



ABORIGINAL RANGER PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP) is a five-year initiative offering a \$20 million contribution from the McGowan Government to Indigenous rangers in recognition of the inspiring environmental and community benefits rangers deliver.

With support from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and across government, the program is helping Aboriginal organisations manage country and protect the environment.

Since the Program was launched in 2017, \$20 million has been allocated over three rounds of funding with 35 grants awarded, resulting in the employment of 304 people so far, of which 53% are women. The employed rangers undertake land and sea management including conservation, cultural, tourism and education activities across a range of tenures.

"We play a big role in the community, even though we are rangers I think about half of the time they think we are super rangers, they think we are powerful enough to take on the world."
Ranger, Nyul Nyul

PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES



"Ranger job is one of my best job I ever had, it helped me. I used to be a shy girl, never liked talking in front of camera so built my confidence up and getting out there and doing things."
Ranger, Karajarri

Watch more about the Aboriginal Ranger Program





“Being on country you can feel the country is calling you, makes you feel good, a part of country.”

Ranger, Bardi Jawi

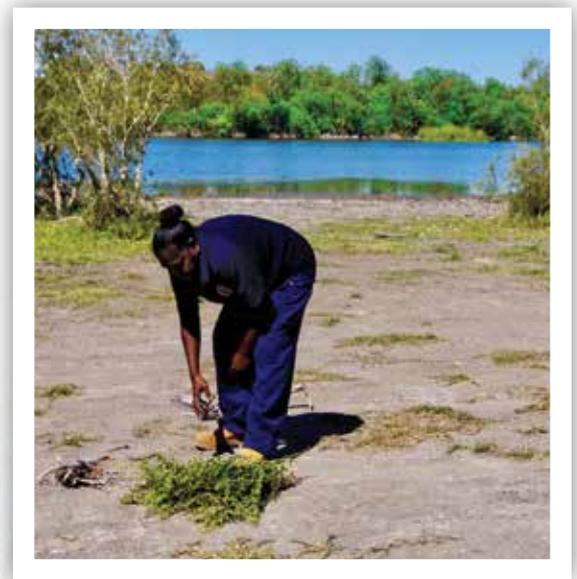
“Have the opportunity to do women’s business and go to women’s sites.”

Ranger, Karajarri

CASE STUDY

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions commenced case study analysis in 2019 to evaluate the benefits gained from the Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP). Round 1 case studies included two projects: Karajarri-Ngurrara Desert Fire and Biodiversity Project which involves two ranger groups - Karajarri Rangers based out of Bidyadanga and Ngurrara Rangers based out of Fitzroy Crossing; and the Dampier Peninsula Women Rangers Monsoon Vine Thicket Recovery Program, which also involves two ranger groups - Nyul Nyul Rangers based out of Beagle Bay and Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers based at Ardyaloon, One Arm Point on the Dampier Peninsula. Both case studies are based in the Kimberley region. A third case study chosen from Round 2 with Esperance Tjaltjraak Rangers has also commenced.

From initial observations and preliminary field interviews the Aboriginal Ranger Program has resulted in building capacity for ranger groups to undertake conservation along with a suite of associated social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes. It is anticipated that dollar per investment values will be similar to other Social Return on Investment studies where a positive return on investment for social, economic and cultural value was created.



“We see significant benefits for Aboriginal people through that employment and we also see the individuals who are employed really develop a skill set and confidence and being able to get out on country and undertake those land management activities. We see a real benefit to the individuals.”

Stakeholder



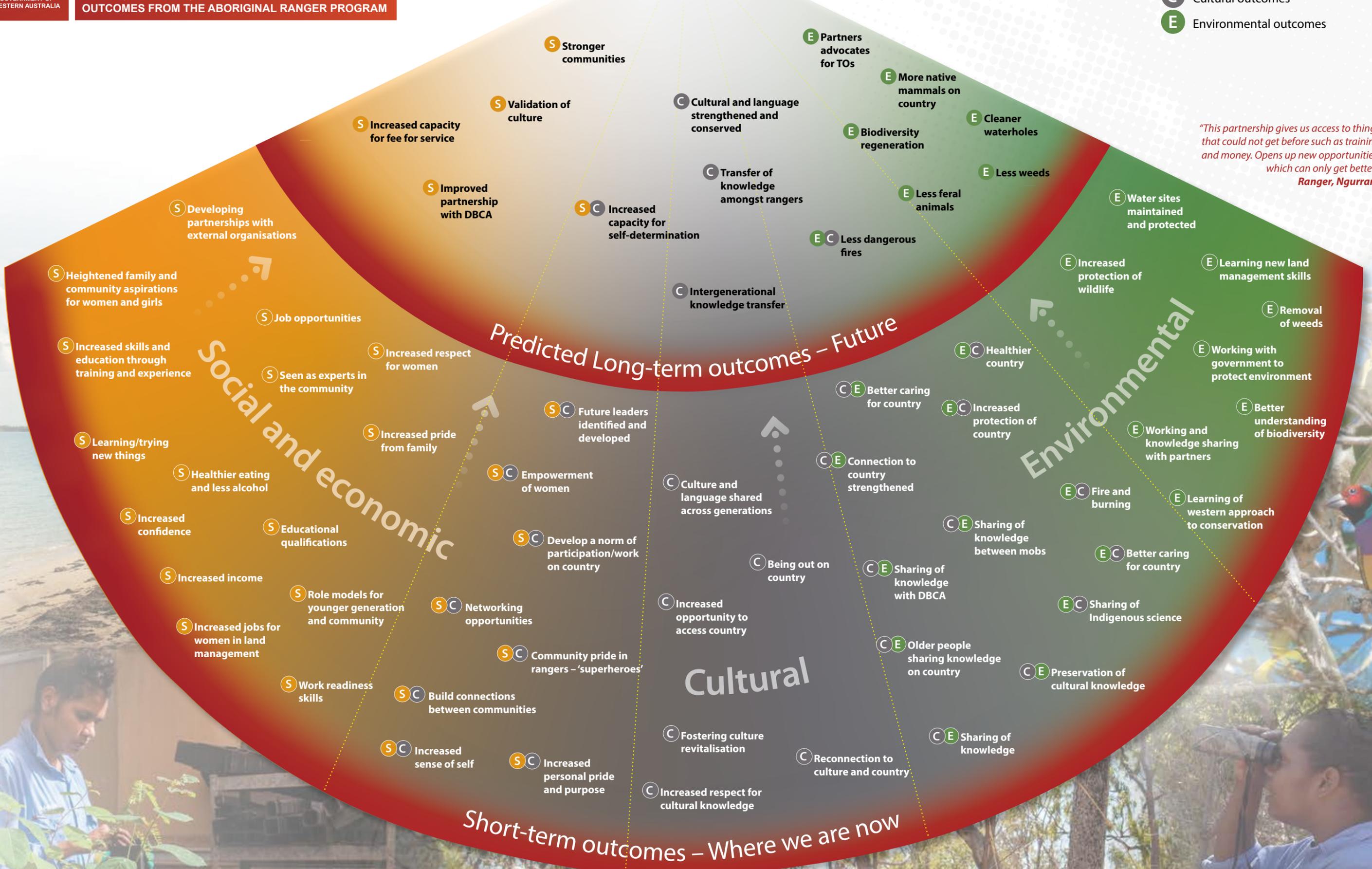
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SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES FROM THE ABORIGINAL RANGER PROGRAM

Empowering people, community, connection to country

Ranger outcomes:

- S** Social and economical outcomes
- C** Cultural outcomes
- E** Environmental outcomes



"This partnership gives us access to things that could not get before such as training and money. Opens up new opportunities, which can only get better."
Ranger, Ngurrara



ABORIGINAL RANGER PROGRAM

FUNDING RECIPIENTS



"It has got incredible and fairly wide-reaching economic impacts. People who are upcoming leaders who move from the ranger program to run successful tourism ventures. People who move from the ranger program to be the CEO of the local organisation."
Stakeholder

"But what you are also doing is you are having social benefits and cultural benefits of them being out on country."
Stakeholder



"One of the most powerful benefits is that these rangers are role models in their communities. They provide a cultural connection between the community and working on country, working with elders recording traditional knowledge and then using that traditional knowledge in their daily practice. This has been a positive benefit, not only for themselves but the whole community."
Stakeholder



"Elders are teaching us. Being back out on country to see where our ancestors came from. Elders are happy and proud that sharing knowledge to us – being a ranger gives us that opportunity."
Ranger, Ngurrara

Learn more about WA's Aboriginal Ranger Program

Scan this QR code or visit Parks and Wildlife Service's 'LANDSCOPE' playlist on YouTube.