Principles and protocols for cultural land management governance and research

Natural hazards managements agencies and research institutions all have legal and ethical obligations to engage with Indigenous peoples no matter where they work in Australia. **Everywhere is Country and Indigenous peoples speak for Country**. Nonetheless, starting or maintaining intercultural collaborations can present many obstacles, and there is a need for guidance on how to best work together for the benefit of Country. The following summarises a review of relevant collaborative principles, processes and protocols for agencies and research institutions. It is only a **starting point** for local and in-depth conversations.

	PRINCIPLE	EXAMPLE PROCESS	EXAMPLE PROTOCOL
1. SELF-DETERMINATION TO PRACTICE CULTURE ON COUNTRY	Cultural land management must be self-determined and rights based	Develop collaborative structures that respect Indigenous self-determination	Establish free, prior and informed consent mechanisms for collaborations
	Indigenous peoples have the right to speak authoritatively about Country	Resource and support representative bodies to act as partners	Require co-design and co-delivery with representative bodies
	Cultural leadership and resurgence through caring for Country 'our way'	Resource and support capacity-building according to self-determined pathways	Establish agreements that provide long-term and secure access to Country
2. RECONCILIATION, EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	(Re)centre women and their unique role within Country	Resource and support Indigenous women's access to sacred and significant sites	Establish guidelines for identifying and protecting sacred and significant women's sites
	Support truth-telling and healing	Develop awareness of historical and contemporary issues facing Indigenous peoples	Make place-based cultural sensitivity training compulsory for all staff
	Address racism and promote cultural safety	Develop training and policies to foster cultural safety and acceptance	Establish a cultural safety framework and embed it in all induction processes
3. HEALTHY COUNTRY, HEALTHY SPIRIT, HEALTHY PEOPLE	Healing Country and healthy people are interrelated	Resource and support Indigenous peoples' connection to Country and culture	Establish formal partnership arrangements to support on-Country practice
	Centre Country, culture and kin in contemporary land management	Develop policies that consider, measure, and monitor cultural and natural values	Establish bio-cultural monitoring including tangible and non-tangible Indigenous values
	Cultural land management is living knowledge and culture	Regulatory changes to dismantle barriers to full participation in cultural practices on Country	Establish exemptions for Elders and children to be involved in cultural fire activities
4. EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE-HOLDERS	Empower Indigenous knowledge and knowledge-holders	Recognise and support Indigenous knowledge and knowledge-holders	Renumerate all Indigenous participants in research activities
	Manage, protect, and share knowledge	Develop policies to protect Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property	Develop local agreements that protect Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property
	Transfer and maintain the rekindling of knowledge	Recognise and support community learning pathways, processes and priorities	Develop project timeframes to reflect community processes and priorities
5. BENEFITS WITH AND FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES	Impact and value come through engagement and inclusion	Resource and support Indigenous peoples to define measures of success for policies and programs that affect them	Establish self-determined advisory groups to lead definition of measures of success
	Strong partnerships are based on shared understanding, respect and trust	Resource and support meaningful and trusting connections with community	Support role continuity and prioritise retention of staff working with Indigenous peoples
	Accountability through outcome monitoring and reporting	Resource and support transparency in monitoring and reporting	Establish procedures for public on partnership outcomes and benefits
6. RECOGNISE AND RESPECT DIVERSITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURES	Indigenous peoples and cultures are diverse	Resource and support strengths-based approach to reflect local capacities	Develop localised agreements with Indigenous peoples
	Embed flexible and purpose-built policy and processes	Resource and support local processes for decision-making	Maintain awareness of Indigenous peoples' cultural calendar and significant periods
	Understand Indigenous cultural protocols and cultural authority	Develop staff understanding of local cultural authority	Identify full range of Indigenous representatives, including men and women

For other key guidance, see: AIATSIS 2020. AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Canberra, ACT: AIATSIS; Woodward, E. et al. 2020. *Our Knowledge Our Way in caring for Country: Indigenous-led approaches to strengthening and sharing our knowledge for land and sea management.* Canberra, ACT: NAILSMA and CSIRO.

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Natural Hazards Research Australia