



Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK Policy Framework)

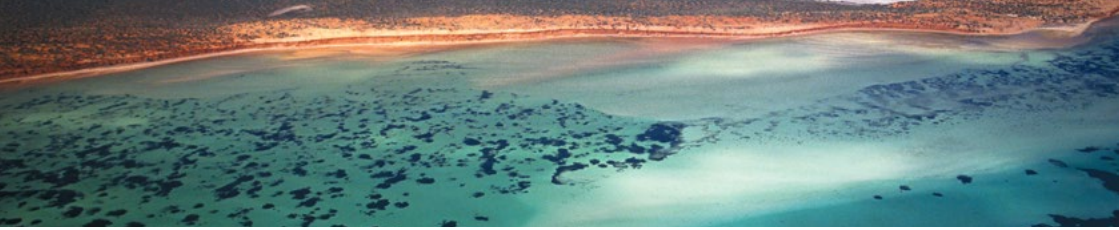


**ABC
Foundation**



Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation

On Country For Country



Policy Statement

It is the ABC Foundations fundamental belief that the endorsed use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is essential for leading On-Country activity, ensuring it is valued and aligned both in the Aboriginal and western socio-economies.

We acknowledge that members of the Traditional Owner group(s) carry with them more than 60,000 years TEK. It is our role to support the sharing and transfer of knowledge as it was bestowed on them from their grandmother and grandfather, parent's, and family members to the next generation.

We recognise TEK is the continuity of connection. TEK is the relationship between our ancestors and the spiritual world, the people, plants and animals and the environment (including water, sun and the moon).

‘TEK comes from the past, it will lead us into the future, through the people who have been bestowed to hold the knowledge that came from our ancestor’s’.

– Parry Agius, ABC Foundation Director



Policy Provisions

This policy sets out the guiding principles approved by the Board of Directors and administered within our Foundation and associated subsidiaries:

1. To be respected for the existence and on-going practice of 60,000+ years of TEK.
2. To engage TEK to guide activities where knowledge transferred is respected and valued.
3. Local experts are engaged to deliver TEK.
4. Our members are inspired by TEK.
5. Sharing is our joint responsibility.

To achieve the above guiding principles ABC Foundation has endorsed a framework that will:

1. Source revenue streams that will fund the exchange of TEK transfer.
2. Incorporate RESPECT Principles within its activities to value TEK.
3. Ensure all embedded TEK activities are endorsed.
4. Encourage the use of TEK through increased knowledge and alignment of co-benefits.
5. To enjoy and evaluate mutual benefits that align TEK and Western Knowledge.
6. TEK is all encompassing.

The Board of Directors is responsible for this Policy.



Policy Framework

The ABC Foundation Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) framework brings together the respect of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and aligns it with Western Knowledge, be it from a scientific or accredited context. Creating a mutually beneficial 'contemporary' space, which allow for the Foundation to source funding and deliver direct or in-directly, On-Country activities that create mutual benefits, for both our members and our stakeholders (co-benefits).

Therefore, the ABC Foundation TEK Framework, aligns Traditional and Western Knowledge through a Contemporary lens system.

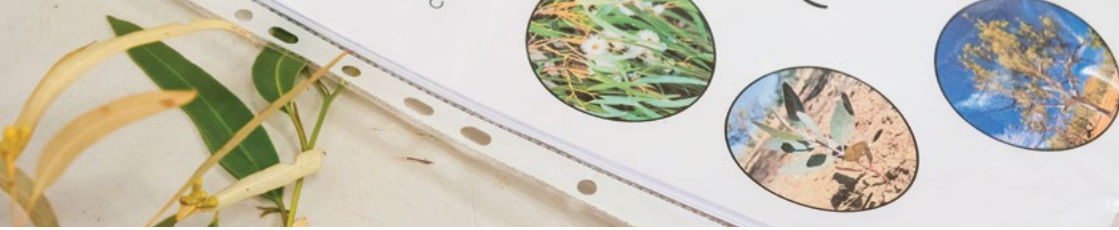
Traditional



Western



Contemporary



Respect Principles

The RESPECT principles are the focal point of implementing the TEK Framework into all On-Country learning-based Activities. Placing importance on valuing TEK through universal methodology, allowing for sustainable principles to flourish. Creating fun, confidence and inspiration, through a culturally safe and inclusive engagement.

With each letter of the word RESPECT broken down and aligned to the core elements of TEK. Drawing on the strength of the inherent spiritual environmental connection, the role of our Elders, Parents and Educators, and how we can proudly identify ourselves, gaining traditional knowledge through knowledge transfer, in a cultural safe environment.

R Reconciliation
Reconnection
E Environment
Ecological
S School
Science
P Parents
Practice
E Elders
Educators
C Culture
Community
T Traditional
Knowledge





Procedural Provisions

To incorporate the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Policy and Framework set by the Foundations Board of Directors, the follow will be implemented and used as a process of engagement via the CEO and leadership teams.



TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE BESTOWED

We engage with local Traditional Owner(s) and Elders, who are bestowed with TEK, to work with us. Empowered to share the tools, knowledge and resources that are included in our ABC On-Country learning-based activities.

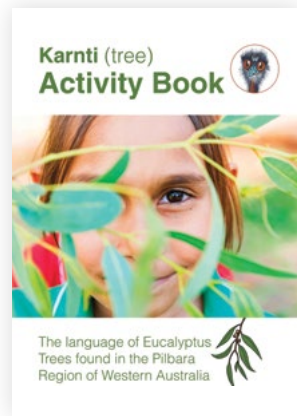
The local active ABC leadership team incorporating the use of TEK in all its activities. Providing the Foundations resources, structure, and skilled personnel to deliver a successful ABC On-Country learning program.

This cultural collaboration with the TOs, Elders and ABC Foundation, positively implements TEK Framework, aligns Traditional and Western Knowledge through a Contemporary lens system. The two elements will be through the inclusion, endorsement, and implementation of identifying the 'Language of Place' and the 'Connection to Country' as explained below.



LANGUAGE OF PLACE

The 'Language of Place' refers to the agreed Aboriginal language of place, and the endorsed words used in the allocated learning material where ABC On-Country activities are delivered. All ABC On-Country learning materials are to be used as place specific. Therefore, requiring generic Western endorsed material (i.e. curriculum-based) to be available as bi-lingual resources to support knowledge transfer of TEK.



CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

The 'Connection to Country' refers to the TEK transfer that can be shared through storytelling, song, dance, or other relevant content. When developing new activities, material and resources, the introduction of oral tradition through cultural expression can only be taught after endorsement has been sought by those bestowed with TEK.

ABC team shall at all times remain flexible in content delivery and respect the importance of these sessions that support intergenerational knowledge sharing. ABC Foundation ensures where possible, that Aboriginal Elders are at the forefront of this part of delivery.



If you want to know more, let's chat!

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