

## Management Plan Update

**This newsletter is to keep you up to date with the development of the 6<sup>th</sup> management plan for Kakadu National Park. The current plan expires at the end of 2013 and we are in the process of developing a new plan, which will guide how we manage the park for the next 10 years.**

### **Progress so far**

- Since the last newsletter in December 2012, we have consulted with traditional owners and park staff on visitor management. Meetings were held in mid February at Pine Creek, Gunbalanya and Jabiru. Topics discussed include how Bininj would like to be involved in tourism in the park over the next 10 years. We also discussed the park plan with the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee at their March meeting.
- In February, further discussions were held with traditional owners and park staff at Pine Creek, Gunbalanya and Jabiru focussing on joint management issues. They were asked what they thought was working well and areas where we could improve. We received some great ideas that we are looking forward to developing further and building in to the plan.
- In mid March parks staff, departmental staff from Canberra, the chair of the Kakadu Research Advisory Committee and some key Kakadu researchers reviewed a draft Management Effectiveness Framework for Parks Australia. The framework focuses on assisting us to better plan, implement, monitor and report on park management programs. Those gathered at the meeting discussed how it might fit in with the management plan and the benefits it would bring to the park such as a more consistent approach to managing and reviewing our programs.
- In late March, a Threatened Species Workshop, jointly funded by the park and the Australian Government's National Environmental Research Program, was held. Park staff, researchers, stakeholders, and traditional owners gathered to share knowledge on the management of threatened species in Kakadu. The group considered issues including:
  - the threats to threatened species
  - how they are being managed
  - what could be done better
  - future management of threatened species in Kakadu
  - key information for the natural heritage section of the new management plan
  - development of a threatened species management strategy to complement the park management plan.
- The planning team took advantage of natural and cultural heritage experts being in the park for the above workshops (including cultural experts that were part of the team that developed the parks Cultural Heritage Management Strategy), and spent valuable time

with them considering the structure, objectives, and performance indicators of the natural and cultural heritage sections of the new plan. These contributions will help the planning team to work on some of the ideas for improvement that were identified in the technical audit.

### Next steps

- The consultation phase has now finished and the planning team are compiling all the feedback. The feedback will be considered by the Kakadu Board of Management and incorporated into a draft plan during 2013.
- The draft management plan will be available for public comment in 2014.
- Following this, the planning team will consider all public comments and a finalised plan will go to the Minister for Environment and parliament for endorsement.
- We will continue to keep stakeholders up to date via this newsletter.

### Want more information?

Further information about the new plan go to:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/kakadu/newplan.html>

If you would like to contribute to the development of the plan please send you comments to [kakaduplan@environment.gov.au](mailto:kakaduplan@environment.gov.au) or call us on phone 08 8938 1171.



Waiting for boat transport after the Gunbalanya management plan meeting, March 2013



Threatened species workshop, April 2013



Tourism consultations at Park Headquarters, March 2013