

### **Options for Planning and Learning**

Many different combinations of options for learning HCP, and developing plans based on HCP are available for funders, planners, land managers and Indigenous communities:

- Learning: Learning approaches may be tailored to specific situations, from single team training, to training a number of teams in a region. Individuals may progress from an introductory level through to coaching.
- Developing: Plans may be developed for different purposes and at different levels. The approach to developing a Healthy Country Plan is determined by local and regional context.



#### Who to contact?

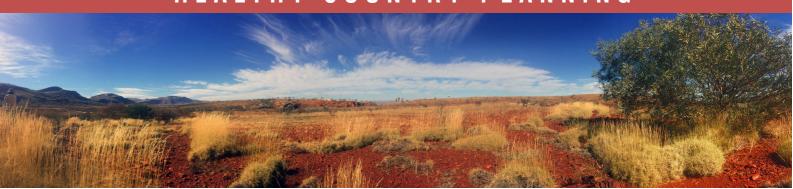
Organisations and projects using Open Standards are linked by a network of workshop facilitators (coaches) who assist project teams to apply a consistent set of industry standards and tools. Coaches aim to help communities adapt Open Standards to their own needs and challenges. Their aim is to improve efficiencies and empower practitioners to achieve healthy and resilient natural and cultural systems.

The Open Standards are common property, freely available to organisations worldwide. The Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) in Australia supports Healthy Country Planning and the Open Standards approach. CCNet Australia comprises individuals and key organisations, including practitioners, Australia-wide, and is linked to the international Open Standards community.

http://www.ccnetglobal.com/resource/healthy-country-planning/



### HEALTHY COUNTRY PLANNING



Healthy Country Planning (HCP) is a participatory planning process that develops adaptive management plans with local communities for Indigenous land management programs. HCP is an adaptation of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, which draws on the collective experience of adaptive managers and robust strategic planning approaches from various industries.

Healthy Country Planning builds on this base, ensuring that culture, people and their knowledge are central to the process.

Using language, facilitation approaches and tools tailored to community needs, HCP focuses on participation, community engagement and capacity building.

The HCP approach recognises that a plan is more likely to succeed when the people implementing it are empowered through the process and believe in their plan. HCP provides an approach and set of tools to bring community knowledge and western science together, parties understand each other and provide a platform to implement appropriate solutions.



## Application of Healthy Country Planning in Australia

- Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) planning
- Joint management planning
- Planning for Indigenous land and sea management programs with multiple tenures
- Linking Indigenous land and sea management programs and other land management initiatives.

### **Benefits of HCP**

- Places Indigenous knowledge and community values as the driver of the conservation planning process
- Structured process to empower local decisionmaking and place-based solutions
- Uses language that is clear and locally relevant
- Simple and easy to understand while exploring complex issues at many scales
- Provides a clear connection between vision, values, concerns and on-ground actions
- Outputs and tools are highly visual, making plans accessible and giving identity and ownership
- Forms a clear basis for investment, funding, job programs and operations
- Provides a multi-year framework for adaptive management of IPA's
- Translates into clear work plans, monitoring and evaluation plans
- Supported by desktop and cloud-based software.

# How does Healthy Country Planning work?

Healthy Country Planning is a series of logical steps, guiding a community's decision making processes. Although presented as a progression, the process can be 'joined' at any stage, depending on the work a community has already completed.

Community members are involved throughout, helping to design the approach and direct all key decisions. Initially, this may require training to support the process.

The first step establishes a clear planning process with all parties and identifies a common vision.

Deciding

what the

plan is

about

The community decides on critical conservation priorities and describes the health of these through indicators.

Corresponding critical threats are prioritised and put into context—identifying contributing factors, stakeholders and opportunities.



The Far West
Coast Healthy
Country Plan was
developed as a joint
process between
two communities
and the South
Australian

Government. Led by Traditional Owners, the elements of the plan reflect a highly collaborative decision-making process.

Reporting back to the Traditional Owner community, rangers and others on what has been learned is critical.

Healthy Country Planning encourages communities to share learning with other communities to support improved practices wherever they are needed. The HCP approach makes is easy for communities to see where lessons can be adopted.

Spinifex people
produce a regular
report that goes out
to their supporters,
funders and
communities. The
report details their
work and progress,

and contains a
mix of narrative
and data driven
reporting. Regular
communication has
built strong support for
the Spinifex people's
work.



Telling ourselves and others

Many Healthy Country Plans have been in place long

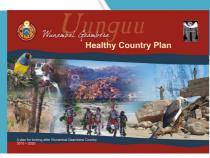
enough to reach this stage of the process.

This step asks projects to systematically take the time to evaluate whether the plan is working and is achieving its intended purpose. A critical element here is to use the data and information to adapt the plan and activities as decisions are made.

The Wunambal-Gaambera Healthy Country Plan has been in place for nearly 10 years.

Wunambal-Gaambera have established a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee made up of community members and scientists, who have met regularly over 8 years to report on progress and adapt the plan.

Deciding if the plan is working



This phase develops integral parts of the Healthy Country Plan—goals, strategies, results-chains, actions and monitoring plans.

Making the plan

Result Chains are the heart of the adaptive process and become the foundation of work and monitoring plans testing the logic of assumptions.



The Walalakoo Healthy Country Planning process developed work plans for their existing Ranger team and investigates avenues to extend their ranger program through external funding and selfgenerated income.

Doing and monitoring the work

Doing and monitoring the work translates the planning effort into on-ground action. Delivered by Indigenous ranger teams, work and monitoring plans are implemented.

Many groups might start the process here with an existing work program and ranger team, but without the clear strategic direction as developed in earlier steps.



The Banjima Healthy
Country Plan has
been used to build
a successful ranger
program clearly linking
the daily work and
operating plans to
the strategies set out

through the Bajima community. Regular reviews and work planning sessions keep the program on track and help identify emerging opportunities.