



K FARMER
DUTJAHN
FOUNDATION

OUR VISION 2030

BRIGHT FUTURES ON HEALTHY SANDALWOOD COUNTRY





Through the foundation, named after my dad, we want to remind the young people who they are and where they come from. We're hoping that we can continue to inspire our peoples so they can be proud and they can continue on that responsibility of caring for the trees, and the land – everything, so that it's there for the future.

Our old people passed it onto us, and we want to look after it so that it's there for future generations, and our land is kept special. ”

Clinton Farmer

Proud Martu Custodian and Traditional

Owner on sandalwood lands.

For Indigenous Australians, sandalwood ('dutjahn' in the Martu and Wongi languages) is a culturally significant tree, and is considered more than a sacred plant, it is a part of their soul and spiritual identity.

The K Farmer Dutjahn Foundation was named after the Martu man who championed sustainable sandalwood as a way to help families who had relocated from their desert homelands to stay connected to culture and country. He inspired his family, who across generations fought for Native Title rights and championed sustainable sandalwood as a nature-based economy providing income and livelihoods for Aboriginal people 'on Country'.



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Humanity is facing many challenges: communities are divided, inequalities are deepening and the climate crisis looms. Yet we have an opportunity to act – to simultaneously tackle these issues to create a brighter future for all.



We work in a region of unspoken beauty. A place of undulating sand dunes and rocky gibber plains, where majestic rock pools provide welcome relief from the searing daytime temperatures. Vast and arid, this land is home to some of the most rare and iconic Australian animals like the thorny devil, bilbies and night parrot.

For more than 40,000 years these extraordinary ecosystems have been cared for by Aboriginal people as part of one of the world's oldest living cultures. This harmonious relationship is guided by unrivaled ecological knowledge



Clinton Farmer, Dutjahn Custodian, Owner Dutjahn Sandalwood Oils, inspecting a young sandalwood sapling.

and a wisdom that people and nature are one. Now, as we strive to achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to create a fairer, more prosperous and healthy planet, the world is taking notice.

Indigenous communities have the wisdom, skills and land to lead a nature positive future, and can build economically viable economies based upon these valuable strengths. But like other communities, they can't do it alone.

As a foundation, we partner with Aboriginal communities to build on these strengths and to further develop capacity, providing programs, skills and equipment to enable communities to achieve their goals.

Our Vision 2030 outlines who we are and what we strive to achieve through our planned funding and growth in capacity. We intend to grow the scale of our impact to benefit more people across wider lands. We'll do this by enabling



stronger Aboriginal communities and building economies that manage, protect and restore nature, while generating sandalwood income for remote communities to thrive.

Our goals for Vision 2030 are ambitious and achievable. Since we began, our work has benefited more than 300 Aboriginal people - directly and indirectly - in Western Australia's remote outback by focusing on our strategic areas: Strong Communities and Healthy Country. We've built respectful, productive partnerships with communities, local organisations and government and industry stakeholders.

By focusing on capacity building based upon community strengths, we have a scalable and efficient model. Where capacity needs are high, we fund, facilitate and co-deliver programs that achieve our partner's goals. An example of this is the Western Desert Youth Ranger program – a program co-created with community to prepare young custodians to care for their lands.

By collaborating with local ranger groups and Elders, we draw on the vast knowledge and deep roots that already exist, helping to grow the community strengths in areas of unmet need like youth programming. We also draw on external experts who can collaborate with community to develop capacity in new areas such as integrated planning and management.

For us, success means strong Aboriginal communities leading their own economic and community development, forging bright futures on healthy sandalwood lands.



Student at Wiluna Community School

Our Mission is to strengthen Aboriginal-led regenerative economies and build resilient communities through healthy sandalwood country.

Our Vision is a future where nature and Aboriginal people thrive together on lands where sandalwood grows.



DUTJAHN GROWS FUTURES

Born in the Western Desert regions of Western Australia on “Dutjahn” Country (the Martu and Wongi word for native Australian sandalwood), we support First Nations economies and communities on sandalwood lands.

The Dutjahn Foundation is an independent, Aboriginal-led not for profit founded by Dutjahn Sandalwood Oils - the only 50% Indigenous-owned sandalwood distiller and winner of the United Nations Equator Prize for nature-based sustainable development.

In 2020, we began leading Strong Communities and Healthy Country programs to support sandalwood communities in the Western Desert regions of WA, including the Martu township of Wiluna, 1000km northeast of Perth, WA.

Today we are the leading advocate and driver for change in the Aboriginal Sustainable Sandalwood Sector – enabling culturally sensitive, nature-based economies that tackle climate action and address inequality.

Regional Challenges...

- INEQUALITY
- LOSS OF CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE
- BIODIVERSITY LOSS
- INVASIVE SPECIES



Where we work
Approximate area of Aboriginal owned Australian Sandalwood in WA including the Martu town of Wiluna, the priority of our Strong Communities strategy.

OUR VISION

Our Vision 2030 can be achieved by the two strategic areas:



MARTU PHILOSOPHY:

**COUNTRY NEEDS PEOPLE,
AND PEOPLE NEED
COUNTRY.**

GOALS 2030

Our vision is a future where Traditional Custodians and nature can continue to thrive together on lands where sandalwood grows. Our goals are delivered through our Healthy Country and our Strong Communities strategies.

With your help we will...



Support Traditional Owners to achieve **viable, regenerative economies**, by increasing the number of our Sandalwood Healthy Country Partners fourfold.

Above
Wiluna township



Reduce biodiversity loss on sandalwood ecosystems protected by Traditional Owners by tripling the area covered by our Sandalwood Healthy Country Partners from 870,000 hectares to 2,610,000 million hectares.



Protect the skills and **wellbeing of future Custodians** and **accelerate the intergenerational transfer of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TECK)** by expanding our youth ranger program threefold to benefit more young people.

Wiluna
Students working with technology provided by the Dutjahn Foundation.



Mobilise Martu community leaders to achieve their **culture, business and employment goals** with a new Martu-led Martu-ku Centre.

STRONG COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Our Strong Communities Strategy supports current and future Custodians to lead their communities and bring economic, environmental and cultural benefits to their people.

Our approach is two-fold.

Firstly, we enable the transfer of TECK from current to future generations to ensure the survival of Custodianship and develop future leaders. The foundation initiated the Western Desert Youth Ranger Program to meet these goals of Traditional Owners and Elders. Based in the Martu township of Wiluna, it has a community-led structure that is nestled within existing adult ranger programs to ensure its longevity and integrity. The program enables youths to go 'on country' with rangers, community leaders and Elders to learn about traditional land management practices including fire management for regeneration, monitoring of healthy country by assessing animal tracks, learning about bush food, traditional medicine and bush mechanics. By combining this ancestral knowledge with digital and technological methods like GPS, the program gives young people the knowledge and skills needed to be contemporary Custodians. This has a whole of community impact on wellbeing, fostering pride and hope for the future.

Secondly, we support Martu leaders in the township of Wiluna to guide their own communities to grow and thrive on their homelands. For them to achieve their vision for their community, we are establishing a dedicated community centre on the main street of Wiluna and fostering an Indigenous governance structure that can lead the centre to thrive in the long-term.

The 'Mantu-ku Centre' will be led by Martu community leaders and Elders, staffed by Martu, and offer apprenticeships to young Martu people. The new hub will be a powerhouse of Martu strength, pride and leadership, offering intergenerational learning and skill-building opportunities, showcasing their creative and business talents, preparing for on 'Country' trips and gathering for social and cultural practices.

Mantu is believed to be one of the oldest living cultures in the world, their nomadic desert lifestyle uninterrupted until the 1950's and 60's. Mantu Elders still remember their childhood on Country. They retain much of the first-hand cultural and traditional ecological knowledge that helped them thrive in what many consider some of the harshest conditions in Australia.



1 Protect the culture, skills and wellbeing of future Custodians and accelerate the intergenerational transfer of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TECK) by expanding our youth ranger program.

2 Mobilise community leaders and self-governance to achieve their culture, business, learning and employment goals with a new Mantu-ku Centre



HEALTHY COUNTRY STRATEGY

1

Support Traditional Owners to achieve **viable, regenerative economies**, by increasing the number of our Healthy Country Partners.

2

Reduce biodiversity loss on sandalwood ecosystems protected by Traditional Owners by doubling the area cared for by our Healthy Country Partners.



Our Healthy Country strategy supports Traditional Owners who have sandalwood on their lands to restore, regenerate and protect their Country's environmental, economic and cultural assets.

The Dutjahn Foundation w public and private funds and supports communities to design and deliver a range of regenerative programs that manage, protect and restore nature, while generating sandalwood income for remote communities to thrive. This addresses biodiversity loss, reduces inequalities and grows First Nations economic power and cultural pride.

Our approach is based on a **partnering journey** that begins with listening to and understanding the needs and goals of our partner communities. Together, we co-design an integrated Healthy Country Plan that identifies the biodiversity values and threats and supports the sustainable use of sandalwood. We then work with the ranger programs and/or workforce to identify their learning needs and goals to implement these plans, as well as the infrastructure and technology gaps and the cultural assets that need to be protected on their lands.

We curate expertise from different sectors to work alongside our team. This ensures Healthy Country Plans are holistic and balance research-led data with traditional ecological and cultural knowledge (TECK) to support sustainable harvesting and land care in perpetuity with human capacity and development.

We then facilitate and/or fund **targeted training and capacity building programs for implementation**, enabling our partners to be self-sufficient to achieve their own goals with their own resources.

As of mid 2023, our Healthy Country Partners are responsible for approximately 850,000 ha of lands – an area nearly the size of Cyprus. They want to continue their cultural responsibility to care for their lands, just as their ancestors did before them for tens of thousands of years.

To do this, they need **nature based employment**. Indigenous land management spans activities like planting native species, caring for waterholes and managing invasive pests. This ensures **country is healthy** and creates jobs on country that maintain cultural integrity and support community wellbeing.

"WE LOOK AFTER OUR LAND AND IT LOOKS AFTER US IN RETURN."

Allan Ashwin

Martu Traditional Owner and healthy country partner



HOW WE WORK

We show nayunyagai (**RESPECT**, *standing strong*) for differing points of view and will always work to ensure that Indigenous knowledge is elevated as much as other knowledge systems.

- It takes wiltu gnaraku (**COURAGE**, *standing strong*) to question the status quo and stand up against 'business as usual' ways of operating.

We are goonjunu gutyangnu nyarkuni (**OPTIMISTIC**, *looking forward into the future*) about the future and believe we can create a more just and healthy world.

We believe in goolu ngara (**PATIENCE**, *waiting and standing*) and the 'long-game'. We build meaningful relationships with communities and partners, and ensure our work has integrity.

We are minyidu (**DEDICATED**, *working with meaning, with a full heart and sincerity*) to those we work with and serve.

These are the principles that guide us.

HOW WE ADD VALUE

Our unique strengths that help us to achieve our 2030 vision

01

Katina Law and Florence Drummond, 2 of our directors stand with Justin Mohamed, Global Ambassador of Australia for First Nations people.



We are 100% Aboriginal-led.

Our Board is 100% Aboriginal. Being Aboriginal-led matters to us. It means our relationship with our Healthy Country and Community Partners is one of equality and understanding – a collaborative and partnership-based approach. Aboriginal ways of knowing and doing are at the centre of our work, and wherever possible we amplify Aboriginal voices to lead this change, moving the power base back to Aboriginal communities.

03

We are a bridge.



We educate 'upstream' to influence policymakers about what is happening on the ground. We advocate for communities to help agencies and our global philanthropic partners with what can and what can't work and why. We work closely with communities by actively listening and keeping ourselves relevant. This ensures that feedback from our Indigenous partners becomes a direct catalyst for the change that they seek.

02

Ranger Training
Mungilli



We are leaders in supporting the Aboriginal care of sandalwood lands

As the leading non-for-profit supporting Aboriginal communities connected to Australian sandalwood lands in the Western Desert regions of WA, the foundation actively implements best-practice nature-based solutions. We do this by enabling Aboriginal-led economies that manage, protect and restore nature, while generating sandalwood income for remote communities to thrive. This was part of a United Nations Equator Prize winning model for nature-based sustainable development. We are leading this emerging sector to strengthen the voice of Indigenous Land Management, Native Title rights, and regenerative practices. We are influencing policymakers and decisionmakers for change.



St. Rose Foundation Supporter

04

We connect the global market to remote Aboriginal communities.

Through our funding partnership with Dutjahn Sandalwood Oils, we have built collaborative and long-term philanthropic partnerships with ethical global beauty brands. Knowing and receiving this international support brings immense pride to our sandalwood communities and reminds them that despite their remoteness, they are part of a global community.

05

We do transformative change.

Our programs are built from the ground up to maximise long-term impact. These are designed with and by our Aboriginal partners so that environmental success is built on cultural integrity, equity and social justice, with a focus on intergenerational learning.



Cook Up Wiluna Martu Rangers

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the Elders both past and present.



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CONTACT US

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