from the Sidney Myer Fund to purchase new computers and CyberTracker units to facilitate administration of their land and sea management work. Emilie has continued to assist the Rangers with their CyberTracker skill development, including development and use of a feral animal tracker which can be used to document changes in feral animal dung and sightings along roads.
In June 2011, three Yugul Mangi Women Rangers (Julie Roy, Priscilla Dixon and Edna Nelson) attended the PoC Women Rangers Toolkit workshop.

As a result of the Women Rangers Toolkit workshop where Rangers spoke about their different work activities, the Yugul Mangi rangers asked Emilie Ens and Gill Towler to assist them with the re-establishment of their plant nursery. In September, the team moved their old nursery frame across town to the new Ranger shed, cleared out the back to make space for garden beds and propagated exotic fruit and vegetable species initially to get some quick growing and producing plants happening. They also collected and sowed seeds of some local plants that the women Rangers were interested in growing as potential horticulture and landscaping species. We also met with the local New Futures Alliance team to discuss the potential for growing trees that could be on-sold for the new housing estate in Ngukurr.

Emilie Ens also assisted the Yugul Mangi Rangers with their application for a SEWPaC 2011-2012 Community Action Grant to finance the development of a plant nursery and for more fencing equipment.

Edna Nelson and Priscilla Dixon also won an ESA Indigenous Travel Grant to present their feral animal exclusion fencing research with Emilie Ens at the ESA conference in Tasmania in November in 2011.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

The main activities and outcomes associated with each of the six research projects in 2011 are detailed below:

Supporting Indigenous environmental management and monitoring

This research aims to assist in the monitoring and management of impacts of feral animals and invasive weeds on Indigenous land by Indigenous land and sea managers. During the past three years PoC staff have been working with a number of project partners to develop a variety of ecological monitoring projects, management strategies, practical resources and training activities. The focus of PoC project activities on this particular project reflects the concerns of traditional owners and land and sea management groups about the impacts of feral and invasive species including buffalo, pigs and horses, on their country and its resources, particularly food resources.

Emilie Ens, Gill Towler and Sam Bentley-Toon worked with various institutions to develop flora and fauna databases of species that have been collected in the PoC partner IPAs of Arnhem Land. They worked with Nunzio Knerr (Australian Virtual Herbarium, CSIRO) to extract flora data from the Australian Virtual Herbarium and staff from the Australian National Heritage Assessment Tool to acquire known fauna data, which was obviously not comprehensive. These institutions hold collations of data from all state and territory
herbaria, museums and some universities. These lists were the first flora and fauna lists that some IPAs had acquired and were gratefully received as a basis for further baseline data collection and ranger work effort. Collections made to date by the PoC team and the Rangers have already added species to these lists. This exercise has provided evidence for the opportunity for Indigenous Rangers to significantly contribute to the national biodiversity databases, importantly, using both Indigenous and Western scientific taxonomies. This project is being further developed by the team as a basis for future work.

**CyberTracker applications for Indigenous land and sea management**

This overarching research project explores the use of CyberTracker software, handheld computers, global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) by Indigenous land and sea management organisations. PoC staff have assisted with training in the use of CyberTracker with project partners and have designed a number of location specific programs with them and senior Traditional Owners to assist with the collection of operational and environmental monitoring information.

Emilie Ens continues to provide highly sought after CyberTracker support to the PoC partners. On 29 and 30 November, Emilie Ens worked with SEWPaC staff and Jenny Smits (Australian Wildlife Services) at Birrigai, near Canberra, to deliver CyberTracker training to 50 Indigenous WoC and IPA staff from southern Australian IPAs from SE Qld to South Australia. The workshop involved training in the use of a weed control sequence and development of new sequence from scratch. Emilie also gave a presentation about some of the ways PoC partners use CyberTracker in northern Australia. The workshop participants were keen to hear about some of the advantages and challenges of using CyberTracker to assist with data collection.

Emilie has also written a paper about the use for CyberTracker by Indigenous Rangers for the International journal *Conservation and Society*.

**Governance of Indigenous land and sea management**

The primary aim of this project is to assist embryonic Indigenous land and sea management organisations that currently have little formalised governance to establish effective and appropriate governance arrangements. The inclusion of a diverse range of Indigenous land and sea management organisations as PoC project partners means that the experiences of more established groups with strong governance arrangements can help inform the development of emergent groups.

Throughout 2011 Jon Altman has continued his ongoing work with Karrkad-Kandji Ltd (KKL), looking to find an alternate means to raise funding to ensure land and sea management activities are maintained.
Jon is a Director of KKL and is currently the Secretary. Set up in 2010, Karrkad-Kandji Limited—a company limited by guarantee—has the goal of acting as trustee of the Karrkad-Kandji Charitable Trust, to raise funds to assist to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment of West Arnhem Land. KKL is exploring innovative ways to raise resources to support the land management activities of PoC partners Warddeken LML and the Djelk Rangers that respectively manage the Warddeken and Djelk IPAs.

On 13 and 14 December the directors of KKL met at Djinkarr near Maningrida for a Board Meeting and to discuss the next exciting phase in the development of the company that is now moving into a new active fund-raising phase to build up the capital base of the Karrkad-Kandji Trust. Stakeholders including some key traditional owners and staff of Warddeken and Djelk IPAs and the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation met with the members of the Board with a key focus being on the development of a strategic plan and 12-month action plan for the company. Senior staff of The Nature Conservancy (a foundation donor alongside the Pew Environment Group) participated in the meeting to provide advice on operational matters and fund-raising strategies. Karrkad-Kandji Limited now has two staff, Stuart Cowell as Business Manager and Sophie Davidson as Director of Development and will soon be launching its website at karrkad-kandji.org.au. Jon Altman participated at the meeting organised by the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation as a foundation director and current secretary of the Company.

In September 2011, Dr Fogarty held initial discussions with the Djelk Rangers on governance, capacity and education issues. This culminated in a series of recorded interviews with some of the senior Djelk Rangers, which will be used to form the backbone of two chapters in a forthcoming publication from PoC project. This will also hopefully be the start of a collaborative research effort to look at ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge in land and sea management training and governance arrangements.

**Well-being and socio-economics associated with Indigenous land and sea management**

This research aims to document the contribution that land and sea management projects make to Indigenous well-being. The aim is to explore Indigenous notions of well-being and to document both the direct and indirect benefits of living on, and caring for country. This research also aims to contribute to the evidence base on the socioeconomic outcomes from, and the sustainability of, customary and commercial utilisation of wild resources.

In 2011, Jon Altman’s work has focused on the analysis of NATSISS data to highlight the value of the customary economy. In association with his project ‘Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia’, Jon’s analysis contributes to illustrate and emphasise the importance of outstations/homelands in remote Australia by demonstrating the socioeconomic and ecological outcomes emerging from Indigenous work on country.
Jon gave a presentation in collaboration with Dr Nicholas Biddle and Mr Geoff Buchanan during the 2011 NATSISS Conference in April. Titled ‘Statistics about the customary sector of the Indigenous economy: Survey, policy and political implications’, this paper questions the effectiveness of the NATSISS as a survey instrument to collect information on what the authors termed the ‘customary sector’; a sector which appears to be almost invisible in the Standard NATSISS 2008 outputs.

Strengthening policies and investment for Indigenous land and sea management

This overarching research project aims to identify and analyse support for Indigenous land and sea management. The focus is on government funded programs such as the Australian Government’s IPA and Working on Country (WoC) programs as well as on support from philanthropies, NGOs and the private sector.

2011 has been a prolific year in terms of PoC staff submissions, conferences and publications. Throughout this year, Jon Altman’s work has heavily contributed to this area through a number of submissions to government and other inquiries including on Wild Rivers, native title and economic development.

One of the major contributions of the PoC team and research collaborators has been the collective submission to the review of the Caring for Our Country program (May 2011). The submission drew attention to challenges Indigenous groups experience under the current Caring for our Country model and proposed a number of ways the Australian Government could improve Indigenous Australians’ participation in natural resource management across Australia.

In May, Seán Kerins participated in a two-day workshop focused on ‘Integrated Natural Resource Management and Regional Policy and Planning’. The workshop was facilitated by the HC Coombs Policy Forum and the Fenner School of Environment and Society, both within the ANU, on behalf of the Australian Government Departments of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) and Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), as part of the Australian Government’s wider Caring for our Country review. Despite Indigenous Australians owning 23 per cent of the Australian land mass, which includes some of the most biologically diverse and intact ecosystems in Australia, there was no Indigenous participation within the workshop. Drawing on PoC research, Seán made the argument that Indigenous participation in NRM policy development is enormously important when you consider the vast amount of land that Indigenous Australians hold under land rights and native title laws, its high biodiversity values, and Indigenous aspirations to be involved in its management through their involvement in Caring for Country projects operating across much of Australia.
In June, Seán Kerins, along with Joe Morrison from the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) and Dr Kerry Arabena, CEO of the Lowitja Institute, made a presentation at the Australian Environmental Grant Makers Network (AEGN) Annual Conference in Melbourne. The AEGN works primarily for grant makers, with a vision to improve the conservation and functioning of Australia’s environment by inspiring effective grant-making. Seán, Joe and Kerry made the opening presentations to the annual conference, focusing on the unique relationship of Indigenous people to country, the institutions facilitating this and the emerging benefits to both Indigenous cultural, economic, health and education outcomes and wider Australia. AEGN members undertook a field trip to Arnhem Land where they visited Indigenous PoC partner organisations and learnt first-hand about innovative Caring for Country programs.

In July, Jon Altman and Seán Kerins made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Inquiry into Australia’s Biodiversity in a Changing Climate. The submission focused on promoting resilience in ecosystems and human communities through building on Indigenous competitive advantage.

Bill Fogarty along with Dr Inge Kral also made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Inquiry into Language Learning in Indigenous Communities (August 2011). Bill’s submission concentrated specifically on the need for Indigenous languages and knowledge in land and sea management and development.

Jon Altman and Seán Kerins assisted Amnesty International Australia to organize a special plenary session ‘Indigenous Rights – A Sustainable Future for Homelands’ at the 50th Anniversary Human Rights Conference ‘Change the World’ in Brisbane, 6-8 October. Along with Yananymul Mununggurr CEO of the Laynhapuy Homelands Association, Jack Green Senior Cultural Advisor, Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Ranger Programs and Andrew Erueti Advisor on Indigenous Rights to the International Secretariat of Amnesty International they made panel presentations on 8 October 2011. This session received considerable media coverage and highlighted the neglect of homelands by the Australian government while emphasizing the key role that residents of homelands play in the environmental management of much of remote Australia.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

National Environmental Research Program (NERP): Northern Australia Hub

This new project will build on research carried out on the PoC project and will allow a continuation of work on livelihood possibilities associated with NRM with at least two of our PoC partners from October 2011 until 2015.
Women Rangers Workshop 2011

Emilie Ens and Katherine May are collaborating with five of the PoC partners to develop a Women Rangers Toolkit. The first workshop was held in Darwin at NARU and CDU in June 2011 and was facilitated by recently retired senior Ngandi woman, Cherry Daniels. The workshop (including travel and accommodation of all participants) was funded by an ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) conference grant. Twenty women Rangers workshoped about strategies to enhance women Rangers’ work which was also filmed by some of the Rangers. Expected outputs are a community ‘Toolkit’ booklet, an academic paper on the process and outcomes of the workshop and a DVD. Another ANU CASS grant has been awarded to the team to run phase 2 of the workshop in February 2012 in Canberra.

The full workshop report is available on the PoC website:


See also PoC Newsletter Vol.3, No.1

Participants of the PoC 2011 Women Rangers Toolkit workshop.
— Photo: Dave Williams (NARU staff member)

Cherry Daniels leading workshop with younger participants keen to record her wisdom on their mobile phones.
— Photo: Emilie Ens

Funding applications

Seán Kerins developed two grant applications to the value of $40,000 to Australia Council for the Arts and the Australian International Cultural Council administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which were successful for East Journey, a highly talented Yolngu band consisting of a number of Yirralka and Dhimurru Rangers, to participate in Fest’Napuan in Port Vila Vanuatu in November 2011.
Emilie Ens has applied for a Discovery Early Career Research Award (ARC) to continue work with some of the PoC partners from 2011-2014. She is also in discussion with a number of other parties about securing funding to continue this research beyond the Myer grant.

In 2010, the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) granted $15,000 from the CASS Conference Fund for the *Top End Women Talking: Indigenous Women Rangers Conference and Workshop*. On 27 September 2011 the CASS Research Committee announced that they will contribute to the Workshop for a second year by offering $8,000 towards the event.

Bill Fogarty won a conference travel grant from the Australian National University which enabled him to present his findings on the connections between learning, education and Indigenous land and sea management to an International Anthropology conference in Perth. The conference was attended by over 500 delegates from 50 different countries and there was a very high level of interest in the role people on country can play in education. Bill also won a College of the Arts and Social Sciences Linkage Pilot Grant from the ANU which he will be using to develop further research opportunities.

**Partners’ annual reports**

As a part of its action research with partner members of the People on Country project, PoC has collaborated in the production and design of annual reports. Last year PoC assisted the Djelk Rangers in the production of their 2009–2010 annual report. This year Katherine May worked closely with the Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers to assist them produce their inaugural annual reports for 2010–2011, with Gillian Cosgrove providing expert design assistance. It is our hope that once partners have an annual report template, production of annual reports will be a lasting legacy of our collaborations in information dissemination and public education.

Ecological Society of Australia Conference and Remote Indigenous Participation Award

This year Emilie Ens again worked with the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) to run an Indigenous symposium at the annual ESA conference to raise awareness about the innovative cross-cultural ways that Indigenous Australians and their colleagues are working to care for country and to give Indigenous land and sea managers an opportunity to network with other scientists.

The conference symposium was held in Hobart, Tasmania from the 21-27 November. The participation of 12 Indigenous speakers (and three non-Indigenous support people) was funded through the Indigenous Travel Grant, set up by Emilie and the ESA, which was generously financed by the Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Territory NRM and CDU. Speakers came from around Australia – from Broome, Cape York, Wadeye, Alice Springs, northern NSW, SE Queensland, Sydney, Forbes and Ngukurr (PoC partner, Yugul Mangi Rangers). Emilie worked with Edna Nelson and Priscilla Dixon from the Yugul Mangi Rangers to develop a power point presentation about their collaborative work and included some video footage of Cherry Daniels (cultural advisor) and Clary Rogers (coordinator). The symposium was very well received with audience members saying that the symposium was “inspirational” and that it was “great to hear some of the success stories”. Symposium participants said: “it was great to meet other people doing similar work”; “it was a real eye opener”; “it’s the way Aboriginal people learn- to get out, meet people and actually talk, it was really good”.

Participants of the ESA conference’s Indigenous symposium

Photo: Oliver Costello
Following the symposium, Jann Williams (from the ESA) and the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation in Tasmania (with financial assistance from Cradle Coast NRM) ran a field trip for symposium participants and interested others, to visit some Indigenous land and sea management initiatives in northern Tasmania and Tiagarra – the first Indigenous Australian cultural centre. The trip was a fantastic addition to the symposium as it gave people further opportunities to network and learn from others. The field trip culminated in Mal Collinge, Bunya Mountains (SE Qld) elder and symposium speaker, offering message sticks to the ESA, Angus Melpi from Wadeye and the SRAC mob to visit his country. There was much interest in next year’s ESA conference Indigenous symposium in Melbourne.

Following from last year's conference, Emilie Ens was asked to be Guest Editor for a special journal issue of Australian journal Ecological Management and Restoration (EMR) which is primarily include papers based on the 2010 ESA Conference Indigenous symposium titled: Combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge for land management solutions. Emilie has worked with EMR editor Tein McDonald and 4 editorial board members (Max Finlayson, Sue Jackson, Sarah Holcombe and Karissa Preuss) to bring together 16 papers, many of which have Indigenous co-authors. The Nature Conservancy and SEWPaC have sponsored the publication which is now available online and can be downloaded at:


In June, Emilie Ens also won a small grant from the Australian Natural Heritage Assessment database to extend biodiversity data collection research in Arnhem Land. This money was used to fund a short-term contract position for botanist, Gillian Towler who is collaborating closely with the PoC project.

**Book-writing Workshop: People on Country—Indigenous livelihoods, land and sea management in Australia**

A significant output from the People on Country Research Project will be an edited volume entitled People on Country—Indigenous livelihoods, land and sea management in Australia. The book draws on the five year PoC project working with seven ranger groups in the Top End and CAEPR Fellow Janet Hunt’s work on Indigenous land management in NSW. It will be published by Federation Press in November 2012. The book will include chapters by the CAEPR researchers and each of the Indigenous research partners including Tanya Patterson of Banbai Business Enterprises, Guyra, NSW. Individual chapters will focus on the role that Indigenous peoples play in caring for, working on, and living on their country. This role remains largely unrecognised in popular and Indigenous policy discourse, which increasingly talks in negative terms of closing gaps in deficits, of normalisation and of emptying the landscape of people. The authors do not seek to minimise the challenges and hurdles that development via payment for environmental services faces, but rather to challenge conventional and often crude evolutionary thinking by presenting the Caring for Country movement and the peopling of the Indigenous estate as an asset to local, national and global communities.
As part of developing the book, CAEPR convened a writing workshop in Darwin on 8-9 November 2011 that brought together PoC researchers and Indigenous partners. This was a valuable exercise, as it brought together grounded western and Indigenous perspectives on Caring for Country. Indigenous partners focussed on how their groups emerged, the environmental and social benefits flowing from their activities, and the barriers the groups face in continuing their diverse work programs across Australia.

Wesley Campion, Victor Rostron and Ivan Namarnyilk working with Dr Bill Fogarty on chapters for forthcoming People on Country book.
– Photo: Bill Fogarty

Bottom: Cherry Daniels, Priscilla Dixon, Edna Nelson, Anita Daniels and Julie Roy working with Emilie Ens putting their ideas together for their chapters also in the forthcoming PoC book.
– Photo: Gill Towler
COMMUNICATING THE PROJECT

The PoC project uses a variety of means to communicate its findings in order to inform the policy, Indigenous, academic and broader communities about the project and the important issues that it deals with. This is being done through:

- Publications, including Project Reports, Newsletter and Community Reports
- Submissions and evidence to inquiries
- Seminars, Workshops and other Presentations
- Engagement with the media
- PoC Project Website

PUBLICATIONS

PoC Project Reports and Newsletters

*People on Country Newsletter Vol.4 No. 1, Feb 2012,*
Compiled and edited by Annick Thomassin

*People on Country Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 1, Aug 2011,*
Compiled and edited by Annick Thomassin

*People on Country 2010 Annual Report,*
Compiled and edited by Katherine May

*People on Country Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 2, Dec 2010,*
Compiled and edited by Katherine May

*People on Country Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 1, May 2010,*
Compiled and edited by Katherine May

People on Country Evaluation Report, March 2010,
Prepared by Dr Dermot Smyth

*People on Country 2009 Annual Report,*
Compiled and edited by Katherine May
JON ALTMAN


JON ALTMAN, SEÁN KERINS, JANET HUNT, EMILIE ENS, KATHERINE MAY, SUSIE RUSSELL AND BILL FOGARTY


JENNIFER KÖNIG, JON ALTMAN AND ANTHONY GRIFFITHS


EMILIE ENS


EMILIE ENS AND TEIN MCDONALD


EMILIE ENS AND GILL TOWLER


EMILIE ENS, GILLIAN TOWLER AND CHERRY DANIELS, THE YUGUL MANGI RANGERS AND THE MANWURRK RANGERS


EMILIE ENS, MAX Finlayson, KARISSA Preuss, SUE Jackson AND SARAH Holcombe


VICTOR Garlngarr, BARBARA Gurwalwal, SAM Bentley-Toon, EMILIE ENS AND GILL TOWLER


Le MAITRE, D., GAERTNER, M., MARCHANTE, E., ENS, E. J., Holmes, P., Pauchard, A., O’FARRELL, P., Rogers, A. M., Blanchard, R., Blignaut, J and Richardson, D. M.

**Bill Fogarty**


**Susie Russell**


**Janet Hunt**


**Élodie Fache**


**Reports and Project Documents**

**Emilie Ens**


Community report on Warddeken wetland and feral animal damage monitoring. Report to Warddeken Land Management Limited.

**Emilie Ens and Gill Towler**


**Emilie Ens and JoAnne Packer**

Emilie Ens and Priscilla Dixon


Katherine May and Emilie Ens


Katherine May and Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

Dhimurru Annual Report 2010-11.

Katherine May and Yirralka Rangers

Yirralka Annual Report 2010-11.

Nanni Concu

Developing an effective conservation and sustainable use economy: two Arnhem Land case studies. Charles Darwin University, Darwin.

Submissions and Evidence to Enquiries

Jon Altman


Expert witness to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry on the Native Title Amendment (Reform) Bill 2011, Parliament House, Canberra, 16 September.

**Jon Altman, Seán Kerins, Janet Hunt, Emilie Ens, Katherine May, Susie Russell and Bill Fogarty**


**Jon Altman and Seán Kerins**


**Seán Kerins**

Discussion Draft of the Strategic Plan 'ANU by 2020' to the ANU Vice Chancellor regarding Indigenous engagement within the Australian National University.

**Bill Fogarty and Inge Kral**


Both Bill and Inge gave evidence to this inquiry in early November.

**SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

**Jon Altman**

'Interventions: Anthropology's role in the politics of Aboriginal development in Australia' Anthropology Department Seminar, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 9 March.

'Property ‘Down Under’: Indigenous land rights and economic development in Australia’ James Henare Maori Research Centre seminar, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 11 March.
'Alternate development for difference: Refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the Indigenous estate in Australia', Public lecture, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 16 March.

'The hybrid economy as alternate reality-based development in remote Indigenous Australia’ Te Whare Kura sponsored graduate master class, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 17 March.


'Interventions: Why Indigenous policy is destined to fail and what should be done?’ Australia Institute Politics in the Pub, Canberra, 20 April.

'The role of the social scientist in commentating on the NT National Emergency Intervention’ seminar to graduate students, Tjabal Centre, ANU, Canberra, 6 May.

'Between culture and commerce: Indigenous land rights and development contestation in Australia’, Masters in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development (MAAPD) lecture, ANU, Canberra, 4 May.

'Alternate development for difference: Refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the Indigenous estate in Australia’, Department of Anthropology seminar, University of Manchester, 16 May.

'Moralising economy in remote Aboriginal Australia’, ESRC-sponsored workshop on The Value Question Today: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Moral Economy, University of Manchester, 20 May.

'The hybrid economy as alternate reality-based development in remote Indigenous Australia’ to doctoral students and Domestic Moral Economy project staff, Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester, 25 May.


'Alternate development for difference: Refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the Indigenous estate in Australia’, seminar at the Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l'Océanie/Centre for Research and Documentation on Oceania (CREDO) at the Maison Asie-Pacifique, University of Provence, Marseille, 28 June.

'Art and livelihood in remote Indigenous Australia’, seminar to guides from the National Gallery of Australia’, CAEPR, ANU, Canberra, 15 July.

'Why do Indigenous people live in deep poverty in rich Australia and what can be done about it?', Wine and Cheese Talk, Manning Clark House, Canberra, 28 July.

'Indigenous Policy: Some thoughts on where we are going wrong and how to save the sinking policy ship, Seminar’, Department of Finance and Deregulation, Canberra, 12 August.

'Between custom and commerce: Indigenous land rights and development contestation in Australia’, paper presented at Between Indigenous and Settler Governance conference, University of Western Sydney, Bankstown, 18–20 August.

'Alternative development for difference: How to close livelihood gaps in remote Australia’, Masters in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development (MAAPD) lecture, ANU, Canberra, 31 August.

'The Canberra consensus and Indigenous development: Can the neoliberal project of moral restructuring work?’, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Seminar, Darwin, 8 September.

Participation at a Panel discussion on Indigenous Art Centres: Hubs of Innovation organised by Big hART, Parliament House, Canberra, 15 September.

'Development dead ends in remote Indigenous Australia: Can the neoliberal project of moral restructuring work?’, paper presented at 60 Years of Anthropology at ANU: Contesting Anthropology’s Future conference, ANU, Canberra, 27 September.


'In search of productive intervention in the Northern Territory’, presentation at the ANTAR annual David Hunter Memorial Lecture, Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra, 17 November.

'From Keynesian Nanny State to the coercive Daddy State in Indigenous policy’ A Response to 'How do we design a dignified welfare safety net without becoming a Nanny State? Lessons from Catholic Social Teaching’ the Gerald Ward lecture on Social Justice by Father Frank Brennan, National Library, Canberra, 18 November.
**Jon Altman and Melinda Hinkson**

‘Interventions: Anthropology’s role in the politics of Aboriginal development in Australia’, Department of Anthropology seminar, University of Manchester, 8 June.

‘Interventions: Anthropology’s role in the politics of Aboriginal development in Australia’ to the Departments of Anthropology and Religious Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 20 June.

‘Interventions: Anthropology’s role in the politics of Aboriginal development in Australia’, seminar at the Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l’Océanie/ Centre for Research and Documentation on Oceania (CREDO) at the Maison Asie-Pacifique, University of Provence, Marseille, 28 June.

**Jon Altman, Jennifer Koenig and Geoff Buchanan**

‘Developing an effective conservation and sustainable use economy: two Arnhem Land case studies’, presentation at the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) Hub Theme 6 Sustainable Enterprises synthesis meeting, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, 10 November 2011.

**Jon Altman and Susie Russell**

‘The NTER Intervention: The role of evidence in framing normalisation’, CAEPR seminar, ANU, Canberra, 9 December.

**Seán Kerins**

‘Indigenous Land and Sea Management’ Lecture in the course Resources, Environment and Society: Geography of Sustainability program (ENVS1001), Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU, Canberra, 15 March.

‘Cultural and Natural Resource Management’ Lecture in the course on Indigenous Development, Masters in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development (MAAPD), ANU, Canberra, 7 September.

Joint initiative on integrated Natural Resource Management and Regional Policy and Planning Workshop, hosted by Fenner School of Environment and Society and HC Coombs Policy Forum, ANU, Canberra, 4-5 May 2011.

Seán Kerins, Joe Morisson and Kerry Arabena

Australian Environmental Grant Makers Network Annual Conference, Environmental and Indigenous Philanthropy, Melbourne, 28-29 June 2011.

Jack Green and Seán Kerins

‘Still building, from the bottom up: community-based land management in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria’, CAEPR Seminar, ANU, Canberra, 12 October.

Emilie Ens and Gill Towler

‘Indigenous land management and TERN: Insight from 2-way research in Arnhem Land’, Invited presentation, TERN symposium, Melbourne, April.

Priscilla Dixon, Edna Nelson, and Emilie Ens

‘Protecting natural and cultural values of freshwater billabongs from feral ungulates’. ESA Conference, Hobart, Tasmania, November.

Cherry Daniels, Katherine May and Emilie Ens


Yinimala Gumana, Daniel Barrow and Emilie Ens


Bill Fogarty


‘Competing knowledge systems and place based pedagogy: Indigenous knowledge and Education’, Paper delivered at International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) and the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa / New Zealand (ASAANZ) Conference, University of Western Australia, Perth, July 2011.

‘Policy, Pedagogy and Place’, Paper delivered as keynote for panel on Education, Enterprise and Employment at AIATSIS Conference, ANU, Canberra, September 2011.
Speaker on Indigenous Education, special panel for the Burgmann-Doomadgee Community Partnership, ANU, Canberra, 25 October.


‘Working on Country, Learning through country; What’s the connection?’, Paper to be delivered at the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC), Canberra, 24 November.

**GEOFF BUCHANAN**

‘Country, culture, economy: seeing the economy differently’, Kooma Green School, Murra Murra, Queensland, 28 August.


**JENNIFER KOEING AND GEOFF BUCHANAN**

‘Developing an effective conservation and sustainable use economy: two Arnhem Land case studies’, presentation at the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) Hub Theme 6 Sustainable Enterprises synthesis meeting, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, 10 November 2011.

**MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

In 2011, the team contributed with outputs in numerous newspapers including the Canberra Times, The Australian and online media like New Matilda and Crikey and Indigenous media like the new monthly magazine Tracker where Jon Altman has a regular column ‘Evidently’.

**Written Press (Selection)**

**JON ALTMAN**


‘Yes, no, maybe... Prime Minister’, Evidently, Tracker, July 2011: 28, 45.


‘Noel Pearson’s policies embraced by white Australia, but how effective are they?’, The Conversation, 9 August, <http://theconversation.edu.au/noel-pearsons-policies-embraced-by-white-australia-but-how-effective-are-they-2226>.


‘The cunning of consultation’ Evidently column, Tracker, December 2011: 36.


**Jon AltmAn, Russell Ross And Chris SArRa**


**Jon AltmAn And Nicholas Biddle**

ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND JON ALTMAN


MACKLIN, JENNY AND JON ALTMAN


TV/RADIO

JON ALTMAN

In 2011 Jon Altman has had a strong presence on national radio and television, especially on NITV, ABC, SBS and regional stations where he discussed various issues of relevance to PoC such as matters related to Indigenous homelands, CDEP, Indigenous affair policy, Wild Rivers, the budget and Natural Resource Management.

Jon’s analysis of these issues has also been broadcasted on The Wire Independent Current Affairs on Community Radio around Australia and on various Indigenous community radio across the country. He has been regularly invited on Tiger Bayles ‘Let’s Talk’ on Brisbane 98.9 FM, ‘For the Best Country’ and Sharon Firebrace’s ‘Razor Sharp’ on 3KND Kool and Deadly on 1503 AM in Melbourne, on Paul Wiles’s CAAMA Radio 8 kin FM in central Australia and on Anthony Cox’s program on Radio Mansfield 99.7 FM.

OUTREACH

JON ALTMAN

Launch of Indigenous Participation in Australian Economies Historical and Anthropological Perspectives edited by Ian Keen, ANU Coop bookshop 30 March 2011.

Launch of A Thousand Years of Whaling: A Faroese Common Property Regime by Sean Kerins, ANU Coop bookshop 28 April 2011.

Launch of Too Much Luck: The Mining Boom and Australia’s Future by Paul Cleary, ANU Coop Bookshop 16 November 2011.

SEÁN KERINS

Met with Mr Gary Merasty, Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Mr Jeff Hryhoriw, Manager, Government Relations, Mr Sean Willy, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility’ Cameco Corporation, Canada, Mr Brian Reilly, Managing Director, Cameco Australia Pty Ltd, and Mr Robert Coleman, Counsellor (Commercial) and Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission concerning Indigenous Cultural and Natural Resource Management initiatives in the northern Australia.
Katherine May and Janet Hunt

On 19 January Janet and Katherine May met with Sarah Ryan, Chair, National NRM Regions Working Group to follow up on their letter to her and discuss the issue of the NRM Chairs’ Governance Paper's neglect of Aboriginal governance of land and sea country. Janet and Katherine provided her with considerable information about the statutory and customary governance arrangements which shape Aboriginal peoples' engagement in NRM, but her response was that the NRM Chairs’ Discussion Paper would not be altered in light of the information we had provided.

Bill Fogarty

In September Bill met with the Indigenous Education Branch in The Northern Territory. This was primarily to discuss his research findings regarding the potential links between Indigenous land and sea Management and education, as well as to give the Department a copy of his thesis. During the same trip, Bill also met with Mr Glenn James from NAILSMA regarding education, capacity and governance issues facing carbon abatement and environmental management programs in Australia’s North.

PoC Team

On 28 March the PoC team met with SEWPAC’s WOC and IPA teams to discuss current and future research and policy issues.

On 31 March, the PoC team met with Sue Jackson CSIRO to discuss NERP.

PoC Project Website

The PoC website is a key component of the project’s communications strategy. It serves as a vehicle for the rapid dissemination of project research outputs, newsletters, and related documents. It also serves as a resource for project partners, developed in cooperation with them, to assist in establishing and expanding their web presence, and ensuring that they can be seen and heard by policy makers, other land and sea managers, researchers, students and the general public.

The PoC website includes extensive resource libraries that make a variety of project related material available for free download, including topic guides, partner organisation briefs, user manuals, and newsletters. The site also features streaming video from PoC partners working on country and carrying out PoC fieldwork activities; slide galleries of ranger work; and audio podcasts of CAEPR seminars.
PLANS FOR 2012

The People on Country team have not met for some time owing to dispersal on field research and our plans for the final year of the project will need to be confirmed after the Advisory Committee meeting in November 2011 and the CAEPR planning retreat on 28 November 2011. But already the following are emerging as priorities, with an eye on project continuity beyond October 2012.

1. A collaboration between project staff and partners in an edited volume to be published by Federation Press, Sydney with the working title People on Country: Indigenous livelihoods and land and sea management in Australia. This book will summarise the findings from the project 2008–2012 and should prove its lasting legacy. It is expected that the book will be written in an accessible style and will target a diverse audience; it is hoped that the book will be of benefit to participating ranger groups as well as others, that it will influence policy and public understandings, and that it will be used in late secondary and tertiary education and training.

2. Overlapping with this project will be a new initiative under the umbrella of the National Environmental Research Program North Australia Hub that will allow us to work with at least three of our partners until 2015 on issues associated with natural resource management and livelihoods. We have secured funding for a research fellowship and some research assistance as a part of this project.

3. Similarly, we are exploring ways to ensure that much of the environmental work that has been undertaken especially with four of our partners will continue beyond 2012. This is especially important as a large number of trials that have been put in place will need ongoing monitoring and ecological assessment.

4. The commitment to Karrkad-Kandji Ltd that is especially pertinent to two of our partners will continue well beyond 2012 as will ongoing work in west Arnhem Land on the hybrid economy and the role that community-based ranger programs play in this form of production regime.

5. We have commitments to convene another Women Rangers Workshop. This second phase of the Women Rangers Workshop will be held in Canberra in February 2012. The ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) has recently announced that it will fund the Workshop again this year. The PoC team also host Visiting Indigenous Fellows during 2012 and beyond.

Our plans for 2012 and beyond will be informed by the findings of a review of the project to be undertaken by Dr Dermot Smyth from November 2011. An important element of the initial project was to aim for sustainable outcomes and ongoing action research relationships, so we are keen to ensure that these goals are met. There are a number of research proposals under consideration for possible continuation of appointments for key project staff, with outcomes pending.
## APPENDIX A: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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**TABLE**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td><strong>Overspent Balance as at 30 November, 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>($9,824.37)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I certify that the above statement accurately summarises the financial records of the grant and that these records have been properly maintained so as to record accurately the Income and Expenditure of the grant.

Lorraine Pipper  
Senior Accountant  
Special Purpose Funds