

**Community based adaptation to climate change:
the Arabunna, South Australia**

Research Protocol

Introduction

This research protocol relates to the project called: *Community based adaptation to climate change: the Arabunna, South Australia*, funded by the National Climate Change adaptation Research Facility and hosted by the University of Adelaide.

The Protocol provides a guide to how the research team will work with the Arabunna people on this research project.

We are doing this project because it is now clear that our climate is changing and that the rate of change will get greater and greater as time goes by. It is also clear that the changes will be different from place to place in Australia and the world.

Some places will get much hotter. Some places will get drier, others wetter. Things that grow now, won't grow in the same places in the future. Animals and people won't be able to live on the same things. So what does climate change mean in Arabunna country and in the main places where Arabunna people live? How can Arabunna people, and other Indigenous people adapt to the changes and challenges that are coming? How can Arabunna people set things up to look after their country and support the lives of the grannies and grannies to come? These are the kind of questions that this project is about.

This protocol sets down some principles on how we will all work together to answer these questions. This protocol is founded on some important principles.

Context

We agree with the principle that Indigenous people must be full participants in research projects that concern them, be aware of the aims and methods of the research, and understand the results of the work.

Research undertaken by, with or about Indigenous peoples must be founded on a negotiated process of engagement and reciprocity between the researchers and Aboriginal people. This position is founded within the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN 2007) which states, in Article 31:

"Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts".

Numerous other documents including The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions/ Expressions of Folklore: Revised objectives and principles (WIPO 2006a) and The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Revised objectives and principles (WIPO 2006b), as well as the UNESCO (2003) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage along with the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) are also important to note in this research context.

The project, *Community based adaptation to climate change: the Arabunna, South Australia* is an innovative project bringing together the Arabunna people and a team of researchers including Indigenous researchers, to work from both the Indigenous and Western knowledge as well as disciplinary positions.

Therefore, respecting Indigenous rights, acknowledging and sharing authority within the research process, and ongoing responsibilities of discussion and negotiation and demonstrating research outcomes are central to this protocol.

Purpose

The research will be conducted by all research team members respectfully of these standards and consistent with the standards set out in the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Guidelines for Ethical Research in Aboriginal Studies.

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (2011) defines fourteen key principles and these too are to be considered and drawn on to develop an agreed set of protocols in relation to this research project with the Arabunna people. The protocol sets standards for how research with the Arabunna is conducted which:

- respects Arabunna cultural values and obligations;
- respects Arabunna people's right to self-determination;
- acknowledges Arabunna rights to natural and cultural resources;
- recognises the rights of Arabunna people in their cultural and intellectual property; and
- seeks benefit for Arabunna from research conducted on their land, in their waters and in their communities.

Overall Principles of Practice

All members of the research team will:

- respect Arabunna rights and authority over their knowledge.
- be aware of the diversity of the Arabunna people.
- while acknowledging the diversity between Arabunna peoples and families, we commit to speaking, where possible, to those with appropriate responsibility and the right to speak to us during our research consultation.
- commit to keeping Arabunna informed through the Arabunna Ularaka Association of our movements on and off country. The Arabunna Ularaka Association will act as the main point of contact with the research team and will help the research team establish contacts with Arabunna people.
- commit to the appropriate taking and use of images and video. This will be negotiated on an individual basis as part of the informed consent process, and for overall publications, agreed to with the Arabunna Ularaka Association. Agreements will be made on an ongoing basis.
- seek to keep Arabunna people informed about what we are using written and verbal methods (internally within the project team and externally with the Arabunna) to (i) establish and maintain updates about the project progress and (ii) provide a means by which Arabunna may input into the project at any time (i.e. via blogs, or email, or face to face etc.).

Prior informed consent

1. All researchers on the team will talk to Arabunna people about participating in the project and get their informed consent before starting research with them.
2. It is understood that consent is an on-going process. Any Arabunna person may withdraw from the research/process at any time up until draft reports or publications are presented for comment.
3. The research team will have regular meetings with the Arabunna Ularaka Association to discuss the progress of the project.
4. The research team will keep the Arabunna Ularaka Association informed about the project and its progress. Drafts of reports and publications arising from the project will be sent to Arabunna for comment in a reasonable time.
5. The Arabunna Ularaka Association may require removal of any part of the report or publication that contains confidential information, or interferes with their intellectual property rights.
6. On completion of the project, the Arabunna Ularaka Association will receive copies of all final reports and publications resulting from the project. A plain English summary of the project will also be provided by the project manager.
7. Arabunna people will be given the opportunity to participate at all stages of the project, where appropriate. This will include ongoing negotiation about issues of storage, access and attribution as they arise.

Attribution

Researchers will as a first step, reach agreement with the Arabunna Ularaka Association about the identification of individuals involved in the research. Other individuals and families will be identified over the life of the research project.

Information obtained from the Arabunna will be acknowledged in any publication or report.

Consideration of whether or not Arabunna individuals are co-authors on any formal peer reviewed publication will be negotiated between the research team and the Arabunna Ularaka Association on a case by case basis.

Benefits

Where possible, the research team will provide employment, training and capacity-building opportunities for the Arabunna people as part of this project (i.e. as cultural advisors, assistant field staff and as community facilitators for the collection and analysis of research data).

The project is unable to pay informants for their participation in interview and other processes.

The research team will commit to facilitating, wherever possible, benefits to Arabunna people arising from the project.

Intellectual Property Rights

Researchers will respect the rights of the Arabunna people to ownership and control over their Aboriginal cultural and intellectual property which includes the rights to cultural knowledge.

Specifically, any intellectual property considered sacred and/or culturally restricted (including Indigenous stories) will remain owned by those custodians who provide stories and cultural knowledge to the researcher.

Confidentiality

Researchers will respect cultural restrictions on knowledge.

As such, researchers will consider all information gained in undertaking the research project as, prime facie, confidential and not use or disclose any of that information until they receive full and prior consent from the Arabunna Ularaka Association or the individuals who know the restrictions and manage them as part of their cultural responsibilities.

Media

Any media interest generated from this project will be discussed with the Arabunna Ularaka Association prior to responding.

We commit to where possible doing joint media with the Arabunna.

Ethics Approval

This project has been formally approved by the University of Adelaide's Human Ethics Research Committee, Number H- 296 – 2011.

Access and Storage

Researchers will ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the storage and subsequent access to the research in consultation with Arabunna.

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