



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park – Values Statement

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is a jointly managed park between the park's traditional Aboriginal owners and the Director of National Parks. *Tjukurpa* (law) is the foundation of Anangu life and the park is managed using traditional Anangu methods governed by *Tjukurpa* combined with western science and management practices. The park's first priority is conserving the significant natural and cultural values of the area.

***Park-angka unngu munu Park-angka urilta Tjukurpa palunyatu ngaranyi kutjupa wiya.
Ngura miil-miilpa tjuta Park –angka ngaranyi – uwankara kutju ngaranyi, Tjukurpangka.***

© Tony Tjamiwa

It is one Tjukurpa inside the park and outside the park, not different. There are many sacred places in the park that are part of the whole cultural landscape—one line. Everything is one Tjukurpa.

The park's landscape is dominated by the iconic massifs of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. These two geological features are striking examples of geological processes and erosion occurring over time and provide associated refuge and habitat for a broad range of plant and animal species.

The park was proclaimed in 1977 under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* for the purposes of:

- The preservation of the area in its natural condition
- The encouragement and regulation of the appropriate use, appreciation and enjoyment of the area by the public.

The park protects an area of approximately 1,325 square kilometres within the Great Sandy Desert bioregion.

International Listings

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is listed under the World Heritage Convention for both its natural and cultural heritage attributes. The park meets four criteria for listing under the convention:

- An outstanding example representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment,
- Contains unique, rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations or features or areas of exceptional natural beauty, such as superlative examples of important ecosystems to man, natural features, sweeping vistas covered by natural vegetation and exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements,
- A cultural landscape representing the combined work of nature and of man, manifesting the interaction between humankind and its natural environment,
- An associative landscape having powerful religious, artistic and cultural associations of the natural element.

Value 1: A living cultural environment

- The park contains significant physical evidence of one of the oldest continuous cultures in the world including significant cultural and sacred sites, rock art shelters and areas of archaeological importance.
- The park is home to Anangu, who continue to practice their cultural obligations consistent with *Tjukurpa* (Anangu law).
- *Tjukurpa* is observed today in the park as it was thousands of years ago. It embodies the principles of religion, philosophy and human behaviour that are to be observed in order to live harmoniously with one another and with the natural landscape.
- Anangu pass on *Tjukurpa* through the intergenerational transfer of knowledge to their children.
- Anangu have a deep understanding of, and connection with, the natural features of the landscape and associated plants and animals, many of which have strong cultural significance.
- Anangu actively manage the landscape through traditional burning and other customary land management practices, and maintain their culture in collaboration with park staff through joint management arrangements with the Australian Government. Anangu teach park staff about cultural protocols for working on Aboriginal land.
- The park contains the monoliths of Uluru and Kata Tjuta that are directly and tangibly associated with the events, living traditions, ideas and beliefs of Anangu and form an integral part of the traditional belief system of one of the older human societies in the world.
- The park contains a number of registered and recorded sacred sites associated with multiple *Tjukurpa* stories and ancestral beings.

Value 2: Unique rock formations and a rich biota

- The park contains the unique rock formations and habitats that are striking examples of geological and erosional processes over time, reflecting the age and relatively stable nature of the Australian continent.
- The geological features of the park provide sanctuary, shelter and habitat for plant and animal species that are otherwise restricted within the bioregion.
- The park contains a rich and diverse suite of plant and animal species suited to the semi-arid environment, including listed and iconic species.
- The park contains reptile diversity unparalleled in other semi-arid systems.
- Anangu's land management knowledge and practices over thousands of years have been integral to developing and supporting the rich biota seen today.
- Land management in the park today recognises and integrates Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, skills and management practices.
- The park incorporates world class scenic vistas that include exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements.

As a result of these values, the park is of great economic, social and research significance to the community and the broader region.