

Caring for Country
Land and Sea Management Programs

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The Northern Land Council's (NLC) Caring for Country Unit (CFCU) was established in 1996. The CFCU seeks to assist community-based organisations to form ranger / or similar groups to deal with major issues such as weeds, fire, feral animals, wildlife monitoring or marine environmental or surveillance issues. The approach of the CFCU is to work collaboratively with a range of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies to build local capacity to institute effective management of land and sea resources. The role of the CFCU is to broker delivery of appropriate advice, education and training, and resourcing for Aboriginal land and sea managers. The role of the land and sea management programs are to protect the assets from which culture and economic development can flourish.

Many of the ranger groups are now diversifying their land management programs and engaging in small-scale enterprise development based upon the sustainable utilisation of natural resources, and completion of fee-for-service land management contracts. As the capacity of Aboriginal land management programs increase, these enterprise development initiatives provide opportunities for additional conservation and employment outcomes and resources for further program equipment.