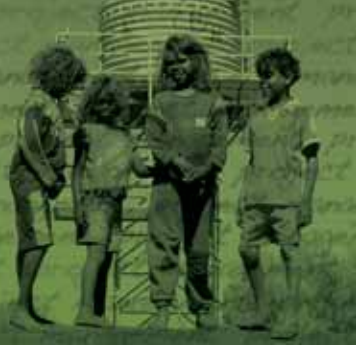
Project management



SHIPTON'S FLAT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Engineers without borders volunteers on first scoping trip working with rangers to run geotechnical testing.

> "CAT's support to us in setting up our ranger program and office has given us an opportunity to create a sustainable ranger service business. This has reshaped the lives of some of our rangers and other Nyungkal people. CAT came to help us and this gave us the boost in our confidence. It came at the right time to give us the strength we needed.
>
> **Marilyn Wallace, CEO, Bana Yarralji Bubu Inc.**

CONTEXT

Many indigenous groups are moving towards self managed ranger programs on country as an appropriate sustainable livelihood activity. These ranger programs are becoming increasingly well supported with funding for wages and on ground activities. However a gap exists in sourcing funding for key infrastructure to support people living and working on country in these remote locations.

In addition to limited capital funding for infrastructure development comes a multitude of planning and engineering costs and challenges. Often a high degree of technical literacy, skill, experience and qualification is required to meet the necessary standards and to negotiate the complex worlds of planning legislation. Groups face barriers to economic and livelihood development when the technical support needed is beyond the technical and financial capacity of small Indigenous organisations.

PURPOSE

Often the ideas, vision and motivation is readily available to achieve positive development outcomes on country within these organisations. But the technical hurdles can be demoralising.

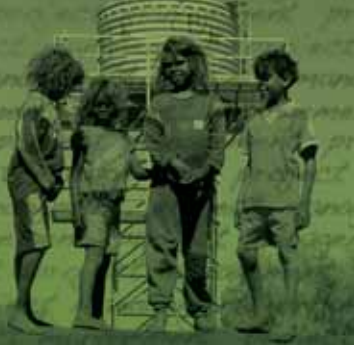
In addition, communities with solid visions and ideas need assistance in interpreting and communicating these ideas in a strategic way that can inform the huge range of government and non-government agencies with assistance to offer.

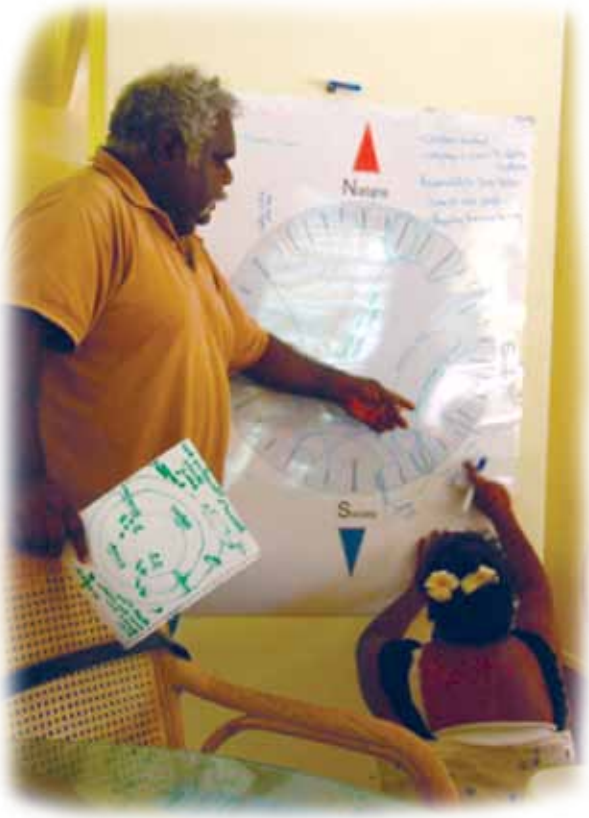
The Shipton's Flat project is a demonstration of how CAT has created a corporate community and NGO partnership alliance as a tool to overcome the challenges illustrated above.

SCOPE

The Kuku Nyungkal people of Cape York, North Queensland, approached CAT some years ago to assist with some basic advice on developing infrastructure on a 14 hectare block of land. CAT identified a need to structure this groups thinking into a simple strategic plan for presentation to potential funding partners. From a basic two-day participatory planning process, the group was also successful in obtaining some limited funding for infrastructure on-site to function as a ranger base including: power and water , an ablutions block and a small office. The group subsequently moved forward to secure significant funding for a ranger program employing around nine people.

Given the limited funding available, CAT developed a partnership with Engineers Without Borders that established a small team of volunteer engineers to help the community develop the necessary infrastructure.



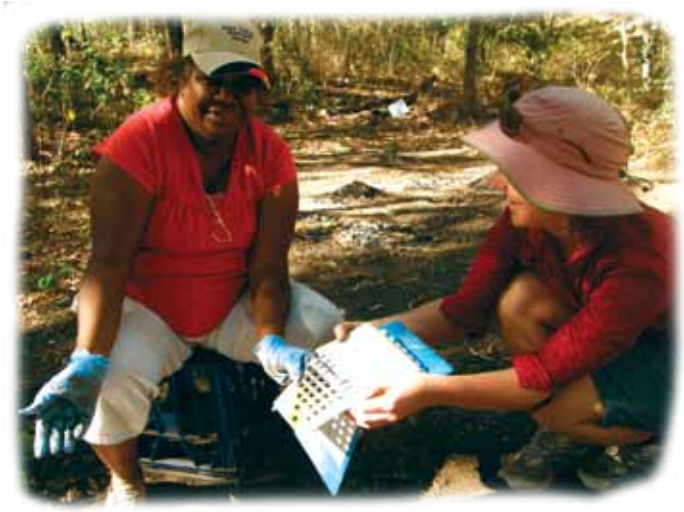


Marilyn and Peter Wallace and the Bana Yarralji Bubu Board map out their vision using the Sustainability Compass.

From this initial team a partnership model was developed and put to tender for a corporate partner for construction management of infrastructure development. The team successfully secured pro-bono support from a large multinational engineering company to progress the project through a complex planning approval process and on to construction. The nature of this partnership is such that each party can contribute according to its specialisation. The community's role is to provide funding for materials, hands on assistance with construction and cultural activities for volunteers. Other partners provide the necessary technical skills that would be otherwise unavailable.

The community was assisted to achieve its aspirations while generating a significant sense of ownership and pride from the project. The vast majority of consultancy fees were neutralised through pro-bono assistance leaving significantly greater funds for materials.

The project has provided CAT with a replicable model of participatory community development that is both outcomes focused and builds capacity.



Lizzy Skinner from Engineers Without Borders doing soil testing with Marilyn Wallace on country.

OUTCOMES:

A number of outcomes were generated from this project including the following:

1. The community was delivered a high quality result consistent with relevant standards and legislation.
2. Significant technical barriers to livelihood development were surpassed in a cost neutral manner.
3. The Community developed skills, experience and capacity in the processes associated with infrastructure development.
4. Community members built hands-on skills in construction techniques.
5. A sense of pride and ownership in the final infrastructure was developed. This has translated into a extended capacity for maintenance and repair.
6. Funding body outcomes per dollar were multiplied creating unparalleled value for money.
7. Corporate partners achieved Corporate Social Responsibility goals through active learning exchange with community and cross-cultural experiences.
8. Volunteers experienced invaluable real world skills development in project implementation as well as social literacy and cultural awareness.
9. An ongoing long-term support relationship was established between the community and a corporate partner that will assist them as their vision develops over coming years.
10. Multiple spin-off projects indicate a high degree of sustainability and impact as a result of this approach.