

Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara

Healthy Country Plan

2022-2032



Warning

This plan may contain images, names of or references to deceased Aboriginal people.

Acknowledgements

We, the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Traditional Owners, gratefully acknowledge the support of those who worked closely with us to develop this plan. We particularly thank 10 Deserts for funding the development of this plan and the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board for assisting us with developing this plan. We also wish to thank Coober Pedy Council and Conservation Management for supporting the development of this plan.

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Dedication

We dedicate this plan to our past Elders who have passed on their knowledge of how to care for Country and keep AMY people strong; to the present generation who developed this plan to make Country healthy again and to the future generations who will carry on our traditional practices for healthy Country.

Contents

Our vision	1
Our people.....	2
Our Country	3
About this plan.....	5

Targets	6
Threats	13
Implementation	18
References.....	24



Our vision

Healthy Country and strong culture supporting knowledgeable and skillful people, developing a thriving community with a vibrant economy for future generations. People share stories and speak in language protecting unique plants, animals, land and kapi connected through Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara cultural traditions.

Our people

The Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people have a deep spiritual connection to Country. Our Native Title journey began in 1995. With the assistance of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (the Native Title representative body for South Australia at the time), a series of community meetings resulted in the emergence of two adjoining Native Title Claims, at the time called the Antakirinja Mutuntjara Land Management Native Title Claim and the Yankunytjatjara/Antakirinja Native Title Claim. We successfully negotiated a number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and in 2011 our deep connection to Country was formally recognised with the granting of Native Title over an area including Tallaringa Conservation Park.

Managing our Country and undertaking traditional practices is vital to maintaining our strong connection to Country. We are actively involved in the management of Country and are teaching younger generations about the landscape and sharing the stories that flow through it.

Many features form part of stories that weave their way across the landscape, extending for thousands of kilometres and across state borders. There are many creation stories that travel through the landscape and senior people have lived and travelled with ceremonies through this Country. Certain knowledge and access to some areas can be specific for men or women or limited to certain members of the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara community. There are many important cultural and archaeological sites on our Country and a long history of trade is evident from the imported stone materials from other regions.

Many of our people still live in the area on stations or in Coober Pedy. Others are now living in places like Port Augusta and Whyalla with others living across South Australia and Australia.



Our Country

Our Country encompasses a significant area of over 78,672 square kilometres in the far north of South Australia and is comprised of gently undulating plains with dunes generally orientated in an east-west fashion, with intermittent gibber rises. In some areas the dunes are higher and the swales are narrower. There are occasional 'breakaways' of silcrete and quartzite hills in the region. Red deep siliceous sands or red duplex dominate, sometimes bearing a crust of ironstone pebbles.

There are wanari (mulga) open woodlands (tall open woodlands, with a mixed shrubby understory over perennial grasses and forbs) on our Country and this diversity of wanari is not often seen elsewhere.

The landscapes are connected to a diverse network of creation stories. These creation stories are interconnected with the land's physical features and waters, creating a complex tapestry of meanings and values.

These lands and waters are central to the lives of our community; at birth, death, for ceremony, during hunting and gathering, camping, and travelling. There are a number of significant archaeological and cultural sites.

Our Country also supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, including several species of wanari and the Nationally threatened Nganamarra (Malleefowl). Kapi (watersoaks; palaeo-channels) are also a distinctive feature on our Country.

We want to protect these special values and provide opportunities for people to enjoy this unique landscape and our culture. We want to provide opportunities to maintain and strengthen the connections between Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people and our Country for generations to come.



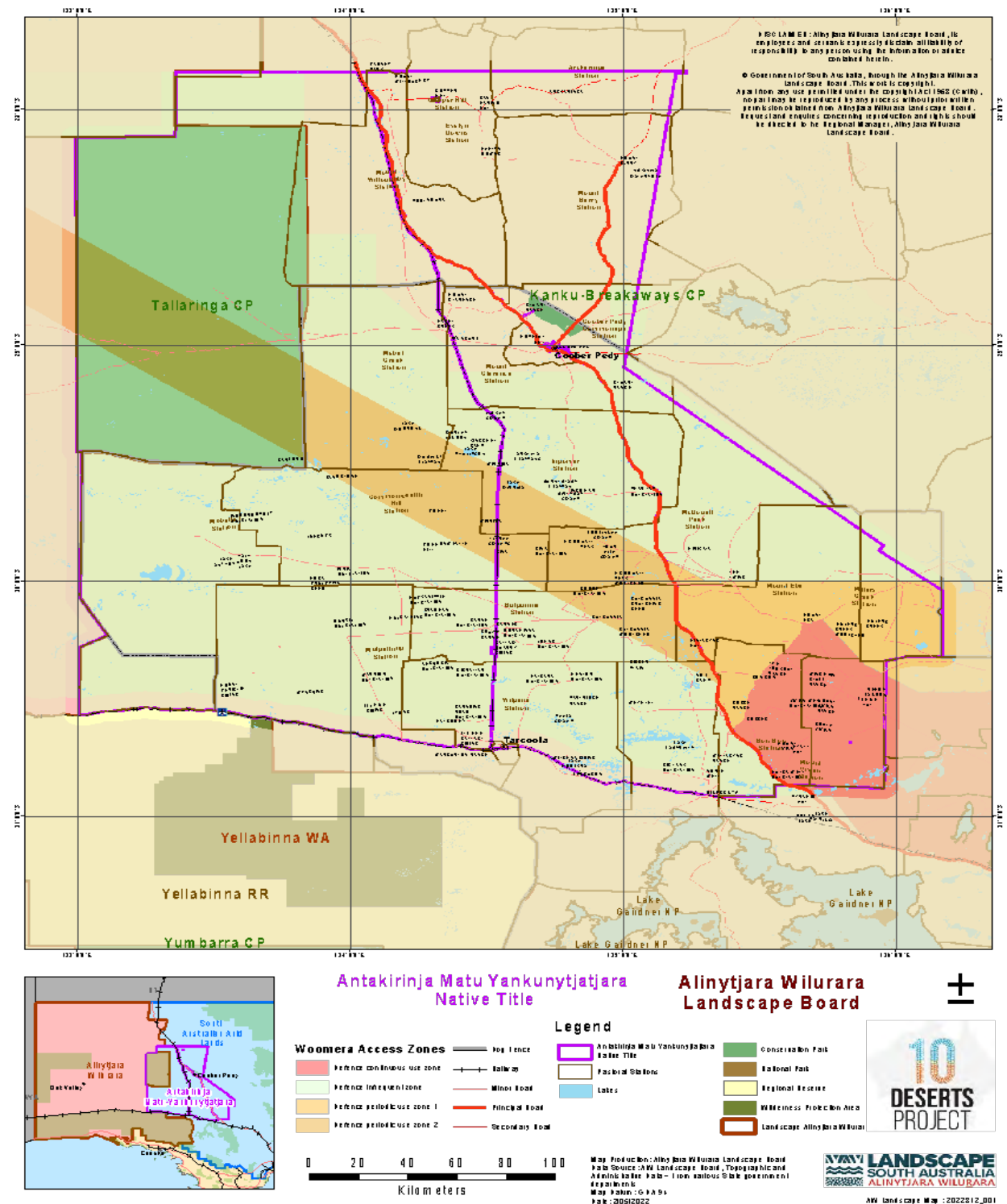


Figure 1: Map of our plan area

About this plan

This plan has been developed by using information from existing plans for the area including the AMYAC Strategic Plan, park management plans and community plans which have been collated into the Healthy Country Plan format. The AMY HCP Working Group has reviewed the draft HCP before the broader AMY community consultation. The aim of this plan is to provide strategic direction for caring for Country and to identify priorities for action.

This plan details the goals and aspirations of Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people. It is designed to be used by AMYAC to guide activities. It is also a guide for partners and stakeholders so that AMYAC can use it to guide partners in working with them on the things that are most important to AMY people.

Targets

To Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara people, all of Country is important, and there are lots of things about Country that are valued: the animals and plants; the landscape; the kapi (water); and the connection to culture. All these things have great cultural and spiritual importance, and Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara people have stories about many of these things that help in understanding them and keeping them healthy.

In order to create a plan that will enable resources to be focused on key issues, eight targets have been identified. For Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara Country to be healthy, these eight targets need to be healthy. The targets are listed here and described in detail over the following pages. Our targets are:

1. *Strong AMYAC*
2. *Community wellbeing*
3. *Kapi (water)*
4. *Healthy landscapes*
5. *Important plants and animals*
6. *Bush medicine and bushtucker*
7. *Livelihoods*
8. *Our culture and knowledge*

For each target we assessed the health status at the start of this plan and what we want the health to be like at the end of the plan.

We have developed at least one goal for each target. The goals relate to an improvement in target health – the ability of a target to sustain itself and

withstand or recover from disturbances. We have also identified indicators to check whether we are reaching our goals.

Table 1: Target health description

Health status	Description
Very Good	The target is in its most desirable state and requires little intervention for maintenance.
Good	The target is within an acceptable state and needs some management intervention for maintenance.
Fair	The target is outside of the acceptable state and requires considerable intervention in order to maintain it over time.
Poor	The target is outside of the acceptable state and may become extinct if restoration proves difficult and requires significant attention and investment in management activities.

Target 1: Strong AMYAC

Nganana kulini, respectamilani munu kutju jutju kanyini panya kutjupaku kulinytjaku.

We will listen to, respect and hold each other to account, guided by principles of transparency and clear procedures.

Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) is responsible for managing the Native Title rights and interests of the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people. AMYAC has been successful in making a number of key agreements in the region in relation to pastoral leases, Tallaringa Conservation Park, and the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park.

For this target to be healthy there needs to be a culture of good governance centred on strong leadership, effective partnerships, stewardship, and transparency. We need to continue striving for regional representation and relevance and improved organisational capacity to support our people.

Health Status 2022	Desired Health 2032
Fair	Good

Target 2: Community wellbeing

Nganana waakaringanyi nganampa waltjapitingka panya palurutjana waltji waltji kulintjaku.

We will work with our people so that they can determine their future.

We need to work together to achieve our vision and improve the health of Country and our people. Good quality education, health and other community services are important in improving the health of this target; however, we recognise that there are some things we cannot influence.

Instead, we can focus on community cohesion, achieving a collective vision, and self-determination. Being connected to Country, having jobs that keep Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people in our communities, and learning about our culture are important in making community healthy.

Community is threatened by poor governance, wrong people with knowledge, lack of knowledge transfer, climate change impacts and empty Country. We want to see healthy people with access to Country, good jobs, access to services like healthcare, and a strong culture.

Health Status 2022	Desired Health 2032
Poor	Fair

Target 3: Kapi (Water)

Kapi includes rock holes, soaks, rivers and streams, creeks, and salt lakes as well as ground water such as bores and wells.

Some water sources on our Country are very significant, locally, regionally and culturally, as they may be the only source of permanent kapi (natural water) in an area. Claypans which hold fresh water following rains are rare in this landscape.

The kapi on our Country are places of huge importance in regional patterns of Indigenous people. Kapi are important both culturally and as a source of water for native plants and animals. Many changes since the 1950s have degraded sites and health of kapi and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, kapi sites are vulnerable to damage and pollution from camels, donkeys and other feral herbivores. Management of visitation to these sites and of pest animals such as camels will help to restore these areas.



Target 4: Healthy Landscapes

Our Country has diverse landscapes that all need to be cared for. Our Country includes wanari woodlands, ranges and rocky outcrops, dune systems and grasslands that support a diversity of species. The landscape is culturally and environmentally unique with vegetation formations including: arid and semi-arid Acacia low open woodlands and shrublands with chenopods; Eucalyptus woodlands with shrubby understoreys; Acacia tall open shrublands; chenopod shrublands; mixed chenopod and samphire shrublands, and forblands. Our Country has many areas of untouched natural beauty that provide visitors with a place to explore, reflect, and learn.

We have a responsibility to preserve the natural environment and protect our Country from threats such as bad waru (fire), climate change impacts, and feral animals.



Target 5: Important Plants and Animals

There are many important plants and animals on our Country. Animals that are important to ecological processes include Dingo, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nganamarra (Malleefowl), Mingkiri (marsupial mouse), Wami (snake), and native mice/rodents among many others. Plants that are important to the health of Country and may have cultural value include Western Myall, wanari, Eucalypts, Spinifex and other grasses, *Acacia ligulata* (Umbrella bush).

Our Country is home to a number of threatened, rare and declining species. In order for the land to be healthy, all the important plants and animals should be present and in good numbers. Many plants on our Country are traditionally used in the construction of implements, weapons, ornaments, and toys, and are used as an aid in catching game, as well as a source for medicine, food, narcotics, and water (Latz, 1996). Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people have been managing the plants and animals for many thousands of years, and they are a valued part of our culture.

Several bird species of conservation significance have been recorded on our Country including the Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*); Chestnut breasted white-face (*Aphelocephala pectoralis*), vulnerable; Brown Honeyeater (*Lichnera indistincta*); and the Pied honeyeater (*Certhionyx variegatus*). There are not many recordings of Nganamarra. Once widespread, the Nganamarra, listed as vulnerable, now only occur in small numbers across dry inland southern Australia. The Australian Government has put together a Recovery Plan to help make populations across the species range strong (Benshemesh 2007).



Health Status 2022

Fair-Good

Desired Health 2032

Good

Target 6: Bush Medicine and Bushtucker

Our Country has plenty of bushtucker and bush medicine found in many places including along waterholes, gum-lined creeks, rock pools and the hill Country. Bushtucker and bush medicine are culturally important and knowledge of when things are ready to eat, how to cook and harvest these plants and animals needs to be passed on to the next generations.

Throughout most of the world's history plant substances have been the main source of medicinal products (Latz, 1996). On our Country we have a number of bush medicine plants such as Western myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*), wanari (mulga) (*Acacia aneura*), river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), umbrella bush (*Acacia ligulata*) and spinifex grasses (*Triodia sp*). Bush medicine is also important for Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people to help them stay healthy. Cultural knowledge enables strong medicine to be made from many plants to heal different ailments.

Traditional bush foods such as seasonal fruits, nuts, roots, Kalaya (Emu), Malu (Red Kangaroo), Ngintaka (Perentie), vegetables and other meats are high in natural protein and vitamins and can greatly benefit health. Each food has ceremonial or spiritual importance to us and has helped us to thrive.

It is important to ensure the bush food species are on country and are in the right numbers. It is also important to make sure that the bush food animals aren't being hunted by the wrong people.

Health Status 2022	Desired Health 2032
Good	Very Good

Target 7: Livelihoods

It is important to support our people and community to pursue economic opportunities to support work on country and families. Support for sustainable livelihoods is about increasing jobs so that we can stay on country and continue to pass on our traditions. Without work it makes it harder to stay in our communities and spend time on country.

We source some income from mining, tourism, fee for service work, the arts and stock work. If we have more businesses, then there are more jobs and it increases the likelihood that our people will stay in our communities. This increases the opportunities for learning about our history and culture and being connected to Country.

To support livelihoods, we need to have good supporting infrastructure, opportunities for capacity and capability building, and a focus on improving health and wellbeing in our communities. By having greater stability and job opportunities in our communities we will be able to reduce financial insecurity.

Health Status 2022	Desired Health 2032
Fair	Good

Target 8: Our Culture and Knowledge

Nganana malatja tjuta unganyi munu nintini nganampa ara.

We will pass on knowledge and customs to young people.

There are many sites of cultural significance on our Country including seed grinding sites, camping sites, traditional burial sites and areas where there are arrangements of stone. These sites link Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people to our ancestors and are a physical Manifestation of our ancient and ongoing connection to Country. It is important that these sites are protected and cared for to keep culture strong.

The landscape of Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara is home to our stories and culture, including *Tjukuritja* (significant area). Our Country is connected to a diverse network of mythological associations, interconnected with the physical features and waters, and their complex cultural meanings and values. The land and waters are central to the lives of our community; at birth, death, for ceremony, during hunting and gathering, camping, and travelling. Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people have developed a complex culture that guides current day understanding of Country and how it is managed. This knowledge is handed to the next generations through stories at the appropriate times.

Knowledge of traditional activities, ceremonies, food and medicine, as well as how to look after Country, should be continued and shared amongst the community. This will be supported with an active return to Country and ranger program. Any significant loss of our Traditional knowledge will weaken our culture and traditional land management practices. We want to make sure our cultural knowledge and language is passed on to ensure our Country is cared for.

There are some things on our Country that are considered by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal people to be private, for their discussion and consideration only. Private Business won't be reported on in this Plan or any reporting from this Plan.

Health Status 2022

Desired Health 2032

Fair

Good



Threats

A range of threats affect the health of our targets. A lot of our healthy country work will focus on implementing strategies to reduce the threats. To help prioritise our work, we rated and ranked the threats by assessing how bad they are, the extent of the damage they cause and whether the damage caused can be fixed.

Our work focuses on the following most serious threats:

1. *Bad waru (fire)*
2. *Climate change impacts*
3. *Feral predators*
4. *Feral herbivores*
5. *Buffel grass and other weeds*
6. *Visitors doing the wrong thing*
7. *Damage from mining*
8. *Lack of knowledge transfer*
9. *Empty Country*
10. *Lack of capacity and Capability*

The following pages describe the highest rated threats.

Table 2: Threat rating descriptions

Threat Rating	Description
Very High	The threat has the potential, or is likely, to destroy or remove all or part of the target, if the current situation or rate of damage continues. If this happens then it may not be possible to make the target healthy again.
High	The threat is likely to cause serious damage to all or part of the target if the current situation or rate of damage continues. If this happens then it would be very expensive and difficult to make the target healthy.
Medium	The threat is likely to cause moderate damage to all or part of the target if the current situation or rate of damage continues. If this happens then it would take a reasonable effort and amount of money to make the target healthy.
Low	The threat is likely to cause a small amount of damage to all or part of the target if the current situation or rate of damage continues. If this happens it would not cost much money, and would be relatively easy, to make the target healthy.

Table 3: Threat rating and ranking against targets

Targets →	Strong AMYAC	Community Wellbeing	Kapi (water)	Healthy Landscapes	Important Plants and Animals	Bush Medicine and Bushtucker	Livelihoods	Our Culture and Knowledge	Overall Threat Level
Threats ↓									
Climate Change Impacts		High	Very High	High	High	High	High		Very High
Lack of Knowledge Transfer	High	High	High	High	High	Medium		Very High	Very High
Empty Country		High	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	Very High
Feral Herbivores			Very High	High	High	High			Very High
Bad Waru (fire)		High		High	High	High	High		High
Feral Predators		Low	Medium		High	High	Low		High
Visitors doing the wrong thing			Low	High	Low	Low		High	High
Buffel Grass and Other Weeds				High	High	High			High
Damage from mining			High		Medium	Medium			Medium
Lack of Capacity	Medium	Medium					Medium		Medium
Overall Threat to Target	Medium	High	Very High	High	High	High	Medium	High	

Threat 1: Bad Waru (Fire)

Waru (fire) is a natural element of the landscape, but bad waru, described as wildfire that burns on an inappropriate scale and intensity, can result in negative impacts on fauna and flora. Without the careful management of vegetation through fire, dry plant matter can build up, creating situations where hot fires can get out of control and kill native plants, animals and destroy infrastructure. Carefully managed fire, or good waru, can assist in the recovery of ecological communities and help manage over-abundant species. We are keen to use good waru to manage the landscape.

Threat 2: Climate Change Impacts

Climate change is making it hotter, drier, and increasing the risk of wildfires on country. The hotter and drier weather leads to reduced water availability which can increase pressure on water points and lead to greater competition between native wildlife and feral animals. Less permanent water also makes it harder for our people to live on country and with the increasing temperatures there are challenges and safety risks for ranger groups and the community. We are also concerned about flash flooding on our Country. Floods remove topsoil, damage infrastructure, create erosion, endanger lives, kill animals, and uproot trees and shrubs. We are worried about flooding reducing access to Country.

Although the threats of climate change are difficult to manage for, important measures can be put in place to alleviate its effects, including reducing soil erosion, maintaining habitat, and building in drainage channels. We need to help improve the resilience of ecological communities, native plants and animals to the temperature increases and changes in rainfall patterns that are expected as a result of climate change.

Threat 3: Feral Predators

Feral cats (*Felis catus*) are known to prey on a diverse array of small to medium sized mammals and birds and they also spread disease. Sightings of feral cats has given concern for the safety of ground or low dwelling and nesting birds, such as crimson chats and budgerigars. Predation by foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) also represents an ongoing threat to the survival of more than 100 terrestrial species on mainland Australia (Coutts-Smith et al 2007) and the fox is now listed as a Key Threatening Process under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Although it is known that foxes and cats have a big impact on small mammals, the extent of their populations is undetermined, and requires further investigation before control actions are implemented.

Threat 4: Feral Herbivores

Camels are a big threat to livelihoods, cultural sites, and biodiversity and cause issues with fences, put browsing pressure on our native plants and damage waterholes. Camels are very mobile and can browse on a wide variety of plant species and have a special liking for wayanu (Quandong). Feral donkeys also pose a serious threat. Both camels and donkeys can threaten kapi by increasing erosion of soil and waterways, spreading weeds, trampling native vegetation, eating native seedlings, destroying infrastructure and competing with native species for resources.

Rabbits also have a big impact and have badly damaged some areas of Country. Grazing and burrowing by rabbits can cause serious erosion problems, reduce recruitment and survival of native plants, and modify entire landscapes. They have also been seen to contribute to the decline or disappearance of a number of important animal species and they attract introduced predators such as foxes which also predate on native animals.

Threat 5: Buffel Grass and Other Weeds

Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), is arguably the single greatest invasive species threat to biodiversity across the entire Australian arid zone. Buffel grass invades some of the wetter, more fertile parts of the landscape, important for the survival of native plant and animals. It burns at a greater intensity than native plants, creating hotter fires that impact on native plants and animals and destroy cultural sites. Buffel grass also changes the landscape, impacting on seasonal activities, sites of cultural significance, and traveling routes for the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people. Regular tourist traffic through our Country increases the risk of buffel grass spread and vigilance is needed to make sure the threat doesn't become worse.

Threat 6: Visitors doing the wrong thing

We want visitors to come to our Country to support jobs and learn about our culture; however, sometimes visitors do the wrong thing. This is also made worse by a lack of visitor management such as appropriate signage and information about visiting Country. Sometimes visitors leave rubbish, don't appreciate the natural and cultural values of our Country and go places they shouldn't, damage cultural sites, drive where there aren't tracks and cause damage to plants and soil, and go shooting where they are not supposed to.

We want visitors to come to our Country to support jobs and learn about our culture; however, we want them to come here and visit places in the right way. Finding ways to promote greater public appreciation of our Country's special environmental and cultural values and its significance to the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people is important to us.

Threat 7: Damage from mining

Minimising the impacts of any future mining and mineral and petroleum exploration and production activities on our Country is important to us. There are environmental and cultural impacts often associated with mining that impact our targets such as kapi.

Whilst we recognise that mining can bring income to our people and our Corporation, we want to make sure that any mining or exploration occurs with our consent and provides Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people with benefits. Any future mineral and petroleum exploration and production activities will require careful management to ensure that the cultural and environmental values of our Country are considered. Promoting collaboration between us and the mining companies will help to ensure that mining does not impact on Aboriginal cultural values and will increase awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage and its conservation.

Threat 8: Lack of Knowledge Transfer

A considerable threat to the future management of our Country is the loss of language, and for children to not be taught their language. The important stories and culture that will be lost will have cultural and environmental impacts. The more that kids go out on country the more they will learn about their culture and their language. Recording and using language is very important in maintaining our cultural connections and knowledge. There is a threat of important knowledge not being handed on within the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara community. As well as being imbued with the stories of ancestors, the landscape is the result of thousands of years of management through traditional practices, like patch burning. Without the sharing of knowledge, methods of managing the land for thousands of years may be lost.

Threat 9: Empty Country

The absence of active management reduces the capacity of our community to maintain the health of our targets. The community need to be on country to look after our cultural sites and keep the landscape healthy. Empty Country means that our people are not present to maintain the environment and our important sites.

Without people on country it is hard to manage visitors, conduct work on feral animal and weed control, and be connected to Country. Improving access to Country is important in getting our people out. The lack of built infrastructure to house rangers and others in the community makes management works restrictive to weather conditions. Our Country is valued for supporting a strong and continuous connection between Traditional Owners, our cultural sites and Country. In order for the land to support this, people need to be on country as much as is practical.

Threat 10: Lack of Capacity and Capability

Building the capacity and capability of our Corporation and community is important in achieving healthy Country and healthy people. We need to provide ongoing training to effectively and safely carry out various land management activities including weed control, fire management, feral animal control and safety training. By improving the capabilities of our people, we can improve community wellbeing, create job opportunities and improve our ability to care for Country. Without capacity and capability building we will not be able to continue to care for Country.

Finding ongoing funding to care for Country will be a challenge. Without enough financial support we won't be able to afford the resources and training we need to provide to do work and build the skills of our people.



Implementation

Governance

In 1997 Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) was registered and has since represented the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Native Title holders. There are approximately 1,030 members of the Corporation. AMYAC is a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) and is required to protect and manage Native Title in accordance with the wishes of the broader Native Title holding group and to ensure certainty for Governments and other parties interested in accessing or regulating Native Title lands and waters. AMYAC is also responsible for holding and investing money, addressing compensation matters, and bringing any further Native Title applications to court among numerous other areas.

The AMYAC Board is accountable for the overall performance of AMYAC. The Board governs, guides and provides a professional approach to the development of AMYAC. The Board is made up of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the Board Committee. The Board ensures that AMYAC fulfils its responsibilities and contractual obligations, sets the strategic direction of the Corporation, monitors performance against the plans, and is also in charge of employees, financial reporting and risk management. Board members are expected to be committed, ethical and supportive.

In order to develop an independent commercial enterprise base for AMYAC members and to maximise the opportunities presented by mining and petroleum activities on Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara's Native Title land for training, employment and business development, a number of companies have been formed.



Figure 2: Our governance structure for our Healthy Country Plan

Programs

Our programs help us organise our work. Under each program we have identified and selected a series of strategies to restore our targets, reduce the threats and develop our capacity. Strategies helps us to achieve our goals and objectives. By implementing our strategies, we should see improvement in the overall health of our Country.

Each strategy involves one or more actions. We will develop work plans for up to three of our strategies first as we have been offered some funding to implement part of our plan. The actions for each strategy in our work plan will include the following details for each action:

- resources required, including staff, funds and equipment
- agreed timeframes
- responsibility for implementation
- outcomes to be achieved
- assessment of capacity, capability and associated risk

We will develop work plans for each strategy as resources become available.

For our healthy country work we have grouped our strategies into programs. We have developed objectives for our priority strategies. The objectives are a statement of the desired outcome of the strategies in each program. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies against the objectives as part of our monitoring.

The programs are:

1. *Water Management*
2. *Weed and Fire Management*
3. *Feral Animal Control*
4. *Visitor Management*
5. *Supporting Culture and Knowledge Transfer*
6. *Increase Economic Opportunities*
7. *Governance, Capacity and Capability Building*
8. *Cultural Site Protection and Maintenance*
9. *Threatened Species Research and Monitoring*

Program 1: Water Management

Strategies:

1. Identify water / riparian sites and monitor changes in condition
2. Maintain ecologically and culturally significant surface and ground water sites (priority is rockholes on Mount Willoughby, Mount Clarence and Evelyn Downs)
3. Manage Tallaringa Well including track rehabilitation and access management

Program 2: Weed and Fire Management

Strategies:

4. Map and prioritise sites for buffel grass control and actively control the grass
5. Develop and implement a program of active fire management
6. Identify and monitor levels of weed infestations, develop and implement control strategies

Program 3: Feral Animal Control

Strategies:

7. Control camels and donkeys by shooting and mustering
8. Control cats, foxes, and wild dogs through trapping and baiting
9. Control rabbits through warren ripping and other methods

Program 4: Visitor Management

Strategies:

10. Provide information for visitors and the local community to promote awareness and respect for Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara cultural heritage values and ensure their protection

11. Work with National Parks and Wildlife Service SA to manage visitors in conservation parks.
12. Develop and maintain infrastructure to support appropriate visitation

Program 5: Supporting Culture and Knowledge Transfer

Strategies:

13. Record cultural stories, map sites and develop specific actions for each cultural site as guided by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people
14. Support Elders to share their knowledge with the younger generations
15. Develop and implement a language and culture program including on country trips
16. Develop a map of country for Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people so they know where they can go

Program 6: Increase Economic Opportunities

Strategies:

17. Support Landholding Authorities and Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people to explore economic opportunities such as carbon farming, tourism, arts and mining
18. Grow current fee for service opportunities with the mining, NRM and other industries

Program 7: Governance, Capacity and Capability Building

Strategies:

19. Secure resources to implement the Plan from a variety of sources including grants and economic opportunities

- 20. Develop and implement a youth leadership program
- 21. Build a land management team (ranger team and/or fee for service business) including training and participation in Ranger Forums and Ranger exchange programs
- 22. Develop and implement a capacity building program

Program 8: Cultural Site Protection and Maintenance

Strategies:

- 23. Identify and implement appropriate protection of culturally significant sites
- 24. Rehabilitate particular sites of Aboriginal cultural significance



- 25. Promote collaboration between Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people and commercial interests and increase awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage to ensure that commercial activities do not impact on Aboriginal cultural values

Program 9: Threatened Species Research and Monitoring

Strategies:

- 26. Work with partners to conduct research on and monitor important cultural and threatened species

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improving

It is important that we check our progress, review the effectiveness of our healthy country work and make required changes to ensure we are on track to reaching our vision. We want to have culture of review in our organisation.

This is our process for doing the checking, reviewing and adapting. It is based on the following MERI framework.

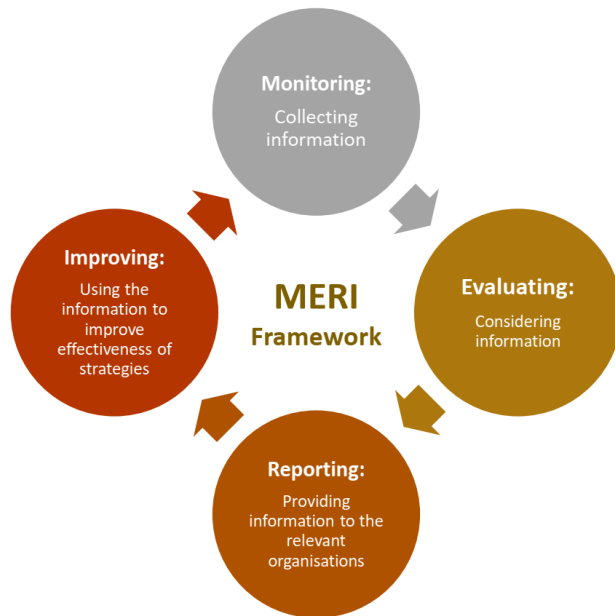


Figure 3: MERI Framework diagram

Monitoring

We will do three types of monitoring:

- **Input and output monitoring:** checking the implementation of the plan.
- **Outcome monitoring:** checking the strategies are meeting the objectives i.e. strategy effectiveness.
- **Impact monitoring:** checking if the health of the targets is improving, and we are reaching our goals.

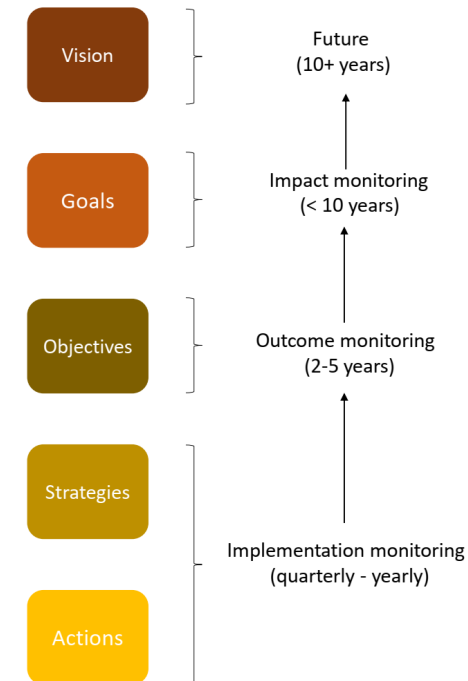


Figure 4: Types of monitoring

As this plan is for ten years, our monitoring will focus on *Input and output monitoring* and *Outcome monitoring*.

The *Input and output monitoring* will be carried out quarterly by the project team. This will involve going through the Actions listed in the Operational Plan to see what has and hasn't been done.

The *Outcome monitoring* will be done by measuring the indicators in the programs / projects.

The *Impact monitoring* will be done by measuring the indicators for each target.

The schedule and methods for checking the indicators are detailed in our MERI Plan.

Reviewing and evaluating

We will review and evaluate the results of our monitoring in accordance with our MERI Plan. This will involve:

- reviewing the results of our regular implementation monitoring to see what we did to and didn't do and why
- a mid-term evaluation to consider the results of the outcomes monitoring to see if our strategies are effective, and if not why
- an end-of-plan evaluation to check our impact to see if we are reaching our goals, and if not why

The end-of-plan evaluation will help inform the development of our next Healthy Country Plan.

We will work with our partners to carry out some of the monitoring and evaluations.

Reporting

We will report the review and evaluation findings to the AMYAC Board.

We will report to our partners as required under our agreements.

Under the guidance of the AMYAC Board, we will also share our learnings more widely e.g. other Indigenous ranger groups.

Improving

If the review of the *Input and output monitoring* results shows that the plan is not being implemented as in the Operational Plan i.e. there are issues with staffing, budgets or timing, then the Operational Plan will be amended accordingly.

If the mid-term evaluation of the *Outcome monitoring* results shows that we are not achieving our objectives of reducing the threats or building capacity, then the strategies will be adapted accordingly.

If the end-of-plan evaluation of the *Impact monitoring* results shows that we are not on-track to reaching our goals of improving target health, then we will consider how we can improve and adapt our program / project logic for the next Healthy Country Plan.

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