

# Understanding the impacts of extreme heat on Stone Desert Country

Bringing Indigenous knowledge and Western science together to understand climate impacts on Country.

The NESP Climate Systems Hub Indigenous Partnerships Team is developing Indigenous-led research and resources to inform national and international climate decisions. The team is partnering with Indigenous communities to deliver on-Country case studies based on themes from the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change.

## Extreme heat impacts on Country and culture

### Changes:



Higher average daily maximum temperatures



More severe and extreme heatwave days



Nature out of balance

### Impacts:

- Less opportunity to have eyes on Country
- Disrupted water supply and reduced water quality
- Biodiversity loss, including native species and seasonal indicators
- Risk to culturally significant sites, practices, knowledge and infrastructure
- Disruptions to hunting, bushfoods and medicines
- Worsened socioeconomic inequalities

## Case study focus

- Explore how climate change affects First Nations communities in remote and desert regions
- Investigate environmental degradation impacts on traditional knowledge and cultural practices
- Assess the consequences of communities being forced to leave Country due to climate pressures
- Strengthen Indigenous voices and leadership in climate science and policy

## Case study locations

- Coober Pedy, South Australia (Stone Desert Country), 900 km north of Adelaide
- Population 17% Indigenous (Umoona community)
- Representatives from Oodnadatta, Port Augusta and Coober Pedy



## Community priorities

- Self determination
- Access to Country
- Funding and Aboriginal economic opportunities
- Training and resourcing for environmental monitoring
- Holistic land and water management approaches
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Solar energy initiatives

## Next steps

- Progress collaboration and co-develop outcomes
- Support participation through travel and fair compensation
- Preparation of a journal paper for potential citation in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports

## Further information

Find out more about this and other case studies:  
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