

Abstract

“Nganyjurrukura ngurra tukujana” – Everybody Looking after Country Properly

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Collaboration with Traditional Owners is essential in building community capacity, transferring ecological and cultural knowledge and educating coastal visitors. This will ensure that the coastal zone is managed in a way that allows sharing whilst protecting both important cultural and ecological values.

In 2011/2012 Environs Kimberley, World Wildlife Fund, Kimberley Land Council, Karajarri Rangers, Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (KTLA) and Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS) collaborated on a project to collate stories, language names and important traditional ecological and cultural knowledge for seven sites within Karajarri Jurrar (coastal country), along Eighty Mile Beach, the Kimberley.

This knowledge was documented in seven eco-cultural interpretive signs at priority sites from Mirntanymartaji (Gourdon Bay) to Jinmarnkur (Cape Missiessy - the north end of 80 mile beach), with the theme of “Nganyjurrukura ngurra tukujana” – Everybody looking after country properly. The signs will help inform tourists and local users about how to protect these special places by featuring details such as: Karajarri place names, English pronunciations, significant cultural stories, the names and photos of plants and animals that are culturally and ecologically important to each area.

Erected in 2012, the signs are a result of an inclusive and comprehensive research process facilitated by Environs Kimberley, with participation and generous sharing of traditional knowledge by the Karajarri Traditional Owners. The signs are a proactive approach to managing potential visitor impacts from both increasing populations and the booming tourism industry in the Kimberley. They provide guidelines now, rather than trying to fix issues after the damage is done which has much greater costs socially, culturally, environmentally and financially.

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