



Natural Resources and Indigenous Livelihoods Course

UNIT CODES

ENV317 (undergraduate)
ENV517 (postgraduate)

UNIT TITLE

Natural Resources and Indigenous Livelihoods

UNIT COORDINATOR

Natasha Stacey
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TIMING

Semester 2
7-11 September, 2026
5 day intensive, plus online study before and after the intensive.

LOCATION

Darwin, Casuarina Campus and field trip to Kakadu National Park (or alternative location)

NUMBERS

20 places available

COURSE OVERVIEW

This intensive course explores the synergies between natural resources, enterprise development and Indigenous livelihoods. Participants attend a 5-day intensive based in Darwin and one night/two days of field trips that will take place in Kakadu National Park (or alternative location in outer Darwin). Theory is integrated with Australian and international examples with an emphasis on issues pertinent to desert and tropical Australia (including coastal environments). The course will link theory and applied topics, through a combination of lectures, discussions and field-based observation. Preparatory online activities and assignments are conducted before and after the intensive. The assessment items for students and resources for professional participants provide practical experience in planning new natural resource-based enterprises.

THEMES COVERED

- > Indigenous people and their resources
- > Enterprise development theory and sustainable livelihood frameworks
- > Social, cultural, environmental, policy, and economic factors in enterprise development and commercial use of natural resources
- > Governance, business models and success factors
- > Natural resource based enterprise case studies - including plant and animal products, land and sea management, carbon economy and marine enterprises

Contact us

Unit Coordinator: Professor Natasha Stacey,
Environment Discipline, Faculty of Science and Technology

T, +61 8 8946 668 E: natasha.stacey@cdu.edu



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This unit is available as an elective for Masters and third year students. Cross-institutional enrolments from other universities are very welcome. This course and intensive welcomes professional participants with some tertiary education experience to participate in the 5 day intensive (see costs below). This includes practitioners working with local, Territory, state and national governments, NGOs and community groups in natural resource management or higher degree by research candidates seeking professional development opportunity.

COURSE/UNIT COORINATOR

Natasha Stacey (Professor, Communities and Livelihoods, Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, CDU) has worked in this field for 18 years and is the unit coordinator. The unit will also feature several leading researchers and practitioners who explore the links between natural resources and sustainability, Indigenous livelihoods and land and sea management.

COST

CDU students costs are HECS plus an additional \$160 towards field trip costs.

External participants \$1200 for tuition and field trip costs.

CDU covers the cost of transportation, tours, overnight camping and main meals during the two days of field trips.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT

Maximum 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis.

For CDU students submit Special enrolment through CDU Portal or Cross Institutional enrolment for HE Semester 2 to Student Central.

Enrolment will be approved by the Unit Coordinator based on meeting entry requirements and availability of places.

For Professional participants email Natasha for a registration form.

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FIELD TRIP

Participants will be required to attend a compulsory one night/two day field trip to Kakadu National Park or alternative location departing CDU campus at 7.30 am Wednesday 9 September and returning to Darwin at approx. 6pm on Thursday 10 September. The Park is located 3 hours' drive from Darwin. We will travel there by CDU bus.

IMPORTANT DATES

17 July, 2026 - FINAL date to enrol (note places are limited and enrolment forms should be submitted as early as possible to allow for approval before this date).

21 July, 2026 - Students have access to the Course Unit Resources available through Learnline with preliminary learning and assessment activities to be completed prior to the intensive. Professional participants will have access to all course material prior to course commencement.

7-11 September 2026 - The Intensive commences in Darwin. Overnight field trip will take place on 9-10 September. The Intensive ends late afternoon on 11 September.

GETTING THERE

Students and Participants are required to make their own way to Darwin prior to 7 September and home after the course ends on the afternoon of 11 September. Accommodation during the course (except for overnight field trip) must also be arranged. Contact the unit coordinator for suggestions.