

## Australian Sea Country Conference Call for Abstracts

Welcome to a pivotal gathering that aims to bridge the wisdom of First Nations with contemporary approaches to sea Country stewardship, governance, and community advancement. As we stand at the intersection of tradition, science and innovation, this conference seeks to explore and celebrate the profound contributions of Indigenous knowledge systems to solving some of the most pressing sea country challenges of our time.

Our themes have been carefully selected to highlight the dynamic interplay between traditional wisdom and modern science, the importance of empowerment through treaties and agreements, and the critical role of First Nations in marine management and governance. Through a series of presentations, discussions, and interactive sessions, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of First Nations' perspectives, enhance recognition of Indigenous rights in environmental contexts, and support the advancement of Indigenous-led projects.

This conference is not just a platform for sharing knowledge; it is a call to action for all stakeholders—academics, policymakers, community leaders, and environmental practitioners—to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaborative efforts. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, we aspire to contribute to a future where Indigenous governance models, traditional knowledge, and leadership are integral to global environmental management and sustainability strategies.

### Projects and opportunities for First Nations advancement

- **Innovative Community Initiatives:** Abstracts must showcase innovative projects initiated by First Nations, focusing on the goals, implementation, and impacts of these projects on communities and beyond.
- **Lessons Learned:** Offer insights into the lessons learned from the execution of First Nations projects, including challenges faced and strategies for overcoming them.
- **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Explore how these projects have fostered community engagement, empowerment, and capacity building.
- **Socioeconomic Development Strategies:** Abstracts must present innovative approaches to socioeconomic development within First Nations communities, highlighting the balance between cultural preservation and economic growth.
- **Community-led Projects:** Explore the impact of First Nations-led initiatives on community advancement, detailing the strategies employed to engage community members and ensure project sustainability.
- **Policy Impact Analysis:** Examine how recent policy changes have facilitated or hindered First Nations advancement, offering insights into necessary policy adjustments.

### Empowerment through Treaty or Agreements

- **Treaty and Agreement Case Studies:** Abstracts should analyse specific treaties or agreements as mechanisms for empowerment, detailing the negotiation process, outcomes, and long-term impacts on Indigenous communities.
- **Strategies for Successful Negotiations:** Focus on strategies that have led to successful treaty or agreement negotiations, including stakeholder engagement and conflict resolution.
- **Evaluation of Impact:** Assess the overall effectiveness of treaties and agreements in empowering Indigenous communities, considering both the positives and areas for improvement.

### Reducing Environmental Impacts and Building an Economy

- **Sustainable Economic Practices in Sea Country:** Abstracts should explore sustainable economic development approaches that minimise environmental impacts, particularly in marine and coastal areas, emphasising innovative models and practices that incorporate First Nations' traditional knowledge and stewardship of Sea Country.

- **Case Studies on Clean Initiatives in Sea Country:** Discuss specific examples of initiatives or projects within Sea Country that have successfully balanced economic development with environmental conservation, showcasing the role of First Nations in leading or co-managing these initiatives.
- **Challenges in Sustainable Development of Sea Country:** Highlight the unique challenges faced in pursuing sustainable development within Sea Country and how these challenges have been addressed, focusing on the integration of traditional knowledge and practices in overcoming these obstacles.

#### **Science, management and Traditional knowledge research needed to inform change**

- **Identifying Gaps and Solutions:** Abstracts should present research findings that identify critical gaps in understanding or policy regarding Indigenous communities and suggest actionable solutions.
- **Advocacy and Change:** Focus on how research can serve as a tool for advocacy, influencing policy changes or societal attitudes towards Indigenous rights and issues.
- **Collaborative Research Models:** Examine models of research that prioritise collaboration with Indigenous communities, ensuring that research objectives align with community needs and priorities.
- **Collaborative Research Approaches:** Abstracts should detail collaborative projects between Indigenous knowledge holders and scientific researchers, emphasising the methodology and outcomes of integrating traditional and scientific knowledge.
- **Case Studies of Integration:** Present case studies where traditional ecological knowledge has significantly contributed to scientific research and environmental management, highlighting the benefits of such integration.
- **Ethical Engagement Practices:** Discuss best practices for engaging with Indigenous communities in research, ensuring respect, consent, and mutual benefit.

#### **Equitable engagement and diversity in Sea Country Governance**

- **Benefits of Governance Diversity:** Abstracts must explore the advantages of incorporating diversity into governance structures, with a focus on decision-making processes, inclusivity, and outcomes.
- **Challenges to Implementing Diversity:** Discuss the challenges faced in diversifying governance models and strategies to overcome these barriers.
- **Case Studies on Inclusive Governance:** Present case studies or examples of successful implementation of diverse governance structures, highlighting the lessons learned and impact on communities and management practices.
- **Strategies for Equitable Engagement in Sea Country Management:** Abstracts should delve into methods and strategies for ensuring equitable engagement of all stakeholders, particularly emphasising the inclusion of First Nations voices and perspectives in the governance and management of marine and coastal resources.
- **Successful Engagement Outcomes in Sea Country Projects:** Present examples where equitable engagement with First Nations communities has led to successful outcomes in Sea Country management, policy development, or conservation projects, illustrating the benefits of inclusive decision-making.
- **Challenges and Solutions in Engagement in Sea Country:** Discuss the specific challenges encountered in achieving equitable engagement in Sea Country management and the solutions or approaches that have proven effective in enhancing participation and collaboration with First Nations communities.
- **Indigenous-led Governance Models:** Abstracts should outline Indigenous governance strategies for marine and coastal resources, emphasising community-led management practices and decision-making processes.
- **Challenges and Successes:** Focus on the practical challenges encountered in implementing Indigenous governance models and the successes achieved through these attempts.

- **Integration of Traditional Knowledge:** Discuss how traditional ecological knowledge is incorporated into governance frameworks to enhance marine conservation and management.

### **General Abstract Composition for a 20-Minute Presentation**

When preparing your abstract for submission, please adhere to the following structure to ensure clarity and coherence, aligning with the conference's objectives of integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary practices in environmental management and governance. Your abstract should:

- **Be Concise:** Limit your abstract to a range of 300-500 words to succinctly convey the core aspects of your presentation. This length is optimal for providing enough detail while maintaining focus and readability.
- **Include Objectives:** Begin with a clear statement of your presentation's primary focus. Whether it is a research question you're addressing, the aim of a project, or the goal of an initiative, make sure this is explicitly stated to guide the reader's understanding of your work's purpose.
- **Methodology/Approach:** Outline the methodology, approach, or framework you've employed in your research or project. This section doesn't need to delve into exhaustive detail but should give the reader a clear understanding of how you've conducted your work or investigation. Highlight any unique aspects or innovations in your approach.
- **Results/Outcomes:** Provide a summary of the key findings, outcomes, or the anticipated impacts of your work. This section is crucial for illustrating the significance and contributions of your research or project. Be sure to articulate how your results advance understanding, address a gap, or offer solutions to identified challenges.
- **Conclusions:** Conclude your abstract with reflections on the broader implications of your work. Offer conclusions, make recommendations, or suggest areas for further research, policy development, or practice improvement. This section should tie back to your objectives and highlight the relevance of your work to the conference themes and the wider field.

In preparing your abstract, ensure that it is well-organised, clear, and directly relevant to the conference themes. Your abstract should not only reflect the depth and breadth of your work but also engage the conference audience by demonstrating the significance of your contributions to advancing Indigenous environmental issues, governance, and community empowerment.