

Wet-season burning in Kakadu National Park: Bininj/Mungguy perspectives



National Environmental Science Program

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Traditional Owners in Kakadu sought documentation of Bininj/Mungguy views on wet-season burning to inform a future fire strategy

- Wet-season burning can help manage extreme dry-season wildfires, yet there is little documentation of its customary and contemporary uses. There are also no fire management plans stipulating its use in the jointly-managed park.
- Through interviews with 17 Bininj/Mungguy, we documented knowledge, experiences, and aspirations on the practice.
- We also mapped recent fire activity by Bininj/Mungguy and Parks Australia.



Fire strategy essentials

- Prioritise precise, small-scale, ground-lit fires.
- Promote collaborative, collective efforts that draw on available expertise and resources.
- Retain Traditional Owner authority over the process.

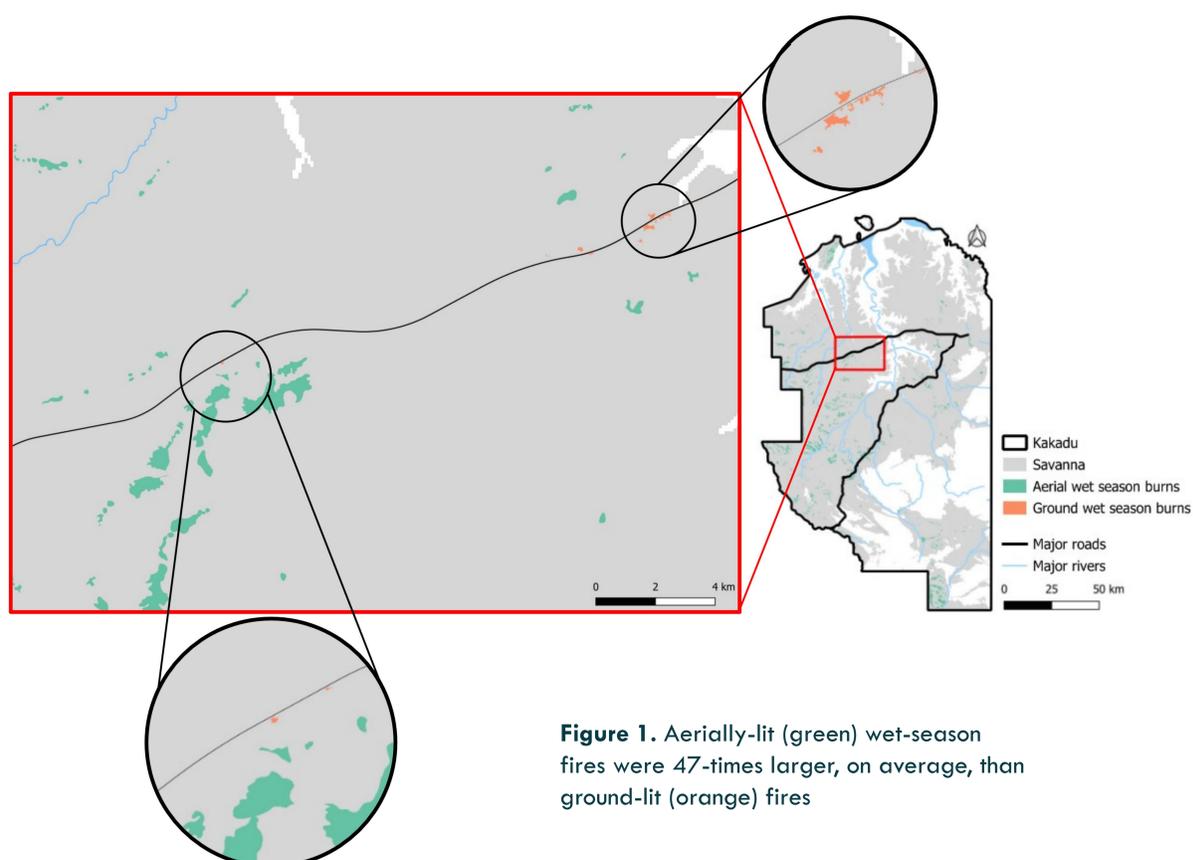


Table 1. Number of times different plant species were noted as indicators informing when to start, matters requiring special care to avoid harming, and signs of a successful wet-season burn

	Start	Care	Success
Grass & shrub 	13	10	11
Vine & herb 	4	2	3
Tree & palm 	.	.	2
Mammal 	1	4	6
Reptile 	.	1	4
Bird 	1	3	3
Invertebrate 	.	1	.