



## Support conservation efforts in the Kimberley

Thank you for being a supporter of Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) conservation efforts in the Kimberley. It has been over a year now since Mornington-Marion Downs Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the heart of the Kimberley, was washed out in the heavy rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. The largest flood event on record forced staff and visiting researchers to evacuate by helicopter as river levels rose and backfilled onto Mornington's operations base – personal belongings, equipment, and years of herbarium specimens floated away in the downpour. Your contribution to AWC's conservation efforts in the Kimberley has been essential in recovery after this catastrophic event.

### *Mapping recovery at Mornington*

A geospatial mapping project has commenced at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kimberley, to assist in the site's post-flooding restoration. The newly-launched J2 Geospatial Intelligence Service (J2 GIS) has signed on to conduct the topographical analysis of last year's unexpected weather event.

The cutting-edge technology will deliver highly accurate maps, data and 3D models that will help inform AWC's reconstruction plans. The information gained through these surveys not only builds a picture of how the past flooding events occurred, but it also allows for informed decisions in restoring activities and infrastructure at the site.

Your support is enabling AWC to undertake the demanding task of rebuilding after the floods, and restore critical conservation efforts in the Kimberley. Thanks to you, we're getting back to work and ensuring that this rich, biodiverse ecosystem is here to stay.



*Mornington in 2023, post-flood. Josh Guthrie/AWC*





Northern Quoll. Brad Leue/AWC

## Wildlife Surveys

At Mornington, camera surveys are now underway to monitor the genetically distinct Northern Quoll population. Previous surveys showed significant declines for the species after cane toad invasions in 2015/16, and droughts from 2018 to 2020. This survey will help develop a Conservation Management Plan for the species in the Kimberley, which is critical to the future of this Northern Quoll population.

Camera surveys were also conducted on Charnley River-Artesian Range Wildlife Sanctuary, watching out for the Northern Quoll and Golden Bandicoot. These surveys revealed high occupancy rates, and the team are now trialling acoustic surveys using songmeters to monitor Black Grasswren and the threatened Masked Owl.

Future surveys planned for the region include live trapping of small mammals and reptiles at Mornington - your continued support will help us to take this next step.

Thank you for supporting this project – your contribution to conservation in the Kimberley has been essential in ensuring the future of AWC's operations in Australia's expansive north region.

