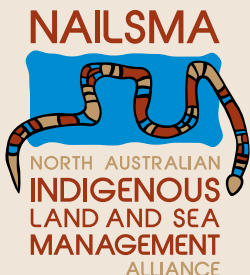


Reimagining Conservation 2024

August 19—22, 2024 | Djabugay Country



Program



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

In 2022, over 100 people who work on Country for culture and conservation came together from across Australia, centering Indigenous voices in a conversation about what is working, what is not working, and where change is needed.

Six key themes emerged from the 2022 forum:

1. A rights-based approach to conservation
2. Valuing culture and recognising Indigenous cultural authority
3. Weaving knowledge systems
4. Equity in managing Country
5. Managing Country together
6. Economic opportunities

These six key themes helped to inform clear priorities, actions and next steps for reimagining of conservation in Australia. This framework for continuous cross-cultural discourse within the conservation sector aims to empower Indigenous peoples to look after Country, their way.

This year, *Reimagining Conservation 2024* brings people together again to continue to share, discuss, build and strengthen Indigenous cultural authority and Indigenous leadership on Country.

[Read the full 2022 report for *Reimagining Conservation Forum – Working Together for Healthy Country* here.](#)



Our Sponsors

Reimagining Conservation 2024 would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors.

The Nature Conservancy Australia *Platinum Sponsor*

At The Nature Conservancy Australia (TNC) we work closely with First Nations peoples to support land and seascape management, recognising the critical importance of supporting Indigenous rights, tenure, and ways of knowing. Acknowledging that meaningful conservation is more effective than ecological actions alone, TNC works to safeguard Australia's biodiversity, where Indigenous communities play a pivotal role. Where these communities are empowered and in control, the greatest results are seen.

First Nations groups manage Country for social, environmental, and cultural outcomes, when provided the right opportunities and support. Indigenous communities continue to face significant challenges including maintaining knowledge systems before they are lost, economic and structural disadvantage, poor funding and resources in very remote areas, pressures from development and threats such as wildfire, climate change and introduced pests and diseases.

We know that by amplifying the voices of First Nations communities, many of whom have historically been excluded from making decisions about the management of their lands and water, large-scale conservation success can be achieved.

We are dedicated to supporting community-based conservation on Country, with a sharp focus on biodiversity conservation. We approach challenges holistically and work under the two-way knowledge transfer framework of Voice, Choice, and Action (VCA), a TNC driven charter that recognises the rights, aspirations, challenges, knowledge and capacity of First Nations communities.

This framework works to support self-determination, community-led conservation and development initiatives based on each communities aspirations for the health of people and Country. Broadly speaking, TNC helps to facilitate the resources and relationships to enable the best model of care at scale with longevity. We develop and hone a range of tools that we share on invitation with First Nations groups, tools such as the Healthy Country Planning (HCP) and Development by Design (DbD) approaches that work to amplify First Nations voices and recognise aspirations.



Parks Australia *Platinum Sponsor*

Parks Australia, under the direction of the Director of National Parks, looks after Australia's natural and cultural treasures.

We are responsible for the conservation and management of six Commonwealth national parks, 60 Australian Marine Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Our purpose is to protect, conserve and enhance the values of Commonwealth parks and gardens for the use and well-being of all Australians. Our ways of working focus on evidence based management, ecologically sustainable use, partnerships and co-investments, and being a responsive organisation. We manage UNESCO World Heritage sites, Ramsar wetlands and sites of cultural and environmental significance. Three of the national parks, Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta, are Aboriginal lands, leased to the Commonwealth and jointly-managed with their Traditional Owners.

Our marine parks are part of a national system which covers 48% of Australian waters, one of the largest areas of marine parks in the world. The Australian Marine Parks we manage comprise the vast majority of this network.

Working in partnership with Traditional Owners and First Nations' communities to manage land and sea Country is at the heart of our work. Traditional Owners and First Nations communities have a unique connection to Country. Their knowledge and perspectives, formed over many thousands of years, are critical to the way that protected areas are managed.

Combining Traditional knowledge, with Western science and technology, such as drone monitoring and AI, provides opportunities to reimagine our approach to conservation. It is transforming the way we work with governments, local communities, ranger groups and Traditional Owners to support the management of land and sea Country.

We are proud of the work we do to protect and conserve these precious areas. Our efforts ensure multiple benefits to Traditional Owners, local communities, industry, and visitors around the world. To learn more visit parksaustralia.gov.au.



Australian Government
Parks Australia

Pew Charitable Trusts *Gold Sponsor*

Established in 1948, the Pew Charitable Trusts is a global non-governmental organization focused on strengthening democracy, helping communities thrive, and conserving the natural world. In Australia, Pew has worked on environmental conservation issues with local partners since 2007. We are driven by our enduring experience that nature needs people actively managing our lands and coasts to ensure sustainable livelihoods and healthy functioning environments.

We work with local communities, stakeholders and governments on science based solutions that create sustainable opportunities for local people to care for Australia's magnificent, life sustaining environments.

The Pew logo is the word "Pew" in a large, blue, serif font.

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people for their care for the land, waters, wildlife, and culture of Country, and advocate for conservation outcomes that champion and support this deep knowledge and understanding of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation *Gold Sponsor*

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's (ILSC) fundamental focus is returning Country to Indigenous peoples so they can realise the social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits of owning and managing Country.

The ILSC's primary grant program – Our Country Our Future – provides assistance for acquiring and managing rights and interests in land, salt water and fresh water country in order to achieve this vision.

The ILSC is a corporate Commonwealth entity established under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSIA Act).

The ILSC's long-term vision for meeting its ATSIA Act mandate is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to enjoy the rightful entitlements, opportunities and benefits that the return of country and its management brings.



PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.

Environment Protection Authority *Silver Sponsor*

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the primary environmental regulator for NSW by protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of the environment in NSW and reducing risk to human health. The EPA acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as the enduring Custodians of the land, sea, waters, and sky and recognise their spiritual and cultural significance to all Aboriginal people of NSW.



Reimagining Conservation 2024 is also proudly sponsored by Bush Heritage and Protect Beautiful Queensland.



Event: Reimagining Conservation 2024

Venue Location: Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, 4 Skyrail Drive, Smithfield QLD 4878

First Nations Day - Mon 19 Aug

12pm-1pm	Registration and lunch
1:00pm-1:10pm	Calling out to Country Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
1:10pm-1:30pm	Introduction to the forum and its purpose Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
1:30pm-1:45pm	Why are we here and who is in the room? Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA Cissy Gore-Birch
1:45pm-2:30pm	National Indigenous Environmental Researchers Network (NIERN) Dr Leah Talbot, Research Manager, NAILSMA Teagan Shields, Research Fellow, Curtin University
2:30pm-2:45pm	Afternoon Tea
2:45pm-3:25pm	Culturally Significant Entities Dr Leah Talbot, Research Manager, NAILSMA Teagan Shields, Research Fellow, Curtin University
3:25pm-4:00pm	Networking and Sharing Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA Cissy Gore-Birch
4:00pm-4:45pm	Key Messages Cissy Gore-Birch
4:45pm-4:55pm	Close Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA

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Day 1 – Tue 20 Aug

8am – 8:30am	Registration
8:30am-8:40am	Calling out to Country Djabugay Traditional Owners
8:40am-8:50am	Introduction to the forum and its purpose Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
8:50am-9:05am	Key messages from First Nations Day Cissy Gore-Birch
9:05am-9:20am	Keynote on Indigenous Estate Joe Morrison, Group CEO, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
9.20am-9.30am	Indigenous Conservation Ricky Archer, Director of National Parks, Parks Australia
9:30am-10:00am	Participant Introductions Erica McCreedy, COO, NAILSMA
	National Indigenous Environmental Researchers Network Facilitators: Dr Leah Talbot & Teagan Shields
10:00am-10:30am	Panel Members: Cissy Gore-Birch Joe Morrison, Group CEO, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation Ricky Archer, Director of National Parks, Parks Australia
10:30am-10:45am	Group photo, followed by Morning Tea

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Global Themes

Stan Lui, Director, Five Cubed Environmental Consultants

10:45am-11:30am Panel:
Chrissy Grant, Chair, Wet Tropics Management Authority
Peter Cochrane, Councillor and Vice President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Ariadne Gorring, Co-CEO, Pollination Foundation

Reimagining Conservation Indigenous perspectives

Facilitator: Cissy Gore-Birch

11:30am-12:15pm Panel:
Leah Talbot, Research Manager, NAILSMA
Stan Lui, Director, Five Cubed Environmental Consultants
Duane Fraser, Chair, Indigenous Advisory Committee EPBC Act
Gavin Singleton, Land and Sea Manager, Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation

Reimagining Conservation incorporating Indigenous perspectives

Facilitator: Cissy Gore-Birch

12:15pm-1:00pm Panel:
Ricky Archer, Director of National Parks, Parks Australia
Jody Gunn, CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance
Doug Humann, Chair of Landcare Australia and Director of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance
Miya Isherwood, Assistant Director, Indigenous Protected Areas, DCCEEW
Cliff Cobbo, First Nations Principal Advisor, World Wide Fund for Nature

1:00pm-2:00pm Lunch

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Youth Panel

Facilitator: Cissy Gore-Birch

2:00pm-3:00pm Panel:
Amba-Rose Atkinson, PhD Candidate, University of QLD
Kasey Singleton, Cultural Heritage Project Officer (Cape York), QLD Parks and Wildlife Service
Nic Rodway, Junior Ranger Coordinator, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation
Ty'a Dynevor, Research Assistant, Crown of Thorns Starfish Research and Management project | Final year student Bachelor of Science

3:00pm-3:35pm Presentation by Amba-Rose Atkinson, PhD Candidate, University of Queensland

3:35pm-3:50pm Afternoon tea

3:50pm-4:30pm **Critical Thinking Session**
Facilitator: Cissy Gore-Birch

4:30pm-4:45pm **Context for the Field Trips**
Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
Gavin Singleton, Land and Sea Manager, Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation

4:45pm-5:00pm **Wrap Up**
Cissy Gore-Birch

5:00pm-7:00pm **Drinks and canapes**
Location: Breezeway

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Day 2 – Wed 21 Aug

Field Trip 1: Mona Mona Mission

8.15am	Please arrive at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park (strict arrival time)
9am	Depart from Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park
10.15am	Arrive at first conservation site
10.45am	Transition site presentation
11.45am	Arrive at second conservation site
12.15pm	Lunch
1pm	Return to Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park
2.15pm	Fire and Fire Management presentation
3pm	Boomerang and spear activity
4pm	Finish – busses returning to Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

**It is recommended you bring a hat, sunscreen, water bottle, sun smart clothing, long pants, enclosed shoes, insect repellent and personal medications.*

**Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea and water provided & there will be access to toilets.*

Field Trip 2: Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel Outer Reef Itinerary

8:15am	Please arrive at Marlin Marina, Cairns (strict arrival time)
9am	Boarding vessel at Marlin Marina
9:30am	Depart for Outer Great Barrier Reef
11am	Arrive at first reef site – snorkel and dive activities
1pm	Arrive at second reef site – snorkel and dive activities
5pm	Arrive at Marlin Marina and disembark

**It is recommended you bring a hat, swimwear, towel, sunglasses, jumper, sun smart clothing, personal medications.*

**Snorkel equipment and reef safe sunscreen provided.*

**Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea and water provided.*

**There will be presentations and facilitated discussions throughout the day onboard the vessel.*

**Attendees are to make their own way to and from Marlin Marina*

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Day 3 – Thu 22 Aug

8:00am-8:30am Arrive, tea and coffee

8:30am-8:40am **Opening**
Cissy Gore-Birch

8:40am-9:15am

Breakout groups - feedback and reflections session
Key Messages from Field Trips

Facilitators:
Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
Dr Leah Talbot, Research Manager, NAILSMA

Session 1: Sea Country Management

Location: Restaurant Area

Facilitator: Dr Cass Hunter, Indigenous Social Ecological Researcher, CSIRO

Panel:

Keron Murray, Chair, Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation
Jeffrey Newchurch, Kurna Elder
Kerry Jones, Director, Kabi Kabi People's Aboriginal Corporation

-OR-

9:15am-11:00am

Session 2: Land Restoration

Location: Breezeway

Facilitators:
Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA
Sarah Terkes, Executive Director, Australian Committee for International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Panel:

Andrew Picone, QLD Manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts (Australia)
Richard Swain, Indigenous Ambassador, Invasive Species Council and Honorary Associate Professor with the Fenner School of Environment and Society with the ANU
Teagan Shields, Research Fellow, Curtin University
Phil Rist, Process Unite Coordinator, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

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11:00am-11:15am **Morning tea**

Freshwater

Facilitator:

Dr Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

11:15am-12:00pm

Panel:

Dr Justin Perry, Research Manager, NAILSMA

Jim Turnour, Principal Strategic Regional Planner, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Samarla Deshong, Great Barrier Reef Foundation Water Quality & Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Traditional Owner Tech Working Groups

| Co-Chair NESP Climate Hub 2 First Nations Peoples' Climate Change Platform

12:00pm-12:20pm

Indigenous Country and Biodiversity Alliance

Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA

Rowan Foley, CEO, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Craig North, CEO, Firesticks Alliance

Economy and Conservation

Facilitator: Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA

12:20pm-1:00pm

Panel:

Rowan Foley, CEO, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Dr Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Dr Cass Hunter, Indigenous Social Ecological Researcher, CSIRO

1:00pm-1:45pm

Lunch

1:45pm-3:00pm

Implementing Change

Facilitator: Cissy Gore-Birch

3:00pm-3:20pm

Afternoon tea

3:20pm-4:30pm

Wrap up and next steps

Facilitators: Barry Hunter, CEO, NAILSMA and Cissy Gore-Birch

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Shuttle Bus Information

There will be a shuttle service to transport delegates from Abbott Street (near Alpin St) Cairns City to Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park and return. The shuttle buses can take upto 81 passengers on a first in first served basis - there are two buses 1 x 57-seater and 1 x 24-seater. Other transport options are hire car, Uber or Taxi.

Shuttle Schedule

Monday 19 August

11.30am - Depart Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

5.00pm – Depart Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park return to Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

Tuesday 20 August

7.30am - Depart Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

5.00pm – Depart Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park (1st pick up) return to Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City for those not wanting to stay for drinks and canapes

7.00pm - Depart Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park (2nd pick up) return to Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City following drinks and canapes

Wednesday 21 August

7.45am - Depart Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City to Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park for Mona Mona Mission attendees only.

*Reef Trip attendees must make their own way to and from the Marlin Marina, Cairns.

*Mona Mona Mission attendees will be returned to Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park and Cairns City following the field trip.

Thursday 22 August

7.30am - Depart Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

5.00pm – Depart Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park return to Abbott Street (near Aplin St), Cairns City

Please ensure you are at the departure locations at least 10 minutes before the scheduled departure time to avoid any delays. No food or drinks to be taken on the bus.