



# Collaboration with women caring for country on Australia's frontier

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In the remote southwest Gulf of Carpentaria, Waanyi and Garawa peoples have been experiencing destructive wildfires invading their ancestral lands as a direct consequence of their displacement from country.

Landholders have therefore been building caring for country partnerships since 2008. Women have been at the forefront of this effort, in an attempt to renew and develop the connections between country and its peoples that allow for its care.

However, these relationships are rarely central to the external planning and valuation of these cross-cultural collaborations, and many women are left feeling disenfranchised by their own caring for country programs.

This BNHCRC critical action research project, carried out in collaboration between Charles Darwin University and the Waanyi-Garawa rangers, reports on women's struggle to care for gendered landscapes, and calls on settler agencies to support women in teaching the next generation of custodians how they are connected to country and each other.

In this way, caring for country partnerships can be an opportunity to support women as sovereign experts of their own country. This is urgent in the face of Australia's ongoing dispersal of Indigenous peoples from their lands.



## Contact

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