

5 Planning, reporting and performance



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Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

This annual report is one element in the strategic planning and performance assessment framework for the Director of National Parks. Other framework elements are described in this chapter.

Portfolio Budget Statements

These documents detail Budget initiatives and appropriations against specific outcomes and outputs. The annual report completes the budget cycle by reporting on achievements for those outcomes and outputs in the year under review. The Director of National Parks is included in the Portfolio Budget Statements for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio and contributes to the achievement of Outcome 1 (Environment):

The environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national environmental significance, is protected and conserved

The Director contributes to meeting this outcome through the sub-outcome:

Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

There is one output identified under the sub-outcome:

Output 1.1: Parks and reserves

Table 9 reports performance information for Output 1.1 as identified in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

Detailed performance information for individual Commonwealth reserves is included in the State of the Parks chapter of this report.

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts strategic plan and corporate plan

The annual strategic plan outlines the key strategic issues for the Department. It identifies agency priorities to achieve the objectives outlined in the Department's three-year corporate plan. Both plans provide the direction, context and purpose for the activities and programs supported by the Department.

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

This plan sets down the long-term outcomes and shorter-term outputs for the Director against seven key result areas (KRAs), as follows:

- KRA1: Natural Heritage Management
- KRA2: Cultural Heritage Management
- KRA3: Joint Management
- KRA4: Visitor Management and Park Use
- KRA5: Stakeholders and Partnerships
- KRA6: Business Management
- KRA7: Biodiversity and Knowledge Management

Not all key result areas are relevant to all reserves. For example, KRA3, joint management, applies only to the three jointly managed reserves: Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. The State of the Parks chapter of this report provides performance information only on the key result areas that apply to individual reserves.

Strategies to achieve the outcomes in the Department's strategic and corporate plans are detailed in Parks Australia branch, section, work team and individual work plans and in management plan implementation schedules.

Management plans

Section 366 of the EPBC Act requires the Director, or in the case of a jointly managed park, the Director and the relevant board of management, to prepare management plans for Commonwealth reserves.

Management plans provide for the protection and conservation of the reserve. They must state how the reserve is to be managed and how the features of the reserve are to be protected and conserved.

As at 30 June 2008, the Director was responsible for the management of 33 Commonwealth reserves, 15 of which had management plans in place. Fourteen of the marine reserves without a current management plan were declared in 2007. They have interim management arrangements in place until suitable plans are finalised in consultation with the public and stakeholders. A further 4 reserves are being managed in accordance with the intent of their previous management plans, or in a manner consistent with their IUCN category, until replacement plans are finalised. A single management plan is being proposed for the whole of the South-east Marine Planning Region, including Macquarie Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve (14 reserves in total). A draft management plan for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is expected to be released for public comment in late 2008, following extensive consultation with traditional owners and a wide range of stakeholders.

Management plan implementation schedules

Implementation schedules are part of the planning and performance assessment framework for terrestrial reserves. The schedules contain all the prescriptions (policies and actions) identified in a management plan. Each action-based prescription can be broken down into projects and tasks and given a timeframe. These projects and tasks can be assigned to staff members and incorporated into individual performance agreements.

A database version of an implementation schedule is being used in Booderee and Kakadu National Parks and is being introduced in the Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden following the commencement of a new management plan earlier this year.

Management plan prescriptions not to be implemented

During the life of a management plan some prescriptions may not be implemented because, for example, they have become redundant, impractical or there is a lack of resources.

The Solitary Islands Marine Reserve Management Plan 2001, which expired on 3 April 2008, stated that trawling and purse-seine fishing would be phased-out in the General Use Zone of the reserve during the life of the management plan. In that same period the Government committed to the development of Bioregional Marine Plans for Commonwealth waters. The bioregional plans aim to provide guidance on various statutory obligations under the EPBC Act, describe what conservation measures will be put in place, and identify potential new Commonwealth marine reserves. It is proposed to incorporate a number of existing Commonwealth marine reserves, such as the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve, into the Eastern Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network, which will be managed under the Eastern Bioregional Marine Plan.

The plan will consider the implications of activities and impacts across the whole region, including the existing reserves, and the proposed phase-out of trawling and purse seining from the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve. The NSW government is also reviewing zoning in the adjoining NSW Solitary Islands Marine Park (State waters), which may impact upon management prescriptions. It will be more effective and efficient to deal with any structural adjustment issues resulting from the establishment or rezoning of Commonwealth marine protected areas in the eastern bioregion in one process, taking into account the findings of the NSW review.

Performance indicators

Performance indicators have been used to provide more detailed performance reporting against identified outcomes (see Table 9). As in previous years, brief reports on performance against key result areas and outcomes listed in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan are shown in the State of the Parks section of this report. More detailed information on each reserve is available via the website: www.environment.gov.au.

Table 9: Portfolio Budget Statements sub-outcome: Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth Reserves

KRA 1: Natural Heritage Management
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>1.1 Natural values for which Commonwealth reserves were declared and/or recognised have been maintained</p> <p>1.2 The impacts of threats to natural values have been minimised</p>
<p>Performance indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular targeted monitoring of key values and threats undertaken • Number of taxa in cultivation in botanic gardens as proportion of total number of species in taxonomic; ecological and geographic; and horticultural themes in the collection policy
<p>Results for 2007–08</p> <p><i>Reserve management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of all Commonwealth reserves was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Australian IUCN reserve management principles set out in the EPBC Regulations • Management plans for reserves continue to be developed and implemented in line with the EPBC Act requirements. The Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan was finalised. Work commenced on the preparation of a number of new plans for Commonwealth reserves • Preparation of regionally focused recovery plans for Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden and Christmas Island National Park continued. Completion is expected in 2008–09 • The ANBG contributed to a review of seed banking in Australia, in cooperation with State and Territory botanic gardens and the Kew Gardens <i>Millennium Seed Bank</i> project. The aim is to develop a long term national germplasm strategy • The ANBG grows 6,339 taxa out of an estimated 20,000 Australian plants that comprise the potential taxonomic, ecological and horticultural themes of the collection. The number of taxa in the living collection has fallen by 5 per cent, as nursery activities were reduced during the year in response to the continuing regional drought, compliance with local water restrictions and the increasing cost of water resources <p><i>Monitoring efforts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity monitoring at Booderee had positive results, with indicator species stable or increasing. For the third year running, the threatened green and golden bell frog (<i>Litoria aurea</i>) was not recorded in the park. High numbers of key indicator species suggest that fox baiting is succeeding • Monitoring of the distribution of Pipistrelle bats (<i>Pipistrellus murrayi</i>) on Christmas Island has indicated an apparent decline in population numbers. Further monitoring will determine whether the unfavorable results may be due to the movement of bat communities to other foraging and roosting areas • Studies of estuarine crocodile (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>) populations and nesting flatback turtles (<i>Natator depressus</i>) in coastal areas of Kakadu continued. A review of crocodile survey data gathered over 10 years has been finalised and the results will be available in 2008–09 • A collaborative project between Kakadu National Park and the NT Biodiversity Conservation Division commenced, involving targeted surveys of threatened species in recognised biodiversity hotspots in the park. Results indicate a significant ongoing decline in some mammal species across northern Australia, including within the park. Continuing research and monitoring efforts are being supported to determine the cause of these declines



KRA1: Natural Heritage Management

Results for 2007–08 – continued

- Monitoring and recording nest sites and chicks for the Norfolk Island green parrot (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae cookii*) and morepork (boobook, *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*) owl include was undertaken at Norfolk Island National Park. Numbers of new birds are now increasing following a decline in breeding numbers over the past 5 years
- The annual survey of tjakura (great desert skink, *Egernia kintorei*) occurred in March 2008. An increased number of burrows were counted this year. However, there was a marked decrease in breeding burrows, leading to concerns that predation is affecting population growth rates
- In April 2008, the fourth survey of the captive breeding population of mala (rufous hare wallaby, *Lagorchestes hirsutus*) found 25 new individuals among the 52 animals captured
- Initial results from sea snake monitoring by Charles Darwin University indicate a decline in sea snake populations at Ashmore Reef. A follow-up survey in March 2007 (to take seasonal variation into account) confirmed this trend
- Significant progress was made in the 3 dimensional underwater mapping of the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve and the Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve. Grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) numbers were monitored at the Cod Grounds as part of a broader study into the distribution and population of the species along the east coast of Australia. The Port Macquarie Underwater Research Group also undertook dives to monitor and photograph species at the Cod Grounds, with the aim of identifying major species occurring in the reserve
- Research programs are underway at Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve to improve understanding of the *Pisonia* forest ecosystem, the terrestrial invertebrate fauna, sea turtle population dynamics and behaviour, and marine biodiversity. Departmental staff members and a consulting botanist/entomologist detected no measurable permanent deforestation of *Pisonia* by insect pests
- James Cook University and C&R Consulting undertook coral reef health assessments at Coringa. They reported a slow recovery and continued low percentage of live coral cover. This appears to be typical of oceanic reefs similar to those in the reserve
- Subsurface sea temperature loggers were installed and exchanged at Commonwealth marine reserves as part of a large ongoing temperature monitoring program. The project trialled the use of satellite imagery to map and classify habitats, produce and ground-truth bathymetric maps, and detect progressive changes in terrestrial and marine habitats
- In 2008 the condition of the reef systems at Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs was assessed. The reserve is considered to be in generally good health, with little bleaching, and very little evidence of crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) activity. The number of black cod (*Epinephelus daemeli*) appears to be stable and high numbers of Galapagos sharks (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*) were observed during recent surveys
- A survey in the Benthic Protection Zone of the Great Australian Bight Marine Reserve indicated that there are 240 species from eleven phyla present; less than half of which can be identified to species level. The data collected from this, and an earlier 2002 survey, will contribute to a 20-year performance assessment program for the zone
- Monitoring at Mermaid Reef has indicated that the major threats are from climatic disturbances, such as cyclones and coral bleaching, and human impacts, such as anchoring and pollution. Fishing has also been identified as a potential pressure on Mermaid Reef
- Two research projects were undertaken during the year to obtain baseline biological information for several of the reserves in the South-east Marine Reserve Network. These projects are continuing, with the results expected in late 2008

KRA1: Natural Heritage Management

Results for 2007–08 –continued

Management of invasive species

- 120 hectares of yellow crazy ant (*Anopolepis gracilipes*) super-colonies and 190 hectares of invasive woody weeds were treated on Christmas Island. In addition, 22,000 trees were planted as part of the rehabilitation of a former phosphate mining site
- In Kakadu, monitoring and control of introduced plants continued, including mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*), mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*), olive hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) at Yellow Water and gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*). Of these, salvinia and mission grass continue to be major challenges for the park. Two relatively new weed species in the park were also targeted: snakeweed (*Stachytarphetta*) and knobweed (*Hyptis capitata*)
- Parks Australia supported an ongoing study of the impact of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) on native frog populations in Northern Australia
- The Weed Control Strategy for the Preservation and Protection of the Endangered Plants of Norfolk Island was reviewed and monitored to ensure its effectiveness
- Approximately 20 hectares of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) was removed from Uluru with the assistance of traditional owners and Conservation Volunteers Australia

Species relocation

- Kakadu staff members supported a NT Government project to relocate golden bandicoots (*Isodon auratus*) from the Northern Territory to an offshore island
- The first stage of the Recovery Plan for the Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) was carried out in March 2008. The goal is to establish a second viable population within the Cocos (Keeling) Islands group



KRA2: Cultural Heritage Management

Outcomes

- 2.1 Cultural heritage values, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for which parks were declared or are recognised have been protected and conserved
- 2.2 Living cultural traditions are being maintained
- 2.3 The impacts of threats to cultural values have been minimised
- 2.4 Wide awareness and appreciation that parks are managed and presented as living cultural landscapes and seascapes

Performance indicators

- Adequacy and currency of inventories of cultural sites
- Level and nature of support provided by park management to maintain and promote traditional cultural values
- Histories, prehistories and knowledge recorded (oral, written and pictorial) where culturally appropriate

Results for 2007–08

- Substantial work was undertaken on monitoring and managing cultural heritage sites throughout Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. This included visits to remote sites by traditional owners and staff members
- At Kakadu, staff added to existing oral history recordings and continued the development of a cultural heritage sites register, with the support and involvement of traditional owners
- The *Ara Irititja* database was maintained and further updated at Uluru. *Anangu* regularly accessed this popular database throughout the year. Staff members worked with senior *Anangu* to enter information and stories in the database. Images of Uluru from the Mountford Collection were added to the Cultural Sites Management System and *Ara Irititja* database
- A partnership agreement was developed between the National Archives of Australia and the Director, for the long-term storage and protection of audio and video materials currently held at Kakadu
- Discussions were commenced with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and Northern Land Council about a register of sites of significance in Kakadu, and protocols for access to them
- Cultural site management plans were produced at Uluru following conservation assessments of all public sites by a specialist conservator
- Workplans were developed at Kakadu for rock art monitoring and maintenance
- The *Gun-mayali* ('sharing of knowledge') Room was established at Kakadu headquarters, for use by *Bininj* when accessing cultural materials and records
- The Cultural Heritage GIS database for Booderee National Park was maintained and updated
- A draft cultural heritage strategy for Booderee was finalised
- Cultural interpretation sessions were conducted at Booderee as part of the program for spring, summer and autumn school holiday activities
- Support was provided to Indigenous communities for events celebrating Indigenous culture and community spirit

KRA3: Joint Management

Outcomes

3.1 Joint management has been practised through:

- implementation of lease provisions and prescriptions contained in management plans
- implementation of relevant decisions made by boards of management
- growing capacity and increasing participation of traditional owners in park management
- positive, harmonious relationships

Performance indicators

- Number of traditional owners and relevant Aboriginal people employed directly and indirectly
- Training provided for and undertaken by traditional owners and relevant Indigenous people (staff, contractors and community people)
- Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises operating in parks
- Proportion of board of management actions addressed within agreed timelines

Results for 2007–08

- The Director, boards of management and Parks Australia staff members continued to work closely with traditional owners and relevant land councils to increase traditional owner participation in the control and administration of jointly managed national parks
- Quarterly meetings of the boards of management for Kakadu and Uluru were held to discuss management of the parks. Special meetings were held to discuss the preparation and implementation of management plans and other issues
- The Booderee National Park Board of Management was unable to meet during the year, however consultation with key traditional owners on management issues continued. The board met in August 2008 following the appointment of new members
- Skill development and training for relevant Aboriginal staff continued via completion of a range of internal and external courses, including workplace English language and literacy training
- Programs to engage young Aboriginal people in educational activities and the Junior Ranger Program were continued in cooperation with local schools
- Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) commenced at Booderee Botanic Gardens, involving youths from Wreck Bay. Vincentia High School's *Students At Risk* program was also supported through the provision of work experience at Booderee National Park
- Kakadu supported Aboriginal enterprise development and involvement in tourism ventures such as: Werenbun Tourist Information, Wurrng Cultural Walk, Gulyambi Boat Cruise, Kakadu Culture Camp, Gunlom Kiosk, Hawk Dreaming and Murdujul Art Centre
- The draft *Anangu* Intergenerational Employment Strategy for Uluru was prepared. The Strategy aims to provide support and opportunities for *Anangu* to engage in park activities and gain employment in park management
- Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd contractors undertook \$512,000 of capital works in Booderee
- Across the three jointly managed parks 54 Indigenous staff were employed in ongoing and non-ongoing positions. In addition, the parks employed over 200 Indigenous people as casual staff and through contractors and Indigenous enterprises that provide services to the parks
- Seventeen Indigenous enterprises are now operating in the jointly managed parks



KRA4: Visitor Management and Park Use

Outcomes

- 4.1 Visitors to Commonwealth reserves enjoy inspirational, satisfying and safe experiences
- 4.2 Visitor impacts (on reserve management, values, the environment and other visitors) are within acceptable levels
- 4.3 Public awareness and appreciation of the values of Commonwealth reserves have been enhanced
- 4.4 Commercial operators provide a high quality service to park visitors

Performance indicators

- Annual numbers, types and demographics of park visitors
- Annual numbers and demographics of people participating in educational, interpretive and other programs
- Levels of satisfaction of park users

Results for 2007–08

- An estimated 1.47 million people visited Commonwealth reserves. Kakadu had an 8.7 per cent increase in visitation. However, visitor numbers at both Uluru and the ANBG fell by around 1.5 per cent
- Booderee staff delivered 122 school holiday interpretation sessions, focussing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes, with 3,401 attendees. A further 50 interpretation sessions were delivered to primary schools, high schools and special interest groups, with 1,289 attendees in total
- Staff and traditional owners at Uluru delivered 150 presentations to visitors at the park Cultural Centre
- Kakadu continued to deliver well-regarded seasonal interpretive ranger programs during the dry season, incorporating natural and cultural content
- Visitor surveys were conducted at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. Results indicated that over 91 per cent of visitors were 'satisfied or very satisfied'. Over 39 per cent of visitors were 'very satisfied' with their experience
- A new brand was developed for Kakadu, following intensive consultation with traditional owners and the tourism industry. It includes a new logo for the park, new uniforms for park staff members, a new Visitor Guide and a dedicated web site (www.kakadu.com.au)
- A draft tourism master plan for Kakadu was prepared during the year and has been released for public comment. The plan seeks to address the park's target market and also scopes opportunities for an increased contribution by indigenous businesses
- Considerable investment was made in the upgrade of visitor infrastructure and facilities throughout the terrestrial reserves. Examples include: completion of stage one of a \$15 million viewing and day-use area at Uluru; extensive road construction, repair and resurfacing; replacement of infrastructure at Booderee, following fire damage at Cave Beach; creation of a new creek crossing at Jim Jim Creek; new signage and interpretive displays; and upgrades and repairs to walking tracks
- A new Parks Australia office was established on Home Island in the Cocos Islands, to provide greater access for the majority of the local population and visitors, to maximise opportunities to provide community education, and to encourage responsible use of Pulu Keeling National Park
- Booderee National Park was awarded a Distinction in the Tourist and Caravan Park (up to four-star) category at the South Coast tourism excellence awards. The park's iconic Murray's Beach was named the South Coast's most environmentally-protected beach in the Keep Australia Beautiful–Clean Beach Awards

KRA5: Stakeholders and Partnerships

Outcomes

- 5.1 Volunteers contribute to area management based on clearly defined roles
- 5.2 Stakeholders, e.g. neighbours, state agencies and park user groups, are involved in and contribute effectively to park management activities
- 5.3 Commercial partnership opportunities are encouraged and evaluated

Performance indicators

- Annual contribution to active partnership effort
- Consultation with stakeholders and partners
- Level of satisfaction of the Minister

Results for 2007–08

- Effective engagement and consultation with stakeholders, volunteers and communities continued. This included national and regional tourism organisations, industry groups, universities, non-government organisations and community groups
- Partnerships with research organisations continued, including scientists in the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service, CSIRO, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, the Australian National University, Charles Darwin University and the University of Queensland
- Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued with: relevant state government agencies, the Department of Defence, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Customs Service
- Meetings were held with a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the preparation of new and outstanding management plans for Commonwealth reserves, seeking their views and suggestions
- Highlights for the year included:
 - further progress in the National Landscapes partnership with Tourism Australia, including the launch of the first eight candidate areas, following a series of highly successful workshops with regional stakeholders
 - continuation of the close collaboration between the ANBG seedstore and Greening Australia, including joint field collecting, seed storage and management. The ANBG also provides Greening Australia with ground space and irrigation for seedling production
 - an ongoing constructive high-level relationship between the Australian and NT governments continued, with joint funding and planning to promote tourism in our northern reserves, and a partnership in employment and training
 - a contract with WWF Australia was entered into, for the delivery of the agreed 2008–09 operational plan for the tri-national wetlands agreement between Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia
 - the ANBG took a leadership role within the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens by coordinating a climate change workshop, resulting in a draft national climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for botanic gardens
 - the Marine Division hosted a two-day workshop in May 2008, on science for managing remote coral reef marine protected areas. The workshop was attended by reserve managers, scientists and representatives from the Coral Triangle Initiative



KRA6: Business Management

Outcomes

- 6.1 Planning and decision-making is based on best available information; legislative obligations and Government and DNP policies
- 6.2 Financial and business management is based on better practice and Government requirements
- 6.3 High levels of staff expertise and performance is recognised and valued
- 6.4 Obligations under the EPBC Act and Regulations relating to management of Commonwealth reserves are complied with

Performance indicators

- Extent to which management plans are implemented
- No 'A' or 'B' findings from the annual ANAO audit of Director of National Parks financial statements
- Successful operation of business continuity plan
- Annual number of reportable incidents involving staff and park users
- Expenditure does not exceed budget

Results for 2007–08

- Management plans for reserves continue to be developed and implemented in line with EPBC Act requirements
- There were no 'A' or 'B' findings from the ANAO audit of the financial statements
- The business continuity plan was not called upon during the year
- Total recorded staff member and visitor incidents were comparable with 2006–07
- Risk watch lists for each park or business unit were regularly reviewed in accordance with the Director's Risk Management Policy
- The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2007–08 financial statements of the Director of National Parks
- Expenditure did not exceed income
- The Director and Parks Australia continued to strive to meet best practice standards in the management of Commonwealth reserves
- Kakadu and Uluru implemented outcomes of an independent organisational review. The review was aimed at allocating and prioritising resources to meet the aims of the park lease agreement and management plans
- Terrestrial reserves implemented energy and water conservation measures, towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and overall expenditure

KRA7: Biodiversity Knowledge Management

Outcomes

High quality, comprehensive and current information is available to park visitors and managers to facilitate and foster understanding, appreciation, sound conservation and appropriate use of Australian biodiversity

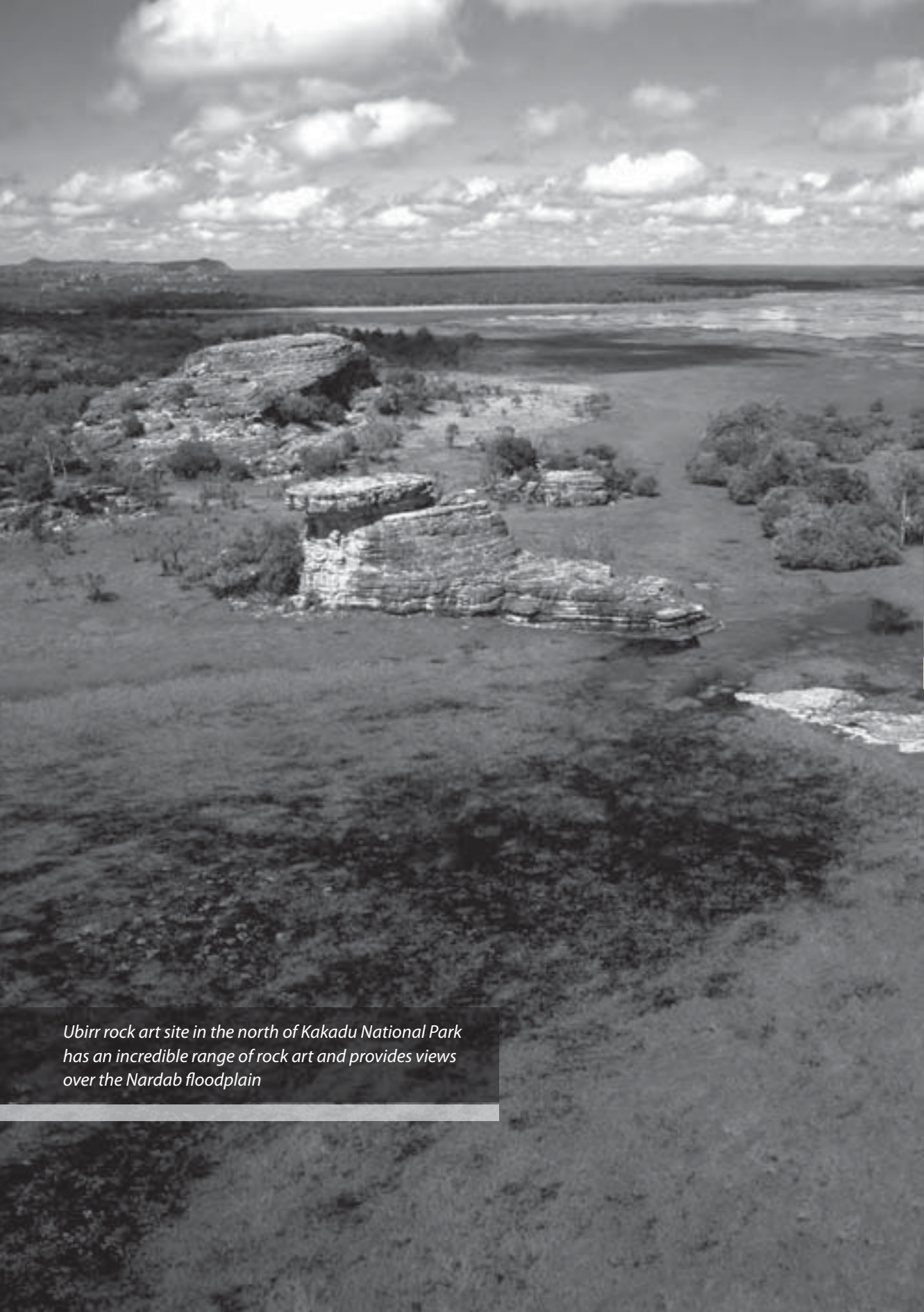
Performance indicators

The number of biodiversity information publications and resources provided

Results for 2007–08

- Information about each Commonwealth reserve is available in hardcopy and electronically
- On average, the Parks Australia web site (www.environment.gov.au/parks) was accessed 1,940 times each day, a 21 per cent increase over 2005–06. The web site was overhauled during the year, to provide interactive and updated content
- The ANBG web site (www.anbg.gov.au) received a daily average of 41,000 hits per day
- A new visitor guide and web site for Kakadu (www.kakadu.com.au) were developed as part of the recent branding exercise
- The ANBG added 38,518 herbarium specimens to the database and curated approximately 6,000 herbarium specimens, for accession to the *Australia's Virtual Herbarium* project
- An agreed list of scientific names for Australia's flowering plants was produced and maintained through management of the *Australian Plant Name Index* and the national collaborative *Australian Plant Census* project. The project was partially funded through the Natural Heritage Trust and endorsed by Australian Government, State and Territory herbaria. 'Born-digital' images now contribute significantly to the *Australian Plant Image Index*, which is available to the public via the web
- Researchers completed scientific papers or publications resulting from research undertaken at the Australian National Herbarium. Areas of study included Australian Orchidaceae, Rutaceae, Myrtaceae, Malvaceae, Santalaceae and the bryophytes
- A Botanical Resource Centre was established at the ANBG, enabling the public to identify flora through the use of electronic media, microscopes and specimens
- The Marine Division is developing education kits consisting of a DVD, booklet and poster series. These kits introduce the community to the benefits of marine conservation and the role of MPAs. The intent of the kit is to provide the community with information on the values of the reserves, how they are managed and importantly, influencing positive behaviour and attitudes toward marine conservation management.
- Information brochures on Commonwealth marine reserves were distributed to key stakeholders, including researchers and commercial tour operators, which included details of effective quarantine measures to be undertaken by visitors and the importance of observing them





Ubirr rock art site in the north of Kakadu National Park has an incredible range of rock art and provides views over the Nardab floodplain