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Impact of feral Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* grazing on White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* breeding success in subtropical river habitat in the Northern Territory, Australia

Laurie Corbett[1,2,3] and Tony Hertog[1]

[1]CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre, Darwin, Northern Territory 0800, Australia
[2]Present address: P.O. Box 27, Metung, Victoria 3904, Australia
[3]Corresponding author. Email: lkcorbett@bigpond.com

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Diet and breeding success of White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* in Kakadu National Park were compared between years with (1980–85) and without (1992–94) high densities of feral Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis*. Overall, prey comprised turtles (39.8%), fi sh (26.5%), birds (28.3%), mammals (4.4%) and snakes (0.9%) and there was no significant difference in diet between years with and without Buffalo. However, significantly more Sea-Eagle pairs attempted to breed (100%) and fledge young (83%) in years without Buffalo than in years with Buffalo when 63 percent of Sea-Eagle pairs attempted breeding of which 46 percent were successful. The increased breeding success was likely due to increased hunting success during the dry season when Sea-Eagles breed. Following Buffalo removal and the subsequent vegetative covering of water-bodies, Sea-Eagles were able to reach striking distance before detection by prey. The results of this study will be useful for wildlife managers in the Top End where Buffalo are feral or are farmed.