

# Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan Third Planning Workshop Kalumburu 23 – 25 June 2009 Workshop Report

This report includes:

- a list of everyone who was at the workshop
- what the workshop was about
- a summary of what everyone said
- photos of the workshop
- outcomes of the workshop and what happens next



# Who was at the workshop and what was it all about?

This planning workshop was for the people who were chosen to be on the working group. Traditional owners on the working group that were at the workshop were:

Janet Oobagooma	Sandra Mungulu
Margaret Mungulu	Regina Karadada
Raphael Karadada	Desmond Williams
Dorothy Djanghara (Day 1)	Sylvester Mangolomarra (Days 2 & 3)

Other people at the workshop were:

Bevan Stott (Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation)

Frank Weisenberger (Kimberley Land Council)

Lyndall McLean (Bush Heritage Australia)

Heather Moorcroft (Bush Heritage Australia)



There were several workshop sessions.

## Day 1

- Looking at what has been done so far
- Adding a new target
- Describing the new target, discussing how healthy it is (viability) and what the problems are (threats)
- Understanding strategic actions
- Discussing strategies and actions for some of the targets

## Day 2

- Discussing strategies and actions for more of the targets

## Day 3

- Discussing strategies and actions for the rest of the targets
- Understanding objectives
- Figuring out some objectives for the plan

# Day 1 – Looking at what has been done

Dorothy welcomed everyone to the workshop.

Lyndall explained what had been done already for the plan from the last two workshops. Traditional owners have:

- chosen nine targets (the really important things to focus on)
- said what the targets are all about (description)
- explained how to tell if the targets are healthy (viability)
- listed the problems for each target (threats)

Heather added that traditional owners had also listed some ways to fix the problems (strategies and actions) for the target of kangaroo.

Lyndall went through the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) diagram and explained that strategies and actions need to be done for the other targets, as well as getting some general objectives. She explained that the workshop will be about doing these things.

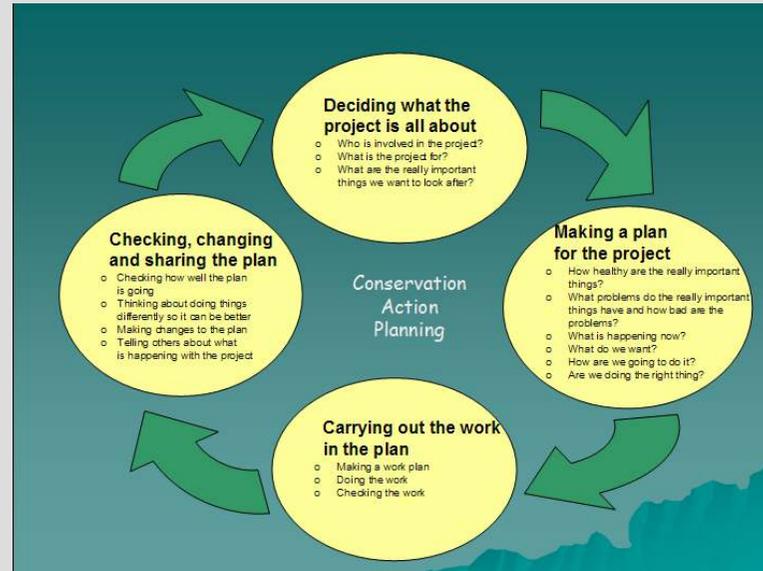


Diagram of the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process

We are up to here in the CAP process

## Making a plan for the project

- o How healthy are the really important things?
- o What problems do the really important things have and how bad are the problems?
- o What is happening now?
- o What do we want?
- o How are we going to do it?
- o Are we doing the right thing?

# Day 1 - Looking at what has been done



Desmond and Raphael listening to what has already been done

Table at the beginning of the workshop showing what has been done so far

SALTWATER TARGETS	DES'N	HEALTH	THREATS	ACTIONS
- TURTLE AND DUGONG	✓	✓	✓	
- CULTURAL PLACES ON ISLANDS	✓	✓	✓	
- FISH AND SEAFOODS	✓	✓	✓	
FRESHWATER TARGETS				
- ROCK ART	✓	✓	✓	
- FIRE	✓	✓	✓	
- KANGAROOS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- WATER HOLES	✓	✓	✓	
- FOOD AND MEDICINE PLANTS	✓	✓	✓	
- RAINFORESTS	✓	✓	✓	



Regina thinking about what needs to be done

# Day 1 - Adding a new target

Lyndall told the working group that Bush Heritage mob were worried that some important cultural things might get left out. She explained that because CAP was made by gardiya it might not always pick up on important things for traditional owners. She said that Bush Heritage mob would like to add a target on Wanjina Wunggurr to make sure all the really important cultural things were included and looked after in the plan.

Everyone agreed that Wanjina Wunggurr should be included and decided to call the target Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture.

The final targets for the plan:



• Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture

• Turtles and dugongs

• Fish and seafood

• Cultural places on islands

• Rock art

• Fire

• Rainforests

• Kangaroos

• Food and medicine plants

• Waterholes



Desmond and Raphael thinking about the targets that will go in the plan

Janet and Margaret deciding on the new target



# Day 1 - About Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture

The working group discussed the new target of Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture. As the last workshops had done with the other targets, the group described the target, talked about how to know when it is healthy and also what some of the problems are.

## What is Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture - the description

WANJINA/W UNGUU CULTURE

WANJINA/WUNGURR ARE DIFFERENT

WUNGURR IS CHILD SPIRIT SPOT  
FERTILITY PLACE  
BABY SPIRIT IS IN WAN PLACE (IN ANIMAL IN WATER and LAND)

WUNGURR IS A SNAKE - KEEPS PLACE LIVING - NEVER DIE  
WUNGURR IS A PLACE

WANJINA

LIKE BIBLE - LIKE GOD (GOD IS A WANJINA)  
CREATION STORY  
THUNDER NOISE, SPEAKS LIGHTENING  
WANJINA MADE LAW  
MOITYS (TWO BIRDS) (WANJAN (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO))  
PEOPLE HAVE TO FOLLOW LAW

## How we know Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture is healthy - the viability and attributes

WUNGURR HEALTHY

WANJINA IN THE CLOUD  
ITS ALWAYS HEALTHY

MINING AND DAMAGING PLACE  
DRAWING OUR PAINTINGS

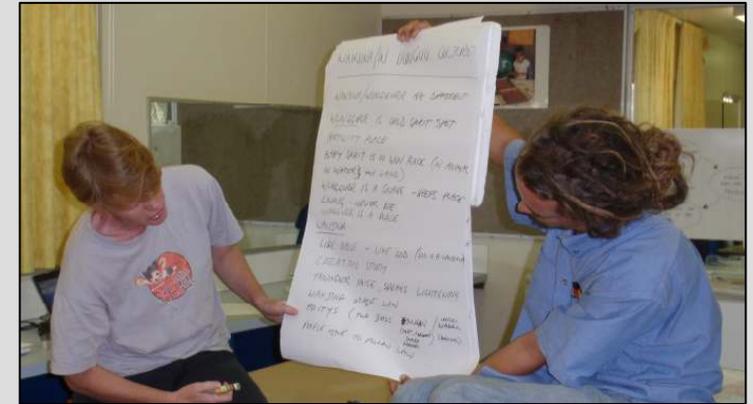
ANIMAL - REFRESHING PAINTING (COCKE - WHITE) (ALON ANON BOOK)

NO HUNTING NEED TO TALK TO COUNTRY  
INTRODUCE YOURSELF & BEFORE VISIT PLACE  
OFFERING TO PLACE TO VISIT  
SMOKE PEOPLE AFTER VISIT  
CLOUDS CAN TELL YOU IF WRONG DOING HAS HAPPEN  
BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO YOU IF RULES NOT FOLLOWED  
PEOPLE FALLING HAVE BEEN PUSHED BY SPIRIT OF THE LAND (CASHNO)

HEALTHY

- HAVE TO COOK AND EAT STRAIGHT AWAY AND BURY BONES + SKIN
- PASS KNOWLEDGE TO CHILDREN
- TEACH THEM WHEN THEY MAKE WRAPS
- KNOW NAMES OF ALL ANIMALS (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO) (SING. NACWAT) (CASHNO)
- IF KIDS KNOW STORIES THEN CULTURE IS STRONG
- RANGER WORK / DISCUSSIONS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW
- LOOK AFTER BURIAL SITES

Lyndall and Frank checking everything is written down right



## Problems for Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Culture - the threats

NW THREATS

- TOURISTS GRAFFITI WANJINA PAINTINGS / MAKE MOCKERY (HOW IF THEY DO RIGHT THINGS)
- CHISEL OFF AND STEAL PAINTINGS
- REMOVE BONES FROM SITES OF MINING
- PUTTING IN MUSEUMS
- KIDS NOT INTERESTED
- NOT LIVING ON COUNTRY
- NOT LEARNING ABOUT COUNTRY (HOW TO COOK etc)
- NOT USING LANGUAGE
- MUMS N DADS NEED TO BE USE LANGUAGE + TEACH KIDS - NOT JUST OLD PEOPLE
- HAVE TO EAT WHAT YOU KILL (CAREFUL WHEN BAITING)
- GARDYA CALL CLIMATE CHANGE. UNGUU SAYS ITS STILL THE SAME
- RISING WATER COULD COVER ART

THREATS

- CYCLONES
- RAINBIRD CAN TELL WHEN COMING
- TRAWLERS DAMAGE REEF



Regina and Sandra making sure Wanjina Wunggurr is described properly

# Days 1, 2 and 3 – Developing strategies and actions

Heather explained that just like what was done for kangaroos at the last workshop, the working group has to come up with some ways to fix the problems (threats) or to help keep, or make, the other targets healthy (viable). These things are called strategies and actions. The working group went through the threats for each of the targets and listed some strategies and actions to fix the problems. On the first day this was done as one large group and on the second and third days this was done in two groups - women and men.

## Turtles and dugongs

- work with fisheries management mob - be part of industry group
- turtle exclusion devices, information on by-catch
- get involved in turtle and dugong monitoring project
- increase patrols - beaches and sea - collecting rubbish, nets, map areas
- educate traditional owners about danger of ghost nets, rubbish, plastic bags
- collect information on marine debris
- learn about climate change and how temperature changes might effect eggs
- beach assessment - breeding grounds
- monitor hunting
- boat access
- weed monitoring and control - consult with environmental organisations
- regional mapping of seagrass - monitoring and information - maybe zoning
- consult with neighbouring groups on seagrass
- pass on traditional knowledge
- capacity building

## Cultural places on islands

- get visitor pass working
- collect information on where and when boats are going, monitoring
- tourism training
- traditional owner visits to islands and learning from elders
- information and education for tourists with visitor pass on right behaviour
- zone areas - no go areas as well
- access to bigger boat and building capacity for operating with larger boat
- consult with companies
- monitor sea level rise on cultural places e.g. photo points
- no photos of burial sites - educate tourists
- site maintenance - remove vegetation, burning around, monitor
- talk to pearling mob about doing the right thing
- work with neighbours
- ranger station on Bigge Island



Margaret, Janet and Sandra working on strategies and actions

The men's group - Desmond, Sylvester, Raphael and Bevan



# Days 2 and 3 continued - Developing strategies and actions

## Rock art

- fence if lots of feral animals - control ferals
- visitor pass
- monitor sites with photo points
- education and information about doing the right thing
- only visit some sites with traditional owners or rangers e.g. chopper tours, bushwalking, self drive
- ask permission - each family
- fines if do the wrong thing - stronger prosecution (DIA)
- rangers go with tourists and can help traditional owners
- rangers need to know more - information from elders
- check internet for photos of rock art
- more controlled burning
- rangers do survey of rock art & record with GPS
- repaint if right person culturally and proper way
- remove wasps nests, put in silicone drip lines
- some sites no go
- work together with tourist industry
- back to country trips for traditional owners - passing on knowledge - access
- advise rangers if traditional owners going on Country - in case of emergency
- researchers need to get permission and go with traditional owners
- sort out intellectual property rights
- keep working on native title
- rangers living on Country
- don't have vehicle tracks near art sites

## Fish and seafood

- visitor pass
- work with fisheries mob - become stakeholder/industry member - get information on bag and size limits, trawlers catch rates
- rangers - law enforcement powers for limits, patrols - two crab limit - training needed
- signs to stop people littering
- research - monitor/track
- work alongside fisheries officers
- back to country trips for traditional owners
- do right way seasonal hunting - different places, different times - traditional owners and tourists
- work on management plan
- licence conditions - no release of bilge water etc
- zoned anchorage
- keep talking/ working with Coastwatch for Indonesian boats and with AQIS
- ranger patrols with traditional owners to places like Port Warrender - check squatters
- get information on climate change, monitor sites
- monitoring/research with scientific partners on coral bleaching etc
- reducing WG impact on climate change e.g. good fire - Carbon Abatement Project
- back to Country trips learning traditional knowledge of seas, fish, seafoods - seasonal changes and ways (catch, cook, stories)
- rangers working with traditional owners

Desmond hard at work thinking about strategies and actions



## Waterholes

- feral animal control
- fencing - keep feral animals out of special places
- education on hygiene near water - tourists and traditional owners
- alternative sources of water for human use e.g. desal plant
- development in right way to look after water - camps, toilets etc
- WG reduce impact on climate change
- traditional owners permission and advice on rules about use e.g. no swimming some places
- traditional owners need to pass on knowledge about right way of visiting waterholes - visit regularly with young generation
- traditional owners train tour guides to do the right thing
- information on doing the right thing available /distributed from rental car mob, visitor centres, signs etc
- briefing by traditional owners before get to place
- survey - establish priorities
- monitor levels - measure big waterholes like Airport Swamp
- respect Country

Women's group brainstorming



*"In other places they can manage a killer herd - too rocky in my area so we cant go and kill them."*  
Janet

# Days 2 and 3 continued - Developing strategies and actions



## Fire

- rangers do annual fire program based on traditional ownership
- firebreaks, back burns - airport and other assets - talk with asset mob
- work with airport mob and partners like DEC/FESA to pull resources/source equipment
- people on Country
- burn after rainy season - early dry - seasonal burning
- use helicopters for seasonal burning and boat for island work - with rangers in chopper/boat
- fire walking trips
- talk to Shire mob - get annual permit/become permit giver/consent authority/exemption - WG involved in making rules
- sign with warnings about controlling fires - limits for campfires like in national park
- do big mob burning at right time - after rain - not late dry
- rangers make sure roadsides and campgrounds burnt to stop accidental fires
- educate tourists and communities/neighbours about fire
- work with stations
- ranger - law enforcement with signs
- education for kids - traditional knowledge and not to be silly with fire - rangers and traditional owners at school and mums and dads

## Rainforests

- living on Country - access to country with boats, helicopters
- landscape mapping and prioritising - based on traditional owners importance, species abundance/threatened species, science mob views
- planned visits and patrols
- proper fire management - cold burns, burning around rainforest areas
- fencing depending on priority - maintain fence at Bougainville
- control ferals
- more attention into prevention of cane toads
- raise awareness of cane toads - brochures
- support and encourage research about cane toads and how effects native species and protecting such species
- support research into rainforest - both cultural knowledge and western science
- take traditional owners and kids out and show them around - and rangers

## Food and medicine plants

- find out how to get money for being on Country
- improve access - vehicles, boat, helicopter etc, maybe make roads
- homeland issues
- get kids out on Country and teach 'em
- keep working on finishing field guides - make available to school as well
- bush tools as well
- take parents and kids out on cultural trips in school hols - make bush tools, collect equipment, art activities, corroboree - totems/dancing
- more in school - urgent while old people here
- monitor for climate change effect on plants
- early burns - carbon trading project, fire plan, monitoring how fires going
- get information on climate change
- solar power
- feal animals - control - same as other targets - priority areas
- capacity building - coxswains certificate
- research on commercial use
- encourage people to eat bush tucker

*"We used to go in those canoes from here to Truscott - mum, dad, me and ...." "walk through the bush" Regina talking about how they used to travel from place to place and collect food from the bush.*



*"When it comes to a bigger fire that spreads there is no resting place for the bandicoots ... not like the kangaroo gotta big pocket to pop 'im in" Janet talking about how some animals survive better than others from fire.*

# Days 2 and 3 continued - Developing strategies and actions

## Wanjina Wunggurr Uunguu Culture

- educate tourists - put up signs, information on respecting spirit of Wanjina - work with other traditional owners groups in region and ideas from other places like Uluru - ask tourists not to take photos of sites Wanjina, Gwion
- visitor pass
- put up signs
- work with police/agencies
- check internet to find things
- work with neighbours
- survey/asset register in traditional way - story and songlines
- training /capacity building
- back to Country trips - traditional owners need to visit sites - rangers can help traditional owners
- educate mums and dads, get kids more involved e.g. in hunting, fishing, cooking
- climate change monitoring - traditional way
- become stakeholder in fishing industry - research on catch rates, monitoring
- work with Wilinggin/Dambimangari to make Wanjina Wunggurr strong
- encourage protection of sites - healthy country plan and IPA
- ranger patrols
- photo monitoring of sites
- tourists visit with traditional owners or rangers
- report damage to site to elders and traditional owners/police/KLC
- return bones to sites - work with KALACC and others to return museum collection materials
- kids to learn about burial business when they get older
- pass on traditional knowledge - parents and grandparents to teach kids and take out bush
- make ourselves go and love being out bush
- need health to live on Country - diabetic/health study when on country
- oral history books/DVD for kids
- boats only to go to certain places at right time - trawlers not fish near certain reefs
- have rules for researchers and traditional owners work with researchers



The working group near the end of the workshop

*"Learning children - it comes from the mother and father - that's the first step and from grandmother and grandfather" Janet.*

*"Get our kids, teach 'em" Sandra explaining parents need to be doing more.*

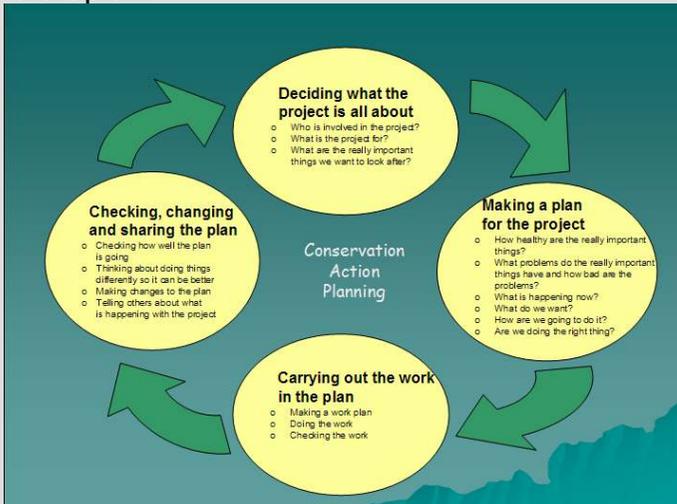
*"More in school before oldies pass away" Margaret stressing how important it is for kids to learn from elders and at school.*

	DESP	HEALTH	THERAPY	ACQUIS
<b>FRESHWATER TARGETS</b>				
TURTLE AND DUGONGS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- CULTURAL PLACES ON ISLANDS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- FISH AND SEAFOODS	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>FRESHWATER TARGETS</b>				
- ROCK ART	✓	✓	✓	✓
- FIRE	✓	✓	✓	✓
- KANGAROOS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- WATER HOLES	✓	✓	✓	✓
- FOOD AND MEDICINE PLANTS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- RAINFORESTS	✓	✓	✓	✓
- WANJINA WUNGGURR UUNGUU CULTURE	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table at the end of the strategies and actions sessions showing what has been done so far - see all the ticks!!!

# Day 3 – Figuring out objectives

Heather explained that the healthy country plan would have objectives and objectives are like goals or what you want to have done in so many years. She went through the CAP process again and explained where the process is up to. Lyndall and Frank went through all the threats and showed how they can all be grouped into some general threats and that the objectives should relate to these general threats or to the health of the targets. The working group came up with a set of draft objectives to be checked and tidied up by Bush Heritage mob and then put in the draft plan.



Summary of CAP process showing the different stages



Margaret, Regina, Sandra and Janet figuring out the process and where we are up to



Sylvester and Raphael

Frank and Lyndall going through all the threats (problems) and showing how there are lots the same



# Day 3 - Figuring out objectives

## General threats

Lack of traditional owner access to Country

Not living on Country

Loss of knowledge and lack of interest

Inappropriate tourism/visitor management

Commercial fishing

No respect of Country

Lack of maintenance of important cultural sites

Climate change

Feral animals

Weeds

Wrong fire management

Lack of sea and land management capacity



## Objectives

Living on Country - access to Country

- By 2015 we want five families to be living on Country.
- By 2019 we have three ranger stations on Country.
- By 2020 most families living or accessing their Country.

Maintaining cultural knowledge

- By 2011 do one trip a year with schools and families.
- By 2015 WG runs an ongoing cultural education program.
- By 2020 more traditional owners will be speaking language.

Visitor management

- By 2013 all visitors are managed by WG and respect Country.

Maintenance of cultural sites

- By 2014 WG look after 10 most important Wanjina Wunggurr cultural sites.
- By 2020 look after all Wanjina Wunggurr cultural sites.

Biodiversity conservation - looking after plants and animals.

- By 2020 our Country will still be healthy with no plants, animals, fish or birds, or their habitats, being lost.

Feral animals

- By 2011 have a strategy to manage feral animals.
- By 2020 ferals are only a small threat at special places.

Fire management

- By 2015 wildfires are no more threats.
- By 2015 Unguu will manage fire on WG Country.

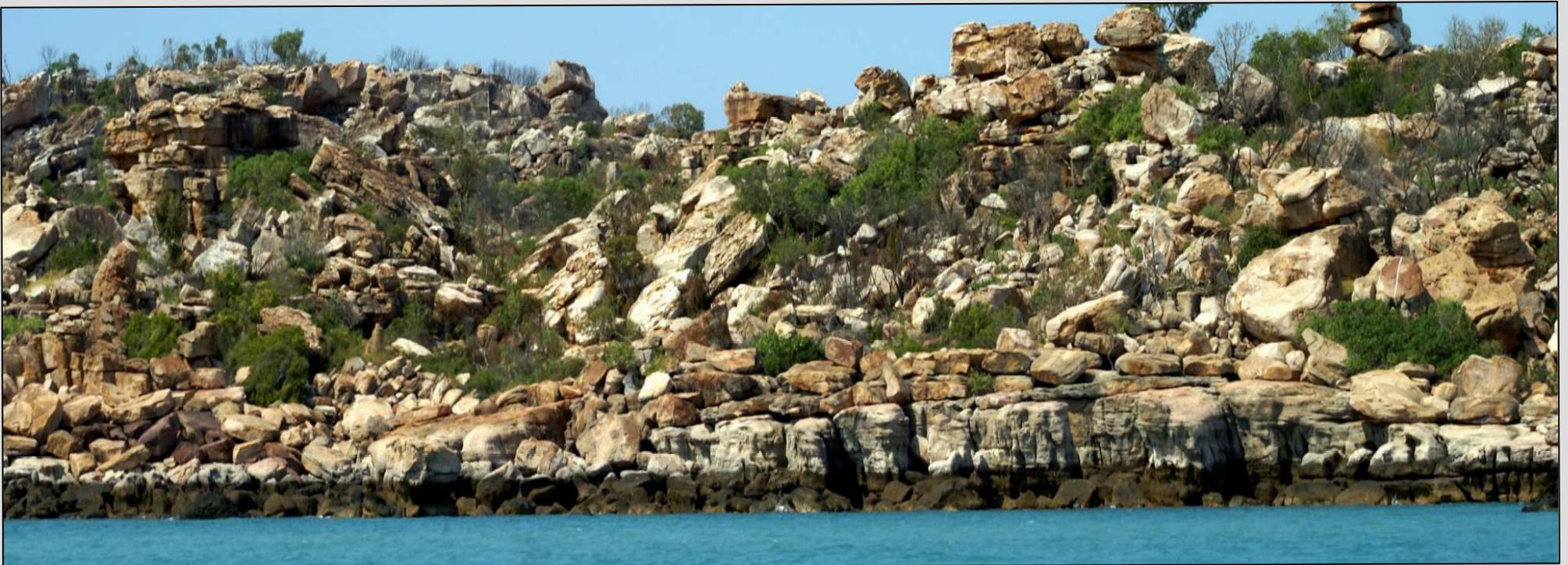
Capacity

- By 2013 10 rangers will have gained capacity to look after Country - traditional and western way.
- By 2020 the Unguu ranger service will be managed by a WG person.

# Outcomes of the workshop

Lots of things were achieved at the workshop:

- A new very important target of Wanjina Wunggurr Uunguu Culture was added.
- The new target was described, and its health and any problems were discussed.
- Lots of strategies and actions for the targets were recorded.
- Some draft objectives for the plan were figured out.



# What happens next?

There are still a number of steps that need to be done to get the Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan written and being used, including getting an Indigenous Protected Area declared .



Write the draft plan by using the information from the workshops



Steering group check everything is on track



Traditional owners check the draft plan and make changes if needed



Rangers, KLC and BHA mob get actual work plan together



Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan is launched and the plan starts



Submit the Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan for Indigenous Protected Area declaration