

Government Jabiluka Report an International Embarrassment

19 April 1999

Two of the Aboriginal women at the forefront of the fight to stop the Jabiluka uranium mine within Kakadu National Park have been awarded the world's biggest environmental prize.

The Goldman Environmental Prize, which carries a cash prize of \$US100,000 (approximately \$A160,000) will be jointly awarded to Yvonne Margarula and Jacqui Katona.

Yvonne Margarula is Senior Traditional Owner of the Mirrar people, the sole Traditional Owners for the land on which the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine is being developed.

Jacqui Katona is Executive Officer of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, an organisation managed and controlled by the Mirrar people.

After receiving their award in San Francisco tomorrow morning (Australian time) the two women will fly to Washington D.C. for a round of meetings with U.S. and international political leaders.

Previous award winners have met with the President of the United States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Due to the current Kosovo crisis, Ms Margarula and Ms Katona's meeting times will not be confirmed until later this week.

The award demonstrates the growing level of international awareness and support for the fight to save Mirrar culture from the devastating impact of a second unwanted uranium mine on Mirrar country.

The cash prize is to be donated by Ms Katona and Ms Margarula to the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation to finance the continuing Mirrar campaign against the Jabiluka mine.

For more information and interviews with Ms Katona and Ms Margarula contact Matt Fagan on (0417) 814470.

For more information on the Goldman Prize visit: www.goldmanprize.org