The managing authority

All of Kakadu is jointly managed by traditional Aboriginal owners and Parks Australia. Management is directed by the Kakadu Board of Management, which currently has fifteen members: ten Aboriginal representatives of traditional owners, two representatives of Parks Australia (one being the Director of National Parks), a person prominent in the field of nature conservation, a person employed in the tourism industry in the Northern Territory, and a representative from the Northern Territory government.

The Board and the Director of National Parks prepare management plans for the Park. Management plans describe how the Director and the Board are to manage the Park for a set period, usually five years. Preparing the plans involves detailed consultation with traditional Aboriginal owners, two rounds of public submissions, acceptance by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, and tabling in Federal Parliament. The Board’s other main function is to make decisions about the management of the Park, consistent with the management plan.

Day-to-day management of Kakadu is carried out by people employed by Parks Australia, which is a branch of the Commonwealth environment portfolio, the Department of the Environment and Heritage. Approximately one-third of the staff in Kakadu are Aboriginal people.