

SOUTHERN KAANTJU NGAACHI HEALTHY COUNTRY PLAN

"We have been thinking about our land for a long time, most of our old people are gone. We need to make sure that our plans for the future involve the deep knowledge of our elders from the past. When we think about our plans we never lose sight of this, it's the sort of mindset that keeps us motivated to hold strong our stories and our culture and to really look after our country and everything on it. Yeh, the memories of our elders can never be forgotten."

Dion Creek, Emerging Kaantju Leader, May 2012.



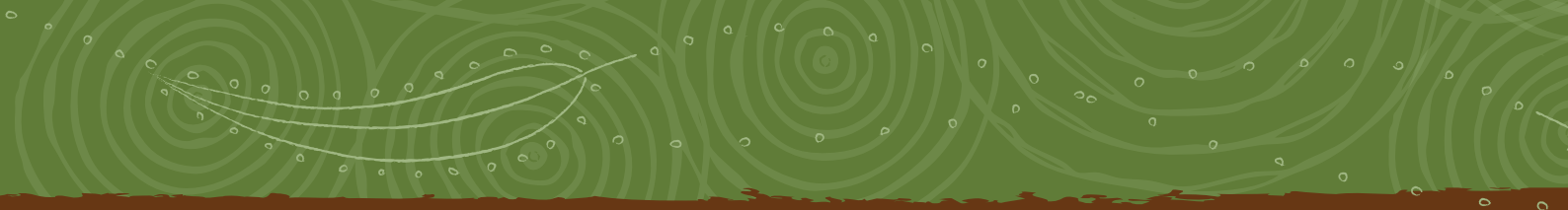
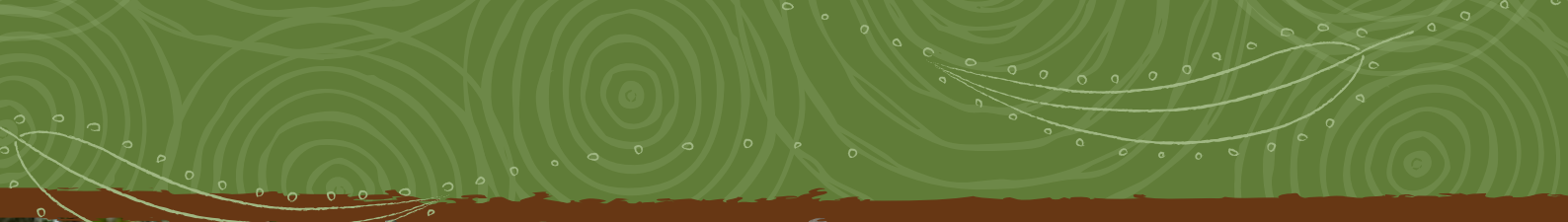




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Our Southern Kaantju Dream for Country

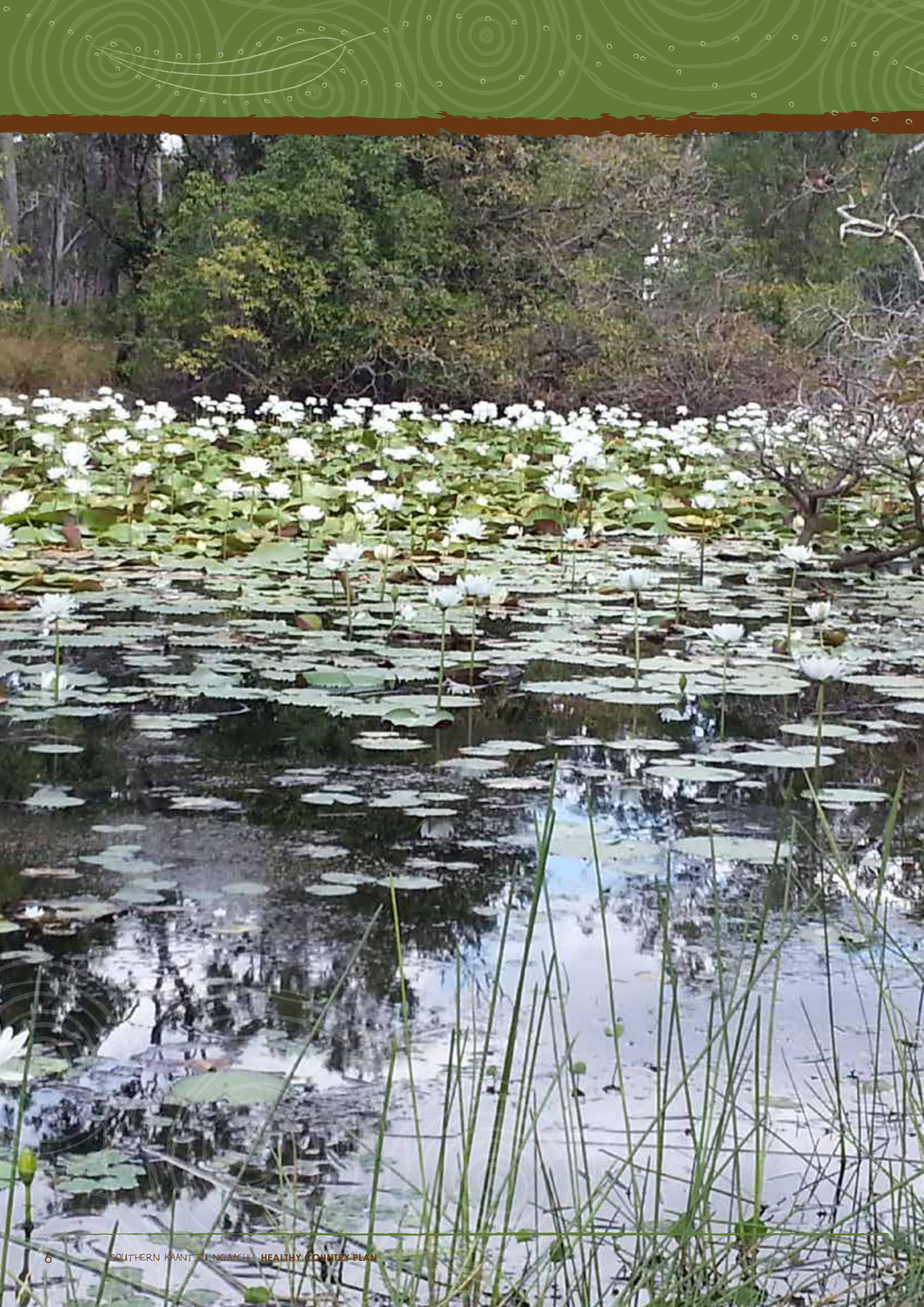
Our Dream is to bring our country back to life like it was before by being on country to protect our sites and share our proud culture with the rest of the world. We will work to manage our country and nurture the biodiversity so that our country will keep its clean running rivers and we will see healthy populations of mantapa (plains turkey) roaming the open grassy flats.

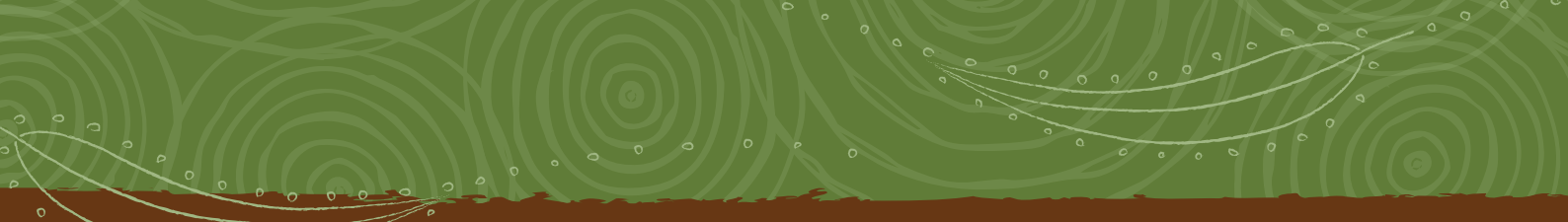
We will create business opportunities that shows off the natural beauty of our country, the richness of our culture as well as looking at small enterprises that utilizes some of our raw materials.

To achieve this dream;

- We will have happy, healthy, and educated TO's
- We will demonstrate our respect for country
- Southern Kaantju people will re-learn and speak Southern Kaantju language fluently
- We will have employment opportunities that supports a variety of career paths
- We will be passing on cultural knowledge and keep our customs and traditions
- We will have good access to all of our country
- We will have infrastructure that supports our people to live on country in proper living conditions







Our Southern Kaantju Planning logic

“We want to prepare a plan for our country so that one day we can manage it like it was before, to look after the country our way, the right way” *Jennifer Creek, May 2012.*

Our plan is our clear set of ideas that we own. It sets directions for us and helps the people we work with to understand our priority concerns and our aspirations for the future. We want to show why we are doing things.

Having a plan will help us to measure the effectiveness of our work and tell us Southern Kaantju is getting healthier and if our threats are reducing.

“We will know if our plan isn't working if we're still sitting here in five years or so and we don't have any proper living areas out bush” *Jimmy Shaka Bero, May 2012.*

This statement of Shaka's gives an insight into how we will measure the success of our plan, and it describes the logic of the plan which is to develop clear ideas that we feel are achievable and will have positive impact on our targets.



The area we are planning for

Southern Kaantju lands broadly extend through the central region of Cape York Peninsula from around the township of Coen in the south and stretching around 100 kilometres north. Our eastern boundary includes the highlands of the McIlwraith Ranges and run west to the flats and lagoon country of the Archer River midlands. We call this area the traditional boundary of the Southern Kaantju.

Today, our lands are contained within a complex of land tenures including pastoral leases, national parks, and inalienable aboriginal freehold.

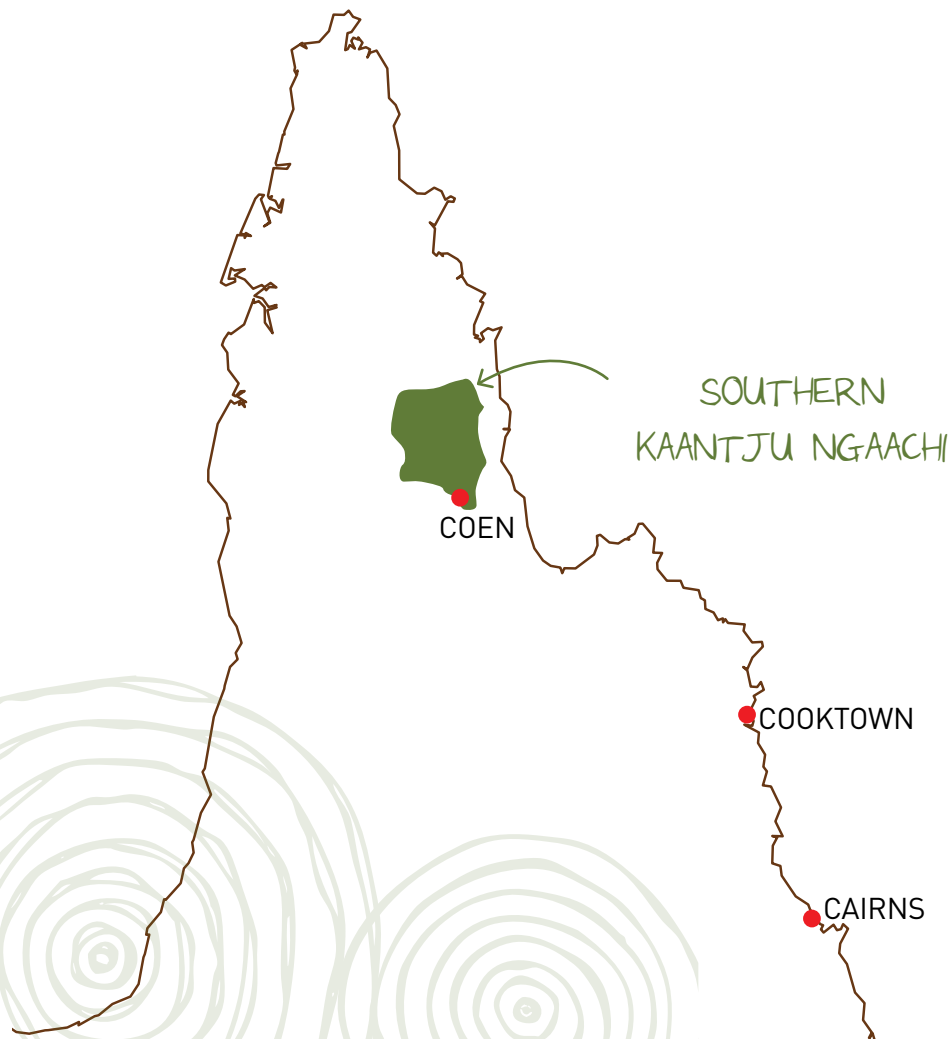
We have been thinking about areas of our country that are within our lease at Geikie Station on the Archer River headwaters, KULLA National Park, KULLA Land Trust Aboriginal Freehold area and the Oyala

Thumotang National Park that have been somewhat neglected because of their remote location with poor road access and their sensitive cultural areas that we haven't yet planned how we will look after and share these places.

Through some projects being carried out on nearby Southern Kaantju lands, we feel it is time to do healthy country planning for our eastern country that is predominantly represented by the water courses of the western slopes of the McIlwraith Ranges.

This will help us to work out the things we should be doing. We are looking at this planning from the perspectives of preserving and strengthening our rich cultural heritage, conservation economics and establishing sustainable livelihoods.

CAPE YORK PENINSULA, AUSTRALIA



Southern Kaantju people today

From the 1870's the lives of Southern Kaantju people became permanently disrupted. The first interaction with our people was government expeditions exploring Cape York to gain an understanding of the economic potential of the country. From the mid 1880's onwards, sandalwood getters, tin and gold miners and pastoralists accessed and lived in our countries. By the 1920's most Southern Kaantju people were gone; no children and families living their daily life on country, there was about 30 - 50 traditional Southern Kaantju people (including neighboring Umpila and Uthaalanganu people) moving through the bush living a semi - traditional lifestyle; classical traditional life was no longer.

The recorded history of what happened to the Southern Kaantju people of central Cape York Peninsula is poor, however, to our knowledge the murders commenced with the government exploration expeditions, government troopers/trackers shot, poisoned and removed our people in chains to southern places, and pastoralists gathered as mercenary groups, rounded up and killed our people in the cruelest of ways. We are aware of some of these places and we call them massacre sites. They are sacred places of deep sorrow for us.

In the early decades of the twentieth century until around the 1940's, many Southern Kaantju people, particularly our lighter skinned people, were forcibly removed to aboriginal reserves and aboriginal missions throughout Queensland.

A group of Southern Kaantju people evaded the massacres and removals and grew up in the vicinity of Coen and on pastoral properties to the north of Coen. Today there are approximately 60 ancestors of these people residing in Coen, and an equal number in the Weipa/Napranum/Mapoon area, approximately 40 Lockhart people classify themselves as Southern Kaantju and approximately another 100 Southern Southern Kaantju people in the Cape York communities of WujalWujal, HopeVale, Mossman, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and the greater Cairns area.

Although it may appear the people of the Southern Kaantju are a disparate group, this is not the case and the clan ownership estates and the different areas, names of sites and stories that belong to the

country are very clearly understood, due largely from the recording of knowledge from the late Thomas Creek who was born and raised on his country from the 1920's and spent most of his working life on and around his country until his passing in 1999 as well as Southern Kaantju elders at Lockhart River, Yarrabah and Napranum.

However, there is many hundreds of indigenous people living throughout Queensland that descend from our Southern Kaantju people that were forcibly removed by authorities between the late 19th century until the 1930's.





Our planning history

Through the implementation of projects and activities on Southern Kaantju countries facilitated by Kalan Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation, our Southern Kaantju families agreed to trial the Healthy Country Planning method as the framework to express our ideas and to develop our plan.

We started our on-country activities in 2009 when Kalan Enterprises commenced a Working On Country (WOC) indigenous employment initiative that involved a range of land and conservation management actions. Our WOC program also facilitated a major increase in our families getting out and about on our country for both leisure and cultural practice purposes.

The increased visitation produced a desire to talk about long term management and the idea of enabling our young people to develop sustainable livelihood opportunities from our country.

After more talking and thinking about our issues and how to go about planning, in early 2012, the Southern Kaantju families agreed to apply the Healthy Country Planning method as the framework to develop a Southern Kaantju plan.

We have convened 25 days of bush meetings and in all about eight days of town/office meetings in Coen. At these meetings we started to condense a lot of big ideas and to agree on the project area, or the country that we are planning for.

Between May and August 2012, we held six big days of workshops and discussions to work out what our Dream for the Country, our Targets and our Threats to the targets. We thought about all the things that are important to us and play a key role in keeping our country alive. In other words, we described our country.



Because we understand our country so well, we described how we see our landscape, how the rivers work, the different forests and open country, the many, many plants and animals that we use, and the ones that are our stories, the main fire country and the sacred places. We also described other important things like our Southern Kaantju language and our practice of singing, dancing, our crafts and the very sacred places like our stories and old camp sites.

Our many bush meetings between August 2012 and September 2013, helped us to think about our ideas and we confirmed the targets and threats represent our views. The rigorous planning method also represents a correct analysis of our country from a western scientific perspective.

We also established a planning team to drive the planning process on behalf of the family groups and to maintain ownership of the ideas and ownership for implementing the plan.



The planning team is:

Allan Creek, James Creek, Dion Creek, Jennifer Creek, Eldine Creek, Lucretia Creek, Naomi Hobson.

ALLAN CREEK: is the senior Southern Kaantju elder with knowledge of the country and Southern Kaantju people; Allan is held in the highest respect by Southern Kaantju families in Coen and Cape York. Allan's views are keenly sought and highly regarded.

JAMES CREEK: holds deep cultural knowledge of Southern Kaantju country having been taken around the areas by his father; active participant in planning to ensure rich cultural information is provided accurately.

DION CREEK: is emerging as a young leader and has the energy and skills to develop and deliver project work. He is the Director of Operations at a local indigenous organisation that has indigenous land management as its core business and is trained in the delivery of Conservation Action Planning (CAP) planning.

JENNIFER CREEK: specializes in matters of Southern Kaantju cultural heritage and is a key team member to ensure that social values and cultural heritage issues are duly considered in this planning process.

ELDINE CREEK: Eldine is a senior Southern Kaantju Ranger and is therefore an important link to ensure the views and issues of the Southern Kaantju land managers are understood and considered by the planning team and this planning process.

LUCRETIA CREEK: is trained in the delivery of CAP and has been instrumental in organizing strong Traditional Owner engagement in the planning process. Lucretia is a Board member of a local indigenous organization and is an emerging leader.

NAOMI HOBSON: has a cross section of cultural knowledge and land management project implementation knowledge; is a trained coach in CAP and has provided significant guidance to this plan; Naomi holds two board directorships and was chosen to participate in a 2013 national indigenous leadership tour with the Jawun group.

Our planning supervisor is Tim Jaffer.

The planning team decided to concentrate this plan on most Southern Kaantju but chose exclude the north western areas of Southern Kaantju lands around the "Myers" area up to the junction of the Archer River and Charlotte Creek junction.

The plan covers most Southern Kaantju lands and gives particularly attention to how we can look after our land, manage it and work with our country to develop sensible business and job opportunities. Our highlands are significant because it delivers most of the water to all Southern Kaantju and our neighbouring families to the east (Wik Mungkan). The country we are planning for is very important because it holds the cultural hearth (Blue Mountains) of the Southern Kaantju estates and it provides important habitat corridors between the rainforest mountain country in the east and the lagoon and massive open grassy wetlands on western Cape York. There are significant threats to the health of our country that we also highlight and bring attention to how we will reduce the threats.





Targets

Through our workshops and using the Healthy Country Planning methods, we tapped into our knowledge of Southern Kaantju. Our planning process incorporated projects with some of our partners to better understand the current condition of our country from a cultural and environmental and ecosystems perspective which combined with significant knowledge of country and culture, helped us to identify our targets and prioritise our efforts.

To get a strong view of our ideas we looked at all the targets and established a nest of related targets under a main targets. We feel that by looking at a main target and if you keep the main target

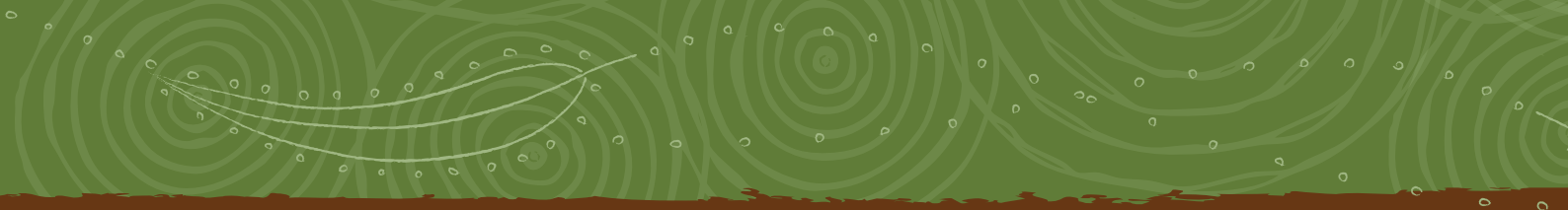
healthy, it will keep other targets around it healthy. For example, in the “Lowlands and Flats” target, by looking after this area we are also taking care of the sensitive grasses, and the important mantapa (Plain turkey), and right way fire will be happening and people will be visiting the areas. These other targets are called nested targets.

This helped us to decide our key relationships, where we need to concentrate our efforts and eventually what strategies and actions we need to take and how we need to invest our time and effort to achieve effective results from our work.

Summary table 1 shows our targets and how healthy they are. While our overall health looks good, we know when we look closely at some things particularly being able to live and work on country we are developing strategies and plan that will further improve our targets and through our efforts we will also examine to see if our threats are reducing.

| TARGETS | CATEGORIES | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | Size | Condition | Context | Cultural Health | Overall Health of Target |
| Culture (Language, Rituals and acknowledging Sacred Places) | Fair | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Rivers and Waterways | Very Good | Very Good | Very Good | Good | Very Good |
| Economic Development & Southern Kaantju People sustaining livelihoods on Country | Good | Fair | Good | | Good |
| Lowlands and the Flats | Fair | Good | Fair | Good | Fair |
| Rainforests and Mountain Country | Good | Good | Very Good | Good | Good |
| OVERALL HEALTH OF SOUTHERN KAANTJU COUNTRY | | | | | Good |

The table range is: Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Very Good ■ Excellent ■



Target 1 – Cultural

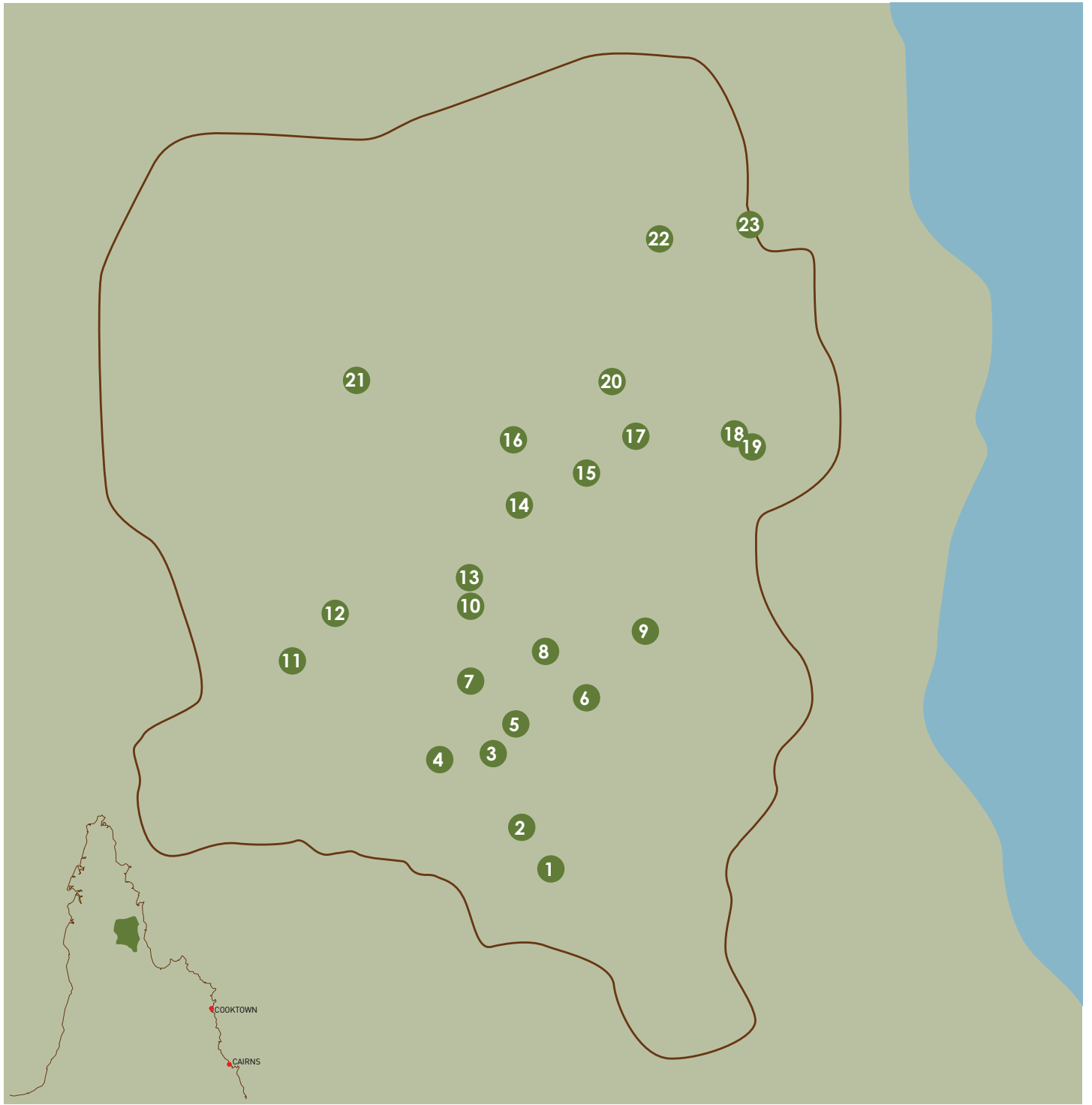
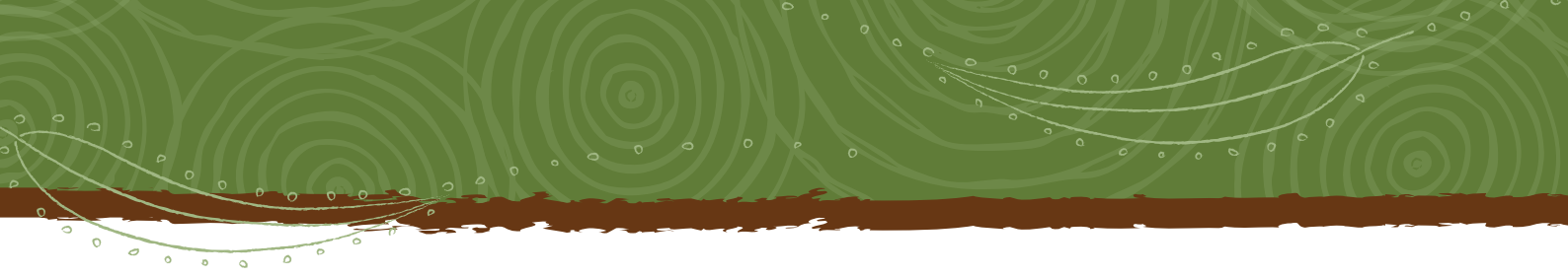
“The work we are doing keeps our culture strong and our people proud and happy. While the country is telling us the condition of our environment, we know that our country can only be healthy if our culture stays healthy,... if we stop singing and dancing for our country, if we stop using the country, and if we can no longer look after it like our ancestors, then the country cannot be healthy”

Jenny Creek, Southern Kaantju elder, May 2012.

This target represents the heart of Southern Kaantju identity. Maintaining knowledge of customs and stories and reflecting our culture in new songs and dances keeps us connected, because we are telling the same ancient stories of our culture in a new way.

It is like an obligation that we do some things only one way, sometimes there is only one way to care for our country, that is our lore and we must pass this on.

It is inherent in us that we understand our family heritage, and we get stronger with speaking our Southern Kaantju language, or knowing our bushtucker and medicines, and knowing our boundaries, and looking after sacred places. This target keeps us connected to our country and to our countrymen.



- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Wanchan | 7 Kalan | 13 Uulkupinta | 19 Ngalabidji |
| 2 Maalatha Pinta | 8 PikaPika2 | 14 Curlew Story Place | 20 Tha'u Mallandadji |
| 3 Waana | 9 Kumapinta | 15 Ngakumu | 21 Whipsnake |
| 4 Flying fox | 10 Illi | 16 Wathada | 22 Kampanjimanu |
| 5 Thypan Ngunana | 11 Story Place | 17 Attack Waterhole | 23 Kagaji |
| 6 PikaPika | 12 Yikan area | 18 Yumachi | |





Target 2 – Rivers and Waterways

Southern Kaantju ngaachi is inside country, it is predominantly western waters, which means it flows from east to west and runs out to see at country around the mouth of the Archer River at Aurukun, on Western Cape York Peninsula. The Archer River connects us culturally and geographically. We all have stories along the Archer, and different names for places. Some of our estates on the McIlwraith Ranges and the PathanPathan area neighbor closely with Umpila and Uthaalanganu groups. These areas are on the eastern side and the waters flow into Coral Sea.

This connection between our country means we really look after the rivers. We know that our families survive off the river right down to their mouth. The Archer River runs through the middle of Cape York and connects all the different country and ecosystems like the marine plains, lagoons, the open plains the riparian rainforest and the woodlands. Our coastal neighbours to the east also rely on the clean running waters that flow and rush out of the mountain country of the McIlwraith Ranges.

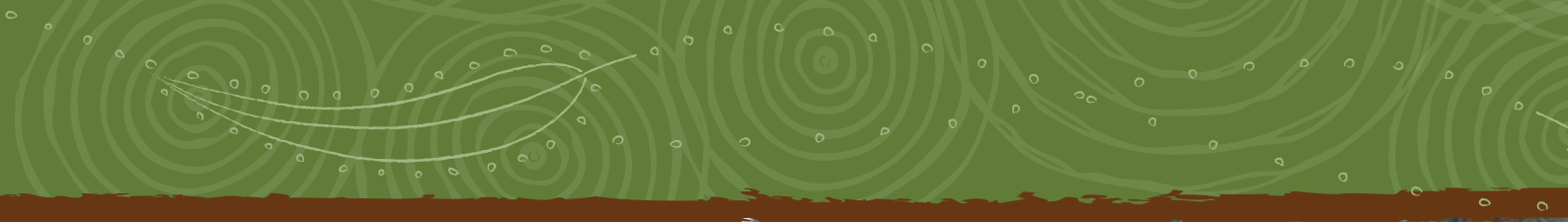
To us, we know our river and wetlands are healthy when we see clear running water at the right time of year, everyone knows to go fishing or for turtle at this time. We look at the colour of the water and we feel for the temperature when we fish and dive, we know that the water on top should be cool on top all the time.

When the right people are accessing the country for camping, fishing, hunting, burning, or looking at the plants animals, then we know too that the country will be healthy.

"you can't just burn anytime on the flats. cause you need to make sure there's a little bit of grass before the rain starts..."

Allan Creek, senior Kaantju Traditional Owner talking about burning.





Target 3 – Economic Development & Southern Kaantju people sustaining livelihoods on country

“Our old people made use of the country, they got everything they needed to live off the land, but they had to look after the country, keep it in good condition. That’s why they had rules and our pama laws. We’ve got all our land back now so we need to make plans to look after the country again and make plans to use it for our benefit, make jobs and business while we’re looking after the country”.

Alan Creek, Kaantju elder, October 2013.

This is a target because working on our land delivers many, many goals that our elders wished for. Today, you can’t just go back and live on country like the old people because times have changed and you need to support your family with an income, but we are designing things so that we have a stable organisation that can support our people to develop and to work on our country and live with it. Our old people would feel satisfied with this.

It is important to establish a business centre for us to plan and operate our projects from, and to support continuous learning. This will mean we can do our land management business for ourselves and through our organisation diversify and be a platform for individuals to develop in their chosen fields.

We know that education is a key to creating opportunities for the future, so we support all our people in their education and training pursuits. We want to see people gain skills in different areas across a wide range of careers.

We work with a lot of people who talk about these ideas as sustainable livelihoods, so we called this our target.



Target 4 – Lowlands and the flats

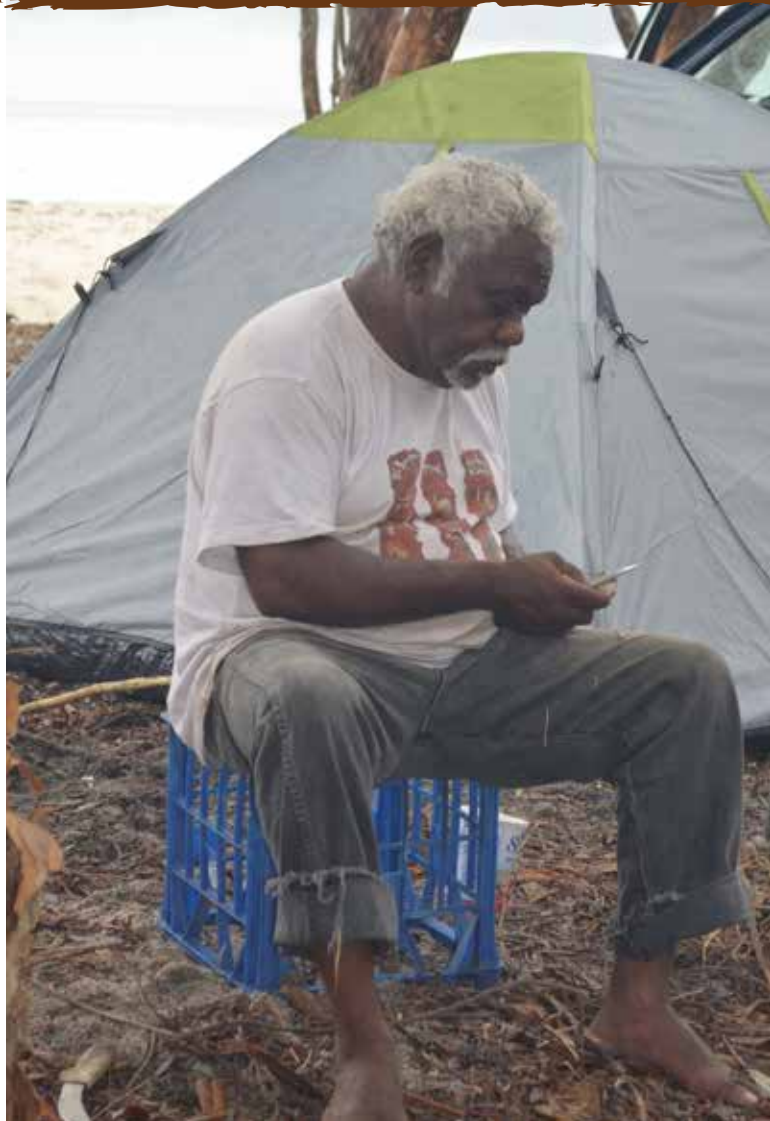
We love our lowlands because it is such a good place for hunting and we can see how our old people managed this country. Even though the country has changed a lot since Europeans took control of the country about 100 years ago and now with environment and systems changes we notice occurring from a changing climate, we still try to manage our lands now using methods and knowledge handed down to us.

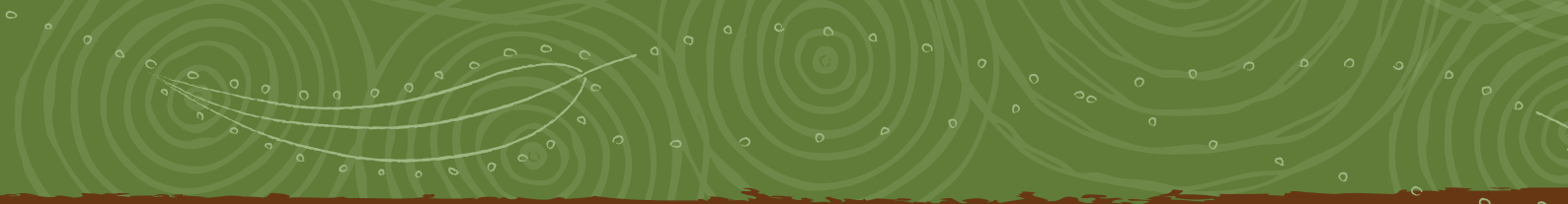
There is always a lot of management across this country. The grasses need to be managed so that they keep all the birds like mantapa (plains turkey) and numpi (emu) healthy to breed. They are an important food source for us when they are in season.

We know this country is healthy when we see and hear everything at the right time, like big and fat goanna getting about after the wet season, toolka (brolga), and jabiru and the wildflowers flowering and the insects singing at the right time.

"It's like after the wet..., you see the grasses grow, then the seeds grow on the head of the grass, and the seeds get heavy on it. After the wet we have a last little shower of rain and then a good wind comes and knocks the seeds off. They're our seasons, this one is called the grass seed rain".

Allan Creek talking about grass seed rain, May 2009.





Target 5 – Rainforests

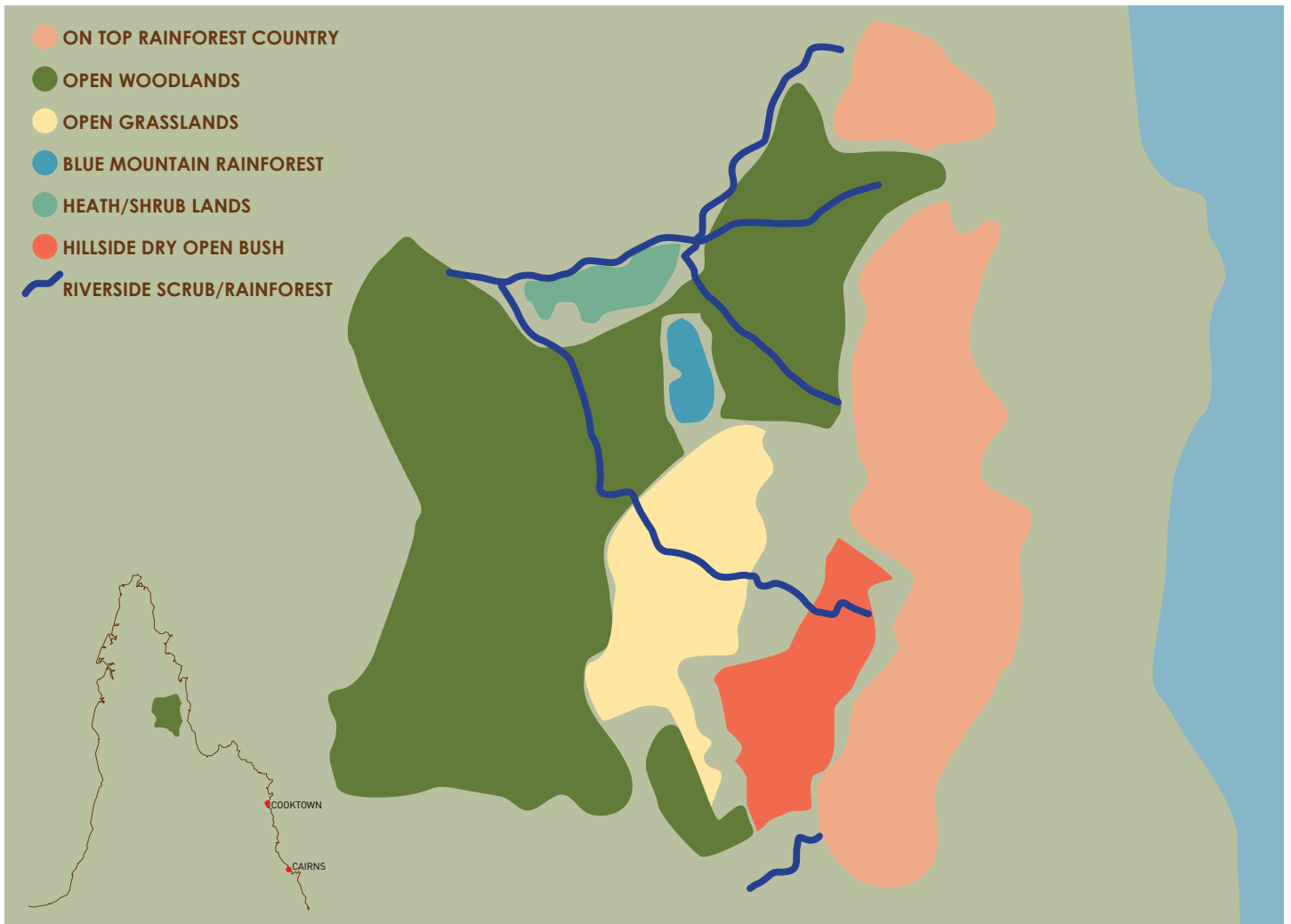
We have two types of rainforest country, on top rainforest where it's like a thick blanket. This is where the creeks come from that flow to rivers and all join up to become the Archer River, it all starts on the McIlwraith Ranges and our forests are the western flows. The other type of rainforest is riparian rainforest that grows along the rivers and in the wet hollows near the rivers and creeks.

We collect a lot of different bush materials inside the rainforests and we look after the wildlife there. We have wide-ranging diversity of animals in the rainforest that we have stories for, such as the Southern Cassowary, northern and spotted quolls, black-footed tree rats, cuc-cus, palm cockatoos, and the fawn-breasted riflebird.

We visit our riparian forests a lot and look to make sure the vegetation is intact and we monitor this ecosystem regularly because it is also sensitive to fire, weeds, vehicles, and over visitation.

Our rainforests are healthiest when traditional owners are visiting the country and putting their smell on the country. (This is in reference to customary belief that Southern Kaantju traditional owners smell is recognised by Southern Kaantju ancestors, the belief continues that the ancestors provide safety and 'good luck' when fishing and hunting.)

The rainforests by the rivers and waters have been home for our people for thousands of years, this country defines us.





Threats to the targets on Southern Kaantju ngaachi

During our workshop discussions we gave consideration to the things that were harming our targets. We used the Conservation Action Planning methodology and identified some potential problems to our targets and causes of the problems.

Summary table 2 below, shows the things that we are threatened by most and ranks how badly they are affecting our targets. To us, this means the things that are preventing us from getting ahead and some things that we observe are having a negative impact on the bush environment. We are now thinking about what we need to do as strategies and actions to reduce the threats to our livelihoods on our country and to reduce the threats to the plants and animals and places on our country

| Threats | TARGETS | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | Culture (Language, Rituals and acknowledging Sacred Places) | Rivers and Waterways | Economic Development & Southern Kaantju people sustainable livelihood on country | Lowlands and the Flats | Rainforests | Overall threat rank |
| Lack of traditional knowledge | High | Medium to High | Medium | Medium to High | High | High |
| Poor management infrastructure and capacity | Low to Medium | Medium to High | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| Climate change | Low | Very High | | Very High | Very High | Very High |
| Poor access/roads | High | Low | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium to High |
| Feral animals/weeds | Low | Very High | | High | Very High | High |
| Overhunting | | High | | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| Wrong fires | Low | Medium | | High | Very High | High |
| Threat to each Southern Kaantju target | Medium to High | High | Medium | High | Very High | High |



Threat 1 – Lack of traditional knowledge

A lack of traditional knowledge would threaten many of our targets so it is always something we are mindful of. The need to maintain traditional knowledge is fundamental to the health of our country and the health of our targets. If we don't manage country properly people might visit the wrong places or hot fires might be lit by tourists.

“if we choose to ignore our stories and our language or if we lose interest in dancing and singing then we lose our identity. Our spiritual connection is gone”

Jennifer Creek passionately talking about culture and heritage at a Kaantju planning workshop in May 2012.

In the early days, when explorers and non-indigenous pioneers started coming through our country we had conflicts and fights with them. As a consequence of the commencement of the coming of non-indigenous people many of our ancestors were shot dead, poisoned, and killed by troopers and records report many dozens of our people chained up and sent away, right up until the 1930's. This is a sad history and our Southern Kaantju population was decimated.

The people that survived luckily retained a rich culture from life in the bush. Today, it is of utmost importance that we spend our time on country look after places and abiding by some of the customs handed down to us.



Threat 2 – Poor management infrastructure and capacity

Our elders fought hard to get our land handed back and although very few of them lived to see the day, their legacy is that we have hundreds of thousands of hectares recognised as Southern Kaantju land. The struggle today is to convert this recognition into real management responsibility.

We understand that over the years many indigenous efforts to establish organisations to manage country and develop enterprise have failed because they did not meet best practice implementation standards and full financial and reporting compliance to regulatory authorities. This in turn results in shell organisations that fall apart because of poor corporate governance and a lack of capacity to deliver results.

We see this as a major threat to our targets because having poor internal structures means there is little direction and support to do things to improve our targets or to keep them healthy.

The organization responsible for employing our people and implementing land management activities pays close attention to keeping our targets healthy and recognizes the need to reduce the threats we outline and/or the impacts of threatening processes.

Furthermore, our organization must have the capacity to understand the impacts of our work on habitats and ecosystems to ensure our efforts are not in fact making problems worse or inadvertently affecting country or our targets.

Threat 3 – Climate change

Climate change is a very real threat to high biodiversity areas in our rainforests and woodlands. If we sit by and watch and do nothing our inaction may well threaten species that are important to us culturally, or a food source. The poorer the biodiversity, the poorer the country.

It is critical to understand the impacts of climate change on our country to ensure we are able to develop and implement actions that minimize its affect.

"We feel connected to many birds that call out, we have listened to them and lived with them for thousands of years."

Gabriel Creek, CAP planning workshops, Coen, May 2012.



Threat 4 – Poor access/roads

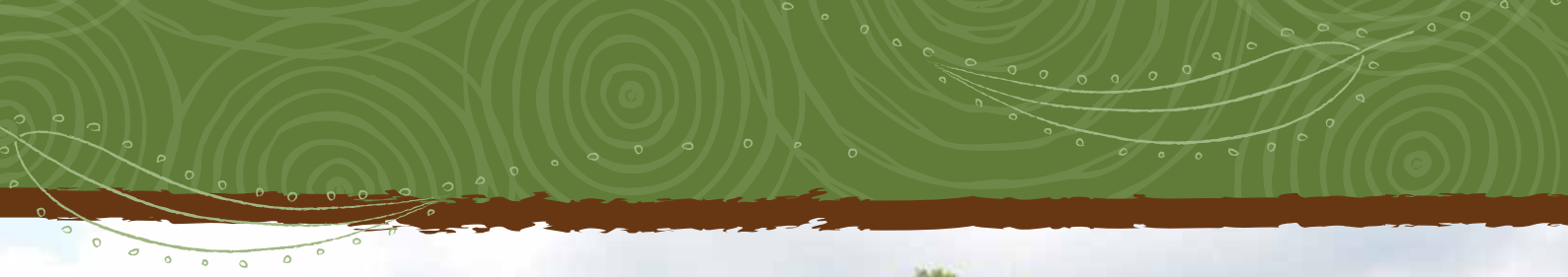
"We have to be able to access country to look after it. If we can't get on country then we can't be healthy in a social and cultural sense. In the same way, if we're healthy then the country must be healthy too..."

Dion Creek, Kaantju young leader, planning workshop, Coen may 2012.

Just as it is said here, the Southern Kaantju traditional owners feel sensitive and emotional about the need to access their country. "It is more than just a road" is mentioned time and again. While it is physical road access that we are talking about, not being able to see and visit important areas "leaves a bad feeling for us" (Jennifer Creek).

For our country to be properly cared for we need to have better access to it. Poor access is a threat to good management practise.





Threat 5 – Feral animals/weeds

Feral animals and weeds are a standout threat to many ecosystems on our land, we see this every day. If we lose vigilance and willingness to deal with this, our country will look different and we will lose plants and animals because of this.

Cattle, horses and pigs mess up water holes, and some of these little springs are sacred to us. Along with machinery, these feral animals bring in invasive weeds that also choke waterways and change the natural health of these systems. Vehicles and new tourists with quad machines are a major carrier of invasive weeds that spread quickly through the country.

Cattle and feral pigs digging up the sedges and grasses and keeps birds away such as magpie geese and other travelling ducks and the fish and turtle and eels can't live and breed in mucky water. These places are sensitive so they spoil easy.

We have seen how bad whole ecosystems can look if this is not controlled and conversely, we have observed how quickly systems respond and replenish when they are looked after and where feral animals are entirely restricted.



Threat 6 – Overhunting

Sometimes our own behaviour and the behaviour of our countrymen is a threat itself. We rated overhunting highly because some animals are highly vulnerable when they are overhunted.

Our old people were expert hunters and they made rules that restricted access to places as well, this was a way of managing the hunting and ensuring the resources were always available. The old people didn't have anything like the technology we have today such as four wheel drives, spear guns, diving glasses, fishing rods and lures and all sorts of devices that simplify the hunting methods.

Today we can sometimes have a tendency to let too many people go to fish holding areas, and with all the technology and a lack of management presence, fish species, freshwater crayfish and freshwater turtles may come under local threat.

Birds like geese, ducks, pigeons, and plains turkey and goanna are also a favorite bush tucker for Southern Kaantju people and our countrymen, so we need to keep an eye on these species.

Tourists can also put pressure on areas because they concentrate around only a few areas but in high numbers so it doesn't take long to have an impact on the seasonal sustainability of fishes like freshwater barramundi, sooty-grunter, perch, and eels and our freshwater crayfish. Cray pots are used heavily in some areas and we see them left behind.

We need to have a management presence to ensure the balance is maintained across our biodiversity systems.



Threat 7 – Wrong fires

When our country starts to dry each year after June, then it starts to burn.

Our Southern Kaantju elders used a refined technique of mosaic burning area by area for very specific seasonal purposes, some areas were left alone and some burning was used to push animals like plain turkey, wallabies/kangaroos, emu and goanna into particular areas where they were easier to source and hunt. This kept the country just right for thousands of years and helped to develop the open grass and woodlands, and forest areas. It also encouraged the migration and breeding habits of the plants and animals we see today. We are always grateful and thankful to our ancestors who formed the country and our elders who helped make it look how it is today.

In the early 1900's, the cattle industry started around Coen and our land started to be carved up and handed out to pastoralists to graze cattle on. This is around the same time our elders were moved off and away from country as previously described.

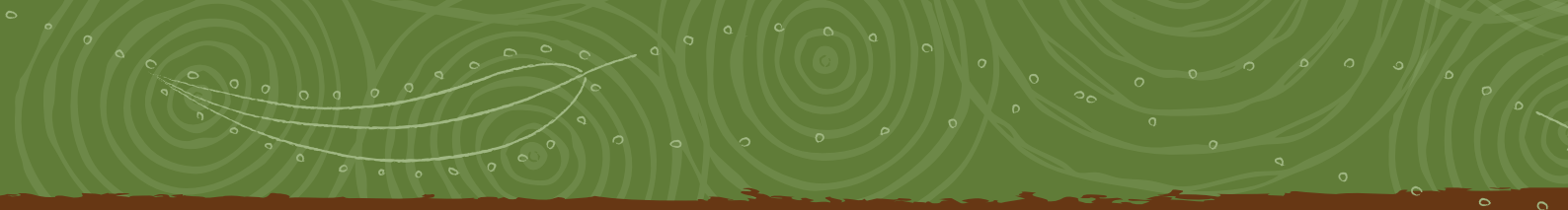
From a traditional land management perspective, this was the start of the wrong way fires. Cattle graziers have a different burning regime than traditional burning practice. Graziers burn in a way and at a time of year to support the fattening of cattle. We know from our history and we have been told by our elders that some country changed very quickly. Some grasses couldn't survive the new wrong way burning and they died out, some areas became a bit thicker with trees like the broad leaf ti-tree. This caused some birds to lose their habitat like our golden-shouldered parrot. This bird was report no longer prevalent in Mt Croll/Peach Creek open grassland by the late 1930's

With ever increasing numbers of tourists travelling through our country every year, we see more and more fires lit around the road edges. Sometimes country burns that we wanted to leave alone for the year. If we don't do anything about this we won't be able to manage the open grassland and wooded grassland country where the road goes and these systems will be threatened.

Wrong way fires are also burns which are not connected to managing broad ecosystems such as rainforests and the diverse flora and fauna within it or open areas that are burnt at times that we do not plan for.

Wrong way fire also threatens our ability to re-introduce our traditional burning methods. Right way fire is an opportunity for us to bring back a very important custom and knowledge.





Looking at what we do

Our current situation helps us to put things in perspective. We feel that based on the work we have done since 2010 we have a realistic understanding of how things are going. We can observe and measure the things that are changing and down the track we will be able to have a close look at the improvements we are making and the benefits that we are creating for the traditional owners.

The flow on effect from the activities of looking after country have a social dimension. We feel happy and privileged to be able to do this and observe it is having a positive impact on relationships amongst the traditional owners in our community and between family groups. We hope to one day measure and explain these impacts on more detail.

We have established an organization to help manage our work. In five years we have implemented over 15 projects and provided comprehensive reports of a financial and project implementation nature. This is a significant achievement and means we now develop more comprehensive and connected work projects with numerous partnering agencies that work to improve the health of multiple targets and tackle multiple threats.



Our strategies and Actions

Strategy 1

By 2020 Southern Kaantju people will have the opportunity to become fluent in Southern Kaantju language and have a comprehensive understanding of their cultural sites, and stories.

Action 1

From July 2014 to June 2018, Kalan Enterprises will allocate resources that develops a Cultural Database for the storage of Southern Kaantju knowledge and resources including staff that supports the continuance of the Southern Kaantju language initiative with our young people.

Action 2

In 2014 – 2016, Kalan Enterprises will engage Southern Kaantju cultural elders and traditional land managers to record the cultural sites, locate story places and record specific Southern Kaantju cultural knowledge that can be used as content in development of a Southern Kaantju knowledge keeping system/ database.

Strategy 2

In 2014/2015 Kalan Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation will continue to demonstrate sound corporate governance and develop improved operational capability that will maintain a stable corporation and enable it to grow and broaden its business operations.

Action 3

In 2014/2015, Kalan Enterprises will conduct specific Corporate Governance development initiatives for all Board Directors. Kalan will re-structure its staffing arrangements to ensure it has strong capability in the areas of project management, implementation, and reporting.

Action 4

In 2014/15, Kalan Enterprises will expand its pig abatement, feral cattle removal and control of invasive weeds by at least 100,000 hectares to include the Geikie area, Wathada Area, northern KULLA freehold area as well as the PulPul area.

Strategy 3

Economic Development is a priority for Kalan Enterprises and for Traditional Owners. In 2014/15, Kalan Enterprises will continue to pursue major economic development opportunities including establishing a domestic cattle herd, establishing timber milling opportunities and natural resource extraction business.

Action 5

In 2014/15, Kalan Enterprises will invest its own resources in working with relevant groups to progress the potential of a gravel extraction business.

In 2014/2015, Kalan will commence operation of a sustainable timber milling operation.

In 2014/15, Kalan will complete the construction of a minimum 10,000 hectare paddock on its Geikie sub-lease to commence the establishment of a domesticated cattle herd.

Action 6

By October 2014, Kalan Enterprises on behalf of Southern Kaantju traditional owners will prepare a visitor management plan for Southern Kaantju lands that looks to develop tourism on Southern Kaantju lands.

Strategy 4

In 2014, Kalan Enterprises will develop partnerships with academic institutions to understand the impacts of climate change on Southern Kaantju country and prepare strategies to cushion or counter these impacts.

Action 7

In 2014 and 2015, Kalan will work with CSIRO to study the Southern Cassowary in the Mcllwraith Ranges and bring particular attention to the health of the species, the potential effects of climate change on the species and to understand the most effective land management activities that supports maintaining the species.

Strategy 5

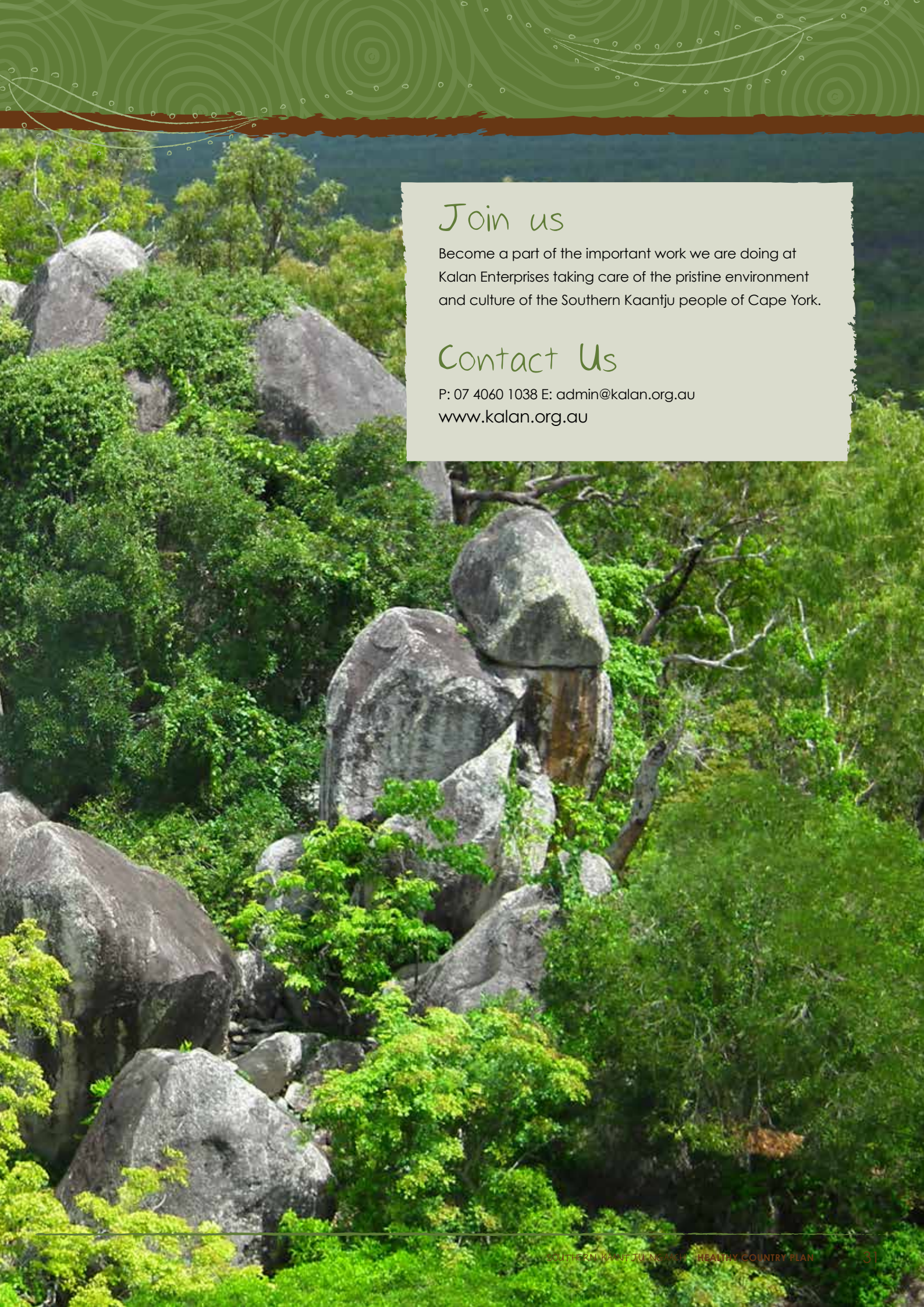
By 2020, Kalan Enterprises will work with partner groups to improve the "28 mile crossing" at the Archer River, improve at least 6 creek crossing on the Geikie, Wathada and KULLA country and improve at least 100 km of internal roads.

Action 8

In 2014, Kalan Enterprises will work with Centre for Appropriate Technology staff and heavy machinery operators to prepare a road improvement plan for internal roads on the Geikie property. At least 20 km of road will be improved in 2014.







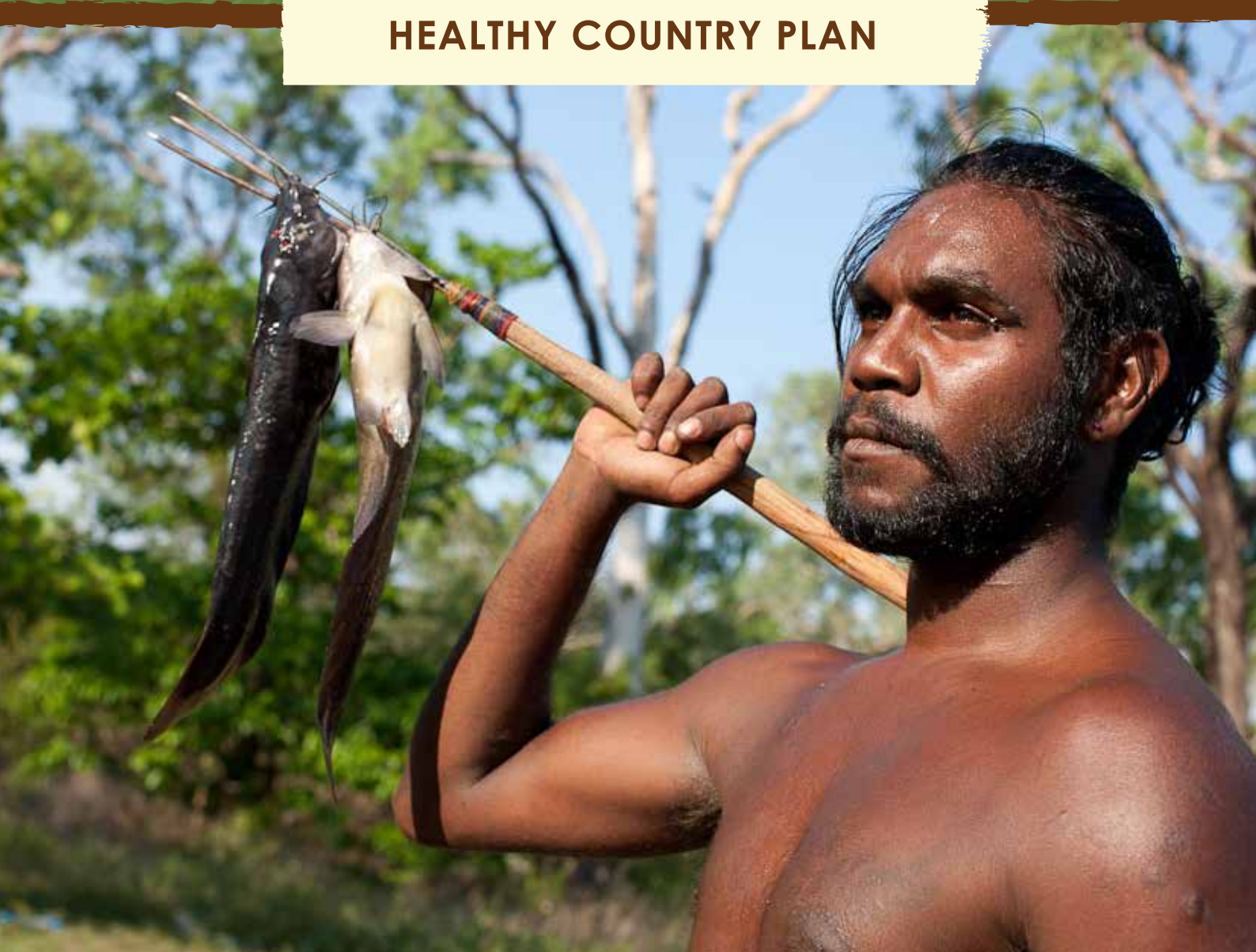
Join us

Become a part of the important work we are doing at Kalan Enterprises taking care of the pristine environment and culture of the Southern Kaantju people of Cape York.

Contact Us

P: 07 4060 1038 E: admin@kalan.org.au
www.kalan.org.au

SOUTHERN KAANTJU NGAACHI HEALTHY COUNTRY PLAN



CONTRIBUTORS

