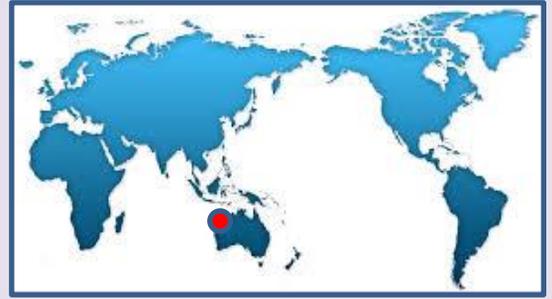


# Managing Weeds on Bunuba Country in the Kimberley, Western Australia



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## Caring for Bunuba Country

Bunuba Country is located in the central Kimberley region of Western Australia. The Bunuba Rangers work on behalf of the Bunuba people to look after Country in accordance with their culture and customs. The Rangers work in partnership with the Western Australia Department of Parks and Wildlife and research organisations such as Monash University to share knowledge about how best to care for their country.



A significant part of sharing knowledge and caring for country involves managing weeds at significant sites around the Fitzroy River, which flows through Bunuba Country.



## Main approach: Place-based weed management

Place-based weed management focuses on particular places within a broader landscape, identifies the values attached to them and then strategically manages the vegetation at these sites. This contrasts with the dominant species-led management approach, which organises and prioritises management solely according to declared weed species.

The Bunuba Rangers adopt a place-based approach to their weed work allowing them to:

- foreground cultural values for places and connect weed management to its cultural significance
- develop a specific weed management plan for each culturally valued site or location
- integrate weed management with other Ranger activities so that it is part of a holistic approach to maintaining healthy country.

## The Fitzroy River: The focus of place-based weed management

The Fitzroy River is significant to Bunuba people. It has many culturally significant sites such as the Men's and Women's Law grounds, Dreaming sites, as well as numerous fishing, hunting and camping grounds. It is therefore a focus of the Bunuba Rangers' place-based weed management strategy. As a major corridor in the central Kimberley, the river transports a number of weeds including: Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), Calotropis (*Calotropis procera*), Passionfruit vine (*Passiflora gossypifolia*) and many more.



Calotropis



Passionfruit Vine



Parkinsonia

## Noogoora Burr

Through place-based management, Noogoora Burr was identified as a significant threat to Bunuba cultural activities such as camping, fishing, hunting and walking on Country. All of these practices are important for teaching young people about Bunuba Country and culture. If these practices are affected, so is the ability to transfer this culture. Noogoora Burr has been spotted at important sites along the Fitzroy River. As such, it is being strategically targeted and controlled by the Rangers at these important places.



## About the Kimberley Project: *Working together*

The Bunuba Rangers and Monash University researchers are interested in sharing cultural understandings of landscapes and exploring how this can improve weed management. We compare and share this knowledge around the Indian Ocean with our partners in India, Madagascar, South Africa.



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