

**East Arnhem
Community Forestry
Project Workshops
Report 2023**

**INDIGENOUS
COMMERCIAL
FORESTRY
OPPORTUNITIES:**

**East Arnhem,
northern Australia**

February 2024

PROJECT NUMBER

VNC506-1920

WARNING -

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following materials may contain the names, images and voices of deceased persons.

East Arnhem Community Forestry Project
2023 Workshops Report
Indigenous Forestry Workshops on July 17th-19th, 2023
Birany Birany Homelands in East Arnhem Land

The UniSC/NTG project team ran a series of Workshops from the 17th-19th of July 2023, at Birany Birany (BB) Homelands. The Workshops were an important component of the project's Phase 4 (Indigenous community capacity building – forestry workforce and business development) activities. Workshops were held over three days focused on three separate audiences. Day 1 was the local Birany Birany community members. Day two had a regional focus, aimed at Traditional Owners (TOs) from the East Arnhem area and Homelands. Day three was aimed at a broader audience of stakeholders and project supporters from the region. Around 50 participants were involved over the three Workshop days, including 39 attendees from local Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholder groups, industry, regional development agencies, and Government departments.

The Workshop series was part of the the *Indigenous Commercial Forestry Opportunities: East Arnhem, northern Australia* project, which aims to support TOs in the region interested in exploring small-scale commercial forestry opportunities. The Workshops provided TOs with an update on the outputs of the project's forestry activities undertaken on their Homelands. The project team sought to provide TOs with collated data around forest resources and some models for additional, low-impact forest products that could come from local forests, as well as discussions on methods for combining Western science perspectives with their own Yolngu traditional knowledge to manage the forest sustainably for the long-term provision of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support their livelihoods. Opportunities for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) were discussed with TOs, building on the initial discussions from the 2022 Workshop, providing a more comprehensive explanation of what PES is and how the TOs could participate if they were interested in exploring these opportunities in the future. Additionally, the third Workshop day aimed to inform and share project achievements with local, regional, and national stakeholders.

All Workshop days utilised Aboriginal learning pedagogies such as storytelling and the construct-reconstruct principles to communicate project outcomes and reflections in a culturally appropriate way. The Workshops were delivered with an Indigenous interpreter (Nawa Nawa consultants) to ensure a clear and correct translation of English concepts into culturally appropriate Yolngu languages and terms in line with FPIC protocols. The Workshops also had two poster display areas, one with six posters summarising project activities (Figure 1) and another displaying information on Certification and PES. Additionally, there was a display area with a video documenting the forestry activities performed by BB community members and a mobile phone to show the mobile app used for the forest inventory and skills development activities. Also, for proof-of-concept, there were displays of the stringybark bollards produced by the project and the shelters built in the community, which were a focal point of discussions.



Figure 1. L: Marayala, David and Naomi showing project posters. R: Stringybark bollards in the display area.

The following sections report the topics discussed during each of the 3 Workshop days.

Workshop Day 1 – 17th July 2023

The first Workshop day was exclusively for BB community members. There were 14 attendees, including five key BB community members, one English/Yolngu translator, two project partners from the NTG, two staff and two students from UniSC, and two non-project employed assistants. Topics covered in this Workshop day include:

- Background and project history
- Project phases and outcomes
- Free Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Forest Management Plan (FMP)
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Options for future forest-based livelihoods

David Marayala Yunupingu welcomed the attendees and spoke about the project activities and the outcomes that were delivered by balanda and Yolngu working together.



Figure 2. L: Dallas Anson discussing project outcomes with BB community members. R: Michael Brand discussing the Market Assessment study beside the display area showcasing a project video and the mobile app.

Background and project history

Mark Annandale provided a brief history of the project's inception. This included details on the project history, including background, community consultation process, and project phases (these details are available in

the *Indigenous Forestry Workshop on the 14th September 2022* report). Mark explained that the project is all about sustainable native forestry. As the word 'sustainable' does not have an equivalent term in Yolngu, sustainable forestry was described as '*... cutting the trees today and leave enough so you can cut them for 20,30,40 years, and then do it again*' and '*... so that all the things you use the forest for today are available forever*'. Cutting trees to build houses in the community is an example of sustainable forestry practice. Throughout the process, there was a strong message from project participants to look for ways to get jobs for Elders to pass on their knowledge and for men and women to work on Country.

Four-part project

Dallas Anson discussed the four main phases of the project.

1. Community consultation and engagement. The first and most fundamental project activity was talking to the community, sharing knowledge and information, and finding out from the community what their story was, and their wants and needs from their forest. The consultation phase of the project was embedded within all the other phases; the forest inventory/resource assessments, forestry demonstration site and product development pilot, and the workforce training and capacity building. Listening to each other and sharing information about the trees, forest, and Country from a two-way perspective (balanda and Yolngu) was critical to understanding how the western and Yolngu ways could be combined to ensure all values were acknowledged and potential forest management activities could be complimentary. TOs shared knowledge about traditional bush foods, calendar plants, sugar bag, sacred areas for men's businesses, yidaki making, and other forest-sourced products made by the community.
2. Workforce training and capacity building was another phase of the project that was incorporated into the forest inventory/resource assessment and the forestry demonstration site/product development pilot phases. Project participants established forest plots to monitor the area over time and see what happens to the forest under sustainable management. In the Sustainable Forestry Demonstration Site (mentioned hereafter as the BB Demonstration site) and in the forest inventory, carried out around Birany Birany and other communities in the region, project participants measured all the trees, estimated the height and sizes (diameter), and discussed what kinds of product could come from the assessed trees. TOs shared knowledge on the names of the trees and why they are important on Country. Trees were marked as 'keep' (as future timber trees, as habitat for wildlife and/or seed trees for future tree regeneration) or 'cut' (for timber products). The measurements led to estimates of the proportion of trees suitable for timber products now and for future generations. Dallas Anson complemented Mark's definition of sustainable forestry as '*taking what you need now but ensuring there is enough left for the next generation*'. From the forest measurements, a sustainable harvest would be 3-8 sawlog trees per ha to ensure there is enough for the next generations.
3. The Birany Birany Demonstration Site was established to show TOs exactly what forestry activities looked like – to demonstrate and train TOs in forest inventory, to talk about sustainable practices such as keeping the habitat trees and making sure we always keep good trees for the next generation to cut for sawlog. Principles of silvicultural management were shared with TOs, and TOs shared their land management practices and highlighted the values and products that the forests provide for them. Building of shelters was a major activity on the demonstration site – to show the proof-of-concept of the use of timber resources on Homelands. The Birany Birany TOs decided that they wanted a shelter, they selected the site and decided on the shelter size. The Darwin Stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*) from both balanda (western/white person) and Yolngu perspectives can be timber, medicine, and totem. Some trees were harvested and taken to the mill. Two-way learning was important during the sawmilling activities. Balanda and Yolngu participants assessed the sawn boards according to quality and suitability for building and other purposes. Project participants undertook basic carpentry training in addition to the training on the Lucas

mobile sawmill. All sawmill offcuts were used to make traditional products such as spears, clapsticks, and yidaki. Women used bark taken from the sawlogs for their traditional products, such as paintings. The total use of the trees was compared to how they use hunted wallaby: no waste. Besides sawn timber and offcuts, bollards were produced and used for different purposes, including fencing the community Forest Garden. Sawdust from the sawmill was also used in the Forest Garden.



Figure 3. Arts and crafts produced from the forest. R: Naomi signing her artwork, which is sold to visitors.

4. Forest Inventory/Resource Assessments – this was walking on Country together and measuring the trees. This activity was done at Birany Birany and other Homelands in the region. The TOs selected the areas that forestry was allowed to occur and all the trees over 10 cm DBH were measured and given a silviculture classification of ‘keep’ or ‘cut’. Principles of sustainable forestry were discussed and TOs shared which trees they needed for cultural purposes.

Shelter building projects

In this Workshop session, Michael Brand talked about the shelters built in 2021 and 2022 as part of the project. The *Indigenous Forestry Workshop on 14th September 2022* report provides more details on the building project. This topic was also further discussed on Workshop day 3, and further details are provided in the section ‘Shelters and shelter kits’.

Market Assessment

Michael Brand explained that the project considered potential markets and income generation options from the timber products that were produced through the project activities. Specifically, a Market Assessment was undertaken to explore potential purchasers' opinions about the bollards produced. The survey focused heavily on the local region, then stepped out to Darwin, and finally some interstate potential purchasers. Respondents from Darwin, Laynhapuy, Dhimurru, Nhulunbuy, and Kakadu National Park were interested in the bollard product for its East Arnhem Aboriginal provenance. Respondents also demonstrated a willingness to pay a higher price if the bollards have Aboriginal art on them. Potential uses for the bollards include recreation areas and other landscaping features. Michael concluded by emphasizing that the bollards were just test products, that TOs in BB do not have to engage in producing bollards or other roundwood products if they do not want to. This study was about exploring available options to be further considered.

Free Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC)

In this session, Mark Annandale discussed with the BB community members the process needed if an outsider is interested in undertaking forestry with them. Proponents should follow a similar procedure done in BB through this project from the beginning. This procedure includes community consultation, mapping suitable areas, and discussions with TOs about where they can or cannot do forestry. Outsiders should work alongside the community and respect traditional knowledge in a two-way learning fashion. Mark and Dallas emphasised that this is essential to ensure outsiders' values align with the community's values.

Mark reminded the TOs that outsiders must share their knowledge with the community and their reasons for proposing the project. If the community does not agree with the proponent, they should send the outsider away. The Northern Land Council is responsible for providing support on these types of community development matters. Additionally, if approached by outsiders, TOs have the right to request a technical advisor, someone knowledgeable on the proposition that can support TOs. They can also request an interpreter so the language is clear and TOs can make clear and informed decisions. If a person or organisation proposes forestry activities, they must offer opportunities for djama (work), training, rupia (money/wages) and looking after Country the right way.

'When you (community) ask for the things, they say 'no problem', but when it comes to time, they say 'we are too busy', 'we don't have the time', 'we can do that later', and later doesn't come. You need to have all the information and your knowledgeable support to make informed decisions.' (M. Annandale)



Figure 4. Discussions on FPIC and the Forest Management Plan template, translated by Nadyezhda (Nawa Nawa Consultants) and presented by Dallas Anson and Mark Annandale.

Forest Management Plan (FMP)

Mark explained to the community members that forestry proposals must also have an FMP. Mark referred to the project posters to help him guide and explain the steps involved in preparing an FMP. The proponent company or person must have a plan with steps that address the what, why, who, and where of forestry operations, and how the biodiversity, soil, water, cultural and sacred sites will be looked after. Mark continued to say that the FMP must also address governance, decision-making process, regulatory compliance, and how the forest products will be marketed. Mark also pointed out that the FMP must include certification considerations, which is linked to marketing because many balanda prefer to buy certified products. The concept and process of certification were discussed in the previous 2022 Workshop and repeated and clarified to community members in this session. Finally, it was noted that an FMP should also include strategies for forest

protection from pests, diseases, weeds, and fire, and how these and other forestry project aspects will be monitored.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Dallas Anson reminded the TOs that the PES concept was introduced to the BB community in the previous 2022 Workshop. Dallas made the points that as the environmental and climate crisis aggravates, companies and people are increasingly interested in paying TOs and other people to preserve their Country, to keep Country healthy, strong, full of animals and plants, and the oceans full of fish. TOs have known these values for a long time, Dallas quoted *'look after Country, Country looks after you'*. Now, balanda calls it Ecosystem Services (ES). Dallas explained that through PES, TOs would be paid for what they already do: looking after Country daily. Dallas explained that a difference is that the TOs would be using a mobile phone app, similar to the forest inventory one developed for the project, for recording and monitoring positive changes in ES. For example, when walking to collect sugarbag, record how many you saw, how many wallabies and bush medicines. This type of monitoring activity could mean job opportunities for men and women and Elders to pass on their knowledge.

Options for moving forward

Dallas discussed that the project outcomes show that if the community is interested in forestry, this would be a seasonal activity for the BB community. Potentially, TOs could perform PES for most of the year and forestry activities for around a third of the year. It could ensure there is forest djama all year round. The project team suggested that if the community is interested in the PES opportunity, then they should get together, discuss it as a group amongst themselves, and think of the 5-10 most important things in their forest that they would like to protect.

Workshop Day 2 – 18th July, 2023

The second Workshop day had 19 attendees in total, including:

- TOs from BB (seven) and other local communities (i.e., Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation – Yirrkala) that are involved/interested in the management of Indigenous Protected Areas and/or the Gumatj Corporation's forestry business activities.
- UniSC (four) and NTG Government (two) project partners, and two non-project employed assistants.
- Certification body representatives from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – Patricia Fitzsimmons and a board member of the FSC Indigenous Working Group (IWG) – Parry Agius, and a Responsible Wood (RW) representative, Matt de Jongh. There were 19 attendees in total.

This Workshop covered all the same topics from day 1. The certification guests further developed the PES concept, further described in the Day 3 Certification and PES session below.



Figure 5. L: Mark talking about project history. R: Patricia Fitzsimmons (FSC) talking about Certification and PES.

Workshop Day 3 – 19th July, 2023

The third Workshop day involved 39 attendees in total (see the list of attendees at the end of this document), including:

- TOs from BB and other local TOs from Wandawuy, Yirrkala, and one attendee from Borroloola, all interested in the management of Indigenous Protected Areas and/or the Gumatj Corporation's forestry business activities.
- Government representatives (National Indigenous Australians Agency - NIAA; NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) and Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCM&C); QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - QDAF),
- Regional development organisations (NT Ord Valley Forestry Hub, Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation – ALPA, Laynhapuy Aboriginal Homelands Corporation),
- Industry (Rio Tinto, Timber QLD, Forestry Industry Association of the Northern Territory – FIAN, Gumatj Corporation) and certification body representatives from FSC and RW.
- Research institutions such as Charles Darwin University and project partner UniSC were also represented.

This third Workshop day was a significant opportunity to show government and industry sector attendees what community forestry looks like and the many project achievements such as skills building, workforce training, and timber and non-timber forest products development. Topics covered included those of previous days with further details provided on the processing equipment used to produce bollards. Guests could ask questions and walk around the community and see the shelters, bollards and other products derived from project activities while interacting with the TOs.

Balupalu Yunupingu welcomed all to the BB community and proposed a round of meet and greet, so all participants could become familiar with each other and the organisations present.

After the round of presentations, Dallas Anson communicated housekeeping information, including asking for permission for photo/filming by signing the consent form. Subsequently, Dallas informed guest about the topics to be covered:

- Project outcomes to date;
- Background and phases;
- Product development tests;
- Technology used for making the bollard product;
- Certification and ES; and
- Potential future forestry opportunities for TOs.



Figure 6. Dallas Anson welcoming Workshop attendees on day 3.

Mark Annandale reminded everyone that if participants wished to take photos for personal use that would be ok, but not for business use or social media. Mark made the point that all the official video footage and photos taken throughout the Workshop must be first approved by community members before publication.

Background

Mark talked about how the project started, including the need for the Gumatj Corporation to secure a future timber source and understand future opportunities, the extensive community consultation process, and the strong need (as expressed by the community) to generate opportunities for men and women to work on Country. He then reviewed the concepts of sustainable forestry, ES and PES.

‘The world is catching up to what Indigenous Peoples have been doing for many thousands of years. The world is looking for ways to fix what they have broken in other places by paying communities to look after Country, so it’s better for the whole planet. This is part of the future of forestry and small-scale forestry.’ (M. Annandale)

Project phases, training, and development

Dallas Anson detailed the four main project phases, similarly to the previous Workshop days, but focusing on aspects that were of particular interest to the industry and development agencies present. Dallas explained that training and development was a core component of all the project phases.

Dallas told the Workshop attendees that after consultation and the TOs’ decision to proceed, the following step was establishing the BB Demonstration Site to learn about what happens in the forest when we harvest trees. This was a practical way to work with TOs and show what forestry was. TOs learned how and why to measure the trees: diameter, height and potential products/uses the tree may have. Balanda ideas about trees uses merged with Traditional knowledge through a two-way learning process. This process entails active and conscientious listening and learning and sharing together.

The subsequent step was understanding the forest from a commercial forestry perspective. The project team worked with many BB TOs and others from Dhalinbuy and Baniyala to explore if they were interested in forestry and what was the full range of values in their forests. The team found that forests vary widely as one walks through Country. In some areas, there are a lot of small-diameter trees, and sometimes not many trees. The factors involved in this variability include soil types and depth, and the impacts of cyclones, fire, and termites.

While walking with TOs on Country, the team learned the cultural importance of trees. For example, making musical instrument and collecting sugarbag from Gadayka (*E. tetrodonta*).

Dallas explained that during all project activities, the project partners and TOs also talked about management practices and how those influence the growth of the forest. For some participants, thinning was unclear, so Dallas defined thinning practices as *'taking some badly formed trees out of the forest, so that others can grow faster and better'*. She also adapted the concept of average trees per hectare (ha) as *'the number of trees within one hundred big steps by one hundred big steps'* to help share the findings of this project phase. The forest assessments found the trees/ha ranged from 170-300, most between 10-30 cm DBH. Dallas noted that the wide variability across areas is an important consideration for viable forestry operations, such as harvesting and moving the trees to the sawmill.

Dallas reminded everyone that it is important to be aware the balanda perspective of commercial forestry is completely different when done in a TO context. Native forestry practices in East Arnhem will be completely different to those in other parts of the country. The project team likes to think about this kind of forestry as Commercial Cultural Native Forestry (CCNF). The needs and desires of TOs are the most important part of this system. Because of their cultural obligations and the needs and desires of TOs, the forestry program supported by the project team is small-scale, low-impact (defined as *'does not damage forest'*), with product use priority being firstly for the needs and desires of the TOs in the communities. Once that is met, then commercial opportunities such as shelter kits, bollards, and cultural artefacts can be considered.

'When talking to TOs in different communities (...) they want forest resources to stay on this Country and they want to see their needs and desires met first, before anything else, and before any timber leaves Country.' (D. Anson).

'TOs in BB and other communities, like TOs in other Countries, desperately need and want housing and opportunities to be on and work on Country, to live with their parents and grandparents, to preserve traditional life and culture. They want strong Homelands for stronger communities and stronger families.' (D. Anson).

Based on the project experience, many consultation rounds and talks to TOs, Dallas concluded that if CCNF opportunities are to be achieved under an FPIC framework, the management and production activities must be defined by the TOs, integrating Western Science best practice with Traditional cultural knowledge in forest management. Finally, Dallas explained that there are many areas of the BB community forest and in other parts of the region where forestry will not occur, as decided by the TOs. However, there are other opportunities for these areas for forest livelihood activities such as PES backed-up by certification, potentially with a price premium. Moving forward, Dallas noted that the project team wishes to continue to work with TOs to find forest livelihood opportunities that can make Country and Culture stronger.

Shelters and shelter kits

Michael Brand started his presentation with storytelling about how the idea of building the shelters started. It was partly inspired by the traditional bush shelter that women quickly built in the forest site for shade while collecting tree bark for artwork. They then envisioned to build permanent shelters in the community.

Michael told the attendees that community members and project partners processed the community timber in their mobile sawmill and then also made a packaged 'shelter kit', with all the timber materials and information for other people to build the shelters in other places. Michael emphasised that most resources needed to build the shelters were sourced within the community or other Homelands. A smaller portion of materials such as the roof, bolts and supports for the foundation were externally sourced.

All Workshop attendees then walked around the community to see the shelters built as part of the project.



Figure 7. Workshop attendees inspecting the shelters built as part of the project.

Around the first shelter, Michael recounted that they wanted to use the timber from the sawmill to make shelter that could be easily built anywhere in the region, including other parts of the NT and potentially Australia. Michael commented on the design of the shelter and how it can be scaled up to make one beside the another (a shelter unit). An engineer was employed to design the shelter for strength and resistance to cyclones and strong winds. The metal bottom supports ensures resistance to termites and easy inspection for termite ingress. There was a lot of consultation on design and tailoring to the community's needs.

Another important aspect of the sawmilling and shelter building process emphasised by Michael was that it produced no waste. Everything was reused. Offcuts were used for spears and clapsticks, bark for canvas and other NTFPs. Floorboards and leftovers. Small pieces, bent, or termite eaten, became firewood. Even the sawdust was reused in compost for the Forest Garden soil preparation.

Mick Stephens, from Timber QLD (industry), noted potential improvements to the flooring of the big shelter. There were friendly and casual interactions among attendees.

While walking with guest attendees, the BB TOs told stories about the areas where the shelters were built. In the past (when Elders were children) there were iron huts and some of their ancestors lived there. They also told that there was a shop, and a school near the beach, and that the song 'Treaty' by Yothu Yindi was written under a nearby tree, hence they call it the 'Knowledge tree'.

'It may be a small community, but it has many many stories. Stories for the outside, and others not to be shared.' (BB community Elder)

Around the second shelter, Michael also recounted six healthy logs were harvested in the forestry area and then the area was left aside for cultural reasons, and that the impact of the mobile sawmill operation in the forest was low.

'We took a small amount of timber from a relatively large area before the wet season, and I can't see the tractor tracks anymore.' (M. Brand)

Principles of Forest Management

After a lunch break, the third day of the Workshop series resumed with Mark Annandale talking about the steps to prepare an FMP for community forestry activities. Mark showed that the first consideration in an FMP is the big picture, describing the forest, nearby cultural or sacred sites, and the community decision-making process. The subsequent considerations should be on national, state and local level regulations around the different forestry activities, including management practices and the purpose of forestry operations (i.e., timber or NTFP).

'You don't want to do anything in your forest which would mean you can't have it in the future.' (M. Annandale)

Mark explained that an Operational Harvest Plan (OHP) must be included in the FMP, considering all steps to ensure safety for everybody. For example, the OHP should cover issues around access tracks to get into sites, the right machinery to harvest logs, the right training to harvest the trees. Mark further talked about considerations around protection from threats to the forest (i.e., burns at the wrong time, weeds, feral animals). Monitoring plans should also be included in the FMP. Mark concluded this session by noting that by doing what is documented in the FMP, TOs would also be managing for ES (i.e., looking after Country, looking after plants, animals, culture). There are potential opportunities for TOs to get paid to do these things in the future, which will continue to be discussed further with the TOs and certification bodies.

Shauna Hack, from the Environmental Sciences team of Rio Tinto asked where the funding for TOs to manage for ES would come from. Mark replied that it would come from organisations such as landowners or big corporations who are having big impacts elsewhere and want to pay to look after the same sort of values in a place like BB.

Roundwood products

Michael Brand reminded the attendees that the shelters and sawn timber are good when there are big trees available. However, some sites may instead present lots of small trees, and in those cases, producing bollards or other roundwood products from the small trees is an option to provide a local product and reduce the need for imported timber products. Michael then discussed aspects of the bollard Market Assessment, similarly to the previous Workshop days.

Dr Rob McGavin, a wood quality expert from QDAF, spoke about making bollards and other timber products. Rob started by stating that sawmilling is a very good way to quickly use forest resources and make constructions. He said that project partners approached him to think about other options besides sawmilling. Rob noted that it is possible to use the smaller trees that are not suited to sawlog, noting that sawlogs are a little wasteful and hard to custom cut for the type of construction needed. There are a lot of options, but equipment costs and scale of operations need to be considered, as well as processing skills and knowledge, and market goals. After considering options, the one Rob thinks is most worth discussing is the roundwood products. These products can be produced in machinery that is not very expensive and relatively easy to operate and maintain. Mark Annandale described this machinery as *'a big pencil sharpener'*. Rob complemented that it is close to that, but the difference is that the machine can sharpen it to a perfectly round cylinder and standardise the size. It is not wasteful because the whole log is used. The logs can be turned into bollards, or small posts, and used in recreational areas or other landscaping applications. Rob emphasised that the local Darwin stringybark is a very good quality timber in terms of durability- it does not rot nor get eaten by termites too quickly. Rob noted that the processed roundwood products would last 20-30+ years when used as bollards. The 1.3 m bollards that the project produced suits the current machine design, but there are now machines available for 3 m roundwood that can be used in construction. These roundwood products can complement sawn timber for construction, and for forest management, where the forest needs to be thinned and the trees are too small for sawlogs. Rob also discussed that often, sawlog harvesting in small-scale forestry can be expensive. If roundwood production is combined with some sawlog harvesting, Rob noted that it potentially makes the process cheaper. Rob concluded his presentation by saying that he is pleased with the Market Assessment, and to see that there is interest for these kind of products in the region. He made himself available to show videos of the roundwood machinery used to produce the bollards.

One Workshop attendee asked what other options would be available. Rob explained that one potential next consideration would be Veneer or LVL (laminated veneer lumber), maybe in the future, but that LVL production is however a lot more expensive, and maybe not suited to the small-scale forestry envisioned for East Arnhem.

Dallas added that the Market Assessment revealed that if they added artwork to the product, then this value-add to the bollards or other rounds would result in a price premium.

Certification and PES

After a short break, Patricia Fitzsimons made a presentation about FSC. Patricia said that the role of FSC is to create strategic partnerships to understand what they can do to work with communities such as BB. Patricia provided a brief history of the foundation of FSC as an international organisation to address deforestation and land clearing and create a more long-term vision for sustainable forestry. Patricia also explained that the FSC certification system has ten rules, which include protection of habitats for plants and animals, protection of species, and respect for Indigenous cultures including FPIC to ensure that communities agree with the forestry outcomes. Patricia explained that the FSC certification system has three chambers: Environmental, Social and Economic - the Social chamber has representatives from Indigenous communities and the Economic is focused on generating livelihoods from forests.

Patricia explained to the attendees two aspects of FSC work. The first one is timber certification, which forest managers can apply for certification of their forests by following FSC's 10 forest management principles. The other area FSC has been working on developing is the ES certification. Patricia explained it is all about caring for Country. FSC focus on 5 ES, which are interconnected: Carbon (related to cultural burning); water (i.e., water provision to the community), soil (the basis of food); biodiversity, and culture. Patricia used storytelling to illustrate what cultural ES are. She recounted the last time she was in BB, when she got sick and the knowledge of TOs in medicinal plants helped her recover. Patricia noted that protecting these types of plants is a cultural practice, as they embed cultural knowledge, and that this was an example of the interrelationship between culture and biodiversity.

Patricia continued by telling attendees that a potential continuation for this forestry project is complementing it with PES. She made use of the FSC poster to explain the concept of 'Continuous Improvement Certification'. The poster illustrated the ES certification process as a pathway that starts with community consultation, two-way learning, listening, and identifying which of these ES they would like to focus on. Then they would measure the current state of their forest as a 'baseline', and then remeasure it annually to assess improvements through cultural management. Patricia described that auditors would visit the community to verify improvements and work collaboratively until full certification was reached. When full certification is attained, benefits include access to markets and a price premium for certified forest products and services. Patricia told the story about Indigenous communities in Peru that have attained FSC certification. She concluded by stating that FSC would be available to help the BB community get involved in cultural and other PES if they are interested.

Parry Agius, a board member of the FSC Indigenous Working Group, introduced himself and explained that the IWG is available to listen to the communities and assist them in meeting their needs through the certification process.

After Patricia and Parry spoke, Matt de Jong from Responsible Wood presented his organisation and their focus on developing a PES scheme linked to the SDGs. Mark Annandale reminded the attendees what certification is by explaining that it is a way of double-checking if forestry is done appropriately. Matt complemented this by saying that it also helps ensure access to supply chains. Matt referred to the RW poster to show pictures of other TO communities in Australia which RW has engaged with. Finally, Matt expressed that RW would be happy to partner with the BB community in projects regarding SDGs and PES.



Figure 8. Poster area about PES.

Mark Annandale concluded the session by making the project partners available for any questions from the attendees. He then explained that the current community forestry project has several more months to run and the next steps are towards continuing to build skills with the community and two-way learning to build houses out of the forest resources, with the designs that the community wants. Certification and PES are an important part of the next steps as a potential source of payment for work for men, women, youth, and Elders.

Finally, Mark finished by explaining that the next steps depend on TOs confirming their interest, and once confirmed the project partners can look for funding to continue for five more years. Additionally, Mark informed everyone that the project team will talk about this project at the ANZIF Conference in Coolangatta in October, and that this will include funding BB TOs to go to the Conference to tell their story in a special session.

Elders thanked everyone for coming to BB and said that they are welcome to come again anytime.

On behalf of all project partners, Dallas thanked the TOs for hosting everyone in their Homelands.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Birany Birany community for hosting the project team and allowing the Workshops to be conducted on their Homelands, and we thank Marayala for conducting a Welcome to Country for all Workshop attendees.

List of Attendees (Workshop day 3).

- Jay Hill, Advisor, National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Angela Morris, Advisor, National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Muhammad Sohail Mazar, Director of Plant Industries, Department of Industry Tourism & Trade, Northern Territory Government.
- Kamaljit Sangha, Associate Professor, Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University.

- Camila Moura Nogueira Ribeiro, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Moana Krause, Undergraduate Internship program, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Fien Van den Steen, Undergraduate Internship program, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Mark Annandale, Adjunct, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Nadyezdah Pozzana, Interpreter and cultural consultant, Nawa Nawa Consultants
- Parry Agius, Indigenous Working Group Representative, Forest Stewardship Council
- Patricia Fitzsimons, Sustainability Leader (Ecosystem Services) Forest Stewardship Council
- Matt De Jongh, Sustainability Manager, Responsible Wood
- Robert Knowlden, Regional Project Officer, NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Northern Territory Government
- Waka Mununggurr, Strategic Cultural Advisor, NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Northern Territory Government
- Steve Robertson, Manager Indigenous Pastoral Program, Department of Industry Tourism & Trade, Northern Territory Government.
- Frank Shadforth, Owner Seven Emu Station, Indigenous Pastoral and Tourism Business
- Rhian Oliver, CEO, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
- Wanyubi Marika, Board Chairman, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
- Mandaka Djami Marika, Board Member, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
- Gavin Law, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
- Rob McGavin, Research Facility & Project Manager, Sailsbury Research Facility, Department of Agriculture and fisheries, Queensland Government
- Balupalu Yunipingu, Senior Traditional Owner and Board member, Gumatj Corporation
- Hanna Lillicrap, Manager, Northern Territory Ord Valley Forestry Hub and Forestry Officer for Forestry Industry Association Northern Territory (FIANT)
- Frank Miller, Board Member, Northern Territory Ord Valley Forestry Hub
- Mick Stephens, CEO, Timber Queensland
- Rachel Albers, Operation Manager, Australian School of Entrepreneurship (ASE)
- Ryan Moroney, Operations Manager, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Charlie Wanambi, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Matthew Daws, Environmental Adviser, Rio Tinto
- Shauna Hack Environmental Adviser, Rio Tinto
- Jarrod Ellis, Industry Development Officer, Department of Industry Tourism & Trade, Northern Territory Government
- Jonny Van Beelen, Forestry Operations – Gumatj Corporation
- Jeffery Dhurrkay, Forestry Operations – Gumatj Corporation
- Bran Lena, Forestry Operations – Gumatj Corporation
- Hanna Johnson (Volunteer Workshop Staff Member)
- Catherine Johnson (Volunteer Workshop Staff Member)