

**35TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, PARIS
KAKADU WORLD HERITAGE AREA – AUSTRALIA**

**Statement by Mr Jeffrey Lee, senior traditional owner of the Djok (Gundjeihmi) clan, to
the World Heritage Committee**

Gundjeihmi

Ngaye nga-djare manjbun ngudberre nawu ngurri-worhnan World Heritage Committee bu ngurri-ngeinameng gun-red ngarduk gure World Heritage List. Manjbun bu ngurri-wokdi anekke-gen dja gamak gandi-bek kang gun-wok ngarduk. Nga-djalmadbom gun-guyeng dja nga-njilngmak bu nga-bekkan wanjh gandi-bidyigarrme ba garri-djarrkbolknahnan.

Barri-gukbulerri nawu gun-mogurrurrbuiga gure Kakadu yiman ga-yime barri-Mirarr ngandi-bidyigarrme rouk, dja Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation warridj, nawu bolkkime garrim-djarrkwam gonhda.

Ngaye nga-djare nawu an-garre ngadberre, gun-red, an-me, gun-dulk, gukku gure Gun.garra ga-djaldi munguih-munguih yiman ga-yime gerrngehgen bu bolkyibolkyimi gun-gare bu na-gorngumo dja mawahmawa ngarduk ngandi-yibolkbawong. Bu garri-bolkneiname gure World Heritage wanjh ga-mak garri-bolknahnan munguiyh-munguiyh.

English

I would like to thank the World Heritage Committee for inscribing Koongarra, my country, on the World Heritage List. Thank you for talking about this and for listening to my words. I have waited a very long time for this to happen and it comes as a very happy feeling for me to see all of us looking after this place.

I am supported by all the Bininj clans of Kakadu and most particularly by neighbouring clans such as the Mirarr People, through their representative body the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, representatives of which are here with me at this meeting.

I want to ensure that the traditional laws, customs, sites, bush tucker, trees, plants and water at Koongarra stay the same as when they were passed on to me by my father and great-grandfather. Inscribing the land at Koongarra as World Heritage is an important step in making this protection lasting and real.