

conservation, tourism and cultural interests and have first option over any associated employment and enterprise development opportunities.

These arrangements will be of significant benefit to Aboriginal people in remote areas while 'value-adding' a cultural experience to our parks, in high demand from international tourists.

To assist in addressing CLC's significant additional workload in implementing the joint management arrangements, the NT Government entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CLC to fund a Joint Management Officer (JMO) position within the organisation which commenced in August 2005.

A partner position was also established by the CLC from its own staff resources to work closely with the JMO.

Unfortunately formalising of the new arrangements has still not occurred and awaits completion of survey requirements before titles can be issued and joint management leases entered into.

Nevertheless the CLC and traditional owners continued to work closely in good faith with the NT Parks and Wildlife Service (NT-PWS) throughout the year to commence preparation of new joint management plans for identified priority parks and identify key issues for management of concern to all parties.

This included:

- conducted seven meetings/ planning sessions for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve to facilitate traditional owners' input into the joint management plan and other park management issues.
- conducted three meetings for the Western MacDonnell National Park to facilitate traditional owners' input into the joint management plan, and other park

management issues including a proposal for World Heritage listing of the Park and surrounding areas being pursued by the NT Government.

- held one meeting at the Proposed Davenport-Murchison Ranges National Park updating traditional owners on the status of the joint management arrangements for that park.

- held one meeting with traditional owners of the east MacDonnell group of parks to discuss joint management arrangements of those parks and progress earlier work undertaken to map natural and cultural values of the Emily Gap-Jessie Gap National Park.

- held four meetings/participatory planning sessions for the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve to facilitate input of traditional owners into the joint management plan for the reserve and other park management issues.

- conducted a fact-finding trip to two other jointly managed parks in the Northern Territory, Kakadu and Nitmiluk, for a representative group of traditional owners from the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve.

The purpose of this trip was for them to get an understanding from traditional owners of these parks on how joint management was working.

- held one meeting in conjunction with the Northern Land Council for the southern portion of Gregory National Park in the VRD region that discussed park management programs and other park management issues

Ongoing representation of traditional owner interests was also provided by CLC in related aspects of joint management planning and implementation and issues arising in the continuing management of the 20 national parks and reserves involved.

These included joint planning of regionally-focused employment

and training strategies, implementation of flexible employment programs providing NRM-based employment experience to traditional owners, and responses to day-to-day park management and access issues such as fire and feral animal management, fauna surveys and related research activity eg. traditional owner consultation on a geophone study to monitor the movements of marsupial moles in Watarrka National Park.

Continuing implementation and monitoring of these arrangements also provides for the establishment of joint management forums at the regional and Northern Territory level with traditional owner representation.

Joint Management - Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP)

- an MOU between the CLC and the Commonwealth Director of National Parks was renewed in late 2005 to maintain the CLC's Joint Management Officer (JMO) position at Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park for a further three years.

The position provides a park-based capacity to consult traditional owners and support their involvement in the joint management of UKTNP, and broad support to the UKTNP Board of Management to enable it to carry out its stated functions.

Prominent among these functions are the making of decisions about management of the Park that are consistent with the Plan of Management and monitoring the management of the Park by Parks Australia (PA).

- CLC participated in consultations, interviews, workshops and Board meetings associated with the review of the Joint Management Partnership (JMP) undertaken over August to October 2005 by an independent consultant.

The JMP replaced the Office of