

## THE AUSTRALIAN

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# Indigenous land care promoted abroad

AAP JUNE 21, 2012 7:46AM

**AUSTRALIAN indigenous people's knowledge on managing the environment will be shared through a new global network announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard.**

Ms Gillard made the announcement on the sidelines of the United Nations sustainable development conference Rio+20, which began in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

The network, to be kickstarted with a conference in Darwin in May 2013, will also involve Brazil, Norway and New Zealand.

About 700 indigenous people work in Australia using their traditional knowledge, under the Working on Country Program, to manage more than 1.5 million square kilometres of land and sea.

"The program will help share ancient environmental traditions with communities across the globe," Ms Gillard said.

The rangers work on such things as surveys, permit issuing for traditional hunting and eliminating pests.

Representatives of the Ardyaloon people of northwest Western Australia attended the launch in Rio.

Ms Gillard will formally address the UN summit on Thursday afternoon (Brazilian time).