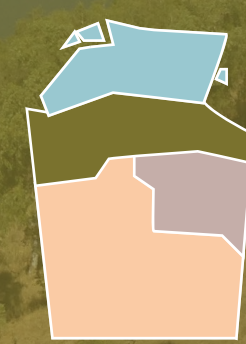


# Gulf Savanna Region

Northern Territory

# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



2021-2025



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# Program 1: Managing Fire







Fire is our primary tool for managing Gulf Savanna natural resources at the landscape scale.

In 2021 we now have a much better understanding of how fire interacts with other threats across the landscape, facilitating the establishment of some Gulf Savanna weeds and intensifying the impacts of feral predators. In 2018 and 2019 we saw the destructive impacts of large unplanned fires following extended dry seasons and reduced rainfall.

We have successfully begun to modify fire regimes across some parts of the Gulf Savanna but there is still much that we need to learn to better protect and enhance our natural assets and values through fire management. We know that we will need to manage fire at a finer scale and require the right tools to be able to do so.













The overall objective of this program is to build the capacity of land managers to manage fire more effectively drawing

upon the best available knowledge and tools. We need to apply our knowledge of leading practices more widely. And to better manage fire at the landscape scale we must continue to engage diverse stakeholders through sub regional cross-tenure collaborative planning and implementation.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Landscape managers have increased understanding of the interaction of fire with cultural, biodiversity and production values and improved risk-management of climatic and other dynamic threats	<b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>1.1</b> Increase application of fire management techniques that promote biodiversity and ecosystem function and minimise risk to infrastructure and human health across the Gulf Savanna	<b>1.1.1</b> Research the impacts of fire regimes on ecosystem health, developing indicators for ongoing monitoring and communicate and adapt management approaches  <b>1.1.2</b> Build the capacity of fire managers to measure the ecological impacts of fire to improve our knowledge base and introduce fire management goals at a finer scale (i.e. specific to ecosystem type).  <b>1.1.3</b> Support tools and communication products to inform community about fire management  <b>1.1.4</b> Increase and support the collaboration of fire planning and burning with Traditional Owners and using Traditional Knowledge in fire management	Tools and methods are identified that will enable land managers to track the impact of fire management at a finer scale	     



# Program 1: Managing Fire

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Fire management is being planned and impacts monitored across the Top End utilising leading edge technologies.	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>1.2</b> Increase use of spatial fire management tools, knowledge systems, safe burning practices and equipment throughout the Gulf Savanna	<b>1.2.1</b> Provide more firefighting equipment (and sharing of resources) to rangers, pastoralists and other land managers. <b>1.2.2</b> Support land managers to improve their capacity to utilise new developments of NAFI and other GIS fire planning tools	The equipment needs, capacity gaps and opportunities to introduce improved technologies to the Gulf Savanna have been identified	     
Increased discussion, deliberation and agreement of annual strategies between landscape managers promotes heterogenous patchy burning and reduces the frequency of catastrophic wildfires	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>1.3</b> Collaborative approaches to strategic fire management are extended across the Gulf Savanna region	<b>1.3.1</b> Continue and further develop multi stakeholder fire management working groups to plan cross tenure fire management <b>1.3.2</b> Focus on implementing improved fire management in heavily burned areas such as Southern Arnhem Land, Roper Gulf and Victoria River District <b>1.3.3</b> Conduct annual reviews and implementation of fire plans at a regional level <b>1.3.4</b> Continue to strengthen the role of Bushfires NT and particularly the support they give to landholders to help protect life and property in the NT	Fire planning in the Gulf Savanna engages neighbouring properties/tenures	   
Policies and opportunities to economically benefit from fire drives integrated strategic management across the Gulf Savanna	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>1.4</b> Promote policies and market forces that support collaborative fire management approaches providing social/cultural benefit in the Gulf Savanna	<b>1.4.1</b> Develop and lobby for adoption of clear policies that support market-based approaches (i.e. carbon credits) to collaborative fire management. <b>1.4.2</b> Increase communication of fire management success to funding bodies. <b>1.4.3</b> Use fire management as a tool to maintain and support access to and cultural connection to country	The social and cultural benefits of collaborative fire management are being effectively communicated to policy makers and other stakeholders	 



# Program 1: Managing Fire

## Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of people and organisations involved in collaborative fire management programs
- Trends in fire extent and seasonality in areas with collaborative fire management programs
- Trends in fire extent and severity monitored and reported
- Number of regions planning for and implementing optimum fire regimes
- Number of Traditional Owners involved in fire management
- Economic contribution of fire management activities to regional and remote areas

## Key Collaborators

Aboriginal ranger groups, pastoralists, NTG (Bushfires NT), northern Australian Fire Information (NAFI) service, Northern Land Council, NTG (Parks and Wildlife), researchers, regional Shires.

We haven't been here managing fire and so destructive fires have come. We have to find new ways to make this country healthy, so with scientist friends we studied fire in the different seasons. We proved that if we burn in patches and at different times of day we can control the spread and intensity of fires. This makes our soils and plants healthy again.





## Program 2: Preventing and managing weeds

Our program for managing the impacts of weeds across the Gulf Savanna builds upon the momentum and the stakeholder capacity developed during the 2016-2020 plan implementation period. It aligns closely with the new Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026.

Critically, we will focus on developing capacity to identify and respond to new and 'alert' weeds which threaten to enter the region.










We will support industry partnerships and capacity for collaborative action to strategically manage the spread of existing priority weeds at a landscape scale. We will also

promote in continuing research and trialling of techniques to identify leading practices in weeds management and communicate findings to enable increasingly adaptive management

We will to raise public awareness about the threat posed by weeds through community education and outreach.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
A 'working together' approach reduces the establishment, spread and adverse impacts of weeds across the Gulf Savanna	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>2.1</b> Collaborative approaches strategically control high priority weed species in the Gulf Savanna region in implementation of the Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026	<p><b>2.1.1</b> Strengthen the regional approach to weed management through the Katherine Regional Weeds Reference Group, encouraging collaboration between multiple stakeholders, and ongoing review of management effectiveness</p> <p><b>2.1.2</b> Implement integrated management actions for control of identified priority weeds as described in the Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026, with reference to defined priority landscape areas.</p>	Stakeholders are working together to plan weed management at the catchment scale	   
Pathways for the introduction of new weeds and spread of priority weeds are monitored, and practical and cost effective management solutions minimise weed spread	<b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>2.2</b> Prevent the introduction of 'alert weeds' and spread of priority weeds, as defined in the Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy	<p><b>2.2.1</b> Implement 'Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026' so that pathways of weed spread are monitored for weed prevention and early detection</p> <p><b>2.2.2</b> Monitor and manage for 'alert weed' incursions in the region in partnership with QLD and WA</p> <p><b>2.2.3</b> Prioritise rapid response to detected outbreaks of 'alert weeds'. Increase skills and participation of land managers to identify and report priority weeds</p>	There is common understanding and agreement on how pathways for the introduction of 'alert weeds' will be monitored, and leading practices to control the spread of priority weeds	    

## Program 2: Preventing and managing weeds

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved	
Best practice, including new innovative tools, are adopted throughout the region and delivering improved strategic management of weeds	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  2.3 Continue to improve adaptive weed management through monitoring, research, utilising data, training and capacity building	2.3.1 Identify knowledge gaps to prioritise future research and link to improving the capacity of weed management stakeholders	New research and trials are underway to address identified knowledge gaps		
		2.3.2 Trial new weed management techniques and communicate results with land managers			
		2.3.3 Promote and improve the skills and tools available to record and interpret data on weed distributions and treatment (eg. NT weedmate app, Drones, etc.) and standardise data collection where applicable			
		2.3.4 Increase the effort and resources put into measuring management effectiveness of weed control and utilise information to continually improve weed management practices			
Community awareness of weeds and the threats they pose, together with the increased capacity to manage them, improves their strategic management	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>  2.4 Increase the region's awareness of its priorities and capacity to manage the impacts of weeds	2.4.1 Implement education and awareness programs on weed ID and control for land managers, contractors and community members in the region	A communications strategy has been developed to support delivery of the Katherine Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026		
		2.4.2 Raise awareness of 'alert weeds', as potential high impact weeds should they become established			
		2.4.3 Provide training for land managers in effective control methods and strategic weed management approaches			
		2.4.4 Communicate weed management success stories to the wider community to encourage support and further activity			

## Program 2: Preventing and managing weeds

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of priority weeds being strategically managed at the catchment scale
- Number of groups/individuals involved in weed spread prevention
- Availability of communication materials for stakeholders
- Extent of utilisation of weed distribution data by natural resource managers
- Effectiveness of weed management effort and presence of adaptive management processes

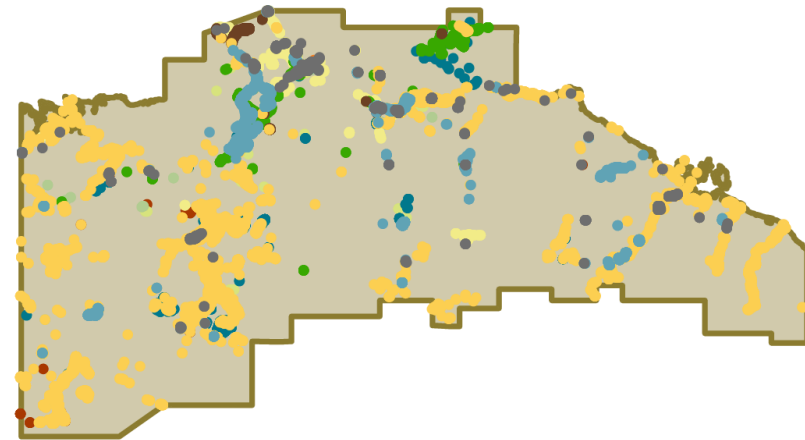
### Key Collaborators

NTG (Weeds Branch), Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA), Roper River Landcare, pastoralists, Aboriginal ranger groups, NTG (Parks and Wildlife), Northern Land Council, Defence, researchers, TNRM, private landholders.

### Weeds

Priority Weed Distributions (Class A's)

- Bellyache Bush
- Chinee Apple
- Devils Claw
- Gamba Grass
- Grader Grass
- Mesquite
- Mimosa
- Neem
- Parkinsonia
- Prickly Acacia
- Snakeweed spp



Source: NT Government – Weeds Branch

VRDCA is passionate about creating a better future for the next generation of land managers. By working together and a commitment to take positive action, VRDCA is making a difference to the environmental, social and economic value of the region.

”













# Program 3: Reducing the impacts of feral animals

Feral animals continue to have a significant impact on both the ecological health of Gulf Savanna landscapes and on their economic productivity. Together with fire, feral animals are understood to play a primary role in degrading natural habitats. Disturbance by grazing herbivores or intense fires deprives small mammals of food and shelter and exposes them to feral cat predation. Large herbivores like horses and buffaloes degrade ground cover and expose soils to












erosion. Pigs and buffalo can damage valuable freshwater systems and coastal plains. They accentuate the impacts of climatic extremes and spread weeds.

Consequently, the primary objective for this program is to develop an effective Gulf Savanna feral animal strategy, which is needed to coordinate action if the impact of feral animals is to be reduced at a landscape scale.

We will raise awareness about feral animal damage and support the development of leading practices for their control and management. We will promote the adoption of coordinated approaches to feral animal management through collaborative planning and the sharing of knowledge and data. Furthermore the program will ensure land managers have accurate information to make decisions about the economic opportunities arising from feral herbivore harvest.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Feral animal control programs are prioritised and targeted through risk-based approaches set out in a Gulf Savanna feral animal strategy that establishes an agreed understanding of the problem, and shared recognition of key values that require protection.	<b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b>  3.1 Strengthen regional feral management programs through coordinated and collaborative action	3.1.1 Develop a Gulf Savanna regional feral animal strategy that establishes a risk-based approach to the prioritisation and management of feral animal impacts	Key stakeholders have been engaged through a working group supporting the development of a regional feral animal strategy	      
		3.1.2 Establish a multi-stakeholder group to support implementation of landscape scale feral animal management approaches		
		3.1.3 Plan and undertake regional meetings with key stakeholders leading effective collaboration between Fire, Weed and Feral programs		
Monitoring data from a range of sources consistently informs and guides strategic action in feral management programs	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  3.2 Use common measures and analysis to monitor, evaluate, report on and adapt the feral management program	3.2.1 Develop field indicators that can be readily used by land managers to quantify the damage and impact of feral herbivores	The tools and methods exist to produce an improved, finer scale understanding of the impact of feral animals within the region	  
		3.2.2 Act to liaise with, and implement, key Commonwealth feral animal strategies (e.g. The National Feral Pig Action Plan 2021)		
		3.2.3 Undertake surveys to establish trends and engage support from diversified funding sources for priority areas in the Gulf Savanna region		

# Program 3: Reducing the impacts of feral animals

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Innovative feral control techniques are being applied to cats, cane toads, horses and donkeys in the Gulf Savanna	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  3.3 Support research and innovation in techniques, training and motivation to control feral animals	<p>3.3.1 Communicate to a range of stakeholders the importance of horse and donkey control on indigenous and pastoral land</p> <p>3.3.2 Support Commonwealth initiatives trialling feral cat control techniques and assess for their effectiveness and practical application in savanna ecosystems</p> <p>3.3.3 Support Traditional Owners and Aboriginal rangers in early detection measures (including new technology) to keep offshore islands cane toad free</p>	The range of innovative feral animal control methods appropriate to trial in the Gulf Savanna has been identified	     
An enabling environment incentivises and promotes an integrated approach to feral animal control that, where appropriate, includes commercial harvest.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>  3.4 Promote policies and legislation to enable commercial utilisation that is consistent with the objectives of collaborative feral animal control programs	<p>3.4.1 Consult stakeholders and explore the potential role of feral animal harvest within broader programs of control, including both economic viability and environmental outcomes</p> <p>3.4.2 Prepare communication materials and ensure all stakeholders have correct information with regard to the true economic value of feral animals to better inform decision making</p> <p>3.4.3 3.4.3. Improve and streamline communication and understanding between land managers and the holders and administrators of Section 19 Land Use Agreements</p>	Communications materials exist to better inform landholder decisions about the commercial utilisation of feral animals	 
Collaborative biosecurity programs continue to reduce likelihood of new pest animals becoming established in the Gulf Savanna	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  3.5 Strengthen the coordination and delivery of biosecurity surveillance and response to potential pest animals, insects and marine pests	<p>3.5.1 Distribute communication materials on biosecurity in North Australia</p> <p>3.5.2 Strengthen coordination between Territory and Federal programs to build the NRM community's capacity to detect new and emerging pests.</p> <p>3.5.3 Increase awareness of the link between economic livelihoods and biosecurity</p> <p>3.5.4 Support communities with awareness campaigns to prevent cats and cane toads from reaching offshore islands</p>	Gulf communities have the knowledge and awareness to undertake useful biosecurity surveillance	  



## Program 3: Reducing the impacts of feral animals

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of groups/individuals involved in feral animal management programs
- Trends in feral animal distribution as a result of management programs
- Number of landscape scale feral animal management programs
- Availability and utilisation of feral animal distribution data to NRM stakeholders
- Systems to involve NRM community in pest and disease detection and eradication in place
- Effectiveness of innovative feral animal control approaches

### Key Collaborators

NTG (DEPWS), VRDCA, Roper River Landcare, Aboriginal ranger groups, Northern Land Council, Traditional Owners, researchers, pastoralists, Defence, NTG (Parks and Wildlife), Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS), NTG (DPIF), private landholders, feral animal contractors.

This island is virtually pest free aside from cats; we've got no buffalo, no Cane Toads, no pigs. But it only takes someone to bring something onto the island for big problems to start.

”





# Program 4: Industry adoption of sustainable practices







Entering the 2020s, the Gulf Savanna region is poised for considerable economic growth as the agriculture and resources sectors spearhead Australia's global economic resurgence. In the primary industries, beef is fetching strong prices as producers restock following drought and demand for horticultural products is increasing. With the 'Developing the North' agenda now firmly on track there is an opportunity to productively engage across industry sectors to ensure that this development follows a sustainable pathway and secures regional prosperity and the wellbeing of Territorians into the future.

This program will partner with primary industries to identify and apply leading practices and technologies to enhance sustainability and resilience. We will support industry-driven extension programs that demonstrate both economic and environmental benefits from practice change and so enable Gulf Savanna agribusiness to build both industry efficiency and competitiveness.

We will create opportunities for the resources sector and other industries to engage more effectively in natural resource

management and so build social license. We will engage the wider community into strengthening biosecurity surveillance to protect our primary industries and will support climate resilience for our rural communities and industries.

This program envisages Gulf Savanna industries as essential partners in the future management of our natural resources and key to maintaining healthy landscapes.





2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Policies and programs for development in the Gulf Savanna are informed by the best available science and knowledge to ensure the protection of cultural and natural assets	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>4.1</b> Engage with industry and other relevant stakeholders to encourage sustainable approaches to developing the north policies and programs	<b>4.1.1</b> Strengthen linkages between NRM managers, researchers and the government agencies and Industry bodies responsible for future strategic economic development in Gulf Savanna. <b>4.1.2</b> Ensure that relevant and timely empirical data is channelled to inform large scale development planning decisions in the Top End	Appropriate mechanisms and protocols for sharing data between NRM specialists, researchers and development decision makers have been identified and are in use.	    
Our biosecurity system is integrated and risk-based with strong community and government involvement that minimises the establishment of exotic pests and diseases	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>4.2</b> Ensure resources are increased for biosecurity support services in line with increased agricultural development	<b>4.2.1</b> Implementation of the 2015-2025 NT Biosecurity Strategy particularly increasing the NRM community's involvement in biosecurity <b>4.2.2</b> Develop enhanced surveillance and effective capability to detect and respond to biosecurity emergencies <b>4.2.3</b> Strengthen community and industry capacity to risk-manage biosecurity threats by raising awareness and supporting the development of washdown facilities, where appropriate	NRM stakeholders have the capacity to play an increased role in delivering biosecurity outcomes	



# Program 4: Industry adoption of sustainable practices









2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Sustainable grazing practices are achieved across the Gulf Savanna through the Increased skills and knowledge of land managers	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  4.3 Support best practice grazing management through delivery of regional monitoring programs and practices that promote both productivity and ecological outcomes	4.3.1 Develop case studies and demonstration sites showcasing best practice grazing management for biodiversity conservation and production	Improved access to new technologies, data and training to enhance land management has increased the number of producers adopting leading practices	    
		4.3.2 Facilitate the adoption of new technology in rangelands management and sustainable grazing and encourage pastoralists to conduct their own monitoring to inform grazing practices		
		4.3.3 Draw upon national tools, benchmarks and frameworks where applicable to the Gulf Savanna to assist in standardising rangeland condition assessments and monitoring programs		
		4.3.4 Develop local management plans and landholder stewardship programs for high value conservation assets		
		4.3.5 Develop more information on leading practices for more efficient cattle production in the region		
		4.3.6 Encourage diversification of income streams on pastoral land through alternative activities that support sustainable stocking rates		
Dingoes/wild dogs are strategically managed based on understanding of their impact on both pastoral and biodiversity productivity	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>  4.4 Reconcile conflicting management objectives for wild dogs and dingoes	4.4.1 Continue to research the impacts of wild dogs and dingoes on pastoral productivity and biodiversity, and engage stakeholders in evidence-based management programs.	Research programs are increasing knowledge about the respective impacts of wild dogs/ dingoes on production and their value in supporting ecosystems	  
		4.4.2 Identify properties on which dingo populations are being maintained and establish demonstration sites to help assess the impacts on productivity and biodiversity		
		4.4.3 Communicate results of research with land managers to foster collaborative action on wild dog management		

# Program 4: Industry adoption of sustainable practices

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Industry-driven extension programs develop understanding of ecosystems and sustainable management to achieve leading practice horticulture	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>  4.5 Support best practice horticulture and broad scale agriculture through knowledge sharing, adoption of new technology and training and innovation	4.5.1 Quantify the damage to crops by magpie geese to develop a balanced management approach	Improved access to new technologies, knowledge and resources have increased the number of farmers adopting leading practices	 
		4.5.2 Conduct a mixture of extension approaches targeting improved horticultural practices - one on one extension, group training, best practice manuals, knowledge sharing and mentoring within the industry		
		4.5.3 Attract more workers to the horticulture industry and focus on potential Indigenous employment opportunities		
		4.5.4 Improve access to training especially promoting soil and water management best practice		
		4.5.5 Increase the use of new and emerging technologies such as drone aircraft, GIS and remote sensing, better land-use planning and soil health plans to improve productivity and sustainability		
		4.5.6 Trial the use of biochar and other organic farming techniques in a variety of horticultural contexts		
Improved data collection and analysis informs fisheries management to achieve and sustain healthier fish stocks in the Gulf	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>  4.6 Support ecologically sustainable fisheries management through monitoring and improved technology	4.6.1 Develop and improve current fisheries data collection and systems by commercial, amateur fishing groups and Aboriginal people.	Leading practice data collection and Fisheries management systems have been identified	 
		4.6.2 Consolidate and implement Environmental Management Systems for the commercial fishing industry		
		4.6.3 Facilitate stakeholder groups to collaborate on important fisheries related NRM activities		



# Program 4: Industry adoption of sustainable practices

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
An engaged minerals and resources sector contributes to the sustainable management of Gulf Savanna natural resources	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>4.7</b> Support and promote partnerships between the NRM community and the resources sector regarding mine rehabilitation and offset programs	<p><b>4.7.1</b> Encourage the use of the environmental levy from mining companies to engage NRM stakeholders in legacy mine rehabilitation</p> <p><b>4.7.2</b> Establish a working group or advisory committee that includes DITT, NT EPA and DENR, Land Councils and key NGO's such as TNRM to engage with the mining industry to strengthen links and support their involvement in NRM activity</p>	A working group liaising between NRM stakeholders and the minerals and resources Industries has been established	   
Leading practices are adopted throughout Gulf Savanna forestry plantations and underpin Industry sustainability	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>4.8</b> Develop and implement a forestry management and assessment framework	<p><b>4.8.1</b> Develop a framework for plantation forestry operations in the NT to help understand water use and impacts and resource use efficiencies</p> <p><b>4.8.2</b> Progress adoption of best practice through an industry code of practice that encourages selfregulation with clear links to Government regulations through land clearing and other forestry specific legislation, policy and planning framework</p>	Best practice guidelines for forestry operations in the Top End have been disseminated and operators are being supported to adopt them	  
Climate adaptation planning by businesses and industries improve risk-management of climatic variability and related dynamic threats.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>4.9</b> Carry out adaptation planning with industry on the likely impacts of climate change	<p><b>4.9.1</b> Develop strategies that will support industry and communities to adapt to likely impacts of climate change</p> <p><b>4.9.2</b> Encourage Government and other stakeholders to develop strategies to adapt to climate change especially in "Developing the North" considerations</p> <p><b>4.9.3</b> Engage with and regionally deliver, Commonwealth programs supporting adaptation and resilience to climate change, including pathways to diversification, increased waters security and production efficiencies</p>	Industries and communities are supported to undertake climate adaptation planning	

## Program 4: Industry adoption of sustainable practices

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Level of input from environmental research into 'Developing the North' policies
- Number of industry driven extension programs for improving sustainability and profitability developed and implemented
- Attendance at and feedback from, industry-driven extension programs
- Response to survey indicating knowledge and adoption of management options
- Amount of resources dedicated to NRM from industry partnerships
- Level of consideration of climate change in industry development plans

### Key Collaborators

NTG (DITT), NTG (DEPWS), NTG (DLRM), VRDCA, Roper River Landcare, TNRM, researchers, industry representative groups (NT Cattlemen's Association, NT Farmers Association, NT Seafood Council, NT Amateur Fishing Association, NT Minerals Council, etc.), Aust Govt (Agriculture and Environment), Northern Land Council.

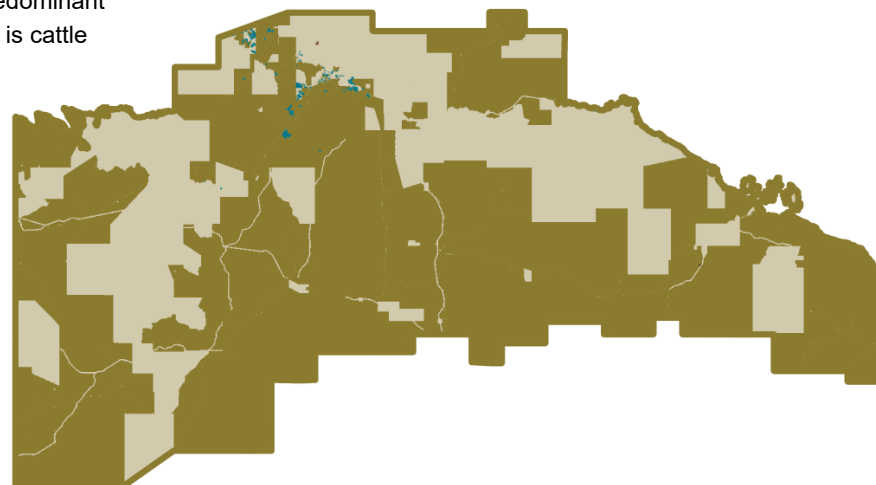
### Land Use

Land use map shows the predominant industry in the Gulf Savanna is cattle grazing.

#### Land use

- Grazing
- Intensive agriculture
- Mining

Source: TNRM



Farmers are natural resource managers. We manage natural resources for economic ends rather than conservation ends but one is no more or less important than the other – preservation is a critical NRM strategy but equally critical is the ongoing learning process around sustainable development

”



# Program 5: Water resources and soil management






In 2021, after experiencing two years of drought-like conditions, many in the Gulf Savanna now have an increased awareness of the limitations of our water and soil resources. This awareness has come just as an ambitious development agenda opens the way to expanding irrigated agriculture, and developing new mining and resources sector projects. Water resources allocation planning has highlighted the diverse interests and aspirations within the community. Similarly, many are aware of the increasing pressures upon

fragile soil resources across the Gulf Savanna, arising from unsustainable farming practices, grazing pressure, and uncontrolled wildfires.








The objective of this program is to increase sustainability in soil and water management through improving our understanding of resource limitations and opportunities to increase water use efficiency. We will support extension to raise understanding of leading practices in resource

management to help buffer primary industries against future periods of drought or climatic extremes. We will also strengthen collaboration in water resource management and build stakeholder capacity through effective communications and extension.

The program will also promote robust land capacity studies and assessments to better understand land capability prior to future agricultural developments.




2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Ground and surface water resources are managed with input from all stakeholders through catchment Water Allocation plans which include monitoring and ensures that cultural, environmental and production values are respected	<b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b>  5.1 Water resource planning and management is undertaken in consultation with multiple stakeholders, and underpinned by the best available scientific information	<p>5.1.1 Identify and quantify competing demands for water resources and the impacts of different activities on water resources.</p> <p>5.1.2 Involve multiple stakeholders, and users representing a range of interests, in water allocation planning in the region.</p> <p>5.1.3 Support water stewardship thorough involving the community in application of new water monitoring technology and through communication materials targeted at behaviour change</p> <p>5.1.4 Support research and innovation (including the impacts of climate change) that increase our understanding of water resources.</p>	The principle of community participation In water resources planning and allocation is well established in the Gulf Savanna	    

# Program 5: Water resources and soil management

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Our knowledge of the impacts from key industrial and domestic uses of water resources has increased and a regulatory framework exists to minimise pollution of groundwater	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> 5.2 Increase our knowledge and resources available to understand and manage the impacts on ecosystems and groundwater from mining, pastoral, agricultural and domestic use	5.2.1 Continue to research the impacts of water extraction on water resources, including use for domestic, pastoral, mining and agricultural activities.	Systematic monitoring tracks water consumption in key industries	   
		5.2.2 Continue to implement more broad water use monitoring on both surface and groundwater (including bore meters) to more accurately assess water use		
		5.2.3 Research and trial water efficiency techniques for pastoral and agricultural industries		
		5.2.4 Monitor water quality and aquatic ecosystem health to maximise chances of early detection of pollution		
		5.2.5 Regionally engage with and deliver Commonwealth programs that promote greater water security, use efficiency, and sustainable development of resources (e.g. Future Drought Fund)		
Soil loss, soil function and land degradation is being prevented and, where necessary, addressed	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> 5.3 Support training and extension services on sustainable soil management	5.3.1 Raise the awareness of the importance of soil erosion, soil fertility, soil health and soil moisture for primary industries productivity	There is a regular program of capacity building and awareness raising events to improve soil management practices in the Top End	  
		5.3.2 Collate existing soil information and develop communications materials targeting contractors to promote improved soil management practices in the landscape		
		5.3.3 Utilise rangelands remote sensing tools to encourage improved grazing management and enhance production efficiency to minimise soil erosion issues.		
		5.3.4 Continue the requirement for erosion and sediment control plans and adherence for all developments		
		5.3.5 Review and update land clearing guidelines with new information to deal with potentially increased development in the Gulf Savanna		
		5.3.6 Develop Acid Sulfate Soil Management Guidelines identifying and managing areas at risk.		



# Program 5: Water resources and soil management

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Understanding of the limitations of soil and water continue to inform the identification of new areas suitable for agricultural development	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>5.4</b> Identify areas with potential for agricultural development through assessments of soil and water resources	<b>5.4.1</b> Undertake research and assessments for areas that are being proposed for new and intensified agricultural development <b>5.4.2</b> Link physical assessments of soil and water resources with crop suitability, land tenure and market considerations in developing new agricultural zones. <b>5.4.3</b> Conduct transparent risk analyses across all resources and consumptive uses including resources highlighted for new development and those supporting existing demand	There is an improved, empirically based understanding of the long term sustainability of natural resources under different land use and development scenarios	  

## Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of new sustainable agricultural developments identified based on assessments of soil and water resources
- Survey contractors and land managers about their awareness and adoption of soil management practices
- Number of people/groups involved in water stewardship
- Water allocation plans involve a diverse range of stakeholders
- Water resources have a moderate to high level of development relative to the water available for development (in consideration of non-consumptive uses)

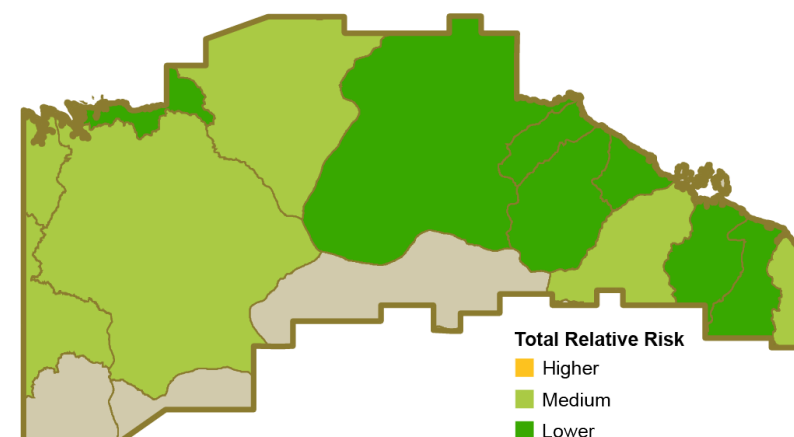
## Key Collaborators

NTG (Water Resources), NTG (DITT), TNRM, researchers, industry representative groups (NT Cattlemen's Association, NT Farmers Association, NT Minerals Council, etc.), Aust. Govt (Environment and Agriculture), Northern Land Council, horticultural industry, Northern Environmental Science Program

## Total Relative Risk and Vulnerabilities of River Catchments

(Flow regime, water quality, riparian vegetation, biodiversity)

Source: <https://terranova.org.au/repository/monsoonal-north-nrm-collection/northern-australian-aquatic-assess-geodatabase-v2.0/close-et-al-2015-vulnerability-and-risk-assessment.pdf>



If we don't have our soil in check with our Landcare practices there is no point in being here and we want to be able to hand it over to our children in a much better condition than we received it

”

# Program 6: NRM based economic opportunities

Savanna fire projects remain the outstanding success in developing NRM based economic opportunities. However, there has also been growth in the number of groups and communities benefiting from NRM related fee-for-service arrangements. These types of economic opportunities have been critical to enable people to live on country throughout the region.

However, the landscape of the conservation economy is set to transform with the introduction of the New Territory Offsets Framework, which will generate growing demand for land

management skills and services. Steps are already also being taken to engage indigenous land managers in the ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of legacy mine sites. Similarly, some Gulf Savanna groups are exploring opportunities to assume new biosecurity and compliance related roles.

There is also strong renewed interest in the carbon economy from across Gulf Savanna land tenures growing and interest in diversifying operations on both pastoral and Aboriginal lands.






This program focuses upon identifying new potential opportunities, assessing their viability and then providing land managers with appropriate knowledge and tools to develop them. Key to this will be building the capacity of land managers to operate as businesses.

The program recognizes the growing potential for renewable energy projects and the emergence of genuine opportunities within the conservation economy

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
The sustainable harvest of native species creates new employment and economic opportunities	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>6.1</b> Develop NRM based economic enterprises utilising the harvest of native species	<b>6.1.1</b> Continue to identify markets and opportunities <b>6.1.2</b> Provide institutional and business support for the development of NRM based economic activities. <b>6.1.3</b> Simplify systems for permits, monitoring and accreditation. <b>6.1.4</b> Strengthen ongoing support arrangements for groups/individuals involved in NRM based economic activities	Potential native harvest products and their commercial feasibility is known	  
A diversity of funding sources and locally based commercial opportunities has made local NRM enterprises stronger and more economically viable.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>6.2</b> Develop capacity for NRM groups to better target service delivery to pastoral and other Gulf Savanna rural industries	<b>6.2.1</b> Develop and incorporate business skills into NRM activities <b>6.2.2</b> Link local groups to business opportunities. <b>6.2.3</b> Provide training, business support and mentoring to help establish and manage land and sea management contract businesses <b>6.2.4</b> Support Aboriginal enterprises and land managers to tender for potential contracts and fee for service opportunities. <b>6.2.5</b> Encourage government to draw upon the mining environmental levy to engage indigenous enterprises in mine rehabilitation activities <b>6.2.6</b> Support successful indigenous enterprises to share their stories and to provide mentoring for new enterprises	Indigenous enterprises engaging in fee for service have received basic business training/ mentoring.	  



## Program 6: NRM based economic opportunities

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
By 2025, a diversity of NRM stakeholders have taken up and benefit from increased opportunities to participate in carbon markets	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>6.3</b> Support projects and research to further increase participation in national, NT and regional carbon market initiatives	<b>6.3.1</b> Continued communication of information on carbon market developments to NRM community <b>6.3.2</b> Clarify ownership and governance arrangements around carbon stocks. <b>6.3.3</b> Support the involvement of land sector carbon projects including blue carbon opportunities <b>6.3.4</b> Support greater involvement in savanna burning for carbon abatement and sequestration in the Gulf Savanna region	Carbon market opportunities relevant to the Gulf Savanna have been clearly communicated to stakeholders	
A more diverse rural economy across different land tenures and primary industries on the Gulf savanna drives increased employment opportunities	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>6.4</b> Investigate, progress and communicate emerging primary industry and diversification economic opportunities on Aboriginal and Pastoral lands including horticulture, aquaculture and tourism	<b>6.4.1</b> Support the research and development of horticultural projects that enable commercial opportunities on Aboriginal and Pastoral land <b>6.4.2</b> Support projects that increase participation of Aboriginal land owners in remote horticultural and tourism projects <b>6.4.3</b> Support emerging and innovative sustainable primary industry activities on pastoral land allowed by the Pastoral diversification legislation <b>6.4.4</b> Facilitate improved exchange of knowledge and experience between producers, land managers, researchers and NT government agencies	Viable opportunities for diversification across the Gulf Savanna have been identified and clearly communicated to stakeholders	 
New opportunities and new partnerships have been developed between private sector and NRM stakeholders in the Gulf Savanna	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>6.5</b> Link new and emerging opportunities with NRM stakeholders in the Gulf Savanna	<b>6.5.1</b> Create new links between industry, corporate bodies and NRM stakeholders particularly looking to deliver new and innovative approaches to NRM. <b>6.5.2</b> Facilitate opportunities between Government and industry and link to the delivery of priorities in this NRM plan.	An investment portfolio describing partnership opportunities supporting Top End NRM is developed	 

## Program 6: NRM based economic opportunities

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
The renewables and environment sector is contributing more to the Gulf Savanna economy than 2021	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>6.6</b> Investigate and support development opportunities from new environmental technologies and renewables	<b>6.6.1</b> Continue trialling “biochar” and other emerging technologies promoting waste management, soil rehabilitation and carbon opportunities <b>6.6.2</b> Support the development of new or existing technology for renewable energy, carbon abatement and other initiatives that support sustainable industry in the Gulf Savanna region	The Top End is on track to achieve net zero emissions targets	 

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of Indigenous enterprises wild-harvesting species for commercial use
- Amount of fee for service contracts carried out by local ranger groups
- Number of new enterprises on Indigenous land and pastoral land in primary industries
- Financial benefit gained from carbon market opportunities
- Number of new industry/corporate partnerships in the NRM sector

### Key Collaborators

NTG (DEPWS), local government (shires), Katherine Town Council, NT Environment Protection Agency, NT Environment Centre, NTG (DME), TNRM, research institutions, Northern Land Council, environment NGOs.

It's very important to look after this country, cause you know we look after country and country look after us. If that country healthy then we know we are healthy. We wanna live on country cause it's our country, it's our home, our people, our great great grandfather live here for a long time

”



# Program 7: Minimising ecological footprints of development





The Gulf Savanna region is home to only 10% of the Territory population and therefore it is industrial development that places the greatest pressure on the region's natural resources. However, some Gulf Savanna communities lack capacity to sustainably manage waste and have poor energy efficiency which risks both natural values and community wellbeing.

This program will support the introduction of leading practices in design, planning and construction of infrastructure for future residential and industrial developments. It will raise community awareness about Ecologically Sustainable Development and promote evidence-based management of toxic waste, pollutants and other contaminants that are at risk of discharge into the environment.

We will further promote enhanced cooperation with recreational users and visitors to reduce pressures on high value natural assets.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Katherine and other towns/communities in the region introduce leading practices in environmental management	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> 7.1 Minimise the environmental footprint of main population centres in the Gulf Savanna	<p><b>7.1.1</b> Support sustainability initiatives that promote water and energy use efficiency</p> <p><b>7.1.2</b> Establish regional waste facilities capable of storing and handling toxic substances</p> <p><b>7.1.3</b> Promote and support the uptake of renewable energy sources and renewable energy industries across the Gulf Savanna</p>	Plans have been developed to introduce leading practices in environmental management to Gulf Savanna population centres	  
The cumulative impact of environmental pollutants across the Gulf Savanna is known and within acceptable levels	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> 7.2 Implement processes that minimise the entry of toxic chemicals in the environment in the Gulf Savanna	<p><b>7.2.1</b> Establish regional waste facilities capable of storing and handling toxic substances</p> <p><b>7.2.2</b> Undertake the monitoring and rehabilitation of legacy mines in the Gulf Savanna including Redbank and Mt Todd mine</p> <p><b>7.2.3</b> Develop reporting mechanisms for key areas at risk from mine site pollution.</p> <p><b>7.2.4</b> Support policy and legislative mechanisms that promote best environmental practice in the mining industry and on-ground mining operations</p> <p><b>7.2.5</b> Promote a culture of disclosure and compliance amongst industry</p>	Acceptable levels for cumulative pollutants has been established for the Gulf Savanna	  

# Program 7: Minimising ecological footprints of development

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Offsets are well directed and transparent and linked to achieving prioritised NRM strategies in the Gulf Savanna .	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>7.3</b> Strengthen and consolidate environmental offset arrangements to direct offsets where they are likely to be most effective	<b>7.3.1</b> Develop a clear direction for 'voluntary' offset activities that encourages more investment into regional NRM priorities <b>7.3.2</b> Develop partnerships between the private sector, government and NRM stakeholders to enable the use of offsets to support NRM activities	The NT Offsets Framework is finalised and has been communicated to all stakeholders	 
The impacts of recreational users upon the natural resources of the Gulf Savanna is reduced owing to a growing awareness among these users	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>7.4</b> Minimise the impact of tourism on the environment through the adoption and promotion of sustainable tourism practices & enterprises	<b>7.4.1</b> Develop and support strategies that minimise environmental and cultural impacts of recreational users and visitors to key areas and sites within the Gulf Savanna <b>7.4.2</b> Collaborate with key recreational user groups to manage impacts on key areas	Strategies to raise awareness about the impact of recreational visitors on priority areas in the Gulf Savanna have been developed	 

## Key Measures of Achievement

- Assessment of environmental planning in new urban developments
- Trends in per capita water and power consumption
- Amount of funds from offsets invested into NRM activities identified in the NRM plan
- Percentage of energy coming from renewable sources
- Public information programs and their uptake
- Number of accredited green tourism programs
- Response to before and after surveys assessing attitudes of recreational users to NRM issues
- Analysis of waste and pollution management procedures and policies and implementation

## Key Collaborators

NTG (DEPWS), NTG (DME), Local Government (Shires), Katherine Town Council, NT Environment Protection Agency, NT Environment Centre, NTG (DME), TNRM, research institutions, Northern Land Council, environment NGOs.

Changes in our climate are a serious and present danger for communities in the NT. A number of our communities are already feeling the effects with warming temperatures and more severe weather events. Of major concern is the expected increase in climate variability and extreme weather, causing floods, droughts and storms.





# Program 8: Managing and protecting key natural and cultural assets







The Gulf Savanna hosts a large number of sites considered to be of high conservation value. These include several properties within the national parks estate, and 13 identified Sites Of Conservation Significance which encompass islands, floodplains and ranges. The region has 55 NT listed Threatened Species and 35 listed under the national EPBC. Many individual sites (together with the broader landscape they are situated within) carry deep cultural significance for the traditional custodians of the land. In 2021 we now have an increased understanding of these values across Gulf

Savanna landscapes and improved knowledge about how to best manage them.











The objective of this program is to strengthen partnerships with landholders across all tenures to better maintain key natural and cultural assets. We will do this by updating our knowledge of regional conservation priorities and informing their managers of leading management practices. In particular we will encourage land managers outside of the conservation estate to enter into formal conservation/ stewardship arrangements. We also want to strengthen

Traditional Owners and indigenous land managers to more effectively lead in the management of key cultural sites.

Another focus of our program will be on reinvigorating Threatened Species management, with evidence-based management to improve our understanding of the pressures and threats upon them and linking to National Threatened Species initiatives. Recognizing the potential impacts of climate change on landscapes across The Gulf Savanna, we will support evidence based planning to mitigate these impacts.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
High priority areas are subject to conservation management with regular review by key stakeholders	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> 8.1 Continue to develop, implement and maintain conservation management programs for high priority areas across the Gulf Savanna	<p>8.1.1 Where appropriate, update knowledge for, and establish priorities for, improved management of high priority sites.</p> <p>8.1.2 Plan for the future adaptive management of these sites, utilising collaborative planning approaches and consultations across stakeholders and tenures</p> <p>8.1.3 8.1.3 Raise public awareness of sites with high natural values through targeted communications, particularly where they occur outside of protected areas</p>	Knowledge of high priority areas has been updated and sites requiring management programs have been identified	  
Threatened species management is integrated with strong links between research, monitoring and on-ground action to progress against key indicators in Threatened Species Action Plans	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> 8.2 Implement threatened Species Action Plans in the Gulf Savanna and update onground actions with the latest knowledge.	<p>8.2.1 Communicate the Action Plans for threatened species to land managers in the Gulf Savanna and support their implementation</p> <p>8.2.2 Link threatened species action in the Gulf Savanna to the National Threatened Species Strategy and implement key priorities relevant to the region</p>	Foundational research and monitoring in support of priority Threatened Species Action Plans is underway.	  

# Program 8: Managing and protecting key natural and cultural assets

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Identified high priority areas are subject to conservation management with regular review by key stakeholders	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>8.3</b> Facilitate stewardship of high value conservation areas through schemes such as Territory Conservation Agreements and Indigenous Protected Areas	<b>8.3.1</b> Support private land owners and pastoral lease holders to develop conservation agreements (stewardship) over priority areas <b>8.3.2</b> Support Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Ranger groups to develop and implement Indigenous Protected Area Management plans <b>8.3.3</b> Increase awareness and stewardship of important conservation sites and cultural heritage within the region	Targeted case studies have been developed to highlight the importance of, and promote the benefits of, conservation on private land	   
Understanding of the impacts of climate change on ecosystem function and the principles of risk-management inform adaptive management, preparedness and response plans for high value ecological sites and assets.	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> <b>8.4</b> Develop adaptation plans for the impacts of climate change for vulnerable ecosystems in the Gulf Savanna	<b>8.4.1</b> Investigate the likely impacts of climate change on threatened habitat/species communities in the Gulf Savanna <b>8.4.2</b> Develop management strategies and prioritise action on vulnerable assets most likely to be impacted by climate change	Appropriate monitoring approaches and techniques have been identified	 
Aboriginal land managers and Traditional Owners are managing culturally significant sites and landscapes	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>8.5</b> Support best practice management of culturally significant Aboriginal sites and landscapes	<b>8.5.1</b> Support the mapping, documentation and management of culturally significant sites by Traditional Owners. <b>8.5.2</b> Negotiate access to cultural sites on non-Aboriginal land tenure. Increase the awareness of industry and government agencies about Aboriginal Sacred Sites, and the processes and mechanisms for their protection in development activities <b>8.5.3</b> Encourage the development of enterprises for Aboriginal ranger groups to carry out cultural heritage contract work	Traditional Owners are adequately supported and resourced to continue the mapping and recording of culturally significant sites	   



## Program 8: Managing and protecting key natural and cultural assets

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of active management plans being implemented in Sites of Conservation Significance
- Survey of NRM stakeholders on understanding of likely impacts of climate change
- Number of cultural sites actively being managed on all land tenures
- Number of people involved in collecting biodiversity data
- Progress against the threatened species action plan
- Number of people and area under active conservation management

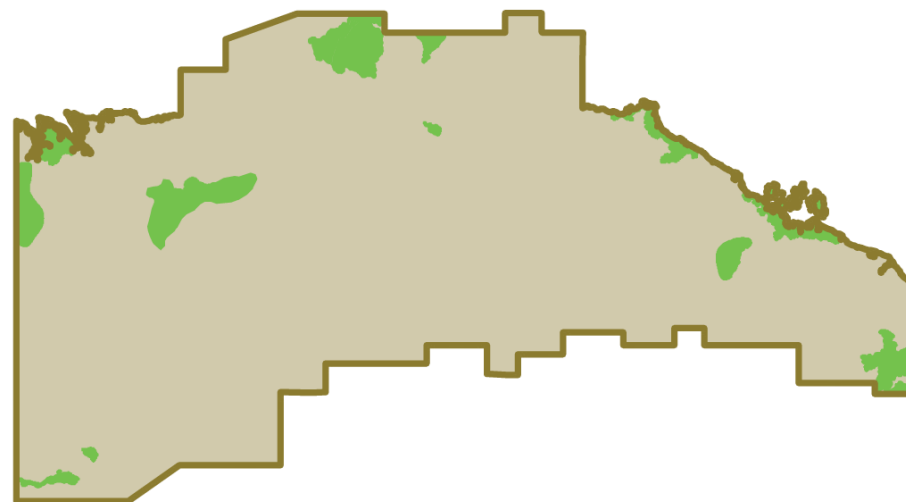
### Key Collaborators

Research institutions, TNRM, pastoralists, NTG (DEPWS), NTG (Parks and Wildlife), Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA), Traditional Owners, Northern Land Council, landholders.

### Sites of Conservation Significance

Sites of Conservation Significance were identified as the most important sites for biodiversity conservation in the NT.

■ Sites of Conservation Significance



Source: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/map-sites-conservation-significance>

This IPA is very important. It encompasses all of the islands to protect them for my grandchildren and their children. We want everyone to work together to look after this land for future generations

”


# Program 9: Knowledge, capacity and engagement

Effective natural resource management needs strong, capable and knowledgeable land managers with access to the necessary tools and resources to achieve the required outcomes. This program is designed to support Gulf Savanna managers and other stakeholders to most effectively implement regional NRM priorities and strategies.








We will aim to strengthen networks and collaboration across the Gulf Savanna, fostering new partnerships and building the potential for effective collective action. In particular we will seek to access additional resources to support land management groups. We also want to ensure that land managers and other stakeholders have access to the most relevant and up-to-date knowledge and so we aim to build capacity for capturing, storing accessing and sharing information and data within the NRM community.

Recognizing the need for formal training and skills development within the NRM community, we will identify priority needs and create opportunities for land managers to achieve skills development including strengthening the governance of land management groups.

And critically we will continue engaging across the whole NRM community to support delivery of activities delivering the Gulf Savanna NRM plan, and ensuring that their implementation is adaptively managed.

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Land managers are empowered by increased resources and long-term approaches to NRM issues in the Gulf Savanna	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> <b>9.1</b> Strengthen the effectiveness of NRM stakeholder networks, including building new relationships with Industry, philanthropic organisations and strengthening coordination of on-ground land management	<b>9.1.1</b> Consolidate and extend landscape level and cross border partnerships through supporting workshops that bring together stakeholders and share knowledge <b>9.1.2</b> Support the development of fee for service opportunities and a diversified funding base to ensure the long-term growth and development of Landcare groups, Aboriginal Rangers and other NRM groups <b>9.1.3</b> Seek alternative sources of funding for NRM activities through new partnerships with philanthropic organisations and offset arrangements <b>9.1.4</b> Develop and build the capacity of land managers, Landcare volunteers, and Aboriginal Ranger groups <b>9.1.5</b> Support collaboration between key technical agencies to encourage their support for actions of land managers <b>9.1.6</b> Promote good 'stories' from NRM to increase the profile of NRM in the community.	There is an increase in the number of successful partnerships supporting NRM activities across the Gulf Savanna	 

# Program 9: Knowledge, capacity and engagement

2025 Objective	Strategy	Key activities	2023 Interim target	Assets improved
Territory Natural Resource Managers are incorporating the best available knowledge, information and data into their management including TEK and Community Knowledge	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> 9.2 Support land managers to record, utilise and share scientific research, TEK and pastoral knowledge in NRM planning and management activities	<p>9.2.1 Conduct forums to facilitate knowledge sharing between NRM stakeholders and researchers</p> <p>9.2.2 Identify knowledge gaps and research priorities in collaboration with key stakeholders</p> <p>9.2.3 Establish knowledge capture, storage and sharing projects by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Rangers</p> <p>9.2.4 Develop programs that facilitate community monitoring of key environmental assets (adding to the NT species database) ensuring data collection is relevant, efficient and utilised</p> <p>9.2.5 Share knowledge through websites, newsletters, fact sheets and facilitate two way information exchange with government.</p>	Regular forums and events communicate the latest technical knowledge between knowledge holders and NRM stakeholders	  
More relevant and better targeted training enhances natural resource management skills	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> 9.3 Support accredited and informal training in land management and sustainable industry practices	<p>9.3.1 Assess training needs (non-accredited and accredited) for NRM stakeholders and support the delivery of appropriate training where needed particularly supporting skills linked to employment in NRM</p> <p>9.3.2 Assess the efficiency of training and improve where necessary, Introducing stronger mentoring programs (such as young rural leaders and learning on country) in the NRM sector</p> <p>9.3.3 Deliver training and support for sustainable grazing practices</p> <p>9.3.4 Support governance and leadership training of locally based NRM groups and establish clearer career pathways in NRM</p>	The number of available training courses and opportunities to build NRM skills has increased in the Gulf Savanna.	 
Multi-stakeholder review processes are strengthened leading to adaptive management and improved practices and stakeholder cooperation	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> 9.4 Continue review of NRM outcomes facilitating adaptive management	<p>9.4.1 Support multi-stakeholders gather to review outcomes and progress against objectives in the NRM plan</p> <p>9.4.2 Support a multi-stakeholder approach to adaptive management to help prioritise funding, resources and effort in areas of highest need</p>	The first review of the 2021-2026 NM plan is underway	 



## Program 9: Knowledge, capacity and engagement

### Key Measures of Achievement

- Number of accredited and non-accredited training sessions delivered
- Number of graduates of NRM courses
- Number of active Aboriginal ranger and pastoral Landcare Groups
- Amount of funding provided for NRM in the region
- Number and quality of landscape scale multi-stakeholder workshops in region
- Number and quality of NRM plan review and adaptive management processes

### Key Collaborators

Landcare groups, TNRM, philanthropic sector, Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute, private training providers, research Institutions, Northern Land Council, Industry representative groups, pastoralists, NTG, Aust. Govt. (Environment)

It's really, really great for our young to be able to have work opportunities that involve first learning about their country. They can access to all of the country now and the traditional practices and learn about all of those. So that there'll be really strong employment for them in the future.

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