

# *Fire Regime and Management of Spinifex*

## Workshop Summary : Group 1

**Fire Regime** : - Season  
- Frequency  
- Intensity  
- Size / Spatial distribution

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### What should the objectives be ?

**GOAL :** Conservation of Biological Diversity                      incl. - Loss of species  
- Loss of habitat  
- Loss of communities

### OBJECTIVES :

1. Protection of vulnerable areas and communities including fire sensitive communities, rock art sites, human life and property from the impact of wildfires.
2. Establish research areas to examine the long term effects of various fire regimes. Carry out programs to monitor a diverse range of fire regimes in various biomes.

### What do we know ? (on a biome basis)

- Mulga degenerates under a frequent fire regime
- Post-fire response is essentially rain-driven but is also influenced by other external factors including grazing pressure
- Good knowledge of fire behaviour
- Some knowledge of post-fire response on sandplains --> Strong post-fire succession
- Very preliminary view of impact of fire pattern on animals
- Island situations - No apparent shifts in populations following fire

NB General agreement that we have basic information in relation to many aspects pertaining to fire regimes and management of spinifex, but we still need to know much more in order to be confident in the way that we manage our spinifex ecosystems.

### What are the research priorities ?

- Review of Spinifex Fire Research knowledge
- Identify Key areas / Fire vulnerable areas
- Study existing mosaics, examining Wildfires v's Imposed (Aboriginal) regimes
- Establish reference areas
- Integrated Flora / Fauna fire effects research
- Encourage co-operative / inter-agency research
- Research on aboriginal knowledge and its religious / cultural associations
- Specific research on rare wildlife species, especially arid zone specialists eg. Princess Parrot and some fire sensitive plants