

## **Joint Management Project Overview**

### *Project Overview*

Building on the work carried out in 2008-09 as part of the joint management agreements pilot project, the NTRU aims to create new agreement benchmarking resources relating to particular types of agreements. There is a particular demand from within the NTRB/NTSP sector for resources relating to joint or co-operative or co-land management.

This project will also aim to develop a set of national standards for co-operative or joint management arrangements of conservation areas.

### *Research Partners*

During 2008-2009, the NTRU conducted a pilot project relating to joint management agreements as part of the native title land and water research project. This research was carried out in collaboration with the Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements (ATNS) Project and also involved a research partnership with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR).

The Research Action Partnership between the Djabugay Native Title Corporation and AIATSIS has highlighted inequities and deficiencies across states and territories in joint management arrangements for national parks and other conservation areas which are being achieved through native title.

### *Research Outputs*

In 2009, with assistance from Aurora interns and Ms Janet Hunt of CAEPR, the NTRU compiled an overview of native title and joint management arrangements for protected and other conservation areas across state and territory jurisdictions. The intention is to provide comparative data on the content of native title and joint or co-management agreements.

There is now a need to provide a national comparative analysis of the data and in turn with joint management or co-operative arrangements achieved outside of native title and under different pieces of land rights legislation to evaluate joint management as a native title outcome.

The NTRU has compiled an overview of native title and joint management arrangements for protected and other conservation areas across state and territory jurisdictions. The resource has been developed with the aim of building a body of comparative information on the content of native title and joint or co-management agreements.

For each state and territory a summary of relevant legislation and policy is provided along with an outline of each joint management agreement in that jurisdiction, including information on native title, form of tenure, governance arrangements, employment provisions and other benefits. The term 'joint management' is used as an umbrella term for a range of management partnerships which are also described as 'co-management' or 'co-operative management'.

Native title joint management arrangements and related policies are in a constant state of flux and this research requires constant updating. The information currently provided is thus inevitably incomplete, and constrained by the confidentiality provisions of relevant documents.

This resource has been developed from information available as at February 2009. This resource may become out of date as NTRBs and NTSPs negotiate further joint management agreements or renegotiate existing agreements. It is also difficult to access information about joint management, due in particular to the confidentiality clauses contained in many Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). This is despite the fact that many of the agreements concern public areas that are managed for the benefit of all. As such the information provided in parts of this resource may be incomplete and readers may wish to contact native title holders, NTRBs/NTSPs or the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) to make further inquiries as to accessing relevant documents.

Each state and territory has a different approach to joint management as reflected in legislation and government policies. Even within states, joint management agreements take a number of different forms, from informal arrangements to Memorandum of Understandings to ILUAs. Most significantly, the content of the agreements differ substantially in the forms of tenure granted, governance arrangements and employment and training provisions.

The focus of this resource is on management arrangements that have been entered into as part of the native title process. Other joint management arrangements have been reached under state, territory and Commonwealth legislation such as the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976 (Cth).

As at October 2009, overviews have been completed for all Australian states and territories except Tasmania.