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*Parks, people, planet:
inspiring solutions*

Benchmarking Australasian parks - what have we learnt about effective management of Indigenous cultural values?

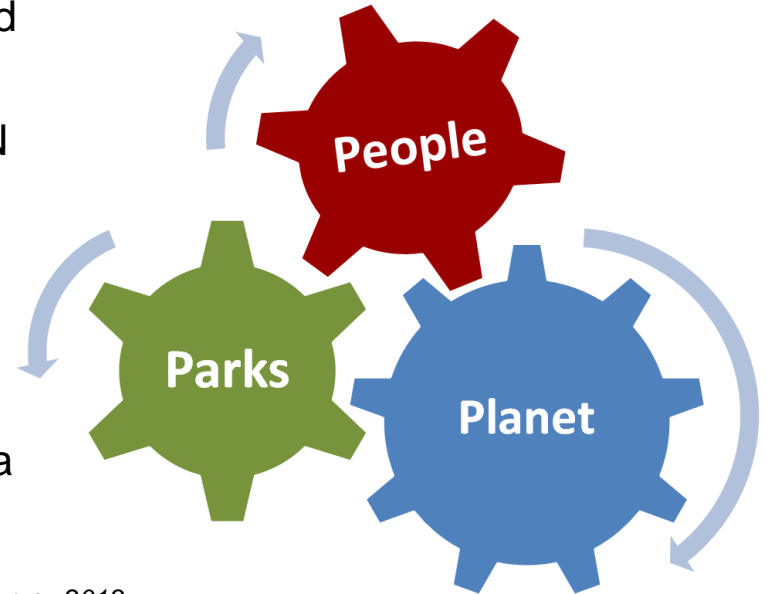
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Partner Agencies - Parks Forum and Murdoch University, Western Australia

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Overview

- 10 years of performance measurement
- Australian and New Zealand parks and protected areas
- Great Parks Benchmark Network Survey (GPBN Survey) – 3 surveys 2007, 2010, 2013
- Annual Agency Statistics Survey
- Environmental, cultural, social, economic and management measures
- Governance, operational and administrative data



[Tonge, J.](#), [Moore, S.A.](#) and [Rodger, K.](#) (2013) *Great Parks Network Benchmark Survey 2013. Report for the Parks Forum.* Murdoch University, Murdoch, Western Australia
<http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/22121/>

Cultural Benchmarks



Ranger presentation of cultural values at Kakadu National Park

Cultural measures of the GPBN Survey included

- The value of parks
- Community consultation
- Cultural inventory
- Indigenous consultation
- Demographic profile of park users

Results across benchmarks vary

- >85% of agencies undertake community and Indigenous consultation
- <75% (approx) of agencies undertake and implement cultural inventory

Cultural Inventory Data

- All cultural inventory benchmarks decreased by nearly 20% from 2010 to 2013
- In 2013 only 68% of respondents indicated existence of policy to inventory, protect and restore cultural heritage sites - compared to 86% in 2010
- Only 35% of respondents indicated implementation of this policy was regularly measured - compared to 55% in 2010
- Staff experience was main source of information for responding to the cultural measures. Specialist opinion was useful for benchmarking Indigenous cultural inventory

Cultural Inventory Benchmarks with 'Yes' Responses	2007 (%)	2010 (%)	2013 (%)	UE* (%)
Existence of policy to inventory, protect and restore cultural heritage sites	87	86	68	8
Active implementation of policy	80	95	76	—
Policy implementation is regularly measured	—	55	35	6

* UE = Unable to estimate

Indigenous Consultation Data

- Agencies with an active Indigenous community consultation program for input into park management decisions decreased from 90% in 2010 to 76% in 2013
- Planning documents provided useful sources of information for benchmarking Indigenous consultation

Indigenous Consultation Benchmarks with 'Yes' Responses	2007 (%)	2010 (%)	2013 (%)	UE*
Active Indigenous community consultation program for input into park management decisions (where an identifiable Indigenous group exists)	—	90	76	4
Regular process of Indigenous consultation and input into decision making that covers all aspects of park management	88	—	—	—

* UE = Unable to estimate

Summary

- Indigenous engagement in natural resource management continues to test Australian and New Zealand park and protected area managers
- Time limitations for national, state and local government agencies impede effective consultation
- Best practice examples are needed of meaningful Indigenous involvement in natural resource management consultation processes
- Greater emphasis needs to be placed by parks and protected area managers on the importance of effective management of cultural values - including measuring success



Kakadu National Park – Australia

<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/national-parks/kakadu-national-park>

An inspiring solution?

Innovative

- 25 parks and protected area agencies across Australia and New Zealand participated in 2013 GPNB survey
- Survey increased understanding of commitment to develop cultural inventory policy, implement it and measure its implementation
- Highlighted requirement for ongoing and dedicated commitment to meaningful Indigenous consultation

Evidence of implementation and impact

- 'The co-governance and co-management of parks and environments' Hui held in June 2014
- Wellington Communiqué 2014 drafted

Applied elsewhere or more broadly

- Measurement of engagement with First Peoples is an important measure of NGO park surveys
- Surveys at the national and international level are crucial to understand how the park and protected area sector is performing in working with First Peoples

What makes it work?

Components that lead to success

- The recognition by park managers of the importance of cultural values facilitated involvement in the strategic survey
- Two sets of results for the same measures from the 2013 and 2010 surveys allowed comparisons to be made
- The results indicate that much more work is required to engage with First Peoples across Australia and New Zealand

Enabling factors

- Existence of a peak body with national, state and local government members
- Use of electronic survey methods
- Involvement of academic and specialist technical staff from park agencies