

Biodiversity in Australia's Northern Territory

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[2D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - 13 & 28.08.2017 - 4,3,2 natural colour - Melville & Bathurst Islands in Timor Sea belong to Australia's Northern Territory. [3D view](#) [2D view](#)



Fig. 2 - 25.08.2017 - Cobourg Peninsula was the world's first designated Wetland of International Importance. [3D view](#) [2D view](#)



To honour the International Day for Biological Diversity, this story is dedicated to Northern Territory in Australia, where was nominated the first location to become a Ramsar site. This wetland's overview [notes](#): "*Cobourg Peninsula has a long history of natural conservation and protection, and it was Australia and the world's first Wetland of International Importance. The Site comprises a peninsula with extensive tidal flats, fringing coral, rocky reefs, estuaries, mangroves, riverine wetlands, permanent freshwater and brackish ecosystems and melaleuca (paperbark) swamps, dominated by eucalyptus forest. The hydrological regime varies widely due to the seasonal rainfall. There is a steep salinity gradient between the estuaries and backswamps. The Site supports several globally threatened animal species such as the loggerhead turtle, green turtle, hawksbill turtle and the northern quoll, as well as numerous rare plants and extensive mangrove communities. The Site supports an abundance of waterbirds such as ducks, plovers, sandpipers and egrets.*"

Fig. 3 - 25.08.2017 - During the dry season, savanna (brown) greatly differs from mangrove forest (dark green).

[3D view](#) [2D view](#)



Fig. 4 - 25.08.2017 - Northern part of Kakadu National Park near Alligator Rivers.

[3D view](#) [2D view](#)



A UNESCO World Heritage site, Kakadu National Park is [depicted](#) as: "*The largest national park in Australia and one of the largest in the world's tropics, Kakadu preserves the greatest variety of ecosystems on the Australian continent including extensive areas of savanna woodlands, open forest, floodplains, mangroves, tidal mudflats, coastal areas and monsoon forests. The park also has a huge diversity of flora and is one of the least*

impacted areas of the northern part of the Australian continent. Its spectacular scenery includes landscapes of arresting beauty, with escarpments up to 330 metres high extending in a jagged and unbroken line for hundreds of kilometres."



Kakadu National Park - Source: Steve Strike for [Tourism Australia](#)

This wetland is also protected as a Ramsar wetland, its site [describes](#) Kakadu National Park as: "An iconic destination within Australia, renowned for its exceptional beauty and unique biodiversity, with a variety of landforms, habitats and wildlife. It encompasses expansive coastal and inland ecosystems such as terrestrial wetlands and woodlands, floodplain ecosystems, swamp forest, rivers, springs, and billabongs, as well as coastal/marine ecosystems with intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass. Wetland habitats are relatively undisturbed and support a broad range of natural values including threatened and endemic species and a remarkable abundance of waterbirds."

Fig. 5 - 14.06.2017 - Coastal mangrove around the Darwin, the main city of Australia's Northern Territory.

[2D view](#)

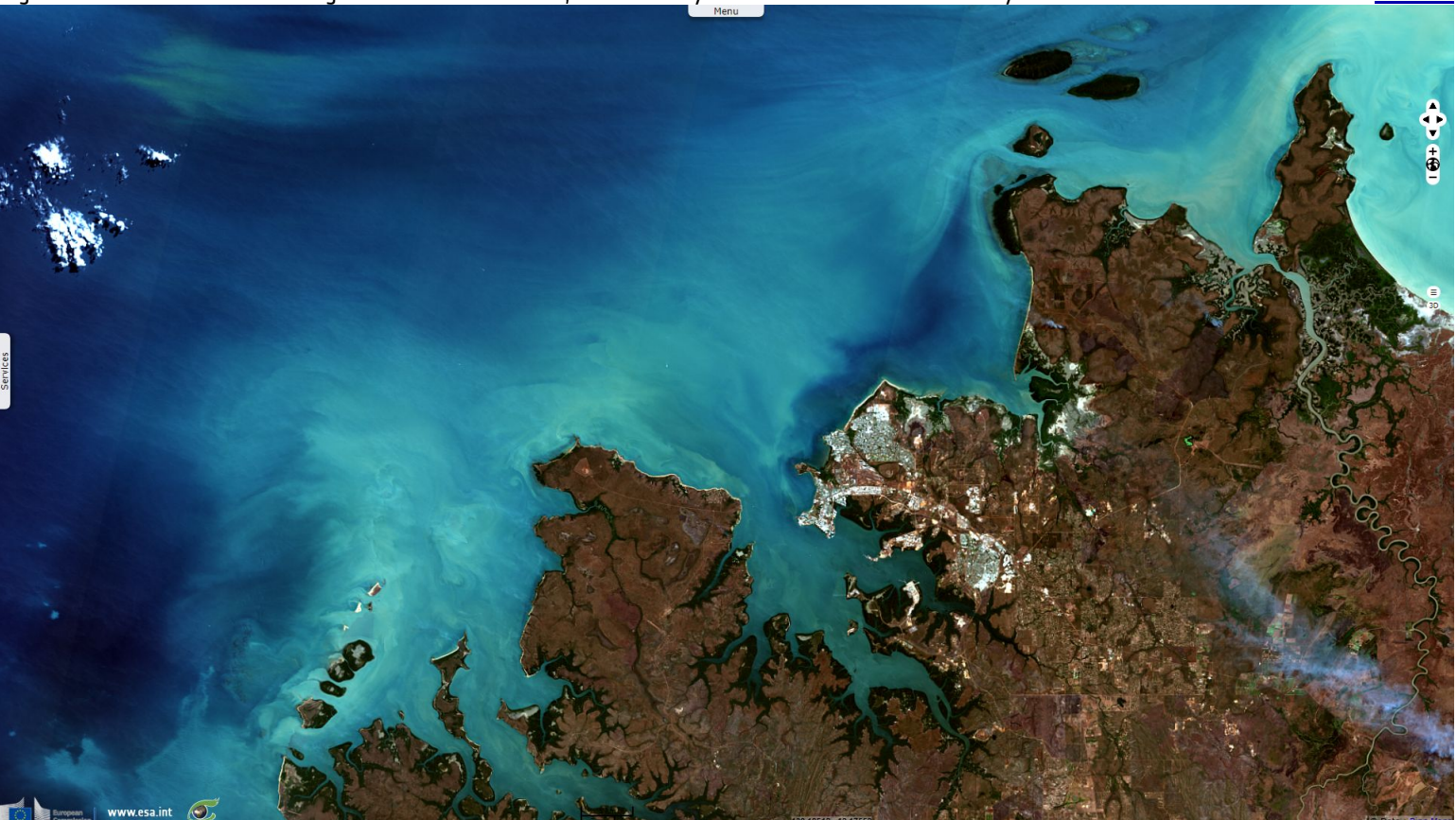


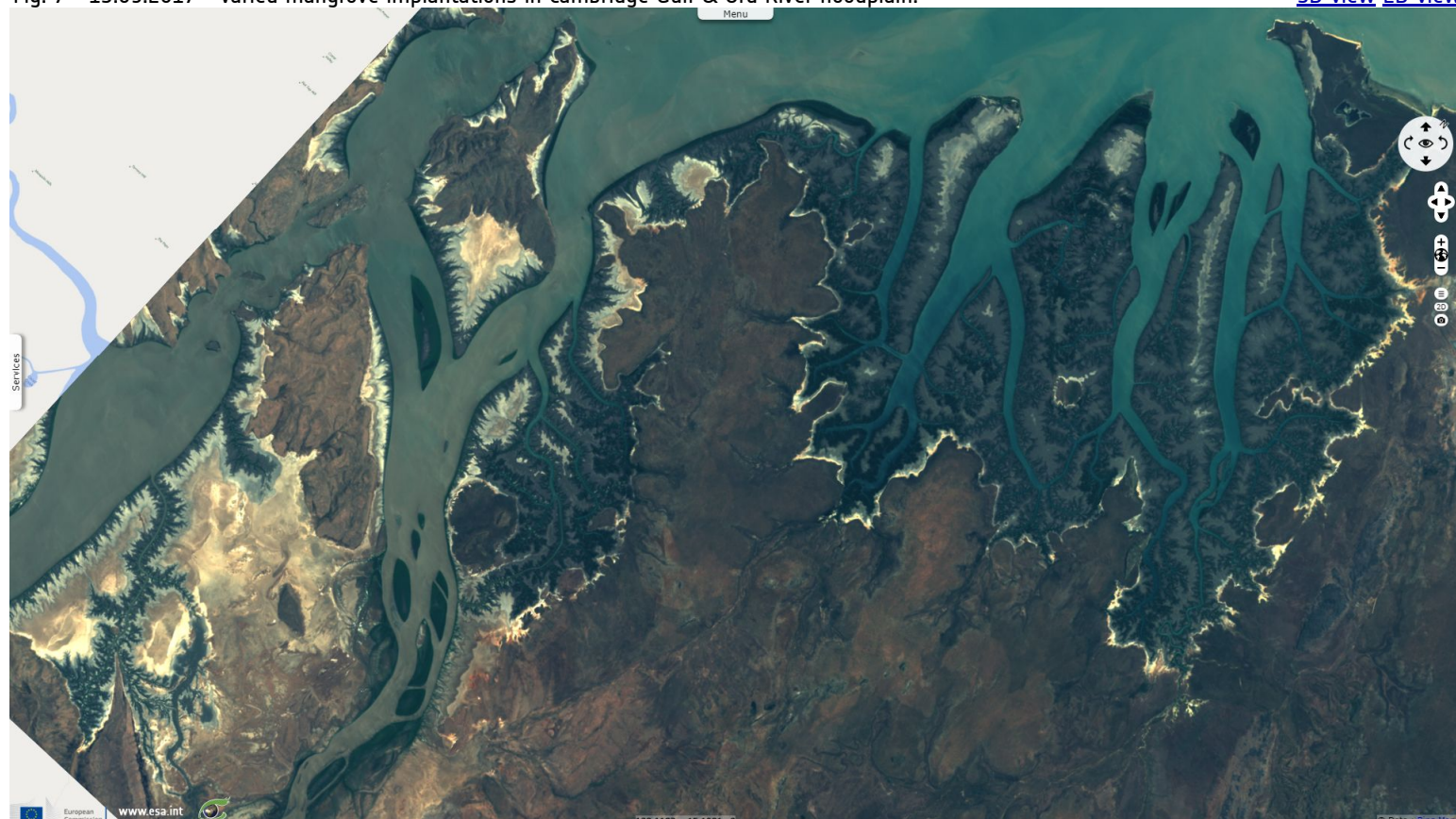
Fig. 6 - 14.06.2017 - Diverse coastal landscape south-west of Darwin.

[3D view](#) [2D view](#)



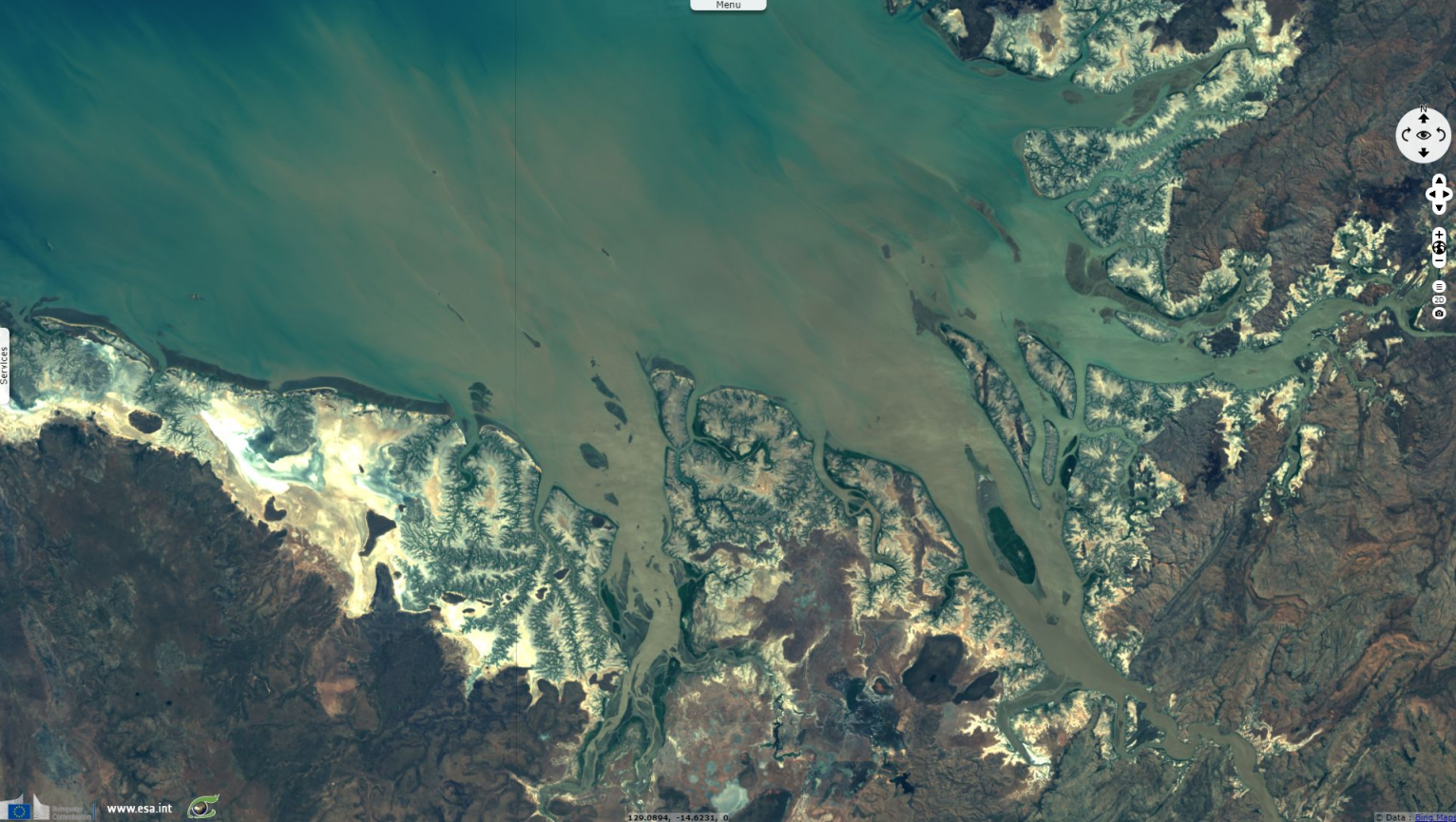
Fig. 7 - 15.09.2017 - Varied mangrove implantations in Cambridge Gulf & Ord River floodplain.

[3D view](#) [2D view](#)















Another important site for Australian biodiversity is Ord River Floodplain, a Ramsar wetland which they characterize by [writing](#): "The Site is an extensive system of river, seasonal creek, tidal mudflat and floodplain wetlands, and is the best example in the Tanami-Timor Sea Coast bioregion of wetlands associated with a tropical river system's floodplain and estuary. The area known as the False Mouths of the Ord is the most extensive mudflat and tidal waterway complex in Western Australia, while the wetland grass/herblands at Parry Lagoons are the most extensive vegetation community of this type in the State. 15 of the 19 species of mangrove found in Western Australia have been recorded within the Site. It is a nursery, feeding and breeding ground for a variety of migratory birds and local waterbirds, fish, crabs, prawns and crocodiles. The Site regularly supports 1% of the population of plumed whistling duck and little curlew; and it supports threatened species including the critically endangered freshwater sawfish and green sawfish, and the endangered Australian painted snipe; it is also one of only two known habitats in Western Australia of the critically endangered Northern river shark. A flatback turtle rookery is located at Cape Domett, immediately north of the Ramsar Site."

Fig. 8 - 17.09.2017 - Mangrove and mudflats at the mouth of Sandy Creek, Victoria & Fitzmaurice rivers, near Joseph Bonaparte Bay. [3D view](#) [2D view](#)



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