

OUR MALGANA CLIMATE RESPONSE PROJECT



Climate
Systems



National Environmental Science Program
Indigenous-led climate change
knowledge and response

Working in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area - Gathaaguda

The challenge of climate change

The Shark Bay World Heritage Area is a cultural landscape for the Malgana Peoples. The UNESCO Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Shark Bay outlines its natural heritage values of unique marine and terrestrial environments that sustain rare and threatened plants and species.

Australia's agreement provides for management of the property to be carried out by the Western Australian Government in accordance with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

The cultural and natural heritage values of the area are facing the threat of climate change. This includes extreme heat waves and increasing sea temperatures, air temperature change, and increased storm intensity and frequency. Other significant pressures on these values are increasing tourism and development. These drivers of change have inter-connecting impacts on the unique values of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Gathaagudu.

How is research helping?

The Climate System Hub is taking part in a joint project with Malgana Traditional Owners, one of the 3 Traditional Owner groups in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. The project aims to bring together Indigenous and western science and knowledge to assist Malgana Traditional Owners to develop strategies to protect and sustain their relationship with their Country under the pressures of their changing environment. The project begins with Malgana knowledge and experiences.

The research uses participatory mapping, seasonal calendar and timeline tools and methods, as prioritised by Malgana Peoples, to share knowledge within the Malgana Traditional Owner group about Country and how Country is changing. Using these and other two-way knowledge sharing methods the project will work with Malgana People to combine different ways of knowing, such as climate

projections and Malgana knowledge, to develop strategies for action and partnerships to protect and sustain the areas outstanding cultural and nature values.

The project will produce:

- a Malgana seasonal calendar that can be used for community events and to share some of the effects of a changing climate
- a map of Malgana Country that shows the diverse values of Malgana Peoples and the types of pressures impacting those values
- Malgana priority responses actions to the pressures on their Country
- a final report that includes learnings from the team's co-design process.

All published information from the project will have been reviewed and agreed to under the Malgana Free Prior Informed Consent process.

Where is this research happening?

The research takes place in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area - Gathaagudu. It works with elders and Malanga Aboriginal Corporation board members and rangers and builds on work undertaken by the Western Australian government including WAMSI and DBCA..

It is the second phase of a project with Malgana Peoples. The project runs for a year an half and will conclude in 2024.



Learn more about the Climate Systems Hub and Indigenous-led climate change knowledge and response

<https://nesp2climate.com.au/>

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