Coordinated regional pest and weed management in the Burdekin Dry Tropics

Project summary

Proponent: North Queensland Dry Tropics Ltd

Value: $963,056

Project duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 June 2016

Project description

There are 52 declared pest and weed species under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 that occur widely in the Burdekin River Catchment region. They are significantly altering the functionality of keystone ecosystems and having an adverse impact on the productivity and profitability of primary industry by reducing ground cover, decreasing carrying capacity, and displacing and altering indigenous species composition.

The ‘Coordinated regional pest management in the Burdekin Dry Tropics’ project will be guided by the Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Region Pest Management Strategy that was developed in partnership with key stakeholders to coordinate a regional approach to pest management activities.

The goal of this project is to strengthen the community’s capacity to strategically manage priority pest animal and weeds species, and support the community with management planning activities, extension and engagement resources.

Financial incentives will be provided to support landholders in key locations to implement on-ground management activities and contribute to local, regional and cross-regional outcomes. Investment will also support the prevention and early intervention of regional priority species such as Siam weed (Chromolaena odorata), prickly acacia (Vachellia nilotica) and bellyache bush (Jatropha spinosum).

North Queensland Dry Tropics will partner with key Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Region Pest Management Strategy stakeholders including the local government areas of Burdekin, Townsville, Whitsunday, Charters Towers, Barcaldine, Hinchinbrook, Isaac, and Palm Island. This project will also work closely with landholders, community groups and other key stakeholders to deliver on-ground outcomes.

Specifically, the project will include:

- targeted incentives that support landholders to implement on-ground management activities
- coordinated distribution of pest management resources
- preventative and early intervention actions to control regional priority species
• training events, workshops and demonstration field days to strengthen early detection methods and increase response and control efficiencies by land managers
• develop partnerships between North Queensland Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM regional NRM body to better engage and communicate with land holders and control threats across boundaries.

Project outcomes

Long-term outcomes (5-10 years)
• Reduction in the spread of new incursions into regional areas of high ecological and agricultural value.
• Active regional coordination of best practice management activities from all stakeholders.

Intermediate outcomes (3-5 years)
• Land managers and industry stakeholders have increased knowledge, skills and capacity to manage priority pest and weed species.
• Increase in stakeholders undertaking collaborative and coordinated pest and weed management in strategic locations.
• Demonstration trials established to showcase practical application of best practice management techniques.
• Increase in regional rapid response capacity to manage new incursions of Siam, bellyache and prickly acacia.

Further information

For further information on the ‘Coordinated regional pest and weed management in the Burdekin Dry Tropics’ project, please contact NQ Dry Tropics Ltd.
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