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Project Title: Towards culturally appropriate fire management in the Waanyi and Garawa lands: impediments, opportunities, and key challenges

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This research aims to support the autonomy of the Waanyi and Garawa, and to provide a framework for developing sustainable fire management plans with Indigenous communities. Over the first three months, the direction of the research has been steered through consultation with the Waanyi and Garawa, end users, other stakeholders (such as the Northern Land Council), fire ecologists, and anthropologists who have worked in the Gulf of Carpentaria. This time has been also spent reviewing literature on traditional governance structures surrounding fire management, and particularly the role of women within this. Lastly, upon request of the Waanyi-Garawa rangers, an estimate has been made of the economic potential of entering the carbon market, in case the community should choose to do so. Over the long term this project will perform similar analyses for other economic opportunities in order to diversify funding sources available to maintain active fire management.