



COUNTRY
NEEDS
PEOPLE

Annual Report

2020-2021



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Acknowledgement

Country Needs People acknowledges traditional owners, ranger groups, Indigenous Protected Areas and their representative and host bodies and around Australia who are working to protect country for all of us.

This report, and Country Needs People's broader network and campaign, arises from the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the strength of their land and sea management support organisations. Country Needs People wishes to thank the organisations whose case studies feature in this report for providing information and images. We love working with each of our partners and look forward to more exciting work ahead. We appreciate the individuals who gave their time and energy to contribute to this report.

Country Needs People also recognises those who partner with ranger groups and representative organisations, including federal and state governments, business, universities and non-government organisations, donors and others. These partners are critical to further advancing the success of Australia's Indigenous land and sea management sector.

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Chair's Report

Budj Bim Senior Ranger, Aaron Morgan pulling a short-fin eel trap. Credit: Rodney Dekker

The transition of Country Needs People from a campaign to an independent, non-profit charity in 2020 marked a significant development in Indigenous land and sea management in Australia. I want to extend particular thanks to those funders, members and supporters of Country Needs People in this, our first year of independent operations, who have seen the value of a national entity that focuses on the health of country, culture, community and people.

I am pleased to advise that our first board, formed in 2020 with a majority of First Nations representatives and majority of women, has worked very well together over the 2020-21 financial year, despite being unable to meet in person due to COVID restrictions. Our aim is to continue to work towards ensuring that CNP delivers on its busy schedule of advocacy and collaborative work with

our 41 First Nations partner groups. In presenting our first annual report, we are confident that Country Needs People is achieving this aim while putting in place the appropriate strategy, vision and direction that a new organisation requires.

Our governance subcommittee has been very busy developing a steadily growing list of policies and procedures to ensure we have a well-managed and resilient organisation and one that meets our legal obligations. We have been able to progress decisions effectively both during and between board meetings and I thank my fellow board members for the time and experience they bring to this work. Like many organisations, we've grown accustomed to meeting online, but look forward to the day when we can meet face to face, hopefully on country.

“

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Beginning as a campaign at Pew Charitable Trusts in Australia in 2010, Country Needs People is built on the understanding that traditional owners' cultural aspirations and obligations are the key to sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes. The board and I thank Country Needs People's founding Executive Director, Patrick O'Leary, for developing the campaign through its first decade, and for leading the charity in its first year. We also thank Pew Charitable Trusts for its past and present support of a vision of an independent entity to progress its work in Australia, and for its continuing support for Country Needs People in this formative time.

We are fortunate to have begun our operations with a pre-existing continent-wide scope of works, extensive networks within Australia as well as Canada, and both a reputation and expectation for achievement and success in close collaboration with our First Nations partners. Through the strength of our partnerships and collaboration with traditional owners Australia wide, I believe we have delivered strongly in our first year, in line with our reputation and expectations. Our work is making a major contribution to building a new narrative of success, achievement, recognition and value that we traditional owners always knew was there, but we are helping to amplify even further. Importantly we are non-partisan in our approach, as we seek to convince all facets of Australian society of the value of this work.

Ultimately, Country Needs People is a product of the growing recognition in Australia that there is so much to be gained by supporting First Nations led sustainable land and sea management. Every day, our partner groups strive to look after country and tackle the many challenges in doing so. Those challenges include remoteness, fair access to land and sea, achievement of legal rights and recognition, challenges of building and sustaining genuine community serving organisations, and tackling the structural and historical inequities that were not of traditional owners' making, but have been thrown up as obstacles and barriers to be overcome.

Through this work, Country Needs People and our partners are confronting the major pressures and threats to biodiversity, culture, climate and community that we must all navigate to build a better future for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

We complete our first year of operations with a successful audit and record of achievements through our advocacy and partner support work. Once again, I thank all our members, funders, partners and supporters for making our first year of operations a success. It is only through working together with you we can continue to achieve the positive outcomes we know our country and people deserve.

Denis Rose
Chairperson, Country Needs People



Our work is making a major contribution to building a new narrative...



Executive Director's Report

It is my great pleasure to report on Country Needs People's first year of operations as an independent non-profit charity in Australia. Despite the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of our work, the organisation made significant contributions in advocacy, partner collaboration and campaigning throughout 2020-21.

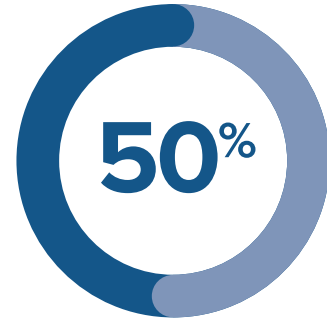
While constantly changing conditions of work, travel and varying degrees of lockdown in different states presented considerable challenges, our primary goal—to keep achieving tangible outcomes for the Indigenous land and sea management sector, including our First Nations partner groups—has provided clear direction through uncertain times.

Our consistent non-partisan advocacy has seen support for Indigenous land and sea management strengthened in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia as each jurisdiction underwent elections. Even with considerable economic duress and changing government priorities, our work in collaboration with our partners succeeded in increasing funding support for traditional owners working on country.

In the federal sphere, our hard work advocating for greater certainty for federal ranger contracts bore fruit when the Australian Government extended existing contracts to 2028. Our parallel work in advocating for, and supporting, Indigenous Protected Areas continued throughout 2020-21, and the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) network continues to grow. On current trends, the area covered by IPAs in Australia will soon exceed 50 per cent of all protected areas on land.

Our partners' network, made up of 41 frontline, community-based Indigenous land and sea management groups, is keen for more to be done, and so are we. The funding journey can be a bumpy ride, and often frustrating. Our commitment to our partners is to continually advocate for ongoing improvements in the funding and operating environment, to give their work the best chance to thrive and succeed.

Delivering advocacy as well as practical support services to our partners is a unique combination of roles, but our experience over the past decade has shown us that the two actions reinforce each other.



IPAs in Australia will soon exceed 50 per cent of all protected areas on land.

◀ Lama Lama Trust Chairperson Karen Liddy (right) and Ranger Lisa Peter. Credit: Annette Ruzicka

▼ Charmaine Wright, Nyangumarta Ranger. Credit: Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation



During our first independent operating year, we have assisted partners across Australia with:

- planning and support for IPAs
- advice and assistance around navigating government policy and funding arrangements
- increasing the profile of our partners achievements and the value of the wider sector through mainstream and social media
- keeping our growing supporter base of over 100,000 Australians of all backgrounds informed of land and sea management needs and successes across Australia
- assisting where possible our friends and colleagues in First Nations groups internationally, particularly in Canada. We achieve this by providing information, advice and support for their aspirations to grow Indigenous led land and sea conservation and management.

It is important to remember our team works for sea as well as land country. In 2020-21, Country Needs People assisted its partners in the Kimberley, the Mayala and Bardi Jawi, in their work developing Australia's first ever marine park draft zoning plan co-designed by traditional owners. With the draft proposal now announced by the WA Government, we will continue to offer support to these partner groups as the Buccaneer Archipelago marine park plan takes shape. Our advocacy and support for marine IPAs will continue in the coming year with the federal government announcing in April 2021 a new funding round for sea country IPAs to be opened later in the year.

Limits to travel in 2020-2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic made it a challenging time for the Country

Needs People team to work directly on country. In February 2021, we were able to support IPA collaboration in North-East Arnhem, and in March 2021, we attended a meeting of the Pilbara Cultural Land Management Project, where we discussed with many traditional owner organisations their aspirations for greater involvement in land and sea management. As our second year of operations begin, we continue to respect the wishes of our partner groups, and state or federal restrictions, when considering whether travel is viable.

I want to extend a big thank you to all our staff and contractors who have navigated a complex year, both professionally and personally. Their commitment has been inspirational, ensuring we continue to deliver. I also want to extend a particular thanks to our Country Needs People board members and Chair Denis Rose,

*Esperance Tjaltjiraak Ranger, Zoe Bullen.
Credit: Andrew McGregor*

who have each contributed much of their personal time and expertise to make sure our first year of operation was a success.

The Country Needs People team and supporters can look back on a remarkable year - remarkable in its challenges, and its achievements. I look forward to working with you all to support people, nature, culture and community in the year ahead.

Patrick O'Leary
Executive Director



Meet the Board

Denis Rose Chair

Denis is a Gunditjmara man and lives in Portland Victoria. He has had a long involvement in Aboriginal land and cultural heritage management. Denis led the first ever Australian Indigenous led World Heritage nomination for the Budj Bim cultural landscape in Western Victoria. The Budj Bim lava flow has outstanding Aboriginal cultural heritage values including the world's most ancient aquaculture sites. Denis was the Chief Executive Officer with Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation in Heywood from 2002 until 2010. From 1995 until 2002 Denis was involved in the development of Australia's Indigenous Protected Areas Program which assisted Aboriginal people throughout Australia to achieve greater control and management of their traditional lands. Denis continues to be an active leader and contributor to community and national public good through his promotion of Indigenous land and sea management and partnerships in Australia and International forums.

Paddy O'Leary Executive Director

Patrick (Paddy) O'Leary has worked at the intersection of Indigenous land and sea management, policy and conservation for 25 years, including 12 years in the Northern Territory. Raised on a dairy farm in Victoria, he gained an Honours degree in Ecology from Monash University and worked in river research. After travelling and working overseas Patrick returned to Victoria to work in environmental advocacy before moving to Darwin. In the Northern Territory, he worked with a range of organisations, including the Northern Land Council as a policy officer, policy development for government, and advocacy and communications for non-profit environment organisations.

Patrick then worked as a senior officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts in Australia, where he developed and led a national approach to supporting community-based Indigenous land and sea management. Patrick helped foster a working relationship with Canadian First Nations organisations which continues through his work as founding director of Country Needs People. Patrick has served on the boards of several national and regional non-profit organisations and worked with traditional owners on protected area co-management boards, fisheries advisory committees, land care and natural resource management boards and other representative forums.



Bridgid Cowling

Bridgid Cowling is a special counsel in Arnold Bloch Leibler's public interest law and native title groups. She advises a broad range of clients with a focus on charities and not-for-profit organisations, Aboriginal land councils and native title representative bodies. Bridgid began her legal career at the Northern Land Council and then worked for the Cape York Land Council before returning to her home city of Melbourne with her family. Bridgid has many years of experience working in native title and land rights law, co-management and governance of protected areas and within land councils. Throughout her career, Bridgid has contributed to numerous law reform submissions in relation to charities, mining, native title and land rights law. Bridgid is recognised by Chambers Asia Pacific in the area of 'charities' for her wealth of experience acting for the not-for-profit sector on a range of matters including the establishment of new charities and governance issues.



Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman

Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman is a Yolgnu woman and leader from Northeast Arnhem Land. As a former and the first female chair of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation (a Country Needs People partner organisation) and as acting CEO at the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Mel's advocacy skills have seen her traveling the country to meet with politicians and other stakeholders. Speaking fluent Yolngu matha and English Mel completed an Indigenous Corporate Leadership secondment with QANTAS in Sydney recently and has returned to her home community in North East Arnhem where she continues to be an active leader and participant in community affairs while managing a young family and completing further study.





Mikaela Jade

Mikaela Jade is a Cabrogal Woman of the Dharug-speaking Nation of Sydney. She is the CEO and founder of Indigital which is creating opportunities for 400 million First Peoples in using and designing frontier technologies by teaching cutting edge digital skills through a cultural lens. The Indigital team is 83% female and Indigenous and works remotely from Country. In only 18 months, Indigital's flagship program Indigital Schools has worked with 7000 students across Australia to improve their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through teaching spatial web technologies, including augmented and mixed reality. Mikaela is a World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality member, an Alumni of Tribal Link Foundation (NYC) and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. Mikaela is on Microsoft Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Board and Advisory Board for Project Rockit, Country Needs People and the Pollination Foundation. Mikaela has a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Biology) from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Master of Applied Cybernetics (with commendation) from the Australian National University.



Bhiamie Williamson

Bhiamie is a Euahlayi man from north-west NSW and south-west Qld with family ties to north-west Qld. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the Australian National University, a Masters of Arts in Indigenous Governance from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, a Continuing Education Certificate in Indigenous Governance from the University of Arizona and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Trauma and Recovery Practice from the University of Wollongong. Bhiamie is currently enrolled in a PhD at the Australian National University.

Bhiamie has extensive experience working with Aboriginal ranger groups across both northern and southern Australia. Bhiamie also has worked with First Nations groups in British Columbia Canada, assisting in the design of a First Nations Guardianship program. Bhiamie was an architect of the ACT cultural burning program through his time working with ACT Parks and Conservation Services in 2015. Bhiamie continues to work and research with ranger groups, focussing in particular on the rejuvenation of cultural burning in south-eastern Australia.



Jayne Weepers

Jayne Weepers is currently dividing her time between undertaking a PhD at the University of New South Wales and working as a consultant policy analyst. Before commencing her PhD studies, she worked for the Central Land Council for eighteen years, joining in 1999. As the CLC's manager of Policy and Research, she was responsible for coordinating all aspects of the CLC's research and policy development work, including consultations with remote communities and the CLC's 90-member Council, and managing government relations and negotiations. The move to the CLC followed extensive environmental policy and advocacy work for various NGOs, including the Environment Centre Northern Territory, and Environment Victoria. Ms Weepers was born in Darwin and lived and worked in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) for 18 years with her family before moving to Canberra.





Our vision and work

Our vision - Indigenous communities protecting and restoring biodiversity and sustaining culture on their lands and seas across Australia, delivering positive results for people, communities, and the economy.

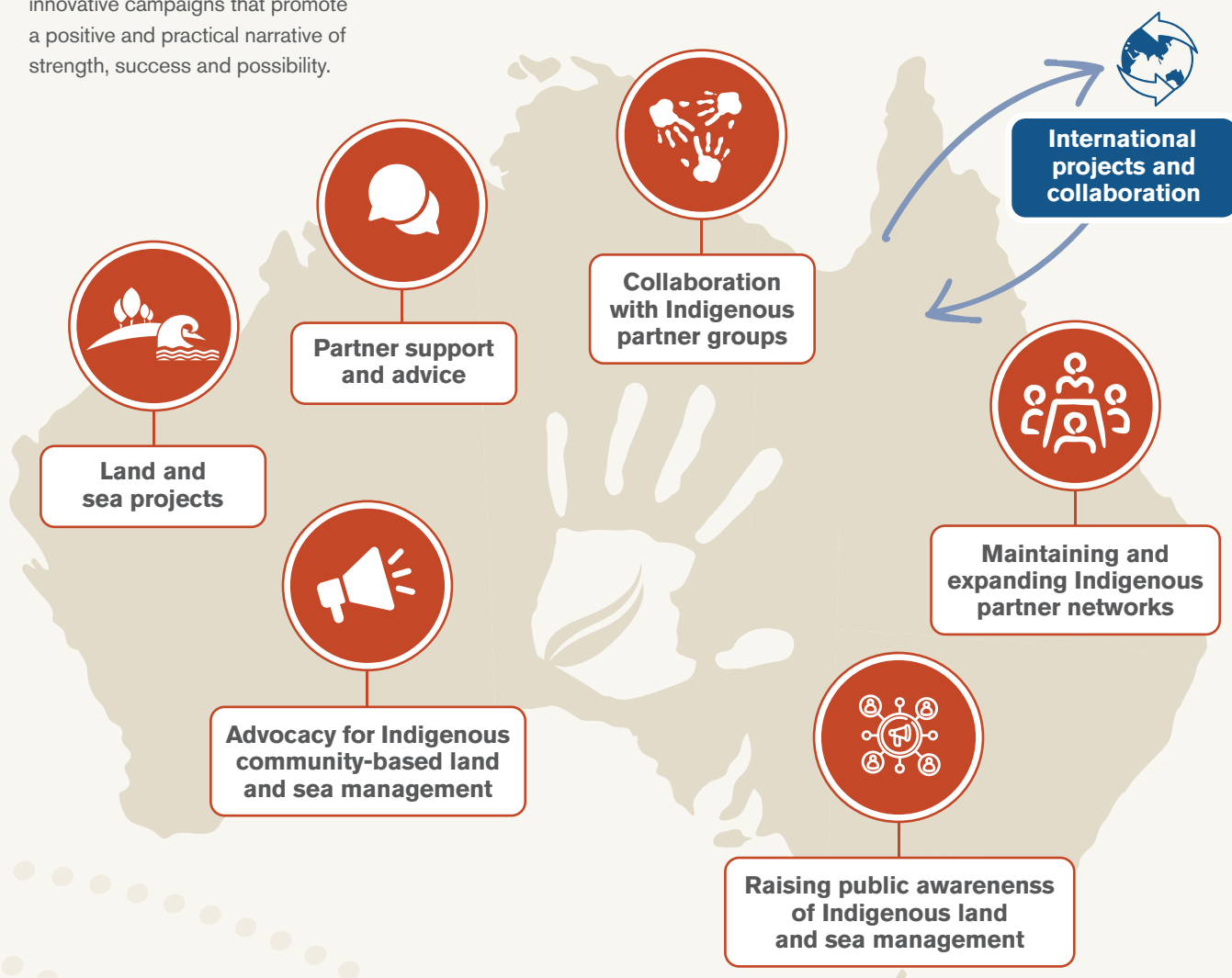
Dean Yibaruk, Chair, Warddeken Land Management, and Patrick O'Leary, Executive Director, Country Needs People. Credit: Country Needs People

Country Needs People works to realise our vision through advocacy to influence decision makers and policy, through collaborative partnerships and projects on land and sea, and at times through international networks and cooperation.

We are unique in that we work both on the ground while also advocating with our partners at state and national level. Our close work with partners ensures our advocacy and on-ground work springs from the aspirations of traditional owners. We create ways for supportive Australians to back traditional owner-led land and sea management through innovative campaigns that promote a positive and practical narrative of strength, success and possibility.

Our work at CNP is delivering major successes for traditional owner-led land and sea management. This success has been driven by the belief that we need strong, community-led organisations that combine local, traditional and scientific knowledge to manage country for the benefit of all. In supporting this approach, we are delivering for nature, culture and people.

“Our close work with partners ensures our advocacy and on-ground work springs from the aspirations of traditional owners.”



Our structure and team

Country Needs People is overseen by a majority Indigenous and majority female board with deep and diverse expertise in land and sea management. Under the direction of the board, the Country Needs People team supports the Indigenous land and sea management sector through advocacy, partner engagement and collaboration, and by maintaining a strong and resilient organisation. This work is informed by our growing network of 41 Indigenous land and sea management partner groups. These groups are at the frontline of managing rangers, Indigenous Protected Areas and other forms of community-based caring for country across Australia.

On any given day, the mix of staff and contractors that make up the Country Needs People team can be found working on a wide range of activities, from organising public awareness campaigns, to assisting with IPA applications, working with our partners to influence decision makers, liaising with funders, providing partners with strategic advice, and technical, planning and governance expertise.

The success of the Country Needs People approach has gained international recognition. We have been fortunate to work closely with First Nations groups in Canada, who share a similar vision for Indigenous land and sea management. Our ongoing work with Land Needs Guardians and other global Indigenous community-led groups is a powerful reminder that our practical and strategic approach is one that works.



The success of the Country Needs People approach has gained international recognition.

▼ Wuthathi Ranger, Aiden Deemal.
Credit Kerry Trapnell

▼ Wuthathi rangers on Country
Credit: Kerry Trapnell





Lama Lama Ranger, Leroy Liddy. Credit: Annette Ruzicka

Country Needs People's Achievements



Advocacy Achievements

- ✓ \$12 million to extend the Northern Territory's Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program
- ✓ Commitment from the Queensland Government to double the number of Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers over 3 years
- ✓ Commitment from the Western Australian Government to increase funding for its Aboriginal Ranger Program to \$50 million over 4 years
- ✓ Minister Wyatt committed to funding the federal Indigenous Ranger Program out to 2028
- ✓ \$11 million to be made available for nine new sea country Indigenous protected areas

\$12
million

\$50
million

\$11
million



International Collaboration

- ✓ Supported Canadian First Nations partners in their successful efforts secure CAD\$349 million for Indigenous Guardians and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Supported
Canadian
First Nations
partners



Partner Project Achievements

- ✓ Ngadju and Ngururpa IPAs declared - 7.3 million hectares protected
- ✓ The Buccaneer Archipelago proposed marine parks - the first-ever co-designed marine parks in Australia
- ✓ Helped multiple partners in our network access funding.
- ✓ Facilitated a meeting of five Indigenous protected areas in North-East Arnhem Land

7.3
million
hectares
protected

first
co-designed
marine park in
Australia



Corporate Achievements

- ✓ Country Needs People launched as an independent non-profit organisation
- ✓ A new majority Indigenous seven-member board appointed
- ✓ Successful first year financial audit and operations within budget

7
member
board
appointed



Country Needs People acknowledges the hard work and leadership of traditional owners and partner organisations. Without them, none of these achievements would be possible.

Case Study 1



Esperance Tjaltjraak Ranger, Hayleigh Graham. Credit: Andrew McGregor

In it for the long term

CNP campaigns successfully to extend the NT Aboriginal Grants Program

The Northern Territory relies on 47 community-based Indigenous ranger groups to manage its millions of hectares of vast, biodiverse, and culturally rich lands and seas. For decades, ranger teams have tackled invasive threats like weeds and feral animals, controlled fire hazards, supported threatened species, conducted research, and provided biosecurity protection at Australia's borders.

Following advocacy by CNP during 2016, the NT Government established the first ever dedicated Northern Territory Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program in 2017, to assist ranger groups in purchasing essential capital items, and to plan and run local projects. Over three years, the program distributed \$11.4m to Aboriginal ranger groups and organisations, enabling on-country teams to work with up-to-date equipment and facilities, and undertake important projects in land protection.

Sustaining success

An evaluation of the NT Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program in 2020 found that it had 'made a considerable and profound contribution to land management across the Northern Territory', achieving 'substantial land management outcomes and financial benefit' (Ninti One, 2021). Among CNP's NT partners, grant monies had enabled capital investments such as the construction of work sheds, the purchasing of all-terrain vehicles, patrol boats, weed and fire management equipment, as well as projects including tackling invasive gamba grass and mimosa, and reducing the impacts of buffalo on sensitive wetlands.



Over three years, the program distributed \$11.4m to Aboriginal Ranger groups and organisations, enabling on-country teams to work with up-to-date equipment and facilities, and undertake important projects in land protection.



▼ A still of the television commercial that Country Needs People commissioned for the Northern Territory campaign. Credit: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation and Samuel Frederick





*Arafura Swamp Rangers, Northern Territory.
Credit David Hancock*

Despite the program's proven success, there was no guarantee of renewal as it approached the end of its three-year run. With NT Indigenous ranger groups facing increasing funding uncertainty, Country Needs People again campaigned with our NT partners and supporters, seeking a further four-year extension to the program.

CNP efforts concentrated on making direct representations to the Chief Minister, government office-holders, party representatives and candidates, as well as running a public awareness campaign with partners encouraging Territorians to support Indigenous rangers and their essential work.

With the slogan, 'Indigenous Rangers: Working for the Territory', CNP launched an online campaign centred on our partners, as well as running local television advertisements, taking out ads in the NT News, and unveiling a memorably large billboard at Darwin airport to make sure travelling politicians couldn't miss it!



Country Needs People efforts pay off

True to our non-partisan approach, CNP continued to engage with all parties and candidates as the NT election approached, highlighting the value and benefits of the work of Indigenous rangers. CNP's efforts paid off when each major party and key independent made a commitment to renewing or expanding the grants program and providing another four years of funding. In 2020, the new NT Government followed through on its earlier commitment, allocating an additional \$12 million to the program over four years.

The extension of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program, along with extension of federal ranger contracts to 2028, has given NT Indigenous ranger groups far greater certainty and confidence in their forward planning. For the Territory, it means healthier country and better equipped rangers. For the Indigenous land and sea management sector, it shows that a well-focused campaign can bring non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians together to back positive efforts of frontline organisations, and get the decision makers to respond.



In 2020, the new NT Government followed through on its earlier commitment, allocating an additional \$12 million to the program over four years.

Case Study 2



Mayala Elder Lorna Hudson pointing at the Mayala Country in the Buccaneer Peninsula on a map. Now to be part of Australia's first ever co-designed marine park and a new Indigenous Protected Area
Credit: Ben Houston and Country Needs People.

Ground up, top down

Mayala and Country Needs People working together

The public release of Western Australia's Buccaneer Peninsula draft marine park proposal in December 2020 was a cause for celebration. Not only was it the first marine park in Australia co-designed by traditional owners with government representatives; it was an affirmation that the Mayala people, who had looked after their sea country for thousands of years, were reasserting their role as managers. Country Needs People is proud to have worked with Mayala and the Kimberley Land Council to help achieve steps toward their long-held dream.

Mayala people's journey to reassert their sea country management role began decades ago when, in 2000, they lodged a native title claim in the Federal Court. Our discussions with Mayala and KLC representatives in 2017 began around helping Mayala prepare for managing country in anticipation of a positive native title finding and with an understanding that building land and sea management capacity takes time.

Meanwhile, Mayala neighbours, the Bardi Jawi people, with the help of Country Needs People, the Pew Charitable Trusts and Kimberley Land Council, were developing their view of how the proposed marine park should be zoned and managed. Bardi Jawi Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area were already well established and formed a strong foundation for this work. Country Needs People supported technical specialists to work with Bardi Jawi on this process and recognised the value of working with KLC

to extend this support to neighbouring Mayala, who were keen to develop an active management role. This was the first time traditional owners had proactively led the planning process in this way.

Opportunities and setbacks

The Western Australian Government had announced its intention to create a 660,000 hectare marine park off the Kimberley Coast in 2017, with the proposed park including the sea country of the Mayala and Bardi Jawi, and the Dambeemangardee peoples. The announcement created an urgent need to progress Mayala sea country planning, particularly as the Mayala native title claim decision was imminent. Park management can be a complex proposition for traditional owners and needs a significant investment of time to plan, discuss, and develop an organised approach.

In response to the wishes of traditional owners, Country Needs People, and Kimberley Land Council supported sea country technical advisors to work with the Mayala. In 2018, when Mayala won native title over their land and sea country, all three partners in planning – traditional owners, CNP and KLC – worked to develop an IPA application. The application was designed to inform land and sea planning and the greater marine park proposal. This work helped maintain enthusiasm and momentum and build a



Country Needs People is proud to have worked with Mayala and the Kimberley Land Council to help achieve steps toward their long-held dream.

solid foundation for Mayala to work with their Bardi and Dambeemangardee neighbours to engage with the proposed marine park.

While initially unsuccessful in applying to the 2019 IPA funding round, Mayala traditional owners were undaunted. They further developed their planning with CNP support and used it to seek funding from other sources. As a result, Mayala received a Commonwealth grant that enabled access to Mayala sea country. This was an important and encouraging development that enhanced the sea country plan to deliver social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes for the community and the whole region.



Mayala Country plan launch in Broome.
Credit: Ben Houston and Country Needs People.

Traditional owners getting on the front foot.

In 2019, the WA Government began consultations with stakeholders about the Buccaneer Peninsula marine park proposal. As part of this process, Mayala and Bardi Jawi traditional owners were able to present their sea country planning work to inform the process. In response, the government took the unprecedented step of changing the planning approach to one of co-design, rather than only consultation, with traditional owners. None of this would have been possible

without the longer term work that the traditional owners had already put in place. Work CNP had played a key role in supporting.

The result – the Buccaneer Peninsula draft marine park proposal – sets a new standard for park planning, with traditional owner groups and government representatives alike welcoming the announcement. While there is still some way to go, traditional owners are in a much better position than they would have been, had they not put in significant preparatory work, with our help. Indeed this represents an unprecedented and leading model in Australia at this point.



Practical and proactive

The steady, step-by-step progress of Mayala in sea country management is an excellent case study in how, with persistence and partnership, traditional owners can fulfil not only their aspirations, but work well with neighbouring groups. It also encapsulates CNP's 'ground up/ top down' approach and the value of the working relationships with groups like Mayala and Kimberley Land Council. In this way, we were able to blend our work supporting Indigenous protected areas with timely, strategic, technical and planning advice to partners where we had a strong working relationship.

Country Needs People is proud to have partnered with Mayala, Kimberley Land Council, and Bardi Jawi in critical stages in their contemporary land management journey and looks forward to working with them in the years to come.

In an encouraging note, the initially unsuccessful Mayala 2019 IPA application finally received funding through the 2021 federal government IPA funding round. This will provide an important source of ongoing land and sea management funding for the group beginning its journey in contemporary land and sea management. Another testament to the importance of persistence, and partnership, in supporting the journey towards long-held dreams and aspirations for country.

“

I think the exciting part is that our voices are heard throughout the whole indicative joint management plan. ”

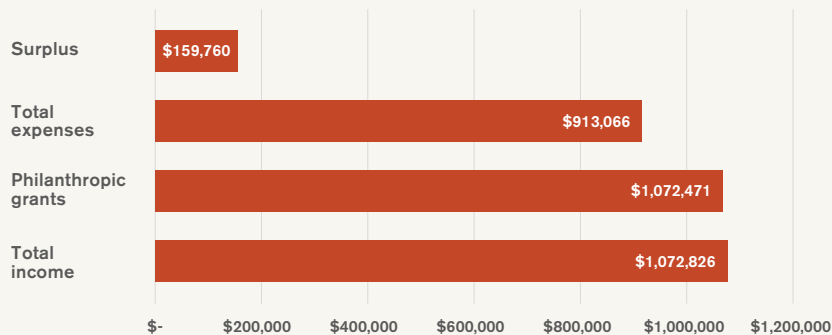
Rowena Mouda, Mayala Inninalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC Chair (Source: ABC News)



*Jahnala Yenbalehla Ranger, Dewayne Edwards.
Credit: Peter Eve*

Finances at a Glance

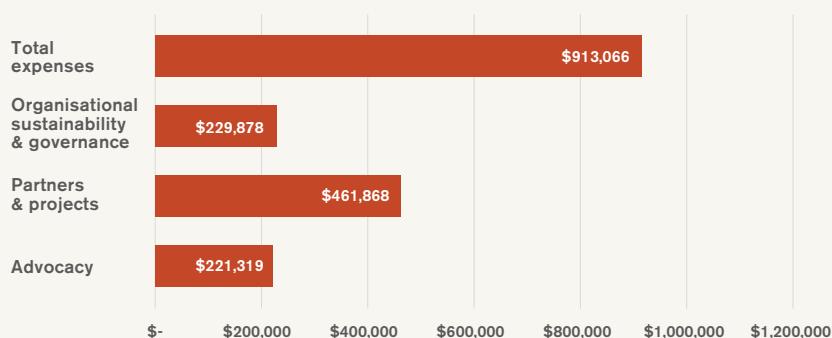
2020-2021 finances at a glance



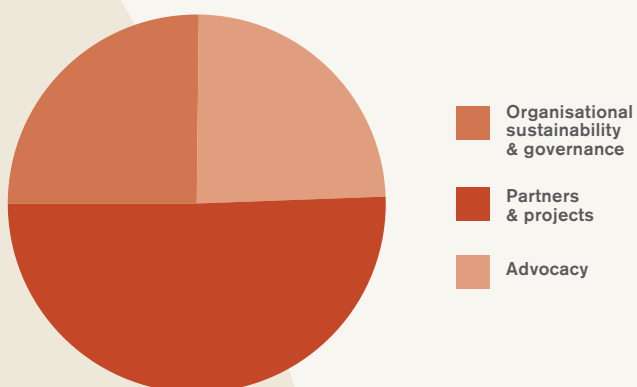
Country Needs People's income is provided by philanthropic trusts and foundations and a growing number of individual donors.

For Country Needs People's full financial statements, go to https://bit.ly/CNP_Financial.

2020-2021 expenditure



2020-2021 expenditure





Thank you

*Esperance Tjaltjraak Rangers on Country.
Credit: Andrew McGregor*

Country Needs People relies upon the support of philanthropy and members of the community. We gratefully acknowledge the funding partners who have supported us in our first year as an independent organisation:

- Anthony Hopkins and Kelli Cole
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Elm Grove Sanctuary Trust
- Green Family Foundation
- Maple-Brown Family Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- PMF Foundation
- Rana and Alan Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation
- Reichstein Foundation
- Walkers Journal
- Jane Abercrombie

We also thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous and members of the community who have offered support.

We extend a special thank you to the Conservation Council of Western Australia for their support of Country Needs People as a funding partner.



We acknowledge the hard work and commitment of employees and contractors whose collective efforts are responsible for our achievements this year:

*Lama Lama Trust Chairperson, Karen Liddy (left) and Ranger Lisa Peter.
Credit: Annette Ruzicka*

Patrick O'Leary	Executive Director
Andrew Leach	Campaign and Communications Officer
Harriet Davies	Research Officer
Kataya Barrett	Saltwater Project Officer
Emily Ings	Campaign Officer
Penelope Tod	Finance
Esther Abram	Organisational development
Peter See	Advocacy, partners and projects
David Moodie	Communications
Nick Gambold	Partner support
Tina Bain	Partner support
Melissa Nursey-Bray	Partner support

Country Needs People Partner Network

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Anindilyakwa Aboriginal Corporation

Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation

Banbai EDAC

Central Desert Native Title Services

Central Land Council

Crocodile Islands Rangers - Milingimbi and Outstations Progress Resource Association

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

Dulabed Malanbarra And Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation

Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

Goldfields Land & Sea Council

Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea And Land Council

Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa

Karajarri Traditional Lands Association

Kimberley Land Council

Lama Lama Rangers, Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation

Maralinga Tjarutja - Oak Valley Aboriginal Corporation

Mimal Land Management

Minyumai Land Holding Aboriginal Corporation

Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Nantawarrina - Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corporation

Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation

Ngarangwal Gold Coast Aboriginal Association

Ngarrindjeri Land And Progress Association

Ngoorabul - Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council

Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation

Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Olkola Aboriginal Corporation

Pormpuraaw Rangers, Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council

Spinifex Land Management - Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Thamarrurr Development Corporation

Uunguu Rangers, Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation

Warddeken Land Management

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation

Yawuru Aboriginal Corporation

Yirralka Rangers, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation

Yuku Baja Muliku



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