



WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?

The Kimberley is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot. The Kimberley is home to a number of species not found anywhere else in the world.



Rough-scaled Python *Morelia carinata*
Only found on the Mitchell Plateau

Many species found in the Kimberley were once common in other areas of Australia. Now the Kimberley or islands are the only place they can be found.



Golden Bandicoot *Isoodon auratus*
Once common throughout WA.

New species are still regularly being found in the Kimberley. Three new frog species have been discovered in the last 2 years!



Chattering Rock Frog *Litoria staccato*
Discovered 2007—Grotto near Wyndham

- Biodiversity is declining worldwide. Many wildlife species are already in decline in the Kimberley.
- 76 years after introduction to the Australian environment the impact of cane toads on wildlife is relatively unknown.
- Scientists in Northern Australia have stated they need a minimum of 1,000 sites before they can prove species abundance has decreased and wildlife is under serious threat.

It is time to start Caring for the Kimberley!

1. Collect your What's in Your Backyard? data-form.

Shire, Visitors Centre or
www.canetoads.com.au

2. Conduct your own biodiversity survey

- Can be anywhere, anytime of any species. The key is being able to keep repeating the survey. The greater the frequency of records the more powerful the results.
- Important to record length of time of survey (eg 15 minutes, a week, month, season or year) and approximate area of survey.
- Can be your backyard, or favourite morning walk, or camping spot, or even your trip to work.
- As an example a weekly survey for a year of birds of prey, kingfishers or reptiles (frill-neck lizards and goannas) on your drive or walk to work would be very valuable data for indentifying change.
- Use the data-form to note one off sightings of rare wildlife.

3. Return the data-form to Kimberley Toad Busters

- All data is entered into the What's in Your Backyard database.
- Data freely available to everyone to assess a wide range of factors to protect biodiversity—from benefits of remanent vegetation to cane toads! Data already being used to increase the known range of some species.
- A species list of your survey site is compiled and sent to you by Kimberley Toad Busters to help with additional surveys.

What if you don't know a species?

- Grab a Kimberley Toad Busters Biodiversity Kit—available online or by contacting Kimberley Toad Busters, or
- Check out Ecology sections at Kununurra and Wyndham Library, or
- Take a photo and send to photo@canetoads.com.au. We have a huge number of scientist keen to help. If they cannot identify the species you may have made a new discovery!



Start Today!



Changes in fire regime and feral cats have caused of decline of biodiversity in the Kimberley, especially over the last 30 years.

Cane toads will change the Kimberley Food Web in two major ways; by eating a huge number of invertebrates and killing predator species.

Little to no data exists for wildlife that will be indirectly impacted by loss of food resources due to the huge amount of invertebrates cane toads consume.

Predator species will be severely impacted by eating cane toads. Northern Quolls may become extinct. Within 2 years of cane toads arriving 90% of Goannas were lost from the Daly River. Other predators impacted include Pythons and Snakes, Blue Tongue Lizards, Frill-necked Lizards, Blue-Winged Kookaburras, Freshwater Turtles and Freshwater Crocodiles.



Yellow Spotted Monitor *Varanus panoptes*
90 % loss is expected in the Kimberley

Recovery rates for species are not well understood. Many may not recover in our lifetime, or at all. EG. Some goannas are beginning to recover in Queensland, 70 years after cane toads arrived.

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