

GLOSSARY

Abstraction	Refers to the extraction of water.
Acid sulphate soils	Naturally occurring soil and sediment containing iron sulphides. These soils are naturally waterlogged and whilst undisturbed do not pose a risk. When exposed to atmospheric oxygen sulphuric acid is generated which can then leach acid and mobilise heavy metals from the soil.
Adaptive Management	Assumes that often knowledge about management of the environment/natural resources is incomplete or imperfect and therefore requires that the best known course of action is adopted and that rigorous monitoring and progress is evaluated to modify and improve management actions when necessary. This model assumes that the learning from these projects is shared so that all land managers can benefit from implementing improved management approaches. Adaptive management also precludes irreversible actions being undertaken, given the experimental nature of adaptive management.
Aquifer	Area of porous rock or soil below ground that contains water. Aquifers come in all sizes (from a few hectares to thousands of square kilometres) and vary depending on the nature of the rock type.
Aspirational targets	These targets represent the vision of the community for the desired condition of the Northern Territory natural resources in the longer term (eg 50+ years).
Assemblages	Recognisable grouping or collection of individuals or organisms.
Aquatic Biota Index	The aquatic biota index represents the response of macro-invertebrates to changes in the environment. The index is based on extensive national sampling of aquatic macro-invertebrates collected by State/Territory agencies under the National River Health Program.
Ballast water	Water carried in tanks to maintain stability when a ship is lightly loaded; normally discharged to sea when the ship is loaded with cargo.
Beneficial Uses	Community derived water quality objectives declared under the <i>Water Act 1992</i>
Benthos (benthic)	All aquatic organisms living upon or in the sediment of aquatic systems.
Best Management Practice	The best practicable methods that reflect current knowledge of meeting management objectives such as sustainable development
Bilateral Agreement	An agreement signed between two parties – usually the Commonwealth of Australia and a state/territory Government. The Commonwealth of Australia and the Northern Territory have signed a Bilateral Agreement to deliver the Natural Heritage Trust in the Northern Territory (2003)
Biodiversity	The variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. It is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.
Biodiversity hotspot	Biodiversity hotspots are areas rich in plant and animal species, particularly many endemic species, and under immediate threat from impacts such as land clearing, development pressures, salinity, weeds and feral animals.
Biogeographic Region	A biogeographic region, or IBRA region, is a region in which boundaries are determined by vegetation cover, and the earth's physical features and climate.
Bioregion	A landscape classification based on a range of environmental attributes. The Northern Territory has 25 bioregions, based on groupings of regions with similar geology, landform, soils and vegetation.
Biosecurity	Refers to a set of measures designed to protect the land from harmful pests, diseases, weeds and unwanted animals.

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Capacity	Refers to individuals, landholders, communities, industry and organisations' collection of skills and knowledge and the ability to implement natural resource management.
Catchment	The source area for runoff flowing to a particular point
CAR reserve system	A system of protected areas that address comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR) of all its component ecosystems.
Chenier ridges	Natural barriers occurring within the coastal zone that represent past shorelines. They form as a result of changes in the depositional environment.
Condition	The current state of ecosystem compared to what would be considered pristine.
Conservation	The protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.
Conservation Status	The extent to which ecosystems remain in their natural condition in relation to their pre-European distribution.
Conservation Tillage	A system where tillage is reduced to the minimum required to achieve a suitable environment for plant establishment. Conservation tillage can reduce erosion and improve soil structure, improve infiltration and moisture efficiency, improve soil health and nutrient retention.
Co-operative management	Management that recognises and integrates the varying knowledge and approaches of different stakeholders.
Declared Weed	Invasive plant species listed under the Weeds of National Significance or declared under the NT <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>
Degraded	Represents a reduction in the quality of a resource.
Developed	Refers to an area that has been modified beyond its natural state.
Dryland salinity	The process where salts are moved upwards by rising water tables where they accumulate in the soil or are discharged into streams.
Ecologically Invasive Plants	"...weeds that have less direct impacts on humans but are detrimental to the conservation of natural resources. ...They include plants that adversely affect the integrity, conservation value or biodiversity of natural systems." (ANZECC & ARMCANZ 1999, p.7) (includes species on the National Environmental Alert List see Appendix 4x)
Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) Ecosystem	Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and into the future, can be increased A unique unit comprising a recognisable floristic composition in combination with substrate (lithology/geology layers) and position within the landscape, and including the component biota (where known). An ecosystem map unit should normally be discriminated at a scale of 1:100,000 to 1:250,000.
Ecosystem Function	Ecosystem function is linked to landscape integrity. It encompasses services of nature (ecosystem services), such as soil generation and soil fertility, pollination, control of the vast majority of potential insect pests, water filtration and hydrological balance, and drives the productivity of the land. An adequately functioning ecosystem is vital to achieve this productivity.
Endangered	A native species or ecosystem facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future if causal factors continue operating – listed as endangered or critically endangered under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.
Endemic	Originating in a given area and confined to that area.
Environmental indicator	Physical, chemical, biological or socio-economic measures that can be used to assess natural resources and environmental quality.
Erosion hazard	The susceptibility of an area of land to the agents of erosion such as wind and water. Erosion hazard is dependent on a combination of climate, landform, soil, land use and land management factors. See erosion risk.
Erosion risk	The intrinsic susceptibility of an area of land to the agents of erosion such as wind and water. Erosion risk is dependent on a combination of climate,

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	land form and soil characteristics. As opposed to erosion hazard, land use or management factors are not considered in determining erosion risk.
Exotics	Introduced or alien plant or animal.
Exotic Marine Pest	Any species not normally considered to occur, and that may or may not be present, in Australia's marine environment.
Feral Animal	Feral animals are those listed as such under the <i>Territory Parks and Conservation Act 2001</i> . They are animals that have established themselves in the Territory, despite not being indigenous and whose presence cannot be easily controlled.
Fire regimes	Are the set of natural or induced, appropriate or inappropriate, fires that have occurred within a defined region over a given period of time. Fire regimes include the frequency of fires, the intensity of individual fires, seasons of their occurrences, patchiness of their occurrences over the region and the time elapsed since the last fire.
Groundwater	Water that soaks into the ground and is stored in cavities and cracks in the rock layers and between particles of rock and sand.
Ground water dependent ecosystems	Groundwater dependent ecosystems are communities of plants, animals and other organisms whose extent and life processes are dependent on groundwater.
Groundwater Management Unit	Eight areas defined as major aquifer systems for the management of groundwater under the National Land and Water Resources Audit. These are also gazetted Water Control Districts
Habitat	The natural environment in which plants or animals exist.
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia; a framework delineating "natural" regions or "landscape patter" in each State and Territory which reflects the biophysical, environmental and vegetation factors (eg climate, lithology, landform, vegetation, flora and fauna and land use).
Integrated Property management plan	Enables primary producers and land managers to make balanced and holistic management decisions that assist in secure long-term sustainability and viability. Takes into account weeds, fire, ferals, biodiversity, strong productive pastures, animal production and land condition.
Investment Strategy	A business plan or prospectus that sets out the suite of proposed activities for which the Landcare Council of the Northern Territory will seek investment (through the Natural Heritage Trust and funding programs) to meet the targets established in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.
Irrigation salinity	Groundwater recharge is increased by the removal of native vegetation and the addition of irrigation water. When water tables approach the surface, salt builds up by evaporative concentration and soil salinity can result.
JSC	Joint Steering Committee – made up of members of the NT and Commonwealth governments whose responsibility is to oversee their governmental obligations under NHT and NAP.
Land resources	Includes the physical characteristics of land such as landform and soils, and the uses including agricultural, forestry, extractive industries, native harvesting, urban and recreational uses.
Land capability	The ability of land to accept a type and intensity of use permanently, or for specified periods under specified management, without permanent damage.
Land degradation	The decline in quality, including the capability, of natural land resources, commonly caused through improper use.
Land Use	Refers to the type of activity conducted on a parcel of land. Examples of land use include pastoralism or conservation.
Landscape Health	Represents the overall condition of a landscape and is made by comparing the current state of the landscape against a baseline or reference point. The assessment can be based on a series of indicators including native vegetation, land use, soil and hydrology, weeds, feral animals, threatened ecosystems and species.
Landscape Integrity	The extent to which the natural surroundings contribute to the original

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	integrity of the landscape. The term includes the original character, context and range of processes that link the various landscape systems. It provides a measure of how landscape systems are maintained, along with the natural nutrient cycles, energy flows and hydrology. Landscape integrity also provides a measure that encompasses a range of impacts associated with human activities in the Region.
Land suitability	The potential uses of the land based upon consideration of prevailing physical, technical and socio-economic conditions.
LCNT	Landcare Council of the Northern Territory, the regional body responsible for the development and implementation of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
Management Action Target	Targets relating to short term (1-5 years) management actions and capacity building needed to meet resource condition targets in the medium term.
Marine Pest	Any exotic marine species, that may pose a threat to Australia's marine environment or industry, if introduced, established or translocated.
Monitoring	Measuring changes in the quality of the environment in order to guide changes of policy or activity and in order to detect improvements as a result of actions taken.
Off reserve Outcome	All lands not currently with a gazetted protected area. Aspirational statement about the long term results, in terms of improving natural resource condition and addressing key natural resource management issues.
Project Program	A discrete set of tasks undertaken by proponents. A stream of funding, such as the Bushcare, Coastcare, Landcare and Rivercare Programs under the Natural Heritage Trust.
Protected area	An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means (IUCN 1994).
Ramsar Wetland	Wetland declared a being of International Importance under the Convention of Wetlands, signed in Ramsar in 1971.
Recharge	Refers to the process of which surface water enters the soil and moves beyond the root zone of plants to join the groundwater layer.
Regional ecosystems	Ecosystems, or a unique unit mapped at some appropriate scale, comprising a recognisable floristic composition in combination with substrate (lithology/geology layers) and position in the landscape, and including their component biota.
Rehabilitation	The treatment of degraded or disturbed land to achieve an agreed level of capability and stability, preferably at least equal to that which existed prior to degradation or disturbance.
Representativeness	The principle that those areas that are selected for inclusion in protected areas reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of the ecosystems from which they derive.
Resource Condition Targets	These targets define the desired condition of the Northern Territory natural resources in the medium term (10 to 20 years). Governments have specified a minimum set of 'matters for targets' for setting resource condition targets in all regions. These targets must be achievable, specific, time bound and measurable.
Riparian vegetation	Vegetation belonging to a river bank and located from the normal river level to the edge of the floodplain.
Sediment	Material that is being or has been removed from its original site by the action of wind, water or gravity.
Soil erosion	The detachment and transportation of soil and its deposition at another site by wind, water or gravitational effects. Accelerated soil erosion occurs primarily as a result of the influence of human activities.
Soil health	Considers all aspects of soil collectively, including physical structure, chemical components and biological life.
Sustainable Yield	The highest rate at which a renewable resource can be harvested without

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Strategic activity	reducing its available supply A group of projects or tasks to be undertaken to work towards achieving a Management Action Target
Surface Water Management Areas	Forty areas defined for the management of surface waters under the National Land and Water Resources Audit.
Target	The anticipated results or achievements of the Plan – a measurable outcome or goal. Targets are specific, measurable, achievable, repeatable and time-bound.
Threatened species or ecological community	A species or ecological community that is vulnerable, endangered or presumed extinct. Ecological community is the living component of an ecosystem.
Threatening processes	Limiting factors that threaten, or may threaten, the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community.
Unincorporated Area	Forty six areas defined for the management of groundwater under the National Land and Water Resources Audit, outside of groundwater management units.
Vegetation condition	A measure of the quality of vegetation. It is usually measured against a baseline or reference point.
Viability	The likelihood of long-term survival of the example/population of a particular ecosystem or species.
Vulnerability	The predisposition of an area to a threatening process. Vulnerability can be expressed in terms of 1. the likelihood of an area being affected by the process; or 2. the timeframe over which the area will be affected. Threatening processes could potentially include land clearing, logging and rising saline water tables. Vulnerability is a fundamental consideration in conservation planning given that the basic purpose of conservation areas is to separate elements of biodiversity from processes that threaten their persistence in situ.
Vulnerable	Species or ecosystems subject to vulnerability and believed likely to move into the ‘endangered’ category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating and listed as such under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.
Water Control Districts	Districts declared under the Water Act in areas where there is a need for closer management to avoid stressing of groundwater reserves, river flows or wetlands.
Water dependent ecosystems	Refer to wetlands, rivers, swamps, marshes, riparian zones, billabongs and groundwater dependent ecosystems.
Wetlands	Water bodies including swamps, marshes, billabongs, lakes, salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, fens, peat lands, or bodies of water - whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary.