

kakadu™

NATIONAL PARK

Threatened species projects



Photo: Jonathan Webb

These four projects will kick start work on the Kakadu Threatened Species Strategy. This \$750,000 Australian Government investment has been mobilised by the Threatened Species Commissioner.

Project 1 \$450,000

Intensive work to target threats from fire, weeds and feral animals in crucial habitat, extending from the Stone Country to the lowland woodlands.

- The fire work will create longer gaps between bushfires and reduce the number of high intensity fires – both vital to the survival of species such as the vulnerable partridge pigeon and threatened ecological communities such as the Arnhem Plateau sandstone shrubland complex.
- The project will also target (and where possible, locally eradicate) gamba grass, mission grass, cats, buffalo and pigs in areas that are important for species such as the northern quoll and brush tailed rabbit rat.

Project 2 \$50,000

Creating a wildlife refuge on Gardangarl (Field Island) for species struggling on the mainland including small mammals and goannas.

- Cane toads will be eradicated from the island, and rangers will target weeds, feral animals, marine debris and bushfire to create a safe haven to threatened species.
- The flatback turtles that already nest on the island will continue to be protected and the world-leading monitoring program will continue.

Project 3 \$200,000

Expansion of the 'toad smart' quolls project, building on the highly successful research conducted in Kakadu since 2010.

- 150 'toad smart' northern quolls will be reintroduced to the Mary River region in Kakadu's south, an area where they haven't been seen since 2004. This is a major increase on the current scale of the project (the 2010 release involved 25 quolls).
- Before their release, the quolls will be trained not to eat cane toads, which are highly poisonous. Our earlier research has proven this approach works – the quolls taught their offspring not to eat cane toads, resulting in a five-fold increase in the localised quoll population.

Project 4 \$50,000

A rescue plan for threatened plants, many of which occur nowhere else in the world.

- Seeds will be collected and 'banked' to ensure long term survival of the species.
- The plants will be propagated and translocated, to create insurance populations of these important plants, with potential to cultivate plants for commercial sale.



Australian Government



FACT SHEET