

ENVIRONS KIMBERLEY

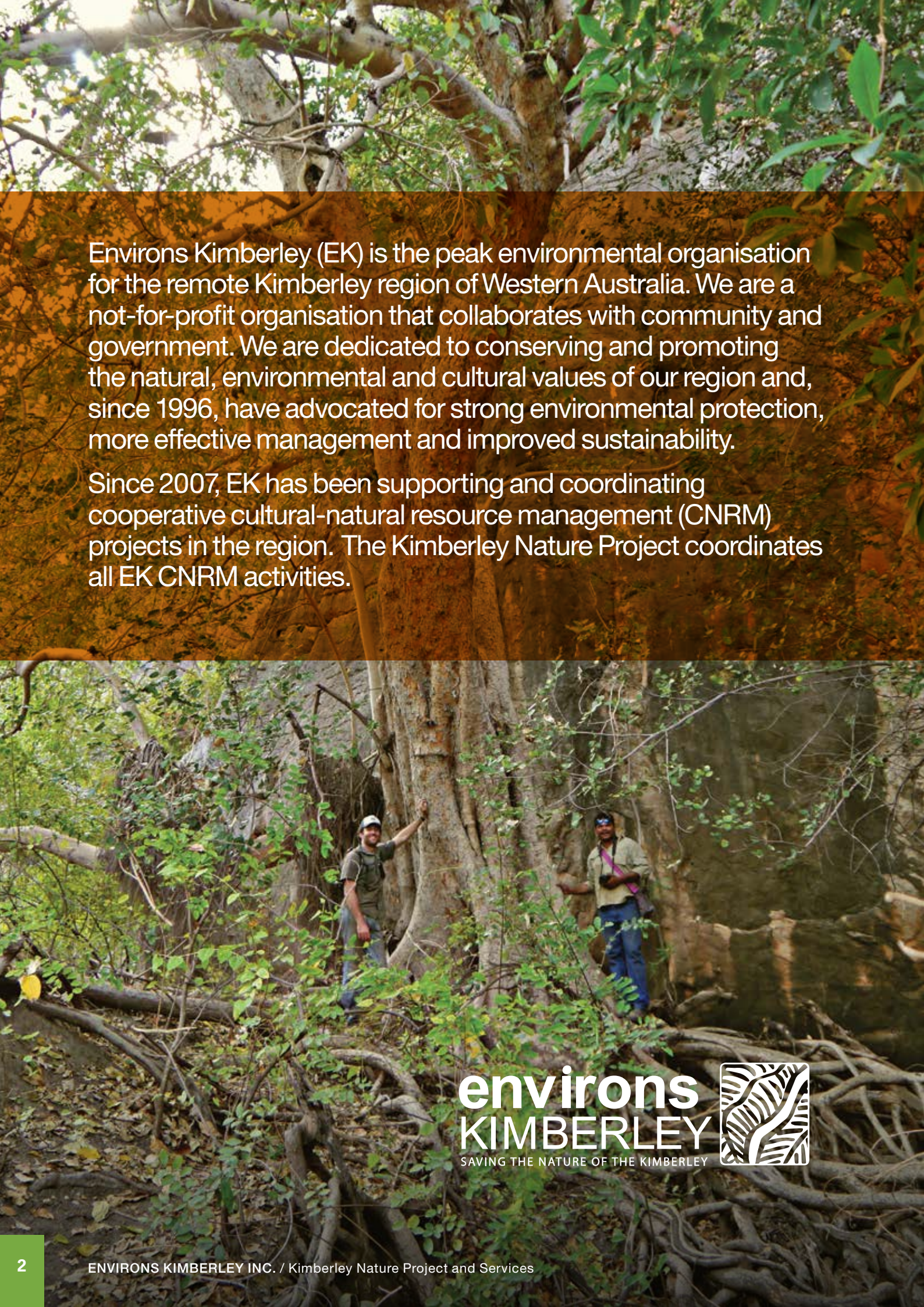
KIMBERLEY NATURE PROJECT

A PROSPECTUS OF KNP's ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CULTURAL SERVICES



environs
KIMBERLEY
SAVING THE NATURE OF THE KIMBERLEY





Environs Kimberley (EK) is the peak environmental organisation for the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia. We are a not-for-profit organisation that collaborates with community and government. We are dedicated to conserving and promoting the natural, environmental and cultural values of our region and, since 1996, have advocated for strong environmental protection, more effective management and improved sustainability.

Since 2007, EK has been supporting and coordinating cooperative cultural-natural resource management (CNRM) projects in the region. The Kimberley Nature Project coordinates all EK CNRM activities.



KIMBERLEY NATURE PROJECT & SERVICES

The Kimberley Nature Project has a proven track record in successfully protecting, managing and documenting ecologically and culturally important species and ecosystems.

We collaborate with Aboriginal groups and scientists to apply traditional knowledge and the best scientific methods to our projects. These projects include fire, feral animal and weed management; seed collection and revegetation; ecological surveys; environmental education and interpretive signage; seagrass and marine monitoring. Our CNRM project successes are grounded in long-term, respectful working relationships with Aboriginal Rangers and organisations, other Traditional Owners, all levels of government, industry, and environmental and community groups.

The Kimberley Nature Project employs eight full- and part-time ecologists/field naturalists with a broad range of expertise. From Aboriginal staff with strong local knowledge and networks, to ecologists with doctorates, we value diversity and staffing consistency to foster long-term knowledge and relationships.

We seek funding for our projects from national, state and local governments and philanthropic organisations. We also contract out our services and provide specialised consultancy within and outside our region.

www.environskimberley.org.au



PARTNERSHIPS

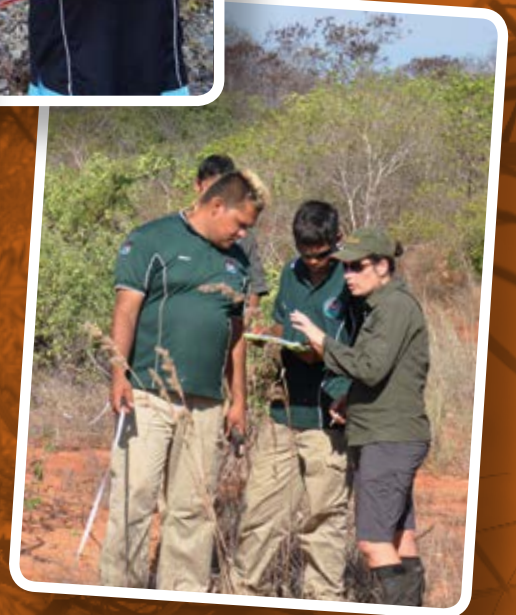
Kimberley Nature Project has a long, successful history of collaboration with Kimberley Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Ranger groups, volunteers, scientists, pastoralists, educators and all levels of government in cultural-natural resource management projects.

Why our partnership projects are successful:

- We design and deliver projects cooperatively so that they are compatible with the capacity and aspirations of communities and align with existing projects and plans such as Healthy Country Plans.
- We foster lasting relationships and work on long-term projects despite short-term funding cycles.
- Seeking guidance and respecting cultural protocols is an essential part of project planning and completion. We find out *how* things should be done, *where* we can and can't go, *who* needs to be engaged and whose *permission* is required.
- KNP respects the rights of Aboriginal people to have control over projects conducted on their country. We seek regular project endorsement and feedback from steering committees, Prescribed Bodies Corporate and other Aboriginal governance bodies.
- KNP places a high value on Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Its maintenance is crucial to the informed management of ecosystems and to Aboriginal cultural identity and inclusion. We work with cultural advisers and interpreters to include Aboriginal knowledge, language and stories into reports and publications, and recognise Aboriginal Intellectual Property Rights.
- By combining the best scientific knowledge with Traditional Ecological Knowledge our projects have been successful in protecting and documenting ecologically and culturally important species (e.g. Gouldian Finches and Bilbies) and ecosystems (e.g. Monsoon Vine Thickets and wetlands).
- Sustainable, well-designed projects pay wages to staff, Rangers and Elders. Since 2009 EK has provided over \$550k in fee-for-service contracts with Aboriginal Ranger groups and cultural advisers.

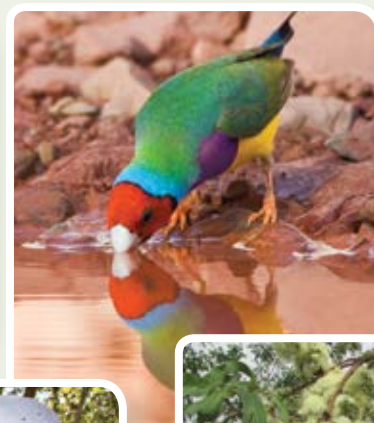


- For all projects we report our findings to Aboriginal and scientific communities, government and the general public.
- We support smaller voluntary community groups, including the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPA), Broome Botanical Society and Derby Landcare.
- KNP's successful partnerships with diverse groups such as Aboriginal Rangers, conservation organisations, pastoralists and other land managers are attributable to our effective communication and commitment to meeting common objectives.
- KNP assists state and federal environment departments by providing ecological advice, improving documentation and scientific records, and facilitating local partnerships.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Weed, feral animal and fire management across cultural landscapes to conserve fragile ecosystems.
- Priority, Threatened and Endangered ecosystem surveying, mapping, description and management.
- Targeted threatened species surveys and threat management.
- General biodiversity surveys and monitoring design for mammals, reptiles, frogs, birds and vegetation.
- Wetland monitoring and protection.
- Marine and coastal surveys including seagrass, fish dolphins and turtles.
- Seed collection, storage and propagation; as well as developing and seeking conservation-economy opportunities.
- Revegetation and restoration of natural areas to conserve ecosystems, and of native gardens for public education and display.
- Managing volunteers and facilitating successful partnerships with state, local and Aboriginal groups to undertake weeding, monitoring and revegetation projects.
- Recording Traditional Ecological Knowledge to develop community publications/resources and inform the way we manage land.
- Providing assistance to Aboriginal and community groups with grant-writing, project management and acquittals.
- Developing and delivering environmental education programs to Kimberley schools.
- Facilitating citizen science projects.
- Communicating science to various audiences, e.g. science conferences, general public, Aboriginal communities.



PROJECT CASE STUDY

The Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thicket Network

Monsoon Vine Thickets (MVTs) make up less than 0.01% of the Dampier Peninsula, yet support 25% of the peninsula's plant species. Wildfire is shrinking patches and woodland is encroaching on them. The loss or degradation of one MVT patch affects all the other patches.

Environs Kimberley has led the collaborative management of MVT on the Dampier Peninsula and assisted the Broome Botanical Society to compile the extensive report of its survey of more than 90% of known patches.



In 2008/09 EK extended works with the Bardi Jawi and Nyul Nyul Rangers (supported by Kimberley Land Council) and Traditional Owners to manage these ecological and culturally important MVT patches through:

- fire and weed management
- revegetation
- research including biological surveys
- development of scientific monitoring
- documenting ecology and fire history and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Our joint work resulted in the 2013 listing of MVT as a Nationally Endangered Ecosystem.

EK has extended this work to Yawuru Country (IPA) Managers and other southern Traditional Owners, Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers, the community group SKIPA and the Yawuru Rangers/WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, and has enhanced state and national documentation for this ecosystem.

This successful collaborative project has received funding and support from Rangelands NRM and the Australian Federal Government, and smaller grants from WA State NRM. We continue to conserve valuable cultural and natural heritage.



PROJECT CASE STUDIES



Nganyjurrukura ngurra tukujana – Everybody looking after country properly.

In collaboration with WWF and KLC, we conducted extensive consultation and site visits with Karajarri Elders, Rangers and the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association to record and transcribe Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and produce endorsed eco-cultural interpretive signage for six areas along Karajarri *Jurarr* (coastal country) from Jinmarnkur (Cape Missiessy) to Mirntanyartaji (Gourdon Bay).

"This place has the story of Panganu (salmon). It's called Panganunganyjal. Big salmon coming in night time. When the tide coming in, you can get salmon."

"Other side got a big rock standing there, Maparnkurru warnku. Downways from the sand hills, biggest warnku (rock). Standing like a big submarine, a big boat. A dreamtime one. Downways from Panganunganyjal."

Witadong Mulardi, Karajarri Elder

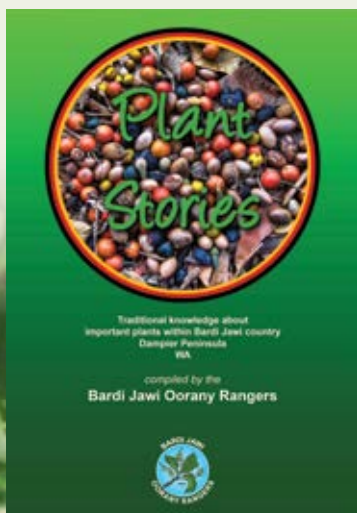


Boonyja bardag gorna – All the bush fruit trees are useful, for fruit and medicine.

Environs Kimberley worked with the Bardi Jawi Oorany (women) Rangers to collate TEK about some Bardi Jawi MVT plants and produce the community booklet 'Plant Stories'.

"We know our country. It is important that we record and share our traditional and practical knowledge and keep it alive within our communities. We want our young people to know and protect country and keep it healthy."

Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers



Building projects and capacity with the Bunuba Rangers

We have been working with the Bunuba Rangers and Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation to increase the capacity, reach and scope of their conservation work, initiating and supporting CNRM projects, including:

- Helping the Rangers successfully apply for, carry out and acquit their first grant.
- Working with the Rangers to map and survey culturally important, Vulnerable Monsoon Vine Thickets of the Limestone Ranges, and providing training in vegetation surveys and herbaria.
- Engaging Elders and young people in fieldwork, so facilitating the transfer of Traditional Ecological Knowledge between generations.
- Initiating mapping and weeding on the Bunuba-owned Leopold Downs Station, funded from numerous sources (Rangelands NRM Australian Government grants).
- Providing training support, including surveys for the Nationally Endangered Purple-crowned Fairy-wren and weed and fire management to combat threats.
- Cooperating to consolidate documented and oral Bunuba ecological knowledge and seek funding to develop a plant and animal identification book. This project is driven by an urgent need to preserve eco-cultural heritage, and will run parallel with Bunuba's Healthy Country Planning with Bush Heritage.



PERSONNEL CAPACITY

Key relevant skills include:

- biodiversity and threatened species surveys
- scientific monitoring and evaluation
- ecological community description and mapping
- seed collection, storage and propagation, revegetation and landscape restoration
- fire, weed and feral animal management planning and implementation
- Aboriginal/community engagement
- workshop facilitation and group planning
- environmental education
- identifying and recording traditional and scientific plant and ecosystem knowledge,
- producing publications, including scientific, plain English and culture-specific materials
- project design and development
- project and database management
- remote area project delivery
- team development
- proven ability to work with people of all backgrounds
- conducting seagrass, marine mammal and fish surveys
- designing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing Conservation Action Plans
- specialist knowledge of remote environments

We have public and professional indemnity insurance, a fully-equipped 4WD and trailer, biodiversity and technical equipment based in Broome and a 'can do' attitude.



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Dr Steve Reynolds
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Ilse Pickerd
Project Officer



Ayesha Moss
Seedbank
Project Officer



Julia Rau
Seagrass
Project Officer

EK CONSULTANCY SERVICES



EK has grown strong in the red dust, white beaches, lush wetlands and sandy deserts of the Kimberley. Our knowledge and specialised staff are not restricted to the region. We can help you with your small or large project today.



Photographers: Rod Harvigsen, Damian Kelly, David Bettini, Shane Hughes, Julia Rau, Louise Beames, Neil Hamaguchi, Steve Reynolds, Jason Fowler, Kylie Weatherall, Taran Cox, Jason Roe, Tim Willing, Gary Lienert, Martin Pritchard, John Hall

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