

Looking after coastal country and culture in Kakadu National Park

Kakadu National Park
Landscape Change Symposium

17 – 18 April 2007

Current knowledge

- Substantial Indigenous cultural heritage values
- Sacred sites, oral histories, macassan sites
- Ongoing use of marine environment
- Cultural heritage values have endured millenia of climate change



Current knowledge

- We know a little about some species and habitats and almost nothing about most



Current knowledge

'Known' animals include

- Marine turtles
- Dugong and cetaceans
- Saltwater crocodiles
- Estuarine and coastal fishes
- Sharks and sawfish
- Coastal birds



Current knowledge

'Known' habitats
include

- Mangroves
- Benthic (sea bottom) habitats



Current knowledge

- Recent fish and seagrass surveys have started to document marine species/habitats more generally



Current knowledge

- Van Diemen Gulf and Kakadu coast are critical nursery and breeding habitats for a number of commercially, culturally and conservation significant species



Key threats to landscape health in Kakadu

- Few opportunities for Bininj to guide management of marine activities that have the potential to impact on cultural values
- Lack of scientific data on marine habitats and species in and adjacent to Kakadu



Key threats to landscape health in Kakadu

- Unknown levels of use/impact on marine and coastal species and environments
 - commercial fishing
 - recreational fishing



Key threats to landscape health in Kakadu

- Climate change and sea level rise
- Off-park impacts on migratory species



Key knowledge gaps

- Consultation on marine conservation priorities
- Mapping of key marine habitats and species
- Detailed bathymetric and substrate mapping



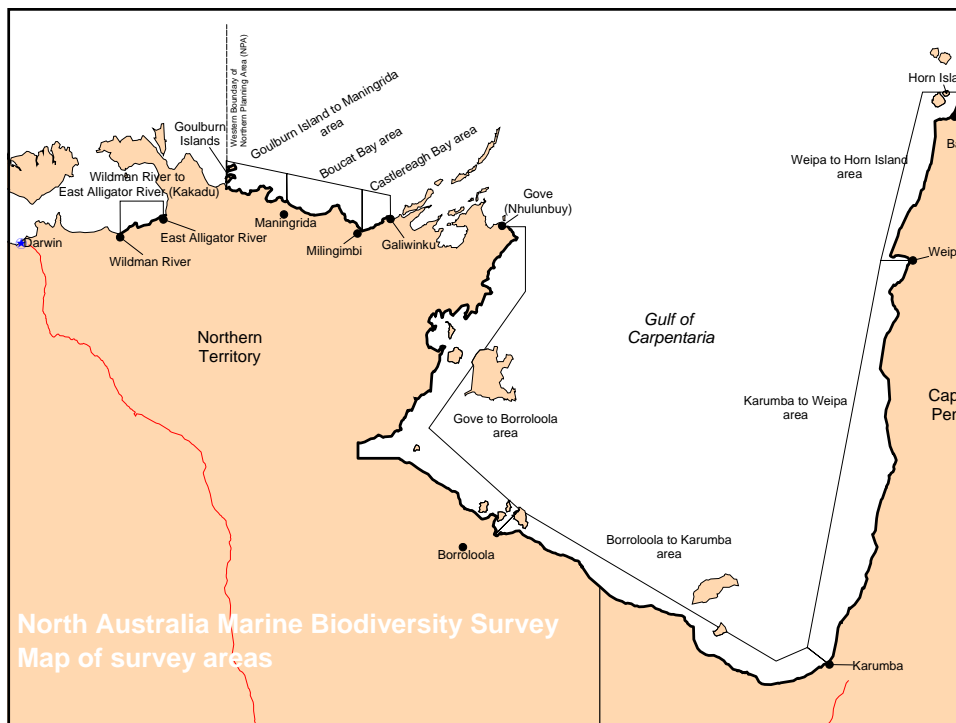
Key knowledge gaps

- Collation of *existing* information on levels of use and visitation to marine and coastal environments
- Monitoring of existing and future levels of use and visitation to marine and coastal areas



Proposed management options

- Collaborative research efforts between Bininj, other Park managers and scientists
- Close cooperation between Bininj, other Park managers and the Northern Territory Government
- Develop conservation and management partnerships and strategies beyond the Park's coastal boundary



Current knowledge

- Van Diemen Gulf and Kakadu coast are critical nursery and breeding habitats for a number of commercially, culturally and conservation significant species
- Available information tends to be focused on species of commercial significance
- Otherwise relatively poorly studied

