



North Australian
Indigenous Land &
Sea Management
Alliance



Natural Resource
Management Board (NT) Inc.



Australian Government

INTERIM PROTOCOLS for 'TALKING CULTURE ON COUNTRY' PROJECTS

1. INFORMED CONSENT

1.1 All projects need to obtain the informed consent of traditional owners.

1.2 In seeking the informed consent, applicants must provide full details of the proposed project to traditional owners.

2. PARTICIPATION BY ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

2.1 All applications need to acknowledge Aboriginal peoples' customary laws, practices and local expertise. Aboriginal peoples should be provided with opportunities to participate at all stages of project, where appropriate.

2.2 Aboriginal participation may be facilitated by utilising existing Aboriginal organisations. For major projects, applicants may consider the establishment of an Aboriginal steering committee

2.3 Applicants need to consider the employment and training of Aboriginal people in all aspects of the work, including as guides, interpreters, and informants, as well as in the collection and analysis of research data.

2.4 applicants need to acknowledge assistance and participation by Aboriginal people in the project.

3. BENEFITS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

3.1 Aboriginal people expect that projects conducted on their land, and in their communities, will be of benefit to them. One way of ensuring this is by designing projects in conjunction with Aboriginal peoples.

3.2 Aboriginal peoples working on the project must be paid at fair and equitable rates.

3.3 Benefits flowing back to Aboriginal communities can comprise a combination of monetary, and non-monetary benefits. Monetary benefits can comprise up-front payments, and staged methods of providing such payments. Non-monetary benefits can comprise training and skills assistance, community infrastructure provision, education and awareness, and community capacity development.

3.4 Aboriginal peoples value opportunities to visit country. In order to generate goodwill, you may wish to consider including extended family on any trips onto country.

4. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

4.1 The term 'Aboriginal cultural and intellectual property' is a general term which includes all aspects of Aboriginal peoples' cultural products and expressions, as well as their intangible cultural knowledge. Aboriginal cultural and intellectual property means the totality of cultural heritage of Aboriginal peoples, including, without limitation, their intangible heritage (such as songs, dances, stories, ecological and cultural knowledge), and cultural property, which includes Aboriginal human remains, artefacts, and any other tangible cultural objects.

4.2 Applications for projects must demonstrate a commitment to respect and uphold the rights of Aboriginal peoples, under their Traditional Law, to ownership and control over any Aboriginal cultural and intellectual property that is in existence prior to the conduct of the project.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Outcomes and data from the project must be managed in accordance with Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests. For example, recordings and documentation or other outcomes of the project must be provided back to the Aboriginal communities involved.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM AND RECORDING

6.1 Any film or recording involving Aboriginal people or sacred sites, places or objects may only occur with the agreement of the relevant traditional owners. Recordings of Aboriginal deceased persons must not be published without the permission of relatives of the deceased. Applicants must not broadcast, licence or sell any audiovisual recording without the agreement of traditional owners.

7. PUBLICATION AND OTHER DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH OUTCOMES

7.1 Applicants must uphold the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples regarding control over publication and other dissemination of research outcomes.

7.2 Copies of any publication must be made available, in an appropriately accessible form, to Aboriginal people.