

Joint management of Malgana Conservation Estate (Shark Bay/Gathaagudu)

Community update – January 2025

With its varied and dramatic landscapes, rare plants and animals and ecological communities that are examples of the Earth’s evolutionary history, Shark Bay is a remarkable place. Its outstanding natural values were recognised on the World Heritage List in 1991.

Malgana people are the Traditional Owners of Shark Bay/Gathaagudu.

Joint management

Joint management is a partnership between Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to protect and conserve an area’s incredible biodiversity, immense value to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people, and its important recreational and commercial values. Malgana Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and DBCA are working together to jointly manage existing and new parks and reserves in Malgana Country. The joint management partnership is enabled by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), registered in October 2024.



Eight existing and new reserves in Shark Bay make up the Malgana Conservation Estate (298,860 ha in total), which includes:

- Dirk Hartog Island National Park
- Francois Peron National Park
- Shell Beach Conservation Park
- Monkey Mia Conservation Park



- Edel National Park (new park)
- Nanga National Park (new park, incorporating South Peron and ex Nanga Station)
- Pimbee Nature Reserve (new reserve, Malgana portion)
- Yaringa Nature Reserve (new reserve).

Rich cultural heritage

The cultural values of the parks and reserves include numerous Aboriginal cultural and heritage sites and landscapes of mythological, ceremonial and spiritual importance. These are evident in the continuing connection of the Malgana Traditional Owners to Country and there are numerous places, traditions, plants and animals with contemporary cultural value.

From the 17th century, European explorers visited Shark Bay, with Dirk Hartog being the first recorded European to land on the west coast of Australia in 1616. The studies and collections of

mariners and others who visited between the 17th and 19th centuries represent some of the earliest records of Australia's flora and fauna. Cultural heritage values associated with the shared history of the pastoral, fishing, pearling and sandalwood cutting industries are also important.

Visitor experiences and tourism opportunities

With its remarkable landscape features, the parks and reserves of the Malgana Conservation Estate are an outstanding tourism attraction. Monkey Mia, Francois Peron National Park, Dirk Hartog Island National Park, Shell Beach Conservation Park and Steep Point attracted over 450,000¹ visits in 2023/24 with people undertaking cultural and nature-based experiences such as camping, sightseeing, fishing, viewing wildlife, photography, picnicking or enjoying a commercial tour. The white sandy beaches and protected bays provide opportunities for boating, swimming, snorkelling, diving and kayaking.

Joint management plan

A joint management plan will be developed by Malgana and DBCA in accordance with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). The plan will set out long-term management objectives and strategies to protect the cultural, natural, visitor use, community and economic values of the Malgana Conservation Estate. It will replace the *Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan 2012*.

Joint planning process

The plan will be prepared in consultation with the community and stakeholders. It involves:

- Collecting and analysing background information about the values and management issues.
- Consulting widely with the community and stakeholders.
- Preparing the draft joint management plan and releasing it for public comment
- Analysing submissions received during the public comment period and amending the plan to reflect public submissions
- Preparing and releasing the final joint management plan.



Community and stakeholder consultation

DBCA and MAC have started gathering information about the parks and reserves and considering the management issues.

Your involvement is important to the planning process. There will be numerous opportunities for public input into the planning process over the next 12-18 months. A range of community and stakeholder events will be held to incorporate community ideas and aspirations into the plan, starting with a **community workshop in Denham in February 2025**. The community and stakeholders will also have a say on the draft joint management plan during a two-month public comment period, and the final management plan will take all public submissions into account.

More information

If you have any questions or would like to register to be kept informed about the joint management planning process, please contact:

Joint management plan

DBCA Terrestrial Planning Unit

Email: malganajmp@dbca.wa.gov.au

Shark Bay parks and reserves management and operations

DBCA Acting District Manager, Gascoyne District

Ph: (08) 9948 2226, **Email:** gascoyne@dbca.wa.gov.au

If you are a Traditional Owner, please contact MAC as your representative body about how you can be involved in the process.

¹ These data are the property of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and may not be sold or passed on to a third party. The attached

data is the best available at time of reporting and are the property of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and may not be sold or passed on to a third party

Malgana Conservation Estate

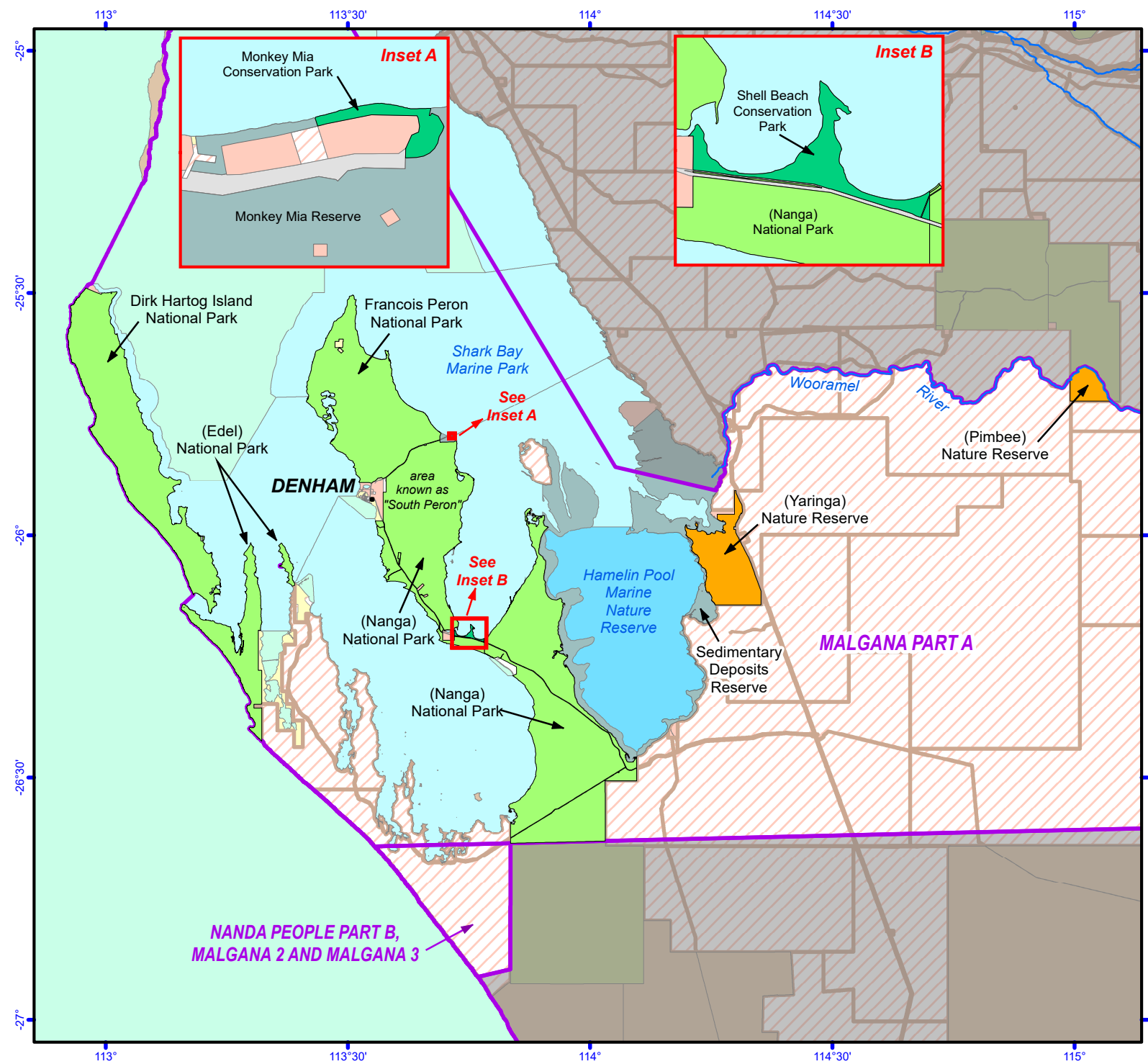
Legend

Malgana Conservation Estate Planning Area

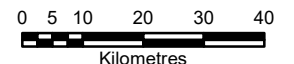
- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Conservation Park

Land Tenure

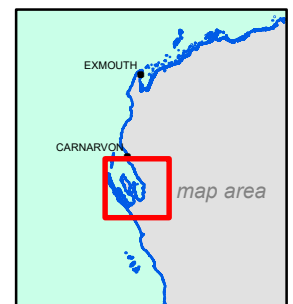
- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(g) Reserve
- Marine Park
- Marine Nature Reserve
- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- Pastoral Lease
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Public Roads/Other Public Land
- Native Title Boundary



1:1,250,000
(A4)



Geographical Coordinate System
Geodentric Datum of Australia 1994



Produced by the
Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions



The Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.