

Improved collaboration, sharing and learning of Indigenous OS projects

Workshop Report
CCNET Rally 2018 Leura NSW



Workshop participants

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Background

Indigenous People make up less than 5% of the global population, yet they inhabit a quarter of all land in the world. Indigenous lands and waters are valuable for conservation with 65% not being intensively developed. 40% of land listed by national governments around the world that are being managed for conservation, compromise Indigenous lands.

This general trend is itself reflected in an increase in OS projects with Indigenous people globally. A maturing body of work and a growing group of contributors can significantly improve the community of practice for OS projects with Indigenous People on their lands and waters.

While some exchange is occurring between Indigenous projects, there is much scope for improved sharing of news, adaptations, tools and learning between Indigenous practitioners and projects.

To some degree sharing may be hindered by the fact that most of the Indigenous coaches and coaches working with Indigenous People are based in many small organisations rather than belonging to one big Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation.

In this context, the success of Healthy Country Planning in Australia would suggest a community of practice that is based on a diffusion model of a network defined by community ownership.



Why do we need stronger collaboration of OS projects on Indigenous Land and Waters?

With an increasing number of OS/HCP projects working with indigenous communities, there is a great opportunity for an improved collaboration between indigenous people and others working with them across continents.

A growth in the development and use of tools occurs when there is strong community of practice and community ownership of the development and implementation process of OS projects.

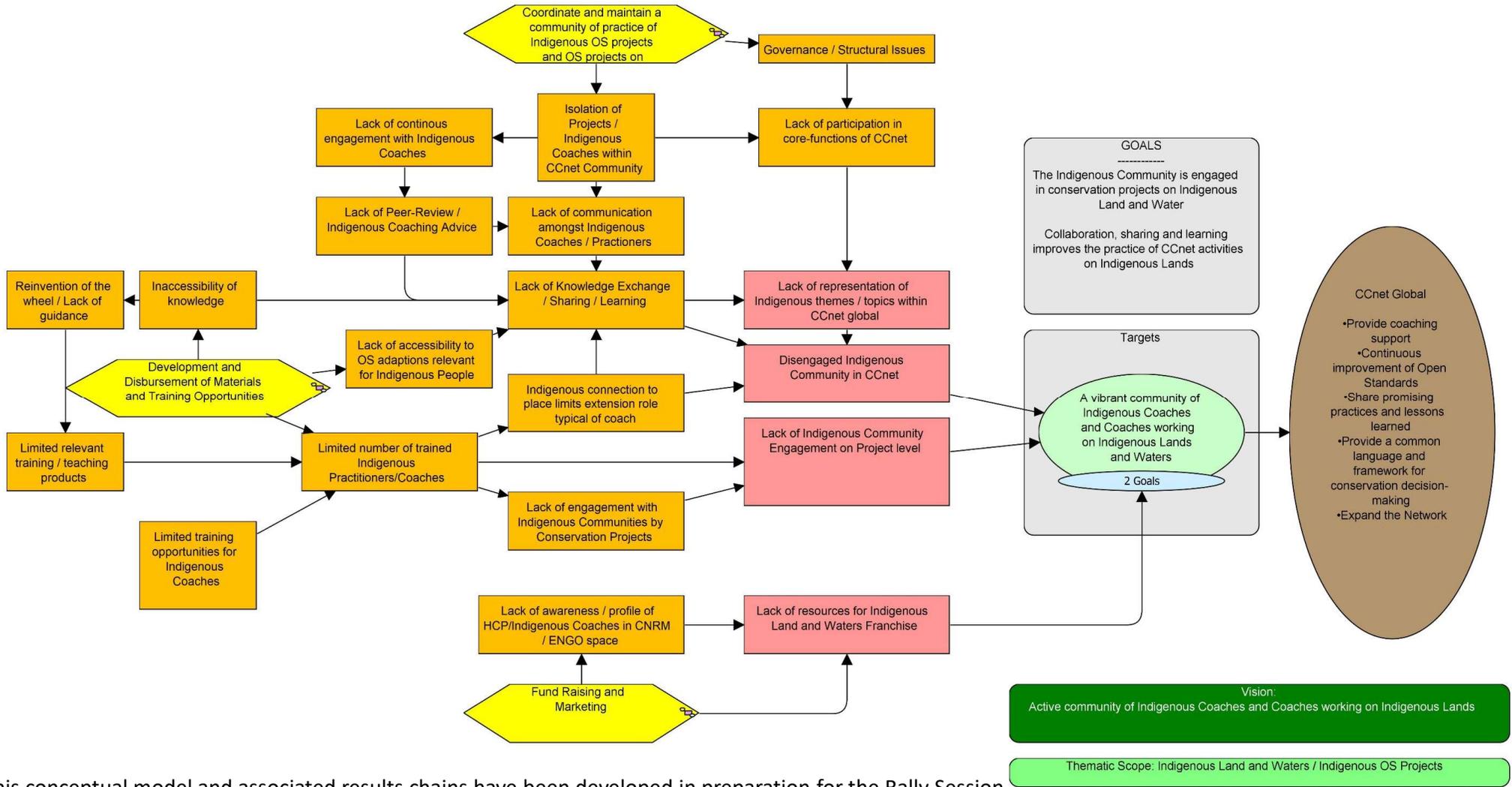


The current work under umbrella of CCNet still ultimately 'dis-enfranchises' indigenous people as existing franchises are not built around the particular needs of indigenous coaches and practitioners.

A coordinated and supported community of practice for Indigenous coaches and OS projects on Indigenous Lands and Waters gives a framework for better collaboration and coordination and to grow into the future.



Conceptual Model



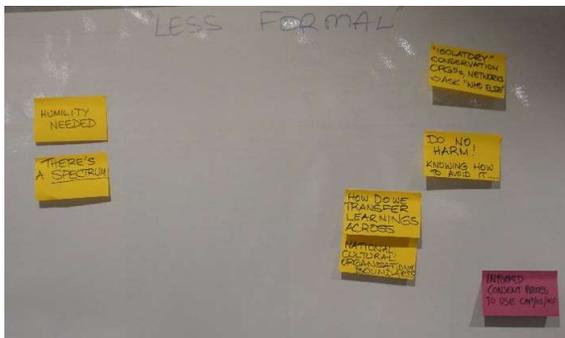
This conceptual model and associated results chains have been developed in preparation for the Rally Session.

Workshop Exercise: Format and Functions for a stronger collaboration

On sticky notes workshop participants nominated important functions and characteristics for a network that fosters a stronger collaboration amongst OS project on Indigenous land and water. In a second step the notes were placed along a spectrum with a “less formal collaboration” and “more structural collaboration” at either ends in order to further explore the appropriate format to suit its purpose.

While some criteria and functions can be fulfilled either through a less formal or a more structured network, several criteria were identified that require a more formalised approach (please refer to Appendix B for an overview):

- Facilitate the sharing of lessons and learning amongst projects;
- Encourage training and capacity building of Indigenous practitioners and coaches;
- Make tools and resources for/from Indigenous OS Projects accessible to share and overcome language boundaries;
- Ensure that collaborations and activities are guided by Indigenous People



How can we achieve a stronger collaboration:

- **Governance and Structure:** Crucial for a network that achieves a stronger collaboration and exchange of knowledge amongst Indigenous OS projects are Indigenous leadership and guidance. *To establish long-term sustainability of a network a flexible funding model to support structure and coordination services is important.*
- **Community of Practice:** This concept describes a strong network of practitioners working with Indigenous People or for projects on Indigenous Land and Water. A “Community of Practice” should be *inclusive of coaches and of experienced practitioners that work on OS projects with Indigenous communities.*
- **Sharing and Learning:** To foster a stronger collaboration of Indigenous OS projects an important function is to facilitate the sharing of experiences and appropriate tools. The accessibility of materials and resources is of importance. Learning and guidance material should attempt to be *multi-lingual* from the beginning so that language doesn’t become a barrier. *Videos and other audio or visual/graphic tools are other ways to avoid literacy levels becoming a barrier.*
- **Regular Communication / Operation:** A major task for communications and outreach is to bridge large geographic expanses with many project locations in remote areas of the world. Communication and outreach efforts should build on experiences in other sectors like health and social programs. Stronger collaboration can be achieved through *a mix of face-to-face meetings, remote conferencing, emails and social media.*



Next Steps

Follow up

- Finalise, circulate and disseminate workshop report for CCNet Rally Session 2018.
- Develop and circulate a charter document to establish a “Community of Practice” of Indigenous OS projects and OS projects on Indigenous Lands and Waters.
- Undertake donor mapping to identify interested sources (private or government) to support the establishment and core operations of a network.

Establishment

- Coordination and guidance of CCNet Community of Practice transferred to Indigenous Representatives.
- Communication-hub established: Online repository, videos, tool, social media;
- Network structure housed in the beginning within an existing organisation.
- Seek funding for network activities (e.g. exchanges)

Long Term Operation

- Business Planning to enable transition to a social enterprise model: Generate income through a fee-for-service model from Corporate Social Responsibility-, and Government contributions.



Appendix A: CCNet – Purpose, Goals and Values

- Purpose

- Catalyse effective conservation across lands and waters worldwide through action planning, coaching, knowledge sharing, and innovation

- Goals

- Provide coaching support
- Continuous improvement of Open Standards
- Share promising practices and lessons learned
- Provide a common language and framework for conservation decision-making
- Expand the Network

- Core values

- Results Oriented; Inclusive and Diverse; Innovation and Excellence; Distributed Responsibility and Non-Hierarchical; Culture of Cooperation



Appendix B: Workshop Exercise – Criteria and functions of a network

Criteria of a network:

Humility needed; Do no Harm – Knowing how to avoid it; Free Prior Informed Consent process integrated in OS/HCP/CAP – support informed decision making; Hub of voices / shared experiences; appropriate intellectual property rights; Support engagement of Indigenous Youth; Guided by Indigenous People; Supports local champions;

Functions:

Share successful examples (and consider economic / employment outcomes), share lessons amongst Indigenous Groups across national, cultural and organisational boundaries – success & failure; Share simplified ecological tools for community facilitators; share approaches to foster community ownership; Ranger / OS practitioner exchanges; Peer-Review Opportunities; share simple, clear case-studies of Indigenous OS in practice; Share tools that support agenda-free / holistic approach; Capacity Building for all OS stages; Increase involvement of Indigenous People in CCNET; Depository of new tools; Translation of existing tools in other languages; Seek funding / resources to support network functions; Allow to “look over the fence” and become inspired by what is possible;