



Kimberley Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kimberley on show at World Parks Congress

Kimberley land and sea managers have joined 5000 international delegates at the World Parks Congress in Sydney to share stories and inspire solutions about protected areas.

The week-long conference happens once every 10 years and provides a global platform to discuss protected areas and national parks and set the agenda for the next decade.

The 25 Kimberley land and sea managers attending the event have been playing a lead role in highlighting the challenges and successes of natural resource management in our region.

Presentations have focused on the Kimberley Ranger Network, Indigenous Protected Areas, Indigenous carbon projects, database management and knowledge recording and innovative literacy and numeracy programs. Bardi Jawi Indigenous Protected Area coordinator Daniel Oades said the World Parks Congress provided an opportunity to learn and network about best-practice land and sea management.

“These events inspire us to implement new and emerging ideas into our own communities so we can continue to improve on our own conservation efforts on country,” he said.

“Expanding and strengthening our local and international networks, and consolidating partnerships with like-minded groups and organisations, has been a key focus for us here at the World Parks Congress.

“Statements made by the IUCN International Union for the Conservation of Nature clearly indicate that Indigenous people, through declaring Indigenous Protected Areas in Australia are among world leaders in looking after their traditional lands and culture.”

As a precursor to the World Parks Congress, Kimberley land and sea managers attended the three-day Gathering in the Gully in the Blue Mountains.

Cultural ceremonies, exploring the Blue Mountains, networking and learning about new cultures were the highlights of the event which brought together 300 Indigenous people from five continents and 43 countries to discuss nature and culture.

Paruku IPA ranger coordinator Jamie Brown, who comes from Mulan in desert region of the Kimberley, said the event had opened his eyes to what was happening in other cultures across the world.

“We have been able to talk to other people and it’s really opened up my eyes and given me ideas to help my old people and the younger generation. The things that other people are doing will be able to help me in my job as ranger coordinator,” he said.

“A lot of other countries have it harder than we do and many of them are struggling against their governments. But just like us, they want to protect and look after their land and keep their law and culture strong.”

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