



Warning: This plan may contain images, names and references to deceased Aboriginal people.

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The information presented in all the maps and figures herein reflect Traditional Owner views.

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DAMBIMANGARI

With our Healthy Country Plan we honour our old people from the *Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari*, *Wanjina Wunggurr Willingin* and *Wanjina Wunggurr Uunguu* who stood strong in our fight for Native Title. We remember the strength of our ancestors who passed their traditional knowledge on to us, fought for our rights and laid the foundation for our generation to look after our country in traditional and modern ways.

Our Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan is a modern way for us to remember our elders and ancestors. Many Dambimangari Traditional Owners worked for the past years on developing this plan:

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Courtesy of the R.J.B. Love Collection

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Beach on Dambimangari coastline
Photo: DAC

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Ambir (Turtle eggs)
Photo: KLC



Kunmunya landing
Photo: DAC

DAMBIMANGARI



Break out group working on targets
Photo: KLC



Working group members looking at the health and distribution of our targets
Photo: KLC

The *Dambimangari* Healthy Country Plan has been developed over many years of work. We lodged our native title claim in 1998. In May 2011, after more than 10 years of fighting, we, the *Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari* native title holders were recognised as the rightful owners of our traditional land and sea country. We are part of the *Wanjina Wunggurr* community and we have strong connections to our land through our law and culture and the spirits that created our country. Over all these years we talked about how we would look after our country guided by our law and culture.

When we heard about Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) during the Saltwater Country Project and had a chance to talk about this with countrymen from all over Australia at an IPA Managers Meeting in Alice Spring, we decided we wanted to go through the community consultation process to develop a Healthy Country Plan and talk about declaring an IPA over our country.

In the modern world it is important to have a plan for everything and we have learned that it is important to have a good plan from the beginning. We decided to use the *Conservation Action Planning* (CAP) process like our neighbours.

CAP is a planning framework used all over the world for conservation management and it is flexible enough to work for us. Most conservation management plans are only based on science. It was important for us to find a balance between western scientific approaches and our cultural knowledge and values. The CAP process allowed us to include a cultural

dimension in the planning stages, making it a meaningful process for Traditional Owners. We wrote this plan so others can understand our aspirations for Healthy Country Management and so that our Rangers can be on country to care for country. The map on the opposite page (map 1) shows the location of Dambimangari country. Our homelands are located in the West-Kimberley, east of Derby with Uunguu and Willingin country neighbouring our claim.

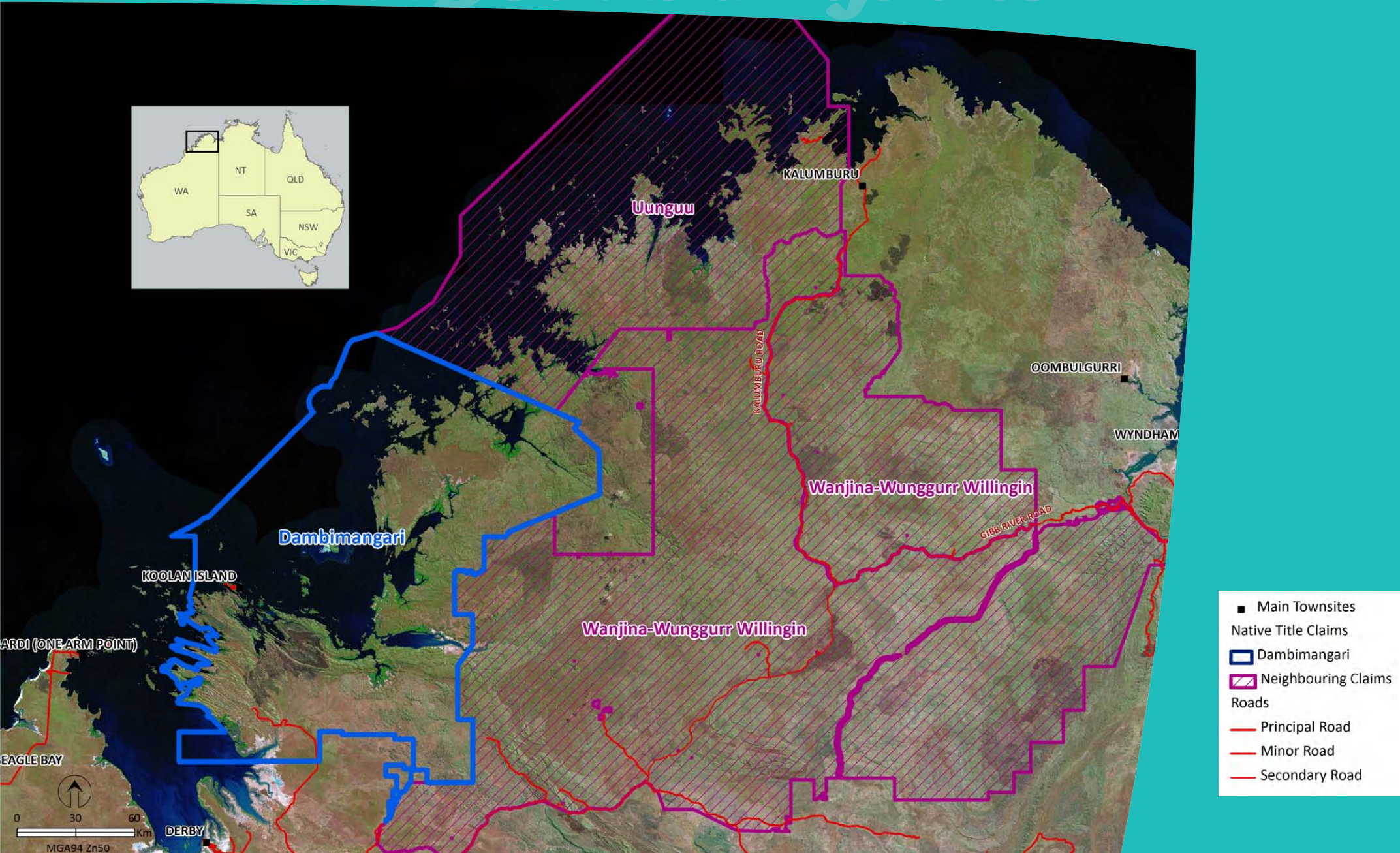
During our community consultations, our full claim group provided key directions for the plan. We held smaller meetings with the IPA working group and our Directors to talk about all the other elements which make up a good plan.

This plan explains how Dambimangari Traditional Owners want to look after country. We want to bring together the recommendations made by our old people so that our country stays healthy and our values are passed on to our young people and future generations.

This healthy country plan is made up of several sections. Pages 4 to 7 introduces our country and our people. Pages 8 to 29 sets out the long term vision for our country and talks about the most important things we want to look after in our country. The next section (pages 30 to 43) looks at the threats that may make our country unhealthy in the future. In the final section we show how we will keep our country healthy by using the objectives and strategies developed during our consultation process.

DAMBIMANGARI

Map 1: Location of Dambimangari country



DAMBJMANGARI



The name for our people comes from *Dambima*, meaning “home-lands” and *-ngari* meaning “belong to”. Dambimangari people are from the *Worrorra* tribe – the clans that are associated with *Lar-rinyuwai*, *Arrbarlandi*, *Umida*, *Unggarrang*, *Yawijabay*, *Uurnbun*, *Wurnbangkuwai* and *Ornnorrngoy*. Each of the skin groups is represented either by *Wodoyi*, the spotted nightjar or *Jungkurnja*, the Owllet nightjar. All Worrorra speaker can understand each other, but some got heavier accents and some accents are more light.

Dambimangari homeland is situated in the North West Kimberley Region along the Kimberley Coastline with its huge tides. We are all one mob, us *Wanjina Wunggurr* people: The three *Wanjina Wunggurr* claims are *Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin*, *Wanjina Wunggurr Uunguu* and us *Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari*. We all follow the same laws and beliefs of the *Wunggurr* (the creator snake) and *Wandjina* (our creator ancestors)..

Our country extends from *Ungarrang* at the bottom of Kimbolton to *Marlundum Arn Nowngoy* in the Prince Regent area and covers 16,040 sq km of land and 11,896 sq km of sea country. We are saltwater people who have been living along the coast for many thousands of years. Dambimangari people traditionally eat food from the bush and the sea—saltwater fish, turtles, dugongs, crabs and oysters make up an important part of our diet.

Our old people never forgot their country and we have been and still are caring for our country. The Dambimangari claim was first lodged in 1998. More than 13 years later, in May

2011, the Federal Court recognised us, the *Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari*, as the rightful traditional owners of our land and sea country by a consent determination at *Yaloon* (Cone Bay). We are part of the *Wanjina Wunggurr* community and have strong connections to our land through our law and culture and the spirits that created our country. Our country guides how we live, how we protect and care for our country. Each tree, blade of grass, rock, fish, river, beach, is there according to the law of the *Wandjina*.

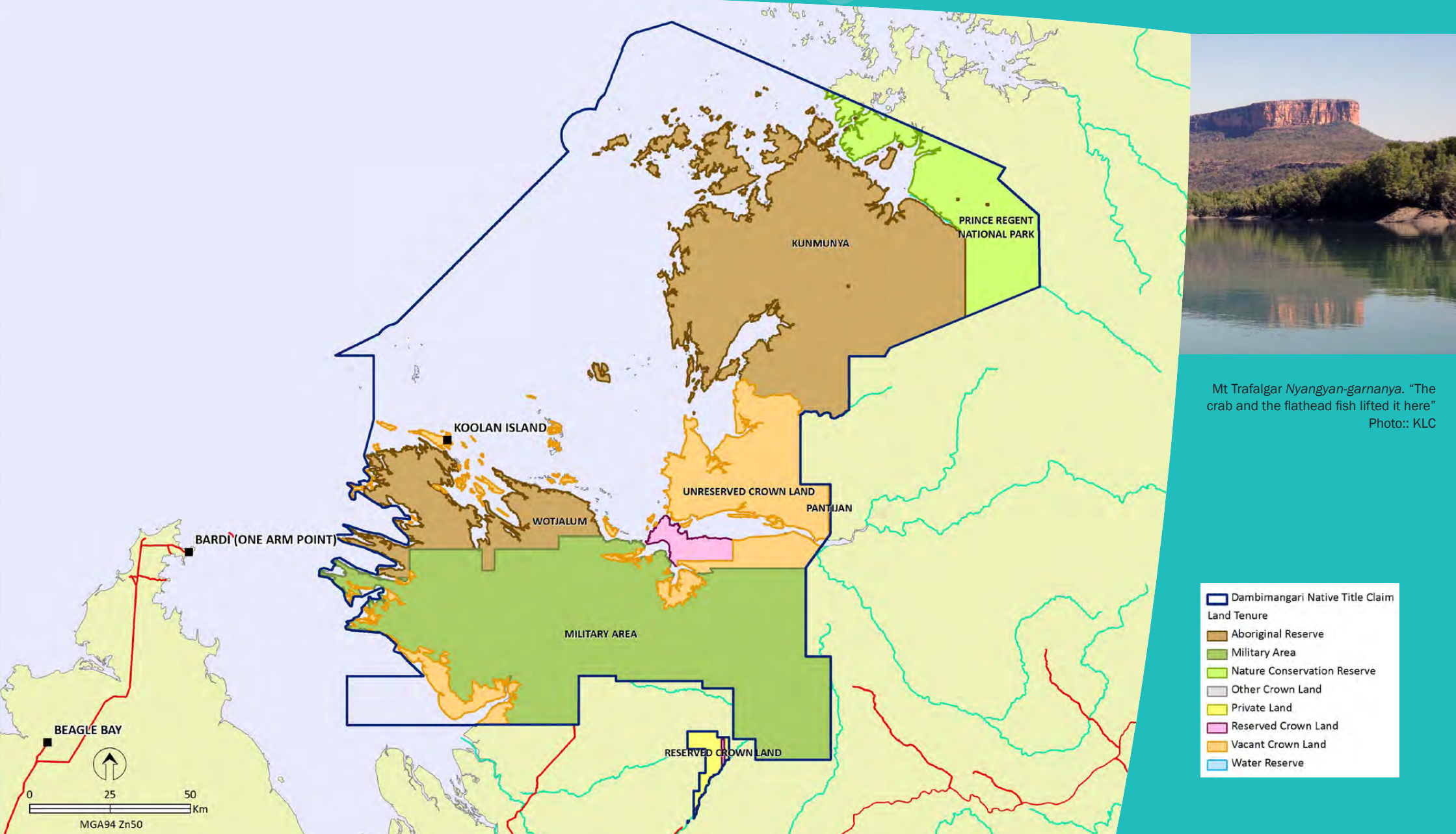
Dambimangari country was recently added to the National Heritage List, defined as part of the cultural landscape of the West Kimberley.

Today there are more than 700 Dambimangari people. We live a different life to our Ancestors, but we remember where we come from and how to look after our country. We now walk in two worlds, the modern world and the world of our traditional culture. Some of us live at *Mowanjum*, others live in *Yaloon*. Some live in the State capital Perth, others at Port Hedland, Broome and One Arm Point. Above all we are one mob. The future for the *Wanjina Wunggurr* is very bright.

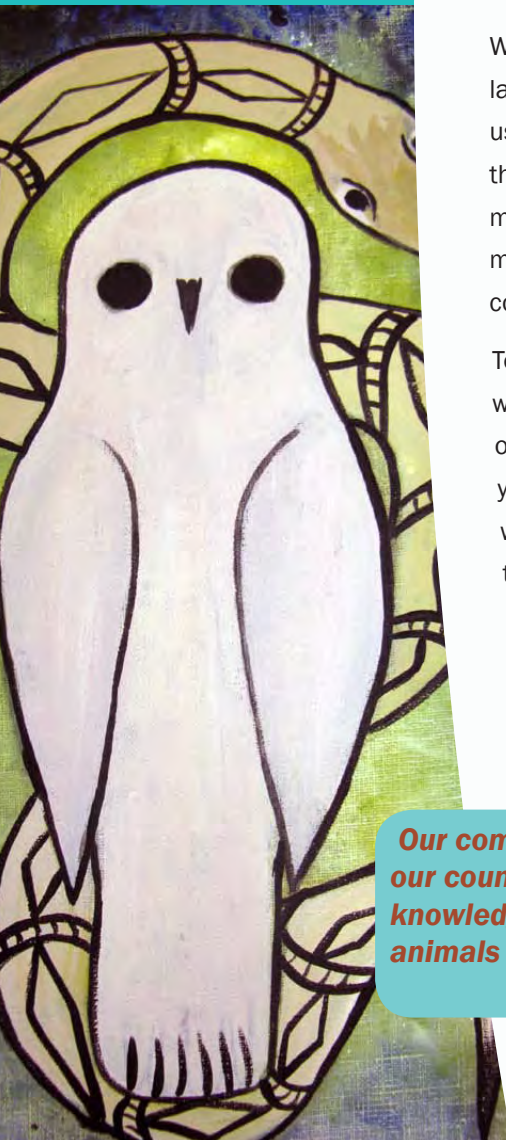
On the map opposite, the statutory land tenure of our Native Title Claim is shown: The biggest parcels of our country are made up of Aboriginal Reserves (*Kunmunya* and *Wotjalum*), Military Training Area (*Yampi*), Unallocated Crown Land and Prince Regent National Park.

DAMBIMANGARI

Map 2: Statutory land tenure



Mt Trafalgar Nyangyan-garnanya. "The crab and the flathead fish lifted it here"
Photo: KLC



We are the people of the *Wanjina* and *Wunggurr*—the creators of our land and sea country. The *Wanjina* and *Wunggurr* made the law for us and our country. We believe all the land, sea, heaven and all living things in our country were put there by *Wanjina* and *Wunggurr*. They made the law and the rules by which we live. They set out the way we must look after Dambimangari culture, plants, animals, people and country to keep them healthy.

Today we live in two worlds—the traditional world and the western world. We have used the western world-based CAP process as a way of putting all our traditional knowledge together. Over thousands of years our ancestors have looked after our country the traditional way. Since Europeans came to our country we could not continue to look after our country the way our culture expects us to. This plan brings together our traditions and western science. This plan tells the story of how we want to look after our country. Our vision sets our path to where we want to be in the next ten years.

Our community has a strong vision for looking after our country. We want to make sure our traditional knowledge is alive and strong and that all plants, animals and cultural sites are looked after.

Leah Umbagai

Vision for the Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan 2012-2022

Respect yourself and the land – care for another

It is our vision that:

- Dambimangari Country is managed by our rules and Dambimangari should have the last word over Dambimangari Country;
- we keep our traditional knowledge alive and pass it on to our young people;
- we look after animals, plants and cultural places on Dambimangari country using our traditional knowledge and western research;
- we return to country to live on our country, work on our country and have access to our country;
- we control people accessing our country and have our rangers guide them;
- we give our young people education, training, employment and business opportunities on county to look after country.

DAMBIMANGARI

The land means everything to us. All things on our country are important to us. Through our law we know that everything is connected.

At our first meetings in Derby we all sat down and made lists of things we want to look after. Some of these important things we grouped together. For example, we put all the culturally important animals together under the heading “*Native Animals*.” From our list we decided on those things we thought were the most important – we set priorities of what we should look after first of all. We call these “*targets*.” We know that while we are looking after these targets we can look after other things that are connected to them. When we go out to look for turtles around our reefs, we can go fishing and make sure that our important camping beaches are looked after. We can visit an island on the way and make sure that the freshwater places are healthy and we can do some burning to clean up country at the same time.

Some of the animals that live on our lands and in our seas are rare or threatened elsewhere in the world. While we are looking after our nine most important things we are looking after these threatened species. The CAP process calls this “*nested targets*.” A list of our nested targets is set out in Appendix 2.

The nine most important things we choose to focus on are:

- Cultural sites
- Reefs, beaches and islands
- Saltwater fish
- Turtle and dugong
- Whales and dolphins
- Rivers, waterholes, waterfalls and wetlands (freshwater systems)
- Culturally important native animals
- Bush fruits and medicine plants
- Right-way fire

You will find a short story on each of the targets over the next few pages. The stories explain why these things are so important to Dambimangari people.

You can have a variety of things but you gotta focus on one thing at a time...let's start small and gradually work with it and it will grow.

Joy Morlumbun



Horizontal waterfall. “The place where the *Wunggurr* rushes out”
Photo: KLC

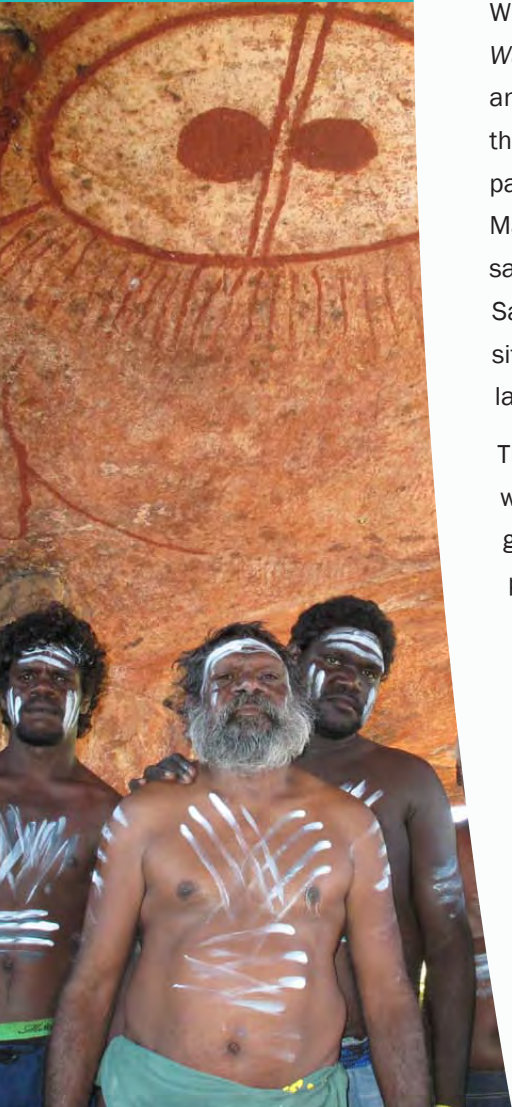


Bower bird nest
Photo: KLC

Dambimangari targets

Target 1: Important cultural sites

DAMBJMANGARI



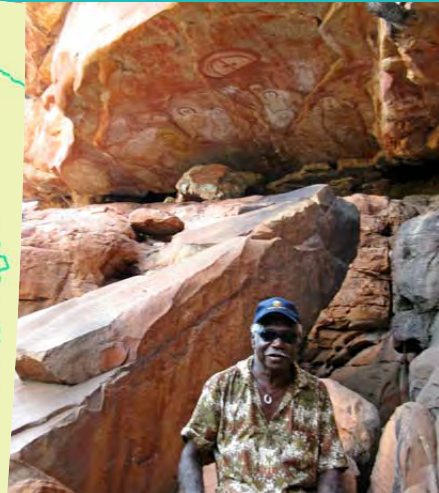
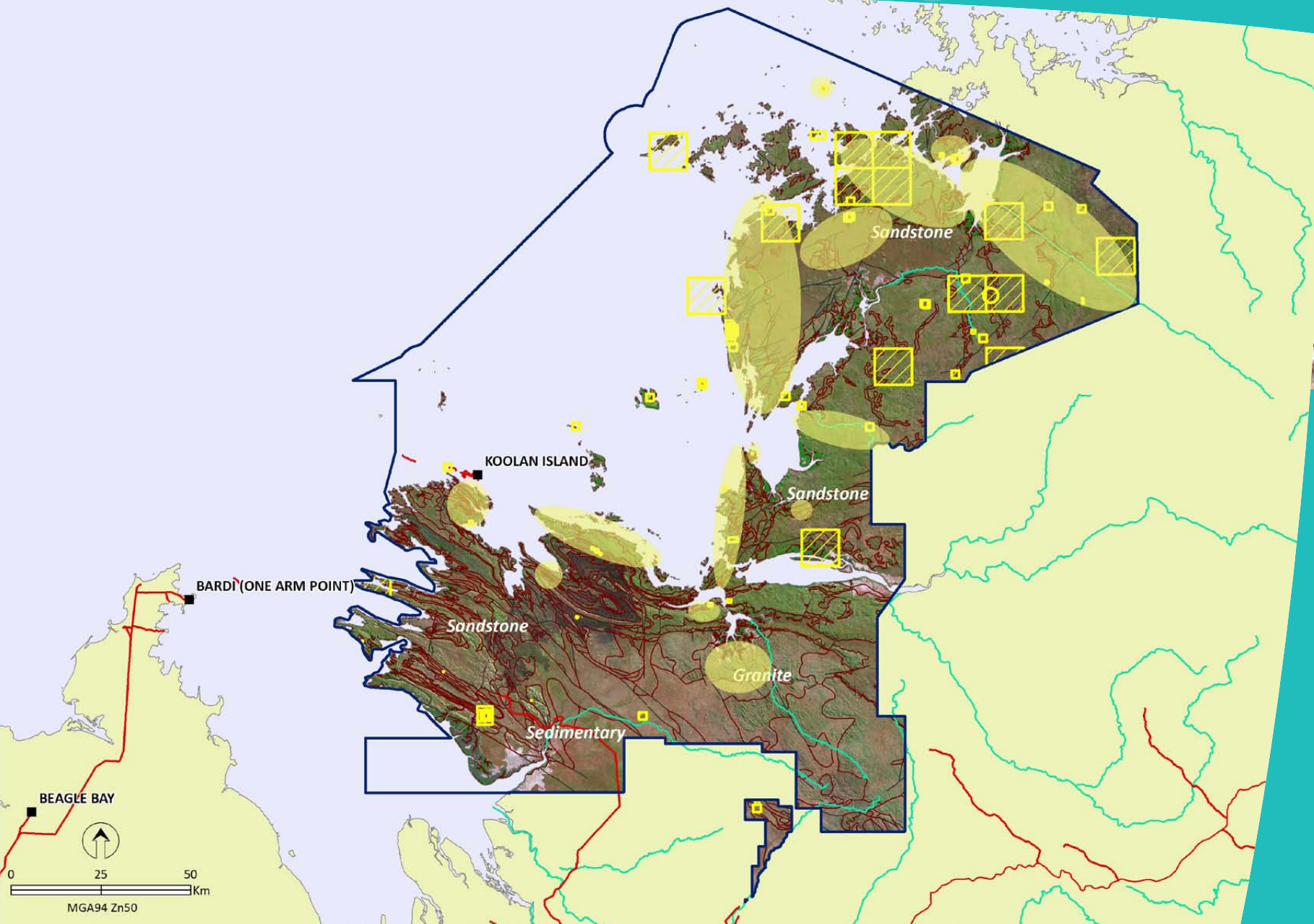
When we say cultural sites, we are talking about *Wandjina* and *Wunggurr* sites, our rock art sites, stone arrangements, burial sites and important camping beaches where our old people rested when they were travelling through saltwater country. Map 3 on the opposite page shows the rough locations of our culturally important sites. Many of our culturally important sites are on the rugged cliffs of sandstone country, but not limited to it: Many sites can be found on Saltwater Country and on our islands. The target “Important cultural sites” refers to places of extreme importance to us within a wider landscape of cultural significance.

The cultural sites are places that tell us about creation, how the earth was formed. They hold the traditional knowledge passed down from generation to generation. Sitting, talking and experiencing those places makes us feel close to our ancestors. They are part of our heritage. Each place tells a different story about how the *Wunggurr* and *Wandjina* created the rocks, the rivers and the ocean. Our belief is that all things in our country were put there for a purpose by the *Wandjina*. Our country has significant cultural sites with rules and responsibilities about how to look after it..

It is our cultural responsibility to visit all these important places regularly to check that they haven’t been disturbed and are still healthy. We believe it gives happiness and comfort to our ancestors’ spirits by visiting, working, protecting, and living on the land. It also reconnects us to that country. Living and breathing on country gives life and life is health.

Going to culturally significant places without a culturally appropriate guide brings up bad feelings and is against our law and culture. Going to a site without the right Traditional Owner makes these places unhealthy. Tourists visit sites on their boats and with helicopters without permission and without respecting cultural protocols. We, as the Traditional Owners carry the responsibility for these sites from our ancestors. We are punished when our cultural protocols are not followed. When we invite visitors to our country with proper ceremony, visitors come with a free spirit. The smoke from the smoking ceremony acts as a shield that covers visitors so the spirit of the land accepts them.

DAMBIMANGARI



Donny Woolagoodja explaining rock painting
Photo: KLC

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Aboriginal Sites
- Registered Art Sites
- Culturally important Sites
- Geology**
- Geological Units
- Linear Structures

Dambimangari targets

Target 2: Reefs, beaches and islands

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Dambimangari people are Saltwater People. Our islands are special places—some islands have burial sites, rock art, stone arrangements, artifact scatters and shell middens dating back through the thousands of years we have occupied and visited the islands. Some islands like *Wurroolgu* (Augustus Island) have creek systems which flow for part of the year and are just freshwater pools at other times of the year. With permanent year-round water, we can live on these islands. There is plenty of food available from plants and animals living on the islands and from the sea.

We must look after our islands to keep them healthy. This can include ‘freshening up’ our *Wandjina* rock art, burning off the bush at the right time of the year, cleaning up freshwater places and burial sites and talking to the ancestral spirit beings inhabiting the islands. It is

important to talk to the ancestral spirit beings to ask for safe passage and to introduce them to strangers with a smoking ceremony. Without observing these protocols too many accidents occur and, as Traditional Owners, we bear the consequences.

Many years back *Makassan* seafarers came our islands looking for trepang and freshwater. We call the watering place *Wurroolgu Aagungarlangarlangarri* or “Talking Water.” In 1865 a Makassan fleet called in to collect water and later on, in the 1920s, pearl luggers called in to collect water too. They used a hollow log to float the water out to their boats.

Not just visitors, but we too travelled on the currents. As part of our *wunan* trading system our old people travelled across the water in rafts and dug-out canoes, following the currents

and tides. When the journey was too long they found safe camping on a nearby beach. These beaches hold many important stories for us.

Our reefs are important hunting grounds. First of all, *Yowjab* (Montgomery Reef), where we hunt for *jurluwarra* (Sea-turtle) and *warliny* (Dugong) and find many important *jaya* (Saltwater fish) and reef medicines. When we come home with a good catch we know that our ancestors are happy and looking after us, providing for us.

We have to keep our reefs, beaches and islands healthy. They are a safe haven for many animals. For over 3 years, our Rangers worked with scientists from Western Australia’s Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) to look at all the plants and animals on these islands. To keep them healthy we must make sure that right-way fire is used on the islands and that they are kept free from weeds and feral animals. This ensures they are a refuge. Our Rangers must check on all visitors and make sure that they don’t bring any unwanted “passengers” with them.

Dambimangari Rangers work with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS) to make sure that no insects from overseas come to our country. We patrol saltwater country regularly, as rubbish from overseas and from Australia washes up on our beaches and *jurluwarra* and other animals may be harmed or killed.

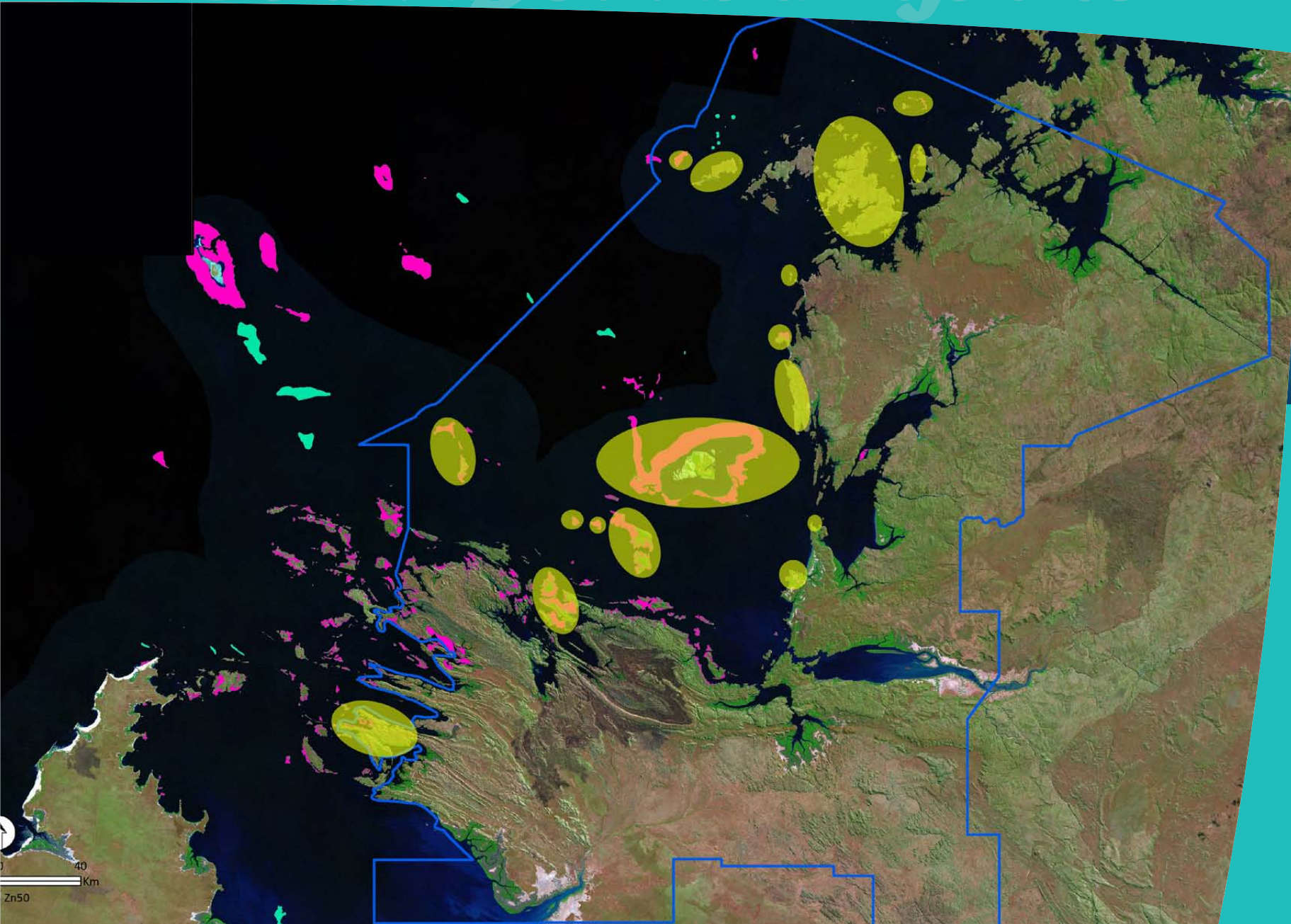
Before Kunmunya Mission moved to Wotjalum in 1953, Worrorra people used to travel to Augustus Island for Christmas and Easter holidays and for ‘shelling work’ — collecting pearl shell, baler shells, cowrie shells and living off bush tucker like yams and fruits.

Janet Oobagooma, 2011

We don’t want people walking on that reef.

Donny Woolagoodja about Montgomery Reef.

DAMBIMANGARI



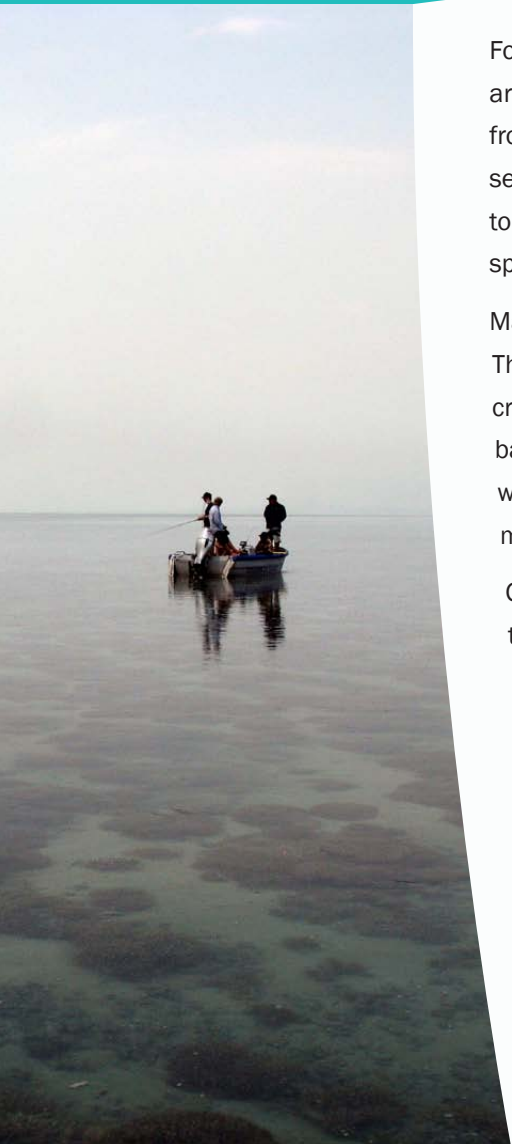
Loolim
Photo: KLC

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Reefs and Shoals
- Reef
- Shoal
- Culturally Important Reefs, Beaches and Islands

Dambimangari targets

Target 3: Saltwater fish

DAMBJMANGARI



For Dambimangari people, saltwater people, resources from the sea are an important part of our diet. Our traditions, passed on to us from our old people, tell us where to find the best fish and the right season to fish for them. We are seasonal hunters. We hunt according to the four tides. For example, we never go out looking for fish at new spring tide.

Many creation stories tell about the importance of saltwater resources: The *Jimbirridy* (Rock-cod) and the baler shell, two *Wandjina* beings, created the Prince Regent River and Saint George Basin. Out of the baler shell came St Andrew Island which took its name from the word for baler shell in our language— *Ngarlangkarnanya*. There are many other stories for our saltwater country.

Our traditions tell us not to waste any fish. If fish gets wasted the spirits get upset and few fish will be caught for the next few weeks. We fish for *doolja* (Mangrove Jack), *jamaarri* (Mullet), *ilerra* (Barramundi), *malgirrba* (Bluebone), *garrgulya* (Spanish Flag) and many more. In the past we used spears, fish traps and fish poison to catch them. Nowadays we fish with hand lines or a cast net. We look out for *Marlinju* (Oysters) when the tides are low and we can collect them from the rocks. Our traditions teach us how to cook fish properly. We use *bongkulgarrim* (Stilt mangrove) in a ground oven to give the fish good flavour.

All animals from the sea are healthy when the saltwater they are living in is healthy and clean. We worry about pollution in the sea. When the Montara rig out in the ocean caught fire in

August 2009, our waters could have been threatened by an oil spill. We must make sure that we have plans in place in case something like that happens.

Bilge water from tourist boats and ballast water from the big freighters may pollute our water as well. Our Rangers, together with the Australian Quarantine Inspection service (AQIS) mob, must closely monitor the sea for exotic species. In the past, illegal fishing vessels came to our sea country bringing with them potentially dangerous marine pests.

With all the tourism, we need to make sure our fish-stocks are kept healthy for the future. We are happy to work with Fisheries WA investigating how much fish can be taken without damaging our stocks and monitoring any changes over time.

DAMBIMANGARI

Dambimangari targets

Map 5: Saltwater fish

Montgomery Reef.

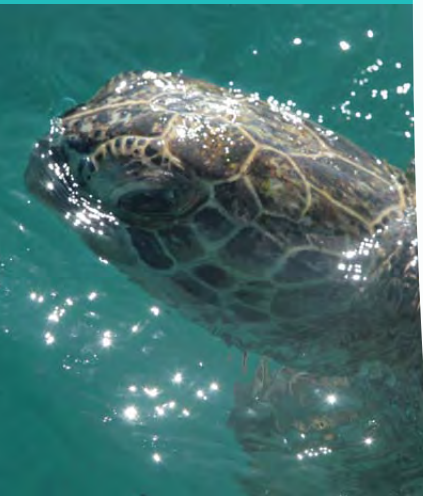
“When the land was jelly, Unggud slithered and snaked creating the ocean floor, the land, the rivers and the mountains.”

Photo: Nat Raisbeck-Brown/Terrametrics

Dambimangari targets

Target 4: Turtle and Dugong

DAMBJMANGARI



Warli (Green turtle)
Photo: Gary Lienert



Warlinya (Dugong)
Photo: Gary Lienert

Jurluwarra (Saltwater-turtle) and *warlinya* (Dugong) are important to Dambimangari people as an important food source. When travelling along our beaches, the first thing we do is look for turtle tracks to their nests so we can take the *ambirr* (Turtle eggs).

We have many traditional stories for *jurluwarra* and *warlinya* and their cultural use is interwoven with our traditional lifestyles. When *jurluwarra* are mating we refer to them as married turtles or *gungkara*. During that time they can only float near the surface for several days and that makes them easy to hunt, as they cannot dive down to get away. There are often 3 or 4 males hanging around a female. We use a *warnkuru* (Heavy turtle spear) made out of the straight wood of the Woollybutt, (also called *warnkuru*) for hunting turtle from a boat.

We mainly catch *warli* (Green turtle) for its meat. This is the most common turtle in our sea country. *Warli* tends to lay its eggs on off-shore islands with deep blue waters, so we travel with the tides and currents to collect its eggs. We have to be careful with *nawurralya* (Hawksbill turtle) because it feeds on soft coral and it is poisonous if not cut up properly in the traditional way. *Nwurralya* has a very pretty shell and we often use it for ornaments and artefacts. We also find *mungurdi* (Loggerhead Turtle) in our waters. *Mungurdi* eats *bijlumun* (Sea cucumber, trepang, bêche-de-mere) found in creeks. It is often called *mud turtle* because it is usually found in creeks with murky water. *Galagalarri* (Flatback turtle) is occasionally hunted for its meat, but more often for its giant eggs which *galagalarri* lays on the mainland and inshore islands.

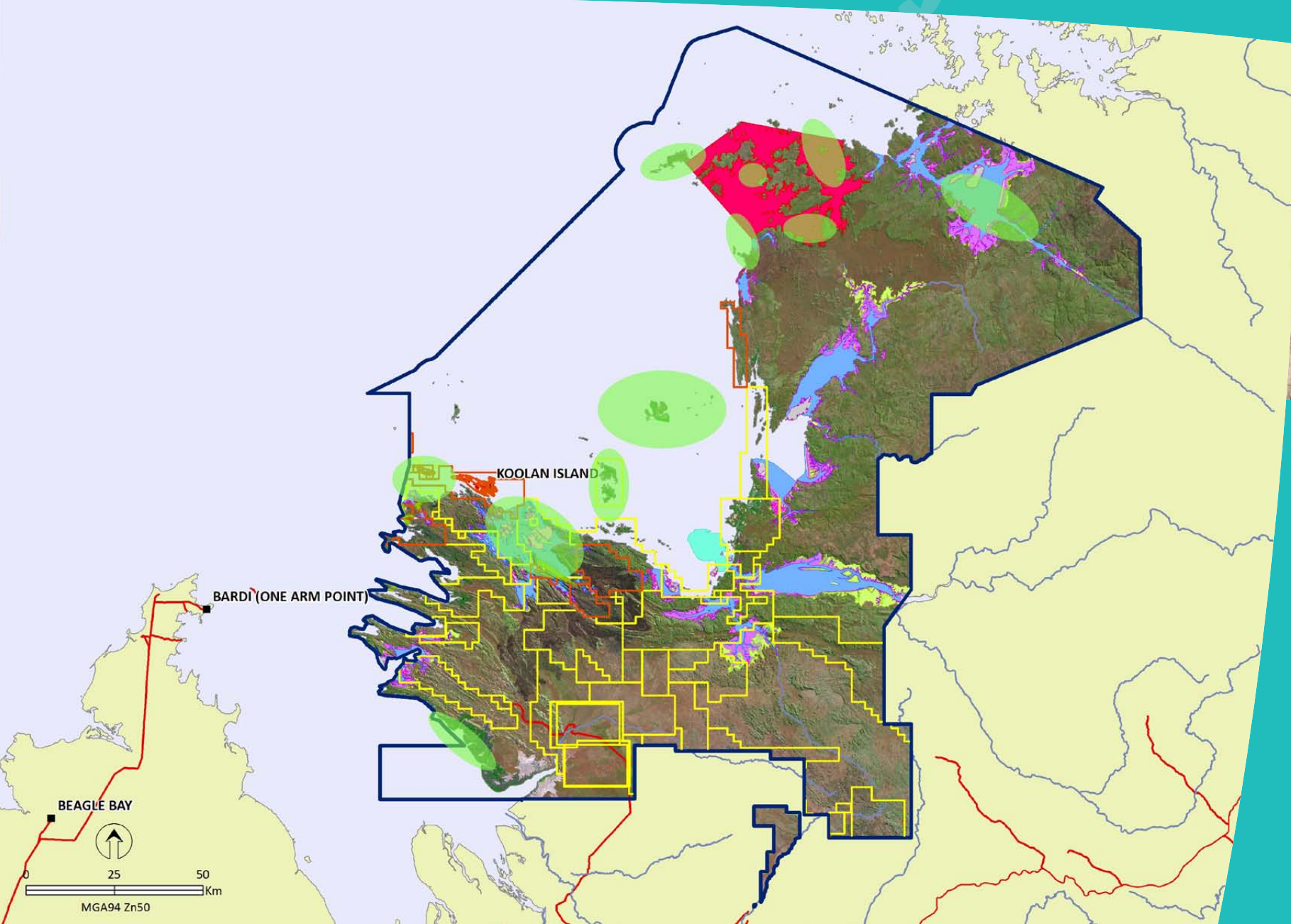
All these animals are migratory animals. They move along our coastline and through our neighbours' country. Healthy saltwater country is important for them and we must work together to make sure that *jurluwarra* and *warlinya* are plentiful for many generations to come. The opposite map (map 4) shows turtle and dugong sightings as recorded on previous Saltwater Country Trips and the different saltwater habitats. The map shows also active and pending mining tenements and aquaculture leases on our country. Some of these developments can make *jurluwarra* and *warlinya* unhealthy if they are done the wrong way:

Rubbish in the sea is a big threat and many *jurluwarra* may mistakenly eat a plastic bag thinking it is a jellyfish. *Juluwarra* may get caught in ghost nets and drown. We need to develop a monitoring program for *juluwarra* to see how they are affected by climate change. They feed on reefs and seagrass meadows which are very sensitive to changes in the environment.

Our Rangers went on a marine debris survey trip together with Ghostnets Australia, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and KLC to measure how much rubbish there is along our coastline.

The work our Rangers do together with the North Australian Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) is helping to build our capacity in Saltwater Country Management and to connect our Rangers with other Ranger groups in northern Australia who are looking after their own marine resources.

DAMBIMANGARI



Turtle tracks.
Photo: KLC

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Aquaculture Leases
- Aquaculture Site
- Pearl Farm Lease
- Pearl Transport Exempt Area
- Quarantine Site
- Mining Tenements
- Tenement Status
- Live
- Pending
- Geomorphic Habitat
- Channel
- Flood- and Ebb-tide Delta
- Intertidal Flats
- Mangrove
- Rocky Reef
- Saltmarsh/Saltflat
- Tidal Sand Banks
- Unassigned
- Turtle and Dugong Sightings

Dambimangari targets

Target 5: Whales and dolphins

DAMBJMANGARI



Jigidan (Snubfin dolphin)
Photo: Deb Thiele



Wuliji (Humpback whale)
Photo: KLC

Our sea is teeming with life and in the right season you can see the spouts from hundreds of *munumbanany* (Humpback Whales) in the waters of our sea-country. There are stories about the whales and creation of our coastline in our culture. The whales travel long distances from their summer feeding grounds in the Arctic to their winter breeding grounds along the Dambimangari coastline.

All year round we see many different *jigeedany* (Dolphins) hunting for fish and playing around. Often there are Common Dolphins and Humpback Dolphins in the blue open water. Closer to the shore, in murky water near inlets and *jirndim* (Mangrove/Mangal), you will find the shy Snubfin Dolphins foraging. Scientist only recently discovered that the snubfin dolphin is Australian's own endemic dolphin. Since then, Dambimangari Rangers have worked with WWF and marine scientists to find out how many of these dolphins there are and if they are a threatened species. Our traditional knowledge of the tides, currents and seas help us when we are looking for *jigeedany* and we have learned how to record our sightings from the scientists. In the past, our Rangers worked with western scientists who were studying dolphins. We would like them to be more involved with researchers in joint projects that are meaningful for us as well. Map 5 shows the main habitat of some of our coastal dolphins and the distribution of whales and dolphin as recorded during our project with WWF

Our whales are on a long journey. Some of the threats to

whales happen outside our sea country. We want to help whales travel to our waters undisturbed. While they are in Camden Sound we need to make sure that tourist boats and fishing trawlers do not come too close to them. *Munumbanany* are looking after their little ones and stress from the noise of boat-traffic can make the young ones less healthy.

Another threat is oil-spills from all the rigs out in the ocean. We remember when the Montana rig caught fire. This was a very worrying time for us.

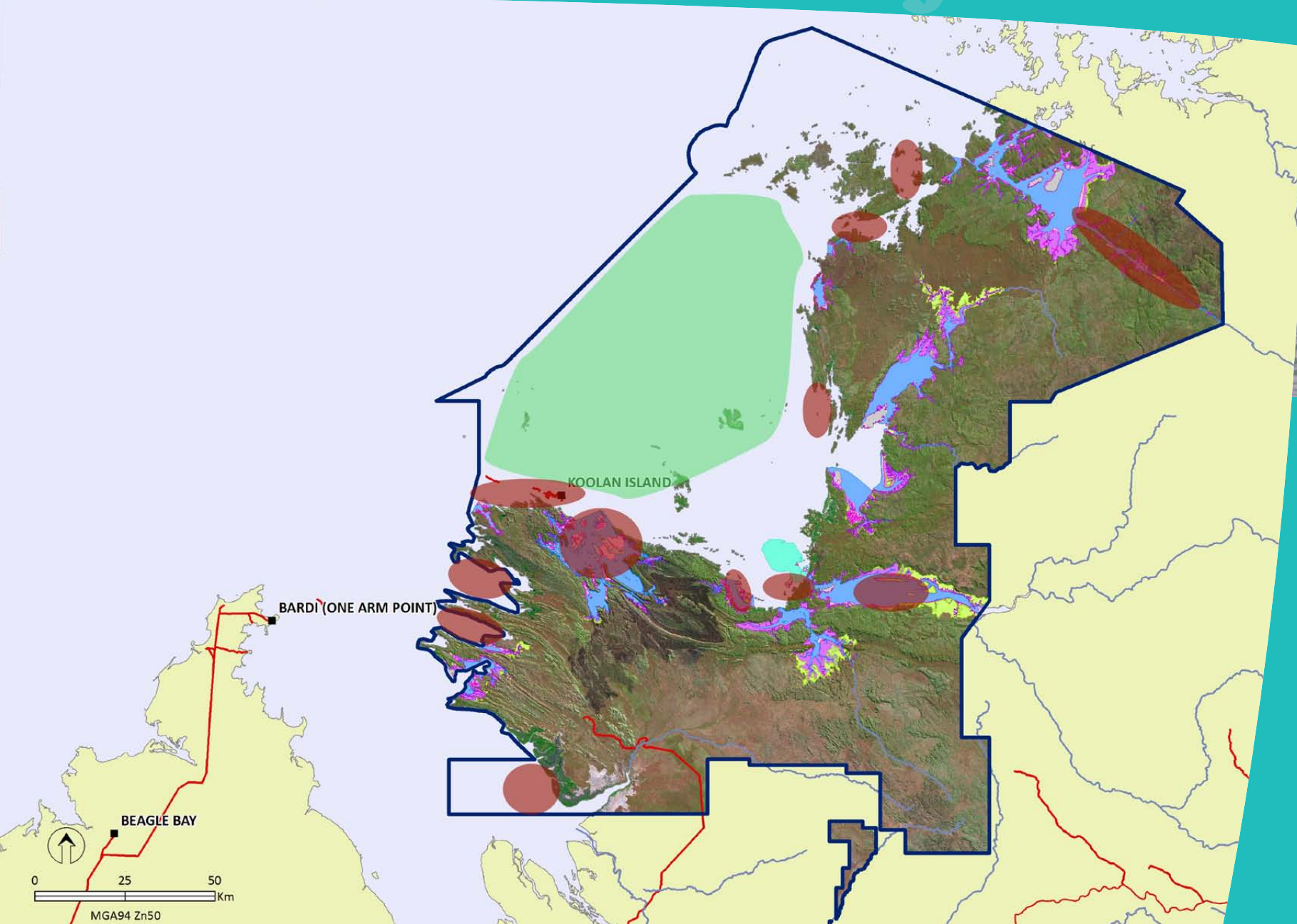
A lot of the rubbish in the water, like discarded fishing lines or cast-nets, can be dangerous for *jigeedany*. *Jigeedany* may be hit by a boat. When you look at them closely in Cone Bay, their backs are covered in scars.

We must make sure that our saltwater country is not polluted to ensure *munumbanany* and *jigeedany* stay healthy. Visitors to our country must be reminded to be responsible and not leave their rubbish behind.

The reason whales come to Camden Sound is because their dreaming place is Hall Point on the coast, at the south eastern end of the sound. The whales come to this area to breed because of the dreaming place.

Janet Oobagooma

DAMBIMANGARI



Humpback dolphin
Photo: Deb Glasgow

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Humpback Whales
- Dolphins
- Geomorphic Habitat
- Channel
- Flood- and Ebb-tide Delta
- Intertidal Flats
- Mangrove
- Rocky Reef
- Saltmarsh/Saltflat
- Tidal Sand Banks
- Unassigned

Dambimangari targets

Target 6: Rivers, Waterholes, Waterfalls, Wetlands (Freshwater Systems)

Freshwater resources are very important when travelling through country. That's why it is important we look after all the rivers, waterholes, waterfalls and wetlands on our country. For example, Prince Regent River, Robinson River and Sale River are very important to us. The freshwater on *Wurroolgu* (Augustus Island) or the sacred waters at Kuri Bay are significant places for us. Our freshwater places are important cultural places. Many places are for men and women together, but some places are just for women and some places are just for men.

Many important animals live and important plants grow around freshwater. That's why we do a lot of hunting and collecting bush food around those places. *Manbarda* (Waterlily) grows in billabongs and slow moving creeks. They provide us with many things to eat. The stems of the flower are a little bit like celery once the outside skin is peeled off. The tuberous root of the *manbarda* is called *gulurrba* and can be eaten as well. When the fruit becomes heavy it can be eaten raw or slightly roasted.

Wulumarany (Long neck turtle) is an important animal for us. These animals are found in billabongs and swamps. Their flesh is good to eat, roasted on hot coals. Young people are not allowed to eat *wulumarany* until their back has been scratched by these tortoises. *Burulgu*, the marks on the body replicate the markings on the *wulumarany* shell. *Nyanmangkulu*, the neckbone of *wulumarany*, looks like the Wandjina and must not be burned or damaged. The *dijikurri* (Short neck turtle) may be caught with a hand-line or with your hands when you are swimming, but you must be careful because they can give a nasty bite.

Roasting the meat of *goyoya* (freshwater crocodile) is the tastiest way to eat it.

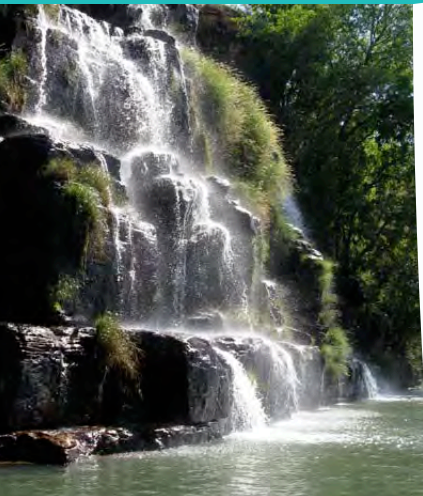
Our Rivers and creeks were created by the *Wunggurr* and they are in a pristine or near pristine condition. That means that our Freshwater Places are undisturbed or with only minor impacts of modern life like agriculture, dams or road-crossings. Map 6 shows the areas that are important from a western scientific and cultural point of view.

However, there are many threats to the health of our freshwater resources. Feral animals may pollute the freshwater with their carcasses and droppings. Feral pigs dig up the banks of the rivers looking for roots, destroying native vegetation. Weeds spread along the creek beds, changing the plants growing there.

Many tourists visit our waterfalls. They are important sites and tourists should not go there without the right Traditional Owner. It is important that we look after our freshwater places in the right cultural way.

In the past we heard people talking about mining uranium on our country. Any mine would have a terrible impact on our country, our rivers and waterways.

We want our Rangers to be trained up as scientists so that they can monitor the quality of our water. Dambimangari people want to learn more about how to protect wetlands and undertake research together with scientists. Prince Regent River is now a National Park and we want to be more involved in its management so that we can fulfil our cultural responsibilities.



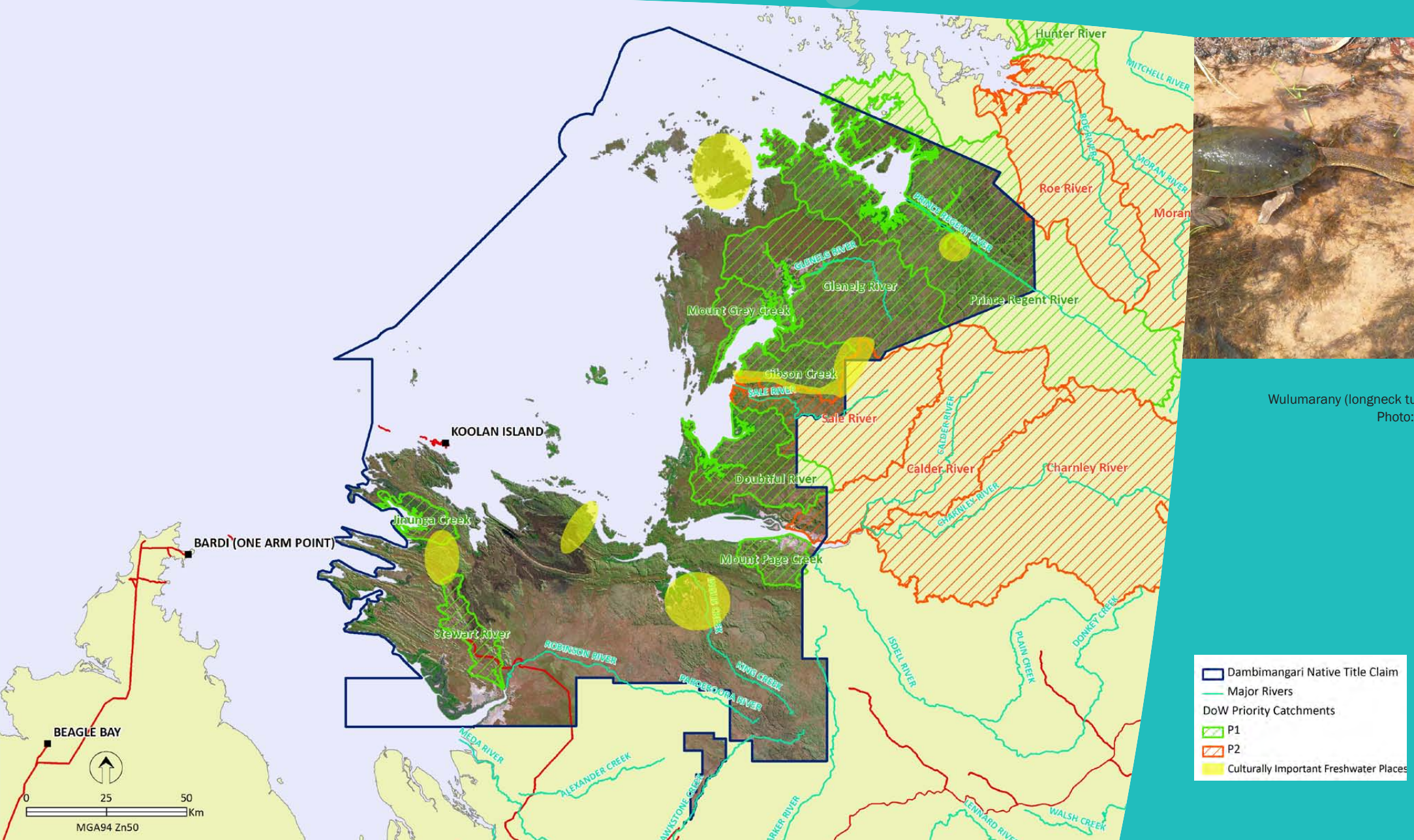
King's cascade
Photo: DAC



Manbarda (waterlily)
Photo: DAC

DAMBIMANGARI

Map 8: Priority catchments and culturally important freshwater sites



Wulumarany (longneck turtle)
Photo: KLC

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Major Rivers
- DoW Priority Catchments
- P1
- P2
- Culturally Important Freshwater Places

Dambimangari targets

Target 7: Native animals for food

DAMBJMANGARI



Antilopine wallaby
Photo: Sally Vigilante



Dambimangari Ranger trapping
Golden Bandicoot
Photo: DAC

Dambimangari country is a very special place. There not many other places in the world where most of the animals remain as they were thousands of years ago. All the animals have their own songs and stories; some have their images in caves or in stone arrangements. The old people from long ago knew the songs and also created new ones from meeting their ancestors in their dreams. The night before they went hunting, they would sing about the animals. They believed this increased the chances of catching the animals. We only hunt animals in the right season. For example, kangaroo are fat in the hot time when all the grasses are green. We do not hunt when the animals are mating so that they can reproduce. The flowering trees are indicators. They tell the right time to look for certain animals.

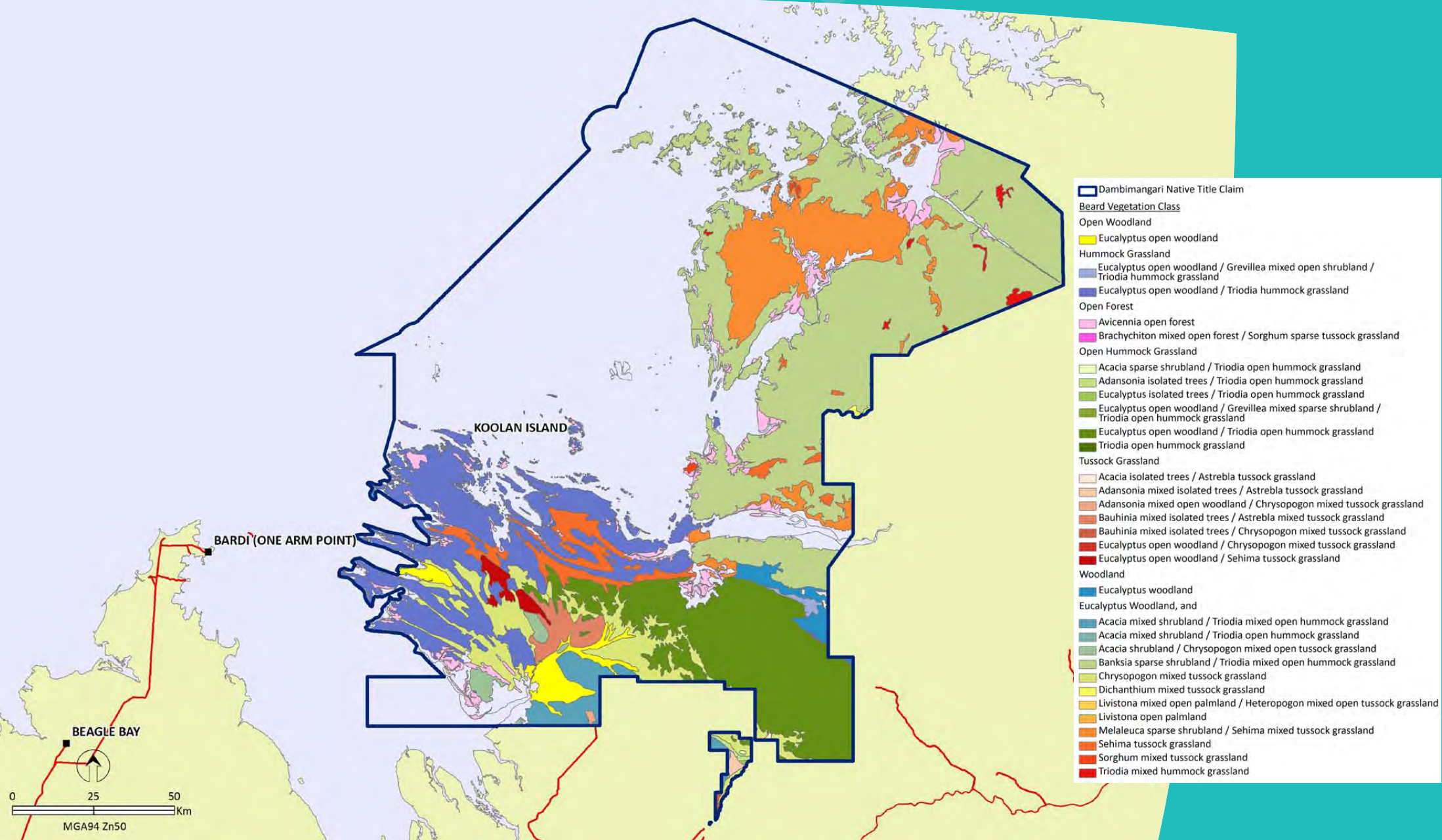
In the Dreamtime when all the trees were in flower *ilaangaalya* (Scaly-tailed possum) said to the *mirimiri-ngarriny* (Echidna), who could not climb trees, “Hold onto my tail, I am a good climber and I will take you high up to the flowers.” *Mirimiri-ngarriny* grabbed onto *laangaalya*’s tail and he started to climb up the tree trunk. When they got up high the Echidna started to slip, so he grabbed the Possum’s tail tighter but the furry part of his tail started to pull off. *Mirimiri-ngarriny* grabbed on tighter still but as he fell backwards down to the trees he pulled all the hair off Yilangal’s tail. As *mirimiri-ngarriny* fell into the spinifex, and all the spinifex got stuck in his back. So to this day the Echidna has spikes stuck to his back and the Scaly-tailed possum has no hair on his tail.

When we talk about native animals for food, we mean all the different kangaroos like *gurndoola* (Agile Wallaby), *walamba* (Plains Kangaroo) and *aarrura* (Hill Kangaroo) and other animals like *wijingarra* (Quoll), *jebarrany* (Emu), *gurrmala* (Rough tailed goanna) or *langkurmannya* (Sugar glider). We look after the threatened and endemic species which are important to all Australians (please refer to Appendix 2). We have stories for every one of them and it is important that we pass our knowledge on to the next generation. Dambimangari elders are working on a *Worrorra* Plants and Animals list so all our language names and our knowledge is compiled in a book which can be used by our Rangers and our young ones.

Burning the right-way is an important way of looking after animals in savannah country. We have stories of how the fire came to our country. Fire is important to make sure plants get green shoots for some of the animals to use as shelter. If wrong-way fire wipes out a lot of country at one time, many of these animals don’t have a place to live and do not survive. When our Rangers went to our islands with some scientists, they found many rare animals there. We must work more with researchers to do more trapping to check that all the animals are still there and to make maps on the areas that different animals live. Map 7 shows the different kind of bush (habitat distribution) on our country where certain animals can be found.

DAMBIMANGARI

Dambimangari targets Map 9: Native animal habitat



Dambimangari targets

Target 8: Bush fruit and bush medicine

DAMBI MANGARI



Binjum (Rock figs)
Photo: KLC



Bush honey (Trigoda sp.)
Photo: KLC

All the plants on our country are important for Dambimangari people. We use them for tucker, medicine, tools, weapons, arts and crafts. With the knowledge from our old people we read our country like a book. When certain trees are flowering they are indicators for other things on country – when certain animals are fat and good to hunt for example. When *garraam* (Emu Berry) is fruiting *jebarrany* (Emu) are getting fat and are good to be hunted. Every fruit and every plant has its season. On the opposite page there is the Dambimangari seasonal calendar that shows how different bush plants and animals are in season and ready for hunting at different times in the year.

When *binjum* (Rock fig) are ripe and red they are very sweet and tasty. The skin of the fully ripe fruit comes off easily when it is ready and soft to touch. The old people really like the taste of *dangana* (Cabbage Palm) when it is lightly roasted or raw. When cut, the base of it is like a lettuce inside. The many types of yams that grow on our country are an important staple for us. Long, fat *wungunabeem* (*Vigna lanceolata*) and *gumbiyanu* (Bush potato) are dug up and lightly roasted on hot coals. They taste really sweet. *Ilaja* (Cheeky Yam) looks like an onion and is hot like a chilli. The old people eat it to make their blood strong. If you make ashes out of the bark of *marrgalam* (Green Plum) and mix it with water, it quiets down the heat of *Ilaja*. Dambimangari people are writing a book with all the language names and uses of these plants to preserve this knowledge.

Many plants on our country give us medicine as well – like a chemist. When crushed, the leaves of *majinbily* (Mangrove

Mistletoe) can be applied to any part of the body that is painful and unwell. The leaves of *garraam* can be boiled in water and the liquid is used to treat stomach pains and colds. *Gundulu* (*Bauhinia*) is important as well—if you boil or soak the bark you can use it for sores; if you burn the bark you can use it with chewing tobacco. We call Spinifex grass *jarda* and its wax *mija*: The strong smelling leaves are good medicine for coughs and the resin is used to attach spear heads to shafts.

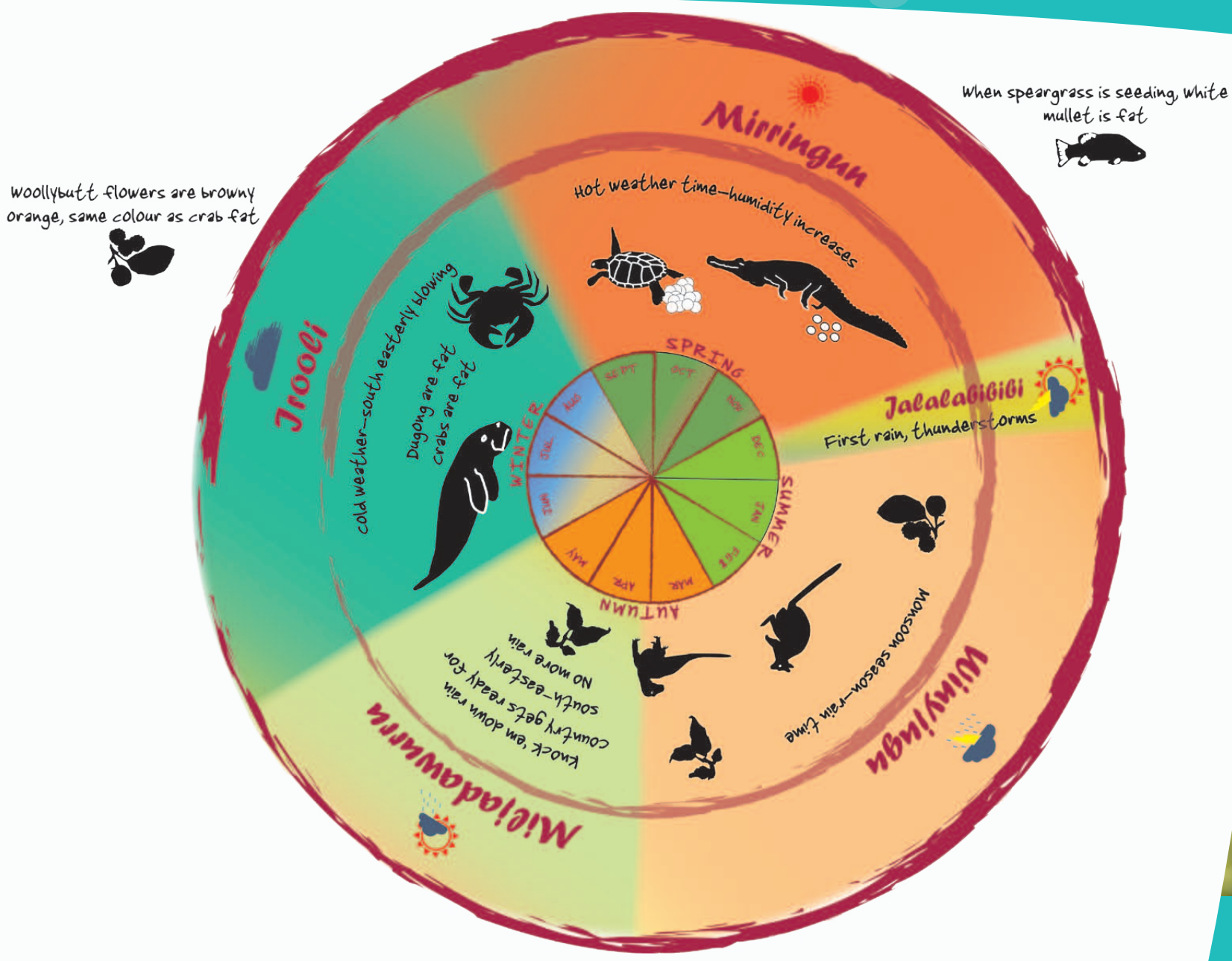
Other plants have practical uses: *Lajinam* (Kapok Mangrove) is like corkwood. This light buoyant wood was used for making the *galam*, a double raft that the old people used to travel along our coastline. *Ungkurnbeem* (Paperbark) is used for many things: we peel the thick papery bark off in large sheets to wrap food when it is in the ground oven, to make waterproof houses and for coolamons and makes *barrawara* (Canoe).

Right-way fire is important when looking after bush fruit and medicine plants. It is important that Rangers keep an eye out for weeds growing on our country. The weeds may spread out and compete with the native plants. A potential source of weeds on our country are places that have been developed and disturbed such as the mine site on Koolan Island for example.

Today most of the young people live in town, so we want to build a plant nursery there. This way we can teach the young ones the names and uses of rare plants so our knowledge is not lost.

DAMBIMANGARI

Figure 1: Dambimangari seasonal calendar



Mapping kurrum (Cyprus pine)
Photo: KLC



Wamguru (Woollybutt)
Photo: KLC

Dambimangari targets

Target 9: Right way fire

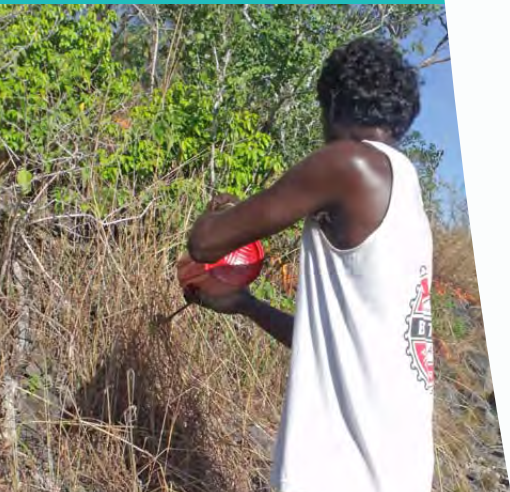
DAMBJMANGARI



Country gets healthy when you burn it, then you leave it for a year or two

Donny Woolagoodja

Dambimangari Rangers undertaking ground burning at Wotjalum Reserve. Photo: KLC



Dambimangari Ranger burning off country. Photo: KLC

Right-way fire is one of the most important things which makes our country healthy. Firstly Right-way Fire helps to protect country from hot, big and unmanaged fires. Fire is also important so grasses grow green shoots, providing food to kangaroos and other animals. In the old days we used fire to hunt for *jebarrany* (Emu), *banadja* (Bush Turkey), *gurndoola* (Agile Wallaby) and all the other kangaroos. We would burn the grasses on our country so that it was easier to walk in the bush. When visitors come to our country we make smoke fires

so that they can be kept safe on country; they are introduced to the spirits by the smoke.

We have many powerful stories about fire. In the dreamtime *marrirri* (Red winged parrot) took the fire from the crocodile's *iwiyagu* (Teeth). Right-way fire means that the right Traditional Owners are involved in the planning of, and burning on country.

The dry, straight stems of *leerragu* (Black plum) can be used to make fire-sticks. We call fire-sticks by the same name as the Black Plum tree.

It is important to burn in the right season. We must study the wind, otherwise the fire will get away and burn too much country like in Victoria. We burn when the south-easterlies are blowing—never when the north-westerly winds are blowing. It is good to burn the grasses before the lightning season to clean up country. Patches of sandstone country should be burned in three year intervals. Some areas might be unburned for a longer time so plants and animals who do not like fire are protected.

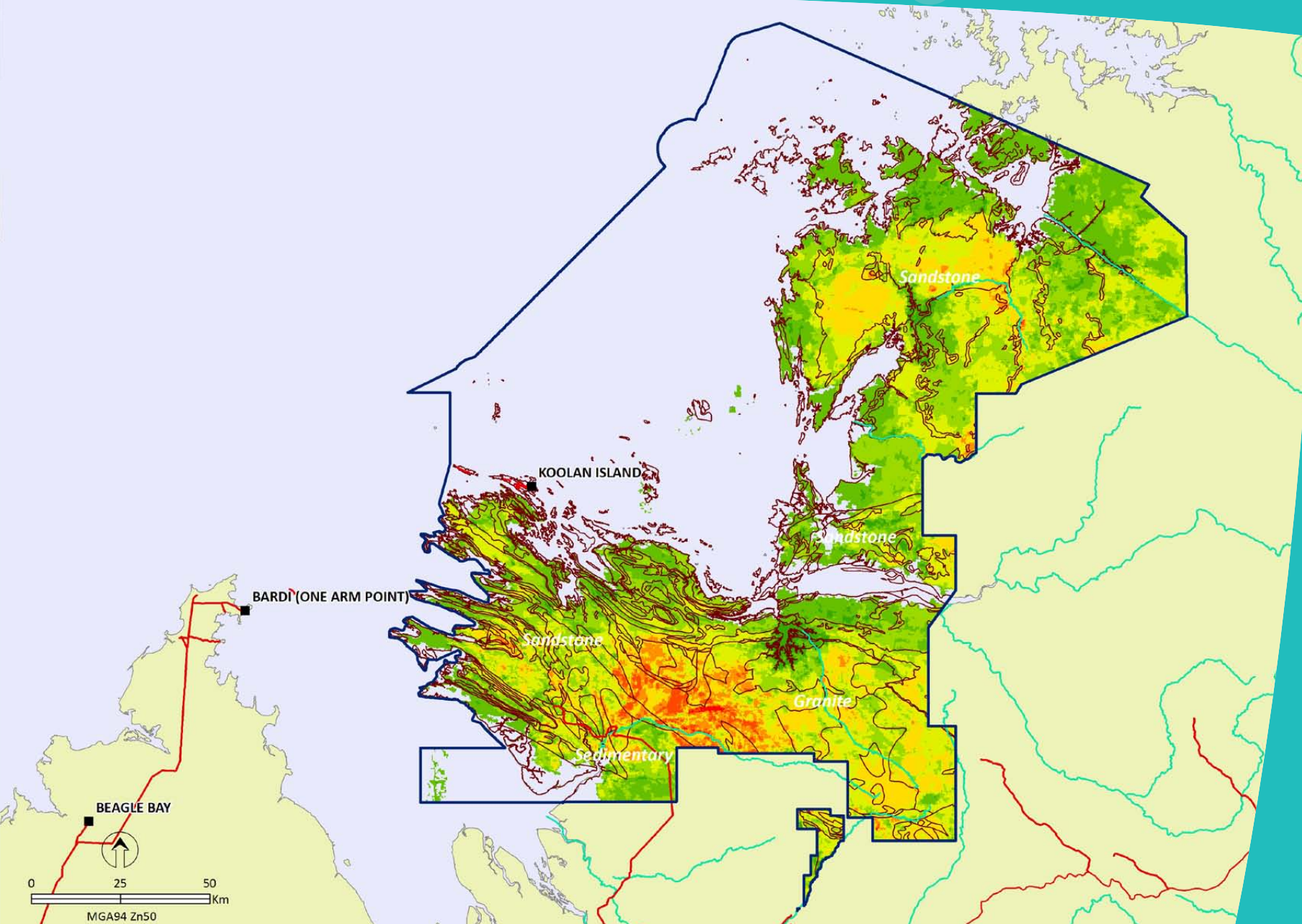
Some plants are very fire sensitive like *gurum* (cypress

pine). Small plants take many years before they can withstand a fire and take a long time before they produce their first seeds. Hot fires are a big threat for *monongkoy* (Boobook Owl) and *borrom borrom* (Tawny Frogmouth) because they burn down the *jaaraga* (Old hollow trees) they use for their nests. All these animals are the subject of important stories for Dambimangari people. Map 8 shows the fire frequency on our country. Traditional Owner fire management needs to be increased over big parts of our country in order to protect our homelands from large scale wild-fires and to reduce the fuel load on country.

When we do fire management we talk to our neighbours so that everybody knows what's happening on country. In the past bushfires got very close to our outstation in Cone Bay.

The North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project combines traditional fire management techniques with modern tools like helicopters to do right-way fire on country. With less greenhouse gases going into the air, Western scientists call it "Carbon Abatement." In future years we may be able to make some money from doing right-way fire so that less carbon is released into the air. Our Rangers need more training and capacity in fire management. Training in how to do burning on a landscape scale from the air, is different to the method our ancestors used who walked on country. Our country is so large that today we need to use choppers and planes to do right-way fire however it is still really important for us to do fire walks and burn country from the ground like our ancestors. We need to make sure we are on foot when we are burning around cultural sites so that they aren't destroyed by the fire-bombs released from choppers and planes.

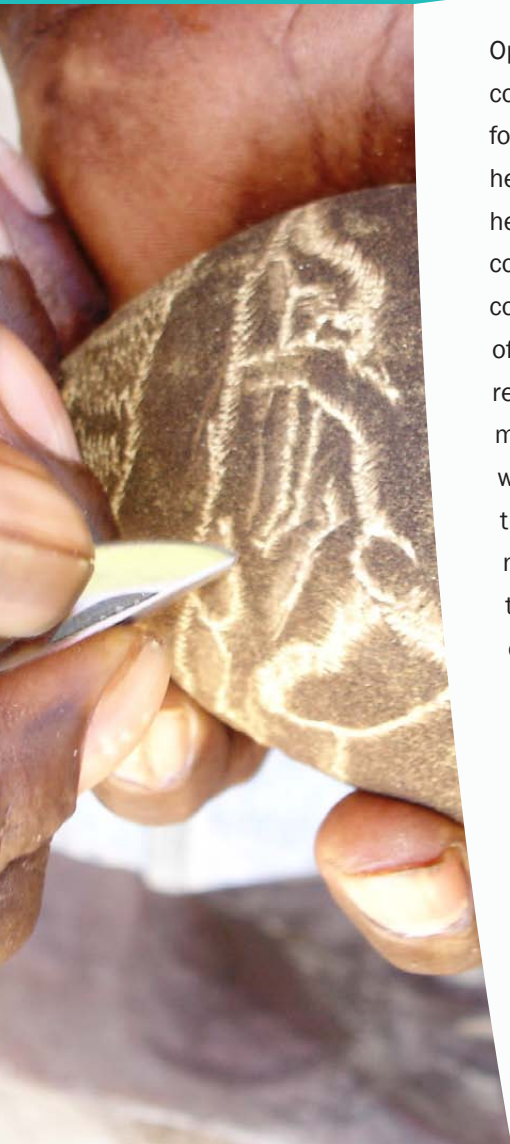
DAMBIMANGARI



Prescribed burn at Cone Bay
Photo: KLC

- Dambimangari Native Title Claim
- Settlements**
- Main Townsite
- Community
- Geology**
- Geological Units
- Years Burnt (2004-2010)**
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

DAMBIMANGARI



Opposite table shows how healthy our targets are on Dambimangari country. With the CAP process we look for each target at the health in four different ways. We pick a key attribute in a context of landscape health, biophysical condition, size, and cultural health. Landscape health means we look at targets with ecological processes and connectivity with a bigger scale in mind. We understand biophysical condition as the composition or structure of our targets. The attribute of size describes whether there are enough plants or animals for reproduction. We amended the CAP process to allow for us to measure the cultural health of a target. By introducing cultural health we wanted to show that our country and everything is connected to the Wanjina and Wunggurr, to our ancestors and to us today. All natural things have a cultural component as well – for example the rivers and islands are part of the stories of the Creation of our country and this is part of our knowledge of how to find and to prepare a plant, when to hunt an animal or catch a fish. The culture and the country are not separate. Our rating for the health of each target is based on our knowledge, the knowledge of our partners and some scientific surveys. So far only small parts of our country have been properly surveyed and we need to make sure we record our old peoples knowledge and at the same time do research jointly with scientists to get a better understanding of the health of our targets.

The overall health of Dambimangari Country receives a “good” rating. Most of the biophysical indicators show that our our country is in “good” or “very good” health. The health of “Reefs, beaches and islands” and “Right-way fire” is only “fair” because of the lack of prescribed burning; most of all on islands, which shows that our Rangers need to increase our fire operations on Dambimangari country. The cultural health of our targets only gets a “fair” rating and has much to do with the problems of accessing country and looking after country in a way that is appropriate to our law and culture. This shows that we have to focus on being out on country, passing on the stories and knowledge to the younger generation while our old people are still alive.

Over time when we continue our monitoring we want to see that the ratings of this table improve from “poor” to “fair” to “good” and to “very good”. That will show us that our strategies are successful.

DAMBIMANGARI

Table 1: Health of Dambimangari targets

Conservation Targets		Landscape Context	Culture	Condition	Size	Viability Rank
Current Rating						
1	Important sites	Good	Fair	Good	-	Good
2	Reefs, beaches and islands	Fair	Poor	Fair	-	Fair
3	Saltwater fish	Very good	Good	Good	Good	Good
4	Dolphin, turtle and dugong	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
5	Whales	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Good
6	Rivers, waterholes, waterfalls, wetlands (freshwater systems)	Good	Fair	Good	Very good	Good
7	Native animals for food	Good	Fair	Very good	Good	Good
8	Bush fruit / bushtucker	Good	Fair	Very good	Good	Good
9	Rightway fire	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Good
Project Biodiversity Health Rank						Good

DAMBIMANGARI



Each of our targets have problems. Some of these problems may increase in the future. We call each of these problems a *threat*. Threats are things that make country unhealthy into the future. Viability or “health” of our targets reveal the “health” in the past. We thought long and hard about the source of each problem while we were defining the threats. Often, changes in country are caused by different stresses. If we spend all our time working on the stresses, things may not change. We need to work on the sources of those stresses to be effective with our land management efforts.

The main threats on Dambimangari Country are:

- Lack of culturally appropriate consultation with Traditional Owners
- Climate Change
- Lack of Land and SeaManagement capacity
- Visitors not being respectful
- Wrong-way fire (unmanaged fires)
- Landowners prohibiting Traditional Owner access
- Lack of infrastructure to access country
- Mining / Industrial development
- Cane Toads
- Weeds
- Gas / Oil drilling
- Feral animals (cattle / pigs)

Some of these threats apply to all targets, but other threats can apply to only one target. The threat rank in the right column refers to how difficult it is to make things healthy again, how much a threat contributes to one or more targets, how severe the threat is, and whether it is a local or a widespread threat. You can see on the table the overall rank of a threat and how much a target is affected by threats. Some threats make other threats worse. If a hot fire goes through our country it can burn out many fruit trees and destroy a big part of the country that animals are living in. After a hot fire burned country and destroyed the native vegetation, weeds will grow back faster and take over the native habitat.

Some threats are easier to fix, like wrong-way fire, but others like climate change are impossible to fix up on Dambimangari country alone, they require far more work to address.

DAMBIMANGARI

Table 2: Main threats to Dambimangari country

Threats Across Targets		Cultural sites	Reefs, beaches and islands	Saltwater fish	Turtle and dugong	Whales and dolphins	Freshwater systems	Native animals for food	Bush fruit / Bushtucker	Rightway fire	Overall Threat Rank
Project-specific threats		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Lack of culturally appropriate consultation with Traditional Owners	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low	High			High	High
2	Climate change	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High
3	Lack of Land + Sea Management capacity	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
4	Visitors not being respectful	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
5	Wrong way fire (unmanaged fires)	Low	Low				Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
6	Landowners prohibit TO access	Medium					Medium	Low	Medium	High	Medium
7	Lack of infrastructure to access country	Medium	Medium		Low		Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
8	Mining/industrial development		Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium
9	Cane toads						Medium	High			Medium
10	Weeds		Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium	Medium		Low
11	Gas/oil drilling		Low	Medium	Medium	Medium					Medium
12	Cattle	Low	Low				Medium	Medium	Low		Medium
13	Pigs	Low			Medium		Medium	Low	Low		Medium
Threat Status for Targets and Project		High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	High	High	High

Threats

Lack of culturally appropriate consultation with Traditional Owners

DAMBIMANGARI



Dambimangari Traditional Owners at Saltwater Country meeting
Photo: KLC



State Environment Minister visit at Mowanjum
Photo: KLC

Traditional Owners have often been treated as just another stakeholder on a long list of interested groups. These may include industry, local and state government, conservation and recreational groups. In the past this meant that our voice has not always been heard and our needs were ignored.

All too often we find out about major developments from the media instead of being consulted from the beginning. Or we find our images of our important places on the internet and no one has asked us. We have been managing our country for thousands of years and we have rights and interests that place us in a unique position compared to all other groups. We must talk and work as equal partners; we must be part of the planning process right from the start, in a way that reflects our cultural responsibilities.

It is important that Dambimangari people participate in forums dealing with our country and that the wider public knows that we want to look after our country. We use the “Conservation Action Planning” process and the IPA consultation process to make plans that everyone can understand. We urge government and non-government agencies to use our plans and to talk with Dambimangari people about how we can look after country together.

The government wants to protect our country, but without our say. There would be nothing to protect if we hadn't looked after it.

Donny Woolagoodja

It is important to talk to each other, our neighbours and the wider public. Many problems on our country don't necessarily come from our country, but happen on someone else's country. For example, when another land-owner lights a fire on their property, it can jump over property boundaries. In the past, wildfires have come very close to our outstation at Cone Bay. This is why we do fire-planning together with neighbors, to make sure that fire-breaks are in place and country is burned bit by bit, so the fire doesn't escape.

We'd like to see a 'best practice' approach to sea country management with traditional knowledge backed up with scientific research; and we'd like our management of sea country set the standard for what is 'best practice'

Leah Umbagai

When Western scientists talk about climate change, they mean significant long-term changes in average weather. These changes include changes in temperature, rainfall and how the wind blows. Scientists are trying to predict how Climate Change will affect us, but exact predictions are difficult to make. For Dambimangari people the most important concerns are:

- The temperature in the West-Kimberley could rise up to 1.8 Degrees by 2050;
- Some parts of country will get less rainfall, some parts will see more rain;
- With the rising sea-levels low-lying areas along the coastline towards Kimbolton Range and Talbot Bay may be flooded and with it important *mangal* communities;
- More cyclones and storms may damage sea-grass beds and reefs where turtles and dugong feed;
- Rising sea-levels and storms can destroy sandy nesting beaches for turtles and important cultural sites that are close to sea-level;
- Rising sea-levels can push Saltwater into Freshwater and wetlands may become unhealthy;
- With an increase in temperature more female turtles will be born than male turtles which will affect turtle populations in the long run;

- The health of our reefs may be threatened by coral bleaching when the water temperature increases;
- Climate change can affect how much fish we can catch in the future and maybe some of our fish species will disappear with other fish coming to our sea country.

There are two ways Dambimangari people can address climate change:

- to look after the most important and vulnerable parts of our country to keep them healthy (this is called “Adaption”); or
- by trying to reduce the gases and smoke in the air — for example through right-way fire management (this is called “Mitigation”).



Mangroves at St George Basin
Photo: KLC



Ambirr (turtle eggs)
Photo: KLC

Threats

Lack of land and sea management capacity

DAMBIMANGARI



Dambimangari Rangers near Wilson Point
Photo: KLC



Classifying animals after trapping
Photo: KLC

Dambimangari country is big and very hard to reach. In the past, lack of resources and the right training for our Rangers hindered us from looking after our country in the way we wanted.

Our Rangers have to look after country both ways—the traditional way as our ancestors taught us and the western way. Our Rangers need our traditional knowledge to know when to look for particular animals on country and to find their way around country. For right-way fire management, our Rangers need to know the right season to light the fires, so that country is not threatened by wildfires.

Nowadays with all the government rules and regulations Dambimangari Rangers need tickets and certificates to do all their planned work the right way. For example, they must be trained to operate incendiary machines for aerial burning, they must have the skills to trap animals for surveys and the right qualifications for eradicating weeds on country.

This requires training, resources and money. Our Rangers need the right equipment and resources to carry out the work in their plan. They need to be trained and gain qualifications so they can legally do the work set out in their plan. Our Rangers have already completed training for recreational skippers tickets and restricted coxswain license, trap building and data collecting with the I-Tracker.

All our Rangers are working towards their Certificate in Conservation and Land Management. We must do much more training so that more Dambimangari people are skilled up and have an opportunity to make a living from looking after their country. Government agencies spend a lot of money managing and investing in National Parks, we need to make sure that Dambimangari Rangers are not overlooked. They must get their fair share of support to look after our country effectively.

We have been doing lots of work on our country to keep it healthy. We are setting up Ranger groups to look after our country and get jobs for our young people.

DAMBIMANGARI

Threats

Visitors not being respectful

Dambimangari country sees many visitors each year. A visitor is anyone who is not a Dambimangari Traditional Owner. Visitors may be tourists, locals fishing along the coastline, mining people, government workers and many more. Dambimangari Traditional Owners often don't know them and the country does not know them either.

We are responsible for the safety of visitors and bear the consequences of accidents and disturbance of our cultural sites. When visitors come, we talk to country to introduce them and smoke them to keep bad spirits away.

Dambimangari people do not go to other people's country without permission or without being introduced the right way. Visitors nowadays should respect the law and culture of the traditional custodians.

In the past, this permission was sought by sending messages carved on pearl shell or message sticks. The right to access other people's country has always had clear protocols and an economic cost.

Dambimangari must establish access protocols and a permit system so the right Traditional Owners know who is visiting country and to ensure access to sensitive cultural sites is managed. We have frequently voiced our concerns about the safety of tourists going through the Horizontal Waterfalls. This is an important cultural site and a dangerous place. They go on speed boats when the tides are pumping in full force. Accidents have happened in the past and we don't want people to get hurt on our country. In the old days we travelled the sea when the currents and tides were small, not when they were the most dangerous. We are happy for visitors to come to Dambimangari country if it is done the right way.

Through our Law we have cultural responsibilities to look after people when they visit our country. We are concerned about unmanaged access by tour operators and private boaters, and the protection of marine resources. These are big issues that have been worrying us for a long time.

Donny Woolagoodja



Welcome to country
Photo: KLC



Tourists cross the horizontal waterfall
Photo: KLC

Threats

Unmanaged fires

DAMBIMANGARI



Hot burn
Photo: KLC



Aerial burning team
Photo: KLC

Wildfires are fires that start by accident or when a burn gets out of control. Wildfires can start in lots of different ways—from campfires that are not put out correctly, machinery, firebugs or lightning.

Wildfires are worse at certain times of year and in certain weather conditions. The late dry season when grasses have dried out is particularly bad, strong winds blow from the southeast or north and the hot weather sees fires burn through the night.

Fires in the late dry season can burn for several weeks or even months. These hot fires can change our native vegetation so that there is less food and habitat for *baagi* (Rock wallaby), *walamba* (Plains Kangaroo), *jebarrany* (Emu), *banadja* (Bush turkey) and other animals. Animals which cannot move quickly enough to find a safe place may be burned and killed.

Gurum (Cypress Pine) is very fire sensitive. It takes long time for young trees to grow to maturity and be protected against fire. If a hot fire goes through the landscape it can destroy many trees and many other important bush fruits. Our important cultural sites or outstations can be destroyed by wrong-way fire. Some years back, a bad fire nearly burned through our community at Cone Bay.

Late dry season fires can be minimised by burning the country early in the dry season in a strategic way. This way the wildfires cannot spread too far and burn the whole country. It's also important to make sure that without fire, the grass does not build up over too many years, otherwise wildfires will be more severe.

Dambimangari Traditional Owners participate in the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project and plan their activities at the beginning of the fire season. They have undertaken their own aerial and ground burning over the past few years with controlled burning in the right season. This helps to reduce the risk of unmanaged fires and combats climate change by reducing the amount of gases released by bushfires. We need to increase the amount we burn early in the dry season and burn in the right place. Each year we learn more about burning from the air and on the ground so that we can look after country like our ancestors did and also make the most of Carbon Trading possibilities. We must make sure that fire on our islands is well-managed. Those islands are a refuge for many animals that are threatened on the mainland. We must make sure that they are protected from wrong-way fire.

DAMBIMANGARI

Landowners prohibiting access by Traditional Owners

In 1978 the Australian Defence Force established the Yampi training area on our country. This area is over 566,000 ha. Since its foundation we have had very limited opportunities to visit our ancestral lands and fulfil our custodial responsibilities to look after our country. The vast area covered by the Yampi Training includes many important cultural places and is the habitat for a lot of our culturally significant species. With limited access Dambimangari can't look after our the rock-art sites and other important places, revisit them or pass on knowledge about these places to our younger generation.

We want our Rangers to work closely with the company, Serco, which manages the Yampi Sound training area. Looking after Yampi on a fee-for-service basis will allow us to fulfil our responsibilities and at the same time bring meaningful employment opportunities for Dambimangari Traditional Owners in caring for their country.

In addition, there are other places we have to face restrictions to access. It is difficult for Dambimangari People to access Koolan or Cockatoo Island to fulfil our cultural responsibilities. Because of the mining mob many parts of the island are inaccessible and we must get a permit to go there. We have problems accessing Kuri Bay as well – a tourism venture is now there that hinders access country in the way we want.



Kimbolton area
Photo: DAC

Threats

Lack of infrastructure to access country

DAMBIMANGARI



Float plane to reach remote coastal places
Photo: KLC



Dambimangari TOs on country
Photo: DAC

Wanjina and *Wunggurr* gave us the law and responsibility to look after our country. Our country is rugged and hard to get to. There are very few tracks on our country and most of them are in poor condition because there is no money to maintain them. You need a good motor car or a boat to come to our outstations or visit our country. Most families do not have access to reliable transport.

Since the arrival of Europeans in Australia we have been removed from our lands step by step. Worrorra people were put in missions at *Kunmunya* and later *Wotjalum* and once the Second World War came to our doorstep, we were pushed into towns. As the missions closed we eventually established ourselves at *Mowanjum*.

We need to be out on our country to look after our important cultural places, do right-way fire management, monitor our native animals and plant resources, look after fresh-water places and make sure that our reefs, beaches and islands on saltwater country are in good health.

It is important that our kids go out on country with our elders so they learn their stories and absorb all their knowledge and wisdom about plants and animals. In our culture you don't sit in a classroom and study everything from a book.

It is difficult for elders to pass on traditional knowledge to our younger generation when they are away from their country. People must go out on country to see the country with their own eyes and listen to the stories about all the different places. This may happen through school projects or during the holidays. Families must have the opportunity to visit their country.

When our Rangers and Traditional Owners are carrying out the work set out in this book, they have a chance to look after many things at the same time. When we go out on a trip with our young ones, we can teach them about country and, at the same time, we can look after our cultural places or light a fire if it is the right time of the year.

DAMBIMANGARI

Mining/industrial development

Like many places in the Kimberley, our land and sea is rich in mineral resources. Some parts of our country, like Koolan Island and Cockatoo Island, have already been mined. In other parts of our country “green field explorers” are looking around for minerals. They are known as “green field explorers” because they go out in the bush and look for any kind of minerals in the ground, not knowing what is around. Once they have collected enough information on the minerals they can find, the green-field explorers ask bigger companies to dig up the minerals. When we look at maps for our country we are concerned that so many exploration licenses have been granted. We need to make sure that we are included in any discussions about exploration licenses on our country and have a say about where people can go and look for minerals.

We need to make sure that any development on our country fits with our vision to care for country. If they are low impact developments this may mean long term opportunities for us, like jobs, contracts, training and infrastructure. We must look at business opportunities that are good for our people and support them getting back on country without damaging the health of our country.

When mining developments occur we must make sure we have good agreements in place. Agreements that manage the impact on our country and on our people. This includes everything from the design of the mine, its operation and even once the mine has finished up.

If a mine is set up on country we need to be careful that it does not affect important sites or threaten our culturally important animal or

plant resources. We must look at the effects on our ground water and the water in our creeks, billabongs and waterfalls. Dambimangari people are worried that the run-off from mining developments may pollute our saltwater. The health of our sea animals is important to us saltwater people. Reefs and sea-grass beds are important habitats for turtles and dugongs. These habitats are very sensitive and they will suffer first if our water is polluted. We are very concerned when we hear talk about taking uranium from our land. We have heard from South Australia how bad the uranium mines there are for the local mob.

Any development means that more people come onto our country. When this happens we need to carefully monitor for weeds and feral animals coming on country. Even small things like barnacles and insects that hitch a ride with a ship can make our country unhealthy.



Loading at Koolan Island
Photo: KLC



Dolphin survey near Koolan Island
Photo: KLC

Threats

Cane toads

DAMBIMANGARI



Cane toad at night
Photo: Kimberley Toad Busters



Cane toad
Photo: Kimberley Toad Busters

Cane toads have already arrived in the east Kimberley. It is only a question of time before the toads move through Dambimangari country. Each wet season they progress further west. Heavy wet seasons bring the Cane toads closer and closer.

Cane toads were introduced to Queensland to try to stop beetle damage in sugar cane crops and they now pose a big threat to all our small animals and even freshwater crocodiles. They have poisonous glands on each shoulder which they release when they are threatened. Animals like the goanna, northern quoll and snakes die when they catch these toads. Research shows that numbers of these species recover after a couple of years if there are large numbers before the Cane toad comes through. However, in cases where species numbers are in decline, the Cane toad poses a major threat.

Wijingarra (Quoll) is a good hunter and a very important animal for Dambimangari people with a powerful story. Our Rangers need to look closely for *wijingarra* so that Cane toads don't finish them up.

Dambimangari Rangers have been participating in annual toad-busting events in the east Kimberley with neighbouring Ranger Groups. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), together with Dambimangari Traditional Owners surveyed islands off our coastline for native animals. Some of the islands, like *Wurroolgu* (Augustus Island) are large enough to serve as a refuge for endangered animals on the mainland.

We must make everyone aware of the risks from Cane toads so that people look out for these invaders.

It is important that our Rangers work with researchers to survey our freshwater places for native animals before the Cane toad comes through so that we have a record of all the animals on our country.

Dambimangari must work closely with other agencies to find a way to deal with these invaders and their impact on our country.

DAMBIMANGARI

Threats

Weeds

A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted. Generally, weeds are plants that are introduced from other countries or from other parts of Australia. Because they are new, many of the native plants and animals do not know these foreign plants and they can grow and spread quickly. They often dominate areas and change our country.

Our country is not as heavily impacted by weeds as in many other parts of Australia. With increases in tourism, mining, cattle, fire and climate change, weeds are more likely to impact on Dambimangari country. A potential source for weeds on Dambimangari Country is on Koolan Island where many weeds have established themselves since mining began some years back.

Weeds spread easily across country. The seeds are spread in rivers, on the wind, on graders, in muddy tyres and as prickles on swags. They even travel in the hair and guts of animals like cows and kangaroos. It is important that we keep talking to our neighbours and other landholders to find out which weeds are around and which ones may become a threat to healthy country.

Weeds can cause damage to our country in many ways:

- They take over areas where native plants normally grow, pushing out important food and medicine plants.
- Vine weeds grow over trees and shrubs, strangling them and blocking out the sun. When they dry out they can lead to much hotter fires which often kill bush plants.
- Grass weeds often grow much taller and thicker than native plants. They dry out at different times, fuelling hotter fires in the wrong season.

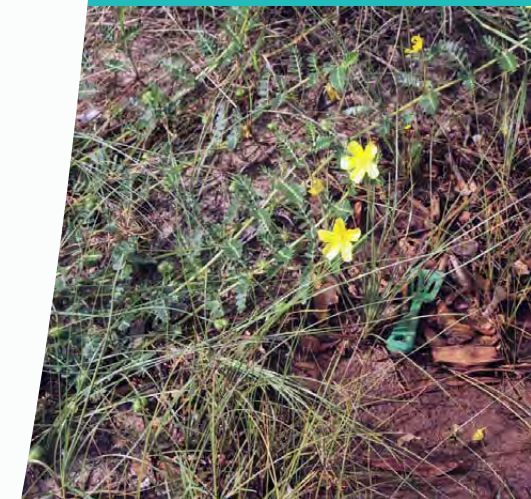
- Some weeds put chemicals into the soil that stop other plants from growing.
- Weeds change an area, for example a rubber bush growing on the dunes where there are normally only grasses and native vines growing might affect the amount of good nesting places for turtles.
- Other weeds may mess up lakes and rivers by growing all over the surface and stopping the water from flowing the way it normally does.
- Changes to bush areas by weeds may mean that some animals lose their nesting or feeding places and have to move on or they can struggle to survive.
- Prickly weeds and poisonous weeds can make it harder to travel through country to collect food and medicine plants and to go hunting and fishing.
- Water weeds can disturb our freshwater places.

To make sure that weeds are not impacting on our country in the future, we must keep an eye out for new weeds and train our Rangers so they are able to recognise and kill off the weeds.

We must talk to agencies like the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (DAFFWA) or DEC and to organisations like Environs Kimberley to join forces to produce better outcomes and keep country healthy.



Hyptis near Oobagooma
Photo: Frank Weisenberger



Caltrop
Photo: Gary Lienert

Threats

Gas/oil drilling

DAMBIMANGARI



In recent years discoveries of large deposits of gas have been made off the west Kimberley coast. Gas and oil exploration poses two risks to the health of Dambimangari country. There is the risk of a gas hub on Dambimangari country and the risk of damage to healthy country from the exploration in the open sea.

Traditional Owners from all over the Kimberley coast met and talked about government proposals to build a gas plant in the Kimberley and they decided on the Dampier Peninsula as the best location. Part of the negotiation outcomes included the proviso that gas companies will restrict development to just one site in the Kimberley. The risk of a gas-plant on Dambimangari country is therefore minimal, but we need to make sure that strong rules are in place so gas companies don't change their minds. The KLC is making sure that benefits from a gas hub in the Kimberley will be shared with all Traditional Owners in the Kimberley.

The risks from the exploration of oil and gas in the open sea come most of all from accidents: we remember when the Montara rig was on fire and Kimberley Traditional Owners were extremely lucky that the spilled oil never reached our coastline. It is the responsibility of government agencies to make sure that any existing or new rigs are built to withstand problems and that the operation of the rigs is best-practice. But we need to make sure that Dambimangari People and our neighbouring groups are part of contingency plans if worst comes to worst. Too often we see that coastal groups are not prepared and can be surprised by the extent of the disaster. But threats to healthy country can also come from the normal operation of oil or gas rigs. When pipelines are laid on the sea-floor the marine environment gets disturbed. The increase in ship-traffic can pose a threat to our turtles, dugongs, whales and dolphins. Ships from afar can bring new animal and weed species to our country in their ballast water before loading.

Our sea-country is world renowned for the whales that come up here for breeding season. We need to make sure that we talk to all stakeholders, government and non-government agencies, about possible impacts and ways to work around them.

Montara oil rig
Photo: Liana Joseph

DAMBIMANGARI

Large introduced species (cattle/pigs)

Large introduced animals are what *aalmaray* (White people) call “feral animals”. These are introduced animals which have gone wild. These animals cause a lot of damage to Dambimangari Country.

The main introduced animals on our country are *bulumana* (Cattle), pigs and donkey.

Many of our elders worked in the cattle industry when they were young, so some of these introduced animals have significance. A few cattle on country are alright to feed our families. However, too much cattle is bad for country.

Pigs are all through *Oobagooma*, Kimbolton and *Wotjalum* and are spreading into *Kunmunya*. They are troublesome in many ways.

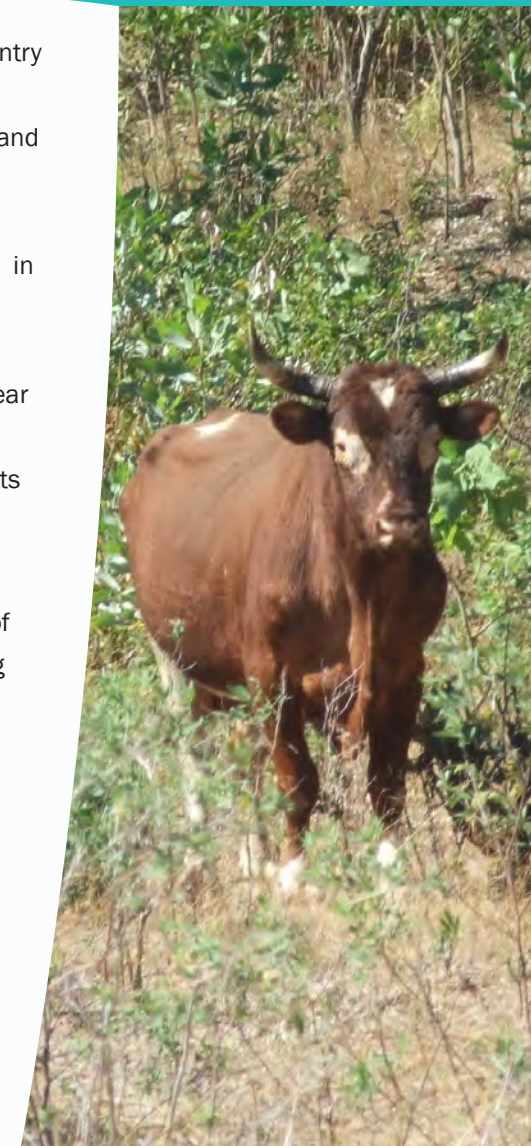
Pigs make our freshwater places unhealthy by digging up the ground looking for roots. When they do this they dig up turtle nests as well looking for their eggs.

Apart from on our islands, *biji* (Feral cats) have been on our country for quite a while. They are all through Dambimangari country, hunting and eating many native animals.

Some of the stresses feral animals cause on Dambimangari Country include:

- Polluting and muddying waterholes with droppings and carcasses
- Spreading weeds on their hooves and in droppings
- Spreading parasites that cause illness and death in native animals
- Damaging rock art by rubbing against it
- Trampling our bush tucker plants particularly near waterholes
- Damaging our rain forest pockets by trampling on plants and spreading weeds
- Disturbing cultural sites

It is important that our Rangers are involved in the management of feral animals together with other partners. This means shooting *bulumanu* or pigs, trapping pigs where they are plentiful and fencing off important and sensitive areas to protect them from the impact of feral animals.



Bulumana (Bullock)
Photo: KLC

DAMBIMANGARI



Our Vision statement indicates where Dambimangari people want to be in 10 years time. In the last few sections we have set out our most important things on country (targets) and the main threats to these targets. To reach our vision we need to keep our targets healthy and address the biggest threats. Our objectives are larger topics that help us keep on track with Healthy Country Management. Each objective addresses one or more targets or threats. The more targets or threats an objective addresses, the better it is. We focus on these objectives and strategies first. Our main objective is to increase the health of our targets set out in the viability table from “red” (poor) and “yellow” (fair) to “green” (good).

To find the right objectives we looked at the health of the targets, the threat ranking and how many threats affect each target. We thought long and hard about the causes of each threat. By identifying the root of the problem, our objectives aimed to fix these, not just the stressors.

1. By 2014 fire on Dambimangari country is directed and managed by Dambimangari Traditional Owners to look after natural and cultural values and mitigate wildfires;
2. By 2014 visitors to Dambimangari country are managed and culturally appropriate visits are promoted;
3. By 2016 Dambimangari Traditional Owners have access to the cultural and traditional ecological knowledge about plants, animals, country and culture held by senior Traditional Owners;
4. By 2016 Dambimangari Traditional Owners priorities for healthy country management are incorporated and implemented by stakeholders for all dealings on Dambimangari Country;
5. By 2016 the most visited cultural sites are managed to minimise site-impact/deterioration;
6. By 2017 invasive plants are not functionally degrading the habitat of culturally important species;
7. By 2017 ten full-time Dambimangari Rangers have the capacity and resources to look after country using traditional and western scientific knowledge and methods;
8. By 2018 animals introduced to Dambimangari country are not making country unhealthy (e.g. culturally important plants, animals, places);
9. By 2018 reefs, beaches and islands are managed in a culturally appropriate way;
10. By 2022 turtle and dugong will still be healthy and populations sustained.

DAMBIMANGARI

Table 3: Strategies for healthy country

Each objective has multiple strategies. A strategy outlines what we must do to keep targets healthy and threats low. Some strategies help to achieve more than one objective. We call these strategies *high impact strategies*. The different strategies are grouped into multiple categories: Healthy Country Management Strategies, are about keeping the natural values healthy; Operational capacity strategies, are about increasing the capacity to manage our rugged and remote country; and Law and Culture strategies are about keeping our cultural values healthy. At the top of each category are those strategies which help fix more than one target or threat.

Healthy Country Management Strategies	Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
By 2012 develop an engagement strategy for stakeholders to incorporate and implement Dambimangari Healthy Country aspirations.	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
By 2013 adopt a monitoring and evaluation program that sets standards for keeping Dambimangari Country healthy and to help guide strategic actions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
By mid 2013 complete a staged declaration of Dambimangari country as an Indigenous Protected Area to be managed consistent with the World Conservations Union category	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
By 2013 establish an ongoing operative workplan for weed-management to target invasive plants degrading the habitat of cultural important species.						✓			✓	
By 2013 identify and understand introduced species impacts on Dambimangari country and priority sites for management					✓			✓	✓	✓
By 2013 develop genuine joint-management arrangements for the proposed Camden Sound Marine Park and Prince Regent Nationalpark to manage marine and terrestrial conservation estates culturally appropriate	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓
By 2014 map the current extend of invasive plants on Dambimangari country.						✓				
By 2014 an on-going turtle and dugong monitoring program by Dambimangari Rangers is in place to monitor turtle and dugong numbers										✓
By 2014 a monitoring program by Dambimangari Rangers is in place to monitor threats to critical habitats (reef/seagrass)									✓	✓
By 2016 continue and extend invasive weed and feral animal control programs around high use areas (Cone Bay, Fresh Water Cove)						✓		✓		
By 2016 effective control measures for introduced animals are in place on all priority sites.					✓			✓		✓



Waterways created when the Rock cod travelled into the Prince Regent River
Photo: DAC

Enhancing viability

Table 3: Strategies for healthy country continued...

DAMBIMANGARI



Boab at Kunmunya Landing
Photo: KLC



Sea snake
Photo: KLC

Operational Capacity Strategies	Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
By 2013 Dambimangari Traditional Owners / Rangers have operational capacity to manage all aspects of fire operations including aerial control burning, protection of assets, protection of cultural sites and protection of threatened species.	✓				✓		✓			
By 2013 establish a Savannah Burning project under the carbon farming initiative or similar scheme to provide sustainable income for fire management.	✓			✓						
By 2013 identify sustainable, recurrent funding streams for Healthy Country Management and incorporate funding for a Healthy Country business plan.	✓			✓			✓			
By 2013 develop a program to train the majority of Dambimangari Rangers to Certificate 3 Conservation and Land Management	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
By 2013 incorporate traditional fire knowledge into fire operations to protect cultural sites, cultural important species, threatened species and ecological communities.	✓				✓				✓	
By 2014 develop in partnership with community schools a Junior Ranger program							✓			
Law and Culture Strategies										
By 2013 develop or join a visitor pass model for access management on Dambimangari Country to address cultural, environmental and economic impacts caused by wrong visitation.		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
By 2014 finalise cultural mapping of important sites for Dambimangari Country to develop a site register		✓	✓		✓				✓	
By 2014 finalise work on the Worrora plants and animal list to facilitate the knowledge transfer for plants and animals knowledge.			✓				✓			
By 2014 record and preserve Dambimangari elder's traditional knowledge on plants, country and culture.			✓				✓			
By 2014 develop a native plant nursery near Mowanjum to facilitate learning of traditional ecological knowledge.			✓			✓				
By 2014 develop a monitoring framework to establish site impact from visitation		✓			✓		✓			
By 2016 a data-management system is in place to store securely Dambimangari TEK and to make knowledge available to Dambimangari TO's.			✓				✓			

DAMBIMANGARI

As we developed this plan we followed the consultation process suggested by the CAP tool. After compiling the information for this plan, our Rangers will carry out the work outlined in the plan. From then on, we must regularly check our strategies are on track to ensure we achieve our vision and our objectives. Our Rangers must also check whether the threats to our targets change over time. For example new invasive plants or exotic animals may come to our country; climate change may kick in more aggressively. This means that over the next ten years some of the identified threats may grow. We call this checking “Monitoring and Evaluation.”

When we talked about the health of our most important things, we decided on indicators to measure their health. We must check these indicators regularly to make our strategies are working towards our goals or whether they need some adjustment.



Prescribed burn
Photo: KLC



Prince Regent River
Photo: DAC

Monitoring and evaluation

Table 4: Monitoring our objectives

DAMBIMANGARI



Monitoring native animals
Photo: KLC



Scaley tailed possum
Photo: KLC

Objective 1 : Traditional Owner Fire Management

- Number of Dambimangari families represented in Fire Planning and Operations
- Percentage of controlled burns on Dambimangari Country directed by Dambimangari TO's
- Percentage of total area of Dambimangari country burned each year in early dry season by active fire management

Objective 2 : Cultural appropriate Visitor Management

- Level of satisfaction of Dambimangari Cultural Advisors
- Ratio of permits to total number of visitors
- Ratio of sites visited by relevant families to total number of mapped sites

Objective 3 : Access to Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Level of satisfaction of Dambimangari Cultural Advisors

Objective 4 : Implementation and Incorporation of Dambimangari Healthy Country Aspirations by Stakeholders

- Number of formal agreements incorporating Dambimangari Healthy Country Aspirations
- Percentage of controlled burns on Dambimangari Country directed by Dambimangari TO's
- Ratio of permits to total number of visitors

Objective 5 : Management of most visited cultural sites

- Percentage of culturally important sites mapped

and stories recorded

- Percentage of culturally important sites disturbed (wrong way fire, visitors, feral animals, weeds)
- Ratio of sites visited by relevant families to total number of mapped sites

Objective 6 : Management of invasive plants

- Hectares of invasive plants eradicated at culturally important sites / high visitation areas

Objective 7 : Capacity of Dambimangari Rangers to manage their country

- Number of full-time Rangers employed
- Number of Rangers with Cert.III or above qualifications
- Level of satisfaction of Dambimangari Cultural Advisors

Objective 8 : Feral Animal Management

- Disturbance of riparian vegetation (rank)

Objective 9 : Cultural appropriate management of reefs, beaches and islands

- Percentage of controlled burns on Dambimangari islands directed by Dambimangari TO's
- Ratio of permits to total number of visitors

Objective 10 : Turtle and Dugong Management

- Increase/decrease in turtle and dugong numbers over time

DAMBIMANGARI

Enhancing viability
Adaptive management

With other targets, we must talk to the scientists to make sure we are getting things right. Many parts of our country haven't been researched in great detail, so we rely a lot on our own knowledge in these areas. In the future we must make sure that any research on our country helps us to achieve everything in this plan.

Our Rangers use the Cybertracker/I-Tracker for data-collection. The Australian Government's Caring for Country Initiative and NAILSMA support Ranger groups use the I-Tracker / Cybertracker in the field. I-Tracker allows Dambimangari Rangers to collect information on country and share it with other Indigenous Ranger Groups for better land and sea management across the north of Australia. Dambimangari Rangers participated in workshops to learn how to collect the data and manage the data and to report back to our community and to funding bodies to show the effectiveness of our Ranger work.

Our Rangers are already working with some agencies that help us monitor the health of our country. In the past, the Department of Water looked at the health of our waterways and taught the Rangers different ways to ensure our water was healthy and tasty.

AQIS is training and funding the Rangers to monitor the coastline and to make sure that no new feral animals come to our country.

Once we know how things are going, we can either maintain our strategies or modify them to achieve our goals.

Ten years from now we need to look at the plan again and make an updated version that reflects the state of Dambimangari country at that time. In ten years time, some of our targets will be in "good" health so we can focus on other things and extend our work. This approach — make a plan, do the work, check the work is on track and then look at the plan again — is called "adaptive management."



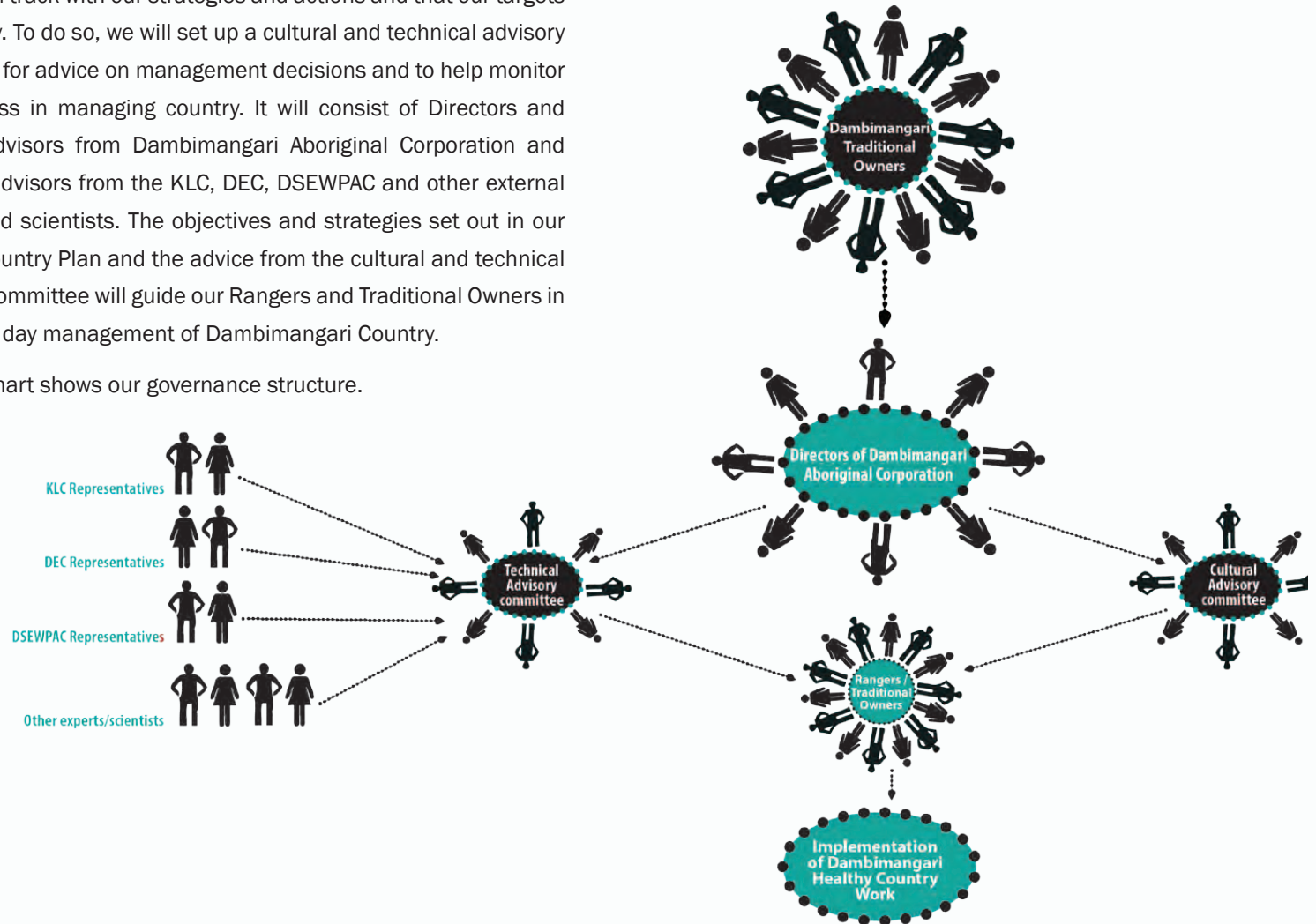
Mudskipper
Photo: KLC

Governance and implementation

Table 5: Governance structure for Dambimangari healthy country management

For successful Healthy Country Management it is important to check if we are on track with our strategies and actions and that our targets are healthy. To do so, we will set up a cultural and technical advisory committee for advice on management decisions and to help monitor our progress in managing country. It will consist of Directors and Cultural Advisors from Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and technical advisors from the KLC, DEC, DSEWPAC and other external experts and scientists. The objectives and strategies set out in our Healthy Country Plan and the advice from the cultural and technical advisory committee will guide our Rangers and Traditional Owners in the day to day management of Dambimangari Country.

The flowchart shows our governance structure.



At the Native Title determination
Photo: KLC



Handing back of land rights
Photo: KLC

DAMBIMANGARI

Worrora	English word
Aarrara	Hill Kangaroo
Ambirr	Turtle eggs
Banaj	Bush turkey
Borro	Tawny frogmouth
Bulumanu	Cattle
Dangana	Cabbage palm
Dijikurri	Short necked turtle
Galam	Double raft
Garraam	Emu berry
Gumbiyanu	Bush potato
Gurndoola	Agile wallaby
Gundulu	Bauhinia
Ilaja	Cheeky yam
Jarda	Spinifex
Jebarra	Emu
Jeral	Beach hibiscus
Jigidan	Snubfin
Jirndim	Mangal
Juluwarra	Sea-turtle
Kalakalarrri	Flatback
Koyaya	Freshwater crocodile
Kudmala	Rough tailed goanna
Kungara	Mating turtles
Kurum	Cypress pine
Lajinam	Kapok mangrove
Leerragu	Black plum
Majinbily	Mangrove mistletoe
Malgirrba	Bluebone

Worrora	English word
Manbarda	Water lily
Manungkay	Boobook
Marlinji	Oysters
Marrgalam	Green plum
Marrirri	Red-winged parrot
Mija	Wax from
Minyingan	Feral cat
Mirimiri.ngarriny	Echidna, porcupine
Mungidi	Loggerhead turtle
Ngurr-Ngurr	Pigs
Nowurralya	Hawksbill turtle
Nuwala	Barramundi
Oromarnangarri	Donkey
Ungaban	Sugar-glider
Uunggiya	Tuber of water lily
Ungkurnbeem	Paperbark
Walamba	Plains kangaroo
Wangguru	Woollybutt
wangkuru	Heavy turtle spear
Warli	Green turtle
warlinya	Dugong
Wijingngarri	Quoll
Wuliji	Humpback whale
Wulumarany	Long neck turtle
Wungunabeem	Vigna
Yilangal	Scaly-tailed possum
Yuwurn	Barn owl



Whale watching
Photo: KLC

Appendix 2

Nested targets—Matters of national environmental significance

DAMBI MANGARJ



Saltwater crocodile
Photo: DAC

Native Animals	Brush-tailed Tree Rat <i>Conilurus penicillatus</i> V	Northern Quoll <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> E	Golden-backed Tree rat <i>Mesembriomys macrurus</i> V	Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i> V
	Red Goshawk <i>Erythrotriorchis radiates</i> V	Gouldian Finch <i>Erythrura gouldiae</i> E	Northern Shrike Tit <i>Falcunculus frontatus whitei</i> V	Partridge Pigeon <i>Geophaps smithii blaaui</i> V
	Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rainbow Bee-Eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>	Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Derby White-browed Robin <i>Poecilodryas spercilliosa cerviniventris</i>
	Rufous Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Melville Cycadbird <i>Coracina tenuirostris melvillensis</i>	Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> V	Oriental Plover <i>Charadrius veredus</i>
	Oriental Pratincole <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Magpie Goose <i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>		
Freshwater	Freshwater Sawfish <i>Pristis microdon</i> V	Green Sawfish <i>Pristis zijsron</i> V	Watermouse <i>Xeromys myoides</i> V	Purple Crowned Fairy Wren <i>Malurus coronatus coronatus</i> V
	Freshwater Crocodile <i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>			

KEY:

CE.....Critically endangered **E**Endangered **V** ...Vulnerable

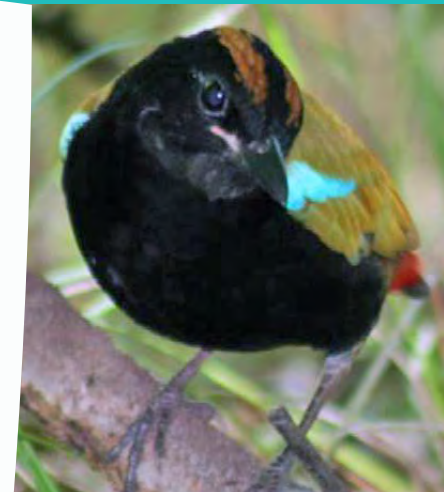
DAMBIMANGARI

Nested targets—Matters of national environmental significance cont...

Saltwater fish and Seafood	Red-footed Booby <i>Sula sula</i>	Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>	Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	Cattle Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i>
	Streaked Shearwater <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>	Streaked Shearwater <i>Puffinus leucomelas</i>	Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Brown Booby <i>Sula leucogaster</i>
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Short-nosed Sea-snake <i>Aipysurus apraefrontalis</i> CE	Dwarf Sawfish <i>Pristis clavata</i> V	Whale Shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i> V
	Lesser Frigatebird <i>Fregata ariel</i>	Great Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i>	Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Long-nosed pipefish <i>Trachyrhamphus longirostris</i>
	Saltwater Crocodile <i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Three keel pipefish <i>Campichthys tricarinatus</i>	Short bodied pipefish <i>Choeroichthys brachysoma</i>
	Pig-snouted pipefish <i>Choeroichthys suillus</i>	Brown banded pipefish <i>Corythoichthys amplexus</i>	Yellow banded pipefish <i>Corythoichthys flavofasciatus</i>	Roughridge pipefish <i>Cosmocampus banneri</i>
	Blue stripe pipefish <i>Doryrhamphus excisus</i>	Cleaner pipefish <i>Doryrhamphus janssi</i>	Brock's pipefish <i>Halicampus brocki</i>	Gray's pipefish <i>Halicampus grayi</i>
	Glittering pipefish <i>Halicampus nitidus</i>	Spiny snouted pipefish <i>Halicampus spinirostris</i>	Ribboned sea dragon <i>Haliichthys taeniophorus</i>	Steep nosed pipefish <i>Hippichthys penicillus</i>
	Thorny Seahorse <i>Hippocampus histrix</i>	Yellow Seahorse <i>Hippocampus kuda</i>	Flat face Seahorse <i>Hippocampus planifrons</i>	Hedgehog Seahorse <i>Hippocampus spinosissimus</i>

KEY:

CE.....Critically endangered **E**Endangered **V** ...Vulnerable



Rainbow pitta
Photo: KLC



Kings Cascade Mambulbada. "Where the Bower bird stopped the Rock cod."
Photo: KLC

Appendix 2

Nested targets—Matters of national environmental significance cont...

DAMBI MANGARJ



Jirndim (Mangrove/Mangal)
Photo: DAC

Saltwater fish and Seafood cont...	Tidepool pipefish <i>Micrognathus micronotopterus</i>	Hardwicks pipehorse <i>Solegnathus hardwickii</i>	Gunther's pipehorse <i>Solegnathus lettiensis</i>	Robust ghost-pipefish <i>Solenostomus cyanopterus</i>
	Rough snout ghost pipefish <i>Solenostomus paegnius</i>	Double-end pipehorse <i>Syngnathoides biaculeatus</i>	Short tailed pipefish <i>Trachyrhamphus bicoarctatus</i>	Yellow bellied sea snake <i>Pelamis platurus</i>
	Horned sea snake <i>Acalyptophis peronii</i>	Dubois sea snake <i>Aipysurus duboisii</i>	Spine tailed sea-snake <i>Aipysurus eydouxii</i>	Olive sea snake <i>Aipysurus laevis</i>
	Stokes sea snake <i>Astrotia stokesii</i>	Spectacled sea snake <i>Disteira kingii</i>	Olive headed sea snake <i>Disteira major</i>	Turtle headed sea snake <i>Emydocephalus annulatus</i>
	Beaked sea snake <i>Enhydrina schistosa</i>	Elegant sea snake <i>Hydrophis elegans</i>	Spine bellied sea snake <i>Lapemis hardwickii</i>	
Whales and Dolphins	Blue Whale <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> E	Humpback Whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> V	Killerwhale <i>Orcinus Orca</i>	Bryde's Whale <i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>
	Common Dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Irriwaddy Dolphin <i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Indo-pacific Hump-back dolphin <i>Souse chinensis</i>	Spotted Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>
	Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>	Orca <i>Orcinus orca</i>	Spotted dolphin <i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Spotted bottle nose dolphin <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>
Turtle and Dugong	Loggerhead Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i> E	Green Turtle <i>Chelonis mydas</i> V	Leatherback Turtle <i>Dermodochelys coriacea</i> E	Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i> V
	Olive Ridley Turtle <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> E	Flatback Turtle <i>Natator depressus</i> V	Dugong <i>Dugon dugon</i>	

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Abbreviations:

- AQIS Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
- DAC Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
- DEC Department of Environment and Conservation
- KLC Kimberley Land Council
- CAP Conservation Action Planning
- TNC The Nature Conservancy
- TO Traditional Owner
- WWF World wildlife fund for nature
- NAILSMA North Australian Land and Sea Management Alliance



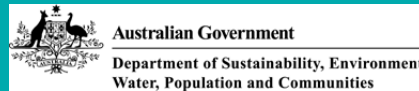
Freshwater
Photo: DAC

We thank our valued partners for their financial assistance, expertise and support in helping us prepare the Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan



Kimberley Land Council

Kimberley Land Council



Indigenous Protected Area Program of the Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities



Pew Environment Group



Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation

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