Australia's tropical savannas: around 1.9 million square kilometres, one-quarter of Australia's mainland
Land use in the savannas

- Commercial interests: Tourism, mining, grazing
Land use in the savannas
Land use in the savannas
Australia’s savanna landscapes

When things are going well ...
Australia’s savanna landscapes

And not so well … drought, above and weed invasion right
Savanna animals under threat
CRC partner agencies

CSIRO
- Land & Water
- Sustainable Ecosystems

Universities:
- James Cook (Townsville)
- Northern Territory (Darwin)
- University of Qld (Gatton & Brisbane)

Environmental agencies:
- Dept. Conservation & Land Management WA
- Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
- Parks & Wildlife Commission of the NT
- National Parks
- NT Dept. Lands & Planning & Environment

Indigenous interests
- North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

Primary industry agencies:
- Department of Agriculture WA
- NT Primary Industry & Fisheries
- Queensland Dept. Primary Industries
- Natural Resource agencies:
- Queensland Dept. Natural Resources & Mines

Commercial grazing interests
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- North Australia Beef Research Council
Australia’s savanna landscapes

And fire . . .
Fire information products

Fire-affected areas of the tropical savannas in 2000

Fire scars were mapped from 1 km ground-resolution NOAA-AVHRR satellite images. Early-season fires burnt 5.8 million hectares and late-season fires 40.4 million hectares.
CRC website: savanna.ntu.edu.au

Hits: 25,000 per week

60 per cent from overseas

Most popular section:
Savanna Explorer
Savanna Explorer

Welcome to the Savanna Explorer

The Savanna Explorer works by using the menu bars on the left to explore the land-management issues of the tropical savannas. You can find out about the savannas through either the topics or the regions* shown on the map, or combinations of the two. Just move your cursor over the topics and/or regions you are interested in reading about, and click to go there:

- If you select a region first, a summary of all featured land-management issues in that region* appears. If you select a topic, a summary of that land-management topic across the whole of the tropical savanna appears.
- Selecting all regions or all topics will give you an overview of land.
Repackaging information

- Most popular of our web sections
- Repackages information by subject and area
- Graphical interface
- Easily navigated links between related subjects
Communication issues

- Low populations over vast distances: 1.9 million square kilometres - 600,000 people
- Poor and/or expensive infrastructure
- Differing needs in how information is presented
- Differing values between the major users of the land
- Differing values between researchers within our own organisation
- Lack of research available on savanna ecosystems
- Regional, rural and remote areas of Australia do not wield the same political power that exists in our cities
(some) Achievements so far:

• Gaining the trust of our diverse land user groups, and the researchers who contribute to the CRC’s work

• Providing a neutral meeting place for researchers with differing cultural values and backgrounds

• In this way real communication, and real change, can take place

• Adding to the value of our partner agencies’ work

• Providing practical and useful products for landholders
The future

- Projects that include the end user in their design, e.g.
  - Computer models of land management that include landholder expertise and can be ‘owned’ by landholders
  - Specialist products for indigenous groups to help pass on culture, knowledge and language to younger generations
  - Communication audit of all new research projects
  - Find ways to ‘think outside the square’ for communication products