

Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum

A Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum will be held in conjunction the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in South Australia. The Forum will explore how Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge can help land managers better manage their lands in particular protecting biodiversity of native plants and animals. The benefits and challenges of bridging Traditional or Indigenous knowledge and Western rangeland knowledge will also be addressed.

The intent of the Forum is to facilitate discussion between people from different knowledge systems, with a focus on allowing traditional and Indigenous peoples to be heard and providing a platform for harnessing traditional approaches to rangeland management.

Focus and topics

The key focus of the Forum is to explore how traditional and/or Indigenous knowledges can help land managers better manage native plants and animals – in terms of both maintenance as well as restoration of their land.

The Forum will cover a range of themes, including:

- Reimagining conservation through Indigenous perspectives
- Cultural knowledge and values, and the role of medicinal plants
- Indigenous science principles and collaborative partnerships
- Ecosystem restoration and maintenance and the need for both
- Lessons from country and moving forward.

Facilitated panel discussions and a breakout session will allow ample opportunity for interaction, ensuring that participants share their own experiences, and learn how traditional knowledge can enhance management efforts across the world's rangelands.

Participants

These topics may be of interest to Indigenous land managers, traditional knowledge holders, herders, other pastoralists and land stewards from around the world.

The Forum provides an opportunity to share knowledge, to build networks, and to support each other in the future.



**XII INTERNATIONAL
RANGELAND
CONGRESS**
AUSTRALIA 2025



IYRP INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS
2026

MARCH 2025

When and Where

Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum: Sunday 1 June 2025, Adelaide

This Forum is open to all Congress delegates, and booking is required,. Registration is through the IRC website: <https://irc2025.rangelandcongress.org/>

This Forum will facilitate broad discussions between traditional/Indigenous knowledge holders, pastoralists, Western rangeland scientists and rangeland managers from around the world.

International Rangeland Congress: 2 - 6 June 2025, Adelaide

All participants at the Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum need to register for the Congress. This Congress has sessions where women Indigenous herders will discuss their stories; and another where young pastoralists will present their ideas.

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 will also run sessions planning activities and messages for 2026. The role of Indigenous and First Nations peoples in caring for rangelands will be highlighted in the IYRP 2026. In addition, one of mid-congress tours focuses on Indigenous culture, visiting places such as the Tandanya National Cultural Institute and the South Australian Museum Aboriginal Cultures gallery.

Pre-forum gathering: Saturday 31 May 2025, Adelaide

First Nations people and international traditional/Indigenous pastoralists only, are invited to meet up and get to know one another. Bring your guitar or another musical instrument if you wish!

This Gathering is not confirmed - TBA.

Outcomes

Expected outcomes of the Forum will be to create the awareness of the value of traditional/ Indigenous knowledge, and to foster action among scientific communities and policymakers. The Forum will also provide opportunity to learn from and tap into the unique knowledge and insights of the Indigenous and traditional communities.

The views of Traditional/Indigenous people and recommendations from the Forum will be voted on at the last day of the IRC Congress, Friday 6 June 2025. This is an opportunity for the role of traditional knowledge and traditional practices to be presented to the worldwide rangeland community. If endorsed by the IRC2025, these recommendations will then be promoted to governments around the world through the extensive IRC networks.

**For further information contact:
Congress Organisers: conference@aomevents.com**

Congress Organising Committee contact is Dana Kelly: dana@danamkelly.com