

Global ICCA Database
Paruku Indigenous Protected Area, Australia

Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	<i>Paruku Indigenous Protected Area</i>
Country (include State and Province)	Lake Gregory, Kimberley Region, Western Australia, Australia
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	10,000 km ² (approx).
GIS Coordinates (if available)	20°10'55.54"S 127°32'11.01"E (Handover Campsite)
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	Yes
Marine (Y or N)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Mulan Aboriginal Community, 120 (approx.) Billiluna Aboriginal Community, 200 (approx.)
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	Yes - Walmajarri
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	Yes – ethnicity (Indigenous peoples) Aboriginal people are a large portion of the population in the Kimberley region but a very small minority of the Australian population.
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes – There is a very strong spiritual connections to the traditional lands of the Walmajarri People and living permanently on there country is central to this.
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	Inferior – Little opportunity for employment outside of Paruku IPA and other community agencies. Majority of people living on basic welfare payments.
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognized?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	Yes – Indigenous Protected Areas in Australia are a Commonwealth government initiative since 1997. Paruku IPA was declared in 2001. It is recognised fully by the Australian Commonwealth government but only in part by the State Government in Western Australia.
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Paruku IPA coexists with the Billiluna and Lake Gregory pastoral leases and has an agreed Plan of Management to care for country. Paruku IPA is also supported by the Tjurabalan Native Title Lands Aboriginal Corporation.
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Cultural and spiritual – the lakes are part of an important Dreaming network and sites for Walmajarri people. There are strong cultural ties and responsibilities for country. Livelihood – there is broad community interest in jointly managing the area as a pastoral business and many avenues for tourist

	developments are also explored. Keeping Country healthy is the main management objective of the Walmajarri as healthy country produces more bush tucker (food); healthy people.
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category ¹ do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Paruku IPA has two IUCN management categories; around the lakes and wetlands is classed as category 2 and the surrounding area is classified as category 6.

Additional qualitative information

Main ecosystem type	Sub-tropical savannah, desert freshwater wetland system, remnant paleo-dune drainage system.
Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	Lake Gregory a large, semi-permanent freshwater lake system of international significance in a remote desert system. Birds – large number of species and populations, meeting criteria for Ramsar listing. Native animals – Bilby (endangered), Yellow chat (threatened), red goshawk, Popular area for traditional bush foods, e.g. bush tomato, bush onion, bush potatoes, goanna, sand frogs, bustard. Popular area for traditional bush medicine.
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	Walmajarri people. Languages spoken: Walmajarri, Kukatja, English, Kriol.
Broad historical context of the CCA	Walmajarri People walked out of nearby Balgo mission in 1979 to be on their own traditional country. After many years campaigning they had their Native Title declared in 2001 and the IPA declared two weeks later.
Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)	Paruku IPA Steering Committee, consisting of approximately 15 elders from Mulan and Billiluna communities. The Steering Committee is responsible for most of the IPA program directions in partnership with Kimberley Land Council Land & Sea Management Unit staff. The Paruku IPA Steering Committee ultimately reports to the Tjurabalan Native Title Lands Aboriginal Corporation, the title holding body constituted after the awarding of native title determination.
Length of time the governance model has been in place	Since the IPA's inception in 2001.
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Tjurabalan Native Title lands, Tjurabalan

¹ Please see http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/pdfs/outputs/pascat/pascatrevis_info3.pdf

	Pastoral Company
Type of land use in the CCA	Pastoral station, Seasonal tourism, especially for bird watching and four-wheel driving, Traditional practices and collecting bush foods.
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Written IPA Plan of Management, 2001. This is currently in the process of being updated.
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	Attached.
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Feral animals, especially horses
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	Features: Sub-tropical savannah, Desert, Wetlands. Stories: Numerous traditional “dreamtime” cultural stories. Names: All sites, features, plants and animal have their own traditional Walmajarri names that relate to traditional Skin (family) Groups. Traditional Walmajarri rules, laws and practices are central to most decision making processes.

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