



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Bushfires NT Scientist to Attend International Fire Congress

Bushfires NT scientific officer Cameron Yates is set to attend next month's Third International Fire Ecology and Management Congress in San Diego.

Mr Yates will present a paper titled *Savanna Fires - Size Does Matter* as part of the congress.

"The Tropical Savanna of Australia has some of the world's largest fires, I will investigate the size and frequency of these fires and the implications this may have on fauna with small home ranges," Mr Yates said.

"Large tropical savanna fires devastate enormous tracts of land, thus reducing the food sources and habitats available to small mammals.

"I will also be showing that burns at the start of the dry season tend to be smaller and patchier in nature than fires towards the end of the year, therefore having a less detrimental effect on such animals.

"This paper will describe the area of fires mapped from satellite imagery and examine seasonal aspects of burning during a nine year period for the Top End from 1997 to 2005 inclusive.

"I will highlight the large scale of fires in the tropics and put it into a global context."

Mr Yates said the biannual conference enabled him to exhibit the ground breaking satellite mapping and ecological work undertaken by Bushfires NT.

He said attending the conference also provided him with the chance to create networks with other scientists and strengthen those networks already in place.

"While I haven't been to this particular conference before, I have been to others, which were great because we all get to learn from one another," Mr Yates said.

"This is an ideal forum to both further promote the work being undertaken in the NT and gain valuable networks within the global fire management and scientific communities.

"I aim to further establish world wide networks with scientists and managers undertaking similar work to significantly enhance fire management in the Northern Territory, through the exchange of ideas and concepts."

The congress is being held from 13-17 November.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Cameron Yates on 8944 8483**

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