Knowing rights, knowing country
using
Indigenous research methodologies

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Presentation Outline

• What we do know
• Research context
• What we need more of
• Linking Research and Country
• Indigenous Research Approach
• Summary – The Journey so far – Reflections
What we do know ....

- Research – happens on country and with Indigenous People

Indigenous People

- Knowledge systems
- connection to country
- respect for Elders and country-men
- Lores, customs, rights and roles

- Identity as a ‘People’ – **strong**
What we also know ....

• Indigenous Governance arrangements – exist
  – Indigenous ‘traditional’ governance
  – Indigenous ‘organisational’ governance

• Caring for our country – exist
  – Sustainable Environmental Management
  – Protected Area Management

• Self-determination – for ourselves

• Empowerment – of ourselves
What we know ... in the Research Context

• *Interrelationship between Indigenous Governance and Indigenous knowledge is growing in recognition*

• Globally and Nationally
  – recognition is growing – Indigenous Peoples are Empowered

• Indigenous Governance
• Role of identity
• Role of culture
• Role of Caring for County
• Deep impact from Colonisation
• *Decolonising the research*

The Gap
• The conditions under which Indigenous governance supports knowledge
• Indigenous research methodological enquiry into this topic
What we need more of .... In Research

• Applying our own ways . . .

• Decolonising the Research Space

• Build our own deeper understandings
  – When and why to engage with others

• Set the agenda and priorities
  – Central role
    – Be in the drivers seat !

  Not in the passenger seat .....
Linking Research to Country

• The need to ‘think’ decolonisation!
• Rights and Role to Country
• Rights and Role to Knowledge
• Another Tool for the tool box –
  – Indigenous Research Methodologies

• Emerging ... From Indigenous People / Researchers – all over the world
  – Langton, Rigney, Martins, Nakata, Moreton-Robinson + others
  – international researchers – Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Margaret Kovach, Shawn Wilson
Research Project Summary

• Project –

Under what conditions is Indigenous knowledge recognised and supported by Indigenous governance in Protected Areas in Australia and Sweden?

– Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – IPAs
– Laponia World Heritage Area – north Sweden

• Research Approach –

• Indigenous research – Decolonisation – based on Worldviews / Epistemologies

• Early Reflections –

• Community Governance – strong community unity
• Role and use of Traditional Knowledge – Indigenous control
• Engagement in Management – Indigenous direction
Location of the Study

- Australia
- Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Rainforest Aboriginal People
- Multi-level – self governance identities
- 3 Indigenous Protected Areas
- National parks – ~ 85% of WHA

Total Area 894 420 km²

Thanks to Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA)
Location of the Study

- Sweden
  - Laponia World Heritage Area
  - Emphasise on interactions between humankind and nature
  - Consists of 5 National Parks and 2 Nature Reserves
  - Indigenous Peoples – Sami – 6 groups
  - Various groupings associated with lands
  - Long history – in governance arrangements
  - Now – co-managed arrangements now exist – Sami jointly manage the WHA with the other governmental agencies

An Indigenous Research Approach

Identity

Family

Researcher

Culture & Country
The journey so far ...

1. Start Stockholm
2. Lulea
3. Kebnats
4. Ritsem
5. Vaisaluokta
6. Staloluokta
7. Gallivare
8. Porjus
9. Kiruna
10. Arosjakk
11. Jokkmokk
12. Uppsala
13. Finish Stockholm

Teaching next generations about country and use

Use of natural resources like Bush Tucker
Thanks to:

• Kuku Yalanji Elders and People
• Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples
• Sami Peoples
• CSIRO
• JCU
• My Family and friends

Thank you for listening ... 
Any Questions ...

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