

**NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN**

**NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

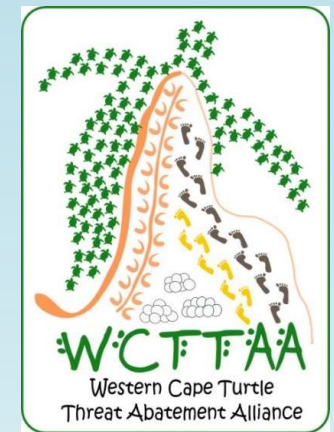
MONDAY 5 JULY 2021





# Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance

*A collaborative model for turtle monitoring and predator control  
on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula*



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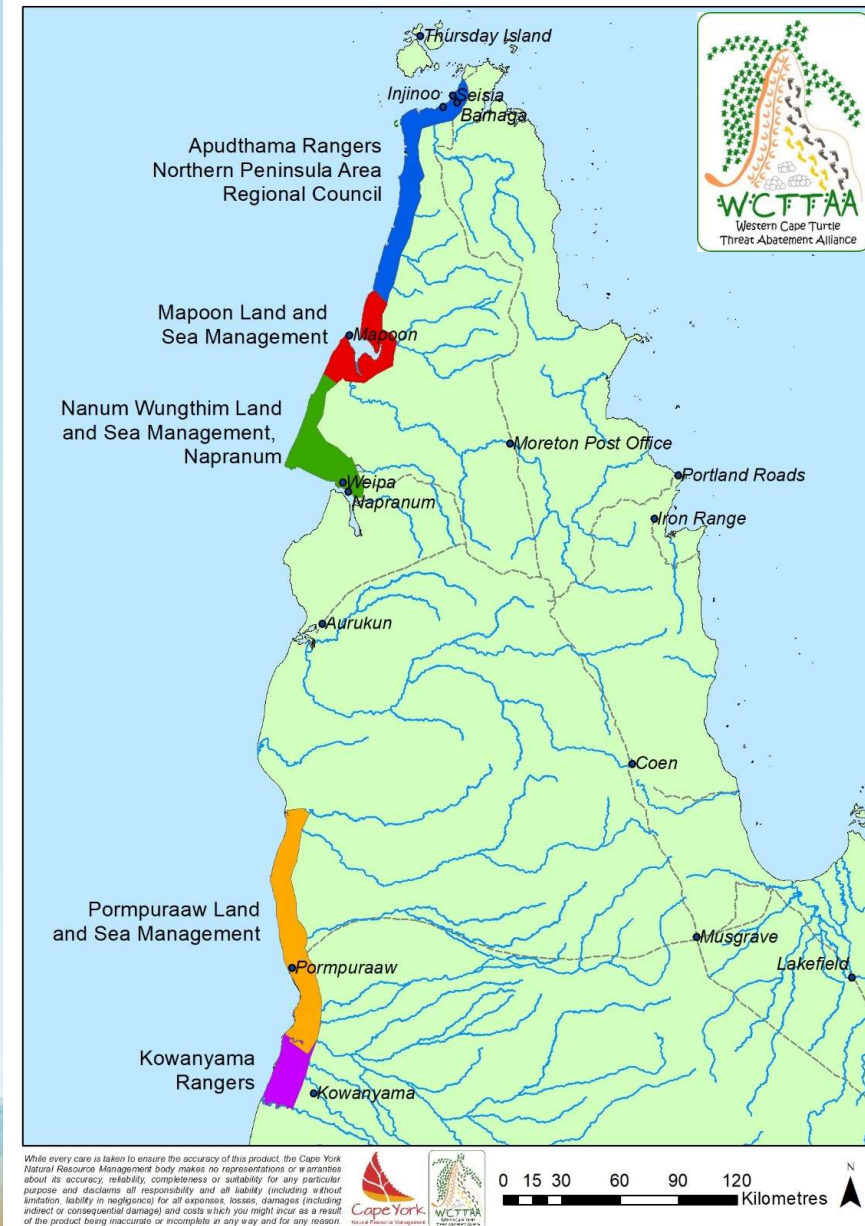
# Overview

- Who is the WCTTAA?
- What we do and why we do it
- How do we do it?
  - Predator management program
  - Measuring outcomes
- Learnings



# Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA)

- A partnership of Indigenous land and sea owners and managers
- Vision: to efficiently manage threats to coastal habitats and enhance opportunities for nesting marine turtle populations on the Western Cape York Peninsula
- How we operate;
  - Terms of Reference
  - Coordinator; hosted by Cape York NRM
  - Contract deliverables directly to Aboriginal Shire Councils
- Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program (2015-2021)



# *What do we do?*

1. Predator management
2. Turtle nest monitoring
3. Communications and engagement
4. Training and capacity building





*Why do we do it?*

## Western Cape Turtles

- Queensland's **largest** nesting population of the **endemic** and **vulnerable flatback** (*Natator depressus*) turtle
- Queensland's **entire** nesting population of the **endangered olive ridley** (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtle
- A **regionally significant** nesting population of the **endangered hawksbill** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtle



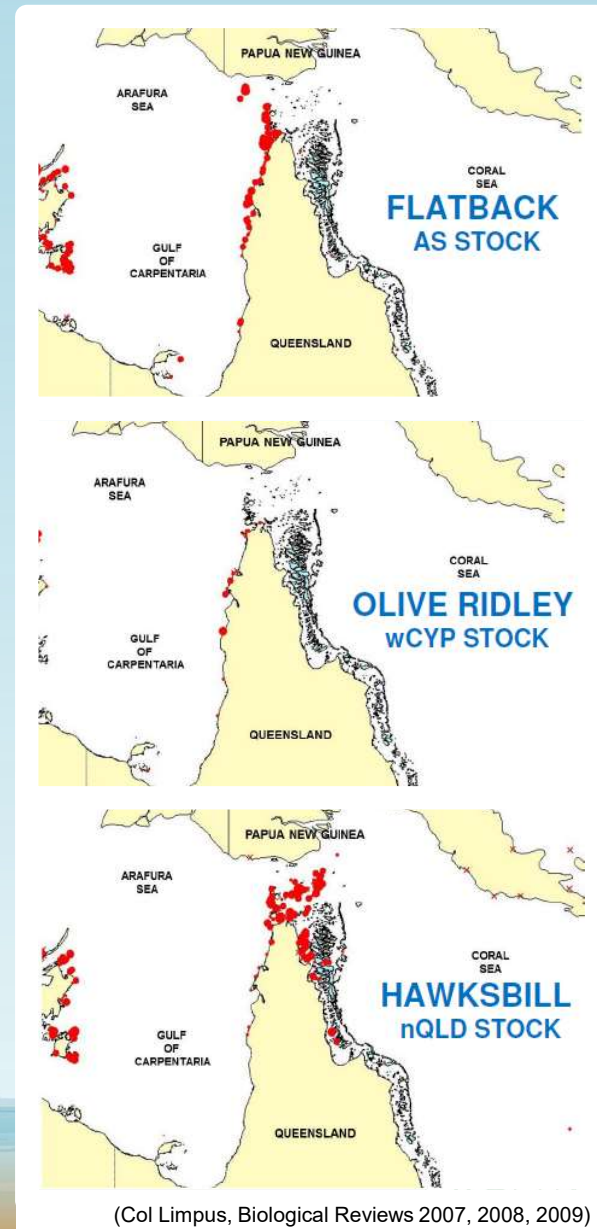
*Natator depressus*  
(Flatback)



*Lepidochelys olivacea*  
(Olive Ridley)



*Eretmochelys imbricata*  
(Hawksbill)



# What is the problem?

Predation levels of **between 80% and 100%** on Cape York Peninsula nesting sites, with **average predation at greater than 90%**.

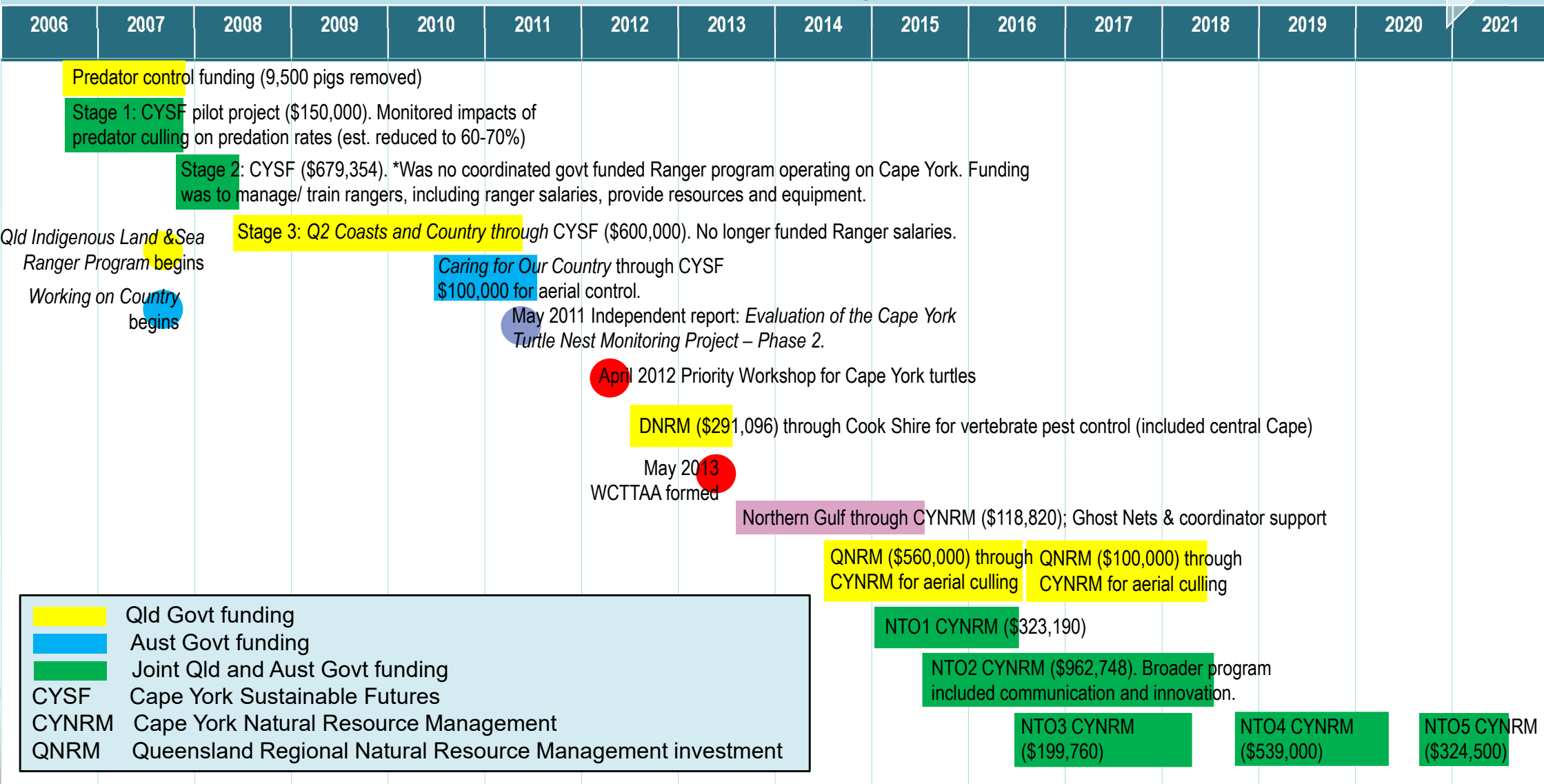
(DERM and QDPIF, 2001)

By 2030 nesting of sea turtles on the beaches of western Cape York will cease should remedial action not be taken to reduce the impact that feral pigs in particular are having on hatchling success.

(DERM, 2001)



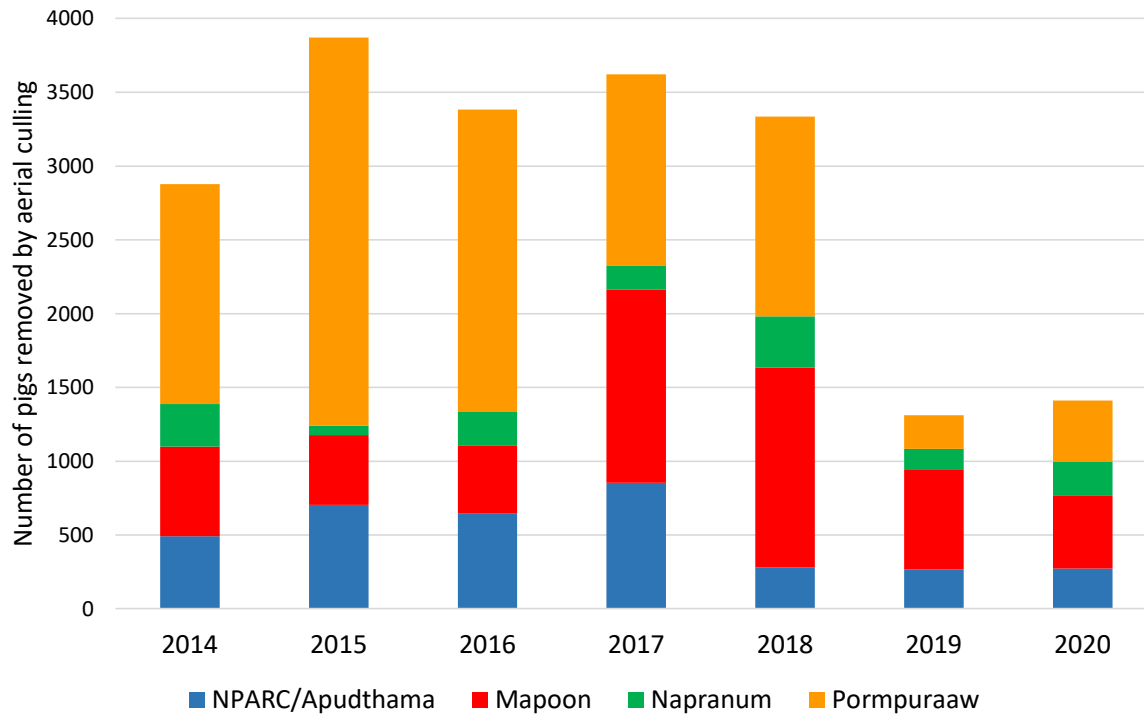
# Predator control and turtle monitoring on the western Cape





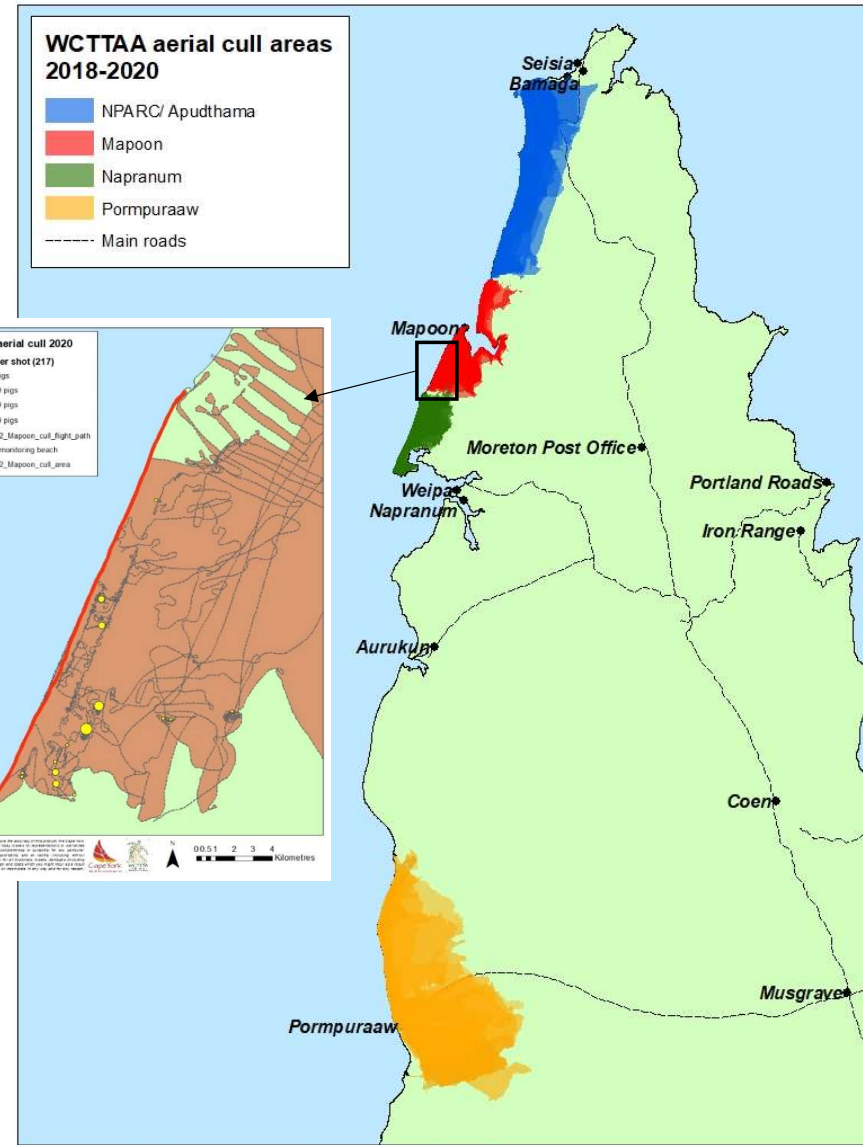
# Predator management

## 1. Aerial culling



### WCTTAA aerial cull areas 2018-2020

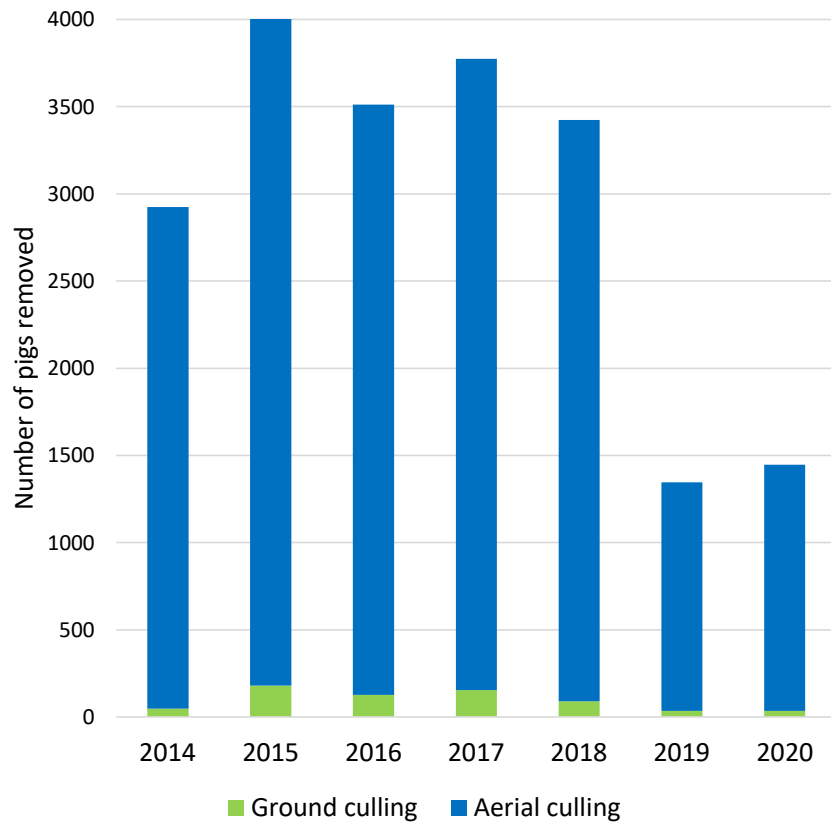
- NPARC/ Apudthama
- Mapoon
- Napranum
- Pormpuraaw
- Main roads



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# Predator management

## 2. Ground culling





# Predator management

## 3. Nest protection

- Aluminium nest protection cage
- Prioritised on olive ridley and hawksbill nests
- *Nearly 100% success...*





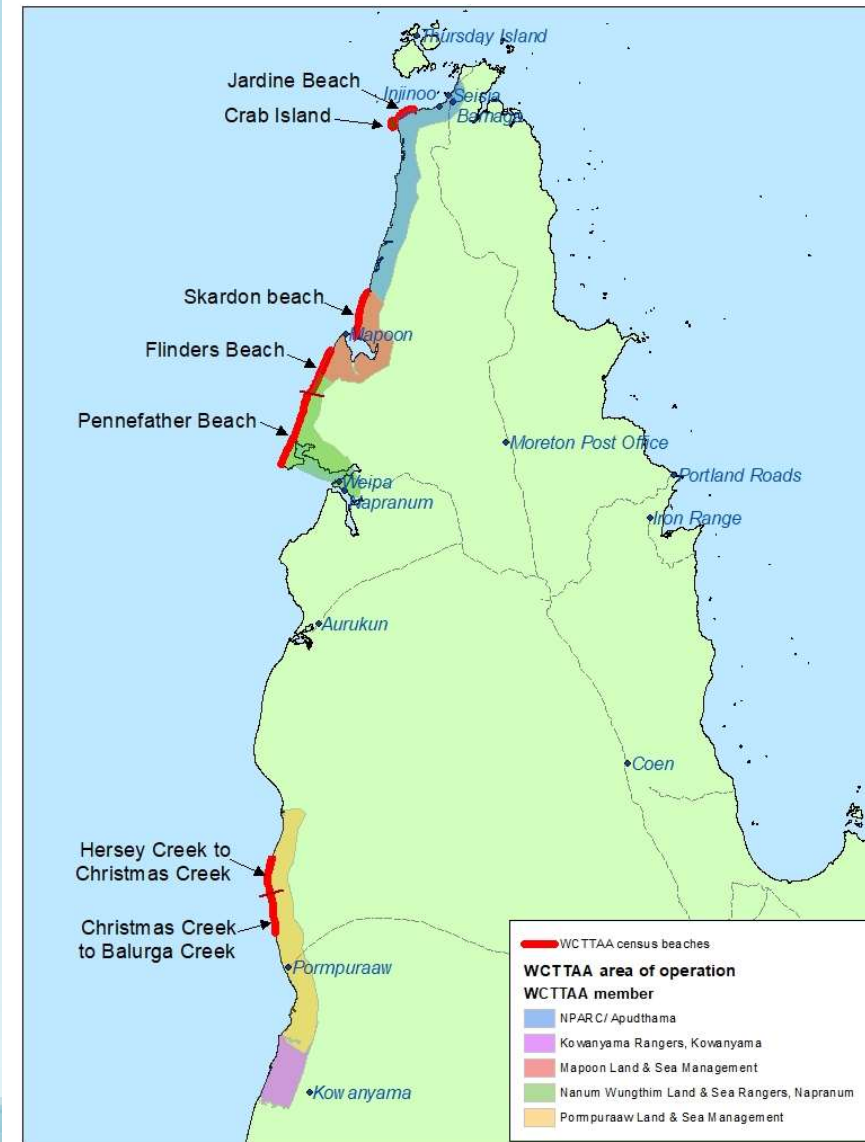
# Measuring outcomes

## Turtle nest monitoring

- Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program:

**Objective is to increase the survival rate of marine turtles and their clutches to over 70% to maintain a viable population for the region.**

- WCTTAA: 7 monitoring locations, 150 kilometres.
- **Monitoring for management outcomes**



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0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometres

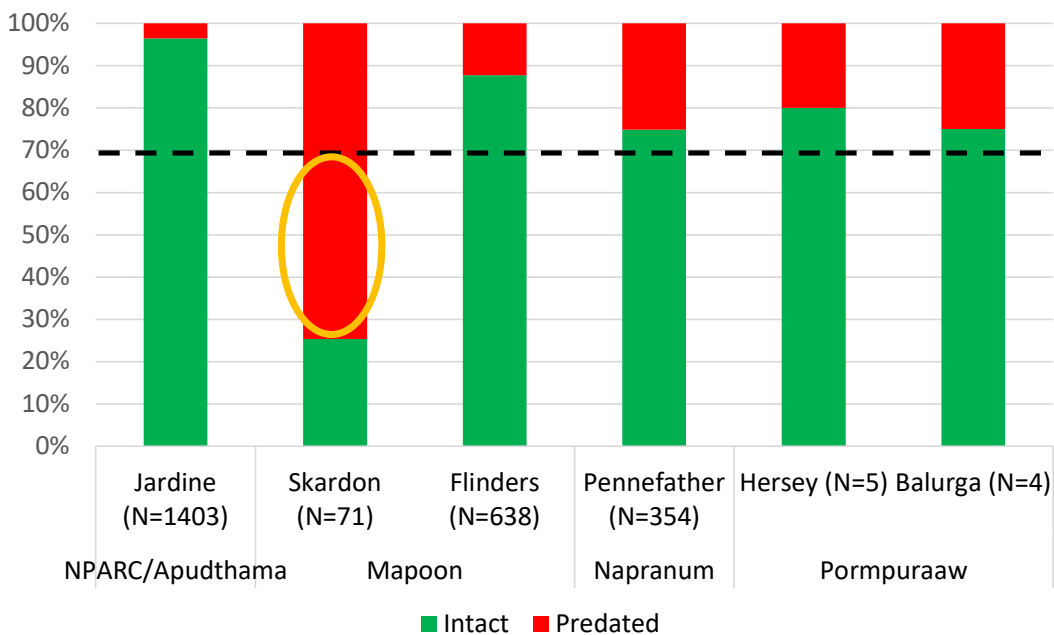


# Measuring outcomes

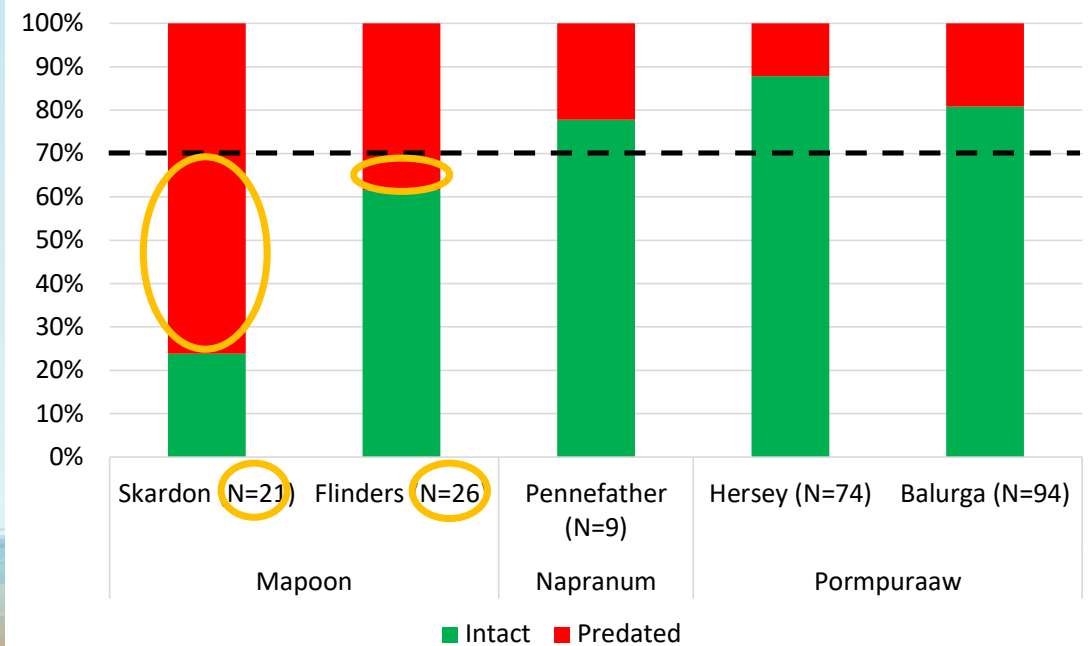
## Turtle nest monitoring

In **2019** achieved an average of **88% survival rate across all nests** recorded by WCTTAA  
(between 24% and 96% recorded per beach)

Flatback turtle nest survival rates (per beach) 2019



Olive ridley turtle nest survival rates (per beach) 2019



# Measuring outcomes





# Learnings

- Predator control and turtle monitoring program on the western Cape ***is making a difference*** for nesting sea turtle populations
- Requires **continuity of activities, funding and people**
- **Labour intensive** and **expensive** to deliver across a vast and geographically remote coastline
- **Adaptive management** is key
- **Community ownership and engagement** are critical
- A **collaborative model** works



# Acknowledgements

## WCTTAA is supported by

- *Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program*, a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments
- Cape York Natural Resource Management

## WCTTAA member groups

- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council/ Apudthama Rangers
- Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers
- Nanum Wungthim Rangers, Napranum
- Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Management
- Kowanyama Rangers

## Ongoing technical and training support

- DES staff; Queensland Turtle Conservation Program

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Australian Government



Queensland  
Government

