



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.ccnetwork.com/resource/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 decision-making 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 IPAs
- 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.

