



## Kimberley Land Council

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### *KLC at the United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris*

The Kimberley Land Council sent a delegation to the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) and associated events during Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

KLC Chairman Anthony Watson was selected as the Australian representative to the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change, the peak body representing Indigenous views in the climate change discussions.

"Indigenous people must form part of a global solution to climate change," Mr Watson said.

"The world's Indigenous people are in a unique position in terms of their vulnerability to the effects of climate change and in finding solutions to mitigate climate change. We must have a place in discussions."

"Governments need to provide tailored support for Indigenous people to respond to climate change in both developing and developed countries.

We will be encouraging the Australian Government to take an ambitious approach in responding to climate change in line with international best practice." Said Mr Watson.

In the Kimberley, Indigenous people are working to establish social enterprises using traditional knowledge and practices to deliver greenhouse gas abatement. Managed fire regimes that reduce hot, late season fires deliver carbon emissions reductions, and also provide economic and social benefits to remote Indigenous people and communities.

The Kimberley Land Council has been working with Traditional Owners of the north Kimberley to develop the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project, and will be sharing its experiences of this project during the trip to Paris.

“We presented at a number of events in Paris, including the Indigenous People and Climate Change Conference (organised by UNESCO), the Global Landscapes Forum, and in the Indigenous Pavilion of the main United Nations Conference of Parties 21 (COP21),” said Mr Watson.

“This was a great opportunity for us to share our knowledge and experience and to encourage actions to manage the impacts of climate change on the world’s Indigenous people.”

“It was also an opportunity for us to demonstrate our solidarity with the people of France in these very difficult times.”