

Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

'The most recent knowledge - interactions between health, climate, land and Indigenous people'

Wednesday 30th October 2019

Venue: UNDA NDB11-101

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Presenter: Judy Fisher

Abstract

What do we know and where are we heading? Understanding interactions between health, climate, land and people can answer this question? The public are rapidly understanding the rapid changes we face as a society and our relationships with the natural world. A number of key evidence-based documents have been released by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change (IPCC) outlining the global state of biodiversity and the links to people. Key amongst these findings are those related to indigenous people as custodians of the land and sea across many parts of the planet and the significant role they play in protecting and conserving landscapes. This talk will outline the key findings of the IPBES Global assessment on Biodiversity (May 2019) and the IPBES land Degradation and Restoration Assessment (May 2018) and the IPCC Climate and Land Report (August 2019) with a particular focus on findings related to the interactions between health, climate change, land degradation, biodiversity and indigenous peoples. We offer solutions for the future. I will present the directions in which we (IPBES) are now moving to protect the people, the natural world and its biodiversity and how this can be useful at the local level in the Kimberley.



Biographies

Judy has worked as an ecologist in Western Australia for the past 25 years on diverse biodiversity projects including education, research, fire, invasive species, strategy development, behaviour change and human well-being, in different ecosystems including coastal, wetland, rivers, woodland and tropical culturally significant Monsoon Vine Thickets with the Bardi Jawi and Nyul Nyul Rangers and Environs Kimberley. Judy's work has focused on engaging with indigenous and local communities. In 2013 Judy began a new IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Thematic Group called Ecosystems and Invasive Species, incorporating indigenous, spiritual and cultural connections to nature. The Group has focused on the topic of invasive species in a holistic ecosystem manner. This Group has been effective in placing the topic of Invasive Species high onto the International Agenda. This Group now has a membership of experts from 50 countries and is setting direction globally on an holistic approach to the invasive species:

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/cems-thematic-groups/ecosystems-and-invasive>

I feel privileged to have been a Co-ordinating Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Worldwide Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment. Judy played a key role in including Indigenous peoples' knowledge across all 8 chapters of the Assessment. Judy was also a Lead Author for the IPBES Assessment Report on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular interest in Values and Culture across the Asia Pacific Region:

<https://www.ipbes.net/>

Judy was recently elected to the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel representing the Western Europe and other Grouping of Countries, which includes US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK and the European Union. In this role Judy is now the IPBES Co-Chair of the Indigenous and Local Knowledge Task Force. With her expertise on restoration Judy is currently Chair of a European Union Eclipse project identifying barriers to restoration effectiveness across the European Union.



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