

NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT: THE MARTU AND NYANGUMARTA EXPERIENCE

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Indigenous Protected Area's

An Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is an agreement with Traditional Owners and the State Government regarding an area of indigenous-owned land or sea, which promotes biodiversity and cultural research conservation. IPAs are declared under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) categories. They constitute 40 per cent of Australia's National Reserve System and there are currently 69 declared IPAs throughout Australia.

ON 3 JULY 2015, THE WILUNA TRADITIONAL OWNERS – the Martu – declared an Indigenous Protected Area over 5968 square kilometre of exclusive possession native title land in Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara, two former pastoral properties, located 164 km northwest of Wiluna. The IPA will be managed based on Martu 'country types' in recognition of the different natural and cultural management needs of the area. The IPA management plan was developed in collaboration with the Wiluna native title holders, AIATSIS and Central Desert Native Title Services.





“ A lot of our mob have worked hard to get here and it’s been a really long journey... We don’t want to be consulted anymore we want to be able to sit down with our partners and say “this is what we want and this is what is important to us”. Country is important to us, country is important to our families, our communities and our society as a whole. We want to take our cultural values and be able to say this is our agenda and this is the way we are going to go...”

Darren Farmer, Martu traditional owner

“ Today we have more input where [partners] have to sit down and listen to us. Now that we have our native title and IPA we have more leverage and power to make decisions.”

Victor Ashwin, Chairperson, Tarlka Matuwa Piarku RNTBC



Far left: Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara Management team including, Frankie, Zareth, Ben, Milton, Clifton, Chris, Kaye Grant, Roxanne and Chrisa.

Above left to right: Muuki Taylor, Lena Long, Paul Morgan, Rita Cutter, Frankie Wongawol and Roxanne Anderson with the signed declaration following the ceremony.

Inset above: Signage for the dedication ceremony designed by Roxanne Anderson

Below: Sunset over Matuwa

Photo credits: Shiane Lovell

The Matuwa Experience

The Nyangumarta Experience

NYANGUMARTA WARRARN

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

MANAGED TO INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE STANDARDS BY THE

NYANGUMARTA TRADITIONAL OWNERS



This page: Nyangumarta country.

Inset top: the unveiled Nyangumarta IPA sign.

Inset bottom: Nyangumarta people at a research meeting following the IPA declaration ceremony. Back row (standing): Lisa Toby; Lynette (nee Hunter); Nathan Hunter; Lindsay Hunter. Middle row (seated): Janet Stewart; Martina Badal; Susie Gilbert. Front: Nick Smith; Teddy Hunter; Diane Stewart; Jane Wright; Winnie Coppin; Nyaparu (Margaret) Rose; Lorna Glen Homestead.

Top right: Eighty Mile Beach

Below right: signing of the IPA.

Photo credits: Alexandra Andriolo.



ON 15 JULY 2015, THE NYANGUMARTA PEOPLE HAVE DECLARED an Indigenous Protected Area over more than 28,420 square kilometres of land in the Pilbara which will be managed by the Nyangumarta Rangers. After what they describe as a 'long walk' in achieving their native title, the community welcomed the agreement and are excited to work on the conservation of their land.

“Today is a day for celebration. Our aim was to get people on country and to care for our own country through the Nyangumarta Rangers. It was a long journey, or as we say in the Nyangumarta language “kaja karti marnti”, from where we began to where we are today. The IPA was a joint effort. We had to work with others to achieve this. We hold the cultural knowledge but have to work with others who have other types of knowledge ‘the paper’ to achieve it. Our relationships with others have been so successful. This is what made the IPA happen. The Nyangumarta people couldn’t have done this on our own”

Nyaparu Rose, CEO of Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation

“The Nyangumarta people won their battle to get native title in 2009, which was obviously important for recognition. But having resources to employ their own people, to actually work on their own country, to improve their country, to ensure that future generations will have quality access to their country, really is a fundamental step in the right direction for self-determination. Country is such a fundamental part of their culture so by being able to nurture their country and participate in it, it keeps their culture alive.”

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

