

# LAYNHAPUY INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN (2017-2022)



Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation



Australian Government



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Yilpara; native seed necklace; Red Cheeked Dunnart (*Yirralka Rangers photo library*)



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## ORTHOGRAPHY

This Plan of Management seeks to conform to our Yolŋu-matha (Yolŋu language) orthography. Yolŋu words contain a number of letters and combinations that will be unfamiliar to many people reading this document. The following notes are intended to assist newcomers in the correct pronunciation of these words.

**ŋ** Pronounced like the 'ng' in ring

**ng** Pronounce the 'n' and 'g' separately

**th, nh, dh** Don't pronounce the 'h' but place the tip of the tongue between the front teeth to pronounce the 'd', 't' or 'n'

**r, d, n, l, t** Pronounced with the tip of the tongue backwards toward the roof of the mouth

**rr** Pronounced by rolling the 'r' or allowing the tongue to flap during pronunciation

**ny** Pronounced like the 'n' sound in onion

**dj, tj** Don't pronounce the j, and pronounce the 'd' or 't' with the tongue in the same position as for 'ny' above

**ä** (Long) pronounced like the 'a' in father

**a** (Short) pronounced like the 'u' in but

**e** (Long) pronounced like the 'ee' in meet

**i** (Short) pronounced like the 'i' in hit

**o** (Long) pronounced like the 'aw' in dawn

**u** (Short) pronounced like the 'u' in put

The meanings of Yolŋu words used throughout this plan are explained in § 4.1.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The special contribution made by the following people and organisations to our Plan are gratefully acknowledged:

- all Wäŋa Watanju, Djungayi and Yolŋu Traditional Owners (TOs) consulted in the preparation of this Plan listed in a companion document titled Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (Land and Sea Country) Consultation Report 2013. Section 4.3 lists other stakeholder organisations and people consulted regarding specific issues.
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (LHAC) including Laynhapuy Executive Council members, Dave Preece (IPA Manager) and Yirralka Rangers
- Northern Land Council (NLC) – Trish Rigby, Howard Smith, Carol Christopherson, Emma King, Allison Thatcher and Damien Djerrkura.

Funds to prepare the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (Laynha IPA MP) were provided by the Indigenous Protected Area program which is part of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Strategy. It should be noted that from late 2013, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet took over functions associated with all aspects of Indigenous affairs, including Indigenous programs delivered through the Department of the Environment.

The Laynhapuy IPA MP was prepared utilising the following expertise:

- John Wood, project team leader and joint plan author
- Paul Josif, Savvy Community Development Consultants, geographer, cross cultural facilitation, planning specialist and joint plan author
- Gay English, Frances Morphy and Dr Bentley James, anthropologists, consultation and language specialists
- Belinda Oliver, GIS specialist and Elena Collins, graphic designer.



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Now deceased most senior Wangurri clan member

We are here to recognise the old people and our ringitj relations.

Banul, senior Wangurri clan member

This IPA is yothu yindi and märi gutharra, interconnected responsibilities to each other's kin and country. We are here to look after country.

Our Yolŋu knowledge system has evolved over more than 40,000 years, and is based on the spiritual and physical association between creation and the Yolŋu people. All of our country must be treated with respect and can be properly cared for by using both traditional and western knowledge systems (two-way management). This is where we use the skills and knowledge from both cultures to manage our country.

Our IPA Management Plan recognises the importance of our senior Wäŋa Wataŋu and Djuŋgayi, and our Yirralka Steering Committee supporting the Yirralka Rangers.

Implementation of the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Management Plan (MP) is the primary responsibility of the Yirralka Rangers backed up by a network of senior Yolŋu IPA Cultural Advisors, and an Advisory Group that includes representatives of key government and non-government agencies.

The Laynhapuy IPA MP is a voluntary management arrangement which does not impose any legal constraints on us (refer §3.1) or others. Our Plan describes how we will manage our country within the IPA to achieve cultural, social, and environmental goals, often with the collaboration and support of other agencies.

We will manage the Laynhapuy IPA in a way that is consistent with the IUCN Category VI Protected Area Guidelines. These Guidelines aim to conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems in a way that is consistent with Traditional Owner aspirations (refer §2.2).

Our new Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (Stage 2) includes the original Stage 1 area, and now covers approximately 16,800 km<sup>2</sup> (11,172 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 5,628

km<sup>2</sup> of sea country) as shown in Figure 1. The expanded IPA extends out to sea 20 km from the low tide mark, and covers approximately 730 km of coastline. The Laynhapuy IPA is part of a network of marine and terrestrial conservation reserves including IPAs and National Parks forming the Trans-Australia Eco-Link stretching 3,500 km from northern to southern Australia. It is located on important international bird migratory routes, has high endemic terrestrial and marine biodiversity and provides unique and relatively undamaged habitats for a number of endangered and vulnerable species of plants and animals (refer §4).

This IPA MP establishes a framework consistent with international and national Protected Area Management guidelines. Our vision and goals for management of the Laynhapuy IPA are based on the results of extensive and comprehensive formal and informal meetings and discussions amongst ourselves, as the Yolŋu Traditional Owners (TOs), over several years, and builds on the original Stage 1 IPA Management Plan. We have consulted widely with other agencies about expanding our IPA (refer §4.3).

The dedication of the Laynhapuy IPA Stage 2 IPA will extend and support achievement of our goals, which are:

- recognising our Yolŋu decision making arrangements for managing the IPA and building support to manage our country knowledgeably and efficiently in the face of existing and new threats
- intergenerational transfer of our traditional ecological and cultural knowledge
- the identification and prioritization of our cultural and environmental values that require additional protection and monitoring





- the maintenance of a clear IPA management framework, consistent with good two-way governance
- to support and facilitate identification and development of areas in relation to the IPA for sustainable TO controlled and managed economic activities
- to promote the strong Yolŋu commitment to effectively manage the IPA for the benefit of all Australians in a way that is consistent with the wishes of Traditional Owners and potential and current partners (both Government and non-Government)
- to obtain ongoing and increased funding for the IPA and related programs within the context of our expanded IPA MP, and increased responsibilities.

The IPA boundaries on the map inevitably cut across traditional areas of cultural, clan based responsibility. Sometimes one clan is in two or more IPA areas. As part of ensuring efficient and effective management, we will establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the Managers of neighbouring IPAs to facilitate cooperative operational arrangements and clarity about all of the IPA managers' roles and responsibilities. We have started this process. We see the Laynhapuy IPA in the context of an informal regional IPA system across Arnhem Land.

The successful implementation of this plan relies heavily on continued staff development including a comprehensive, culturally sensitive and supportive training program.

We welcome opportunities to partner with organisations with the capacity to practically assist the Yirralka Rangers to achieve our goals. We aim to work collaboratively with other agencies on our country. Partnerships can leverage our Rangers' capabilities and provide benefits to everyone.

Our IPA has high ecological values, with natural systems that are mostly undisturbed, providing habitats to threatened species and includes internationally significant wetlands. The landscapes are beautiful and wild and the coast and seas are home to a wide range of species including endangered species such as turtles, dolphin and dugong.



Photo 1: IPA consultations at Yirralka, 2011  
(Photo taken by John Wood)



## For those of us Yolŋu living on our homelands, we are keen to develop our country as a sustainable economic base, and lessen our dependence on government.

The continued monitoring, mapping and protection of these culturally and biologically important values are our priority. These values are threatened by introduced pest animals and plants, wildfires, damaging land uses and inappropriate visitor activities (refer §4). Strategies and Key Actions to manage and mitigate these threats and impacts, based on our experience managing Stage 1 of the IPA are described in this Plan.

Key risks are identified and mitigation strategies are proposed (§3.11) to ensure the Plan remains on track and continues to achieve our IPA aspirations and goals. Managing access by visitors, hunters, fishers and crabbers is the most important issue for all Yolŋu consulted. We are concerned about the pressure on our country from the activities of some visitors who come into the area from near and far without permission or in breach of their permits, or their §19 (ALRA) land use agreement conditions. We plan to change the administration of the permit system to something similar to the Dhimurru arrangements, so that we have responsibility for issuing recreational permits.

Seabed exploration and mining is a significant concern, and as a priority, we need to commence mapping and registration of sacred sites, both on the land but particularly in the sea, and then carry out appropriate protective measures and responses. We will continue to increase the capacity of our Rangers to enforce compliance with regulations. This will require an ongoing investment in training and high level, ongoing mentoring.

As well as increasing Rangers' capacity to manage and monitor threats and impacts, is the need to increase our investment in infrastructure, particularly well-equipped Ranger bases in the larger homelands, with boat ramps accessible by "most-weather" roads.

The expanded IPA requires a network of larger homelands hosted Ranger bases, which in turn support the smaller homelands closer to them. This requires good communications capacity and training. The development of a communications network spanning the entire Laynhapuy area that facilitates rapid vertical and horizontal exchange of information between Managers, Facilitators, Rangers and TOs is critical to our success.

Our Caring for Country responsibilities described in the Plan are substantial and include the extension of fire, feral animal and weed management works, supported by good ongoing training and application of appropriate technology. We are particularly concerned about the degradation of our wetlands and billabongs by buffalo and feral pigs, and seek a more decentralised model where local Ranger groups can act independently, but in coordination with other actions across the IPA. This eventual outcome is powerfully linked to our Rangers' capacity to increase awareness and to convey information about threats and research results to our people living in homeland communities within the IPA.

Intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge between Yolŋu elders and Rangers to the following generations of children is critically important, and sits well with the Rangers acting as facilitators for 'two-way' education. We will, as part of extending our capacity, facilitate the further development of arrangements like Learning on Country (LoC), where young people at senior school can learn from both their elders and Rangers, in two-way educational activities as part of the school curriculum. Getting our children to participate in 'learning on country' is a priority.

The IPA is an important capacity development platform, and the Ranger program is valued for the jobs that it provides for people on homelands. Ranger jobs are perceived as desirable, and we hope that our children will aspire to become Rangers; this in turn will encourage them to attend and make progress at school, and stay on the homelands. LoC, supported and coordinated by Yirralka supports this vision.

For those of us Yolŋu living on our homelands, we are keen to develop our country as a sustainable economic base, and lessen our dependence on government. We see the IPA and the Ranger program as a platform on which to build future micro-business enterprises including tourism, and the development and marketing of bush products.

Getting our children to participate in 'learning on country' is a priority.



## 1.1. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



Photo 2: IPA consultations at Djarrakpi, 2 November 2011

Photo includes the following people: Adults, clockwise from left: Frances Morphy, Yumutjin Wunungmurra, Wotjin Maymuru, Milnjurr Wirrpanda, Yimakan Maymuru, Mulkun Mununggurr, Baluka Maymuru, Bulurruwuy Dhamarrandji, Mayila Maymuru, Mujurrapin Maymuru.

(Photo taken by Paul Josif)

Our decision to dedicate an expanded Stage 2 IPA and to build on the Laynhapuy IPA Stage 1 Management Plan was made during a major round of IPA consultations conducted over five years (2011-2016). These consultations confirmed that:

- Yolŋu Wāŋa Wataŋu, our senior Djungayi (‘Caretakers’), other Yolŋu Ŋalapalmirri (Elders), the LHAC Executive Members and Yirralka Rangers are unanimous in the decision to expand the Laynhapuy Stage 1 IPA
- our intent is to dedicate the lands and sea country shown in Figure 1, to confirm our vision for the Laynhapuy Stage 2 IPA, and to communicate our consensus that additional

resources are required to ensure effective implementation of our new plan

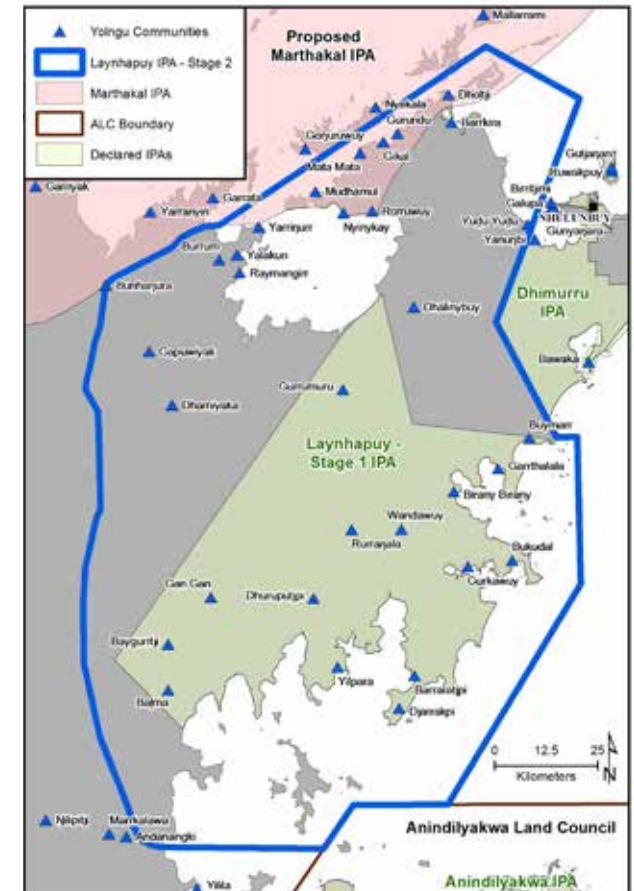
- we require Shared Management Agreements in the form of MOUs with surrounding IPAs and Ranger groups so that we conserve and efficiently use our scarce resources in land and sea management work where our interests overlap.

A full description of matters raised in consultation with TOs is included in the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area Stage 2, Consultation Report (2013) with a summary of the main issues raised by Traditional Owners. Representatives of relevant Government agencies, and other organisations (stakeholders) were also consulted during the Plan’s preparation. They are listed in §4.3.

The main matters raised during these consultations were:

- the need for effective two-way consultation and liaison about matters of mutual interest
- the desire to work with a well governed and professional Ranger group
- awareness of the scope of the Plan and the extent of staff, funds and equipment, i.e. working within capacity
- coordination of fire management, feral animal control, weed management and other programs with TOs and stakeholders
- work in cooperation with TOs and Rangers managing adjacent IPAs - shared management arrangements, better coordination and involvement with training programs
- cooperative research and field monitoring with trusted partners in areas of high Yolŋu priority
- support for natural and cultural resource based business development and working partnerships
- improve protection and management of endangered and vulnerable species and their habitats
- effectively managing (permit issuing and monitoring) access to Aboriginal Lands
- map and protect culturally important sites and areas.

Figure 1: Laynhapuy IPA Stage 2 Area





## 2 THE LAYNHAPUY IPA

We Yolŋu have been discussing the idea of extending the IPA for some time. We have not taken our decision to expand the IPA lightly. We have strong feelings about looking after our country and the important work that our Rangers do on our lands. We will look after our land and sea country for the present and the future to benefit us and most importantly for our children. We believe that the proper management of such a beautiful and little disturbed cultural and natural landscape benefits the Northern Territory and the whole of Australia.

### 2.1 OUR VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

Our Yolŋu vision for Laynhapuy IPA Stage 2 remains clear and consistent with our original vision described in Stage 1 which said:

*These lands are our freehold lands and we have thought carefully about placing them in an IPA. We have discussed the arrangements for managing the IPA. The Traditional Owners will make the decisions about activities and management on our lands and their wishes will be implemented. We will not compromise on this principle.*

We aim to manage, within the constraints of our capacity, the diversity of impacts and needs within the IPA. Our IPA remains an integral part of the development of our region.

We have agreed to dedicate our lands and our sea country described in this Plan as an Indigenous Protected Area, and have confidence in the Yirralka Rangers' ability and growing capacity to fulfill our IPA management aspirations and objectives.

We want to maintain land and sea country, the culture and the wära (homeland) for future generations of mala, and to assist with the achievement of self-sufficiency in the management and determination of our future.



Photo 3: Coastline at Dholuwuy, Blue Mud Bay  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)



Our commitment to dedicate additional country as part of Laynhapuy IPA Stage 2 is unanimous. We require the inclusion of our sea country (refer Figure 1) into the IPA and consider it to be essential. Our intention in the original IPA Management Plan (Stage 1) was to operate Stage 1 as a foundation to eventually expand and enhance our two tool box styled management arrangements into Stage 2 after first seeing how things go.

The Stage 2 IPA we are now establishing is larger than originally planned back then because of more TOs wanting to be involved. Our Stage 2 IPA Plan describes how we intend to manage additional land and now includes much of our sea country. It takes our management into a new phase where the lessons of the past can inform our future management priorities and strategies.

Our Plan will provide information and guidance to all of us so we can better manage our country, with clear vision and strategic actions that help us to make best use of the resources we have, and to provide the foundation for acquiring new resources so we can achieve our goals.

## 2.2 OUR IPA MANAGEMENT GOALS

IPA management is not only about the technical and logistical challenges presented by threats to the natural environment, for us the most important values are related to maintenance of our Yolŋu culture and our cultural landscape. All of our land and sea management activities are ultimately aimed at doing this.

In 2003 the Yirralka Rangers were established and took management responsibility, in close consultation with the LHAC Executive, for land and sea management within Stage 1 of the Laynhapuy IPA. Since then, the Rangers have steadily increased their capacity to mitigate the negative environmental and cultural impacts of the changes caused directly and indirectly as a consequence of increased population, township growth, and infrastructure/mining development.

We are strongly committed to enhancing traditional land management methods with a two toolbox approach. The two toolbox approach means using our traditional knowledge and western knowledge together, to protect, conserve, appreciate and use the cultural and environmental values of our country in an appropriate and sustainable manner. Our knowledge will continue to be integrated into IPA management and decision making.

This IPA MP will support achievement of our goals, which are:

- continually improving Yolŋu decision making arrangements for managing the IPA and building support to manage our country knowledgeably and efficiently in the face of existing and new threats
- intergenerational transfer of our traditional ecological and cultural knowledge
- the identification and prioritization of our cultural and environmental values that require additional protection and monitoring

- the maintenance of a clear IPA management framework, consistent with good two-way governance
- to support and facilitate identification and development of areas within our IPA for sustainable TO controlled and managed economic activities
- to promote our strong Yolŋu commitment to effectively manage the IPA for the benefit of all Australians in a way that is consistent with the wishes of Traditional Owners, potential and current partners (both Government and non-Government)
- to obtain ongoing and increased funding of the IPA and related programs within the context of our expanded IPA, and therefore increased responsibilities.

We will manage the Laynhapuy Stage 2 IPA as an IUCN Category VI Protected Area, along similar lines to the way Stage 1 was managed. Category VI generally aims to conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. The acceptance of this management regime implies our considered adoption of the IUCN guidelines for Category VI Protected Areas which are to:

- protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial
- promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions
- promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant
- facilitate inter-generational security for local communities' livelihoods – therefore ensuring that such livelihoods are sustainable
- integrate other cultural approaches, belief systems and world-views within a range of social and economic approaches to nature conservation
- contribute to developing and/or maintaining a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature
- contribute to sustainable development at national, regional and local level (in the last case mainly to local communities and/or Indigenous peoples depending on the protected natural resources)
- facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- collaborate in the delivery of benefits to people, mostly local communities, living in or near to the designated protected area.

The achievement of our goals, over time, within an expanded IPA presents many significant and new challenges for our staff who are required to manage an IPA effectively doubled in size. It is important our funding and resources also increase to match our increased land and sea management workload.



## 2.3 THE INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

The Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (Stage 1 and 2) covers approximately 16,800 km<sup>2</sup> (11,172 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 5,628 km<sup>2</sup> of sea country). The expanded IPA extends out to sea 20 km from the low tide mark, and extends around approximately 730 km of coastline. (refer Figure1).

Some land and sea areas adjacent to neighbouring IPAs will involve shared management responsibilities and specified operational tasks (refer § 2.6). This IPA Plan excludes Gapuwiyak town area which comes under the management responsibility of other agencies. Although this community is not included in the IPA, Yirralka Rangers may be contracted to provide specific services.

The Laynhapuy IPA consists of inalienable Aboriginal freehold land as described in the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, and lies within the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust. The Northern Territory responsibility extends from the low tide mark out to three nautical miles (5.5km), and the Commonwealth's territorial waters extend from 3 nautical miles to 12 nautical miles (22km) out to sea, and the exclusive economic zone extends to 200 nautical miles from the low tide mark. Although the seabed and water column beyond the low tide mark are not exclusively held by Aboriginal people, Yolŋu assert their non-exclusive native title rights in the sea.

These rights have been partially recognized by the recent ruling of the High Court of Australia in the Blue Mud Bay Case (Northern Territory of Australia and Anor v Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust and Ors, 2008) that extends the title of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust to the low tide mark. The majority finding of the High Court held that Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory includes an exclusive right of possession over the intertidal zone, the water column above it and all of the marine property within it. The court also recognized the non-exclusive rights of Aboriginal people to the sea beyond the intertidal zone.

An IPA has no legal force or effect and does not impact upon the land or Native Title rights of Indigenous people, nor does it affect existing agreements or rights of other legal operators. It represents a statement of commitment on behalf of Traditional Owners to manage their lands, to the extent possible, for the conservation of natural and cultural values and to have these areas recognized and included in the National Reserve System. Indigenous people typically retain sole management responsibilities for IPAs and receive financial support from the Australian Government under the IPA, and Working on Country parts of the Caring for Our Country Strategy. IPA managers may get financial and technical support from the Northern Territory Government, NGOs, other partners, or contributors through various arrangements.

## 2.4 OUR IPA GOVERNANCE

Caring for country requires special skills and competencies to ensure the IPA is managed effectively. These special skills and competencies are reflected by our professional Ranger team representative of the diversity of Yolŋu estates and possessing the "two-way" skills and motivation to manage, maintain and protect Yolŋu country and values. The Yirralka Rangers maintain a strong commitment to organisational development and have made much progress in building their capacity to manage the IPA. Continued implementation of a comprehensive, supportive Ranger training program, which is culturally sensitive and tailored to their particular needs and circumstances, will complement their development and achievements to date.

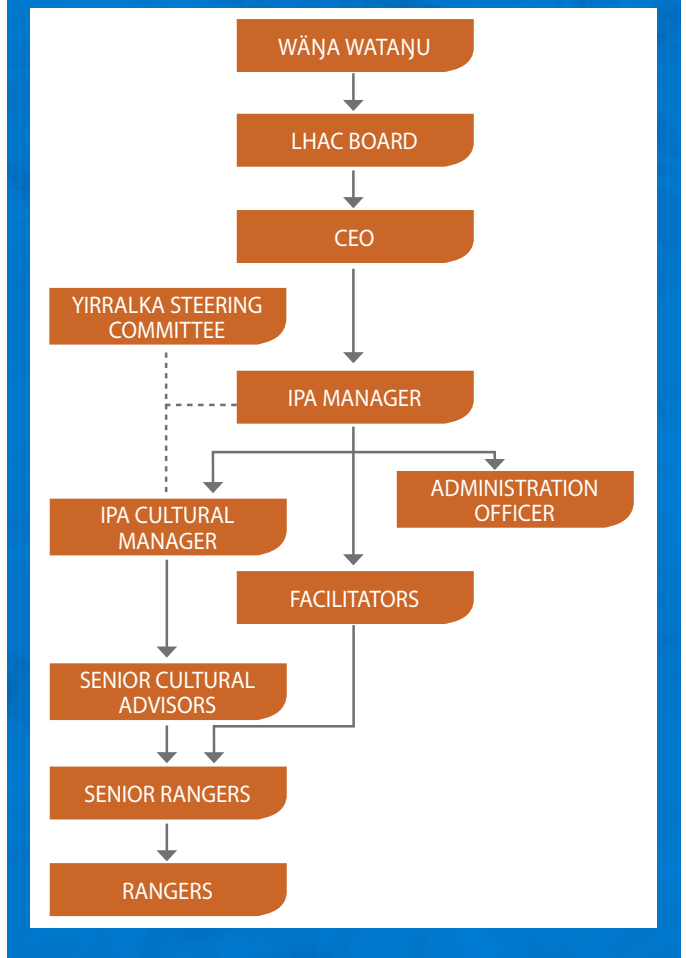
The Stage 2 addition to the IPA (refer § 2.3) will generate an immediate need for more Rangers, technical staff and resources given the IPA area, including sea country, will double in size.

The Yirralka Rangers are responsible for implementing the IPA MP. The IPA MP informs their strategic direction and the operational activities needed to achieve our Yolŋu vision. The Yirralka Rangers operate within the broader business and governance structure depicted in Figure 2.

The Yirralka Rangers are a department of Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (LHAC), and are administratively responsible to the LHAC Board.

The cultural relationships and responsibility for cultural accountability is facilitated by a number of IPA Cultural Advisors supervised by the IPA Cultural Manager; also within

Figure 2: Yirralka Rangers Governance Structure





this structure, operational responsibility and accountability for assets, finances and workplace activity are vested in the management positions, as are lines of authority and accountability that determine the communications, consultation, planning, decision making, on-ground works and reporting practices of the Rangers (refer Figure 2).

Only Wāṅa Wataṅu (senior Traditional Owners) are able to speak for their country and give permission for management activities on their land. This is the most critical part of our decision making arrangements and we are absolutely committed to it.

The Yirralka Steering Committee comprises 10 senior Yolṅu, with a balance of men and women, and is broadly representative. The principal functions of the Steering Committee have been to establish management priorities in accordance with the IPA MP and to determine the suitability of management practices in a cultural context. The committee meets 4 times a year and meetings are also attended by the IPA Manager, the IPA Cultural Manager and senior Cultural Advisors.

### STRATEGY

- Maintain Effective Governance.

### KEY ACTIONS

- Consult with TOs and other stakeholders as part of regular community awareness and update reports concerning research, work and outcomes coming from Yirralka Ranger annual work operations, and as appropriate, combine our efforts with NT wide programs.
- Facilitate strong participation by senior Yolṅu in directing Yirralka Ranger policy and planning.
- Holding scheduled Yirralka Steering Committee meetings.
- Maintaining effective communication with the LHAC Board.
- Manager to ensure Ranger and staff governance capacity building program and actions are maintained.
- Produce Annual Yirralka Ranger and IPA Report.
- Conduct an annual cultural and communication protocols workshop.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of recorded Yirralka Steering Committee meetings.
- Board members aware of IPA Plan progress and achievements.
- Number and outcomes of Ranger and staff governance capacity building activities.
- Production of Annual Yirralka Ranger and IPA Report.

## 2.5 STAFF AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Yirralka Rangers have a service delivery model based on the majority of Rangers being remotely located across 15 homelands and supported from their operational headquarters in Yirrkala. Landowners, senior staff and the Rangers see this as a strength, but it creates a set of logistical and financial challenges to efficiently allocate time, resources, and to maintain good communications.



Photo 4: Learning on Country, Blue Mud Bay  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)





The main Ranger office is located in the LHAC resource centre in Yirrkalā. The IPA Manager, the IPA Cultural Manager, Ranger Facilitators, a Learning on Country Facilitator and an Administration Officer are based at the office, which is adjacent to an equipment storage shed, the LHAC mechanic workshop and administrative services. A Ranger base has been established in Gapuwiyak community, and a Ranger Facilitator is located at Gapuwiyak to support local Rangers and provide the resources needed to manage the expanded IPA area.

The Yirralka logo (refer Figure 3) shows our traditional triangular fishing net (ganbu) that was first adopted by Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation. This emblem symbolises the unity of Yolŋu clans and our combined commitment to caring for our country. Yolŋu society within the IPA is made up from 32 clans out of about 60 Yolŋu clans altogether, not all are represented within the IPA.

Figure 3: The Yirralka Rangers logo



The Yirralka Rangers have been delegated by Wāŋa Watanju (land owners with primary responsibility) to facilitate and coordinate, subject to traditional decision making protocols, the land and sea management work described in this Plan.

Yirralka Rangers are culturally bound to consult with and obtain the permission of Wāŋa Watanju with respect to their clan's country. The children of the women of the clan, are known collectively as Djungayi with respect to their mother's country, often translated as 'caretaker' or 'manager'. These relationships (detailed in §4.2) are of great importance in decision making and the management of country, as they determine who needs to be informed and consulted regarding any proposed activity or work on country.



Photo 5: Yirralka Sea Ranger training session  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)



Yirralka Rangers recognise the need to build their human, organisational and operational capacity. This involves increasing their cultural knowledge, numeracy and literacy, technical skill and expertise, and the material and financial resources necessary to undertake the multitude of tasks associated with managing country over a large and complex IPA. Capacity is also about the necessary infrastructure being in place and being maintained, underpinned by a strong and efficient governance structure.

Yirralka Rangers and Facilitators will be encouraged to undertake training to acquire additional skills relevant to the maintenance and protection of country. Where possible, training will be delivered in-house (eg. the use of data collection applications designed for sea country work).

We rely on the support and assistance of senior TOs, a dedicated group of facilitators, and our partner organisations to encourage, develop and assist our Rangers to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. This is a two-way learning process which benefits all participants and leads to better management of our country.

Our younger generations also need to acquire the cultural knowledge associated with caring for country and at the same time are encouraged to acquire the formal qualifications and skills necessary to become Yirralka Rangers. The existing links between schools and the Yirralka Rangers being developed through the Learning On Country program are vital to this process.

We need enough young men and women being trained as Rangers coming through to replace older Rangers who are ready to retire. The Learning on Country Program provides a succession vehicle that will eventually be accessible throughout the Laynhapuy region.

We need to acquire the necessary additional funding to increase our capacity to improve infrastructure, acquire additional equipment, increase staff numbers, skills and training, develop and incorporate new communications systems (technical and operational) to support the expanded Yirralka IPA operations.

## IPA SUPPORT

The Yirralka Rangers are assisted by an IPA Advisory Group, consisting of representatives of the P&WCNT, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, ILC, NLC, and other expertise as required. The role of the Advisory Group is to provide specialist and technical advice, to coordinate support between agencies, and to act as a two-way communications conduit between key organisations and Yirralka Rangers.

Principles for the ongoing support of the Laynhapuy IPA MP are based on:

- full prior understanding and support by Yolŋu TOs for strategies and key actions described in the IPA MP
- support and participation by senior Yolŋu for, and in the incorporation of, traditional governance arrangements into the broader decision making matrix
- ongoing two-way consultations with TOs through the Yirralka Cultural Advisor network
- maintenance and strengthening of our two-way learning process which benefits all participants and leads to better management of our country
- awareness of, and compliance with International, National and Territory conventions, agreements, Acts, policies and planning documents that inform and provide direction (refer §4.4)
- effective techniques for involving TOs and Rangers in the management, sustainable use, maintenance, and protection of cultural and environmental values.

## STRATEGY

- Develop capacity and maintain a strong cross cultural management, staff training and skills program.

## KEY ACTIONS

- All Yirralka Rangers and Facilitators will be required to undertake an induction course designed to make them fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, including LHAC and traditional governance / decision-making processes, workplace health and safety requirements, and emergency services.

- Prepare a poster showing the respective roles and responsibilities of each staff position: (Manager, Cultural Advisors, Facilitators, Senior Rangers, Rangers), and non-staff roles (LHAC Executive members, Yirralka Steering Committee, Wāŋa Watanŋu / TOs) and distribute to all homelands.
- Continue to implement the current Yirralka/LHAC Training Plan.
- Continue to provide in-service training with skilled operators within LHAC, with other partnering agencies and with surrounding IPAs as appropriate; and identify projects suitable for Community Development Program (CDP) funding.
- Continue to promote and facilitate improved numeracy and literacy for Rangers.
- Continue to encourage Rangers to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences to advance their knowledge and skills (subject to availability and funding) and promote Yirralka activities within the IPA.
- Convene an annual staff workshop to review performance and discuss issues of concern to Cultural Advisors and Rangers, as part of the MERI Plan implementation.
- Maintain a Ranger skills and training needs assessment and documentation including identification of training priorities and employment pathways.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The number of Rangers (various levels) employed by Yirralka.
- Number of qualifications, certificates and skills acquired by Rangers each year.
- Regularly review Emergency Services protocols.
- Annual staff workshop conducted, reported on and recommendations.
- The number of seminars, workshops and conferences attended by Yirralka Rangers each year.
- Participation in capacity building activities including Learning On Country workshops.
- Improved literacy and numeracy of Rangers (courses attended and results).
- Maintenance of individual Ranger skills and training register.





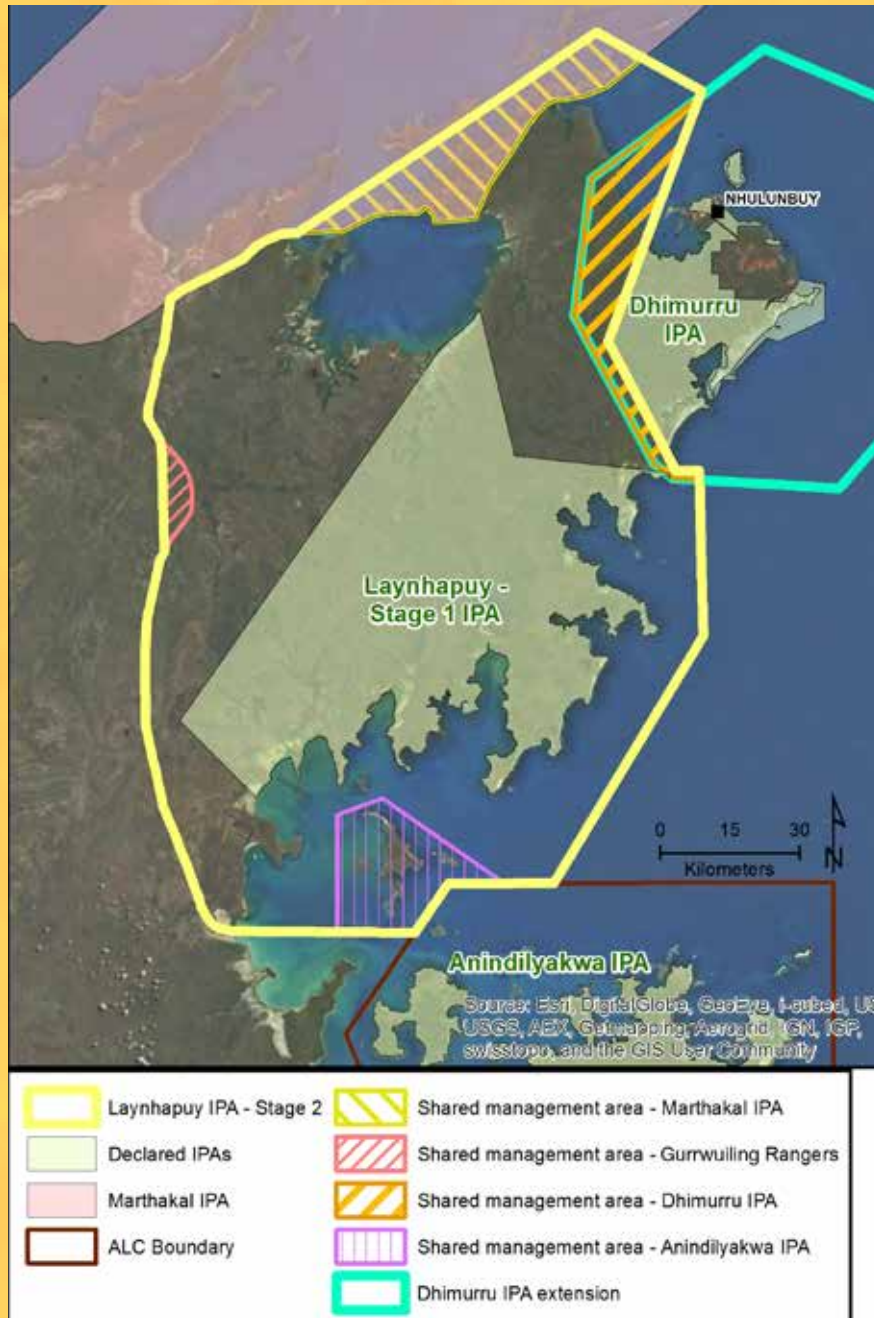


Figure 4: Adjacent IPAs (existing and proposed) where shared management responsibilities apply

## 2.6 SHARED MANAGEMENT AREAS

Yumutjin Wunurjmurra, a senior member of the Dhalwanju clan whose homeland is at Gurrumuru, and a Senior Cultural Advisor for the Laynhapuy IPA, noted the Yolŋu determination to work cooperatively across the boundaries with adjacent IPAs when he said:

Now we are looking at the new area [i.e. Stage 2] with new homelands. We are talking about the work of other Ranger programs. Last month we made the new lines [you can see on the map] and now we can talk about these areas and buku gurrupan ga gumurr-dälkum (come to agreement and stand strongly together)... Here we can work together for the body of law and its parts... Here I stand with my two kinsmen as we will stand together into the future.

Shared management areas (SMAs) simply show places where IPA cadastres (or boundaries defined by a line on a map for administrative purposes) overlap. A SMA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognises that Traditional Owners' and custodians' interests are not defined by the mapped boundary lines of their respective IPAs, and that the IPA frameworks need to ensure these integrated interests are practically recognised and included in each IPA. This means both IPAs recognise the SMA, but for national conservation area calculation purposes, it is only included in one.

Operational arrangements, described in MOUs, are negotiated, where applicable, with adjacent IPAs for Shared Management Areas (SMAs) to manage operational activities and

responsibilities of each Ranger group over the year. The Yirralka Rangers will establish five (5) MOUs with Marthakal IPA, Anindilyakwa Land Council, South East Arnhem and Dhimurru IPAs and, subject to need, Gurrwiling Rangers. In some cases there are overlapping IPA cadastral boundaries, which further justify joint land and sea activities where shared cultural interests (ceremonial, hunting, sacred sites) traditionally exist (refer Figure 4).

MOUs aim to be basic descriptions of who does what and when, to ensure effective and efficient management, cooperation and delivery of IPA MP objectives in SMAs without duplication. Senior TOs and IPA Managers said the following points are central to an effective MOU:



- good two-way consultation between all affected parties
- ensure IPA MP operations are communicated, supported, and facilitated in areas where a continuum of Yolŋu cultural responsibilities are shared by signatories to adjacent IPAs
- document and define processes for determining the specific management arrangements (planning and operations) for each SMA (refer MOU template §4.5)
- describe (when relevant) protocols for communications, joint planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of management activities within the SMA
- set provisions for dispute resolution, and keep it simple, clear and to the point.

#### STRATEGY

- Execute Shared Management Agreements with adjacent IPAs.

#### KEY ACTIONS

- Map the SMA, and IPA Manager or Executive Officer meet with relevant senior TOs and Senior Rangers/Cultural Advisors to identify any matters needing attention.
- Develop a draft MOU comprising scope/timetable of required land and sea management work and who will take prime responsibility to avoid duplication or build collaboration.
- Complete and formalise each MOU with a map showing the SMA, including an attachment detailing any specific operational activities and protocols to be carried out by the nominated Ranger group/s over the SMA.
- Facilitate operations as required for each SMA.
- Arrange an annual meeting at senior staff level with adjacent IPAs to review that year's operations and to plan the following year covering such matters as:
  - agreed operational activities to be carried out over the SMA
  - the communication and reporting protocols for all involved parties
  - any infrastructure maintenance - to be agreed according to a work-plan developed by the provider organisation
  - review of the past year's operational plans.



Photo 6: Fisheries patrol in Blue Mud Bay

(Yirralka Ranger photo library)





## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The number of active MOUs in place with adjacent IPAs.
- SMA planning and debrief meetings held with adjacent IPAs each year.
- Number of joint operations undertaken each year (various partners) and actions completed.

## 2.7 FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

As with our Stage 1 Plan, we continue to need funding for the management of the IPA and we also need partnerships. We remain ready to work positively with NT and Commonwealth agencies. We will continue to actively seek out collaborative arrangements with these agencies and others, including NGOs and research institutions. Collaborative arrangements will require the support of relevant Traditional Owners, must respect legislative requirements (e.g. Land Rights Act) and must help us to improve our capacity to manage our country.

We will pursue funding opportunities with a range of government agencies. We will continue to pursue good two-way collaborative relationships with agencies and groups who can assist us with training and capacity development opportunities in return for our field assistance and support for their programs. We will establish our relationships on a formal basis. We are always seeking beneficial two-way relationships.

### STRATEGY

- Build resilient partnerships and maintain relevant community engagement.

### KEY ACTIONS:

- Maintain existing and build new partnerships to improve IPA management, monitoring capacity and outcomes.
- Review and monitor the effectiveness of all partnership arrangements.
- Provide feedback to our community members about our partnerships and the outcomes of our working together.
- Ensure prior and informed consent with the appropriate levels of governance prior to entering into partnerships (i.e. all partners need to fully understand each party's roles and responsibilities and the purpose of the agreement).
- Maintain and enhance cooperation with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding all environmental and conservation related matters.

- Continue to build and nurture partnerships with Commonwealth and other relevant agencies to ensure nationally identified biosecurity measures are incorporated into our management work.
- Continue negotiations to achieve a partnership with NT Department of Fisheries regarding a compliance role for Yirralka Rangers. Plan for transitioning qualified Rangers into limited compliance powers as a trial over 5 years, commencing in 2017. (e.g. particularly with respect to Fisheries Act provisions).
- Publication and distribution of an Annual Report and published papers about management of the IPA.
- Incorporation of multi-media approaches as part of the Communication Plan.
- Update the Yirralka Communications Plan.
- Maintain and build working partnerships to further facilitate land and sea management actions, and to support acquisition of the resources, capacity and skills to engage in IPA wide flora and fauna surveys and mapping.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- The transition to a fisheries compliance role by Yirralka Rangers over 5 years (commencing 2017).
- The number of partnership arrangements in place.
- The production of an annual report, and other information material for distribution to Homelands.



# 3. CARING FOR COUNTRY

## To the Yolŋu, land and sea and people, plants and animals are one.

### 3.1 OUR CULTURAL VALUES

The management of our IPA must be holistic and embrace the concept and practice of people and country as one. The cultural and natural elements of the IPA cannot be separated and are always considered as part of implementing our management goals. Our knowledge system relates to all of the spiritual and physical associations between creation of Yolŋu, our ancestral country, its ecology, hydrology, geographic features, native flora and fauna and our living cultural practices and beliefs that link all of these things together. This means we are committed to both managing our cultural places and protecting them from damage, and we are also committed to taking specific actions aimed at facilitating the transfer of our Indigenous Knowledge, including Learning on Country, as core parts of our operations.

The intergenerational transfer of knowledge aims to ensure our culture remains alive and vibrant. We see the Learning on Country Program, of which Yirralka is a founding member, as an effective approach for transferring traditional knowledge, linked to a strong “western” learning paradigm, and facilitating two-way learning.

All sites on Aboriginal land are protected under the provisions of the ALRA and all Aboriginal sacred sites within the Northern Territory are automatically protected under the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (NTASSA) irrespective of whether a site is registered, recorded, or not, or the type of land tenure.

We are very concerned that our sacred areas should be protected and safe. At the present time some of our sites are registered under Northern Territory law with the Aboriginal Areas Protection



Photo 7: Napunda Marawili, Senior Ranger and Yumutjin Wunungmurra, Senior Cultural Advisor, Yirralka Rangers  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)

Authority (AAPA) and some are not. The Judge in the Blue Mud Bay native title decision said that all sacred sites in the claim area should be considered as protected. We are all very worried that commercial and recreational fishermen in particular do not respect our sites. This includes sites in the sea and sites in Blue Mud Bay and river mouths. There have been serious, deliberate and heartbreaking insults to our important sites. The problem arises both from boats that are fishing and boats that are mooring. Problems also arise from unauthorised visitors on the land who stumble into important sites. There are also important archaeological sites including burial sites, shell middens and Macassan sites on the IPA coastline as well as rock art.

Our country within the IPA supports a vibrant Yolŋu culture including:

- Yolŋu based languages, knowledge and social institutions based on extended kinship (gurrutu) and complex relationships between clans, which provide the template for the ownership and management of our country
- a rich ceremonial life that is seen through the performance of extended dance and song cycles, and our traditional tools and artworks (traditional and contemporary)
- a densely named and known cultural landscape that bears the imprint of ancestral beings' actions and journeys. This is foundational to the establishment and the maintenance of our [Yolŋu] law
- our sacred sites, “dreaming” tracks and ceremony grounds, features of the sky, landscape, vegetation, and geology, above ground and underground, in the sea, and both on and under the seabed







Photo 8: Gurrundul Marawili, Yirralka Ranger  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)

- burial and other significant sites
- our homelands where hunting, fishing, gathering of plant foods and passing on our knowledge is still actively pursued
- maintaining and transferring our traditional ecological and cultural knowledge between and across generations.

Some of our Indigenous knowledge is being eroded by the loss of older generations and the difficulty of transferring cultural and ecological knowledge when we are away from our country. These negative impacts on cultural knowledge can be mitigated by designing and implementing good “two-way” research projects using both western and traditional knowledge to identify research needs, and then to conduct the research by using and building the skills and methods of both knowledge systems. The development of Learning on Country programs is also designed to overcome these barriers to knowledge transfer, and at the same time support good two-way learning.

#### STRATEGY

- Maintain and protect our cultural knowledge and places.

#### KEY ACTIONS

- Facilitate TO participation (advice and practical inputs) in all aspects of cultural mapping work.
- Work with TOs to identify priority areas for cultural mapping based on known or potential threats.
- Negotiate cultural mapping work partnership agreements, as required, with suitable academic partners, and include data management and access protocols.
- Progressively document and map cultural sites in association with partners, maximising engagement of younger and less knowledgeable TOs as a way of facilitating intergenerational transfer of knowledge.
- Register all Yolŋu sacred sites as requested by TOs, using culturally appropriate measures to secure, manage and monitor site protection arrangements.
- Record Yolŋu information about plants, animals, ethno-botanical





values of selected species, and ecological habitats as part of “two-way” science within the Learning on Country program (LoC), and as part of informing management priorities.

- Develop nursery and planting regimes and programs for bush-food and native medicinal plants such as dingu (cycad plant (*Cycas*)), Butjirinjanin (*Litsea glutinosa*), Gadayka (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*), Mapudumun [*Terminalia carpentaria*], Murrurrnga (Billygoat Plum), specifically to create employment opportunities in our remote homeland communities.

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- The number of cultural mapping partnerships in operation, and cultural mapping activities.
- Number of sacred sites registered.
- The formulation of cultural data management and access protocols.
- The number of Yolŋu employed and engaged in cultural mapping work.

### 3.2 KEEPING OUR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The Yirralka Rangers will continue to foster understanding and awareness in local communities through continued participation in the Learning on Country Program. The Program includes activities which educate the next generation through a two-way process (cultural and educational), and includes bush camps, walking on country, participation in Ranger activities including scientific monitoring, management planning, fauna surveys, cultural mapping and inclusion of this work in school curricula. The results are closely monitored to demonstrate the correlation between “on country” work and greater participation and success in classroom work and results.

#### STRATEGY

- Maintain and increase traditional knowledge transfer activities, and leadership in the Learning on Country Program.



Photo 9: Learning on Country, Garrthalala  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)





## KEY ACTIONS

- Maintain support and participation in traditional ecological knowledge transfer activities.
- Lead and co-ordinate “Learning on Country” programs that include the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge, and the greater use of effective “two-way” learning approaches as part of encouraging more effective land and sea management succession (refer also §2.5 Capacity Building).
- Record Yolŋu information about plants, animals, ethno-botanical values of selected species, and ecological habitats as part of “two-way” science within the Learning on Country program (LoC), and as part of informing management priorities.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The number of Learning on Country cultural activities per annum.
- Student outcomes and outputs showing improvement.
- The participation rates of Rangers and schools (students and teachers) in Learning on Country activities.
- Transfer of knowledge quantified and evidenced through positive behavioural change in all participants.



Photo 10: Marine surveys have identified the presence of 2 additional dolphin species  
Photo taken by Isabel Beasley, James Cook University

## 3.3 OUR BIODIVERSITY VALUES

The terrestrial and marine ecosystems of North East Arnhem Land are a relatively intact representation of more than 40,000 years of culturally determined Aboriginal land management practices, protected mainly by their remoteness. The current Laynhapuy IPA is part of the Trans-Australia Eco-Link stretching 3500 km from northern to southern Australia. The wetlands of the Gurrumuru floodplain and the wetlands formed by the Lutbanda, Durabudboi and Wyonga Rivers flowing into Jalma, Grindal and Myaoola Bays in the southern section of the IPA are recognised as critical water bird habitats of international significance.

Our IPA has a high terrestrial biodiversity, a little known (to western science) marine biodiversity, and provides habitat for a number of endangered and vulnerable species of plants and animals (refer §4.6). Our coastal waters include extensive sea grass and reef habitats, supporting ecosystems for dugong, turtles, dolphins and important commercial fisheries like crabbing and barramundi.

Yirralka Rangers are continuing to participate in an extensive marine mammal survey aimed at identifying threats and assessing numbers and behaviour of cetaceans.

The biodiversity of our terrestrial habitats and species are being badly affected by the impacts of introduced plant and animal pest species, and the reduction of traditional burning regimes created by the gradual movement of some Yolŋu away from their country to larger population centres.

Yolŋu knowledge of our land and sea country is very strong and we have much information about plants and animals to offer science. There have been some scientific surveys of plants and animals in the IPA but this knowledge is very patchy and incomplete and there is an opportunity for collaborative research to fill in these gaps.

## STRATEGY

- Integrate our Indigenous Knowledge with scientific research to increase understanding of biodiversity values and natural systems, and raise awareness of the IPA’s regional significance.

## KEY ACTIONS

- Establish a collaborative marine and terrestrial research/survey program for the IPA.
- Mapping of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, vegetation communities, and waterways.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of research and survey projects undertaken or under way, involving the participation of our Rangers and TOs.
- Number of effective collaborations.



## 3.4 WEED AND FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

We continue to see the negative impacts on waterways and wetland areas as a result of buffalo and pigs. These feral animals are having a negative impact on our important food sources like räkäy (lily corms) and manmuṇa (long-necked freshwater tortoise), and in some cases are contributing to noticeable saltwater intrusion. There is also a noticeable decline in small mammal species possibly linked to cats, cane toads, and habitat damage due to changed fire regimes.

While our IPA is relatively free of serious infestation of weed species, there is a growing threat of woody weeds like *Mimosa pigra*, and perennial grasses like mission grass and gamba grass being introduced from nearby regions.

The risk of spreading weeds into more remote areas of our IPA is increasing by the movement of higher numbers of vehicles along the Central Arnhem Road, as well as new road works, mining exploration tracks and hunters venturing off track. We need the resources to better manage areas that have been disturbed to ensure weeds are detected early and before they can become a threat to surrounding undisturbed ecosystems.



Photo 11: Feral exclusion plot, Gurrumuru  
Yirralka Rangers photo library

### STRATEGY

- Implement strong weed and feral animal management.

### KEY ACTIONS

- Support and participate in the development and implementation of a weed and feral animal management action plan focussing on awareness, and identify potential funding mechanisms and partners, including weed management training for Rangers and TOs.
- Work with DENR, the NLC, local shires, mining companies and others regarding responsibility and funding for weed management (including wash-down bays) adjacent to major communities, and entry points along the Arnhem Highway.
- Consult with TOs and other stakeholders as part of the annual work planning process prior to operations (particularly spraying).
- Identify and prioritise Yolŋu research (and management) actions regarding feral animal and weeds.
- Update feral animal management plans, and maintain pest species impact monitoring programs, including funding applications for pest animal control measures in identified priority areas.
- Engage TOs, local Rangers and researchers in “two-way” research projects for various pest animal and plant species and prioritise removal or reduction actions.





- Identify priority problem areas using TOs, local Rangers and researchers in “two-way” research projects targeting specific weed species and prioritise removal or control actions, including a good communication and awareness protocol.
- Maintain weed and pest animal management training including program management.
- Subject to funding and time constraints, facilitate production and/or distribution and interpretation of a local weed identification map for eastern Arnhem Land, linked to NT wide awareness programs.

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Weed and feral animal management action plan in place and implemented.
- Area of land treated annually and directed through research results.
- Increased area of land (quantified) managed for pest animal and plant species.
- Numbers of pest animal species removed under management programs, areas covered by aerial culling flights and statistical evidence.
- Agreements with partner agencies (feral and weed management/awareness) and activity outcomes and outputs.
- Rangers qualified to manage weeds and feral animals (e.g. ChemCert, aerial culling, gun licences).
- Reported sightings of Weeds of National Significance (WONS).
- The number of weed monitoring sites under management, the number of wash down bays built and usage statistics.



Photo 12: Weed control by Yirralka Rangers  
Yirralka Rangers photo library







Photo 13: Yirralka fire management  
Yirralka Rangers photo library

### 3.5 FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire continues to be part of the natural ecology in northern Australia. Our traditional burning practices have maintained and shaped ecosystems, along with climate and geomorphic shifts, for millennia. Since some of us moved from our homelands to the missions and government settlements, starting in the 1930s, our traditional burning patterns have changed. As a result, in our absence, fires have become more destructive, as they are usually later in the year, more intense, relatively unchecked by firebreaks, widespread, and sometimes occur over the same area within a single year. Unmanaged fire is a threat to our culturally important places, natural ecosystems and homeland infrastructure.

Fire regimes need to be based on a combination of traditional and scientific burning practices developed and refined over the past 15 years by an increasing number of TOs and now applied by many Ranger groups, with scheduled burning-off regimes in the early (dharratharramirri) and late (rarranhdharr) dry season, coupled with pre-season planning meetings run by TOs and with all stakeholders participating.

In response to TOs concerns about the impact of uncontrolled late dry season fires, Yirralka have commenced landscape scale aerial and ground based burning in our equivalent early dry season, followed by suppression of late dry season wildfires. Effective fire management done in this way has also been recognised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and in 2016 Yirralka registered a Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) project called North East Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NEALFA). Savanna burning methodology enables a measurement of the reduction in emissions achieved through active fire management, which is then given a value as 'carbon credits' that generate income to support Yirralka's management activities.



## STRATEGY

- Improve and benefit from good fire management.

### KEY ACTIONS:

- Formulate a fire management strategy and prepare annual fire management action plans that are consistent with CFI savanna burning methodology
- Reduce the impact of late dry season wildfires by conducting early dry season fuel reduction burns and suppressing late dry season wildfires.
- Affiliate with Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Limited (ALFA) as a producer and attend ALFA meetings as a producer and Board member.
- Collect fire data consistent with (amongst other things) the CFI Savanna Burning Methodology.
- Continue participation in Ranger training programs to increase our capacity to deliver fire management goals,

and ensure participation of Rangers, TOs and stakeholders in a two-way fire management process, including our participation in the Regional Fire Management Steering Group and recording fire related information.

- Continue to conduct fire awareness programs with homeland communities, and conduct hazard reduction burns around communities and infrastructure.
- Manage and monitor burning of bio sensitive vegetation ecosystems such as: retja (vine thicket/rainforest patches), ninydjiya (floodplains), diltji wäŋa ('back' country i.e. dry sclerophyll forest) and gangi (northern cypress pine).
- Liaise with NAILSMA, Bushfire Council, Charles Darwin University and others about the collection and storing of fire related information for East Arnhem Land.
- Continue to build partnerships with fire managers, and researchers to further develop the Yirralka fire program, based on cultural practice and research outcomes.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Annual "pre-season" and "post-season" fire planning meetings held with senior TOs and Rangers.
- Fire Management Strategy and annual action plans in place and implemented.
- Annual reporting of NEALFA fire management activities and outcomes to the Clean Energy Regulator
- Burning summary evaluated and reported at annual fire meeting, and mapping area of land subject to inappropriate unseasonal/ unplanned hot fires each year.
- Rangers qualified to undertake fire management.
- Effective fire response units in place.





## 3.6 SEA COUNTRY MANAGEMENT

# Land and sea country are one

We do not draw distinctions between land and sea country. For us, the two are dependent on each other.

Our management approach for the Laynhapuy IPA is that “land and sea are one”. Our sea country aspirations are wide-ranging and include the maintenance of our cultural uses, the protection of all of our sea country sacred sites, ancestral dreaming tracks, and traditional hunting and fishing grounds, and particularly where they may be affected by any commercial or other development activities. We aim to become more effective in our management actions, facilitated by increased resources and Ranger capacity, and improved support for our coastal homeland communities.

Sea country is an integral part of Yolŋu culture and dreaming, our relationship to sea country is maintained through ceremony, stories, songlines, dance, and paintings that describe the movement of ancestral creator beings, the origin and names of the sea's currents, places, plants and animals, as well as the interconnectedness of land and sea, and the mixing of salt and fresh waters.

This strong and enduring relationship with sea country enabled the Yolŋu clans

from the Blue Mud Bay area to successfully initiate a native title determination over sea country, leading to a declaration by the High Court of Australia recognising ownership of intertidal waters over Aboriginal land. Although the court's decision related to the Blue Mud Bay native title area, the Blue Mud Bay case was particularly significant for Aboriginal land and sea rights as the outcome also applies to all Aboriginal land under title granted by the provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 (ALRA) in the Northern Territory covering some 80% (over 5,000km) of the NT coastline.

The threats to the cultural and ecological values and resources of our sea country are substantial, and include the existing and potential future impacts from commercial fishing, increased recreational fishing levels, illegal foreign and unregulated domestic fishing, marine resource exploitation, pollution from mining and ore processing and loading, boat borne pollution and bio-materials contamination, pollution

from increased coastal occupation, marine debris, and boat strikes on marine animals. Additional concerns also exist for changes upstream including pollution (eg from erosion caused by feral animals) from inland activities flowing into the sea, uncertain freshwater river flows, and mangrove dieback possibly due to increased water temperatures attributed to climate change.

One of the more significant potential threats to sea country is from seabed explorations and mining. There are currently a number of undersea mineral exploration licences covering sea country in and adjacent to the Laynhapuy IPA. The NT Government established a moratorium on seabed mining and exploration in 2012 because of concerns around the impact on marine flora and fauna, and sacred sites/dreaming tracks. This moratorium has been extended until 2018. A Marine and Coastal Strategy is presently being developed by the NT Government, and we need to prepare a comprehensive submission during 2017 to ensure our interests in the marine environment and our

cultural integrity are properly protected in relation to proposed new developments, and included in Government policy.

Global climate change also has the potential to impact on the cultural, environmental, recreational and commercial values of our sea country. Sea level rise, increased water temperature, and more frequent severe weather events attributed to climate change are already contributing to increased coastal erosion, salination of coastal freshwater wetlands, and damage to sea grass beds, mangrove ecosystems and coral reefs.

To help monitor and mitigate these impacts, Yirralka Rangers have been actively involved working with Government agencies, universities and other partners with a variety of marine activities including cetacean research, fisheries compliance, biosecurity monitoring and community education programs. Future research into mapping sea currents, temperature, and oceanography is also being planned in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).





Sea country management is partially based on the principle of non-exclusive Native Title seaward of the low tide mark, and fully with regard to exclusive ownership of the intertidal zone (ALRA). Our sea country work includes coastal protection (beach, mangrove and dune areas) and sea patrols (to protect sacred sites and our hunting and fishing places from all types of unauthorised activity), marine research, monitoring and reporting, increasing awareness and management of potential exotic plant and animal incursions, reporting of illegal fishing boats, collection of ghost nets and other marine debris, marine

turtle rescue, and the provision of assistance to Australian Border Force, NT Fisheries, and NT Water Police.

Even though Yolŋu traditional knowledge of sea country is very strong, there remains much work to do in documenting our cultural information in north-east Arnhem Land. Detailed anthropological reports were completed for Blue Mud Bay sea country including maps of clan estates, place names, ancestral 'tracks', and a sacred site register. Many of the sacred sites in Blue Mud Bay sea country have been registered, and Yirralka Rangers are working with Traditional Owners (TO) to continue recording

cultural information throughout all sea country in the Laynhapuy IPA.

Protection of sacred sites and traditional economic resources in our sea country is complex, lengthy, expensive, and difficult work. In addition, important cultural responsibilities are shared by the TOs and Djungayi living in adjoining IPAs. For this reason, the establishment of a sea country IPA group is being considered by some senior TOs to share information about, and increase awareness of sea country impacts, as well as providing an authoritative grass roots voice about our commonly held interests and

concerns, while simultaneously ensuring effective and timely responses to mutually agreed management or policy matters.

While marine ecosystems appear to be relatively undisturbed along the East Arnhem coastline, information about our sea country is relatively poor. Species occurrence and habitat condition are not fully documented, and the findings of two marine research surveys during the early 2000s are not easily accessible to us (AIMS, NT Museum). Seabird rookeries and coastal turtle nesting sites are relatively secure because of currently low visitor impact, but are increasingly vulnerable to sea level



Photo 14: Wanŋarrikpa, Yithuwakpa and Garrawan (Woodah Island group) are sacred to both Yolŋu and Anindilyakwa





Photo 15: Turtle monitoring

changes, increasing sea temperatures, and extreme weather events, particularly during the breeding seasons. There are significant bird migration routes across East Arnhem Land with migrating shorebirds attracted to muddy beach areas, wetlands and intertidal zones.

Extensive sea grass beds occur in many East Arnhem Land bays providing important habitat for dugong, dolphins, turtles and other marine animals. Coral reefs also provide habitat for numerous marine species, many of them little known to western science. These important marine habitats are threatened by erosion, climate change, and marine activity. Stranding of marine animals such as dugongs, dolphins, and whales is a constant concern, as is the loss of turtles to ghost nets. Monitoring operations along such an extensive coastline are challenging and difficult, with our limited access and resources.

The Department of Primary Industries and Resources is responsible for the sustainable management and control of commercial aquatic resources in the Northern Territory (except prawns) covering all potential user groups including commercial, recreational, indigenous fishers, fishing tour operators, aquaculture and the wider community. Fisheries in the Territory are regulated by the NT Fisheries Act (1988), Fisheries Regulations and other subordinate or complementary legislation.

Commercial fishing in North East Arnhem

Land is mainly associated with harvesting barramundi, trepang, mud crabs, prawns and Spanish mackerel. Fisheries Management Plans have been developed for the mud crab, barramundi and Spanish mackerel fisheries, while other fisheries are managed by a combination of regulations, gazettal notices and licence conditions. The Northern Prawn Fishery is a Commonwealth mandated fishery.

Recreational fishing is a major visitor activity within our river systems, and sea country. The relatively pristine recreational fisheries (and corresponding abundance of fish) within North East Arnhem Land is one of the main reasons people visit. Unfortunately some of these activities, if undertaken inappropriately, may reduce our traditional subsistence fishing stocks.

Effective monitoring and management of such a large sea country area is a challenge. Partnerships with other organisations and the cooperation of legal operators have and can continue to assist greatly with this task. Collection and disposal of marine debris is an ever increasing problem.

The implications of the Blue Mud Bay decision in confirming ownership of intertidal waters over Aboriginal land are highly significant. Since Traditional Owners now have the right to control access to the intertidal area, there is opportunity to lead the development of integrated sea country management arrangements that can deliver a range of positive cultural, ecological and

economic outcomes for us, in the face of a wide range of externally generated and potentially negative impacts (climatic, social and commercial).

Interim access permits were granted after the High Court's Blue Mud Bay ruling in 2007, allowing commercial and recreational fishing to continue in the intertidal area while new access arrangements were negotiated between the NT Government, Northern Land Council (NLC) and TOs. The Northern Territory Government considers continued access to the intertidal area for commercial and recreational fishing to be a high priority, and has been negotiating more permanent access agreements with TOs. While agreements for intertidal zone access are in place for some areas, no agreements are in place for any intertidal zone fishing access within the Laynhapuy IPA. Traditional Owners within our IPA are looking forward to negotiating the inclusion of our broader, integrated sea country management objectives described in our management Plan and elsewhere, as part of any commercial or recreational fishing access.





## STRATEGY

- Effectively manage our sea country throughout the IPA.

## KEY ACTIONS

- Ensure the inclusion and dedication of sea country in the Stage 2 IPA as indicated in Figure 1.

Identify and agree on Blue Mud Bay management options:

- Convene a meeting of senior TOs in the second half of 2017 to provide a substantial commentary about our aspirations and concerns regarding intertidal zone management arrangements with the NTG and NLC.
- Assist TOs to negotiate effective intertidal zone management arrangements with the NTG by providing them with updated

information regarding the implications and opportunities arising for TOs from the Blue Mud Bay decision.

Protecting and managing our sacred sites:

- Ongoing identification, mapping, registration, monitoring and protection of sea country sacred sites and dreaming tracks.
- Regular monitoring of sacred sea country sites to ensure protection measures are effective and enforced, particularly visitor access to Wanunjarrikpa (Woodah Island group) and Gunyurru (Round Hill Island) where access is restricted and requires senior TO/custodian approval and accompaniment.
- Request that the NLC, with Traditional Owner approval, make Blue Mud Bay case materials (map, site register,

expert anthropologist's, linguist's, and archaeologist's reports) available to the Yirralka Rangers.

Traditional knowledge and scientific research:

- Continue to participate in and support research and monitoring which contributes to a better understanding of the cultural and ecological values of our sea country, and the potential impacts of key threatening processes (including sea bed mining, visitor access and climate change).
- In association with TOs continue to raise awareness about marine issues, the monitoring of traditional harvesting practices, and support the intergenerational transfer of traditional Indigenous knowledge through programs like Learning on Country.
- Subject to senior TO/custodial approval, and in conjunction with other Yolŋu IPA groups (particularly those adjacent to our IPA) commission and undertake a research project to acquire materials about Yolŋu knowledge and information about sea country generally and marine plants and animals specifically (NB: A huge amount of information already exists in the Blue Mud Bay materials and in the archives of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra).

Commercial and Recreational Fishing:

- Continue to develop our Fisheries Compliance role by maintaining the currency of our Rangers' compliance qualifications (NT Fisheries), training new Rangers, conducting regular sea

patrols to monitor commercial and recreational fishing impacts, and ensure compliance with relevant legislation (NT and Commonwealth).

- Support and advocate for all commercial fishing vessels to be fitted with vessel identification and locator devices connected to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and/or NT Fisheries.
- Continue and expand partnership arrangements with Government and other agencies with responsibilities for compliance and compliance training, biosecurity and other marine focussed activities through joint sea country patrols, training, skills acquisition, and all types of management activities.
- Engage and maintain strong communications with the recreational and commercial fishing sector to raise awareness of our cultural requirements (including awareness of our sensitivities and requirement for appropriate behaviour) on our country.
- Formulate, with the participation of acknowledged representatives of the recreational and commercial sectors, a Fishing Code of Conduct, that includes the need for fishers, including fishing tour guides, to demonstrate their understanding of obligations under sacred sites and land rights legislation (ASSPA and ALRA).
- Facilitate awareness within remote Homeland communities about the rights and obligations of licensed commercial fishing operations in the region, and the



Photo 16: Traditional fishing





- provisions regarding recreational fishing.
- Develop the practical infrastructure for remote groups to report to our IPA Ranger office as part of monitoring fishing activity.

- Work with our neighbouring IPA managers to establish an East Arnhem IPA Alliance.
- Communicate and strengthen arrangements with our current, and possible future, sea management partners and extend them invitations to form working partnerships or alliances.

#### Collaborations:

- Convene annual Sea Country Advisory Group meetings to ensure effective communication and collaboration between TOs and all other sea country stakeholders.
- Facilitate ongoing coordination and planning with our neighbouring Ranger groups to enhance our collective management effectiveness particularly regarding the oversight of our Shared Management Areas.

#### Marine debris / ghost nets:

- Continue and extend the program to monitor and remove ghost nets and other marine debris.

### SEA COUNTRY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Finalised matters allowing for the inclusion of sea country, beyond the intertidal zone, into our IPA.
- Convening of two effective TO sea country meetings, making contributions into inter-tidal zone management policy and planning.
- Convene at least one Sea Country Advisory Group meeting annually.
- Number and frequency of sea patrols undertaken each year and documentation/ publication of the results monitoring any change associated with key sea country sites or target species.
- Number of sea country research projects undertaken or under way, involving the participation of our Rangers and TOs in sea country research activities.
- Number of effective collaborations, partnerships and shared publications about sea country issues.
- Sea country infrastructure improvements (eg. boat ramps built).
- Amount (tonnes/kilometres) of marine debris collected each year over area.
- Number of community visits associated with sea country awareness and/or Learning on Country activities, and including about the rights and obligations of licensed commercial fishing operations in the region, and the provisions regarding recreational fishing.
- Number of Rangers receiving training and Certificate completions (eg. Conservation and Land Management, Coxswain, Fisheries Compliance).
- Partnership activities (eg. establish and convene an East Arnhem IPA Alliance) and joint operations conducted (activities in Shared Management Areas).
- Prepare and submit a submission regarding sustainable sea country management for the NTG Marine and Coastal Strategy.
- Prepare and submit a comprehensive submission during 2017 for the NT Government to maintain the moratorium on undersea exploration and mining.



Photo 17: Retrieving ghost nets at Yilpara



## 3.7 VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS

We are not only concerned about our rights and our important sites – we are also concerned about the wellbeing and safety of visitors to our lands – because in our culture, they become our responsibility.

We welcome visitors to our lands and enjoy sharing our culture and knowledge. We understand that many people who live in Nhulunbuy as well as other short term visitors are interested in visiting our country to participate in activities like cultural awareness, sightseeing, relaxing, fishing, walking, camping, boating, photography, environmental study, and hunting feral animals. Whatever the activity, accessing our country, for any reason has various impacts, some negative and some positive. All visitors must respect our privacy, our way of life, our cultural sites, our traditional resources, and get a permit.

We will increase the capacity of our Rangers to monitor and manage visitor impacts and to work towards maintaining the healthy condition of our country for our own use.

Wānja Watanju believe that we need to move carefully on making arrangements for visitors. In 2009 an action plan for Recreation and Tourism Management in the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area was developed to cover all aspects of visitor management in a culturally sensitive manner. Good quality community awareness is critical for successful visitor management e.g. by informing visitors in advance of site and track closures for seasonal, management, safety or cultural reasons.

Our IPA Management Plan supports the goals, detailed policies and recommendations contained in the Visitor Action Plan and supports its revival as part of managing visitor impacts on the cultural and natural values of our IPA.

The main goals of Yirralka Rangers in relation to sustainable visitor management are:

- to make sure Sacred and/or culturally sensitive sites are effectively protected
- to encourage and support culturally and environmentally sensitive, and sustainable visitor related activities and developments, that respect our stated values
- to ensure visitors are provided, through various media, with accurate, up-to-date information about our IPA and it's values, and about proper behaviour on our country
- to monitor and, as appropriate and within our capacity, manage visitor sites, activities and impacts
- to negotiate with Lirriwi Yolŋu Indigenous Tourism regarding the planning, management and delivery of tourism related services consistent with the Laynhapuy IPA MP and our capacity to deliver.

### STRATEGY:

- Facilitate good visitor management and access arrangements within our IPA.

### KEY ACTIONS

- Support implementation of the recommendations of the 2009 Visitor Action Plan.

- Increase Yirralka Rangers' capacity to effectively manage visitors and visitor permits, particularly in more remote areas, and transfer permit management delegations from the NLC to Yirralka similar to the Dhimurru arrangement.
- Conduct regular patrols and monitor tracks and facilities used by visitors.
- Formalise the relationship between the Yirralka Rangers and Lirriwi Yolŋu Indigenous Tourism and other tourism interests.
- Develop site plans, and infrastructure, subject to resources and eventual cost neutrality for all existing and proposed visitor areas and facilities that incorporate sound planning principles and ensure sustainable management, signposting, servicing and monitoring, and feasibility assessments are conducted. Areas where visitors can "go" (drive, boat, walk or fly) need to be clearly identified and shown on maps.
- Train Yirralka Rangers in visitor management procedures and practices and how to monitor permit requirements appropriately.
- Encourage the NLC to establish and run a community awareness campaign regarding access/permit requirements.
- Ensure visitor permits specify requirements regarding camping related impacts (litter, fires, fire wood, and disposal of waste); and provide guidelines to accompany permits so that visitor behaviour is acceptable to TOs (accompanied visits may be a requirement to visit certain places).

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Visitor permit and management statistics per annum.
- Establishment of similar permit arrangements to Dhimurru so Yirralka can derive cost recovery against expenditure for issuing permits and managing recreation areas.
- Permit management protocols developed and summary of actions taken, such as the number of Ranger patrols attending recreation sites during the visitor season.
- Summary of visitor satisfaction based on visitor survey feedback results and summary of community and public awareness activities undertaken by Rangers.
- Feedback from TOs regarding visitor behaviour and summary of all impacts.
- Number of visitor and recreational sites and level of infrastructure established.



Photo 18: Cato River recreation area  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)







Photo 19: Wandawuy Homeland  
(Yirralka Ranger photo library)

### 3.8 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The provision of appropriate infrastructure, located at strategic locations, is essential for the effective management of the Laynhapuy IPA. The lack of good communications infrastructure, regularly maintained access tracks and safe boat launching sites are as important a part of the IPA infrastructure, as work sheds and vehicles. They are all essential to enable safe, regular Ranger caring for country work as well as access during emergency situations and most particularly the ability of all homeland residents to be on country. Visitors also depend on useable tracks to access recreational areas, facilities, rivers and the coast.

An effective communication network within Laynhapuy IPA was stated (2013 Yirralka Staff Workshop) to be an essential part of the safety and efficient running of the Yirralka

Ranger operations and management because it can facilitate the effective participation of homeland based Rangers, and the coordination of joint operations with adjacent IPAs. Good communications also assists with coordination associated with NT Police and Emergency Services. The existing Yirralka radio set-up does not have the range to remain in contact when Rangers are operating any distance from their base on land or sea. This is a critical infrastructure safety and management issue that needs to be resolved within the life of this plan.

The siting of access tracks and all infrastructure needs to be strategically considered, in consultation with TOs, to ensure that important cultural and sensitive ecological areas are avoided, visitor safety is maintained, and negative impacts on surrounding areas and homeland communities are minimised. Improved access and infrastructure can assist with the protection and good management of our country.





## STRATEGY

- Provide effective communications systems and supporting infrastructure.

## KEY ACTIONS

- Establish a VHF radio network, covering the Laynhapuy IPA.
- Lobby Telstra for all supporting communities without service (and particularly those with Ranger stations) to gain access to reliable satellite based telecommunications (e.g. Wi Fi internet access).
- Continue to upgrade existing communications hardware and software, with commensurate training in the use of the new equipment and software.
- Prioritise improvements to resources at the Yilpara, Gapuwiyak, Gängan and Dhälinybuy Ranger stations, particularly regarding access, equipment and communications.
- Consider establishing additional Ranger stations at other areas as demand dictates and finances allow (e.g. Balma, Dhuruputjpi, Raymangirr, Bukudal, Buymarr, Biranybirany, Gurrumuru, Yalakun and Djarrakpi).
- Maintain a Ranger asset register documenting asset acquisition, condition and maintenance.
- Establish or improve boat launching facilities at Dhälinybuy, Bukudal, Garrthalala and suitable areas that provide good access to Arnhem Bay.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Consultations undertaken in relation to infrastructure application and outcome.
- The IPA covered by an upgraded communications network including VHF radio, phone and internet.
- The establishment/maintenance of an assets register including the number of assets and their condition.
- Establishment of additional Ranger stations to support Yirralka Rangers' decentralized service model.

## 3.9 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the key actions identified in the Laynhapuy IPA MP is subject to funding and assistance from a variety of sources including, but not restricted to, the following:

- Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- NT Fisheries
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training
- Aboriginal Benefits Account – Secretariat operated by the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- Carbon credits earned under the provisions of the ALFA Ltd producer agreement.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Regular reference to the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI) Plan. The MERI Plan includes feedback from TOs, technical experts and Yirralka staff about the effectiveness of the plan and the outcomes/outputs achieved over regular timeframes.
- Formulation, implementation and relative success of policies, protocols, agreements and actions described in the IPA MP.



### 3.10 RISK MANAGEMENT

There are a number of risks associated with the implementation of our Stage 2 IPA Management Plan. These risks and mitigation strategies are summarised in Table 1. Some issues are also referred to in the Yirralka Rangers Business Plan.

Table 1: Strategies to manage identified risks associated with IPA implementation

Risk	Mitigation Strategies
Decline in Yolŋu support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of senior TOs/Djungayi through the Yirralka Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Regular consultation between senior TOs/Djungayi, Yirralka Rangers and Cultural Advisor network about work planned and all work and research outcomes.</li> <li>• Yirralka Ranger and TO support and involvement with communities and schools through the LoC Project.</li> <li>• Maintenance of effective communications with TOs by Yirralka staff.</li> </ul>
Failure or instability of LHAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain communications with LHAC staff and Board, and elevate awareness of potential LHAC difficulties.</li> <li>• Adherence to transparent governance.</li> <li>• Receive reports back from LHAC Board and assess regarding impacts on Yirralka and the IPA.</li> <li>• Maintenance of quarantined grant accounts (for Yirralka/IPA funds) and check this is the case during audits.</li> <li>• Service contract arrangements with Yirralka setting out roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>
Failure or reduction of funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular reporting to partners / funding agencies.</li> <li>• Diversify income base including philanthropic sector and CFI.</li> <li>• IPA implementation must be aligned with Yirralka Business Plan.</li> <li>• Careful monitoring of the grant budgets and spending patterns.</li> </ul>
Inadequate training and / or supervision of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings with supervisory staff.</li> <li>• Implement a policy of professional development and cross-functional job awareness.</li> <li>• Maintain high OH&amp;S standards and quality of equipment.</li> <li>• Establish workplace English language and literacy program in conjunction with LoC.</li> <li>• Encourage non-Yolŋu staff to learn Yolŋu-matha.</li> <li>• Participation in the Learning on Country program.</li> </ul>





Increase in regional land uses inconsistent with IPA management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate awareness of Traditional Owners about likely proposals and potential impacts and ways to manage them.</li> <li>• Raise profile of Yirralka Rangers and their work.</li> <li>• Develop closer working relationship with NLC, particularly in the granting and oversight/monitoring compliance of §19 Land Use Agreements.</li> <li>• Keep up with all commercial (mining, fishing and other) proposals in the region and align as appropriate with IPA neighbours.</li> </ul>
Ineffective Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly work planning meetings with Rangers.</li> <li>• Effective operation and maintenance of Laynhapuy wide communications network (hardware and capacity training/skills).</li> <li>• Regular reporting to partners.</li> <li>• Regular face to face discussions and informal talks with homeland based TOs (includes feedback).</li> </ul>
Insufficient equipment / inadequate infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a strategic fund raising program aligned to Yirralka Business Plan.</li> <li>• Ensure a regular maintenance program for all equipment.</li> <li>• Re-examine alternatives to outright purchase through an innovative resource acquisition strategy.</li> </ul>
IPA Management Plan not acted on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular reporting to DPM&amp;C, LHAC and feedback to staff regarding setting of and achievement of priorities.</li> <li>• Engagement and participation of all staff about monitoring activities within MERI plan.</li> </ul>
Poor governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings of the Yirralka Steering Committee and IPA Advisory Group.</li> <li>• Maintain high quality reporting procedures.</li> <li>• Annual governance workshop/review by Yirralka Rangers.</li> <li>• Emphasis on succession and governance requirements including budget and activity transparency.</li> </ul>



### 3.11 MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND IMPROVEMENT (MERI)

All Indigenous Protected Areas are part of a National Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) program under the Caring for Our Country Strategy. This arrangement aims to ensure that the conservation aims of each Indigenous Protected Area are met. IPA communities work with government agencies and other partners such as conservation groups, research organisations and universities to keep track of management activities and their results. A MERI Plan for the Laynhapuy IPA was completed in October 2014.

The results of this monitoring are evaluated and then used to adjust and improve management and operational activities so work is done as efficiently as possible. The results are also fed into future management plans so they take into account the lessons learned. IPA monitoring and evaluation is also designed to pick up information on the broader social and cultural benefits of managing land as an Indigenous Protected Area. A review of overall IPA MP performance will be undertaken each year by the Laynhapuy IPA Manager who will report the findings to the LHAC and DPM&C.

#### KEY ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the Laynhapuy IPA (Stage 2) Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan.
- Annual evaluation of data collected for each component of the IPA MP (as articulated in the performance indicators and the program logic).
- Reporting on evaluation by making assessments of performance and achievement or non-performance.
- Ongoing program of improvement based on findings from annual evaluation outcomes.

### 3.12 PLAN REVISION AND UPDATING

Minor alterations to this plan as a result of changing circumstances or boundary adjustments may be made on the recommendation of the Yirralka Steering Committee. A full review and update should take place within five years. Action plans dealing with specific issues will require more frequent review and updating to respond to emerging issues so as to reflect changes in such things as funding, staffing, resource capabilities and partnership arrangements.





# 4.0 APPENDICES

## 4.1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Table 2: Glossary of terms and abbreviations

ABBREVIATION / TERM	EXPLANATION
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
AG	Australian Government
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
ALRA	Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (1976)
bäpurru	Patrilineal clan
CFI	Carbon Farming Initiative
country	Yolŋu consider land and sea country one
dharratharramirri	Early, cold part of the dry season (May-August)
Diltji wänja	Literally, 'back place'. Denotes the dry sclerophyll forest that covers the interior of north east Arnhem Land
djäka	To look after
djäma	Work, to work
Djuŋgayi	Boss, manager, lawyer. Relation a person has to the ceremonies and land of his mother's clan
DPIF	NT Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

ABBREVIATION / TERM	EXPLANATION
DPM&C	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Galtha rom	Public law, suitable for teaching to schoolchildren
gurrutu	Kinship, kindred
gutharra	Daughter's child (woman speaking), sister's daughter's child (man speaking). The reciprocal of märi (q.v.)
homeland	An alternative to 'outstation' for small permanent settlements on traditional clan countries.
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IPA MP	Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan
Laynhapuy IPA	Always refers to land and sea country within the Laynhapuy IPA
LHAC	Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation



ABBREVIATION / TERM	EXPLANATION
LoC	Learning on Country. A program created by agreement (MOU) between Ranger groups and their local schools to combine curriculum and cultural activities within the two learning paradigms. Funded by the AG and NTG.
mala	Group, set
māri	Mother's mother, mother's mother's brother; also designates a clan's relationship to another clan of the same moiety
MP	Management Plan
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Murrurrnga	Billygoat plum
Njalapalmirri	Elders (senior people of either gender who are wise and authoritative)
NAILSMA	North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
Ninydjiya	Coastal tidal flat, salt pan, swampland (where game birds and water grass roots are found)
NLC	Northern Land Council
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTASSA	Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act

ABBREVIATION / TERM	EXPLANATION
OH&S	Occupational health and safety
P&WCNT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
rarranhdharr	Late, hot part of the dry season (September-October)
retja	pocket of tropical rain forest, vine thicket, 'jungle'
TNRM	Territory Natural Resource Management
Visitor	Any person visiting the Laynhapuy IPA who does not normally live there
TO(s)	Traditional Owner(s)
VHF	Very high frequency
wāṇa	place, country, dwelling, camp
Wāṇa Wataṇu	Country owner: any member of the patri-clan to whom the land or sea country estate belongs
Yirralka	homeland, birthplace (not to be confused with the place-name Yirrkala)
Yolṇu	Person. Today often used to designate an Aboriginal person whose language contains the word Yolṇu for 'person' i.e. an Aboriginal person from north east Arnhem Land whose clan language is one of the Yolṇu-matha dialects.





## 4.2 THE YOLŪ MARRIAGE AND BESTOWAL SYSTEM

Yolŷu society within the IPA is made up from 32 clans, belonging to either of two patrilineal moieties. There are probably around 60 Yolŷu clans altogether, not all represented within the IPA. The moieties, named Dhuwa and Yirritja, and clan membership determine an individual's role in a complex kinship based system of mutual social, religious and cultural obligations and responsibilities.

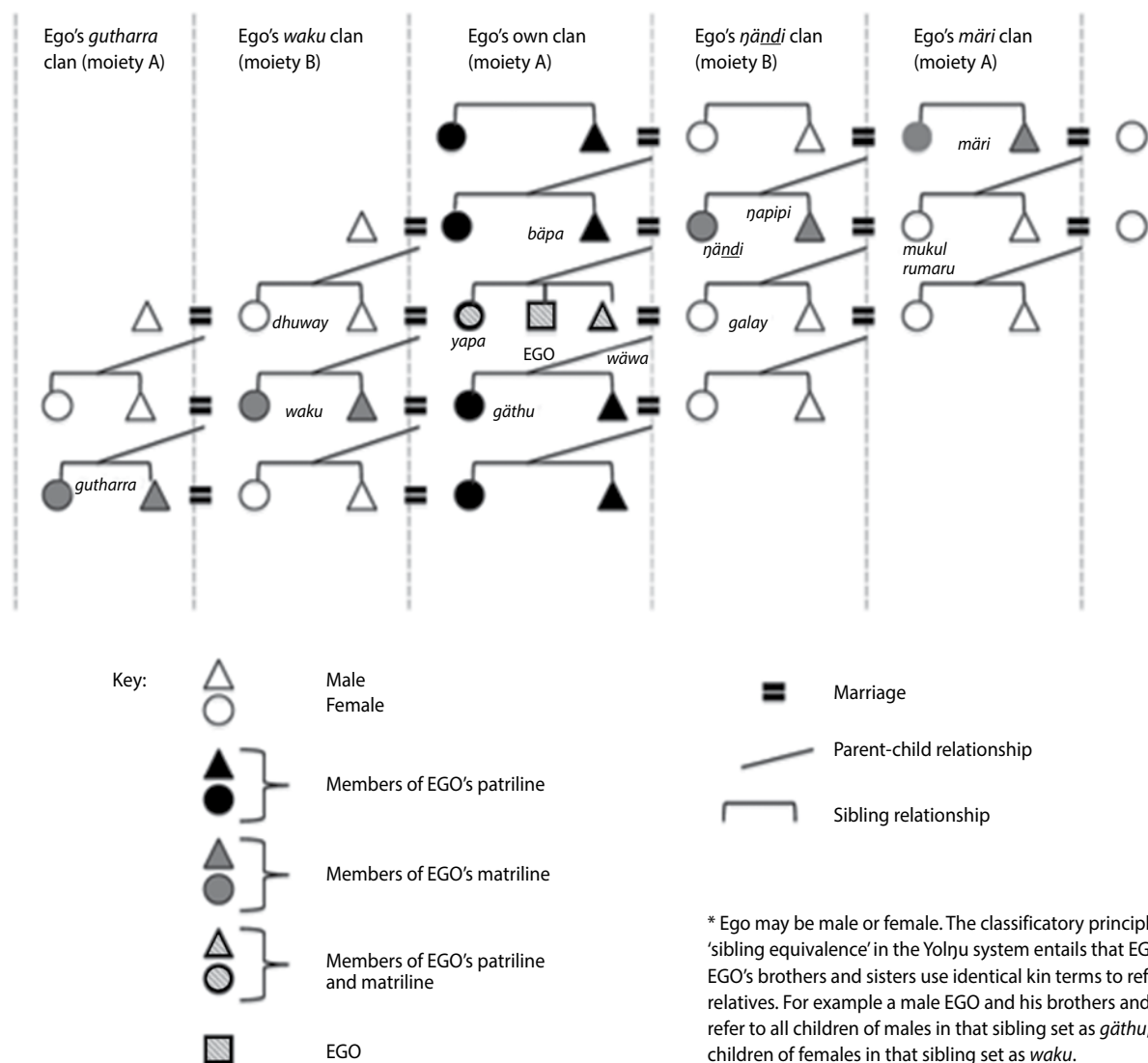
The Traditional Owners of land in the Yolŷu case are the patrilineal clans, which are corporate with respect to land. Clan members are Wäŷa Wataŷu (Place Owners) with respect to their clan's land and sea country. Also important are the children of the women of the clan, who are known collectively as Djungayi with respect to their mother's country, often translated as 'caretaker' or 'manager'. These individuals will belong to one or more clans of the opposite moiety to the Wäŷa Wataŷu, since the moieties, like the clans, are exogamous. Other senior people (ŷalapalmirri, Elders) who will have interests in the welfare of a clan's estate include members of other clans of the same moiety, most particularly those clans known as märi (mother's mother, mother's mother's brother), or gutharra (daughter's daughters child, sister's daughters child), and members of yapa (sister) clans who share the same ceremonies because their countries are linked by the same ancestral 'tracks'. These relationships, illustrated in Table 3, are of great importance in decision making and the management of country, as they determine who needs to be informed and consulted regarding any proposed activity or work on country.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

The following references provide more detailed explanations of the kinship system.

- Morphy, F. 2008. 'Whose governance, for whose good? The Laynhapuy Homelands Association and the neo-assimilationist turn in Indigenous policy', in J. Hunt, D. Smith, S. Garling and W. Sanders (eds.), *Contested Governance: Culture, Power and Institutions in Indigenous Australia*, CAEPR Research Monograph No. 29, ANU ePress, Canberra.
- Morphy, F. 2010. '(Im)mobility: regional population structures in Aboriginal Australia', *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 45 (3): 363–82.

Table 3: The Yolŷu marriage and bestowal system



## 4.3 LIST OF ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

Table 4: List of stakeholders consulted

ORGANISATION	PERSON(S)
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (NT)	Jackie Gould (Research)
Aboriginal Benefits Account	
Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc	Craig Ingram
Arts NT	Shay (Shannon) Rodrigues
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Cheryl O'Dwyer,
Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre (Yirrkala Arts Centre)	Will Stubbs, Joseph Brady
Bushfires NT	Andrew Turner, Ken Baulch
Charles Darwin University	Prof. Andrew Campbell
CSIRO (Darwin)	Dr Ben Hoffman, Dr Garry Cook
Customs and Border Protection Service	Jason Ross
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (formerly AQIS)	Vern Patello, Loren Schipke

ORGANISATION	PERSON(S)
Dhimurru	Steve Roeger, Vanessa Drysdale
East Arnhem Chamber of Commerce	Marche Eloff
East Arnhem Shire Council	Ben Waugh
Education and Training	Andy Peers, Heather Hamilton, Paul Rider
Emergency Services (NT) (Nhulunbuy)	Colin Snowden
Department Prime Minister and Cabinet (AG Dept. of) (Nhulunbuy)	John Cook
Fisheries (NT Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries)	Robert (Bo) Carne, Stephen Sly, Wendy Banla
Ian Munro Consulting	Ian Munro
Indigenous Land Corporation (AG)	Reg Foster
James Cook University	Dr Isabel Beasley
Environment and Natural Resources (NT Dept. of)	Dr Alaric Fisher





ORGANISATION	PERSON(S)
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	<p><b>TOs:</b> Brian Djangirrawuy Garawirtja, Waturr Gumana, Yumutjin Wunungmurra, Yalpi Yunupinu, Manalay Yunupinu, Clancy Guthitjpu Marrkula, Banul Munyarryun, Djurambil Munungiritj, Lulpan Munungurr, Larritjpira (Njanudal) Munungurr, Wukun Wanambi, Wanyubi Marika, Banduk Marika</p> <p><b>IPA Manager:</b> Dave Preece</p> <p><b>Yirralka Rangers:</b> Lulpan Munungurr, Yalpi Yunupinu, Yumutjin Wunungmurra, Manman Wirrpanda, Munurrapin Maymuru, Yilpirr Wanambi, Buwathay Munyarryun, Napunda Marawili, Manalay Yunupinu, Clancy Guthitjpu Marrkula, Banul Munyarryun, Djurambil Munungiritj, Banduk Marika</p>
Lirrwi Yolngu Indigenous Tourism	Matt Grooby
Mines and Energy (NT Dept. of)	
Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club (Gove Game Fishing Club)	Peter Cox, Ian Shepherd, Murray Knyvett, Ralph Pellenat
North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)	Dr Rod Kennett, Erica McCreedy
Northern Land Council (Darwin)	Trish Rigby, Howard Smith

ORGANISATION	PERSON(S)
Northern Land Council (Nhulunbuy)	Damian Djerrkura, Emma King
Northern Territory Guided Fishing Industry Association	Graeme Williams
Northern Territory Seafood Council	Katherine Winchester
Northern Territory Police (Nhulunbuy)	Brendan Muldoon
Parks and Wildlife Commission NT	Neva McCartney, Danny Barrow, Bill Panton, Anne Walters
Primary Industries (NT Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries)	Chris Collins
Chief Minister (NT Dept. of) (Nhulunbuy)	Ian Louttitt, Simone Gianelli
Smyth and Bahrdt Consultants	Dr Dermot Smyth
Sport and Recreation (NT Dept. of)	Ian Sord
Environment and Energy (AG Dept. of)	Marcus Sanford, Philippa Carmichael, Bruce Rose, Dr Lynne McCarthy, Jackie Halsey
Tamarind Planning	Nic Gambold
Territory Natural Resource Management	Chantal Bramley
Tourism NT	Stephanie Hawkins



## 4.4 PLANNING DOCUMENTS THAT AFFECT THE IPA

Table 5 lists the main agreements, legislation, Acts and strategies that affect the planning and management of the IPA.

Table 5: Agreements, legislation, acts and strategies that affect the IPA

ORGANISATION / DOCUMENT	NOTES / IMPLICATIONS	ORGANISATION / DOCUMENT	NOTES / IMPLICATIONS
IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidelines for Category VI management areas. Provides guidance regarding strategic direction and management objectives of land and sea country to be included in the IPA MP</li> <li>IUCN Category VI - Managed Resource Protected Areas: Protected Area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems</li> </ul>	Laynhapuy IPA Stage 1 Protected Area Management Plan (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents TO vision and support for adoption of an IPA</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) ACT 1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the legal basis for Section 19 agreements for establishing infrastructure and conducting commercial activities on Aboriginal land.</li> <li>Determines the process for identifying the Traditional Owners needing to be consulted for dedication of the Laynhapuy IPA.</li> <li>Provisions relating to entry onto Aboriginal land, protection of sacred sites, and protection of traditional rights over land.</li> </ul>	Yirralka Rangers Business Plan (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be adopted by LHAC so that it can provide guidance regarding resourcing and funding all Ranger related initiatives proposed in the IPA MP.</li> <li>All IPA initiatives must be adequately funded and be financially sustainable</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Land Act 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complementary legislation to ALRA that enables NT Police etc to enter Aboriginal land and seas adjacent to Aboriginal land.</li> </ul>	Various Federal and NT Strategies and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Reserve System</li> <li>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</li> <li>NT Parks Master-plan</li> <li>NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan</li> <li>NRETA Marine Protected Areas Strategy</li> <li>Heritage Values Assessment – Manydjarrarrña-Nanydjaka</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NT sacred sites legislation aimed at registering sacred and important sites to Aboriginal custodians</li> </ul>	Other Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Management</li> <li>Weed Management</li> <li>Feral animal control</li> </ul>
Native Title Act 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides non-exclusive rights to marine resources and recognises native title to the sea beyond the intertidal zone</li> </ul>	Yolngu Cultural Tourism Master Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be endorsed by LHAC so that it can provide strategic direction regarding any tourism / ecotourism initiatives proposed within the IPA MP</li> </ul>
AG Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPM&C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COAG Bilateral Agreement: Healthy Country, Healthy People Bilateral Schedule</li> <li>IPA guidelines, Caring for Our Country Program</li> </ul>	Plans for Adjacent IPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following IPA Plans should complement each other, particularly regarding shared management areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dhimurru IPA MP</li> <li>- Anindilyakwa IPA MP</li> <li>- Draft Marthakal IPA MP</li> <li>- South East Arnhem IPA MP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## 4.5 SHARED MANAGEMENT AREA MOU TEMPLATE

The following MOU template provides a good indication of the understanding and arrangements the Yirralka Rangers / Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation will seek to negotiate with surrounding IPAs to manage overlapping interests and TO responsibilities.

### DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Yirralka Rangers and Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and the (insert name).

### INTRODUCTION TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Yirralka Rangers and Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (YRLHAC) and (insert name) jointly support areas of shared management between their respective Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) initiatives. The shared management areas (SMA) are created by the overlapping cadastres (IPA area maps) of the two adjacent IPAs. This means both IPAs cover the same area at the same time. The SMA MOU recognises that Traditional Owners and custodians interests are not defined by the boundaries of their respective IPAs and that the IPA frameworks need to ensure these overlapping interests are accommodated.

The MOU covering the agreed SMA (See Map, Attachment 1) provides for annual planning and decision making within the scope of IPA MPs to facilitate agreed operations within the identified SMA to make sure that where our respective plans of management have duplicate responsibilities we don't double up. The annual planning meeting will be an opportunity to consider and review the operation of the MOU. The duration of the MOU will be current for the life of each IPA MP, and the MOU SMA arrangements will be subject to annual review, or renewal when IPA MP expires. The MOU is to be signed off by each party's governing body.

### PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE SHARED MANAGEMENT AREAS MOU

- All written arrangements and plans need to be brief and written in plain language.
- The parties agree to collaborate with each other in developing plans, protocols, and agreements to facilitate agreed operations in the SMA.
- Good two-way communication at all levels is essential and everybody's responsibility.
- The priorities of each organisation's IPA MPs will be respected.

### PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between YRLHAC and (insert name) is to set out the roles and responsibilities of the organisations in the cooperative management of the identified SMA. This MOU is intended to work under the auspices of Yolŋu cultural protocols, and to also develop and build on the existing collaborative working relationship between YRLHAC and (insert name). The MOU aims to ensure the clear and effective management, cooperation and delivery of IPA MP objectives in SMAs with clear accountability and responsibility for each of the respective organisations. The following points were identified as critical to the MOU and are expanded in this document:

- assert the presence of an agreed area of shared management operations between Laynhapuy IPA and (insert name) IPA
- ensure IPA MP operations are communicated, supported, and facilitated in areas where a continuum of Yolŋu cultural responsibilities are shared by signatories to adjacent IPAs
- document and define processes for determining the specific management arrangements (planning and operations) for this SMA
- describe protocols for communications, joint planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of management activities within the SMA

- set provisions for dispute resolution
- provide an imperative to maintain good two-way communication.

### PARTNERS TO THIS MOU

The Yirralka Rangers, established in 2003, represent the formal commencement of LHAC's commitment to undertake cultural and natural resource management of land and sea country around homelands serviced by LHAC, and within their IPA. Yirralka are a division within the LHAC and responsible to the LHAC Board. Yirralka has both a Ranger group Steering Committee made up from homeland representatives, as well as the requisite IPA Advisory Group. Yirralka Rangers are responsible for implementing the Laynhapuy IPA MP.

(insert name) provide structured land and sea management within their IPA. They are highly regarded for their professional skills, proficiency with equipment and broad knowledge of both traditional and contemporary land and sea management practice.

(insert name) are responsible to and directed by their Executive, comprising land owner elected representatives. (insert name)'s Mala Executive also serves as the acting governance body for the IPA. IPA declarations are based on TO and custodian endorsement of IPA MPs, witnessed by the NLC, ensuring proper consultation and that TOs gave free, prior and informed consent to the IPA declaration.

The conduct of a collaborative working partnership between YRLHAC and (insert name) underpins the development and implementation of land owner supported land and sea management in the map shown at Attachment 1. The signatories hold primary responsibility for:

- initiating and facilitating annual planning meeting in late February/early March to allow pre-dry season planning and post-wet season debrief. The meeting will consider longer term management actions up to 18 months, but focus on the following 12 months





- monitoring the effectiveness of this MOU and advising the respective Boards on findings
- considering any reporting needs and signing off against agreed SMA activities/objectives
- maintaining good two-way communication between groups, between groups and TOs and within their teams.

**OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES**

This MOU applies for the duration of both IPA MPs. During this period, the operation of the MOU will be over sighted by the two Ranger groups’ respective Manager/Executive Officer (the Managers), who will hold overall responsibility for facilitating planning and operations, including coordinated, efficient, and effective monitoring.

The Managers will comprise appropriate nominated representatives from each of the IPA governance bodies and/or the Ranger groups. The Managers would be expected to meet at least once during the course of the year, and are responsible for ensuring that commitments are met. The Managers would be required to attend the annual planning meeting.

**RESOURCING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Financial arrangements remain the individual responsibility of signatories to this MOU. However, either party may request financial disclosure, but only in relation to specific joint activities within the SMA where joint funding for an activity is planned/received to enable equitable investment within the SMA. Usually finances will be each group’s responsibility.

The resourcing of operations within each SMA will need to be negotiated during the planning (not through funding contracts). The annual meeting outcomes report will identify shared activity costs if joint operations appropriate. Consideration will need to be given to complement and share specialist skills, equipment, and resources to tasks within SMAs but each group will ultimately be guided by their own IPA

objectives and priorities. Each Ranger group will be responsible for their own staff, OH&S, equipment, wages, transport, as per the provisions of their management and work plans.

**COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS**

The Managers will have the major responsibility for facilitating effective communication between the partners to this MOU. The Managers will meet at the commencement of the year to review operations and establish agreed future planned activities and operations. The Managers will be responsible for informing YRLHAC, (insert name) and their respective Ranger groups of any issues as they arise, and assisting in their resolution. Each Manager will report to its respective Board as the activities progress.

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS**

Should one or the other party think that the other is not fulfilling its responsibilities in the SMA as agreed at the planning meeting, in the first instance, the Managers will be expected to mediate a resolution. If this is unsuccessful, the respective Boards agree to respond if either party raises a concern that cannot be otherwise resolved. If this is unsuccessful, the Boards may seek a resolution with help from the NLC to consult the relevant Traditional Owners, or from DPM&C if they are funding the project or activity that is causing controversy.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The respective IPA managers, will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation work in the SMA per their own IPA MP requirements. A briefing report would be presented at each annual planning session and a more comprehensive evaluation be undertaken as part of each groups program. Monitoring information and evaluation reports would remain the property of (insert name) and YRLHAC respectively and only be released as necessary and with agreement of both parties.

**SIGNATORIES TO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

We, the undersigned, on behalf of YRLHAC and the (insert name) agree to work together, in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (and Attachments) for the duration of our IPA MP.

.....

Chairperson	Director	CEO
Date:.....	Date:.....	Date:.....
Common Seal		
.....		
Managing Director	Director	Director
Date:.....	Date:.....	Date:.....
Common Seal		



## ATTACHMENT 1: MAP OF IPA SMA

The map/s will show the shared management area/s in light shading. The SMAs are created by the overlapping cadastres of the two adjacent IPAs.

## ATTACHMENT 2: PLAN FOR SHARED MANAGEMENT AREA/S

This IPA Shared Management Area will include activities, and responsibilities of YRLHAC and (insert name). Partners will be guided by both functional and legislative responsibilities of the parent organisations. Within these broad responsibilities, this plan identifies the opportunities for YRLHAC and (insert name) to complement each other, in implementing their respective IPA Plans of Management within the SMA.

Both partners are responsible for formulating an annual work-plan for the SMA. These will comprise activities identified by their respective IPA PM. Ranger groups will be responsible for carrying out complementary land and sea management activities, according to the agreed annual SMA work-plan, and subject to: capacity, resources, expertise, proximity, and OH&S considerations.

Annual SMA plan will generally include discussions and decisions about:

- the timing and general resources for activities (who will do what and when)
- any reporting needs for the operation/activity (not a duplicate report)
- engagement with relevant TOs, and any upcoming matters that may affect operations
- transport equipment and other materials required to carry out planned works, including access to and use of infrastructure
- maintaining good two-way communication arrangements for field work.

## 4.6 SIGNIFICANT SPECIES WITHIN THE LAYNHAPUY IPA

The following list of species of concern was obtained from TNRM. The occurrence of vulnerable flora species is shown in Table 6 and Figure 5. Endangered and vulnerable fauna species are shown in Table 7 and Figure 6. EPBC listed migratory and marine species are shown in Table 8. It should be a matter of priority to record the Yolŋu-matha names for these species, and their uses if any.

Table 6: List of vulnerable and endangered flora recorded within the Laynhapuy IPA

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	
		NT	NAT
Vulnerable flora species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Management records			
ARECACEAE	<i>Arenga australasica</i>		VU
CYPERACEAE	<i>Mapania macrocephala</i>		VU
MELASTOMATACEAE	<i>Pternandra coerulescens</i>		VU
GLEICHENIACEAE	<i>Sticherus flabellatus</i>		VU

Legend:

EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; CR = Critical; Nat = EPBCA 2007; NT = TPWCA 2012

### Supporting information:

- NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Sites of Conservation Significance in the NT <https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/conservation-significance-list> in particular Map 24 Gove Peninsular and north-east Arnhem coast and Map 25 Blue Mud Bay and associated coastal floodplains



Table 7: List of vulnerable and endangered fauna recorded within the Laynhapuy IPA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	
		NAT	NT
Endangered and vulnerable fauna species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records.			
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll	EN	CR
<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch	EN	VU
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Olive Ridley	EN	VU
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle	VU	
<i>Conilurus penicillatus</i>	Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat	VU	EN
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle	VU	VU
<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>	Crested Shrike-tit	VU	
<i>Isodon auratus</i>	Golden Bandicoot	VU	EN
<i>Natator depressus</i>	Flatback Turtle	VU	
<i>Notomys aquilo</i>	Northern Hopping-mouse	VU	VU
<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Asian Dowitcher		VU
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit		VU
<i>Mesembriomys gouldii gouldii</i>	Black-footed tree-rat (Mainland)	EN	VU

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	
		NAT	NT
Endangered and vulnerable fauna species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records.			
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	CR	VU
<i>Antechinus bellus</i>	Fawn Antechinus	VU	EN
<i>Varanus panoptes</i>	Floodplain Monitor		VU
<i>Euploea alcatheae enastri</i>	Gove Crow Butterfly	EN	EN
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot		VU
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot		VU
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover		VU
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover		VU
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	CR	VU

Legend:

EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; CR = Critical; Nat = EPBCA 2007; NT = TPWCA 2012

In addition to the above, Yolŋu report changes in the populations of once common animals such as the rupu (ring-tail possum), which is now considered rare locally.





Table 8: List of EPBC listed migratory and marine species recorded within the Laynhapuy IPA

Scientific Name	Common Name
EPBC listed marine and migratory species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Common Noddy
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	Cattle Egret
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Red-necked Stint
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle

Scientific Name	Common Name
EPBC listed marine and migratory species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Black Tern
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Saltwater Crocodile
<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo
<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Eastern Reef Egret
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-eagle
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Olive Ridley Turtle
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper
<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Asian Dowitcher
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit



Scientific Name	Common Name
EPBC listed marine and migratory species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records	
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater
<i>Natator depressus</i>	Flatback Turtle
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew
<i>Numenius minutus</i>	Little Curlew
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	Bridled Tern
<i>Orcaella heinsohni</i>	Australian snubfin dolphin
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	Eastern Osprey
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover
<i>Sousa sahalensis</i>	Australian humpback dolphin
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Arctic Jaeger
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern

Scientific Name	Common Name
EPBC listed marine and migratory species recorded in the grid cell(s) within the Laynhapuy IPA land and sea country. Information obtained from Territory Natural Resource Management records	
<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Black-naped Tern
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern
<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Masked Booby
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Brown Booby
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Lesser Crested Tern
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Grey-tailed Tattler
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank
<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper



Figure 5: The location of vulnerable flora recorded within the Lavnhapuv IPA

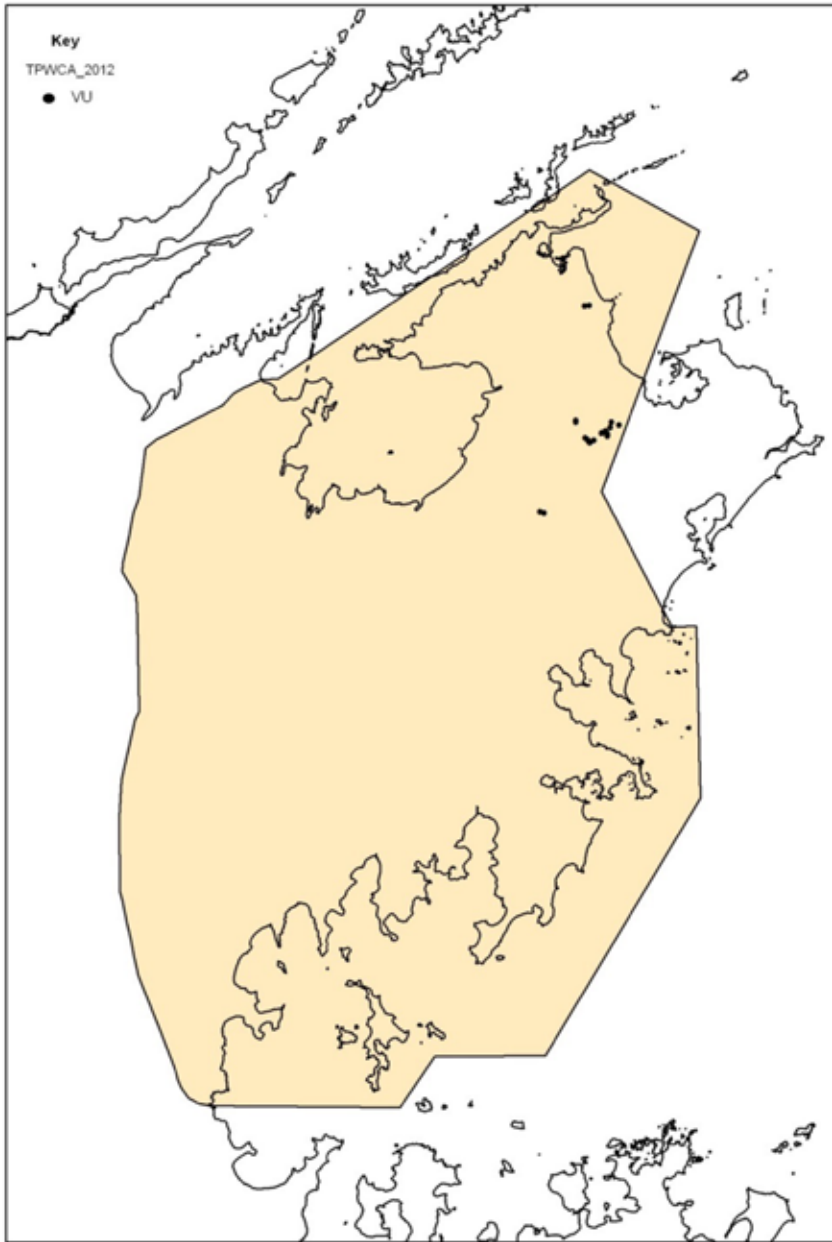
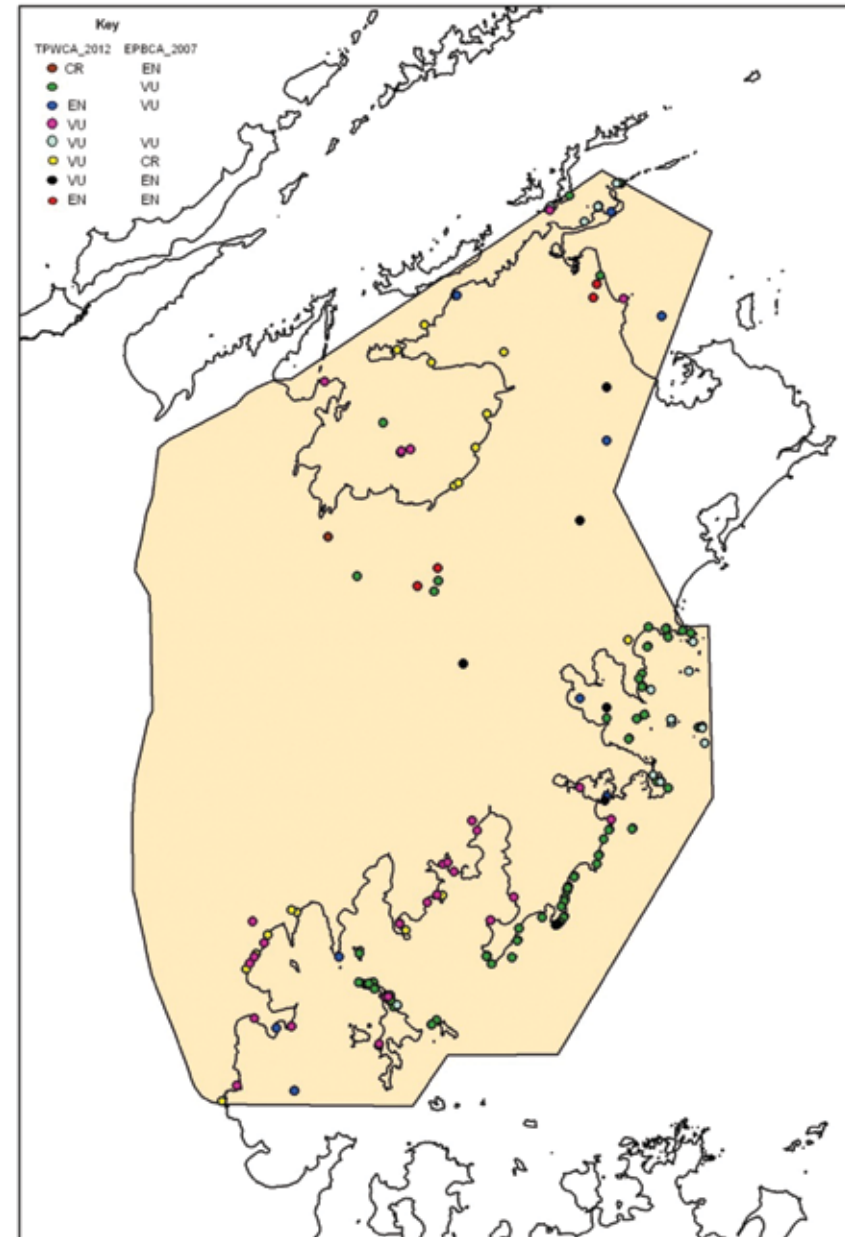


Figure 6: The location of endangered and vulnerable fauna recorded within the Lavnhapuv IPA





## 4.7 PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

The Yirralka Rangers actively partner with a large number of government agencies and other organisations to achieve positive outcomes for Yolŋu communities. The following list identifies existing and potential partners in alphabetical order:

- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
- Aboriginal Benefits Account
- Anindilyakwa Rangers
- Arafura Swamp Rangers
- Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)
- Australian Conservation Volunteers
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- Australian National University (People on Country project)
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous and Tertiary Education (BIITE)
- Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre (Yirralka Arts Centre)
- Bushfires NT
- Charles Darwin University
- Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation
- Djelk Rangers
- Ghost Nets Australia
- Gumatj Corporation
- Gumurr Marthakal Rangers
- Gurruwiling Rangers
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- James Cook University
- Lirrwi Yolŋu Indigenous Tourism Aboriginal Corporation
- Macquarie University
- Marine and Coastal Community Network
- Marrjar Community Council
- MIMAL Rangers
- Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP)
- National Heritage Trust
- Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA)
- Northern Land Council
- NT Department of the Chief Minister
- NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- NT Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- NT Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
- NT Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
- NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- Pacific Alumina Pty Ltd (Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Pty Ltd)
- Parks Australia
- PEW Foundation
- Rirratjinu Aboriginal Corporation
- South Australian Museum
- Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)
- Threatened Species Network (NT)
- Tourism NT
- Western Sydney University
- World Wide Fund for Nature Australia
- YBE (2) Pty Ltd
- Yirralka Dhanbul Community Council
- Yolŋu estate owners
- Yothu Yindi Foundation
- Yugul Mangi Rangers



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