

# Developing an Indigenous Environmental Monitoring Platform

Project information



Resilient  
Landscapes

National Environmental Science Program



Mala rangers survey for Tjakura (Great Desert Skink). Photo: Kate Cranney

The Indigenous Environmental Monitoring Platform project is developing a digital online service that will guide and support Indigenous practitioners on the protocols and technologies they can employ to best carry out and evaluate their on-Country monitoring and management programs.

## Background

Indigenous rangers across Australia protect, manage, and monitor vast areas of land and sea Country.

There is currently limited guidance to inform rangers on what tools to use for monitoring, how to optimise their monitoring methods, and how to manage their monitoring data while ensuring sovereignty of their Indigenous knowledge and ownership of the data they collect.

## Indigenous Environmental Monitoring Platform

This project was conceived in consultation with Indigenous practitioners. Practitioners want to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their on-Country management activities to protect natural and cultural values and mitigate threats.

This project will help improve the capture, curation, storage and analysis of information collected by rangers. This will, in turn, improve how this information is used to report on the environmental, economic, social, and cultural outcomes of on-Country activities. This project is helping to ensure the ongoing support and growth of the Indigenous land, water, and sea management sector.

## Key Research Goals

This project is developing a web-based environmental monitoring platform that will:

- guide the selection of fit-for-purpose methodologies to address monitoring requirements
- provide standard operating procedures for monitoring technologies and methods (suited to local contexts and species of interest)
- provide interactive guidance, including peer-to-peer instructional videos on how, why, when, and where to deploy appropriate monitoring methods
- provide guidance on the enduring, culturally safe storage of data.



Rangers at work on Cape York. Photo: Gina Zimny

## What is the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub?

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) funds environment and climate research. NESP currently supports 4 multi-disciplinary research hubs, each hosted by an Australian research institution. The program:

- provides evidence for the design, delivery and on-ground outcomes for environmental programs
- helps decision-makers, including from Indigenous communities, build resilience
- supports positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

This project is funded by the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, which is hosted by The University of Western Australia. The Resilient Landscapes Hub's research supports the management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and makes them more resilient to extreme events and pervasive pressures.



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## Further information

This project is being led by **Mark Cowan** and **Professor Stephen van Leeuwen** from Curtin University.

This document and further information are available from the project website at [neslandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rlh/indigenous-monitoring-platform/](https://neslandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rlh/indigenous-monitoring-platform/)

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