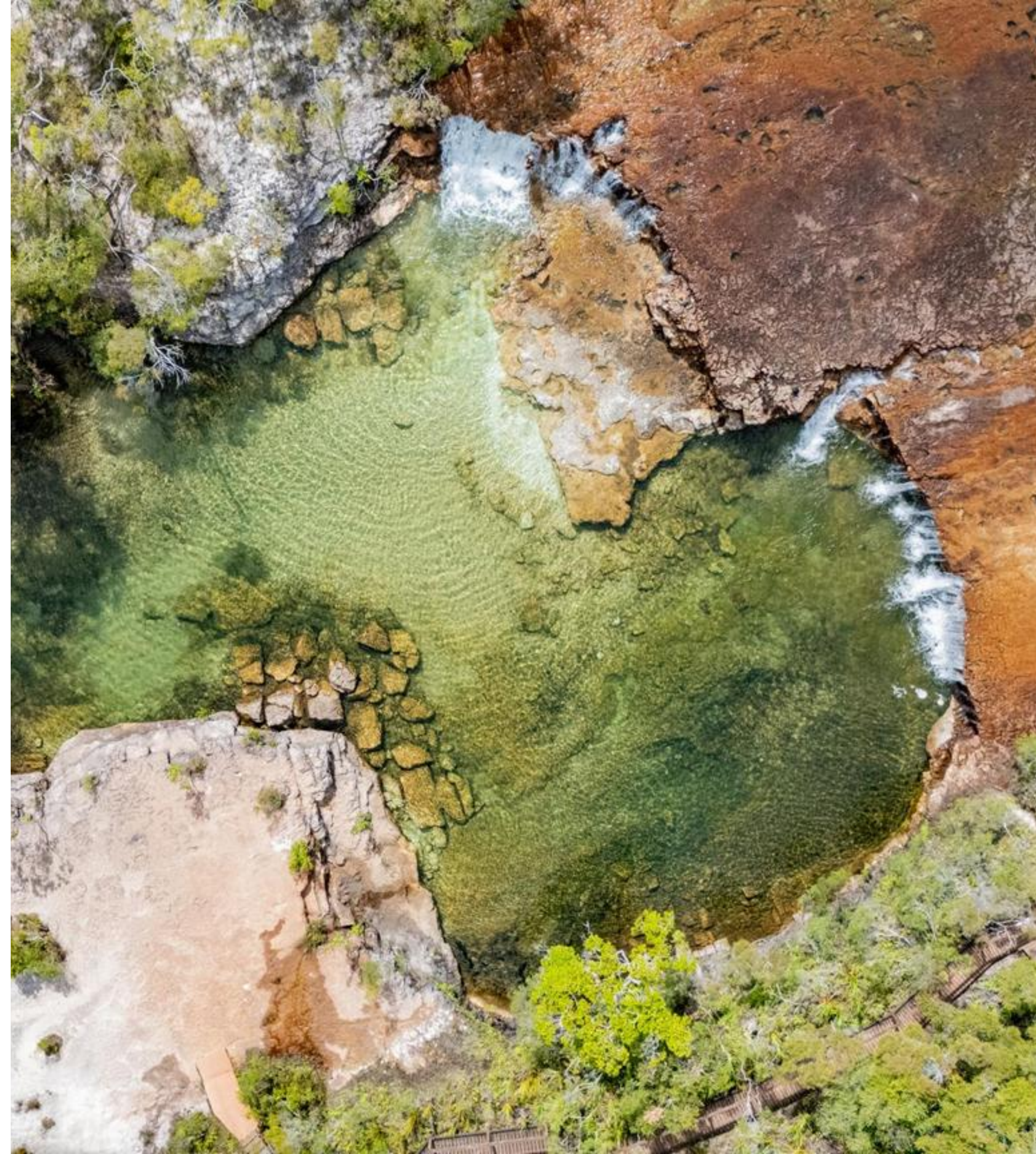




Natural Resource Management in the Cape York region

*"A healthy landscape, community, and
economy for Cape York Peninsula."*



Acknowledgement

"Cape York NRM respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters where we work, recognising their enduring connection to Country, culture, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the vital role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have played - and continue to play - across Cape York Peninsula, historically and into the future."

About Cape York NRM

Cape York NRM is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity dedicated to the sustainable management of natural resources in Cape York Peninsula.

We work to protect and enhance the region's unique ecosystems—including wetlands, rainforests, savannas, and coastal habitats—tackling a range of environmental challenges while
 integrating Traditional Knowledge and community insights into our approach to



Cape York NRM region

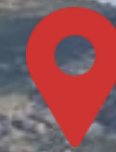
"60% of Cape York land is owned by First Nations people"

The Cape York NRM region covers a 137,000 km² from the Mitchell River catchment to 'The Tip' of Cape York Peninsula. Its varying landscapes include 16 complete river basins and 30 broad vegetation groups including 20% of Australia's total rainforest.

- Population of 7,803 (ABS 2021)
- 11 Local Government Areas (9 Indigenous)
- Complex land tenure arrangements
- Mining, grazing, fishing, horticulture, tourism and



"We work in partnership with Traditional Owners, landholders, government agencies, and environmental organisations to deliver conservation, land management, and restoration projects that safeguard the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage."



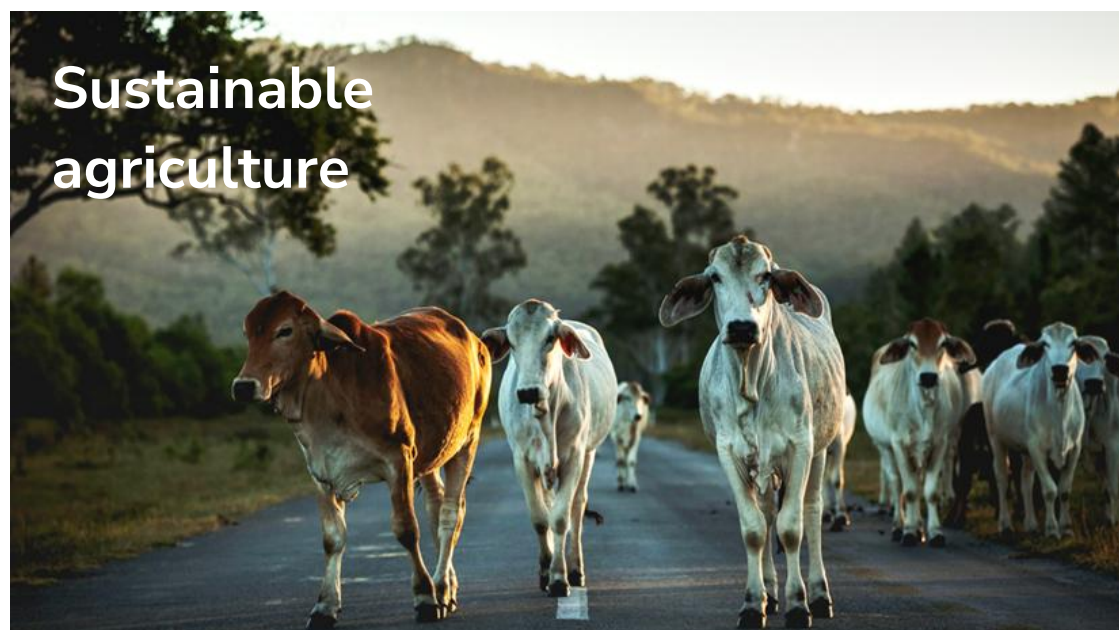
Cape Melville
National Park
(CYPAL)





Our work

With assistance from Federal and State Government funding programs, our team of scientists, agriculturalists, environmentalists, and other professionals coordinate a wide variety of on-ground projects supporting:



Golden-shouldered Parrot

Characteristics & Habitat

Scientific Name: *Psephotellus chrysopterygius*

Common Names: Golden-shouldered Parrot, Alwal (Uw Olkola), Minpin (Wakaman)

Appearance: Males have golden-yellow shoulders, turquoise-blue body, and a black cap

Habitat: Tropical savannas of Cape York Peninsula

Nesting: Exclusively in termite mounds

Diet: Grass seeds and other low ground vegetation



Endangered Status & Decline

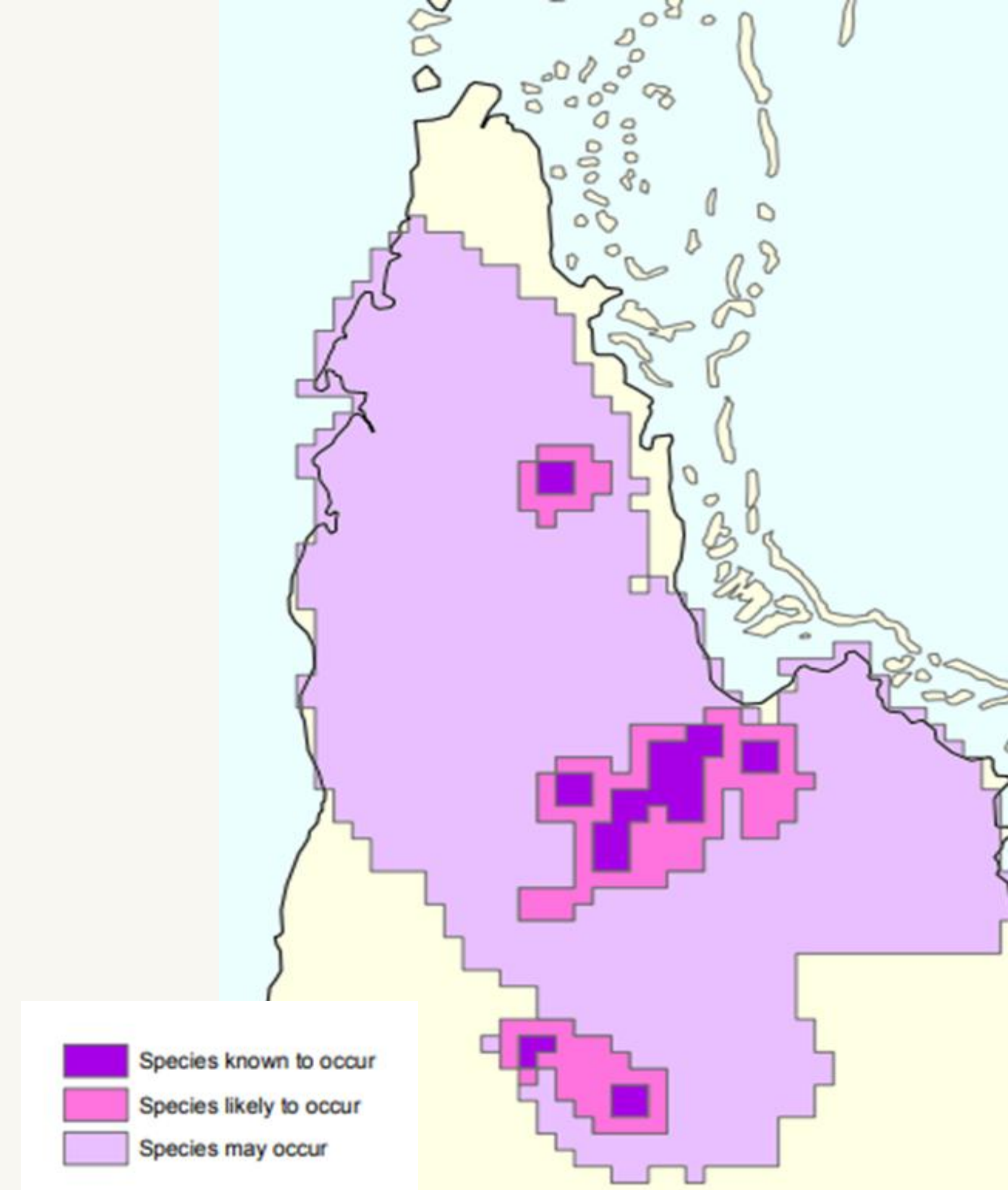
Listed as endangered

Primary Causes of Decline:

- Changes to fire regime
- Habitat degradation due to cattle grazing
- Loss of food plants and termite mound deterioration
- Vegetation thickening reduces the open habitat needed for nesting

Recovery needs:

- **Nesting habitat restoration**
- Exclusion or management of cattle grazing
- Weed and feral animal control
- Predator management
- Fire management to maintain open grassland
- Education and involvement in restoration activities



About the project

Funded by DCCEEW – Regional Delivery Partnerships

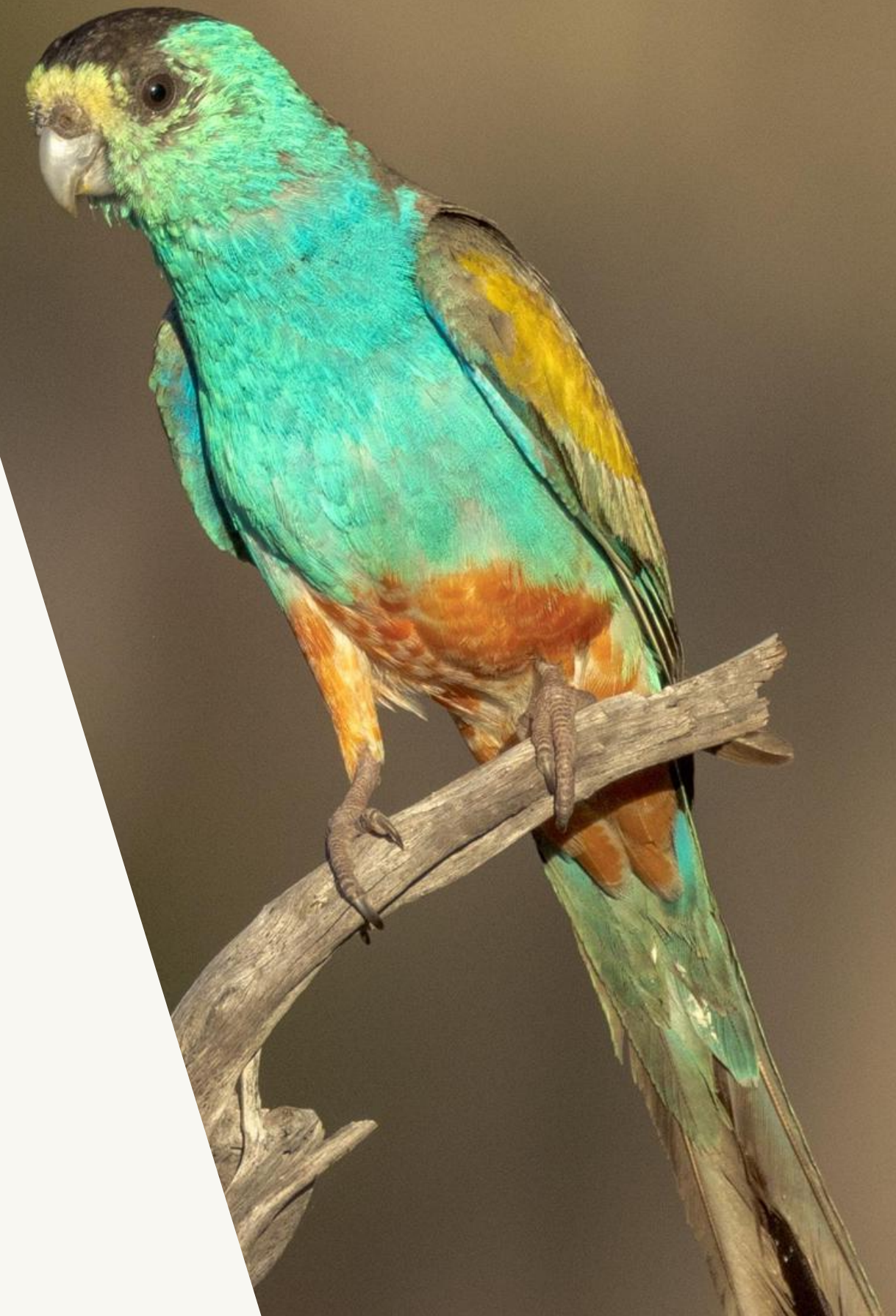
2024 - 2028

Improve the condition of the Golden-shouldered Parrot nesting and foraging habitat by:

- Appropriate fire regimes
- Control of Invasive animals
- Control of Invasive weeds

Increase knowledge and awareness of the Golden-shouldered Parrot in Cape York

- Workshops
- Survey and habitat assessments



Project Activities and Partners

Artemis Station

- Fire management planning
- Early dry season burning
- Aerial pig control
- Land manager workshops

Kalinga Station

- Fire management planning
- Early dry season burning

Koolburra Station

- Fire management planning
- Early dry season burning

Alice River Station

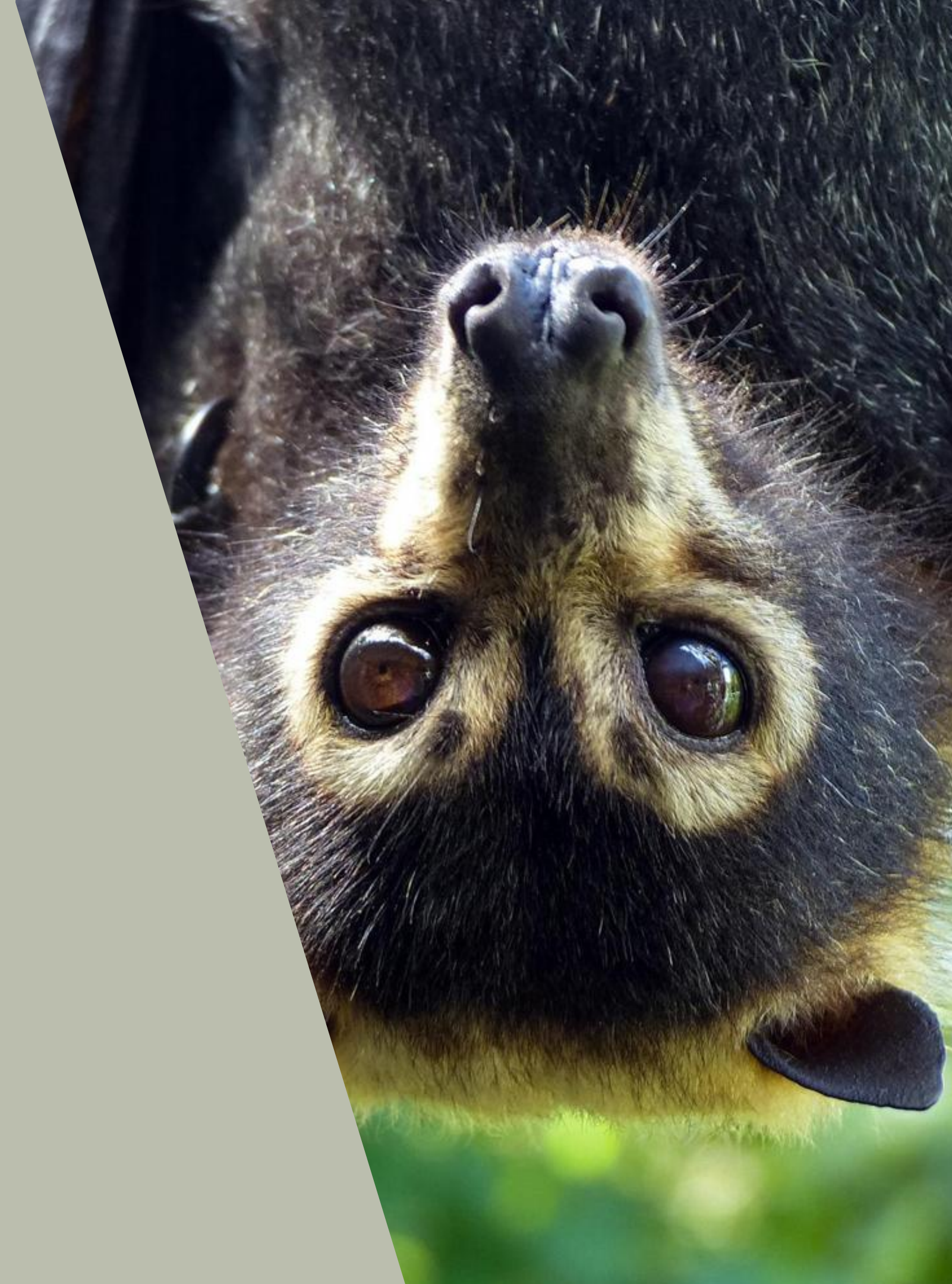
- Control of Invasive animals
- Parrot and habitat surveys



Spectacled flying-fox

Only limited studies of the Spectacled flying-fox's presence/absence in Cape York have been done. We know from Traditional Owners and scientists the the SFF is present in Cape York, however, there is very little documented evidence of the species' presence.

In order to determine if the species is under threat in Cape York, we must develop an understanding of its location and numbers in the region.



About the project

Funded by DCCEEW – Regional Delivery Partnerships

2024 - 2028

Increase knowledge of camps and foraging sites in the Cape York Peninsula region

Increase public awareness of Spectacled flying-foxes and the importance of their protection as a species

Undertake habitat condition assessments of identified camps and develop and implement relevant mitigation actions

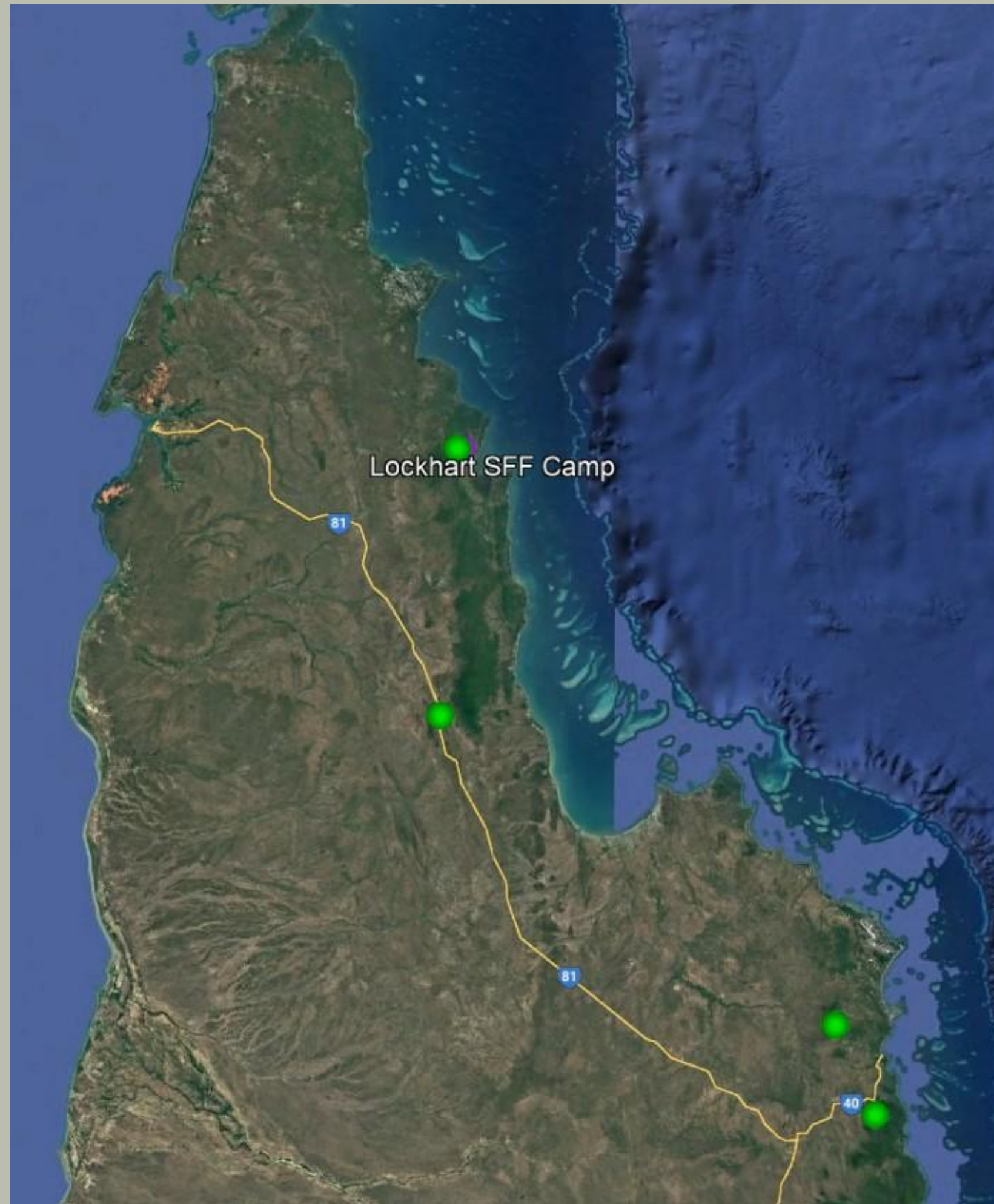


Activities

- Community engagement:
 - Postcard*
 - Community information sessions*
 - Training of ranger groups in photography, GPS, and data recording*
- Conduct training for Traditional Owners to participate in SFF census study
- Undertake SFF census counts
- Habitat condition assessments
- implementation of habitat management actions where required
- Satellite tracking of SFFs (Terrain NRM)



New SFF Locations Identified



Gamba Grass

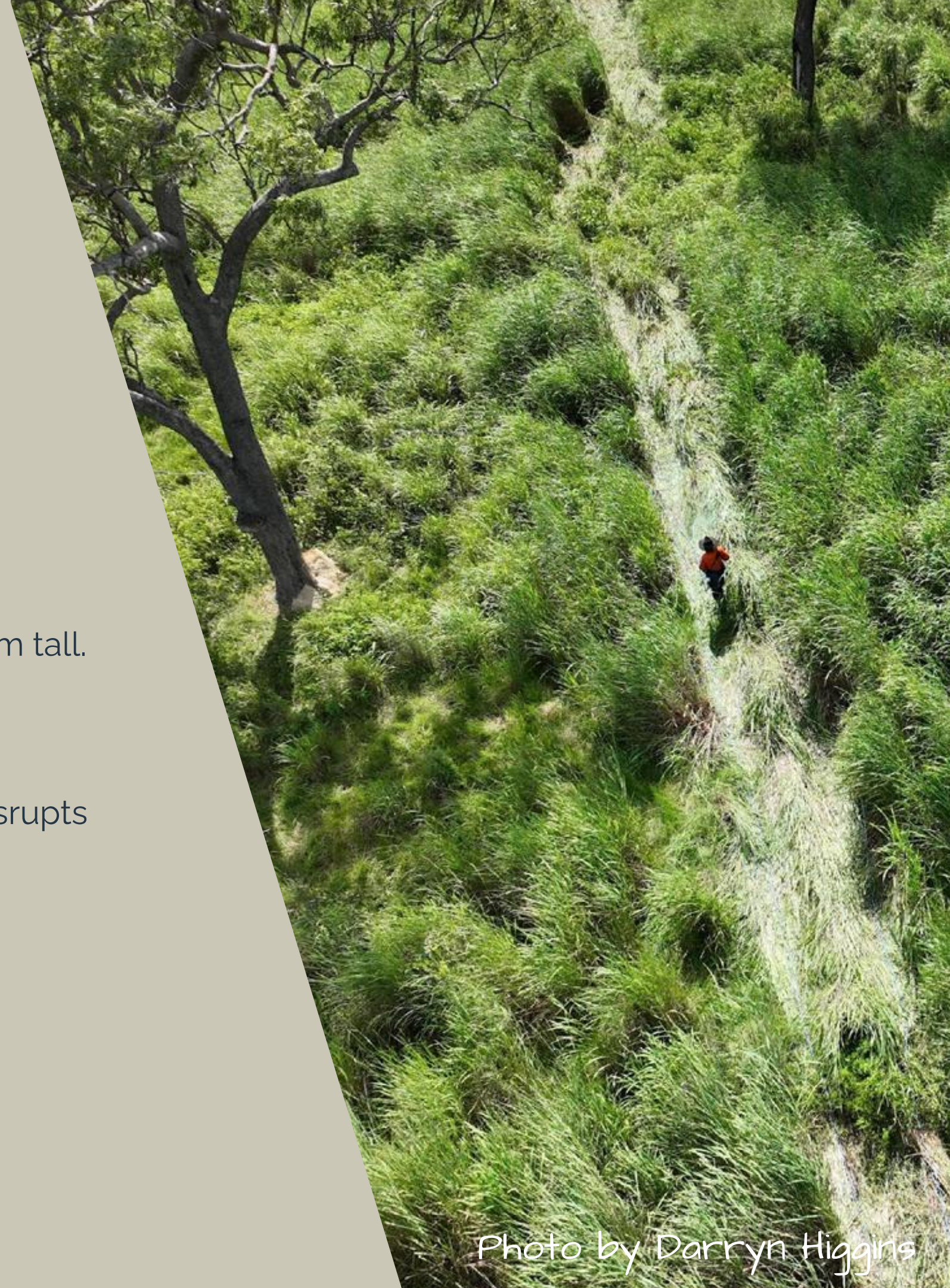
What is it?

Scientific Name: *Andropogon gayanus*

Common Name: Gamba Grass

Description: Introduced perennial tussock grass from Africa. Grows up to 4 - 5m tall. Forms dense strands.

Impacts: High biomass, fuels intense fires. Competes with native plants and disrupts ecosystems.



Habitat, spread & life cycle

- Found in tropical savannas of NT, QLD, WA
- Prefers areas with 400–1500 mm rainfall
- Spreads by seed (wind, animals, machinery)
- Seeds produced May–July, ~244,000 per plant
- Establishes well in disturbed areas

Why is it a problem?

- Fuels bushfires - 8 times more intense than native grass
- Causes major ecosystem changes
- Reduces traditional food sources and cultural site access
- Threatens biodiversity, property, and human safety



About the Project

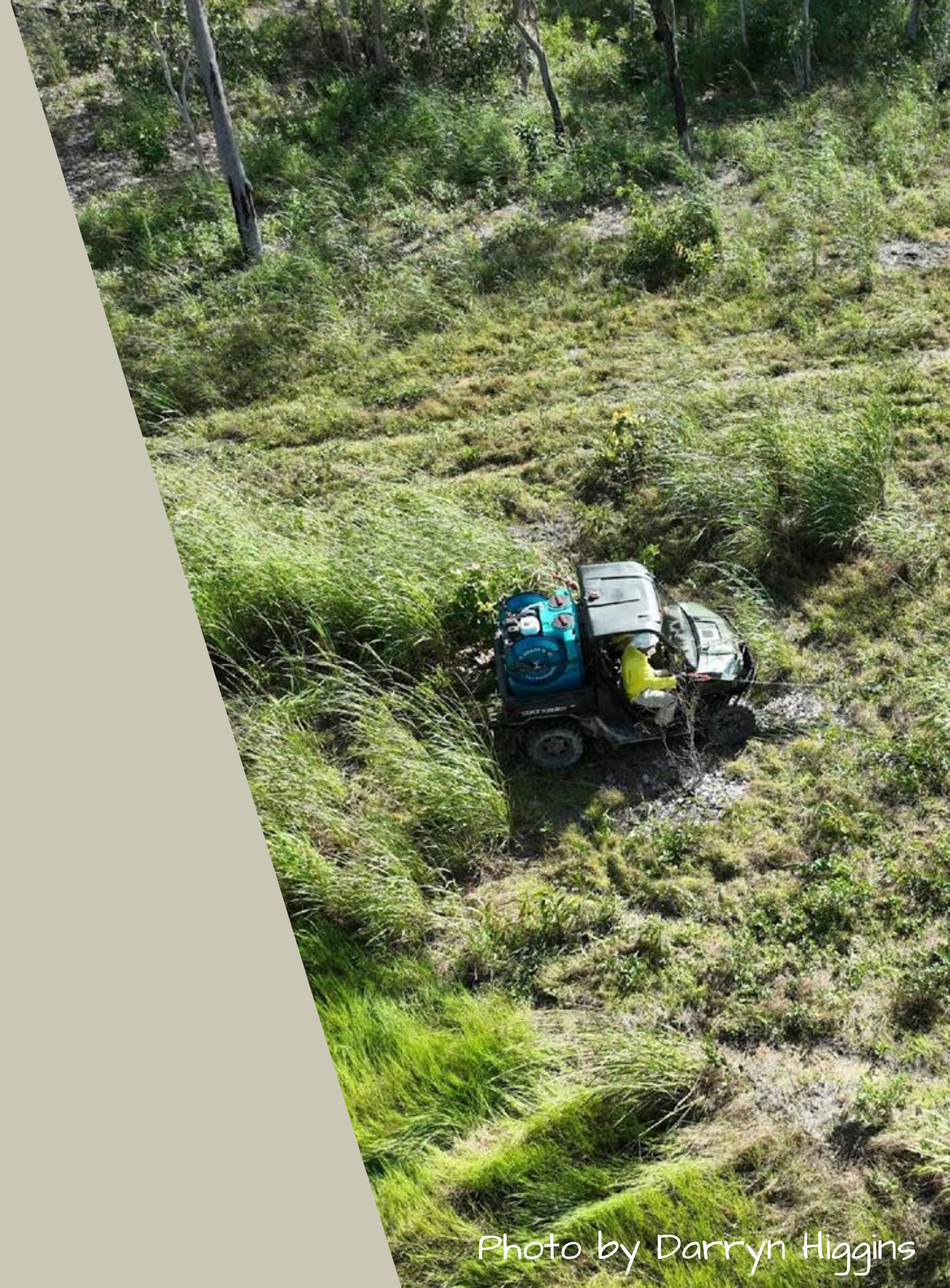
Funded by DCCEEW – Regional Delivery Partnerships

2024-2025

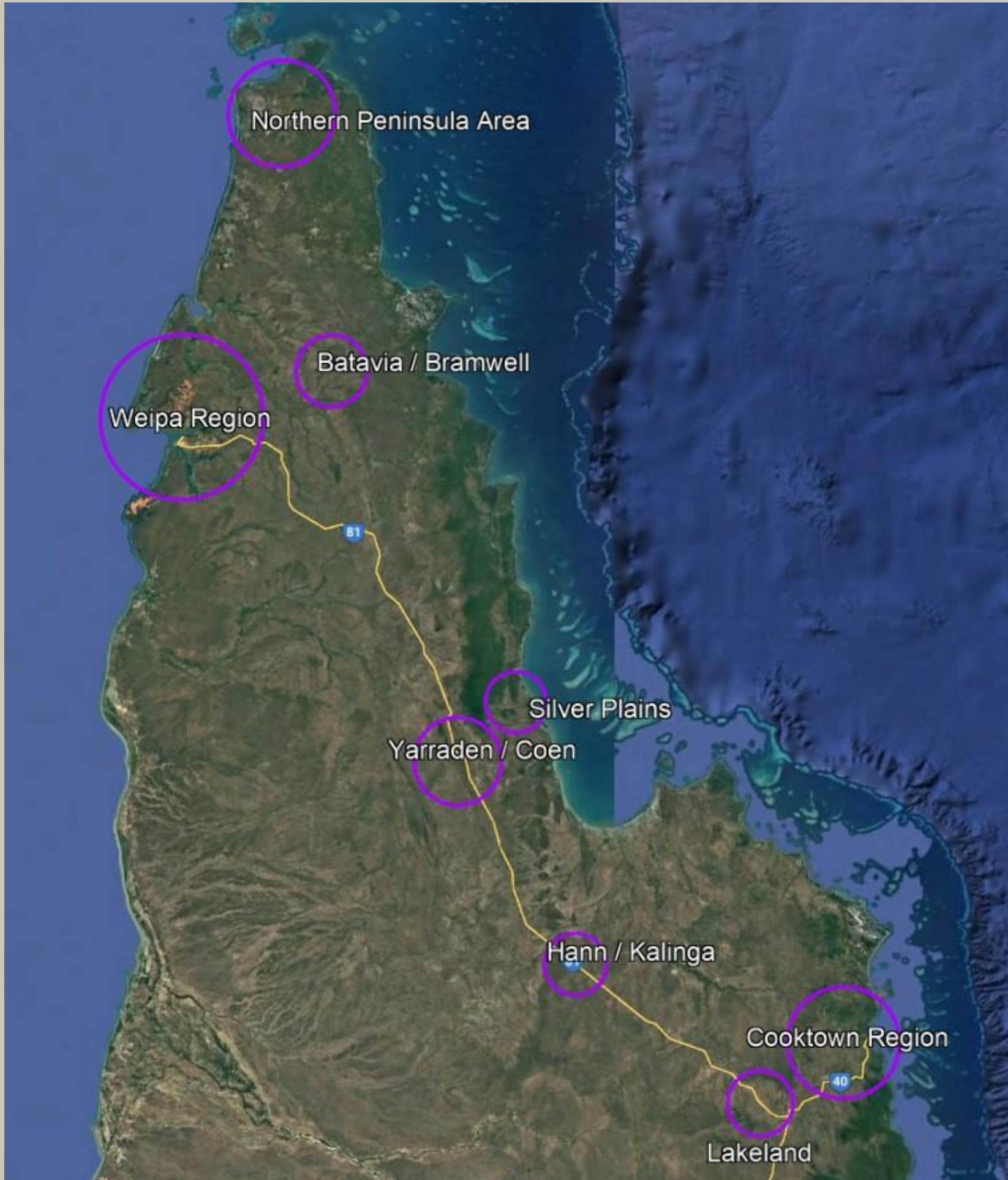
- Engage stakeholders and Traditional Owners to map priority areas
- Conduct awareness and planning workshops
- Share up-to-date control knowledge to improve management capacity
- Initiate locally-led control planning
- Conduct control treatment of Gamba Grass at priority sites
- Review Gamba Grass management strategies



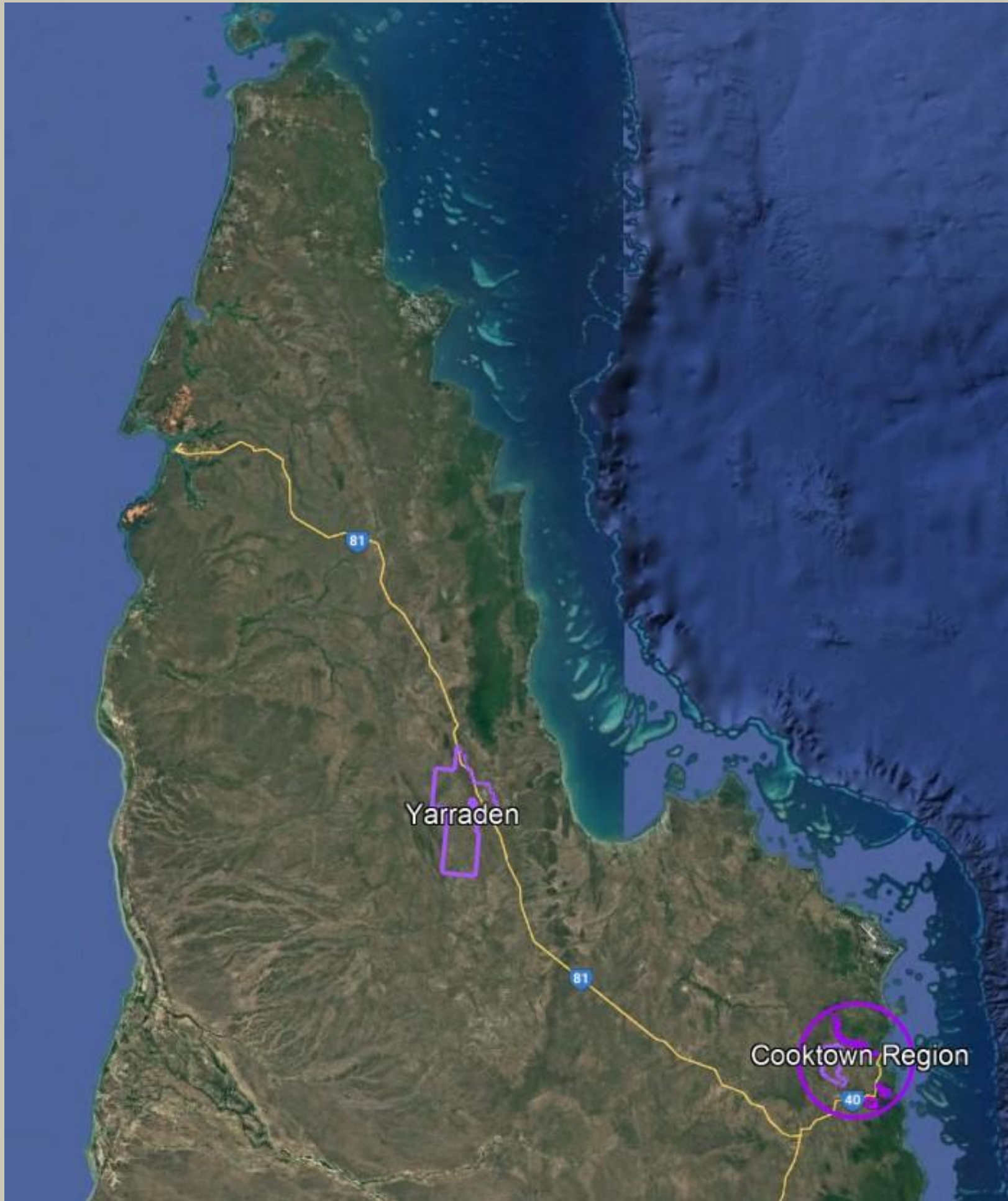
Photo by Darryn Higgins



Priority Gamba Management Areas



Gamba Control Sites



Reef Coastal Restoration

Eastern Cape York Coastal Wetlands Restoration Funded by Department of Industry, Science and Resources

2024 – 2026

Large scale invasive animal and weed management projects

Project Partners

Rinyuirru and Cape Melville Traditional Owners, and QPWS

- Normanby and Wakooka wetlands – Hymenache control
- Normanby coastal wetlands – feral pig control
- Wetland monitoring

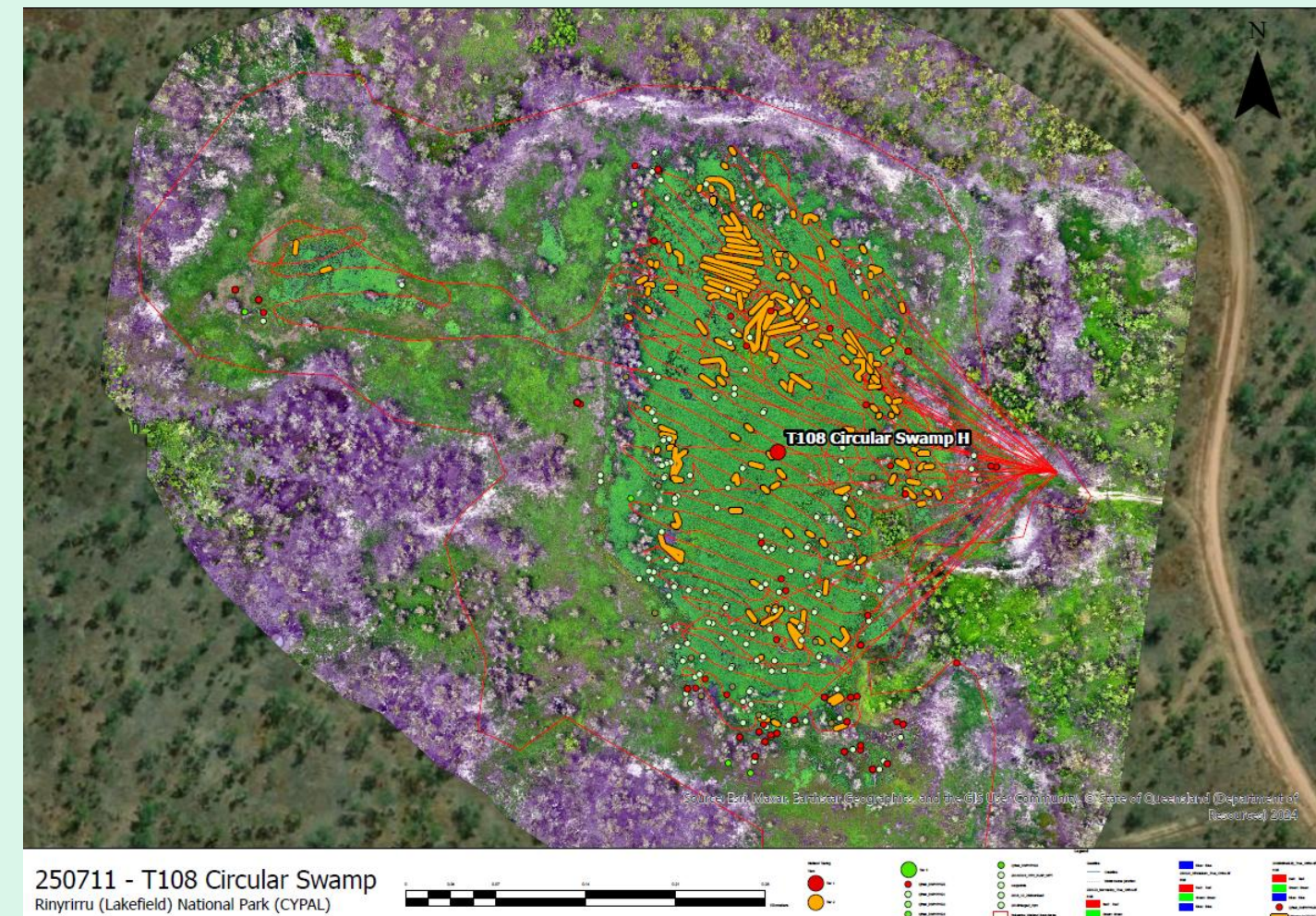
Juunjuwarra Traditional Owners and NAILSMA

- Aerial pig control
- Wetland monitoring

Normanby, Muunthiwarra, Rinyirru Traditional Owners

Cape York Water Partnership

- Wetland monitoring and training



Turtle Projects

Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance

Established in May 2013

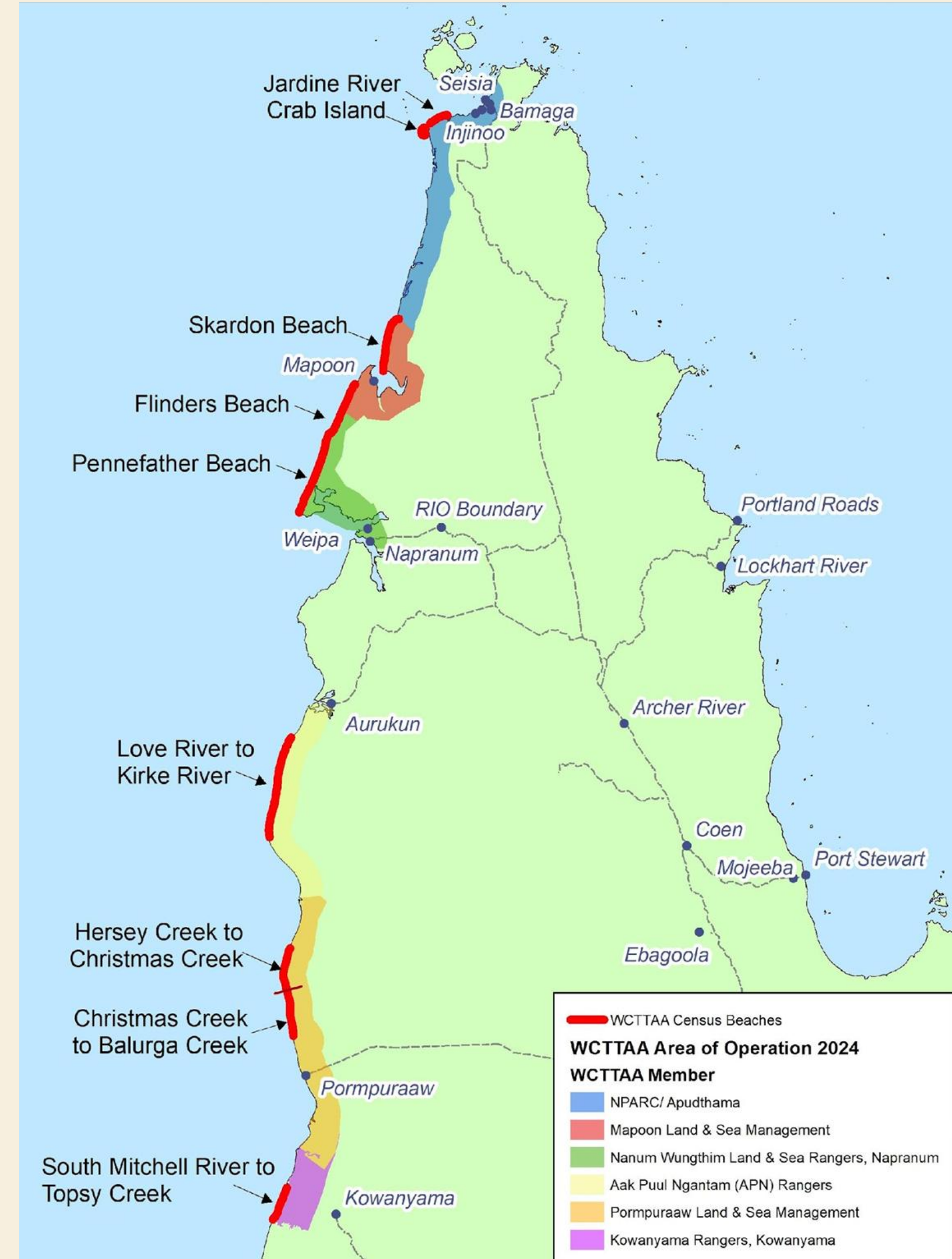
Partnership of six Indigenous Land and Sea owners and managers

Indigenous led

Work on eight beaches and one island

Vision

Efficiently manage threats to coastal habitats and enhance opportunities for nesting marine turtle populations on the Western Cape York Peninsula



About the Project

Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program

Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Western Cape York Project

2023-2026

Eastern Cape York Project

2025-2026

Ranger Pest Management Training and Control

2024-2026

Queensland Feral Pest Initiative

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

2023 – 2026



Project Activities

- Monitoring of turtle nests and hatching success
- Turtle flipper and GPS tagging
- Community engagement and education
- Public awareness (signage, flyers, beach closures)
- Media presence and public speaking
- Beach clean-ups
- Supporting research projects
- Predator management

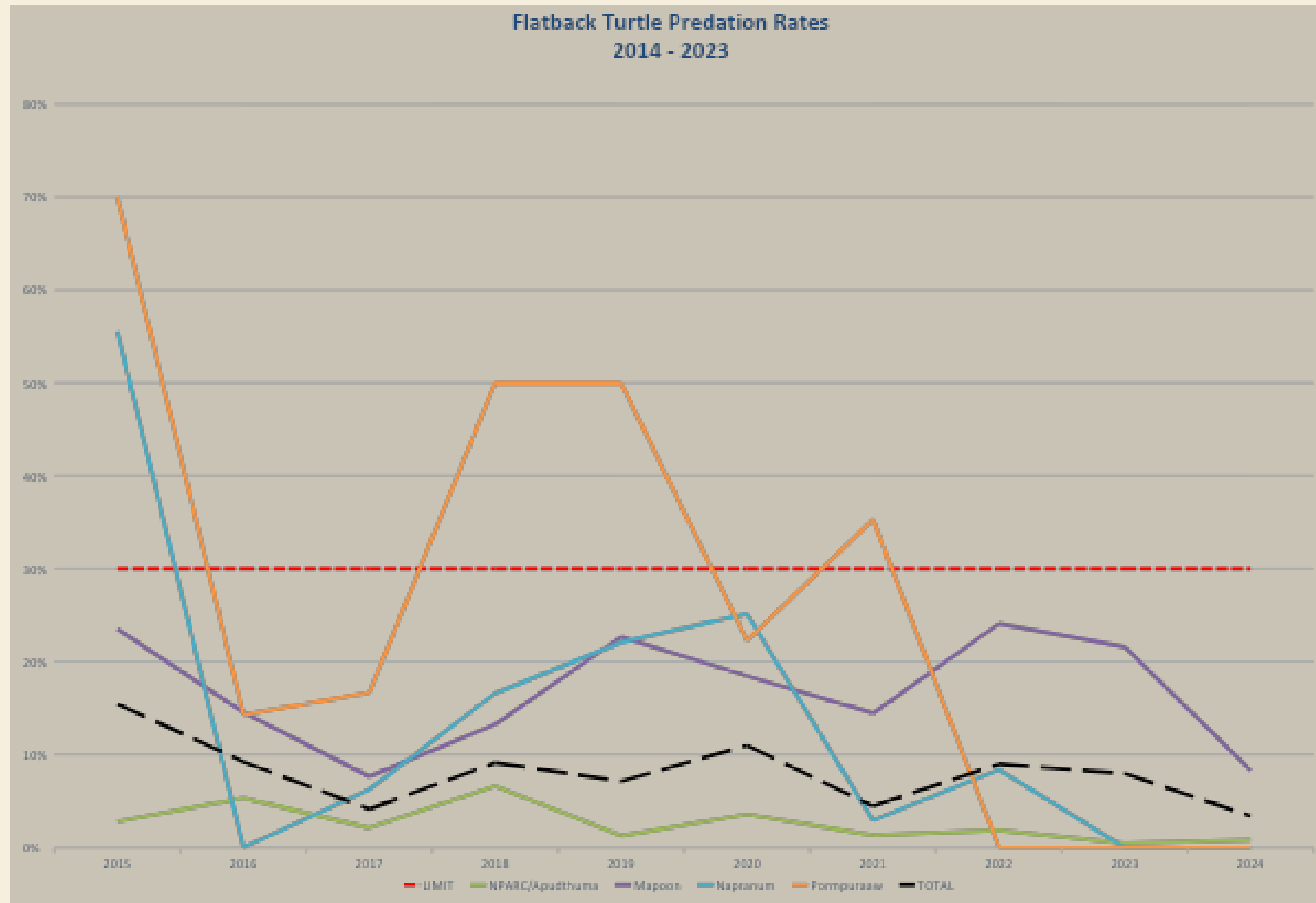


Nest Predation Management

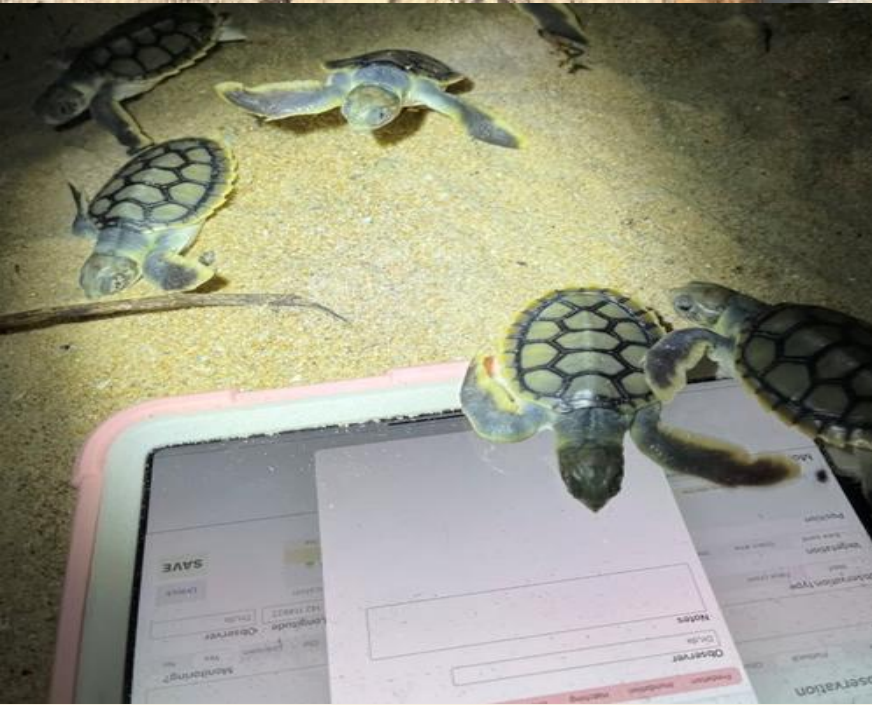
- Main predation caused by feral pigs, dingoes, goannas and human take
- Nests are dug up and destroyed
- Predation rates of turtle nests used to be more than 70% on some beaches
- Purpose-built aluminium cages used to protect nests
- On-ground feral animal control
- Aerial pig culls (twice per year) per ranger group



Nest Predation Management Results



Predation rates below the sustainable clutch loss of 30%



Ranger Training on Country

- Welding training to build aluminium cages on site
- On-ground and aerial platform shooting
- Humane destruction of animals
- Data collection using Nestor app to record tracks, nests, species, predation





This program will drive agricultural sustainability, productivity, and competitiveness. It supports the following outcomes:

Indigenous grazing sector capacity building

To strengthen participation in the Cape York grazing sector by building the capacity of Indigenous landholders to establish and manage sustainable, profitable, and environmentally-responsible grazing enterprises.

Increasing drought resilience

To enhance the resilience of Cape York's grazing sector by supporting landholders to adopt climate-smart practices that improve water security, optimise land management, and reduce environmental impacts.

First Nations Food Security Community of Practice

To support remote First Nation communities to develop local food

The Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (TNQ Drought Hub), led by James Cook University (JCU) collaborates with six NRM groups across TNQ to deliver drought resilience initiatives.

Funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund under the Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program, the TNQ Drought Hub is one of eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs across Australia established to support land managers and communities prepare for drought.





Regional NRM Plan

"A plan for our community, shaped by the community"

One of the roles of a regional NRM organisation is to develop and maintain a community-owned NRM Plan for the area.

The Plan provides a regional framework for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals.

We are in the process of developing a new Regional NRM Plan for Cape York Peninsula. The 2026-36 NRM Plan will provide the region with goals, actions and investment priorities for the future.

We hope to engage all communities and interest groups in the planning process, to understand their priorities, concerns and ideas for our region's future.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our NRM Plan



Getting involved

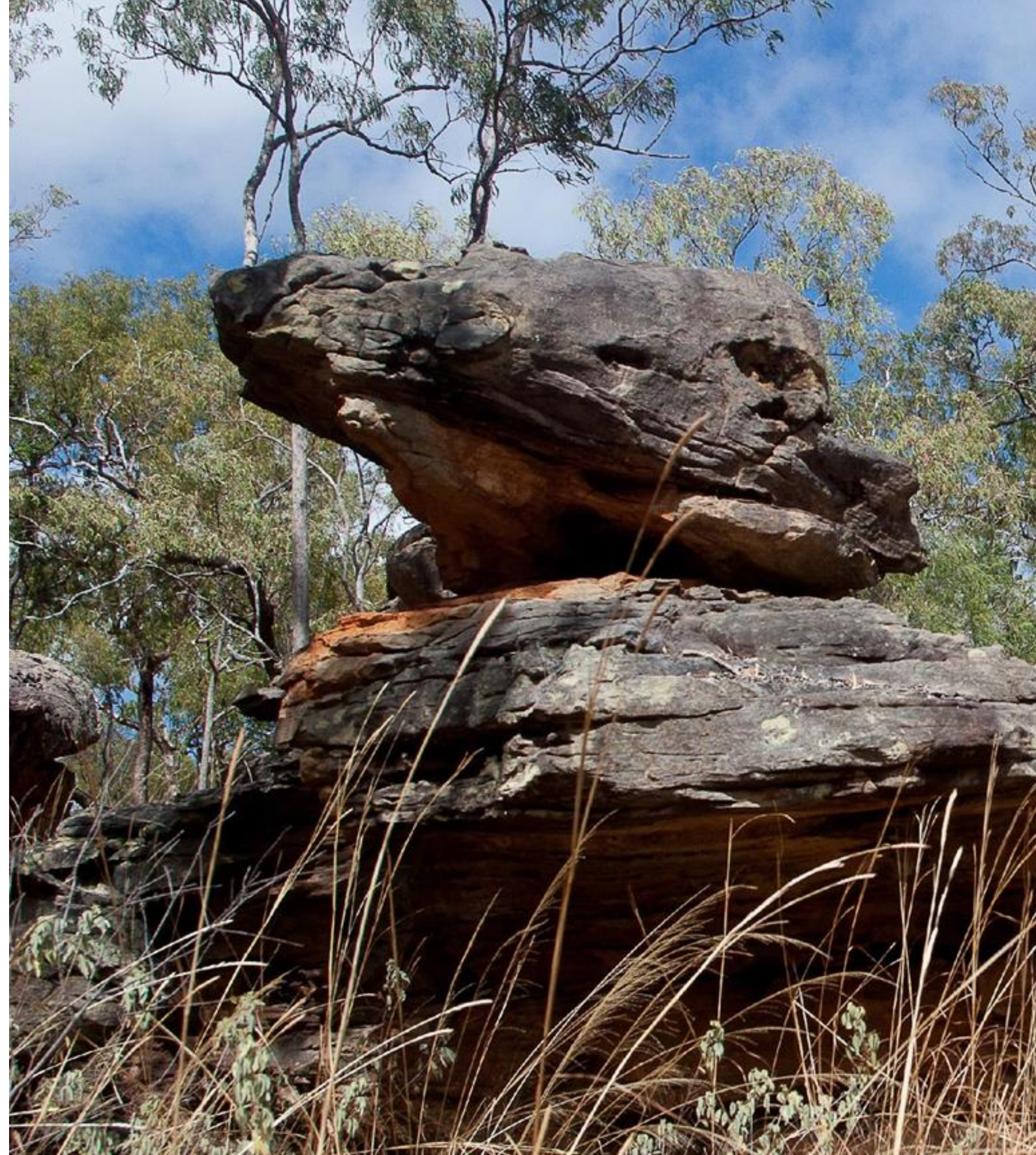
We are guided by a board of seven directors who are elected by Cape York NRM's members every three years. Membership is free.

You must be a member before you can be nominated as a Director.

We also encourage businesses and organisations to join us as sponsors or partners for projects and events related to Cape York NRM.



*Make a donation to
Cape York NRM*



Stay up to date

Our website

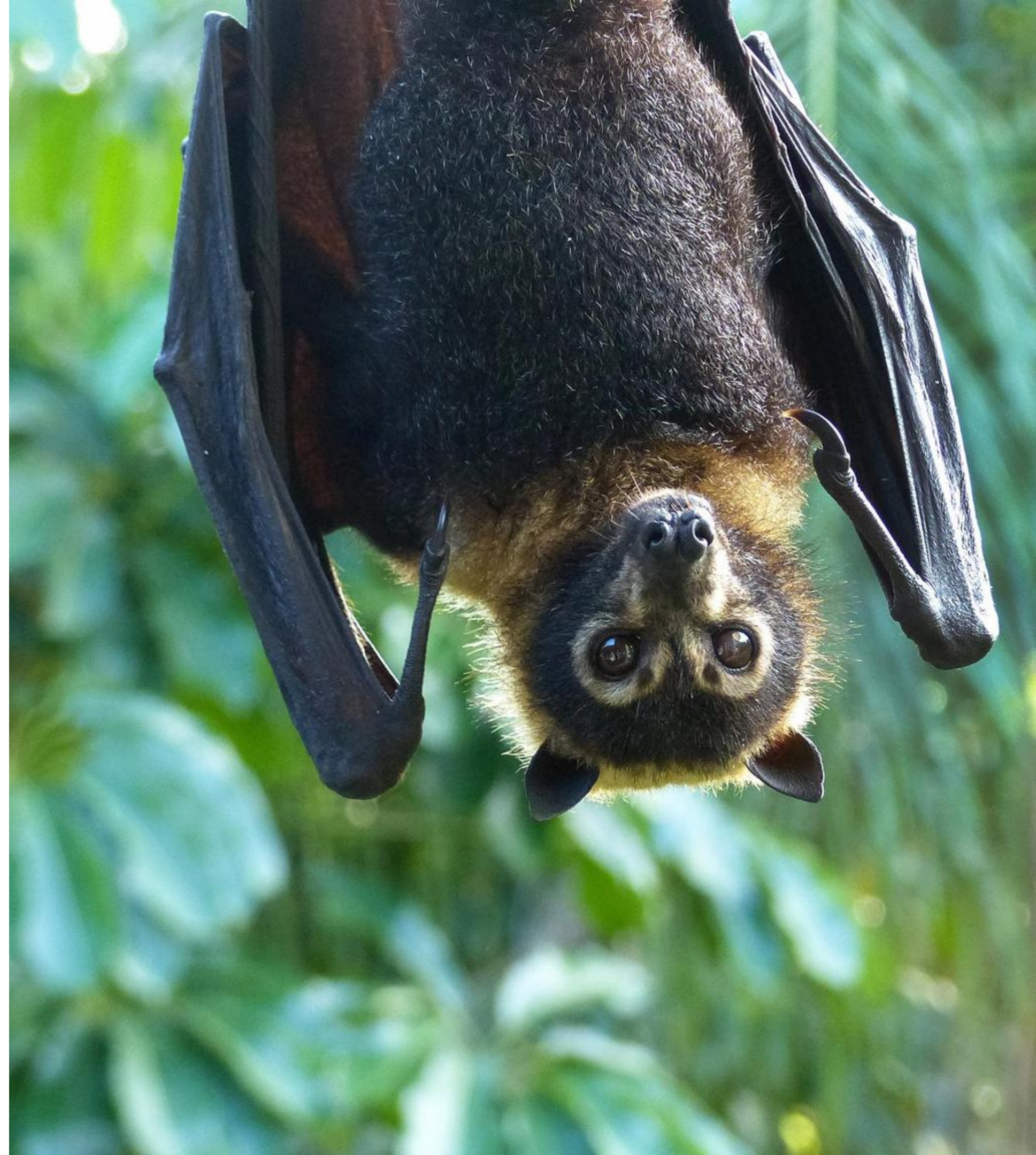
www.capeyorknrm.com.au

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"Cape Connect"





Cape York

Natural Resource Management

Thank you!