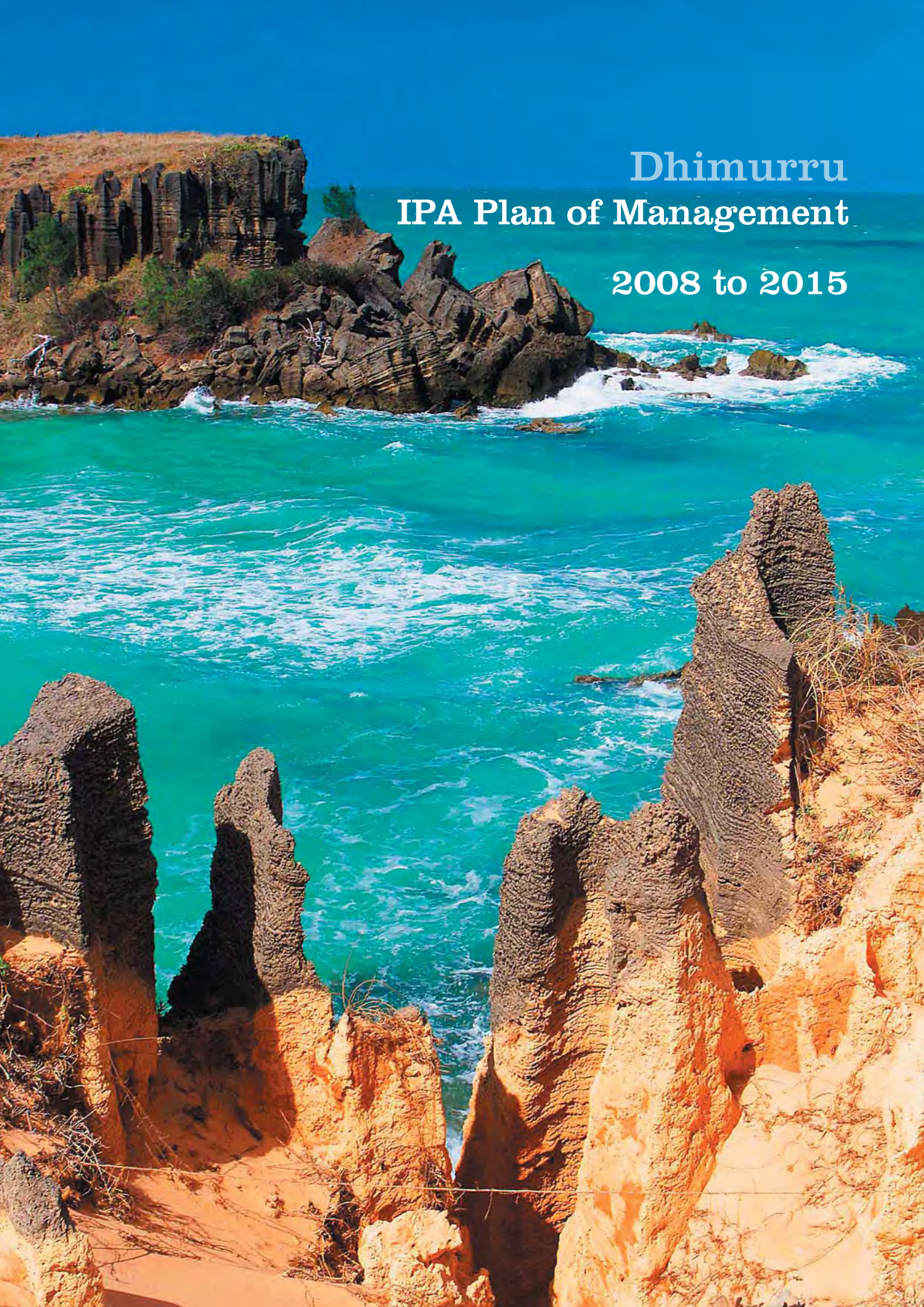

Dhimurru
IPA Plan of Management
2008 to 2015

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Butjarri Mununggiritj and Madaka Marika with tourists / Phil Wise 26
Phil Wise, Banula Marika, Buwat (Marcus) Dhurrkay and Nalkuma Burarrwanga / Ganbilpil White 26
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Djawulu (2) Mununggurr, Banula Marika, Daryl Lacey and Mawalan (2) Marika / Jane Dermer 30
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Preface

When bauxite mining and the town of Nhulunbuy came to our land nearly four decades ago, our leaders and elders started to worry about how we would maintain our control and care of our country. After a lot of thought and discussion, Yolŋu leaders from Galiwin'ku in the north to Blue Mud Bay in the south established Dhimurru in 1992.

Dhimurru is a Yolŋu organisation, controlled and run by Yolŋu people. Dhimurru's foundation is Yolŋu culture and the customary ways we care for and manage our land and sea. From this foundation we have built a distinctive role for Yolŋu Rangers. So far our Yolŋu rangers are men; however, we plan to add women to our ranger staff in the coming months. We have working partnerships with government, industry and the local community, and we have brought together two traditions of knowledge and ways of caring for the land and sea. We are very proud of the model of partnership we have developed.

In 2000 Dhimurru declared an Indigenous Protected Area over Yolŋu land. This plan reviews our achievements so far and identifies our aspirations and concerns for managing our IPA during the next 7 years.

This plan and the way we have developed it is an example of the kind of partnership and teamwork that we are proud of. I have directed the process and undertaken much of the discussions and consultations with Yolŋu estate owning clans and people. I have worked closely with and directed the efforts of Steve Roeger (our current Executive Officer), Greg Wearne (our first Executive Officer, and consultant with Wearne Advisors) and Samantha Muller (former project officer and consultant) who have undertaken the task of writing our plan.

Some of our activities and planning meetings have been recorded and edited into a DVD to accompany this plan. The DVD seeks to share our planning and collaborative approaches to management and highlight the concerns and aspirations of Yolŋu traditional owners speaking for their country.

Our plan has gone through a number of revisions. At each stage I have sought the advice of our political, intellectual and ceremonial leaders, and consulted with the broader Yolŋu community. We have also sought the input and advice of non-Yolŋu critical friends and experts. These include Professor Nancy Williams, Honorary Reader in Anthropology at the University of Queensland, Phil Wise from the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory, and Dr Ben Hoffmann with CSIRO, who are working alongside Dhimurru Rangers.

Our plan brings our thinking about how to manage our IPA in a form that we believe is understandable and useful. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies to exchange knowledge, assistance and understandings in mutually respectful relationships and we are proud to make an important contribution to Australia's National Reserve System.

Djawa Yunupiŋgu
Managing Director, Dhimurru.

List of Acronyms used in this Plan

AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
BIITE	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
CDU	Charles Darwin University
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
IHP	Indigenous Heritage Programme
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
NAILSMA	North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
NLC	Northern Land Council
NRETA	Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NT Department)
NTG	Northern Territory Government
PWCNT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
YSC	Yambirrpa School Council
YYF	Yothu Yindi Foundation

Notes on Yolŋu orthography

The Plan of Management seeks to conform with the current Yolŋu (Aboriginal) 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 the ‘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, d̲, n̲, l̲, t̲	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	don’t pronounce the ‘y’, but place the tip of the tongue behind the bottom teeth to pronounce the ‘n’
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 ‘o’ in mother
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

Dhimurru Vision Statement

Dhimurru's vision statement honours the memory and wisdom of those elders who inspired and developed Dhimurru. Dhimurru continues to be motivated by the commitment and passion of its founders and elders.

Vision statement in Yolŋu Matha by Roy Dadayŋa Marika M.B.E

From dhawuru dhaŋu ŋaya yaka wäŋa ga hundred or more than one hundred years dhaŋu dhäruk ŋarru dhäya wekarram. Mä nhän yaka ŋarru yolŋuyu bäki, banhaya ŋayi generation ga generation ga generation. Ŋayi yaka ŋarru dhäya mä, dhanal ŋarru nhäma banhaya ŋayi, banha yakan nhalpiyan dhanal nyenan ŋatjil d̲ilak.

Ga nhalpiyan dhanal yakan gatjpu'yuwan ŋätjil d̲ilak. Yo - Dhuwa Yirritja,

Yothu ga Yindi.

Bukmak ŋayi malanynha yaka dhäya manikaymi, rommi dhul̲aŋmi, dhäwu'mi. Banhalaŋa ŋayiŋa, dhanaliŋgu n̲uku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka ŋayim, malanya dhäya ga ŋunha Land Rightsŋa dhäruk bilanya bili. Yo decision maker nhanbayi yana landowner.

Ŋarru nhan ŋarru, ŋarruŋam goŋmurrum nhumaliŋgurumurru, Conservation Commission or Rangerwurumurru Dhimurruwurumurru.

Bukmak ŋayi malanynha djäkawu goŋŋa Dhimurruwura. Yirritja ga Dhuwa ŋarru warkthun dhanal further development bilanya bitjan Conservation ga dhal'yun ŋarru protecting nhäŋuru developmentŋ uru.

Dhaŋu ŋayi yolŋuwu yana, Yolŋuyu ŋarru warkthun dhäruk nhanbayi Yolŋuyu yana. Djinaku ŋayiwu ŋarakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilaŋ yolthu waripuŋuyu ŋayinharrayu yolŋuyu. Nhanbayi yana ŋayi-wat̲aŋuyu, rom-wat̲aŋuyu, waŋarr-wat̲aŋuyu, gamanuŋgu-wat̲aŋuyu wo mad̲ayin-wat̲aŋuyu.

Ŋarru dhärukma dhaŋu gunyanda bayikuŋ ŋal̲apal̲miyu banha ŋarruŋan ga dhaŋu bad̲ak nyena yaka. Ŋarru dhärukma dhanaliŋgu ga gatjpum' bad̲ak wälŋa.

Djinaku Dhimurruwum self developmentkum, ga self-managementkum.

Vision statement in English

Dhimurru's vision is guided by the wisdom of our elders who founded Dhimurru. They have inspired us in our work. They exhorted us to look after the land for those who will follow, to protect and maintain it. In 1990 on behalf of the elders Roy D̲ad̲ayŋa Marika said, "Be firm and strong for the land, and the strength of your solidarity will sustain you in your cause.

"The land will exist forever. It must be protected so that it will remain the same, so that it can be seen in the same way that the elders saw it in the past. Our vision and hope is that Yolŋu will continue to use the land for all the generations to come."

The elders said, "We the old people hope that Dhuwa and Yirritja land will continue to be looked after through the connection of yothu yindi.

“All the land is Yirritja and Dhuwa. Our songs, our law, our sacred art, our stories are embedded in the land, which is the foundation of our knowledge. That’s how we see the land; that is what our Land Rights Act says.

“The decision-makers are the landowners, the clans that are connected through Yothu Yindi and Märi-Gutharra kinship. They have placed certain areas in the hands of the Dhimurru Committee, which authorises the Dhimurru Rangers to manage and preserve, maintain and protect the areas designated for recreation use.

“The landowners put the recreation areas in Dhimurru’s hands to manage. They envisage one committee, one voice, and one body under one umbrella, Dhimurru Land Management. Only Yolŋu will make decisions for this land, not government officials or any other person who is not a landowner.

“We envisage working together with the Parks and Wildlife Commission; we need their help in making our vision a reality. But the only people who make decisions about the land are those who own the law, the people who own the creation stories, the people whose lives are governed by Yolŋu law and belief.”

Dedication/honour roll

We would like to pay homage to the elders who incorporated Dhimurru, and the rangers, committee members and traditional owners who dedicate themselves to our work. We would like to acknowledge the past and present Executive Officers and Chairpersons who have driven Dhimurru's achievements. We would especially like to acknowledge and honour those people who have been a strong foundation for achieving our Land Rights and have provided guidance to Dhimurru that have now passed on:

- The late D̲ad̲ayŋa Marika
- The late L. Ganambarr
- The late D. N. Mununggiritj
- The late Dr R. Marika-Mununggirritj
- The late M. Mununggurr
- The late Gatjil Djekurra
- The late Mrs G. Yunupingu

The purpose of the plan

This document explains how Dhimurru wants to manage the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). An IPA is a self-declared area that traditional owners agree to manage for the protection of natural and cultural values in accordance with international guidelines. All IPAs form part of Australia's National Reserve System. In exchange for declaration of their lands, government conservation agencies provide financial and technical support to communities to assist in the management of these areas.

Part 1 of this Plan identifies the foundations for managing the Dhimurru IPA and documents the achievements and changes since it was declared in 2000.

Part 2 of the Plan summarises and explains visitor and recreation management guidelines for the IPA within four management units.

Part 3 of the Plan highlights Dimurru's management focus as well as the program areas where external agencies collaborate with Dhimurru.

This plan provides:

- an overall management framework
- management direction and priority for Dhimurru operations
- prescriptions for visitor and recreation management
- prescriptions for project development with Dhimurru
- direction for government and research activities

An overall management framework

This plan explains for Yolŋu owners, custodians and managers of the Dhimurru IPA, the framework Dhimurru will be using as it manages the IPA on behalf of Yolŋu owners and managers. The Plan establishes priorities and actions for future management by Dhimurru's management team.

Management direction and priority for Dhimurru operations

This plan provides specific direction and guidance to Dhimurru operations. It is a flexible blueprint for management and recognises the overriding importance of ongoing, careful consultation with and approval from relevant custodians and land owners.

Prescriptions for visitor and recreation management

This plan provides information for visitors to the Dhimurru IPA. Whilst Traditional Owners welcome visitors to enjoy the areas set aside for their use, it is important that everyone purchases permits and respects the protocol and use arrangements for these areas.

Prescriptions for project development with Dhimurru

This Plan will help people identify how proposed projects might fit with Dhimurru's priorities and work program. We are pleased that many partners and organisations are interested in working with us. Our aspirations and priorities for management integrate with external priorities and provide the opportunity for partnership and collaborative work. To identify how your project fits with our plan:

- check with our principles for management in section 1.5
- scan section 3 to identify what management focus your project is consistent with
- check existing linkages and projects in section 3 to determine whether your project complements, duplicates or fits within the scope of another project
- develop your project to match our objectives, principles and management framework and adhere to our template for research (available from Dhimurru) and the NAILSMA guidelines and protocols for the conduct of research (NAILSMA 2007)

Direction for government and research activities

This plan will assist us to coordinate our activities with our partners. Many government, research, philanthropic and corporate interests are operating within the Dhimurru management jurisdiction. We encourage these agencies to coordinate their activities as much as possible with our management priorities and guidelines and to adhere to the NAILSMA guidelines and protocols for the conduct of research (NAILSMA 2007)

Part 1: Foundations for Management

1.1 Yolŋu values for management

Yolŋu values are the primary focus of this Plan. The success of the IPA management effort will depend on the effective protection of our Yolŋu values. Yolŋu who have agreed to enter into the IPA arrangements are the owners and managers of the areas declared. We alone know the cultural significance of these lands and adjacent seas. We Yolŋu do not consider the land and sea to be separate, but one. Our ancestors have occupied it, managed it and been nurtured by it since the beginning of time and this relationship continues. This relationship entails rights and responsibilities expressed through a network of kinship accountabilities. The complex, extensive, and all-embracing values of the sites in the IPA require that the preservation of these values must be the primary focus of management effort.

Yolŋu appreciate the great value that the Australian nation places on the conservation of biodiversity. We understand that many people wish to visit our lands and marine estates for recreation and relaxation. We welcome visitors to our country but expect that they respect our country and protect our values. We are pleased to help others understand the cultural meanings of our lands.

Yolŋu are confident in the ability of Dhimurru to manage the IPA and maintain the cultural and natural heritage values of the area on behalf of the land owners. While Yolŋu have control over all management decisions with respect to our country, we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies in mutually respectful relationships. Advice and assistance from external agencies will be coordinated through an IPA advisory group (detailed in Figure 1.4.1).

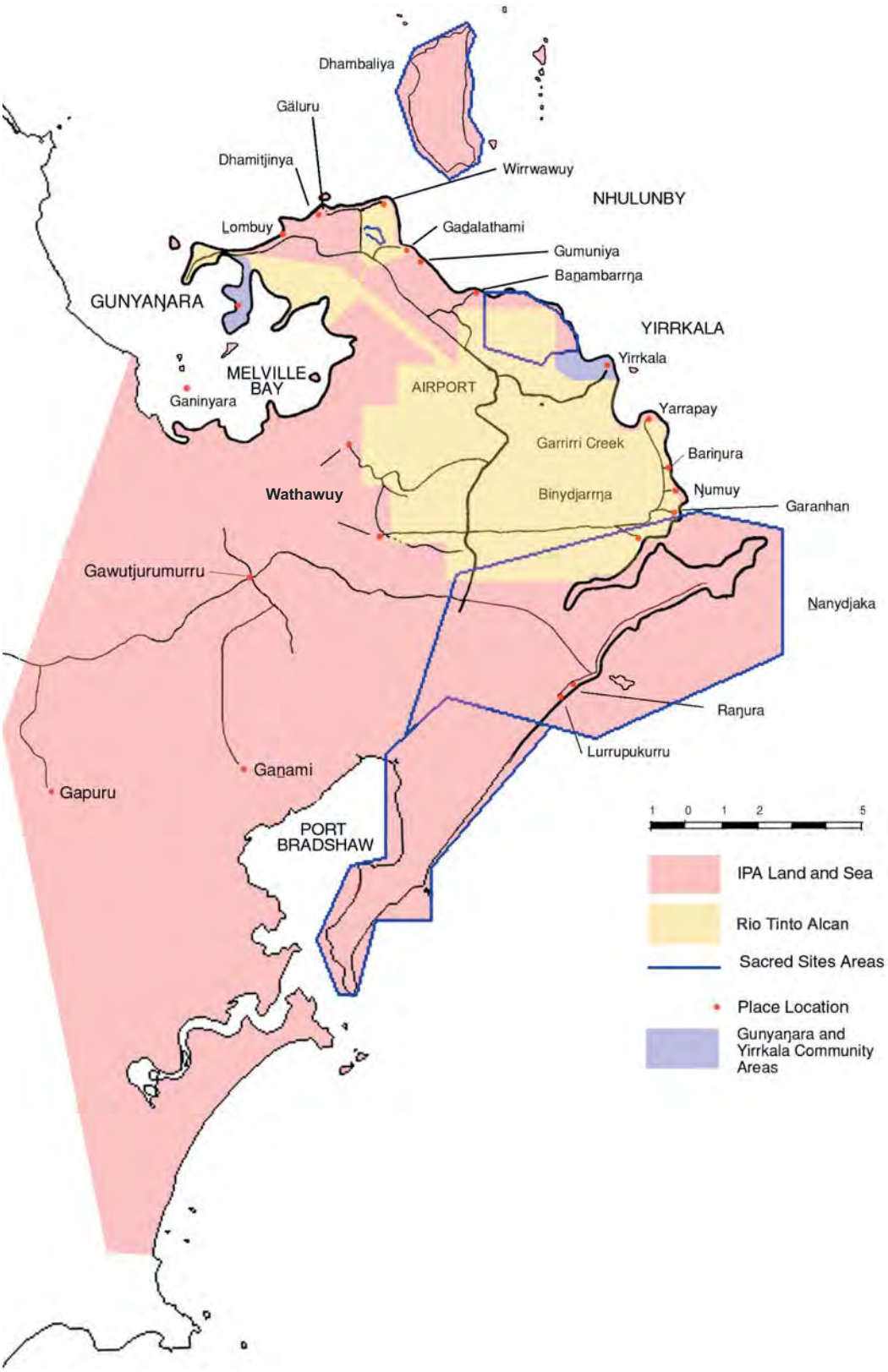
1.2 Dhimurru IPA Management area

Yolŋu traditional owners declared the Dhimurru IPA in 2000. The area identified for management is shown in Figure 1.2. The IPA management area totals approximately 101,000 ha, which includes about 9,000 hectares of marine estate.

The IPA includes islands but excludes mining and town lease areas and the areas of Yirrkala township and Marngarr Community Council at Gunyaŋara. Marine areas include Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem), Yalaŋbara (Port Bradshaw), Djuwalpawuy (Mount Dundas) and Dhambaliya (Bremer Island).

Yolŋu estates do not conform to Western geographical boundaries. We have responsibility for our estates regardless of where Ŋapaki tenure has been superimposed. Yolŋu understand, however, the need for conventional Ŋapaki boundaries for the processes of the National Reserve System and the way this affects our management programs. It is for that purpose and on this basis that we have identified the IPA boundaries.

Figure 1.2: Dhimurru IPA



1.3 Natural Heritage Values

The Dhimurru IPA boasts outstanding natural heritage values. Indigenous estates in northern Australia are gaining increasing recognition for their significant conservation and biodiversity values (Altman et al., 2007, Woinarski et al., 2007). This is particularly so for the largest management unit in the IPA, Manydjarrarrŋa-Nandjaka (Wanuwuy), and the areas within the extended boundaries of the IPA. Some of these values include:

- High plant diversity. Territory recordings for some plant species in the NT are restricted to the IPA area
- Intact faunal assemblages including representatives of some species unrecorded from protected areas elsewhere in the NT
- Unique representativeness. The Arnhem Coast biogeographic region is not included in other protected areas in the NT and has a high priority for conservation planning
- The Quaternary dune system, a dominant feature of Manydjarrarrŋa-Nandjaka, is the largest example of this geological feature on the NT mainland and
- Significant feeding habitat and nesting sites for sea birds and for several threatened species of marine turtles are represented in the IPA

The relatively intact natural values of the IPA lands are testament to the effectiveness of millennia of sustainable Yolŋu management and use and minimal external pressures for development.

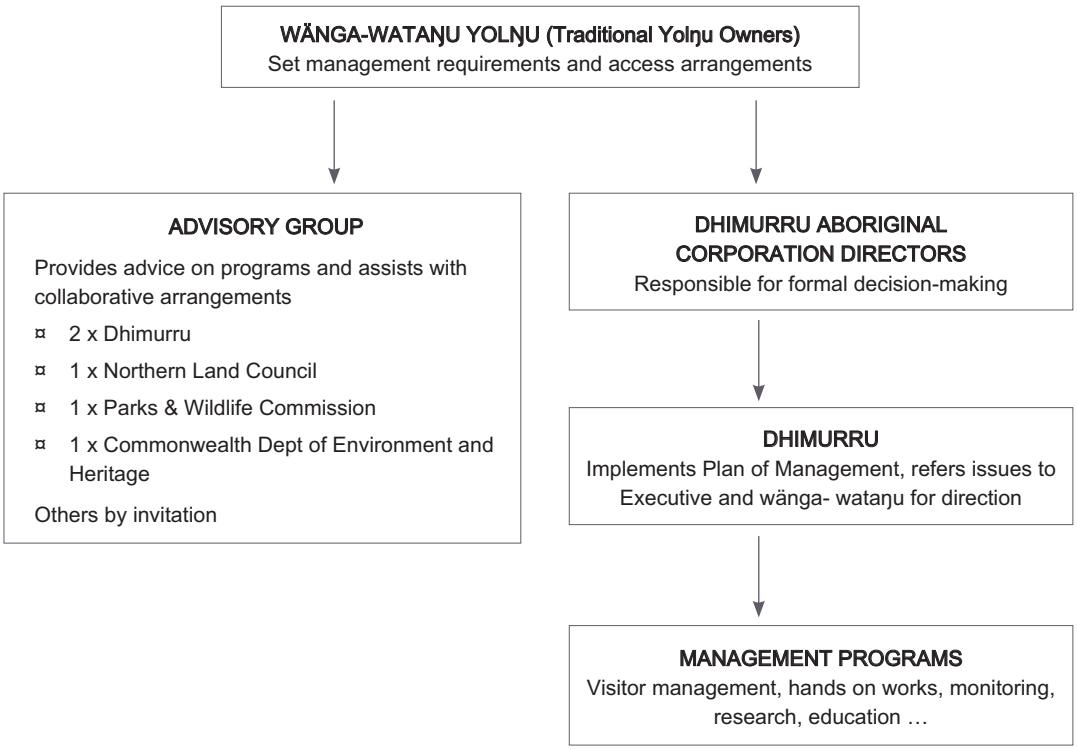
1.4 Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation is an incorporated association established in 1992 to take responsibility for the management of "designated recreation areas" in the vicinity of the mining township of Nhulunbuy. Traditional owners made these recreation areas available for Nhulunbuy residents. Our concern for the impact of uncontrolled recreational activity on our lands was the primary reason for the establishment of Dhimurru. We have now grown into an agency that is also concerned more broadly with natural and cultural resource management.

Sixteen clans are represented in the membership of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation. Dhimurru is governed by an elected Board whose Directors are members of the clans with interests in the recreation areas. The Board meets regularly to make operational and administrative decisions on behalf of the members.

The Board has 10 members who are drawn from the Wäŋa Waṭaŋu (traditional owners) Dhimurru refers back to the Wanga Watangu directly regarding make all decisions with affecting to their country. Figure 1 identifies the management decision making process for the IPA.

Figure 1.4.1: Dhimurru management decision-making process



1.5 Guiding principles for Dhimurru IPA management

1.5.1. *Yolŋu control and empowerment:* – Yolŋu make management decisions and organise activities that should maximise opportunities for Yolŋu as active participants in the management of their country in the IPA

1.5.2. *Respect for Yolŋu values:* – for Yolŋu there are extensive and all embracing values inherent in all sites within the IPA, and the preservation of these sites is a primary focus of management

1.5.3. *Conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural values of the IPA:* – the use and management of the IPA must be sustainable and must protect the ecological and heritage values that are the result of generations of Yolŋu management

1.5.4. *Both ways management:* – maximising opportunities for Yolŋu to devise strategies from a mutual investigation of Ngapaki and Yolŋu systems of knowledge

1.5.5. *Continued development of collaborative partnerships:* – in programs and research to support sustainable use and management of Yolŋu land and seas. Cooperative and respectful partnerships with government and independent agencies will be sought by Dhimurru

1.5.6. *Ŋapaki recreation values:* – the goal of visitor management will be to encourage an appreciation of the cultural and natural values of the IPA by Ŋapaki, to promote and enjoyable natural experience, and to minimise environmental impact

1.6 Dhimurru IPA management achievements and changes

Dhimurru has grown in stature and capacity since its inception. It has established a Yolŋu ranger force and is now recognised as a leading natural and cultural resource management agency that meets the specific needs and requirements of the Yolŋu landowners to whom it is directly accountable. The following section details some of our major achievements so far.

1.6.1 Dhimurru's significant achievements to date

Yolŋu traditional owners established Dhimurru in 1992 and declared the Dhimurru IPA in 2000. We have always sought to work collaboratively with a range of partners to better manage visitor access and enhance the values of our estates. Formally declaring our land as part of the National Reserve System as an IPA has further strengthened our capacity to deliver sustainable land and sea management programs. We are proud of the management activities and outcomes we have achieved so far. Of particular note, we have:

- Extended an access permit system for visitors to enjoy legal and managed access to designated recreation areas
- Developed a 'both ways' approach to management, utilising the best advice available from our non Yolŋu colleagues but ensuring management is achieved with Yolŋu direction
- Formalised the advisory group structure and consolidated the management arrangements
- Developed and maintained research and monitoring programs to inform decision making
- Developed 12 full-time Yolŋu-specific positions 10 of which are ranger positions with associated training opportunities
- Negotiated an agreement with the NT Government and Parks and Wildlife defining relationships and cooperation as outlined in 1.6.2
- Consolidated management arrangements detailed in our IPA Plan of Management

We have received valuable assistance in our work from many of our partners, as outlined in section 1.7. We have a number of collaborative research relationships with universities and other organisations and have training programs for our staff

1.6.2 Partnership with Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) is the Territory Government's lead agency for biodiversity conservation and research. It has responsibility for conservation initiatives on and off the conservation estate. The biogeographic region of the Arnhem Coast, into which most of the IPA lands fall, is otherwise unrepresented in conservation reserves in the NT.

Since Dhimurru began, we have maintained a mutually beneficial, collaborative working relationship with the PWCNT. Except for a short period around 2000, we have hosted a Senior PWCNT Ranger at Dhimurru In 2002 Dhimurru entered into a formal agreement with PWCNT under Section 73 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to undertake collaborative work. The agreement also involves the Northern Land Council and the Commonwealth Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The PWCNT Ranger assists us with daily activities, links us with training opportunities and shares in two-way learning between the Yolŋu and non-Yolŋu systems of management. We are very happy to be working with PWCNT and look forward to continuing and extending our relationship into the future.

1.6.3 Managing Sea Country

Despite our well known historical focus on land management, Yolŋu have always been concerned about our sea country. In August 2006 we launched the *Yolŋuwu Monuk Gapu Wäŋa Dhimurru Sea Country Plan* (Dhimurru 2006). Our sea country program aims to develop:

- Well trained, well resourced sea rangers
- Capacity to meet, maintain, promote, and foster Yolŋu cultural rights, responsibilities and interests in sea country
- Sustainable working arrangements in marine management including monitoring, research, surveillance, and enforcement with respect to illegal fishing
- Capability to manage impacts on the marine environment from mining, aquaculture and other development activities
- Provision of a good model for sea country management

Our Sea Country Team is already on the water and participating in collaborative research, management and monitoring work. It is our intention to ensure that our land and sea management programs work together to manage Yolŋu country. For us, there is no line between the land and the sea and our responsibilities. Our Sea Country Plan and our IPA Plan of Management complement each other and share the same vision and values.

1.6.4 Yolŋu sea rights over the intertidal zone

In March 2007 the Federal Court of Australia upheld an appeal by Yolŋu traditional owners with respect to exclusive occupation rights to our sea country. In a unanimous decision the court said that Aboriginal land rights extend down to the low tide mark in the Northern Territory. The intertidal zones are now recognised as Aboriginal land and access is determined by Yolŋu traditional owners through the Northern Land Council. This has extended Dhimurru's management jurisdiction and permit areas, which now extend to the low tide mark. The water is also included which requires people to have a licence to take and keep fish when angling in this area.

1.6.5 Review of Dhimurru governance arrangements

Dhimurru is currently undertaking a governance review to develop a new constitution to better represent Yolŋu interests in the IPA and to align representation and governance processes with the new Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) (CATSI) 2006 Act. It is expected that this review will be completed by July 2008.

1.6.6 New Headquarters complex

Our growth and success has meant our existing facilities are inadequate for our work. Therefore, we are developing a new office, training and workshop complex. All the actions and targets identified in this Plan will benefit from completion of this complex. We expect it to be completed by April.

1.7 Dhimurru's Partners

Dhimurru is very proud of the partnerships and teamwork that we have developed. Our partners work with us on a range of programs and levels, investing in our activities, collaboratively working with us, sharing resources and providing training opportunities. The following list identifies our partners in alphabetical order:

- Aboriginal Benefits Account
- Australian Conservation Volunteers
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Education
- Carpentaria Ghost Nets Programme
- Charles Darwin University
- Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- Gumatj Association
- Gumurr Marthakal Rangers
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- Laynhapuy Homelands Association and Yirralka Rangers
- Marine and Coastal Community Network
- Marŋarr Community Council
- National Heritage Trust
- Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited
- Nhulunbuy Community Volunteers
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
- Northern Land Council
- NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development
- NT Department of Fisheries
- NT Deptartment of Natural Resources, Environment, and the Arts including the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
- NT Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- NT Tourist Commission
- Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and the Indigenous Coordination Centre Miwatj Region
- Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Pty Ltd
- Rirratjiŋu Association
- South Australian Museum
- Threatened Species Network (NT)
- World Wide Fund for Nature Australia
- YBE (2) Pty Ltd
- Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Council
- Yolŋu estate owners
- Yothu Yindi Foundation

1.8 Relationship to other planning documents/strategies

Other relevant planning documents and strategies include:

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidelines for Category 5 management areas (see Appendix 1 for more details)
- The National Reserve System
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
- NT Parks Masterplan
- NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
- Healthy Country, Healthy People Bilateral Schedule
- NRETA Marine Protected Areas Strategy
- East Arnhem Regional Tourism Development Plan
- Heritage Values Assessment – Manydjarrarrŋa-Nanydjaka
- Dhimurru Sea Country Plan
- Yirralka Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management
- Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area

Part 2: Visitor and Recreation Management

While Yolŋu are pleased to welcome guests to their country, managing the impacts of visitors on the IPA is a key task. Through Dhimurru, we have established a visitor management system to ensure visitors can enjoy their stay and that enables us to look after our country for the future. We request all visitors to acknowledge and respect Yolŋu culture and customs in coming to our land and seas and to ensure that they purchase an appropriate permit from the Dhimurru office.

All of the land and sea in the Dhimurru IPA is culturally significant to Yolŋu people. We know who the owners of each part of the land and sea are and who has caretaking responsibilities.

We recognise that the IPA has significant values for residents and visitors to Nhulunbuy as an area with designated sites for recreation. Many visitors value the sense of isolation and relish the beautiful land and seascapes of remote areas in the IPA. We are developing a range of interpretative displays and walks to promote greater cultural understanding through interpretation of Yolŋu beliefs for visitors of our lands.

This section explains how the Dhimurru permit system works and explains site-specific management and recreation rules.

2.1 Dhimurru IPA Access Permit System

We have developed an access permit system to help us manage the impacts of visitors who wish to enjoy our lands for recreation. All visitors must purchase access permits from the Dhimurru office (see contact details in Appendix 2). All visitors to the recreation areas must purchase a general permit. There are some areas where special permits are required in addition to general permits.

Access permit arrangements are now well accepted by the local resident community and currently provide approximately 10% of Dhimurru's operational budget. The access permit arrangements enable closure of areas for cultural reasons, for seasonal wildlife management reasons, such as the protection of turtle nesting sites, and when access track or site damage is occurring. A copy of the access permit conditions is available in Appendix 3.

Dhimurru rangers undertake regular patrols of the IPA to check that visitors have current access permits. For serious breaches of permit conditions, Dhimurru will revoke permits and will proceed to prosecution when circumstances are warranted.

2.1.1 General permits

All visitors to any recreation area require an access permit. This includes any location that is not within the town lease area, including town beaches. Access permits are issued by Dhimurru under the terms of the Northern Territory *Aboriginal Land Act 1980*. Access permits are available from the Dhimurru office, and the costs as of June 2008 are shown in Appendix 3.

2.1.2 Special permits

Access to the following areas of the Dhimurru IPA requires special permits: Ganami (Wonga Creek), Gapuru (Memorial Park), Manangaymi (Scout Camp) and Nandjaka (Cape Arnhem). These areas have specific management protocols and this information is provided with the purchase of special permits. This information is also described in Appendix 3

2.2 Visitor guidelines for Dhimurru IPA

The following are overarching guidelines that apply to all Dhimurru permits

	Stay on designated tracks – Uncontrolled vehicular access to sites in the past has resulted in significant damage to dune and littoral areas. Dhimurru's management has concentrated on defining preferred tracks and campsites. We close areas for cultural reasons, or because they are vulnerable to further damage. We request all visitors to stay on designated tracks.
	No swimming – We do not recommend swimming in any recreation area because all the fresh and salt water areas are known crocodile habitat
	Trail Bikes – Trail bikes are causing irreparable damage in areas of the Dhimurru IPA and traditional owners have been very concerned about their use. Although there have been some responsible trail bike users, unfortunately too many are leaving their marks and damage. We intend to restrict trail bikes in particularly sensitive areas
	No Shooting or Bow hunting – No shooting or bow hunting is allowed anywhere in the Dhimurru IPA

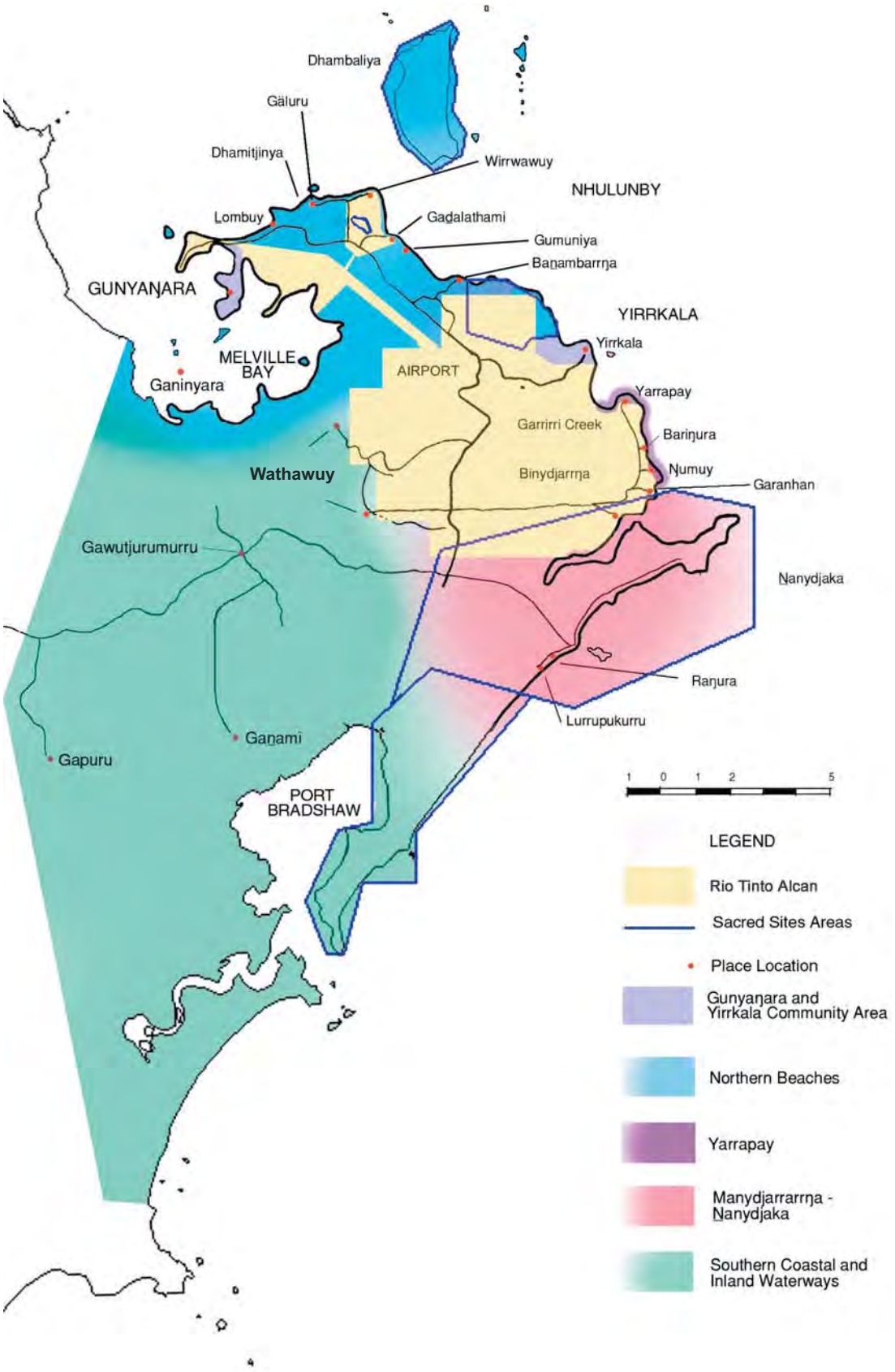
2.3 Site specific visitor guidelines

The first Dhimurru IPA Plan of Management established four management units as displayed in figure 2.3.1 below. These management areas are:

1. Northern beaches area
2. Yarrapay
3. Manydjarrarrŋa-Nanydjaka
4. Southern coastal and inland waterways

In each of these management areas, specific sites have their own visitor conditions and facilities. The following section sets out visitor management guidelines for specific sites within the management units. Each management unit has a map and a table identifying permitted visitor activities and restrictions.

2.3.1 Dhimurru IPA Management Units



2.3.2 Northern beaches management area

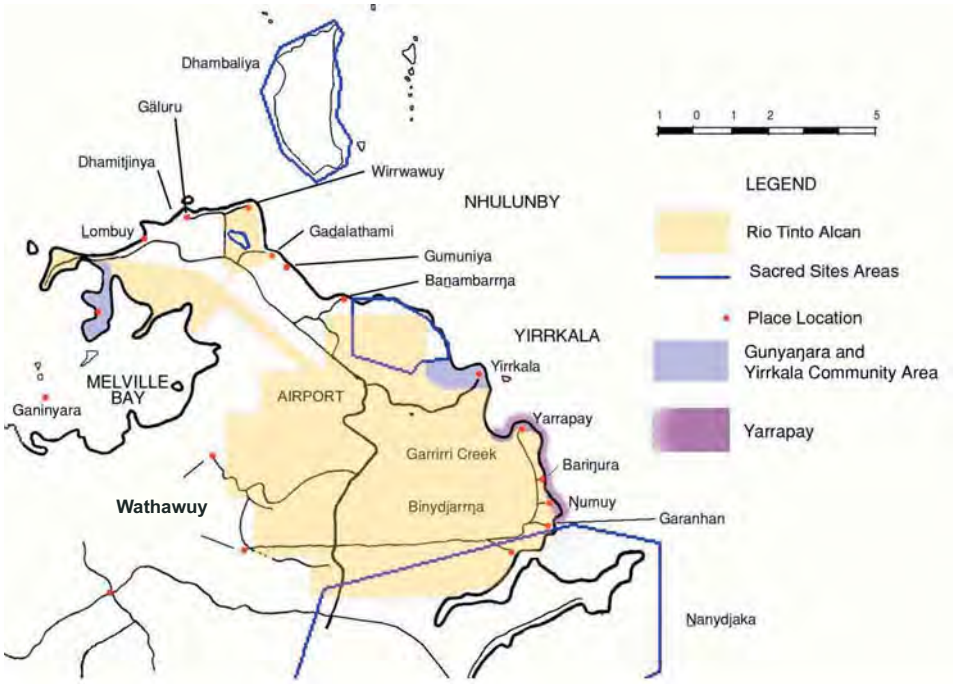
Locality map management unit 1: Northern Beaches

Visitor activities guide management area 1: Northern Beaches

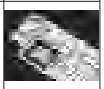
	Special Permit	Day Use	Camping	Fishing	4WD on designated tracks	Boat launching facilities	Nature Walking	Cultural interpretation
Ganinyara (Granite Islands)	×	✓	✓	✓	N/A	×	✓	×
Lombuy (Crocodile Creek)	×	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Dhamitjinya (East Woody Island)	×	✓	×	✓	N/A	×	✓	×
Gäluru (East Woody Beach)	×	✓	×	✓	N/A	✓	✓	×
Wirrwawuy (Cape Wirawawoi)	×	✓	×	✓	N/A	×	✓	×
Gadalathami (Town Beach)	×	✓	×	✓	N/A	×	✓	×
Gumuniya (Buffalo Creek)	×	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Banambarrṇa (Rainbow Cliffs)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Nhulun (Mt Saunders)	×	✓	×	N/A	N/A	×	✓	✓

2.3.3 Yarrapay management area

Locality map management unit 2 – Yarrapay

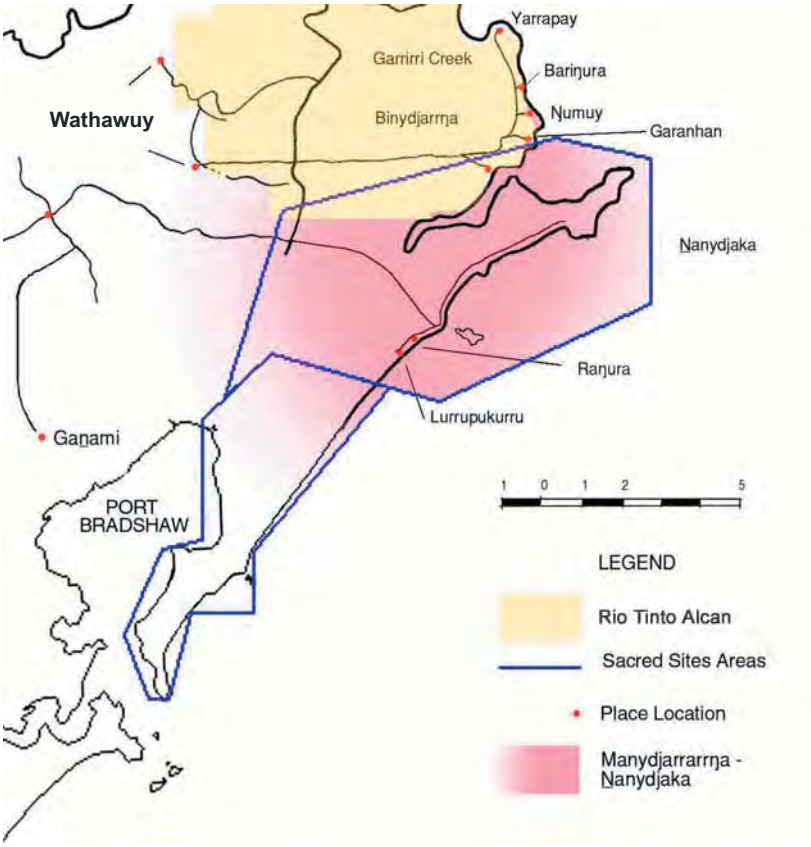


Visitor activities guide management area 2: Yarrapay

	Special Permit	Day Use	Camping	Fishing	4WD on designated tracks	Boat launching facilities	Nature Walking	Cultural interpretation
								
Garrirri Creek	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Yarrapay (Rocky Point)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Barinjura (Little Bondi Beach)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×

2.3.4 Manydjarrarrŋa-Nanydjaka (Wanuwuy) management area

Locality map management area 3: Manydjarrarrŋa-Nanydjaka

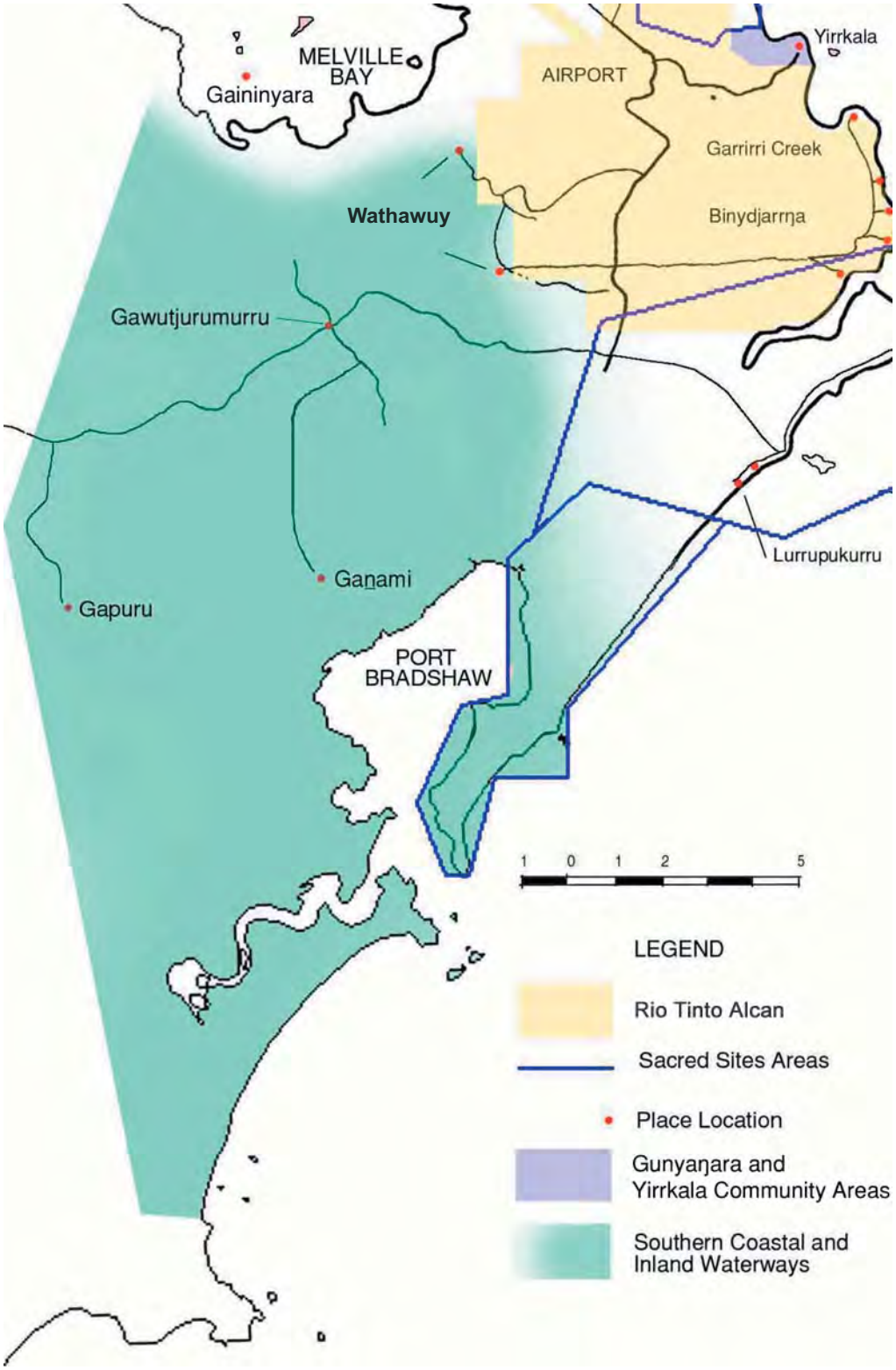


Visitor activities guide management area 3: Manydjarrŋa-Nanydjaka

	Special Permit	Day Use	Camping	Fishing	4WD on designated tracks	Boat launching facilities	Nature Walking	Cultural interpretation
Ŋumuy (Turtle Beach)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Garanhan (Macassan Beach)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
Binydjarrŋa (Daliwoi Bay)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Raŋura (Caves Beach)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Lurrpukurru (Oyster Beach)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×

2.3.5 Southern coastal and inland waterways management area

Locality map management unit 4: southern coastal and inland waterways



Visitor activities guide management area 4: southern coastal and inland waterways

	Special Permit	Day Use	Camping	Fishing	4WD on designated tracks	Boat launching facilities	Nature Walking	Cultural interpretation
Wathawuy (Latram River and Goanna Lagoon)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Gawutjurumurru (Giddy River/ Rockholes)	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Ganami (Wonga Creek)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Gapuru (Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×
Manaŋgaymi (Scout Camp)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×

Part 3: Management Focus, Objectives, Priorities and Actions

This section presents a brief summary of the focus and direction of our management activities as we move into the next seven years of our IPA. These activities are separated into eight key areas:

1. Managing country and heritage protection
2. Managing people
3. Wildlife protection, management and research
4. Sharing knowledge and public education
5. Training and staff development
6. Partnerships with others
7. Tourism and business development
8. Monitoring and evaluation

For each of these areas we identify our management objectives, specify actions and targets, assign priorities, provide advice on timing and identify some of our partners in tabular form. We also have two new program initiatives we are proud to work towards. These are noted below.

Establishing a Women's Ranger Program

One of our major priorities is to establish a women's ranger program, thus integration of the knowledge, skills and understandings of Yolŋu women beyond the committee and Wata Watangu and into Dhimurru's operations. In our culture, both women and men have important roles in caring for country. We look forward to collaborating with our partners to develop a robust women's program. The completion of our new Headquarters complex will provide opportunities to include women rangers as staff.

Establishing Homelands Based Rangers

Yolŋu traditional owners deeply value the opportunity to live on their remote country in homeland settlements. Living on outstations or Homelands as we call them has been shown to improve people's health and we feel strongly that living on Homelands improves the health of the country too. Dhimurru aims to support rangers to live at Homelands and to manage country from remote bases. We look forward to working with partners to develop appropriate support and resources for Homeland rangers.

3.1 Managing country and heritage protection

Managing country and protecting heritage is a key focus for our work in the next seven years. It is critical to recognise the link between managing country and protecting Yolŋu heritage values. There are extensive and all-embracing values throughout our IPA. We alone know the cultural significance of these lands and adjacent seas. Our land and sea are infused with significance and meaning; no part of the landscape is without heritage and cultural significance. We affirm, sustain and celebrate the network of meanings and significance through song, dance, art, hunting and gathering, rituals and regular visitation. These activities combine with the mainstream actions we describe below. Our challenge in the next seven years is to meet the increasing demands made on our country, to restore some areas, protect others and improve visitor facilities. Our focus is heritage site protection, restoring and improving recreation destinations, track restoration and maintenance.

Managing Country				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Maintain ceremonial and traditional heritage management obligations	Ensure appropriate ceremonial attendance for all Yolŋu staff	H	Ongoing	
Improve cultural heritage protection including the protection of specific heritage sites as identified by Landowners	Undertake a comprehensive assessment of heritage resources and a heritage site management plan	H	By Oct 08	
	Extend cultural site mapping with landowners	H	Ongoing	AAPA
	Access restriction with fencing signs and gates at Ba̱nambarrŋa, Gapuru, Yarrapay etc	H		PWSNT IHP
	Remove Yarrapay from permit area	H		
Maintain, restore and improve the condition and facilities of recreation destinations based on current and expected use	Develop a staged prioritised work plan for each recreation destination	H	By Dec 08	
	Install self composting toilets at - Daliwuy	H		
	Wanuwuy	M		
	Manaŋgaymi	M		
	Wathawuy	M		
	Gapuru	M		
	Restrict vehicle access to beaches (Guminiya, Bariŋura, Ŋumuy)	H	By 08	
	Rehabilitate and control erosion at the Wathawuy camping areas	H	By Oct 09	

Maintain, restore and improve the condition of access tracks	Update the track maintenance schedule	H	By Oct 08	Rio Tinto Alcan NTG
	Negotiate formal agreement with Alcan and the NTG re track maintenance	H	By Oct 08	Rio Tinto Alcan NTG
Improve and control parking at recreational destinations	Develop a car parking area at Bariŋura	M		
Maintain or improve control of weeds and feral animals	Revise the IPA weeds strategy	M	By Dec 09	PWCNT DPI
	Concentrate on dangerous high priority weeds, particularly perrenial mission grass	H	Ongoing	DPI
	Monitor buffalo and pig numbers and respond accordingly	M	Ongoing	
Continually review areas available for recreation by permit holders	Liaise with estate owners to define which areas should be designated as recreation areas	H	Ongoing	

3.2 Managing people

We have been using an access permit system to manage visitor access to our lands for many years. During the next seven years we aim to maintain and improve our access permit processing systems and achieve a greater level of permit compliance. Most local residents and visitors are enjoying recreation areas responsibly, purchasing general and special permits and acting respectfully on Yolŋu lands and seas. However, a small minority do not. Problems of unauthorised access, heritage site intrusion, hunting, illegal netting, vandalism, and rubbish dumping are of concern to us. We aim to improve our monitoring, surveillance and sanctioning procedures, including the development of by-laws with the PWCNT that will apply specifically to our IPA.

Managing People				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Improve surveillance, permit compliance and enforcement	Develop by-laws with the PWCNT under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Act	H	By July	PWCNT
	Increase patrols and follow up breaches of permit conditions	H	Ongoing	
	Clarify specific areas where access restrictions apply at Banambarrŋa	H H	By Dec 08	
	Other sites		Ongoing	
Improve permit processing and management	Develop and introduce automatic general permit renewal and payment on line	H	July 09	
	Review charges for permits in line with increased services and costs	H	Yearly	
	Increase and formalise arrangements for joint patrols with NT Police	H	ongoing	NT Police
	Complete and equip the new Dhimurru office and workshop complex	H	July 09	

3.3 Wildlife protection, management and research

We have undertaken a number of successful collaborative partnerships and projects in the last seven years to protect and to develop research about our wildlife. Our collaboration uses a 'both ways' approach, which refers to ways of working where both Yolŋu and mainstream intellectual traditions and practices contribute to policy formulation, governance and practice. These projects include turtle and dugong management, turtle recovery and ghost net removal, crazy ant eradication, marine debris removal, quoll relocation, bandicoot surveys, crocodile management, and management of the Gove crow butterfly. Over the next seven years we aim to extend wildlife and habitat surveys, mapping, and monitoring, further explore and develop 'both ways' approaches to management, manage and protect vulnerable species and habitats and encourage cooperative partnerships in research and management practice.

Wildlife Protection, management and research				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Increase the use of Yolŋu scientific knowledge, skills and understandings to better manage country and wildlife	Record Yolŋu natural and cultural resource management (NCRM) knowledge of senior custodians	H	Ongoing	
	Run 'both-ways' workshops with IPA Landowners	M	One per year	NRETA/ PWSNT
	Help with workshops run by Yambirrpa schools	H	As per YSC schedule	YSC
Extend wildlife surveys, mapping and monitoring	Undertake follow up faunal survey of Wanuwuy	M	By July 2009	NRETA
	Develop a schedule of collaborative research with partners	M	By Dec 08	NRETA PWSNT CDU BIITE
	Complete the marine habitat survey and mapping project	H	By Dec 08	NRETA PWSNT
Extend habitat survey, mapping and monitoring		M		
Continue to align activities with national policy directions and guidelines		M	Ongoing	
Ensure appropriate research planning, practice and evaluation	Ensure adherence to the NAILSMA research guidelines and Dhimurru protocols	H	Ongoing	
Improve and protect habitat	Seasonally close areas depending on weather and breeding cycles	H	Ongoing	

3.4 Sharing knowledge and public education

Dhimurru remains committed to sharing our country with others so they may enjoy identified locations for recreation and enjoyment and feel welcome and safe on our lands and seas. It is important to us that visitors are able to learn about the Yolŋu natural and cultural world and understand a little about Yolŋu land and sea ownership, rights and responsibilities.

Our objectives are to update and improve our signage and interpretive displays and to extend our public education programs, including investigating the establishment of a junior ranger program. We aim also to improve the recording, storage and management of Yolŋu knowledge by establishing relationships with the Mulka Centre at Buku Larrŋgay Arts Centre.

Sharing knowledge and public education				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Review, update and improve signage in the IPA	Review all signs and update a register of all signs	H	By Mar 09	
	Replace degraded signs	M	By Dec 09 ongoing	
	Complete erecting the IPA, sacred sites, crocodile warning and litter signs	H	By June 09 ongoing	
	Erect activity directing signs at recreation destinations	M		
Update and improve information and interpretive displays	Update the Dhimurru visitors guide	M	By April 10	

	Produce a general 'pre visit' brochure on Dhimurru permit conditions	M	By Dec 09	
	Update Dhimurru special permit information	M	By Dec 10	
	Complete display in new Dhimurru office complex	H	June 09	
	Seek upgrade of the display at the Gayŋuru bird hide	M	By Dec 11	PWCNT
	Provide visitor information at the airport/Arnhem Rd junction	M	By June 09	
Maintain and extend public education programs and publicity	Produce a regular bi-monthly article for the Arafura Times	M	Ongoing	
	Continue to produce articles for national and international newspapers and journals	M	Ongoing	
	Continue production of promotional CD's and DVD's	M	Ongoing	
	Continue to develop programs and presentations for schools	H	Ongoing	
	Survey the opinions of residents and visitors regarding Dhimurru's operations	M	By Dec 09	CDU, BIITE
	Introduce camp fire talks for residents and visitors	L		PWCNT
Introduce a junior ranger program	Assess resource implications and PWCNT availability	L		PWCNT
Improve knowledge management systems	Establish arrangements with the Mulka Centre to store, protect and make available important resources	H	By July 09	
Develop a Cultural Centre as an extension to the new Dhimurru headquarters complex	Investigate and plan development of the cultural centre	L		

3.5 Training and staff development

Training and staff development are critical to Dhimurru's continued success. We recognise the importance of both Yolŋu and mainstream intellectual traditions to our work. Knowledge and skills from the Yolŋu world must be combined with those from mainstream environmental resource management practice in the work of Yolŋu Rangers. This is a unique and developing role and we require support and flexibility from our primary education and training providers Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) and Charles Darwin University (CDU) to continue to expand and explore this role. A major priority for Dhimurru is to establish a women's ranger program, thus integrating the knowledge and skills of Yolŋu women at Dhimurru's operational level. This program will be developed with a training focus. We also seek to establish opportunities for our rangers to be based on Homelands within the IPA. Our overall objectives are to increase formal training levels and to ensure that flexible, achievable career pathways are available for Dhimurru Yolŋu staff. Through training, we seek to extend output and efficiency and ensure that we have succession arrangements in place.

Training and staff development				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Extend the Yolŋu ranger staff to include women	Investigate and implement a women's ranger program	H	Dec 10	BIITE CDU DEWHA
Extend and facilitate cultural learning and reinforce its importance	Encourage obligatory ceremonial attendance and clarify protocols	H	ongoing	
	Implement 'both ways' workshops	M		
	Contribute to programs at Yambirrpa schools	H		
Extend formal training and career planning	Include participation in training as essential criteria for employment	H	ongoing	BIITE CDU
	Develop personal career and training pathways for all staff to ensure succession by junior staff to senior positions	H	By Dec 08 ongoing	BIITE CDU
	Clarify the training pathways for Yolŋu CNRM staff	H	By July 09	BIITE CDU
Extend work output and efficiency	Develop a policies, procedures and delegations manual, linking staff structure, duties and contract requirements	H	By July 08	
	Develop yearly project and work plans	H	By April 08 Ongoing	BIITE
	Develop detailed task specific work programs and reporting procedures and build into formal training programs, include vehicle and tool maintenance	H	By April 09 Ongoing	BIITE CDU
	Build a training component into all collaborative research projects	H	Ongoing	NRETA PWCNT CSIRO CDU BIITE
	Arrange Compliance and enforcement training to support the introduction of by-laws	H	By Dec 10	PWSNT CDU
Develop Homelands ranger bases within the Dhimurru IPA	Discuss with estate owners to consider remote based rangers at the Homelands of Dhambaliya and Dhanaya and initiate associated planning	L		

3.6 Partnerships with others

Our commitment to partnership continues in this plan. Partnerships sustain our work at Dhimurru. By extending and strengthening partnerships we seek to build and develop mutual commitment and ownership with our partners. This includes partnerships between Yolŋu and Ŋapaki, between young and old, with Yolŋu and government agencies, educational institutions, research organisations, non government organisations and with the business and corporate world. We intend to build and strengthen these partnerships.

Partnerships with others				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Extend and strengthen partnerships with major NCRM agencies	Maintain, strengthen and extend partnership arrangements, service agreements, and MOU's	H	ongoing	Aust Govt PWCNT NRETA CSIRO NLC Yolŋu Associations Gamarrwa Nuwul YYF
	Develop formal agreement (including a revised section 73) with the PWCNT relating to by-law introduction	H	By Dec 10	PWCNT
Extend and strengthen partnerships with business and enterprise	Extend and develop formal service agreements with Rio Tinto Alcan, the Nhulunbuy Corporation and local businesses	H	ongoing	Rio Tinto Alcan
Extend and strengthen partnerships with Yolŋu partners	Maintain, strengthen and extend partnership arrangements, service agreements, and MOUs, particularly in relation to new and emerging off lease mining agreements	H	ongoing	NLC Yolŋu Associations Gamarrwa Nuwul YYF

3.7 Tourism and business development

Running tourism projects is an activity for Landowners, families and Yolŋu associations. Dhimurru's role is to strongly support Yolŋu tourism projects that are culturally, ecologically and economically sustainable. In the next seven years Dhimurru will provide environmental and cultural impact assessments and facilitate training, and represent Yolŋu in regional tourism forums.

Tourism and Business Development				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Support culturally, ecologically and economically sustainable tourism activity	Provide environmental and cultural assessment advice to Landowners, Yolŋu families and associations	H	Ongoing	
	Continue the facilitation of tourism training	H	Ongoing	
	Actively support existing Garma festival, Bawaka experience and emerging tourism projects	H	Ongoing	
	Continue representation at local, regional and Northern Territory tourism forums	M	Ongoing	

3.8 Monitoring and Evaluation and Forward Planning

It is very important for us to measure our progress in a systematic way that produces clear evidence about our activities and progress. This will enable us to see how we are going, improve our practice, report accurately to our directors and partners and justify our funding applications. It will support our intention to develop more formal planning processes with our partners.

Monitoring and Evaluation				
Management Objectives	**Actions/Targets**	**Priority**	**Timing**	**Partners**
Improve systematic and ongoing review and evaluation processes	Develop a regular reflective review process that involves all our team	H	March 08 ongoing	
	Develop data capturing processes that are integrated with our work as far as possible	M		
	Investigate and modify the World Bank/WWF management effectiveness site tracking tool for use biannually	M		
Improve forward planning and coordination with partners	Liaise with and seek input from partners regarding projects and plans	H	By Feb each year	
	Conduct a yearly planning workshop with partners	H	By end Feb each year	

Part 4: Conclusion

This plan is an important document. It restates our vision and our values and sets the direction we will head in the next seven years. It celebrates the progress we have made in caring for our culture, our kin and our country through our natural and cultural resource management programs. The plan shows our commitment to Yolŋu-driven partnerships where our Yolŋu knowledge and skills can combine with the best natural and cultural resource management expertise available. We identify eight management objectives with actions, priorities, timing and potential partners in seven areas. These are:

1. Managing country and heritage protection
2. Managing people
3. Wildlife protection, management and research
4. Sharing knowledge and public education
5. Training and staff development
6. Partnership with others
7. Tourism and business development
8. Monitoring and evaluation and forward planning

In the next seven years we will progress to a new level in achieving the sustainable management of our lands and sea, in providing valuable employment, and in showing a model of Yolŋu leadership. We look forward to developing a women's ranger program and Homeland rangers in the near future. We undertake this work honouring the memory and vision of our elders

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Appendix 1: IUCN Guidelines for Protected Area Management Category 5

Category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

Definition

Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

Objectives of Management: Guidance for Selection

- to maintain the harmonious interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and the continuation of traditional land uses, building practices and social and cultural manifestations
- to support lifestyles and economic activities which are in harmony with nature and the preservation of the social and cultural fabric of the communities concerned
- to maintain the diversity of landscape and habitat, and of associated species and ecosystems
- to eliminate where necessary, and thereafter prevent, land uses and activities which are inappropriate in scale and/or character
- to provide opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the areas
- to encourage scientific and educational activities which will contribute to the long term well-being of resident populations and to the development of public support for the environmental protection of such areas and
- to bring benefits to, and to contribute to the welfare of, the local community through the provision of natural products (such as forest and fisheries products) and services (such as clean water or income derived from sustainable forms of tourism)

The area should possess a landscape and/or coastal and island seascape of high scenic quality, with diverse associated habitats, flora and fauna along with manifestations of unique or traditional land-use patterns and social organisations as evidenced in human settlements and local customs, livelihoods, and beliefs.

The area should provide opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within its normal lifestyle and economic activities.

Organisational Responsibility

The area may be owned by a public authority, but is more likely to comprise a mosaic of private and public ownership operating a variety of management regimes. These regimes should be subject to a degree of planning or other control and supported, where appropriate, by public funding and other incentives, to ensure that the quality of the landscape/seascape and the relevant local customs and beliefs are maintained in the long term.

Appendix 2: Dhimurru contact details

Dhimurru
PO Box 1551
Nnhulunbuy NT 0881

Ph: 08 8987 3992
Fax: 08 8987 3224

Email: nhamirri@dhimurru.com.au
Web: www.dhimurru.com.au

Appendix 3: Dhimurru Access Permit Conditions

Access Permit Information

Recreation Permits

This access permit is issued by Dhimurru under the provisions of the Aboriginal Land Act 1980, N.T. covering all destinations designated as recreation areas as listed in point 1 of the special conditions. It is issued subject to:

- General Conditions listed on the back of the permit
- Special Conditions listed on the attached sheet
- Payment of $110 annual fee for families, a $60 annual fee for individuals a $35 fee per adult for a 2 month visitor permit, and $20 per adult for a short stay (7 days) visitor permit including GST
- A senior pension concession and a student concession of 50% applies

Yirrkala Area Permits

Permits for Shady Beach, Rocky Bay beach and creek and the Yirrkala boat ramp are issued by the Yirrkala Dhanbul Council. Applications should be made to the *Yirrkala Dhanbul Office* during business hours.

Special Permits

Special permission can be sought through Dhimurru to visit Wonga Creek (Ganami), Memorial Park (Gapuru) and Cape Arnhem (Wanuwuy). These areas are subject to restricted access regulated by a booking system. An additional fee will be levied for the processing of these permits at the cost of $20 per car per visit, including GST.

Special Permits are also required for access to (Manangaymi) Scout Camp and Cato River. These areas are also subject to restricted access regulated by a booking system through the Dhimurru Office. An additional fee will be levied for the processing of these permits.

Permission to visit Homeland communities (including Islands) and non recreation permit areas must be sought through the *Northern Land Council* office in Nhulunbuy. Up to two weeks notice may be required to process these requests.

Nhulunbuy/katherine Track Permits and Work Permits

These permits continue to be issued by the *Northern Land Council*.

Barrkira Homeland

To book a camp site/boat hire, contact Rio Tinto Alcan's Community Affairs Department 8987 5308 or 8987 5348.

General Conditions for Permits

1. This permit may be revoked at short notice during road closures for ceremonial and/or cultural maintenance activities.
2. This permit does not authorise entry to any buildings, dwellings or living areas or camps without the consent of the owner or occupier.
3. The permit may be revoked at any time in accordance with sections 5 and 6 of the Aboriginal Land Act.
4. The issue of the permit does not serve as notice of your visit to traditional owners and residents of the area of Aboriginal land to be visited.
5. This permit is only valid for the purposes stated herein. Unless otherwise stated in the permit, work or commercial activities or business negotiations of any kind are not to be carried out on Aboriginal land.
6. This permit must be carried at all times by the holder whilst on Aboriginal Land or seas adjoining, or produced for inspection on demand by the NT Police, officers of the Land Council and traditional Aboriginal owners of the land.
7. The carrying and consumption of alcohol may be prohibited in some areas under Part VII of the Liquor Act. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ascertain whether alcohol is prohibited in the areas he/she is to travel through and visit.
8. This permit does not entitle the holder to enter or remain on any Aboriginal sacred site or site of significance, other than Ngumuy, Garanhan, Daliwuy Bay and Nhulun. A special permit is available from Dhimurru Land Management for access to Nanydjaka (Cape Arnhem). Art and/or archaeological sites must not be disturbed or interfered with.
9. Motor vehicles and boats must be in a satisfactory condition and reasonable spare parts, food, fuel and water must be carried.
10. Permit holders must travel directly to their destination and not divert. No new tracks are to be created.
11. All rubbish and litter is to be disposed of in places provided expressly for that purpose (if any) or removed from Aboriginal land (prior to disposal).
12. The permit holder must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the introduction or spread of exotic fauna (such as cane toads) and exotic flora, including cleaning vehicles and equipment prior to and when travelling within Aboriginal land.
13. This permit does not authorise the taking of (wild) animals onto Aboriginal land.
14. This permit does not authorise the cutting of trees or removal of flora from Aboriginal land, or disturbance to the environment including to wildlife, vegetation, water and soils.
15. This permit does not authorise fishing, hunting or swimming or the use of boats on closed seas.
16. The permit holder shall not carry any firearms nor shoot or discharge firearms.
17. In respecting the right to privacy of traditional owners, photography, cinematography, video or sound recording for commercial purposes is prohibited, unless authorised by a further permit/film agreement with the Northern Land Council. In respecting traditional ownership of imagery, the permit holder is prohibited from photographing or otherwise recording traditional imagery, songs, stories or other cultural material.
18. Feral animal operations may be in progress over areas travelled through or visited. The permit holder must observe all signs carrying warnings and must comply with all reasonable directions of Land Council or Dhimurru officers in respect of entry into those areas.
19. Gates are to be left open or closed as found.
20. The permit holder must comply with all laws in force in the Northern Territory of Australia at all times.
21. The permit holder enters Aboriginal Land at his or her own risk and agrees to undertake and bear all risk. The permit holder agrees that the Northern Land Council, Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation, and the relevant Aboriginal Land Trust shall not be under any liability of any kind to the permit holder whether in negligence, under statute or otherwise, in respect of death, injury, loss or damage of any kind whatsoever and howsoever arising and which occurs during or as result of entry upon the said land.

IMPORTANT! READ CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT BEFORE SIGNING.

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