



Kakadu -worth fighting for

Help Stop Jabiluka.

There are times in your life when you know in your heart what is right and what is not, what is true and what is not, what is decent and what is not.

This is such a time.

Kakadu should not be mined for uranium. Jabiluka should not proceed.

Thousands of people are gathering now to see Jabiluka stopped, to see the country and culture of Kakadu protected. For the Mirrar people, the traditional owners of Jabiluka, have said No to the mine. It is their land and they have said No insistently, resolutely, repeatedly. But saying No for twenty years has not been enough. They must now stand against the mine, against the company, against the government and they are asking you to join them, to be with them, to stand with them, so they need not stand alone. Mirrar already have a mine they never wanted called Ranger. It was imposed on them against their wishes and now they are fighting again to control development on their land. Kakadu is a place of rarity and splendour, it is a place worth keeping, a place where the atomic fuel industry and nuclear weapons industry should have no sanction, it is a place that should not be mined.

And so we must stand together, black Australians, white Australians, all Australians, and stop the Jabiluka mine and to stop the desecration of Kakadu.

"Jabiluka is about us, blackfellas, whitefellas, together, and our belief in the future of the nation."

The campaign to oppose uranium mining and to protect the country and culture of Kakadu has a long history. For two decades Aborigines and environmentalists have worked to stop the expansion of this highly dangerous industry and to maintain the cultural and ecological integrity of Australia's largest national park and world heritage area.

Since the election of the Coalition government in March 1996, with its threat to allow more uranium mines, the campaign has developed in urgency and intensity. Over the last two years a broad campaign has developed to contain the uranium industry and its radioactive legacy. A strong alliance has been formed between national and regional environment groups and the traditional owners of the region the Mirrar. Together they are working to stop Jabiluka.

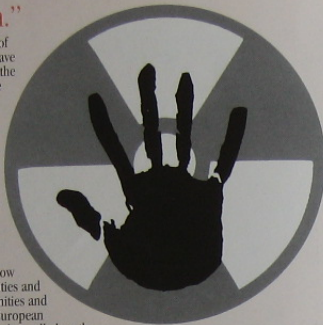
Kakadu, for many, represents the idea of a fabulous holiday but for Mirrar Kakadu is home and because it is their home Mirrar are vehemently opposed to another mine on their land, in their home. However, the mining company Energy Resources of Australia are pushing on regardless. Mirrar demand that the mine be stopped and that their voice be heeded.

The message of opposition to Jabiluka and to uranium mining continues to grow and to spread. Recently Mirrar people and their representatives have toured capital cities and regional centres speaking against Jabiluka. Others have taken the message to communities and organisations in many countries including the USA, Germany, Japan and the UK. The European

Parliament has called on the Australian Government not to proceed with the Jabiluka project. A growing number of people have seen the direct link that exists between uranium mining and the complex, costly and toxic process of nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Closer to home people have lobbied politicians, spoken at public meetings, made presentations to a broad range of community and social groups, hosted film screenings and acted creatively and consistently to tell the true story of what is at risk with the Jabiluka proposal. The offices, the activities and the shareholder meetings of Energy Resources of Australia in Sydney and their parent company North Ltd in Melbourne have been targeted. These companies need to know that their activities are unacceptable. This message continues to be delivered. The blockade will be a vital part of this message and will directly show ERA that the Jabiluka proposal must not proceed.

The campaign against the Jabiluka uranium mine is dynamic. It is also vital for the future of Australia as a nation. The choices with the Jabiluka proposal are clear. We can respect country and culture or we can allow narrow corporate imperatives to prevail. The Mirrar have made their choice. Ultimately we all have to choose and to act.



Action at Ranger

photo: Sandy Schelterma

"A new mine will make our future worthless and destroy more of our country. We oppose any further mining development in our country."

Yvonne Margarula, Mirrar Senior Traditional Owner

Australia's Uranium Hotspots

While the Coalition government had intimated, prior to their election in 1996, that they intended to increase uranium mining in Australia, it wasn't until after the Federal election that their plans for the industry became apparent. The Coalition's policy on the mining of uranium is that it should be subject to the same regulations and standards as the mining of any other mineral. This decision, to treat the mining of one of the deadliest elements known to humanity in the same way as more benign minerals, was made with no public debate or consultation with the Australian community. The coalition's uranium policy resurrects the dangers of over 20 proposed uranium mines with Jabiluka being the first proposed seeking approval. Plans for Beverley and Honeymoon in South Australia and Koongarra in the Northern Territory are also well under way.



"ERA will push ahead with plans for Jabiluka whether or not it is ultimately opposed by the senior Aboriginal Traditional Owner of the land."

Philip Shirvington, CEO, ERA, May 1997.

The Jabiluka Proposal

Energy Resources of Australia's (ERAs) current proposal to mine uranium at Jabiluka is the latest in a series of attempts to mine the orebody since it was discovered in 1971. The ERA proposal for an underground mine with remote milling of the uranium ore differs considerably from the Pancontinental proposal of 1982 for which the lease was negotiated. That proposal envisaged an open cut mine with on-site milling of the ore. ERA's current preferred option to mine Jabiluka involves the following:

- The current proposal creates environmental damage, risks worker health, provides no extra jobs, has faulty economic claims, has a flawed Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and will bring the total radioactive tailings buried in Kakadu to 60 million tonnes.
- 80.5 hectares will be cleared on the Jabiluka lease which is entirely enclosed within the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.
- A 22.5 km road is proposed to allow uranium ore to be transported in open trucks, for milling at Ranger. The road will traverse the Magela Creek system — part of the Kakadu wetlands — in three places.
- The underground mine will be 400 metres deep with a portal entry. Underground uranium mines cause higher radiation exposure for workers than open cut mines.
- Over the 28 year life of the mine, 19.5 million tonnes of uranium ore will be extracted to produce 90,400 tonnes of uranium oxide. The yellowcake will be trucked to Darwin Port then shipped. ERA claim that Jabiluka will bring \$3.8 billion over 28 years. This accounting excludes the environmental costs associated with the industry and the social costs of the mine.
- In March 1996 it was claimed that "Jabiluka would employ 2000 people within 2 to 3 years". However, the 1997 EIS states that "Ten additional personnel will be required in Year 2 of operations." Following construction, according to ERA, "workforce requirements for the project are low as many procedures will be incorporated within the existing workforce arrangements at Ranger."
- The 1997 EIS was found to be inadequate in several areas by the Minister for the Environment Senator Hill. The separate Social Impact Study concluded that mining had not brought expected gains to the Aboriginal community as health, housing and education are substandard. This conclusion was not taken into account in the approvals process.
- Sixty million tonnes of tailings waste will be buried within Kakadu if Jabiluka proceeds. Ranger is already creating 40 million tonnes of waste and Jabiluka would add another 20 million tonnes. Tailings waste contains up to 85% of the original radioactivity of the in-situ ore and will remain highly radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years.

The Commonwealth Department, Environment Australia, questioned the reliability of tailings containment. "Although ERA has committed to further action if seepage is detected, the relevance of such a commitment to an event that may occur 1,000-10,000 years or more from present is questionable."

Environment Australia 'Environment Assessment Report' 1997 p 102.

The Performance of Ranger



Ranger Uranium Mine

photo: Sandy Schelterma

Uranium miners receive doses of radiation far in excess of the general population. Accidents increase that exposure. In July 1982 yellowcake was ingested by two workers at Ranger. In 1983 the discovery was made that for an unknown period of time drinking water at the mine had been connected to the processing water. Workers went on strike for a week following this incident and other occupational health and safety concerns continue. The "safe" exposure level for workers is calculated at lower and lower levels but the real risks are unknown.

Social and cultural impacts of the mine have caused lasting problems.

Several studies have been conducted to assess the consequences of Ranger mine on the people. The promise of affluence has not materialised, royalty money has been diverted for basic services and infrastructure which ought to be provided by government. The 1996 Gunbang report linked mining royalties with high levels of alcohol consumption while health, education and housing are well below national levels.

In 1979, when the Northern Land Council assented to uranium mining at Ranger, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ian Viner said that "this is a great day for all of us". He was wrong.



photo: Sandy Scheltema

The sandstone escarpments of the Arnhem Land plateau tower over lowland plains covered in spinifex grasslands and wooded savannas. Extensive river systems create freshwater floodplains, rich estuaries, mangroves, mudflats and swamps. The unique landforms of Kakadu contain some of the most diverse and ecologically rich areas in Australia. It is home to more than one third of Australia's bird species. Two and a half million birds flock in the wetlands of the Nourlangie and Magela floodplains. Kakadu is a refuge for 120 species of reptiles and amphibians, with 50 species of fish and over one quarter of Australia's terrestrial mammals.

Kakadu is Australia's largest national park at 19,804 square kilometres. Legally Kakadu is Aboriginal land which, since 1979 has been leased to the Commonwealth Government. In 1981 Kakadu became the first Australian place to be registered as a World Heritage site and is one of fewer than 20 sites in the world to be listed for both its natural and cultural values.

Kakadu is recognised for its World Heritage cultural values because for over 40,000 years Aboriginal people have lived on that land, work it and cared for it. That country has some of the oldest and best preserved archaeological sites including extensive art galleries which provide the longest uninterrupted historical record of any people on the face of the earth. The link remains in the traditional relationships of people, land and culture. Jabiluka threatens that relationship.

"We will fight to protect our country, and that is a fact of life."

Yvonne Margarula



Yvonne Margarula

photo: David Hancock

The Jabiluka "lease" is on land owned by the Mirrar people. Mirrar land already has the Ranger Uranium Mine and other developments including Jabiru township, the Kakadu National Park Headquarters and much tourism development.

The Mirrar clan comprises 27 adults and many children who live in or near Jabiru. The Mirrar successfully gained title to their land in 1982 under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1976) NT. There is no question that Mirrar hold historic and legal title to their land yet they are unable to exercise and enjoy their property rights.

The Mirrar have always opposed uranium mining and intrusive non-Aboriginal industrial development. An unwelcome administrative regime was imposed on Mirrar as a direct result of the Ranger negotiations

Stop Jabiluka Mine

during the late 1970s. Mirrar object to those arrangements which were secured by duress. Traditional Owners were forced to agree to uranium mining. Meanwhile the companies have profited, government authority has been perpetuated and the Aboriginal community continues to suffer appalling social and economic disadvantage.

The Mirrar have witnessed 15 years of social and economic disaster. They emphatically reject the proposition that mining will deliver them from the fourth world conditions they endure. Mirrar are now attacking the barriers which prevent them from exercising self-determination.

This is a fight for the survival of Mirrar. As custodians of Kakadu they are fighting the mine. As families seeking to protect their culture and maintain laws derived from their land, handed to them by their ancestors, they are fighting the mine. This is the Native Title of the Mirrar which is at stake. It is their future. As a people it is their right to live according their values and beliefs. They should not be forced by government into an assimilation with industry.

Mirrar up front

The Mirrar began the Stop Jabiluka Campaign in 1996. A network of environment and social justice groups has since developed in support. The campaign has many strands including speaking tours, publications, legal action, numerous international activities and the refusal to accept lease payments from the company. With other beneficiaries, Mirrar have instructed the Northern Land Council to return lease monies to the company.

Mirrar have stated their concerns to the World Heritage Bureau which, as yet, has failed to recognise the threat to Kakadu and its people. But the issues can no longer be ignored by government, by the Bureau and by the international community.



photo: Sandy Scheltema

"Mirrar people have fought to protect country and people from uranium mining for many years. Now, we are defending our country against the proposed Jabiluka development. We invite you to come to our country to join our struggle to uphold the cultural and environmental values of Kakadu."

Mirrar clan

Mirrar have already taken direct action on the Jabiluka lease and at Ranger Mine including occupation of the Ranger lease. Mirrar have now extended an invitation to those opposed to Jabiluka to join with them to blockade the lease.

Jabiluka and the Approvals process

The election of the Howard government brought a uranium stampede and Jabiluka was at the front. In spite of advice to government that a new agreement was required the Aboriginal Land Rights Act has not been triggered to allow Mirrar to exercise their power of veto. Instead ERA has clung to a fifteen year old dubiously 'negotiated' agreement to force the mine through.

The company's Environmental Impact Statement failed to recognise the severe negative



photo: Sandy Scheltema

impact on Aboriginal people and the cultural values of Kakadu. It also fails to recognise the significance of sacred sites on and near the orebody. Despite this, the Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill, gave his

approval the Minister for Resources, Senator Warwick Parer, then outlined requirements under which the development could proceed. However, at that time (October 1997) significant requirements and other issues were yet to be concluded and a legal challenge over the validity of the mineral lease was pending. At the time of publication the requirements on Energy Resources of Australia remain unmet and the legal challenge continues.

The Mirrar clan are refusing to participate in any negotiations over a mine they do not want and will not have.

Jacqui Katona, Executive Officer, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation

Stop Jabiluka Mine

The commercial use of solar and wind power is happening so quickly in Europe, the USA and Asia, that proponents of nuclear energy look like antiquated cheatersquads for a 1950s power source that's never been popular.

On the other hand, wind power and solar energy are easy to like: what could be more sensible than harnessing the wind that rustles through the treetops, or the sunlight that beats on our roofs? According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, \$9,000 times Australia's daily energy requirements hit the continent in the form of solar energy EACH DAY. And 45 times our daily energy requirements hit our coastlines as wind power. Australia's solar research scientists hold the world record for the most efficient solar-electric cells, and Australia is already the world's largest consumer of solar-electric power because Telstra has more than 4.5 million watts of solar cells in use in the Outback.

So the Solar Age and the wind power revolutions are upon us - we just need to wheel our politicians into the sunlight to show them what's going on out there in the Big Wide World. Denmark (with lower wind speeds than Australia), will generate 10 per cent of its power from the wind within ten years. Spain will power 30 per cent of the entire country from wind farms by 2010, and Holland is installing 10,000 megawatts of wind power - that's more electricity from the wind than most nuclear power plants can manage.

Sweden's renewable energy market is progressing thanks to a 25 year-old referendum decision to reject nuclear power. Danish wind turbines have dropped in price by 20 per cent in the past three years. This 'Green' industry employs 16,000 people

in Denmark. In Sydney recently one solar power company won a \$40 million contract to supply solar power to one million villagers in The Philippines, creating 40 jobs in Sydney in the process. An entire Japanese housing estate will soon have roof tiles made of solar panels.

The 'allure of nuclear power' is that small quantities of fuel can produce large quantities of energy, the big bang for your buck. One gram of uranium can produce 3,800 kilowatt hours of electricity. However, a uranium atom can only be fissioned once, whereas a silicon solar cell can absorb photons of sunlight repeatedly and convert them to electricity.

Over its lifetime in solar-electric cells which are only 15 per cent efficient, one gram of silicon produces 3,300 kilowatt hours of electricity. So, gram for gram, silicon and uranium produce comparable amounts of electricity, and silicon is the most abundant element on the Earth's surface.

Wind solar energy power the homes of thousands of Australians. A new solar power farm has just opened at Singleton in New South Wales; another one is being built near Canberra, and other solar power farms will be feeding green electricity into the mains grid before the end of 1998. Consumers love these Green power schemes - 230 NSW households per week are signing up to schemes that deliver them solar or wind-generated electricity for a 10 to 20 per cent premium on their power bills. Only five per cent of Australian homes use solar water heaters, whereas 50 per cent of Danes have them - and we average far more sunshine hours per year than Denmark.

With our technical, natural and intellectual resources there is no justification for expanding uranium mining into the heartland of Kakadu - or anywhere else. The answer, my friend, is not blowing in the Chernobyl wind. And the best nuclear reactions happen 150 million kilometres away - on the sun.

Alan T. Gray, editor, Earth Garden.

Uranium mining: not a wise choice

Uranium mining and nuclear energy are not safe, not cheap, not clean and not necessary. Uranium mining is also the first stage of the production of nuclear weapons. The half life of every gram of uranium is 200,000 years. There is no safe means of storing nuclear waste. There is no safe level of radiation exposure.

The permissible levels of exposure of workers has declined dramatically over years as the dangers of radiation have become better known. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have shown that uranium mining is the major cause of human exposure to ionising radiation. One study estimates that 20,000 workers have died of lung cancer and silicosis due to mining and milling of uranium.

The promises about nuclear power have not been delivered. The cost of generating power is not the full cost of nuclear power. The cost of decommissioning plants is enormous. When the Thatcher government sold energy utilities there were no buyers for the nuclear power plants. The number of nuclear plants is declining as the cost and the safety factors are fully realised. The accidents at Chernobyl, at Three Mile Island and on nuclear powered vessels have caused enormous damage to the industry which still propounds the big lie of 'cheap and safe'.

Every stage of the production of nuclear fuel creates a toxic legacy of waste. From mining to the reprocessing of fuel rods to the decommissioning of plants and 'cleaning up' after accidents, the waste accumulates. No safe means of storage has been developed. Dumping remains the preferred method. The cost to the future is incalculable. Greenhouse will not be solved by going nuclear as global warming cannot be compensated for by the poison of nuclear waste. Improving energy efficiency, through reducing, reusing, recycling and refusing is the answer.

The final argument against nuclear energy is that uranium is the essential ingredient of nuclear weapons. The energy industry and weapons industry are reciprocal. Over 36,000 weapons remain despite a decade of decommissioning weapons. Despite nuclear safeguards and international treaties there is no guarantee of protection from the nuclear arms race. The 'peaceful' nuclear industry is the core component of the nuclear arms race. The French Defence Minister pointed to the hypocrisy of Australia in allowing the production of uranium while condemning French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. The Australian Government cannot guarantee that Australian uranium is not contained in nuclear weapons.

So where does uranium from ERA's Ranger mine end up?

About 46% of ERA's existing contracts are with the USA, however these contracts are generally for shorter periods and at lower prices than ERA's other contracts. ERA's US sales are affected by depressed prices on the spot market.

41% of ERA sales are to Asia, mainly Japan, to the Kansai Power Co, the Kyushu Electric Power Co and the Shikoku Power Co. These companies are both customers and shareholders in ERA. The Kansai Power Co has been targeted by Japanese activists about the Jabiluka issue. ERA has also had four contracts with the Korean Electric Power Co.

The remaining 13% of ERA uranium sales are to Europe, primarily to Germany, France, Belgium, Britain and Sweden.

1998 is the deciding year for the Jabiluka campaign. By working together we will stop this uranium mine from going ahead. If you want to become involved there are Jabiluka action groups all around the country, from Hobart to Wagga and Perth, people are fighting to save Kakadu and support the Mirrar people. Your energy, talents and skills would be most welcome and are desperately needed if we are to win this struggle.

Please Join Us to Help Stop Jabiluka

With or without a group there are many ways you can help, here are just a few ideas.

- 👤 Campaign funds are urgently needed for the blockade cost, promotional material and lobbying. If you or your friends and family can contribute please use the coupon to send your money directly to the Jabiluka campaign. Why not organise a fundraising?
- 👤 The Jabiluka film shows the struggle of the Mirrar people against uranium mining, from Ranger through to Jabiluka. It is a wonderful way to tell your friends, work mates and family about the issue. To order a copy of the video (\$30 for individuals, \$50 for organisations, \$100 for corporations) please contact the Australian Conservation Foundation: phone no. (03) 9926 6738.
- 👤 Distribute Jabiluka campaign information in your community. It is always hard to reach every town and suburb. You can help by copying information and making it available in libraries and other public places.
- 👤 Respond to Jabiluka media issues by calling talk back radio and writing letters to the editor. Politicians gauge public opinion through the media. Please help us to keep up with all the local and regional media events.

The Blockade

From 23 March a permanent camp has been in place at Kakadu. The aim of the blockade is to stop ERA from proceeding with the construction of the Jabiluka mine. The blockade will be in place from the end of March through to the end of 1998. This is the opportunity of a lifetime - camp on Mirrar country and hear their story, experience the wonders of Kakadu and stop a uranium mine! For blockade details contact the Environment Centre NT or your closest Jabiluka group. We need people, equipment and money to keep the blockade going. If you cannot make it up to Kakadu, remember that there is a lot of organising happening in each city to support the blockade. Please do what you can to help.

Hands of Kakadu

People who are unable to make it to the blockade are being asked to participate by joining the "Hands of Kakadu" campaign. You can show your support for the Jabiluka campaign and Mirrar people by painting your hand prints on a banner or flag which can be sent to the blockade and used on actions. All you need is some material, some paint and hundreds of supportive people. In this easy and effective way you can be present at the blockade too!

The Great Jabiluka Corporate Web

Invest your money wisely!

Don't let your money be used to fund uranium mining in Australia.

North Ltd, the biggest hardwood woodchip company in the world, is the parent company of ERA, with a 60% equity interest. ERA is a publicly listed company and is therefore susceptible to sharemarket influence. Some very well known large shareholders of ERA are:

National Australia Bank Nominees
Westpac Custodian Nominees
ANZ Nominees
(Source: ERA prospectus 1997)

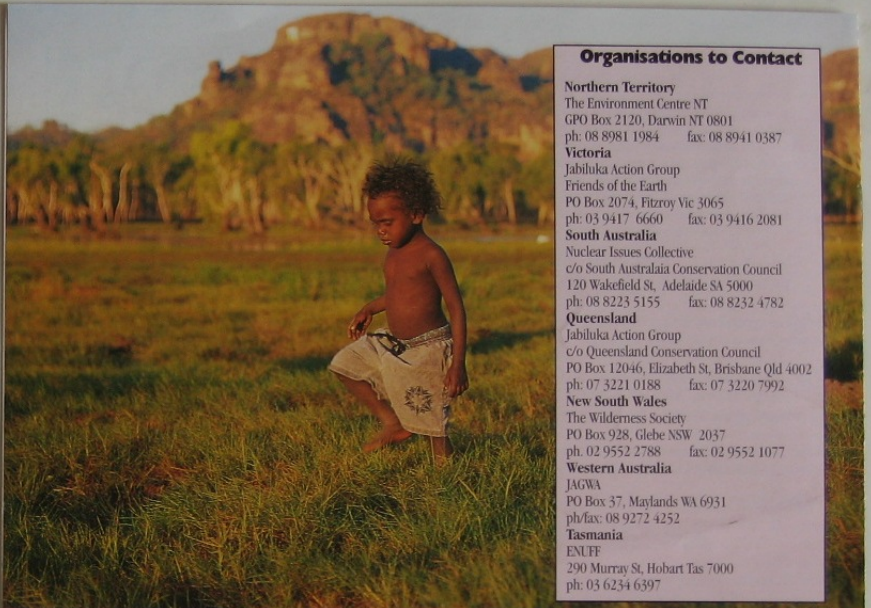
You may choose to complain or move your money from banks and businesses that are investing in uranium mining.

Which of the following is safe?

- a) Sticking a fork in a power point.
- b) Bungee jumping with dental floss.
- c) Building a uranium mine in a National Park prone to floods where people eat off the land.

Okay, it was a trick question.





Organisations to Contact

Northern Territory

The Environment Centre NT
GPO Box 2120, Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8981 1984 fax: 08 8941 0387

Victoria

Jabiluka Action Group
Friends of the Earth
PO Box 2074, Fitzroy Vic 3065
ph: 03 9417 6660 fax: 03 9416 2081

South Australia

Nuclear Issues Collective
c/o South Australia Conservation Council
120 Wakefield St, Adelaide SA 5000
ph: 08 8223 5155 fax: 08 8232 4782

Queensland

Jabiluka Action Group
c/o Queensland Conservation Council
PO Box 12046, Elizabeth St, Brisbane Qld 4002
ph: 07 3221 0188 fax: 07 3220 7992

New South Wales

The Wilderness Society
PO Box 928, Glebe NSW 2037
ph: 02 9552 2788 fax: 02 9552 1077

Western Australia

JAGWA
PO Box 37, Maylands WA 6951
ph/fax: 08 9272 4252

Tasmania

ENUFF
290 Murray St, Hobart Tas 7000
ph: 03 6234 6397

An alliance of Environment Groups across the country is pooling resources to stop the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine in Kakadu. The Jabiluka Action Fund will provide desperately needed funds to run all aspects of the campaign, from educational materials to a national blockade in Kakadu. Your support for the Jabiluka Action Fund will help save our environment from radioactive pollution. To make your tax-deductible donation please fill in and send the coupon below.

The Jabiluka Action Fund is supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Earth, The Wilderness Society, Environment Centre NT, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, and Jabiluka Action Groups.

Yes, I want to donate to save Kakadu

Name: Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

Phone: (bh) _____ (ah) _____

I will make a tax deductible donation of

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

Send to: Environment Centre NT, GPO Box 2120, Darwin, NT 0801

or

Send to: ACE, 340 Gore St, Fitzroy 3065 Fax: (03) 9416 0767

Phone: (03) 9416 1166 or 1800 552 310 (have your credit card details handy)

Payment Method

cheque/money order enclosed

(please make payable to Environment Centre NT or Australian Conservation Foundation)

OR please charge my: Bankcard M'card

Visa Amex Diners

Card no: _____

_____ / _____ / _____

Exp. date _ / _ Signature _____

Jabiluka Alliance

Cover photo supplied by Greg Miles. Above photo: Sandy Scheltema. Design and layout by Donna Luckman

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