

Reimagining Conservation

Working Together for Healthy Country 2-4 November 2022

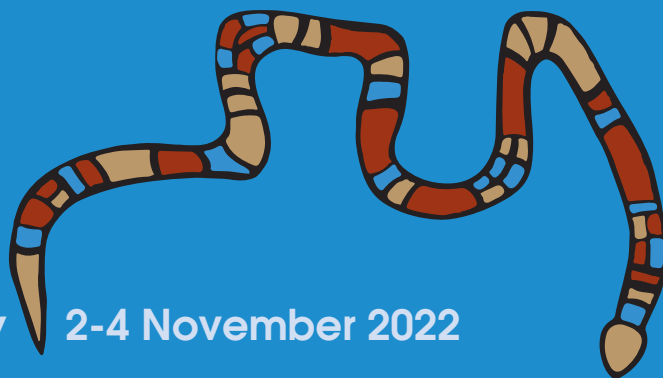


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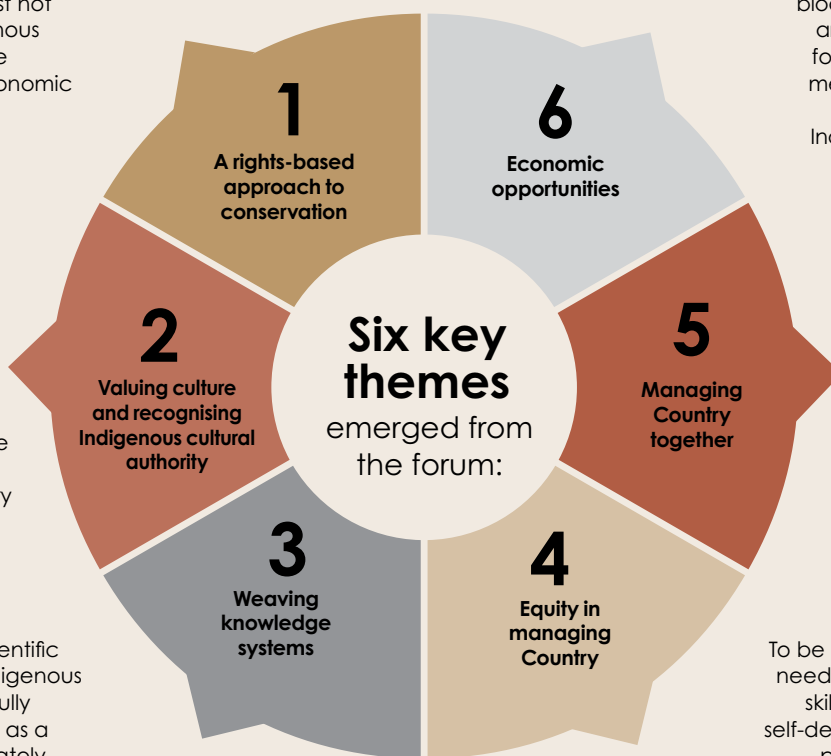
The first *Reimagining Conservation Forum – Working Together for Healthy Country* - was held in Meanjin (Brisbane) on Yuggerah and Turrbal Country in 2022. It brought together equal numbers of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to talk about how we can reimagine managing land and sea Country together.

Over 100 people who work on Country for culture and conservation, on traditional and scientific knowledge, and in emerging economic opportunities, came from across Australia. People shared generously from the heart and delved into what's working and what's not working. Indigenous voices were emphasised, enabling everyone to listen and learn about where change is needed.

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

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

It's time for another scientific revolution whereby Indigenous knowledge becomes fully and wholly recognised as a science, and appropriately woven together with 'western' conservation science.



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

For many Indigenous 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 Indigenous peoples take control of their Country.

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

The event was initiated and organised by:



Proudly sponsored by: Australian Government Parks Australia; New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service; IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy; Zoos Victoria; Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority; Australian Land Conservation Alliance; Landcare Australia; The Nature Conservancy Australia.

Further information: www.aciucn.org.au/reimagining-conservation-forum