



Research Institute for the Environment & Livelihoods



RIEL

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The Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL) is based at Charles Darwin University. RIEL is nationally and globally recognised as a leader in tropical savanna research in north Australia.

The Northern Territory is a diverse mosaic of natural habitats and Indigenous history that have been interlinked for millennia. Our research focuses on the habitats spanning tropical, semi-arid and arid regions and the livelihoods of the communities who rely on them. Sustainable management is needed to preserve these environments and the biodiversity they support. Sound policy, planning and management must be based on world-class scientific evidence.

Our Objectives

- Undertake scientific research to support the understanding, conservation and management of the natural resources, intact and modified ecosystems, and fundamental ecological processes of northern Australia.
- Inform debate, policy and decision-making in government, industry and the community.
- Build long term environmental research capability in northern Australia and the near Asia-Pacific region.
- Develop confident and highly skilled researchers who can work cross-culturally and in multidisciplinary research areas.

Areas of Research Strength

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We focus on conservation and management of tropical and arid biodiversity, and provide specialist environmental monitoring services and advice

COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

We focus on impact-orientated environmental and livelihoods research, and provide specialist advice in the development of natural resource-based enterprises

SAVANNA AND ARID ECOLOGY

We focus on savanna burning and carbon, GHG emissions and land use change, modelling carbon cycles, plant and animal adaptation, invasive species management and restoration ecology

WATER AND CATCHMENTS

We focus on aquatic ecology, threatened species conservation, pollution and source tracking, water quality assessment and surface/ground water interactions

2018 Rankings - Outstanding Results

2018 Excellence in Research for Australia		Engagement and Impact Assessment	
Environmental Science and Management	5	Engagement	High
Ecology	5	Impact	High
Ecological Applications	4	Approach to Impact	High

5 = outstanding performance well above world standard
4 = performance above world standard

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