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Final Report

Wellbeing Impact Evaluation of Queensland
Indigenous Land Conservation Projects (QILCP)
with Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Citation

Jarvis, D., Larson S., Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, McDonald, A., Diamond, B., Tonga, B., Cameron, D., Clark, D., Mooney, G., Adams, I., Blyton, J., Jones, L., Erixon, L., Mooney, L., Jones, M., Benson, M., and Young, P. (2024) Wellbeing Impact Evaluation of QILCP Projects: Report to Client, Greening Australia. James Cook University, Australia.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation, and the Yuwi QILCP Project Reference Group (PRG) for the valuable support provided to this project.

We would like to particularly thank Danielle Cameron, Pamela Young, Debra Clark, Irene Adams, Lee Erixon, and Anne McDonald who contributed their time, knowledge and insights at the project workshop.

We would also particularly like to thank Jatina Blyton, Bayou Diamond, and Larkin Jones for their valuable contribution to the project through their work as Yuwi enumerators. We would also like to thank the following PRG members for their valuable contributions of time, knowledge, insights and guidance provided at the regular Project Reference Group meetings:

- Madeline Jones – proxy Leotah Mooney
- Michael Corrie – proxy Lyn Mooney
- Pam Young – proxy Mel Kemp
- Danielle Cameron – proxy Deb Clark
- Garry Mooney – proxy Hayley Mann
- Anne McDonald – proxy Nadine McDonald
- Andrew Malayta – proxy Josh Erixon
- Meredith Benson

We are grateful to Hayley Young, Michelle Frankel, Richard Sporne, Zoe Birnie and others at Greening Australia for their contribution, support and guidance throughout this project.

This project was funded by Greening Australia, BHP/BMA and the Prior Family Foundation, and we thank them for their support of the project.

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List of Abbreviations

BMA	BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (organisation)
GA	Greening Australia (organisation)
JCU	James Cook University (organisation)
LS	Life Satisfaction (methodology)
PRG	Project Reference Group (governing body)
QILCP	Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Projects (program name)
WF	Wellbeing factor (methodology)
W-IE	Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (methodology)

Summary of our findings

Here we report on an evaluation of the collaboration between Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation and Greening Australia (GA), with funding assistance from BHP/BMA, that sought to conduct land management activities under the Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Projects (QILCP). The activities that comprise QILCP have been conducted across the period 2022 to 2024.

The evaluation has been conducted using the W-IE approach, which concentrates on evaluating benefits to Indigenous wellbeing generated from a program or activity, focusing on impact according to those people who are the intended beneficiaries, rather than according to other stakeholders such as program funders or managers. Wellbeing of Indigenous people is a wide holistic concept, strongly linked to 'Country'. Consequently, the impact of projects such as QILCP extend beyond the ecological benefits, creating a range of cultural and social benefits, all of which contribute to improved wellbeing. The W-IE approach acknowledges this, and thus seeks to holistically account for benefits that arise as a result of the program.

Yuwi people represented by the QILCP Project Reference Group (PRG) determined a list of factors believed to contribute to the wellbeing of Yuwi people (full list presented within Table 2 of this report)¹.

- 'Acknowledging, caring for our Elders and respecting their role and lived experience' (Elders) and 'Yuwi caring for Country and restoring it for children and future' (Caring for Country) were identified as very important to wellbeing by the largest percentage of the Yuwi respondents, followed by 'Inspiring Yuwi youth to be confident and celebrating being Yuwi' (Youth confident').
- At the time of the study, the highest satisfaction scores were awarded to the factors 'Reviving and using Yuwi language' (Language) and to 'Living a healthy life' (Healthy life). However, the scores for these factors did not differ greatly from the recalled scores from 3 years ago, and thus the high scores cannot relate to QILCP.
- The factors with the largest improvements in satisfaction scores were 'Kinship and community connections' (Kinship), 'Yuwi striving to be self-determined by leading, being heard and valued' (Self-determined), 'Youth confident' and 'Elders'.

¹ For each factor the full name is used when the factor is first referred to, with shortened name shown in brackets. The shorter name is then used when the factor is referred to subsequently.

- The highest W-IE scores (based on importance and satisfaction scores) were calculated for 'Elders', 'Caring for Country', and 'Youth confident'. This indicates that these factors had the biggest positive impact on improving the wellbeing of Yuwi people over the period being evaluated.
- The first two of these factors were also the ones most strongly linked to GA and QILCP, whilst the third was indirectly linked to QILCP. Other factors, 'Employment, financial freedom and independence' (Employment), (with the 7th highest W-IE score), 'Access and opportunities for healing on Country' (Healing on Country) (12th highest W-IE score) and 'Opportunities for connecting Yuwi youth to Yuwi Country and culture, learning Yuwi ways' (Youth to Country)' (18th highest) were also indirectly linked to QILCP. All factors linked to QILCP had positive W-IE scores and thus enhanced the wellbeing of Yuwi people.
- Whilst a number of factors had negative W-IE scores, indicating these factors had adversely impacted the overall wellbeing of Yuwi people, none of these factors were linked to GA and/or to QILCP.

Overall wellbeing of Yuwi people was reported to improve over the period, from an average recall score of 5.9 three years ago, to 7.4 now (for the proxy measure overall life satisfaction). This is a total increase of 1.53 points in life satisfaction, and 0.88 of this (57% of the change) is due to those factors directly or indirectly linked to GA and QILCP.

Based upon the analysis reported on in this project evaluation, we conclude that GA and QILCP have played a significant role in improving the wellbeing of Yuwi people. QILCP activities over the last three years have positively impacted on a number of the factors contributing to Yuwi wellbeing, including those things that were rated by Yuwi as being the most important to them.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Greening Australia, BHP and BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) have partnered with Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation, through the Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Project (QILCP) as part of Greening Australia's Reef Aid program to deliver environmental, conservation and cultural outcomes through sustainable programs that will focus on the Fitzroy Basin and Mackay Whitsunday regions. The key mechanism for consultation and communication with and between key stakeholders is through the development of an advisory body, called the Yuwi Project Reference Group. The Yuwi Project Reference Group (PRG) was formed in December 2022 to provide advice, direction and guidance, and ensure all key stakeholders are represented in a project governance structure that is culturally appropriate and provides sufficient input in decision-making for all relevant stakeholders.

Over the last two years this partnership has cooperated on a number of land management activities. with one of the first activities being the Healthy Country planning with Yuwi representatives, which was conducted between July 2022 and June 2023. Yuwi Rangers and other interested Yuwi People have been engaged in several capacity building activities, such as First Aid training, Chain Saw Level 2 (intermediate) & Pole Saw Training, and Cert II Conservation and Ecosystem Management. On-Country trips include Cape Hillsborough trips in 16 March 2023 and 6-8 November 2023 and collaborative cultural burning workshops facilitated by Firesticks Alliance.

As part of a free, prior and informed consent process, consultations with Yuwi representatives were held to assess their interest and willingness to be engaged and to partner with researchers on the project. In addition, approval to proceed was obtained from BHP and BMA as collaborating partners with GA for the QILCP. Following the enthusiasm for the project expressed by stakeholders, and the confirmation from Yuwi people that they wish to engage in this work, the agreement to proceed was signed between GA and James Cook University (JCU).

1.2 Project objective, key steps and timelines

The objective of this project was to evaluate the impact of the work done together by the Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation and GA as part of the QILCP, in terms of its contribution to improving

the wellbeing of Yuwi people. Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (W-IE) methodology was adopted to achieve this aim. W-IE methodology has a proven record of measuring the ‘impact’ of a variety of different types of change (activities, project, programmes) in a variety of cultures and contexts, including the Indigenous Australian context.

The methodology required an understanding of Yuwi perceptions of the key factors contributing to their wellbeing, followed by gathering Yuwi perceptions of how the QILCP potentially affected these wellbeing influencing factors, to determine if the QILCP contributed to an overall change in Yuwi wellbeing (or not).

More specifically, W-IE methodology essentially consists of four steps (Figure 1). Step 1 is a development of the list of project relevant wellbeing factors, in a group/workshop environment. The objective of this Step is to arrive to a finite list of contributors to wellbeing that will be tested in Step 2, which involves data collection from Yuwi people, via face-to-face surveys. Data collected is then analysed by the research team members in Step 3, and reported back to the local community, funding organisations, and wider research community (Step 4).

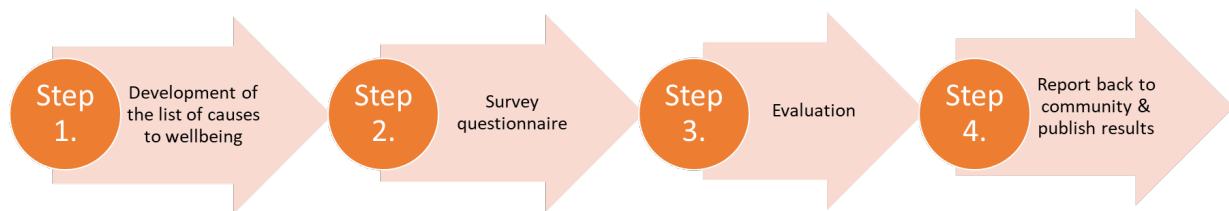


Figure 1. Project steps

The various agreed activities for this project were led by JCU and by GA. Activities led by JCU included: Obtaining Ethics approval for each phase of the project; Training of GA staff to conduct wellbeing mapping workshop (preparation for step 1); Analysis of step 1 information in preparation for data collection and training of Yuwi enumerators to conduct surveys (preparation for step 2); Data analysis (step 3); and Communication of results (step 4). Activities led by GA included: Wellbeing mapping workshop with Yuwi PRG (step 1); facilitation of survey collection process (step 2); and facilitation of regular communication and meetings with the Yuwi PRG members (throughout project and step 4).

This evaluation project was designed as a one-year project due to conclude in September 2024. Following the initiation of the Human Research Ethics process with the JCU Human Ethics Committee and GA staff training in October 2024, the first workshop with the Yuwi representatives was held in December 2023. Timeline of the project activities is visualised in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Timeline of the project

1.3 Ethical research approach

Research reported in this document has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research and was approved by the James Cook University Human Ethics Committee (approval number H9304).

In addition, each step of the project was co-designed with and approved by the Yuwi Project Reference Group (PRG). The principles of free and prior informed consent (FPIC) were followed at all times, and research work was guided by the objectives of the Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA) including adopting the CARE principles for Indigenous data governance (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics). Knowledge and information shared by Yuwi People is valued and has been protected throughout the project, and Yuwi people retain ownership of the data. As agreed with Yuwi PRG and approved by the JCU Human Ethics Committee, no data or information from the project is available for sharing beyond the project team without approval of the PRG.

2 Methodology

2.1 Conceptual approach

The research approach to this project is underpinned by the cyclical and integrated human-nature model presented in Figure 3 (based on Stoeckl et al., 2018). The basis of this cyclical approach is the acknowledgment that nature provides benefits to people via ecosystem services (right side of the figure), and that people also provide benefits to nature (left side). Ecosystem services have been defined as the benefits provided to humans through the transformations of resources (or environmental assets, including land, water, vegetation and atmosphere) into a flow of essential goods and services e.g. clean air, water, and food (Costanza et al., 1997). The services, or benefits, that people provide to nature comprise a wide range of actions, including stewardship, conservation and land management activities.

In the vocabulary of First Nations, Healthy Country (nature, top centre) gives a flow of services to people (ecosystem services, right) which help people to live better and healthier lives (bottom centre, Figure 3). Arrow on the left-hand, which goes from Healthy People to Healthy Country, explicitly acknowledges that human activities can benefit nature (e.g. through various stewardship and caring for Country activities), but can also harm it (e.g. through pollution, introduction of pests and weeds, etc.). In addition, and irrespective of benefits to nature, stewardship activities are also directly beneficial to people, that is, peoples wellbeing is improved when they are engaged in looking after Country activities (back arrow from Stewardship to Healthy people, Figure 3). When people are benefiting nature, benefits to people grow, and the circle of improved flows is enforced. Conversely, when people harm nature, the circle of benefits decreases, harming both Country and people.

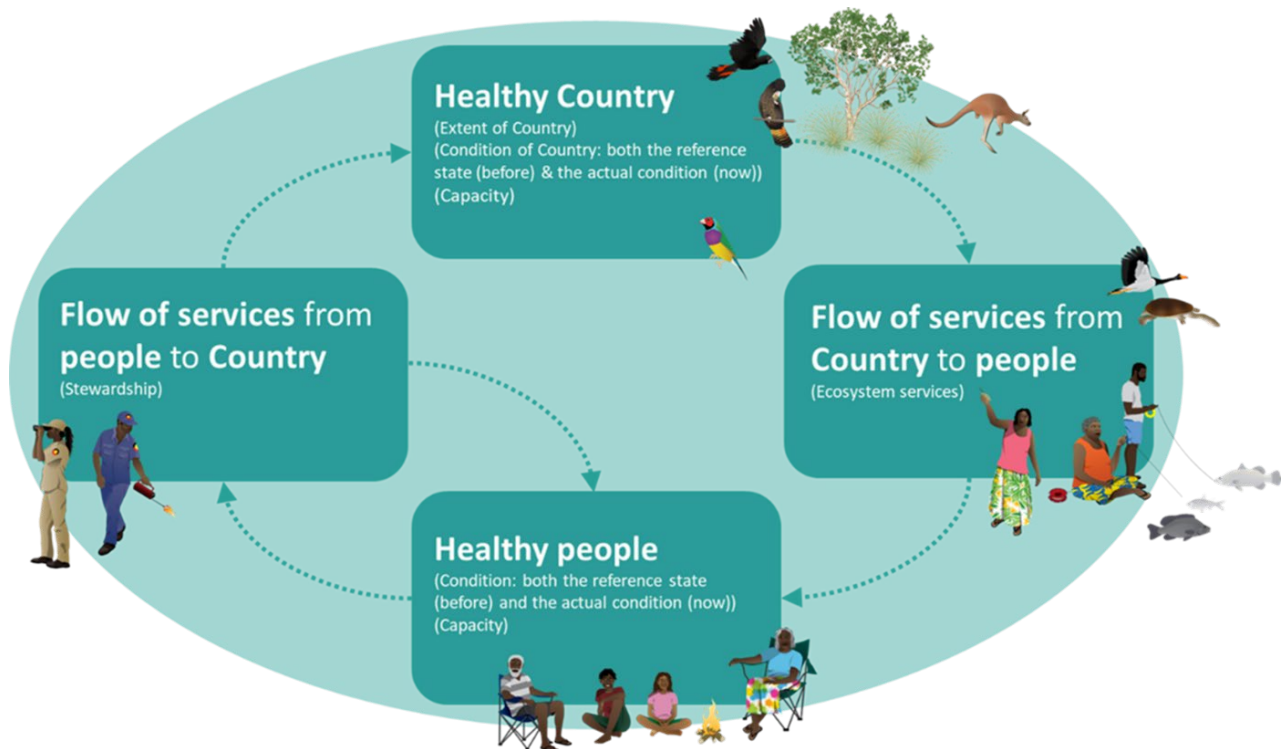


Figure 3. Our conceptual approach: integrated human-nature model (Symbols courtesy of the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, neslandscapes.edu.au)

2.2 Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (W-IE) methodology

Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (W-IE) methodology used in this study is a proven and effective way of measuring the ‘impact’ of a variety of different types of change (activities, project, programmes) in a variety of cultures and contexts (Larson et al., 2021). It has also been successfully applied in the Indigenous Australian context (Larson et al., 2018, 2020).

As indicated in Figure 1, W-IE methodology consists of four steps. Step 1 is a development of the list of project relevant wellbeing factors (WF), in a group/workshop environment. This step is essential in order to capture contributors to the wellbeing of true relevance to the case study group (in this case, Yuwi people). Review of the literature and previous studies indicate that some of the WF are shared by many, such as good health, education. Others, however, are very group/community/culture specific. The objective of this Step is to arrive at a finite list of contributors to wellbeing that will be tested in Step 2. The WF list addresses various economic, social and environmental factors deemed important and can include both individual (i.e. income, pride) and communal/social ones (i.e. strong community, sharing of traditional knowledge), and typically consist of about 20 factors. The finite list of WF (contributors to wellbeing) is then used in the development of the survey instrument for Step 2.

Step 2 of the W-IE method is collection of data from beneficiaries and community members, via a face-to-face survey process. The questionnaire is designed to collect perceptions of participants/community members about the impact that the project, potentially, had upon their overall wellbeing (using WF list in elicitation form agreed). The questionnaire is constructed to elicit the following key issues from each respondent:

- a) Identifying the most important wellbeing factors: picking up to 5-7 of the most important WF that contribute to his/her wellbeing: for those selected, on a scale of 0–10, deciding how important the factor is to their wellbeing;
- b) Perceptions of change (positive or negative change) in each of those factors, determined by asking respondents to tell us their satisfaction with each important factor (a) now, and also (b) 3 years previously (a period approximately preceding start of the QILCP project under study).
- c) Whenever a satisfaction change was reported, the respondents were asked what had happened to cause the change in satisfaction, qualitatively exploring (without prompting) if any changes were attributed to, or associated with, the project.

The questionnaire is administered by a team of enumerators, as an individual interview with each of the respondents.

The data collected is then analysed by the research team following the wellbeing-impact evaluation (W-IE) methodology (Figure 4). Numerical information provided directly from participants is shown in the peach coloured boxes (quantitative data) and the explanations provided by participants are shown in the green oval (qualitative data); information inferred from responses to direct questions is shown in blue italic text.

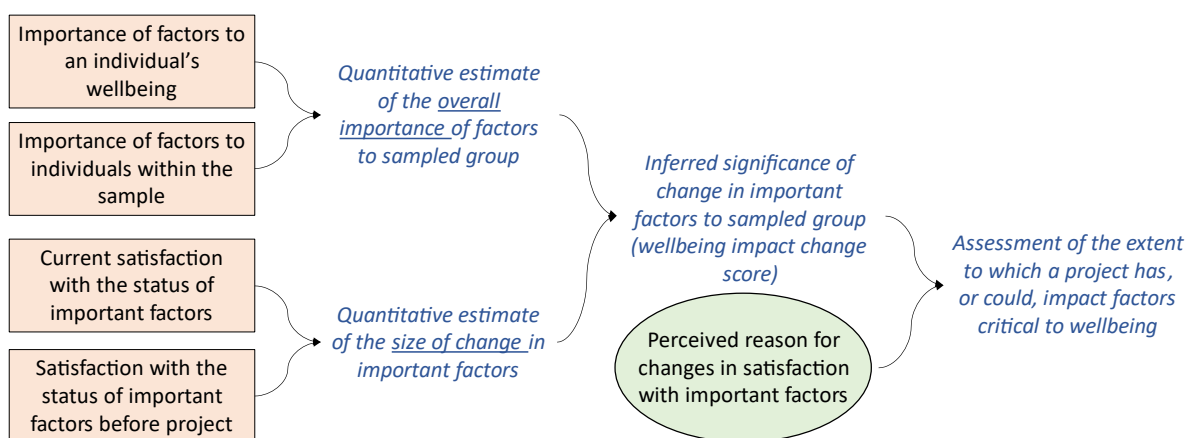


Figure 4. Wellbeing-based method for impact evaluation (W-IE)

W-IE scores are then calculated as follows:

$$\text{W-IE} = (\% \text{ selecting well-being factor} * \text{importance score}) * (\text{sat now} - \text{sat before})$$

where sat = Satisfaction

In the final, Step 4, results are collated and reported back to the community, funding organisations, and wider research community.

2.3 Capacity building

Training of the GA staff

Four GA staff members were trained in use of Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (W-IE) methodology. Training was conducted online over three days in October 2023. On the first, introduction day (Monday October 23rd), theoretical background of the conceptual approach and the methodology, as well as examples of the previous work done elsewhere, were presented. The objective of this day of the training was to give participants an understanding of the method to be used, but also what was planned to be done for this project, how and why.

Second day of the training (Tuesday October 24th) started with a revisit of learnings of day 1, and activities required for completing Step 1 – Determining the wellbeing factors list (Figure 1). GA participants then had two practical sessions on how to conduct wellbeing factors elicitation workshops. The objective of day 2 of the training was for the GA staff to feel (reasonably) confident that they can proceed with conducting Step 1 with the Yuwi PRG.

On the third day of the training (Friday October 27th), recap of the learnings was followed with the training on activities required for completing Step 2 – Preparations for and wellbeing data collection (Figure 1). Day 3 also included roleplay practice in data collection for Step 2, giving GA staff an opportunity to “experience” process of the primary data collection. The objective of this day was for the attendees to understand the data collection process, but also for the JCU and GA to agree on basic principles of primary data collections (methods, enumerator teams, locations, timelines) that will be proposed to Yuwi PRG.

Training of the enumerators

Three Yuwi people were selected by the PRG to be trained as project enumerators (enumerator is a person that collects data via survey questionnaire). It was deemed

appropriate to have the enumerator team drawn entirely from local Yuwi People. Including local Yuwi people in the process provides a range of benefits: (i) participants already know and trust these people and thus are more likely to be willing to participate, resulting in improved quality of results; and (ii) can help build research skills and capacity within the community, likely to be helpful for future research projects that the community gets involved in. From prior work, appropriate enumerators are young people (early 20s, both genders) who live in the community, who have reasonably literacy and IT skills, and who have some interest in the project without being direct beneficiaries. Enumerators were trained for the activities required for completing Step 2 – Wellbeing data collection via face-to-face interviews. This training was conducted online over two days in March 2024.

On the first day enumerators were introduced to the project (Figure 1) and conceptual approach (Figure 3). Ethics requirements and considerations were explained next, followed by the familiarisation with the survey materials. The day concluded with a role play practice, where one researcher played a role of the enumerator, and the other one of respondent. The objective of this day of the training was to give participants an understanding of the project, ethics requirements and survey materials. Day 2 consisted of clarifications and practice for data collection: each participant had an opportunity to be both an enumerator, and a respondent.

2.4 Data collection

Step 1: Elicitation of the Yuwi mental map of wellbeing

A focus group discussion (FGD) / workshop with Yuwi representatives was moderated by GA staff on 8th of December 2023 and was attended by 6 Yuwi people (1 man and 5 women). The objective of the FGD was to explore things that are important for the Yuwi people to have, in order to have a good life. Discussion was guided by the following question: “When you imagine “a good life” for Yuwi People, what do you think people need for a good life? What is a good life built from?”.

Participants were encouraged to record their ideas on the post-it notes. Once elicitation process was completed, mediators assisted the participants in grouping post-it notes with similar ideas into the same theme (Figure 5). Groupings were discussed with the participants and checked for accuracy, and each group was given a title.

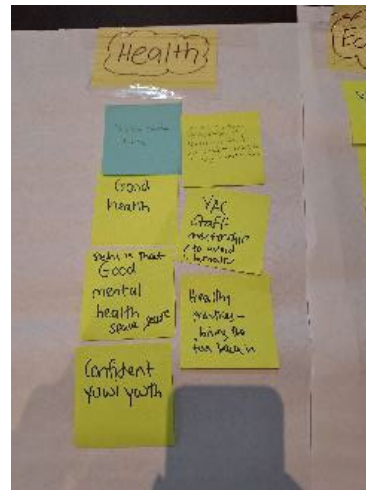
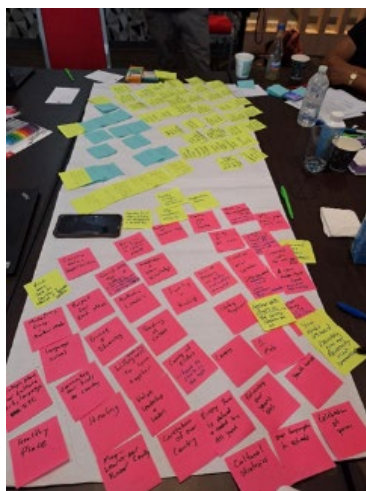


Figure 5. Focus group discussion with Yuwi participants

The output of this exercise was then analysed by the JCU researchers to create a mental model of the Yuwi wellbeing. The model was presented back to Yuwi participants for their input and suggestions and was approved by the PRG at a meeting on 16 February 2024, as a correct representation of the discussions in the December 2023 workshop.

Mental map as approved by the Yuwi PRG was used for the development of the survey instrument. Final survey instrument was approved by both JCU Human Ethics Committee and the Yuwi PRG. The key part of the survey was a list of 24 factors of potential importance for Yuwi wellbeing (Table 2), developed based on the Yuwi mental map (Figure 7).

Step 2: Wellbeing surveys

Data collection was conducted during an on-Country celebration day in May 2024, attended by about 40 Yuwi people, and continued with individual surveys during June. All Yuwi people were eligible for surveys, and participation was open to both people who have previously been engaged with the Greening Australia and QILCP, and those who have not. Yuwi survey participants were interviewed, face to face, by Yuwi enumerators (see Figure 6). Ethics documents consisting of the Participant information sheet, Project flyer (shown at Annex 2) and the Consent form were provided for each participant, and were explained prior to receiving the consent to proceed with the survey.

The aim of the survey was to have more than 30 people interviewed. However, at the end, only 19 people completed valid surveys, 11 women and 8 men. Key characteristics of the participants are presented in Table 1.

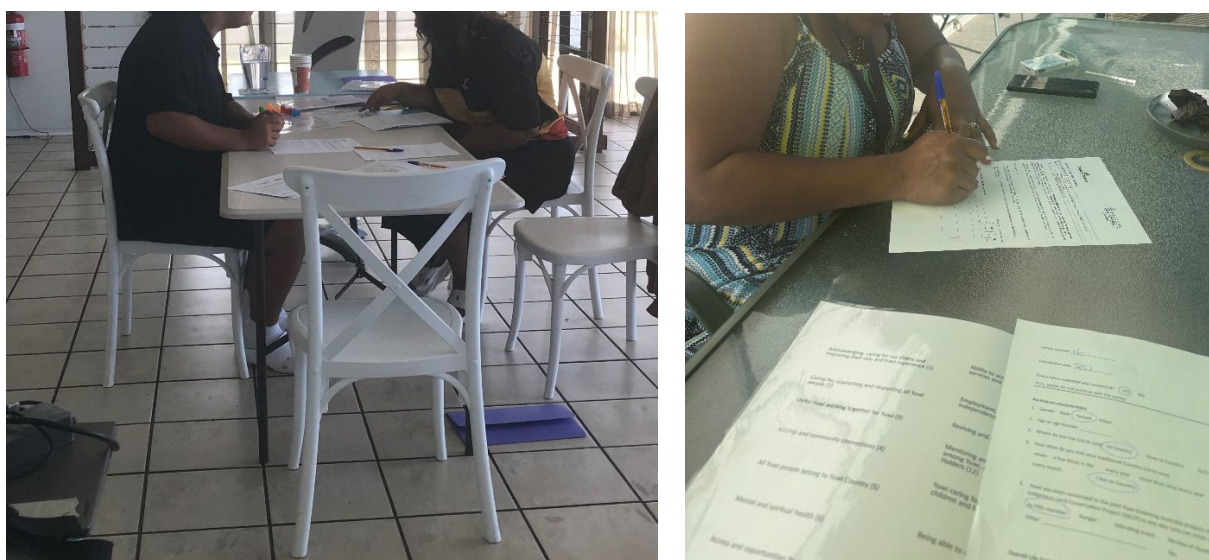


Figure 6. Survey activities conducted with Yuwi participants. Photo credit: Bayou Diamond

Table 1. Characteristics of the survey participants

Women	11
Men	8
Average age (youngest-oldest)	49 (19-75)

Residence	14
on country	0
close to country	4
Queensland	1
interstate	
Visiting country	
Never	0
a few times in life	0
every year	2
more than once a year	3
every month	0
live on country	14
Connection to Projects*	
PRG member	8
Ranger	6
Attending an event	7
Healthy Country planning	3
Knows someone connected	9

* can be more than one connection

3 Results

3.1 Mental map of Yuwi wellbeing

Mental map of the Yuwi wellbeing was developed by the participants during December workshop. A total of 121 statements (individual post-it notes) were recorded and organised by the participants into the following 11 themes:

- Sustainability
- Health
- Spiritual
- Education
- Country
- Unity
- Cultural
- Communication
- Kinship
- Community
- Core common ethics

Post-it notes and recordings of the workshop were analysed by JCU researchers, and the summary result is presented in Figure 7. Yuwi wellbeing is seen as resting on 11 core themes, which are supported by a larger number of factors that contribute to wellbeing.



Figure 7. Mental map of contributors to Yuwi wellbeing

The mental map developed was then used to create a list of factors of potential importance for Yuwi wellbeing. A final list of 24 factors used in the wellbeing survey is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. List of factors of potential importance for Yuwi wellbeing
with abbreviations used in this report

Factor as presented in the survey	Abbreviation
Acknowledging, caring for our Elders and respecting their role and lived experience (1)	Elders
Caring for, supporting and respecting all Yuwi people (2)	All Yuwi
Unity: Yuwi working together for Yuwi (3)	Unity
Kinship and community connections (4)	Kinship
All Yuwi people belong to Yuwi Country (5)	Belong to Country
Mental and spiritual health (6)	Health
Access and opportunities for healing on Country (7)	Healing on Country
Living a healthy life (8)	Healthy life
Ability to access health, education, other services and housing (9)	Access to services
Employment, financial freedom and independence (10)	Employment
Reviving and using Yuwi language (11)	Language
Mentoring and sharing traditional knowledge among Yuwi, and respecting Yuwi Knowledge Holders (12)	Sharing knowledge
Yuwi caring for Country and restoring it for children and future (13)	Caring for Country
Being able to access Country (14)	Access to Country
Valuing, respecting and knowing Country (15)	Valuing respecting C
Leadership in community and active participation in Projects (16)	Leadership
Feeling spiritual and physical connection to Country and culture (17)	Connection to Country
Opportunities for connecting Yuwi youth to Yuwi Country and culture, learning Yuwi ways (18)	Youth to Country
Yuwi youth supported for western education (19)	Youth W education
Inspiring Yuwi youth to be confident and celebrating being Yuwi (20)	Youth confident

Yuwi striving to be self-determined by leading, being heard and valued (21)	Self-determined
Strategy for Yuwi culture and culture centre (22)	Culture centre
Yuwi follow common ethics and values (e.g. respect needs to be reciprocal) (23)	Common ethics
Yuwi cultural and natural resources (24)	Resources

3.2 The most important contributors to wellbeing

The most important contributors to Yuwi wellbeing are presented in Table 3. *Acknowledging, caring for our Elders and respecting their role and lived experience* (Elders); and *Yuwi caring for Country and restoring it for children and future* (caring for Country), were both selected by the largest number of Yuwi respondents (each by 58% of all respondents). The top importance score of 10 points was given to factor *Inspiring Yuwi youth to be confident and celebrating being Yuwi* (Youth confident), and this factor was selected by 42% of respondents.

Table 3. Most important contributors to Yuwi wellbeing

#	Well-being factor	% selecting	Importance	Overall Importance score
13	Caring for Country	58	9.8	5.68
1	Elders	58	9.8	5.68
20	Youth confident	42	10.0	4.21
3	Unity	42	9.5	4.00
12	Sharing knowledge	37	9.7	3.58
14	Access to Country	37	9.3	3.42
16	Leadership	32	9.8	3.11
15	Valuing respecting C	32	9.8	3.11
9	Access to services	32	9.8	3.11
10	Employment	32	9.7	3.05
2	All Yuwi	32	9.7	3.05

3.3 Satisfaction with life overall and with wellbeing contributors

Overall life satisfaction of the Yuwi respondents has increased, on average, over the last 3 years, from the recall mean of 5.9 to the current mean of 7.4. Current Yuwi satisfaction level of 7.4 is higher than the Australian populations overall pre-Covid pandemic average of 7.2 (ABS General Social Survey data, last reported in 2020), and much higher than current life satisfaction estimates for Australia overall (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2024).

Factors (referred to using abbreviated names as shown in Table 2) recording the highest current levels of satisfaction (focusing on those receiving satisfaction scores higher than the overall life satisfaction score of 7.4 points out of 10) were: Language (satisfaction 8.7 out of 10), Healthy life (8.2), Connection to Country (8.0), Cultural and natural resources (8.0), and All Yuwi (7.5). Currently, Yuwi participants were least satisfied with the Unity (2.5), Access to services (3.3) and Common ethics (4.0).

Highest increase in satisfaction from 3 years ago to now (Table 4) was recorded for Kinship (3.5 point increase from 2.5 points to 6.0), followed by Self-determined, Youth confident, Elders, All Yuwi and Caring for Country, all of which recorded increases larger than 2.0 points.

The largest decreases in satisfaction over this time period was recorded for Access to Country (decrease of 1.1 point from 7.4 to 6.3), followed by decreases in satisfaction with the factors Unity, Common ethics, Access to services and Belong to Country (Table 4).

Table 4. Change in satisfaction with wellbeing contributors over the last 3 years

#	Well-being factor	Satisfaction now	Satisfaction before	Change in satisfaction
4	Kinship	6.0	2.5	3.5
21	Self-determined	5.7	2.3	3.3
20	Youth confident	5.9	3.4	2.5
1	Elders	6.5	4.0	2.5
2	All Yuwi	7.5	5.2	2.3
13	Caring for Country	6.4	4.3	2.1
5	Belong to Country	5.5	5.8	-0.3
9	Access to services	3.3	3.7	-0.3
23	Common ethics	4.0	4.5	-0.5
3	Unity	2.5	3.3	-0.8
14	Access to Country	6.3	7.4	-1.1

3.4 W-IE scores

Wellbeing-impact evaluation (W-IE) scores were calculated for each factor, and the complete table is presented in Annex 1.

Factors receiving the top ten W-IE scores are presented in Table 5. These are the factors that received the highest overall importance scores (being selected by high numbers of participants and given high importance scores) and high positive change in satisfaction (change in satisfaction from 3 years ago to now). Factors Elders, Caring for Country and Youth, all received scores higher than 10, and top the table.

Table 5. Wellbeing-impact evaluation (W-IE) scores: top ten wellbeing contributors

#	Well-being factor	Overall importance	Change in satisfaction	W-IE score
1	Elders	5.68	2.5	14.0
13	Caring for Country	5.68	2.1	11.9
20	Youth confident	4.21	2.5	10.5
2	All Yuwi	3.05	2.3	7.1
4	Kinship	2.00	3.5	7.0
15	Valuing respecting Country	3.11	1.7	5.2
10	Employment	3.05	1.7	5.1
21	Self-determined	1.42	3.3	4.7
17	Connection to Country	2.58	1.4	3.6
6	Health	2.32	1.4	3.2

In addition to providing importance and satisfaction scores, Yuwi respondents were asked to provide brief explanations for changes in their satisfaction with the factors they had selected as being of particular importance. The relative frequency with which words were used to describe positive sentiments can be seen in the word cloud below (Figure 8). Responses indicated feelings that Yuwi people, and particularly Yuwi youth, were now more involved with their culture and Country than in the past, that more opportunities were now available and that Yuwi are moving forwards.

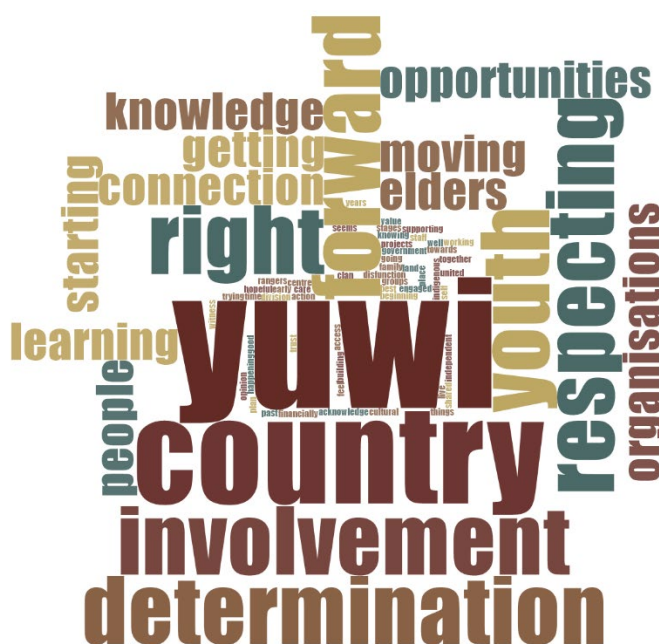


Figure 8. Word cloud indicating frequency of words used by Yuwi respondents when explaining changes in satisfaction scores over time that described positive sentiments

However, for five of the wellbeing contributors, participants reported lower overall satisfaction now, compared to 3 years ago. This negative change in satisfaction resulted in negative W-IE scores (Table 6 and Annex 1).

Table 6. Wellbeing-impact evaluation (W-IE) scores: factors receiving negative scores

#	Well-being factor	Overall importance	Change in satisfaction	W-IE score
23	Common ethics	0.89	-0.5	-0.4
5	Belong to Country	2.00	-0.3	-0.5
9	Access to services	3.11	-0.3	-1.0
3	Unity	4.00	-0.8	-3.0
14	Access to Country	3.42	-1.1	-3.9

Access to Country recorded the lowest W-IE score. It was selected by 37% of respondents, with an average importance score of 9.3 points. Although satisfaction with this factor remains relatively high at current 6.3 points, this is a drop of 1.1 points compared to reported past satisfactions of 7.4 points (Table 4). In the words of the participants, *“A lot of areas that have been accessible are not anymore”*; *“We can’t access our own land due to private land”*; *“A lot of locked gates and fences not allowing Yuwi to come in or on Country”*.

In contrast, second lowest scoring factor Unity, selected by 42% of respondents, with an average importance score of 9.5 points, has had and still has a very low satisfaction rating: it has dropped from the reported past satisfactions score of 3.3 points to current extremely low satisfaction score of 2.5 points (Table 4). One common and overwhelming comment received from participants in relation to this and several other factors was in relation to the ongoing conflict among Yuwi (*“too much conflict going on with Yuwi”*) and all the hardship Native Title determination has created, subtracting from the life satisfaction: *“Native title came with good and bad for Yuwi people, brought change and divide”*; (there is) ...*“a lot of hurt and distrust within Yuwi, past arguments with families. Being divided with money and disagreements”*.

“Lack of respect towards others” was noted as one of the reasons for lower scores of the Common ethics factor.

A word cloud focused on negative sentiments highlights these same themes, reflecting conflicts, disagreements and secrets between different Yuwi families, difficulties in accessing parts of Country, and difficulties in accessing housing services (Figure 9).

For a number of other factors, respondents made comments regarding improvements without explicitly linking these to GA, however the comments and context imply that GA and QILCP have contributed to the improvement, that is, there are implicit links revealed within the data over and above those explicit links. For the Employment factor, it was noted that “*a lot more opportunity*” is available now compared to before. For Yuwi youth, within Youth to Country factor it was noted “*more Yuwi youth involvement, more opportunities for Yuwi youth*”, and within Youth confident factor it was noted “*more youth involvement now than before*”. Whilst not directly attributing these increased opportunities and involvement to any particular source, these could be linked to the work that has been done by the QILCP with the Rangers, and around capacity, knowledge and skills building. This implicit link is reinforced by a comment within the Caring for Country factor, noting “*less knowledge 3 years ago*”. Another implicit link to GA and QILCP could be inferred from the response “*right people, right place, right time*” as contributing to improved satisfaction with Caring for Country.

W-IE scores and their implicit and explicit link to Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Projects (QILCP) are visualised in Figure 10. Factors receiving high overall importance scores are located higher on the importance (vertical) axis; while horizontal axis represents change in satisfaction from negative change (left hand side) to positive change (right hand side). Factors that were explicitly linked to projects by study participants are indicated by darker shade, while those highlighted in lighter shade are implicitly linked.

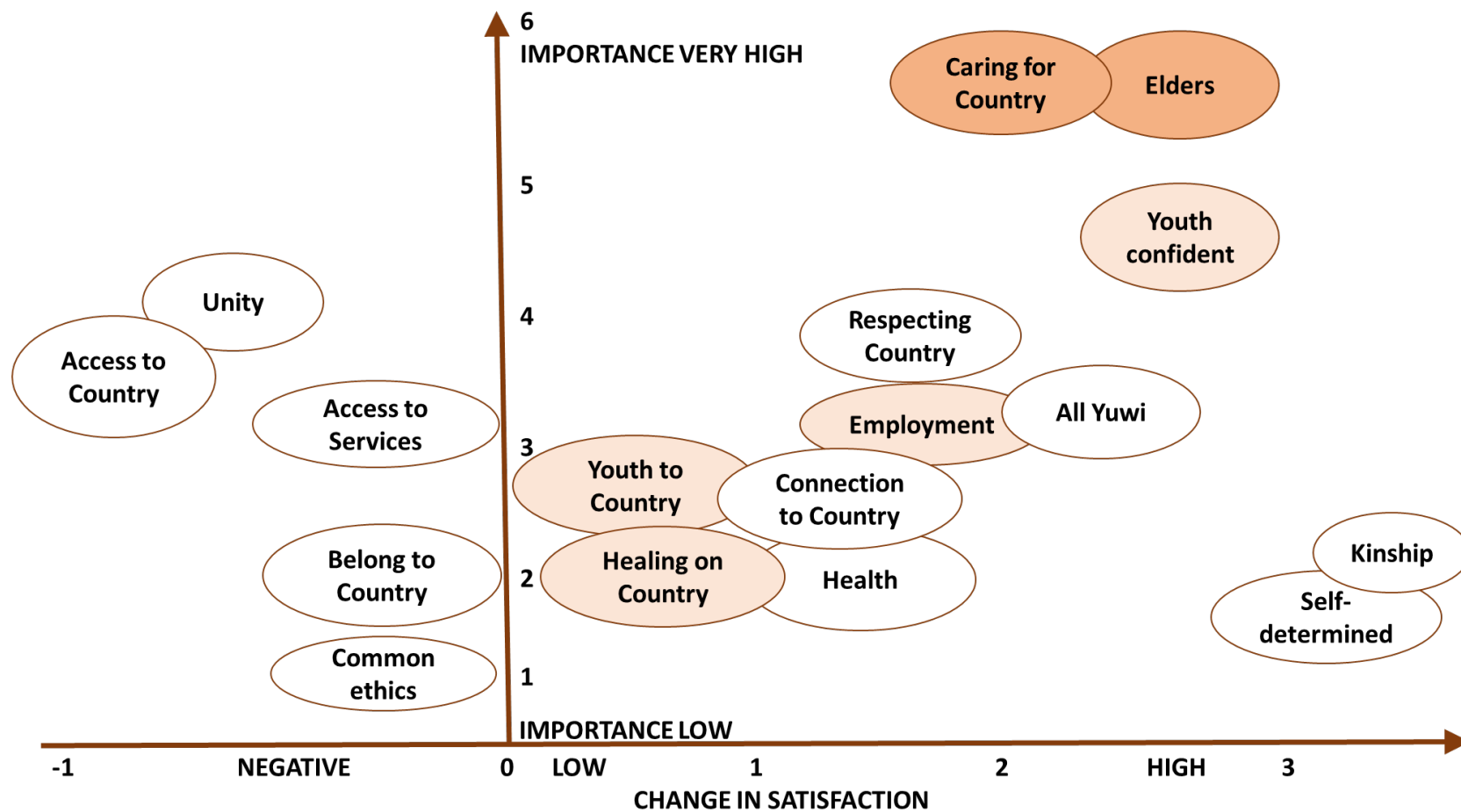


Figure 10. Visual mapping of wellbeing factors perceived by respondents as linked to Greening Australia and/or QILCP projects.

Wellbeing factors are organised in accordance with their importance (vertical axis) and change in satisfaction (horizontal axis). Explicit link to projects is indicated by darker shade; implicit link in lighter shade; factors not linked by participants to QILCP and GA in white.

Figure presents selection of factors receiving highest and lowest W-IE scores, and factors linked to GA-QILCP

3.6 Linking W-IE scores and QILCP to changes in overall wellbeing

The purpose of our final analysis was to better understand the change in overall wellbeing (using the overall life satisfaction score as a proxy measure), to understand the impact that each of the wellbeing factors, and particularly those linked to QILCP, have had on overall wellbeing.

The mental model of wellbeing (section 3.1) from which the list of wellbeing contributors was developed, sought to capture everything important to Yuwi wellbeing; hence the overall change in wellbeing should be explainable by changes in those factors, weighting the changes in satisfaction of each factor by the relative importance of each factor (that is, the W-IE score).

Overall life satisfaction 3 years ago was scored at 5.9 on average, rising to an average score of 7.4 now, an improvement of 1.53 points on the scale (as described in section 3.3). The amount and percentage of this change relating to the relative change in each factor was calculated, with the results shown in Table 7 and depicted in Figure 11.

This analysis shows that 0.88 points in the life satisfaction (LS) scale, amounting to 15% of the opening LS score, could be attributable to improvements in the wellbeing contributors directly or indirectly linked to QILCP. Thus, without QILCP, the wellbeing of Yuwi people, on average, would be lower than it is today. It should be noted that the increases linked to QILCP cannot be entirely attributed to the program, but due to the reported linkage, QILCP has played a meaningful role in the improved scores reported.

Table 7. Change in overall life satisfaction attributed to the wellbeing contributors.

Percentage of change in overall life satisfaction that is ...	LS score change explained	% of LS change explained	% of opening LS score represented by change
Linked to QILCP	0.88	57%	15%
Linked to other factors that had positive impact	0.82	54%	14%
Linked to other factors that had negative impact	-0.17	-11%	-3%
Overall change	1.53	100%	26%

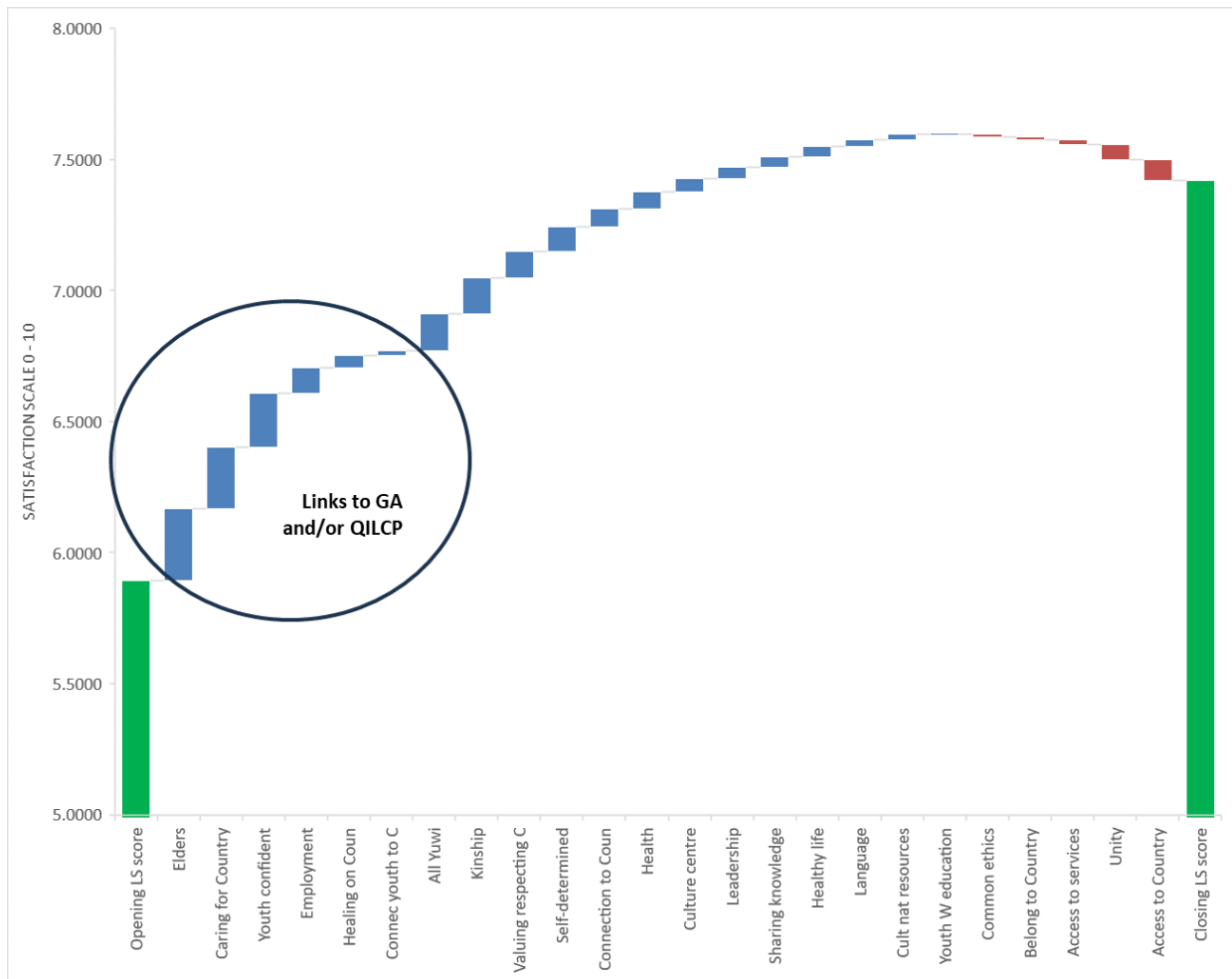


Figure 11. Figure illustrating the contribution made by each of the wellbeing factors towards the change in overall life satisfaction scores of Yuwi community members.

The proportion of change relating to those factors having a positive impact on wellbeing are shown in blue; proportion of change due to factors having a negative impact are shown in red; and opening LS (3 years ago) and closing LS (now) are shown in green.

4 Conclusions and recommendations

The PRG, representing Yuwi people, conceptualised that overall Yuwi wellbeing was dependent on 11 different domains, with these domains underpinned by 24 different factors. Surveys were then utilised to collect information on these factors, and perceptions of QILCP impact, directly from members of the Yuwi community, the intended beneficiaries of the program. The scoring of the importance of the 24 factors by the Yuwi community allowed us to understand the relative importance of each factor, and hence the importance of related impacts. The Yuwi community also rated their satisfaction with those 24 factors before and after the program, and provided qualitative responses to questions about perceived reasons for changes in satisfaction. These reasons allowed us to determine whether any of the change could be directly or indirectly attributed to the activities of GA and/or QILCP. Combining importance and satisfaction parameters permitted us to infer the significance of change, in terms of its potential ability to impact overall wellbeing.

'Elders' and 'Caring for Country' were identified as very important to wellbeing by the largest percentage of the Yuwi respondents. These were also the factors calculated to have the highest W-IE scores (based on importance and satisfaction scores). Furthermore, these two factors, were also the factors most strongly linked to GA and QILCP. Four other factors, Youth confident, Employment, Youth to Country and Healing on Country, were indirectly linked to QILCP, and these factors also had positive impacts on Yuwi wellbeing.

The highest satisfaction scores now were awarded to the factors 'Language' and to 'Healthy life'. However, the scores for these factors now did not differ greatly from the recall scores for 3 years ago, which reduces the W-IE scores for these factors as the high scores cannot relate to the program being evaluated. Indeed, these factors were not linked to QILCP by the respondents. Those factors with the largest improvements in satisfaction scores were 'Kinship', 'Self-determined', 'Youth confident' and 'Elders', and this strong increase does contribute to a high W-IE score, with all four factors featuring in the top 10 W-IE calculated.

Overall wellbeing of Yuwi people was reported to improve over the period, from an average recall score of 5.9 three years ago, to 7.4 now (for the proxy measure overall life satisfaction). This is a total increase of 1.53 points in life satisfaction, and 0.88 of this (57% of the change) is due to those factors directly or indirectly linked to GA and QILCP.

Based upon the analysis reported on in this project evaluation, we conclude that GA and QILCP have played a significant role in improving the wellbeing of Yuwi people. QILCP activities over the last three years have positively impacted on a number of the factors contributing to Yuwi wellbeing, including those things that were rated by Yuwi as being the most important to them.

It was noted that for a number of factors ('Unity', 'Access to Country', 'Access to services', 'Belong to Country' and 'Common ethics'), the satisfaction with those factors had declined over the period being evaluated, resulting in a negative W-IE score. Thus, these factors have had negative impacts on the overall wellbeing of Yuwi people over the last three years. Whilst none of these factors were linked to GA and/or to QILCP, we would recommend that consideration be given in future collaborations to trying to include activities in programs that may help address these factors. If the trend of declining satisfaction with the factors could be reversed, then this would improve Yuwi wellbeing. We also note that satisfaction scores for factors 'Youth to Country' and 'Culture centre', although slightly increased in relation to recall 3 years ago, are relatively low. The two wellbeing areas are hence also suggested for future work and improvements.

It should also be noted that this analysis is based upon a small number of surveys (nineteen in total) collected during interviews with members of the Yuwi community. This small sample size is acknowledged as a limitation of this work.

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Annex 1. Wellbeing-impact evaluation score calculations

#	Well-being factor	% (a)	Imp (b)	Overall Imp		Sat before	Sat Change	W-IE (g) =
				(c) = (a.b)	Sat now (d)	(e)	(f) = (d-e)	(c.f)
1	Elders	57.9	9.8	5.68	6.5	4.0	2.5	14.0
2	All Yuwi	31.6	9.7	3.05	7.5	5.2	2.3	7.1
3	Unity	42.1	9.5	4.00	2.5	3.3	-0.8	-3.0
4	Kinship	22.2	9.0	2.00	6.0	2.5	3.5	7.0
5	Belong to Country	21.1	9.5	2.00	5.5	5.8	-0.3	-0.5
6	Health	26.3	8.8	2.32	5.0	3.6	1.4	3.2
7	Healing on Country	15.8	9.0	1.42	7.3	5.7	1.7	2.4
8	Healthy life	26.3	9.6	2.53	8.2	7.4	0.8	2.0
9	Access to services	31.6	9.8	3.11	3.3	3.7	-0.3	-1.0
10	Employment	31.6	9.7	3.05	6.8	5.2	1.7	5.1
11	Language	15.8	9.0	1.42	8.7	7.7	1.0	1.4
12	Sharing knowledge	36.8	9.7	3.58	6.7	6.1	0.6	2.0
13	Caring for Country	57.9	9.8	5.68	6.4	4.3	2.1	11.9
14	Access to Country	36.8	9.3	3.42	6.3	7.4	-1.1	-3.9

#	Well-being factor	% (a)	Imp (b)	Overall Imp		Sat before	Sat Change	W-IE (g) =
				(c) = (a.b)	Sat now (d)	(e)	(f) = (d-e)	(c.f)
15	Valuing respecting C	31.6	9.8	3.11	6.7	5.0	1.7	5.2
16	Leadership	31.6	9.8	3.11	6.2	5.5	0.7	2.1
17	Connection to Country	26.3	9.8	2.58	8.0	6.6	1.4	3.6
18	Youth to Country	26.3	8.8	2.32	4.8	4.4	0.4	0.9
19	Youth W education	21.1	8.8	1.84	7.0	7.0	0.0	0.0
20	Youth confident	42.1	10.0	4.21	5.9	3.4	2.5	10.5
21	Self-determined	15.8	9.0	1.42	5.7	2.3	3.3	4.7
22	Culture centre	21.1	10.0	2.11	4.5	3.3	1.3	2.6
23	Common ethics	10.5	8.5	0.89	4.0	4.5	-0.5	-0.4
24	Resources	10.5	9.0	0.95	8.0	7.0	1.0	0.9

Annex 2. Project Flyer

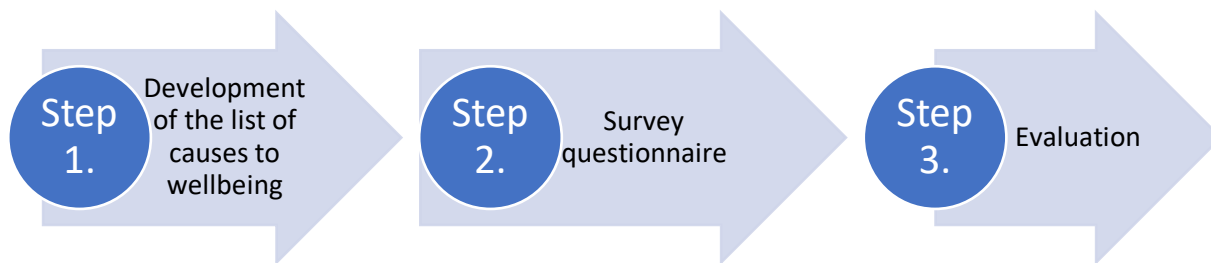
Wellbeing Impact Evaluation of Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Projects with Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation

Introduction to the project

This project is an evaluation of the Queensland Indigenous Land Conservation Projects (QILCP) delivered by Greening Australia (GA) in collaboration with the Yuwi People, supported by James Cook University (JCU).

The evaluation is based on the understanding that healthy country and healthy people are connected, with people caring for Country and Country also caring for Yuwi people.

The evaluation will use Wellbeing – Impact Evaluation (W-IE) methodology, a proven and effective way of measuring the ‘impact’ of various projects to people’s wellbeing.



Step 1. Development of the list of causes to wellbeing/ Completed Dec-23

In the first step, we captured the causes to wellbeing that might be important to Yuwi people. GA has conducted a workshop with representatives of the Yuwi people, including Directors and nominated people from the Project Reference Group. Participants create a “map” of Yuwi wellbeing, guided by the question, “What is a good life built from?” This map of factors contributing to Yuwi wellbeing, developed in Step 1, is presented at the back of this information sheet.

Step 2. Survey questionnaire / March 2024

Based on the Yuwi wellbeing map (from Step 1), a survey was designed for the wider Yuwi community people involved in the QILCP either directly or indirectly (e.g., they know about Yuwi projects).

The survey will ask people what, in their own view, are the most important causes to wellbeing and will measure how satisfied they are. Yuwi community members have been trained as research assistants and will be the ones asking questions and recording the answers.

Step 3: Evaluation / April-May 2024

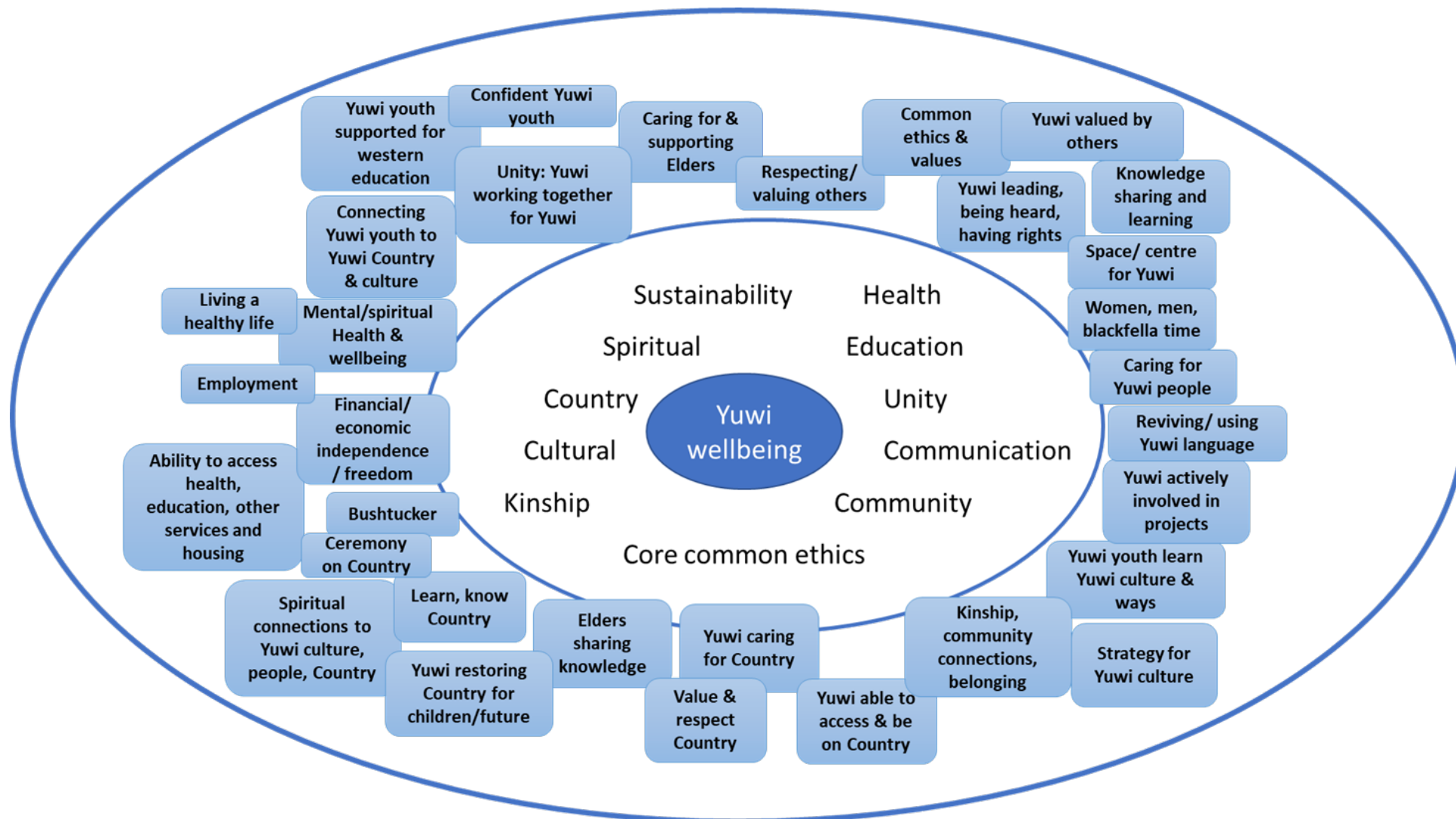
Links between wellbeing and QILCP activities will then be explored. Findings of the study will be summarised by JCU researchers and provided back to Yuwi people.

For more information

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JCU: Dr Diane Jarvis
diane.jarvis1@jcu.edu.au

This study is being delivered in partnership with the Yuwi Project Reference Group, Greening Australia and James Cook University with funding from Greening Australia. The project is being delivered under approval of the James Cook University Human Research Ethics Committee.



MAP OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YUWI WELLBEING