**Outcome 3:** By 2023, invasive species management has reduced threats to the natural heritage Outstanding Universal Value of [World Heritage properties](http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/au) through the implementation of priority actions.

Context

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) recognises that it is the duty of States Parties to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory. As a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, the Australian Government works collaboratively with governments and property managers in the relevant states and territories to fulfil this obligation.

Inputs

* Funding for actions to reduce invasive species threats in World Heritage properties.
* World Heritage Convention (Article 4).
* EPBC Act Regulations 2000 - Schedule 5 - Australian World Heritage management principles.
* Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement (2009).
* World Heritage properties’ management arrangements.

*Rationale*

Management arrangements for World Heritage properties are to be consistent with the Australian World Heritage management principles to ensure Australia’s obligations under the World Heritage Convention are met. Invasive species are one of the main threats to World Heritage properties, and timely control measures, particularly of emerging pest species, is one of the most cost effective means of protecting Outstanding Universal Value.

Outputs

While there may be outputs specific to individual World Heritage properties, **example** outputs include:

* Number of hectares of disease control.
* Number of hectares of weed treatment.
* Number of hectares of pest control.
* Number of pest animals killed.
* Number of hectares of revegetation.
* Number of fire regimes implemented.
* Number of cool burns implemented.
* Number of hectares of burnt area.
* Area fenced.
* Number of individuals with increased awareness.
* Number of biosecurity checkpoints installed (e.g. boot wash to prevent the spread of phytophthora).

Problem

Invasive species have the potential to impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of Australia’s World Heritage properties.

Services

While there may be services specific to individual World Heritage properties, **example** services include:

* Pest plant and animal control on private land within, or abutting.
* Disease management on private land within, or abutting.
* Fencing.
* Riparian remediation (to reduce nutrient and point source pollution).
* Managing fire regimes.
* Cultural cool burns.
* Access control.

*Rationale*

The geographic spread of Regional Land Partnerships, and the combined agriculture and environment delivery, will allow key management actions listed in management arrangements for World Heritage properties arrangements to be addressed through one process. The targeting of funding to the World Heritage properties ensures that the program will be delivering on MNES and therefore be constitutionally valid.

*Rationale*

Inappropriate fire regimes and invasive species (plants, animals and pathogens) are two of the main threats to World Heritage properties, and can enter from neighbouring land. For properties with a substantial aquatic component, nutrient and sediment pollution from neighbouring catchments is also a major threat. Control of these threats on neighbouring land reduces the risk of impact on a property’s Outstanding Universal Value.

*Rationale*

Overarching management arrangements for World Heritage properties, together with subsidiary issue-based plans such as weed or fire management plans; and (for serial properties) reserve-based plans have set the priority actions to protect World Heritage properties. This suite of outputs reflects those actions. These outputs can be used as indicators of progress in order to facilitate milestone payments and gauge program progress.