



Indigenous cultural and natural resource management would benefit from non-government investment.

Larrakia Rangers



**Northern Australia
Environmental
Resources
Hub**

National Environmental Science Programme

Strengthening investment to help manage Country

Key findings and recommendations
for Indigenous ranger programs

Indigenous rangers need new funding options

This factsheet is about a research project that investigated new kinds of funding for Indigenous rangers and their land and sea management enterprises. Indigenous cultural and natural resource management (ICNRM) creates many benefits for all Australians.

Since the 1980s, the number of ranger groups and programs has grown a lot and direct government funding has played a key role in this. But to keep growing, we need new kinds of ICNRM funding and income, also called investment.

This new investment needs to come from sources and places other than government departments that are focused on Indigenous and environmental issues. Larger and more diverse investment can make stronger foundations for the future.

Understanding diverse kinds of investment

The project investigated diverse ICNRM investment by looking at

- who provides investment – including corporations, non-government organisations, family and/or private organisations that seek benefits for others (known

as philanthropists), purchasers of ICNRM services (known as fee-for-service customers), and Indigenous communities themselves

- what form the investment takes – including direct funding, in-kind knowledge and advice, labour or fee-for-service income
- what ranger activities investors want to support – including biodiversity, carbon, threatened species and education
- what outcomes and impacts investors want – including environmental, social, cultural, health and other benefits.

Who worked on the project?

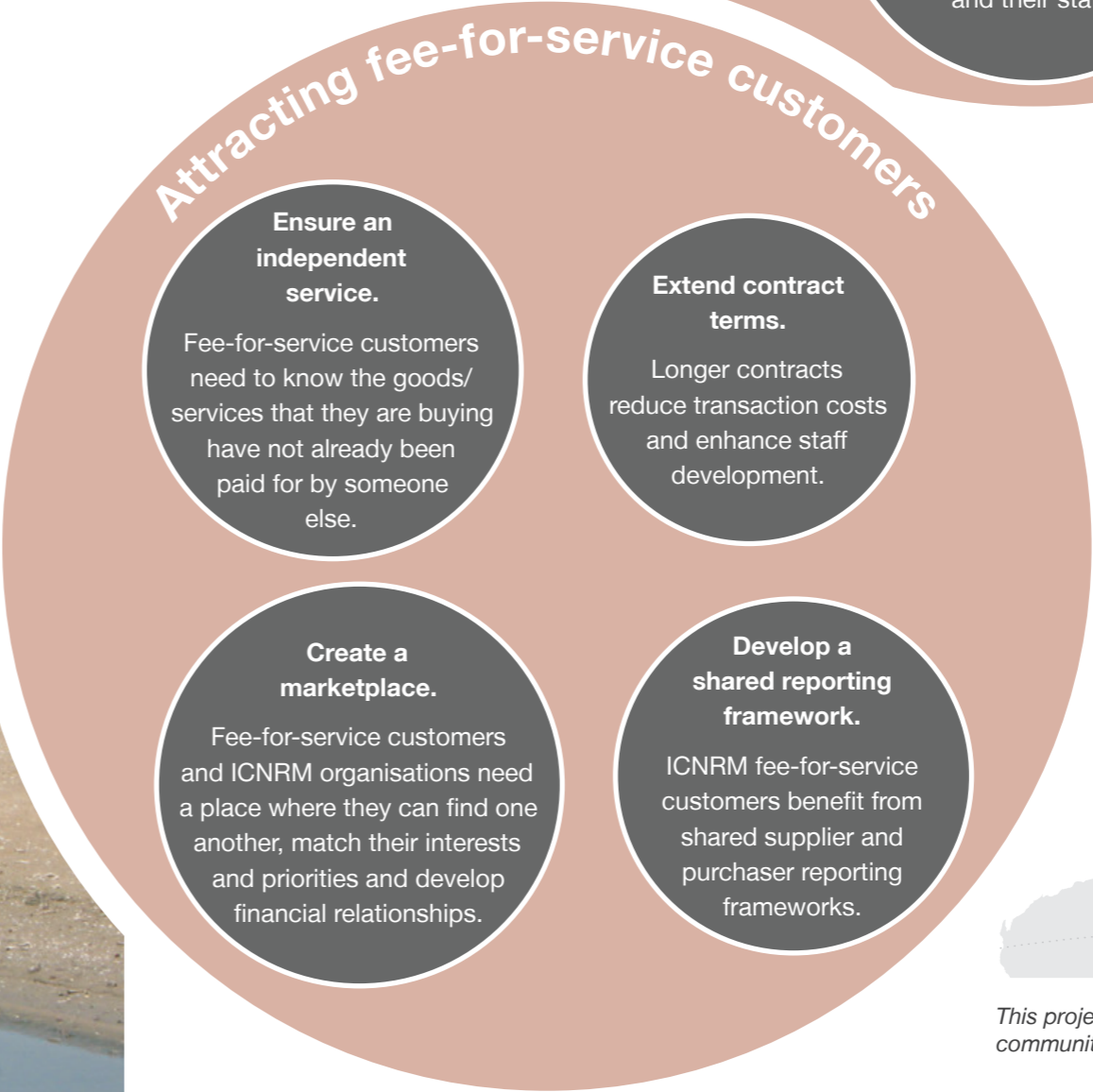
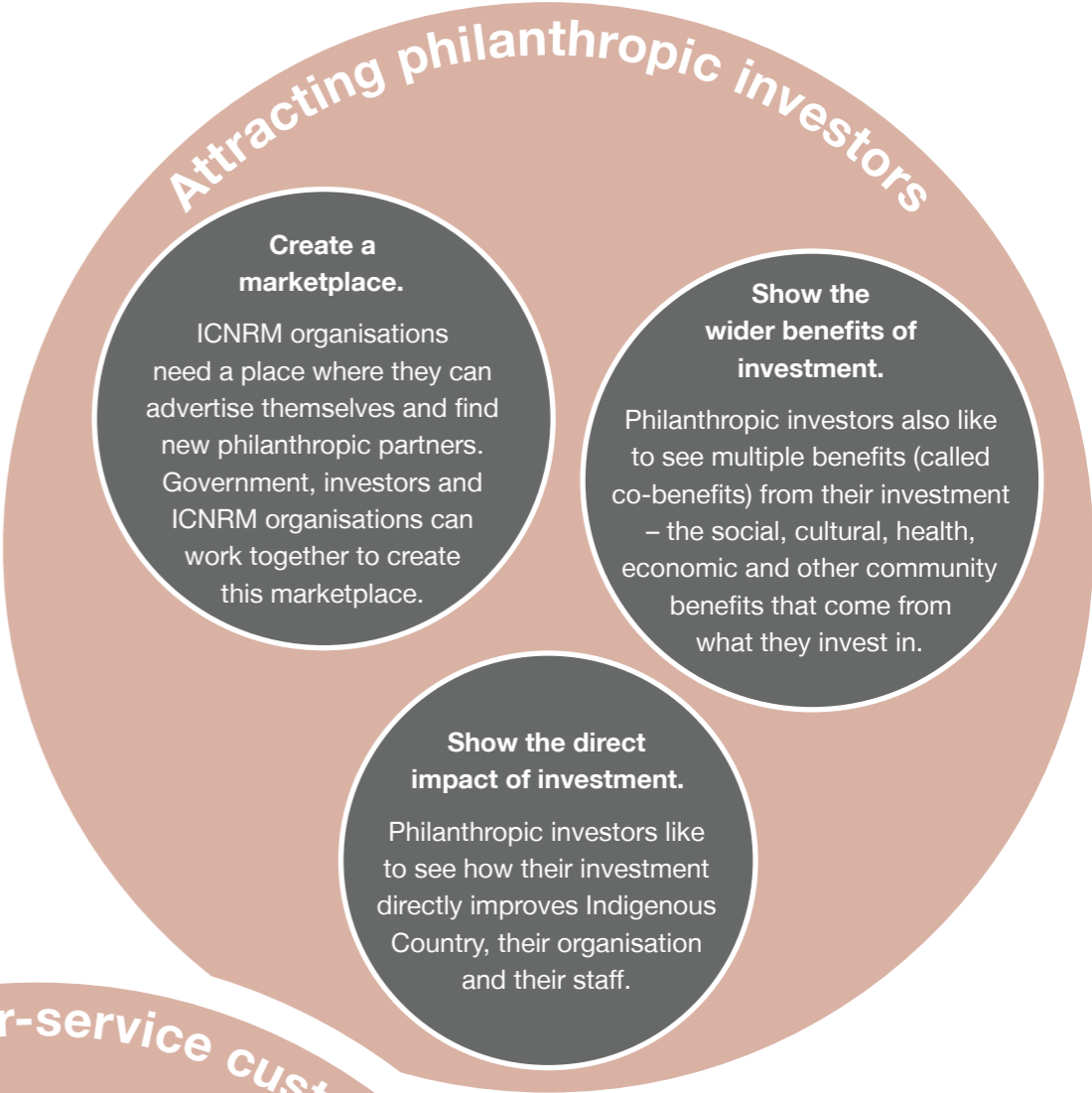
The project collaborators were CSIRO (Australia's national science agency) and three long-term ICNRM providers and their communities – Kalan Enterprises (Coen, Queensland), Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resources Management Office (Kowanyama, Queensland) and Larrakia Rangers (Darwin, Northern Territory).

These providers have experience with different kinds of investors, including international non-government organisations, industry clients, and/or working in other industries such as road-building to strengthen their ICNRM skills and programs. They also provided examples of how their local Indigenous communities support and invest in their activities.

Key findings and recommendations for attracting key investors

The CSIRO team interviewed three kinds of external investors: the philanthropic sector, the corporate sector and the fee-for-service sector. These interviews revealed

key insights and recommendations for each sector. These insights and recommendations are shown below.



This project collaborated with ICNRM groups and communities around Darwin, Kowanyama and Coen.

Looking to the future

Everyone – communities, governments, philanthropists and corporations – has a role to play in helping the ICNRM sector to adapt and grow. Some key steps to work on together include

- creating marketplaces
- developing products and services that meet shared needs
- aligning reporting frameworks
- ensuring projects and programs have multiple impacts and benefits.

These actions can support new and diverse funding and investment into ICNRM, creating stronger and more sustainable foundations for Indigenous people and the Country they manage.



Kalan
Rangers and
Justin Perry
collecting samples.
Photo: Michael
Lawrence-Taylor.

Further information

The CSIRO project team included Kirsten Maclean (project leader), Marcus Barber, Taryn Kong, Jane Addison, and Marlee Hutton. The project Indigenous Steering Committee included Ricky Archer (Chair – NAILSMA), Dion Creek and Tim Jaffer (Kalan Enterprises), Ben Smith (Larrakia Rangers), Tanya Major and Viv Sinnamon (Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resources Management Office), Will Durack (Kimberley Land Council), Fiona Peek (Northern Land Council), Nerida Bradley (Australian Land Conservation Alliance), and Tom Vigilante (Bush Heritage).

Project factsheets and final report are available from the project webpage at nеспnorthern.edu.au/projects/nesp/guiding-resource-investment

For more information, contact Kirsten Maclean at kirsten.maclea@csiro.au



**Northern Australia
Environmental
Resources
Hub**

National Environmental Science Programme

nеспnorthern.edu.au

nесп.northern@cdu.edu.au



/NESPnorthern



@NESPnorthern



This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

September 2021