



Northern
Territory
Government

Parks and Wildlife Commission NT

Strategic Plan 2013-2016



Our Vision

“Connecting people with the Territory’s unique nature and culture.”

Our Purpose

To deliver high quality and sustainable environmental, cultural and visitor outcomes for Northern Territory parks, reserves and wildlife.

Strengthen local communities and economies by recognising that environmental and cultural resources are vital to delivering positive social, sustainable and economic outcomes.

Our Values

- Commitment to Service
- Ethical Practice
- Respect
- Accountability
- Impartiality
- Diversity



Message from the Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Bridges

The Territory's most precious natural areas are entrusted to the care of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. Our parks and wildlife are assets that are integral to the social, economic and environmental fabric of the Territory. Our Strategy aims to protect our natural and cultural heritage; foster community understanding and education; and provide for the enjoyment of park visitors.

Our Vision is about connecting people with the unique nature and culture of the Territory. There is strong evidence of a clear link between people's experience of nature, feeling connected with nature and a desire to conserve it. The health benefits of nature-based recreation are universally accepted, and in an increasingly urbanised world the need for people to connect people with nature has never been greater.

So it is vital that the Commission provides opportunities for visitors to have memorable and connective experiences with our parks and wildlife. We need to listen to Territorians especially, and expand the opportunities for positive experiences with nature and culture for them. Every positive experience that fosters a personal connection with nature and culture, creates relevance and generates more support for parks and wildlife conservation. This may mean a change from earlier mindsets for some. Our objective in the present day is to protect parks and wildlife with people and for people, rather than from people.

We also know that interstate and international visitors are drawn to the Territory mainly to experience our nature and culture. Their memorable experiences too, will have them placing a greater value on nature, as well as reaping benefits for tourism, local communities and the Territory economy.

Our parks and reserves lie within the largely intact landscapes of the Territory. Our nature and culture is unique. The Commission cannot look after it all by itself. By working with the community and other agencies, strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones, we will make better gains all round, and help secure the future of our parks and wildlife.

In order to achieve all of this the Commission needs to value and grow its own people in an environment that rewards innovation and teamwork and celebrates success. This Plan will help focus the day to day work of teams, help build a strong Commission, and in doing so, will contribute to a strong and vibrant Territory into the future.

Andrew Bridges



Goal 1: Parks for Wildlife

Strategies	Outcomes
Manage and conserve parks according to their unique natural value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated conservation strategies are developed to protect biodiversity.• Management directions for key natural values of all parks and reserves are clearly stated in park management plans and statements.
Minimise threats to biodiversity health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity hotspots on parks and reserves are identified and managed.• Holistic and regional management of invasive species and fire across parks and reserves is achieved.• Conservation outcomes for our native wildlife are enhanced.



Goal 2: Parks for People

Strategies	Outcomes
Expand opportunities for recreation and education in parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Parks Recreation and Tourism Masterplan is completed and implemented.• More local people and visitors visiting, using and benefitting from parks.• Visitor monitoring and reporting are improved.• A Community Engagement and Education Strategy is developed and delivered.
Grow sustainable nature and culture-based tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing businesses are supported and maintained and new opportunities for private enterprise are identified and developed sustainably to protect wildlife, land and water.• Economic aspirations of Traditional Owners are realised through tourism enterprises and other activities on parks.• Private partnerships are developed to deliver public value.
Enhance the quality and safety of the visitor experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New technologies generate innovative and high quality experiences.• Standards are developed for all parks and reserves.• Visitor facilities and infrastructure maintained to high standards.
Protect and care for the natural and cultural assets within parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural and natural sites of significance are preserved.• Management plans are established and implemented to ensure the ongoing protection of important natural and cultural sites.



Goal 3: Strong Partnerships

Strategies	Outcomes
Develop meaningful opportunities to help care for and invest in our parks and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active community involvement through supported and coordinated volunteer programs. Friends, advisory and other groups are supported and valued. The community is actively involved in the decision making and on-ground management of their parks.
Build and strengthen relationships with the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal and informal arrangements are developed with clubs and associations where there is mutual benefit.
Strengthen Aboriginal partnerships and improve Joint Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Management delivers benefits to the community. Engagement of Aboriginal people as stakeholders in all parks is continued. Cultural Heritage Plans for parks are developed.

Goal 4: Living with Wildlife

Strategies	Outcomes
Promote public responsibility and stewardship for living with wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory practice and compliance are strengthened. The community is informed about and better understands native wildlife in urban and rural areas. Pest species are managed effectively and ethically.
Minimise harm from crocodiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective crocodile management strategies are developed and delivered.
Deliver effective wildlife management programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Plans are developed and adopted to effectively manage wildlife in urban and rural areas or in high visitation Parks and Reserves.



Goal 5: Our Organisation

Strategies	Outcomes
Inspire and support a collaborative and respectful workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workplace where staff feel valued, respected and supported. • Communication between staff and with others is effective.
Continue to improve business processes and streamline key internal systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and transparent operating environment for internal and external clients. • A strategic corporate governance model and aligned to the Shared Services framework. • Legislation is contemporary and supports business objectives.
Build and enhance strategic leadership and workforce capability and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An organisation with staff at all levels responsible and accountable for the delivery of strategic objectives and services. • Staff skills are developed across identified key agency competencies. • Aboriginal employment outcomes are improved. • Staff are confident and competent in working in cross-cultural partnerships. • Succession planning and staff retention objectives are met. • Existing emerging leaders are supported and developed to influence and innovate for future business.
Ensure a safe working environment in both office and field operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff are empowered to perform and innovate in a safe and ethical environment. • Appropriate operating procedures and guidelines are embedded.





Parks and Wildlife Commission NT
www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au