

# ACIUCN Workshop: Global Biodiversity Framework - Help Australia Meet Targets by 2030

31st May – 1 June 2023

Peninsula Room, National Museum of Australia, Canberra  
Ngunnawal & Ngambri Country

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# Country

I acknowledge this place as Ngunnawal & Ngambri Country and that First Nations people from this region are the traditional custodians. I also recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect past, present and emerging Leaders and their continuing connection and contribution they make to the life of this city and this region

## **Bruce Hammond**

*Eastern Arrernte / First Nations South East man with ties to Country in the lower South East region*

*(Kingston S.E.) of South Australia and Central Australia Finke region. I am fortunate to have a rare mix of "Salt Water" and "Desert" peoples and appreciate and respect the obligations and responsibilities of each.*

*I have experience with Local Government, Aboriginal Affairs, Policy Development, the Arts, Records Management and Information Technology support. I established Advanced Technology Services, one of the first Aboriginal owned Information Technology support companies, in Australia. I have for many years worked in remote and regional Australia in Land management and conservation including working for the Federal Department of the Environment, Indigenous Land Management Facilitator, establishing and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ranger groups.*

*I am driven by supporting Aboriginal business and economic development, focusing on Employment Education, Business Development and Sustainable Environmental outcomes. Conservation Land Management, community development and connecting regional and remote communities across Australia supporting improved social, cultural and environmental outcomes are key themes.*

*In recent times I returned to the bush working and living remotely on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands. Currently I am working with Bush Heritage Australia supporting Aboriginal Partnerships both in South Australia and nationally and am a member of the Bush Heritage executive team. I am motivated and inspired to bring community, Government and NGO together to protect country for our future generations.*

# Reimagining Conservation

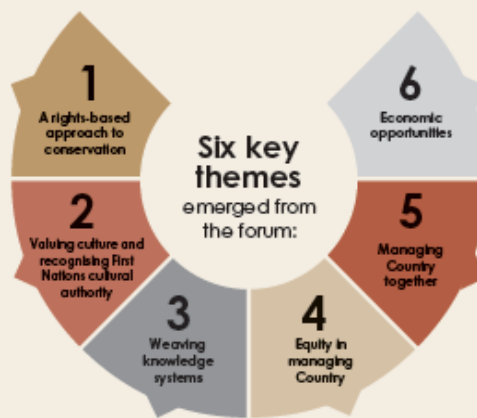
Working Together for Healthy Country | 2-4 November 2022

The first Reimagining Conservation Forum held in Meanjin (Brisbane) on Yuggerah and Turrbal Country in 2022 brought together First Nations and non-First Nations peoples to talk about how we can reimagine managing land and sea Country together.

100 people came from across Australia who work on Country, for culture and conservation, on traditional and scientific knowledge, and in emerging economic opportunities.

By ensuring equal numbers of First Nations and non-First Nations people, First Nations voices were amplified and it enabled non-First Nations people to listen and learn from First Nations people who shared generously from the heart.

Biodiversity policies, governance and management must not violate rights of First Nations people, and ensure the social, cultural and economic needs of First Nations communities are met.



Cultural governance mechanisms can only be determined by First Nations peoples. It's important to listen, respect, and ask First Nations people before acting to ensure programs are in the best interests of Country and communities.

It's time for another scientific revolution where by First Nations culture becomes fully and wholly recognised as a science, and with First Nations knowledge appropriately woven together with 'western' conservation science.

New economies based on carbon, biodiversity, and native produce are bringing new opportunities for First Nations peoples. Market mechanisms must be based on respect for the rights of local First Nations cultures and ensure benefit to local communities.

For many First Nations people, joint management is seen as the start of the journey towards sole management, not the end. Progress in joint and sole management is limited by lack of capacity and funding and resistance to letting First Nations peoples take control of their Country.

To be successful, co-management needs to ensure equity in funding, skills, capacity, education, and self-determination. Non-First Nations partners need to be culturally competent to understand cultural protocols and build relationships based on trust.

The event was initiated and organised by:



Further information: [www.aiclcn.org.au/reimagining-conservation-forum](http://www.aiclcn.org.au/reimagining-conservation-forum)

## Sustainable use of wild species and natural resources

Engaging and genuinely partnering with First Nations peoples must be first based on equity.  
Equity on : Decision making / Inclusion / Access to Country and resources

Food security is often the number one priority / issue in my communities. This includes Remote, Regional and Urban communities.

Climate decisions and others, Access to Country and restrictive social and political mechanisms directly negatively impact on the social and cultural well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Of course we are not orphans in this aspect and climate change and poor decisions negatively effect everyone but it is well known this negative impact is experienced in different ways and with greater negative impact by First Nations Peoples than in mainstream communities.

The quality of our mental and physical health is directly proportional to our ability to connect to Country. Not simply for access and connection sake but at all levels of community and social interaction. The family unit and our connection to developing the next generation of decision makers cannot be underestimated. Our shared ability to manage into the future can be directly attributed to the access or the removal of access to Country.

## Distribution of assets / resources

Current planning and engagement mechanisms are biased and not inclusive of First Nations peoples needs, expectations and requirements to meet legally balanced and equitable outcomes. The Native Title Act is not effective at representing the legal requirements of First Nations peoples and other legal frameworks are to be adopted or developed.

Assets / resources must first be allocated to First Nations peoples, then distributed to respective communities and then to program partners, interested parties and others. All within longstanding Cultural Governance protocols.

We no longer aspire to be involved. It is a mandatory requirement that First Nations peoples have a say on issues that directly impact on agreed / acknowledged legal obligations to manage country. This should not be ignored but often is. We have and will continue to test inappropriate and unbalanced environmental, social and cultural outcomes. It is our responsibility, our obligation and is non negotiable for us.

When I say **Us** this does not omit everyone in this room, in this place, in this wide nation. It is an inclusive statement not a divisive one. **One People. One Country, Many Nations.**

# Legal accountability at all levels - A Rights based Approach

Self determination is achieved when First Nations Peoples are respected in decision making process's. Managing Country and Culture providing choices for positive change in social, cultural and economic needs.

Fair and equitable sharing of resources including recognition of rights to Traditional Knowledge, its application, and the appropriate use of Intellectual property law to globally protect this knowledge must be foundational to any genuine partnership built on equity.

To achieve a rights based approach for conservation we require changes to current mechanisms such as justice, finance and leadership. Often Cultural, Social and Economics outcomes are not part of the scope of Conservations programs.

There is opportunity for change and many Not for Profit Conservation organisations are looking at, or currently developing, cultural governance models at all levels including leadership and decision making. **Bush Heritage Australia** is one of those organisations and I am proud to be associated with and support their ongoing commitment to doing it right, proudly walking the walk in true partnership. Yes there is much work to do. But it is a journey not a destination. The journey will be long and success is measured over time not outputs. Community must always come first.

**One People, One Community, Many Nations.**

## Inclusion of Youth at all levels.

Our youth are our biggest asset and are already climate ready. Acknowledge and enjoy that our youth are the first to openly question and ask why. This is done without malice but rather to test and understand. Again our most valuable asset.

My generation is complaining of the heat and installing Air conditioners and our youth are outside sweating in the heat.

For thousands of years First Nations peoples all over this country have ensured leadership and inclusion of our next generation in community decision making. It is survival requirement and is proven. Our survival depends on it.

Our youth are vibrant, Alive, Alert and Educated and we must listen to all who are around us.

Our most successful communities are those that have a truly engaged, inspired and active younger generation. Yes we must provide all the trappings of what it is to be young. But in this fast paced world, it will be wasted, if our later years have been squandered due to the ineffective decisions of today. Listen and educate our youth and we will all thrive together.



## Systemic Racism and the Bureaucratic decision-making process

Not acknowledging First Nations peoples in the management of climate decisions and outcomes reduces outcomes and restricts moving forward at the speed required.

We must ensure inclusive protocols that include Cultural Governance mechanisms, interaction and accountability, to effectively move forward together. The current system is broken and we must adopt change if we want different outcomes. Leave no one behind. This is not negotiable.

Proving Climate is a problem is the problem.  
The negative impact of climate change is upon us and is here now.

My ancestors and leaders on country have for many years acknowledged that this change has occurred. Our business on country is triggered by the seasons, plants and the surrounding landscape. Our business and survival are directly negatively impacted by negative climate change.

## Valuing Culture and recognizing Cultural Authority

First Nations People require to manage country their way. We recognise the need for genuine partnership built on equity that include Government, NGO's and the business sector.

Cultural Governance must always be determined by local Traditional Owners and identified Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. Governance requirements will differ from region to region as they do in wider society. It is not different but needs to be acknowledged upfront and planned and included in the decision, application and partnership process.

First Nations participation must be moved from a wish list to an Action List

Meeting on this country over the next few days is important. A place for decision making and change. Our time sharing and working together is always valued but without action it does not change anything.

To be able to look back in time and understand what was and have this shape our future is valuable. To hear, understand and share, is who we are and what we are inspired to be.

I am here to connect, for change, to listen and to protect our communities and country.  
We must thrive not simply survive.

First impressions are so important so please lets connect, engage, chat to see how  
best we can move forward together to protect community and country for ever.

I thankyou for your time today and look forward to connecting to you now whilst at this important  
event and into the future.

Kapi Pulka Uwa  
Munda Pulka Uwa  
Anangu Tjuta Palya

Thankyou