

# ***Kakadu National Park Research Guidelines for collaboration between researchers and Bininj/Munggy (Aboriginal people) of Kakadu National Park***

## ***Background***

Kakadu National Park (KNP) has been a place of interest to researchers for many years. Researchers have studied the area's plants, animals, landscapes, cultural life, social and environmental history, and resource management institutions. *The Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016-2026* recognises the importance of research for addressing both immediate and long term management issues.

Parks Australia has a permit system in place to manage research that occurs in Kakadu National Park (KNP) which provides an opportunity for Bininj/Munggy to comment on and approve research projects. The full research application process can be accessed on the departmental web site at <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/researchers>

These guidelines form a critical part of that process and are intended to reflect the expectations that Bininj/Munggy have for researchers who want to come and work in the Park. Bininj/Munggy wish to engage in respectful partnerships that provide opportunities for them to participate in and benefit from research and which acknowledges their expertise and contributions. Following these guidelines will assist researchers in planning their projects in the permit application process and in conducting their research once approved. The guidelines may also form the basis of special permit conditions where appropriate. All the responsibilities set out below may not be relevant to all research projects, but generally speaking, the longer and more complex a research project is, the more thoroughly a researcher will be expected to engage with them. Many of the responsibilities set out here are a matter of fair and reasonable behaviour and are relevant in all cases. All researchers are encouraged to use these guidelines to inform themselves of the scope of issues that may arise in research relationships involving Bininj/Munggy and Parks Australia in KNP.

By following these guidelines researchers will be operating in accordance with the research permit conditions provided by Parks Australia and the benefit-sharing standards of Australian research institutions' human research ethics processes.

Researchers should liaise with Kakadu National Park's Senior Project Officer: Research, Monitoring and Knowledge Management, who can assist in the implementation of these guidelines.

## **RESEARCH CONDUCT**

### **Researcher responsibilities under these guidelines**

Researchers agree to:

- seek to understand current attitudes to research and the matters of concern as well as topics of interest and priority to Bininj/Munggy. The Management Plan identifies research priorities and a number of research strategies are available from Parks Australia;
- allow time to pursue ways in which the research project can meet Bininj/Munggy information needs and be of benefit to Bininj/Munggy. This includes allowing sufficient lead times for adequate consultation. Although many researchers will have a defined question or topic of

interest, effort should be made to seek early input from Bininj/Mungguy and Parks Australia on the scope of the project and the methodology to be employed and, where possible, adapt the project to address Bininj/Mungguy interests;

- allow for Bininj/Mungguy to participate in any aspect of the research where relevant and possible and assist Bininj/Mungguy to participate in field research through the provision of transport, food, water and necessary safety equipment. Where possible, researchers need to provide payment for expertise at agreed rates. Payment will generally be provided through a casual employment contract with an Aboriginal Association or as cash payments at rates agreed to before the research commences;
- when involving Bininj/Mungguy in field work, researchers need to ensure that they maintain a duty of care and satisfy the necessary Work Health Safety requirements as outlined in the relevant legislation, park policy and procedures. This includes the provision of adequate work cover where applicable;
- contact the Research Project Officer(s) at least one month prior to planned fieldwork and provide details of who will be entering the Park to undertake research, an itinerary of their movements, and details of vehicles to be used. This will allow time for Bininj/Mungguy, Park staff and relevant authorities to be notified of impending research, and for Parks Australia to source Bininj/Mungguy research participants;
- follow reasonable direction from Bininj/Mungguy and Parks Australia at all times during the project regarding the nature of the information documented and suitable sites for field work. This includes taking direction from Bininj/Mungguy where there are requests for researchers to be accompanied during fieldwork (particularly in sensitive areas);
- not release to any person without prior written approval any information that is considered to be confidential;
- not remove cultural material without permission;
- only use information for the purposes of carrying out the research project and not for profit;
- seek Bininj/Mungguy consent to being photographed and ensure images (of people or landscapes) are used only for the purpose of the research project;
- provide a copy of photographs and other media products to the participating Bininj/Mungguy as well as the park for archival storage;
- provide regular feedback on the progress of the project including a short plain English report on the outcomes of research trips to Parks Australia for distribution within the Park. Research trip reports will be provided within 2 weeks of completing the trip;
- allow for an annual review of the research collaboration for projects than run longer than three years;
- provide KNP's Research Project Officer(s) the final draft of research reports before submission, distribution, or publishing the whole or any part of the report, for distribution to Bininj/Mungguy to ensure that Bininj/Mungguy involvement has been adequately acknowledged and confidentiality respected;
- provide a plain English summary of the final research reports and a copy of the final report to KNP's Research Project Officer to distribute to Bininj/Mungguy involved with the research, key Aboriginal organisations, and other Parks Australia staff within 3 months of completion of the project;

- seek to involve Bininj/Mungguy in activities promoting the research project and results (e.g., conferences, publication materials) and provide support as resources allow for traditional owners to participate in these activities. Co-authorship of reports and papers with Bininj/Mungguy should be considered as a means of acknowledging indigenous expertise where appropriate. Researchers will need to allow sufficient time for those Bininj/Mungguy employed by Parks Australia to seek approval from the Department to publish reports or be included as a co-author;
- ensure that all publications based on work carried out in Kakadu acknowledges the involvement of Bininj/Mungguy;
- ensure adequate human and animal ethics clearances have been obtained from their host institutions prior to commencement of research in the Park;
- respect cultural values in any interaction with Bininj/Mungguy (Cross-cultural training tools can be provided to assist with this);
- seek feedback on how to respect the intellectual property of the respective parties (this will include the original owners of the information and the Director of National Parks particularly where public monies have funded the work). Unless otherwise agreed, the intellectual property and entire copyright of all traditionally owned materials (such as songs, images, stories, names and other traditional knowledge) which is recorded and otherwise documented during the course of the project shall remain the sole property of the original owners, and
- if any of the new intellectual property generated during the course of the research is of commercial value, researchers will negotiate a new agreement with Bininj/Mungguy, their representative organisation, and Parks Australia where appropriate.

### **Bininj/Mungguy responsibilities**

*Bininj/Mungguy agrees to:*

- where relevant and practical, contribute knowledge and expertise to the research projects,
- work with researchers to make the project a success. This may require that Bininj/Mungguy talk with the researchers about any rules that the researchers have to follow so as to understand their expectations and constraints,
- talk with the researchers about the researcher's expectations for ownership of intellectual property and discuss the University rules that they work under, and
- where appropriate, provide feedback on proposals and any draft documents within an agreed period of time.

### **Parks Australia responsibilities**

Assistance and coordination will be provided by the KNP Research Project Officer unless otherwise agreed.

*Parks Australia agrees to:*

- facilitate the research consultation process and identify interested participants;

- assist the researcher and Bininj/Mungguy to identify opportunities for mutual benefits from the research;
- contact Bininj/Mungguy interested in employment as opportunities arise;
- help researchers and Bininj/Mungguy maintain contact during the course of the research and assist with the circulation of information and reports;
- assist researchers and Bininj/Mungguy to discuss matters relating to intellectual property;
- comment or provide input to draft research documents within an agreed period of time;
- alert researchers to any known sensitive issues or confidential topics;
- assist in the provision of cross cultural training either through formal training or the provision of training material and tools, and
- provide copies of relevant documentation such as policies and procedures relating to work health and safety.

### ***Conflict resolution***

Should conflict arise during the course of the research, the affected parties will contact the Kakadu Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity Management (CHBM) unit manager and/or the Chair of the Kakadu Research and Management Advisory Committee (KRMAC).