

WORKSHOP 5

INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS TO WATER, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON INVASIVE SPECIES

ORGANISER NAME(S):

Dr Judy Fisher^{1,2,3,4,5};
and members IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species

ORGANISER'S AFFILIATION(S):

- ¹Chair, IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species;
- ² Director, Fisher Research Pty Ltd
- ³ Research Associate, Western Australian Museum
- ⁴Adjunct, University of Western Australia
- ⁵CLA, IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration; LA, IPBES Asia Pacific Assessment

PRESENTER(S):

Dr Judy Fisher (Chair IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species). Dr Fisher will moderate a Panel of Indigenous speakers from across Oceania (*Panel members tbc*)

TARGET AUDIENCE:

All Forum participants are welcome; Indigenous peoples and land managers working with Indigenous peoples across Oceania are especially encouraged.

BRIEF:

Water has spiritual and cultural connections for Indigenous Peoples. An interactive session, for those involved in Indigenous spiritual and cultural contexts around water where, we will embrace discussions and provide input on Indigenous and cultural values and perspectives to better celebrate the richness and diversity of Indigenous culture and spiritual connections to Water. Indigenous contributors from across Oceania will discuss their cultural connections to Water and the relationship of spiritual connections to land and ocean management and restoration. This Workshop will enable participants to demonstrate the importance that Indigenous peoples connections to water has to their deep and enduring cultural connections to Land and the Ocean. Indigenous Knowledge will be explored from differing Oceanic perspectives, with the West Australian Museum providing an example of how Museums can play a critical role in advancing Indigenous Culture. We will explore Indigenous perspectives on controlling, using and preventing the spread of invasive species. The session will be designed to encourage input from the audience, particularly those who are holders of Indigenous knowledge to help set direction for the IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species Thematic Group to assist Indigenous communities into the future to enable their cultures and values to be recognized, protected and appreciated. The Workshop will be a follow up from the highly successful Session at the IUCN Hawaii Congress on Water, Culture and Indigenous Connections.

OUTPUT: An understanding of the participants' most pressing needs to provide direction to address this topic, from an Indigenous perspective, into the future by the IUCN CEM Ecosystems and Invasive Species Thematic Group and the establishment of a network of Indigenous people and those working with Indigenous people interested in the ongoing development of collaborative projects. The Outputs will also be relevant to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Assessments.