

FOREWORD

Mangrove ecosystems are important habitats for a broad range of marine and terrestrial organisms. Mangroves also promote coastal stabilisation, and provide a natural barrier against storms, cyclonic events and other potentially damaging natural phenomena.

The Northern Territory Government has funded a number of scientific studies into mangroves to improve our knowledge of these important ecosystems. Such studies include mangrove mapping, the assessment of mangrove productivity, the establishment of a mangrove monitoring network within Darwin Harbour and the clarification of the link between mangrove productivity and fisheries resources.

Improving our scientific understanding of mangroves will play an important part in the ongoing management of our coastal ecosystems. This current approach will conserve the ecological balance that is required to maintain the integrity of marine eco-systems in which mangroves play such a vital role. It will also ensure that the Northern Territory is recognised as a significant leader in the management of mangrove ecosystems.

This report provides a direction for the research and management of mangrove ecosystems in the Northern Territory.



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ABBREVIATIONS

DBIRD	Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development
DIPE	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment
NHT	National Heritage Trust
NTCMCG	NT Coastal and Marine Co-ordination Group
NTU	Northern Territory University
PWCNT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (of DIPE)