

GLOBAL WETLANDS PROJECT

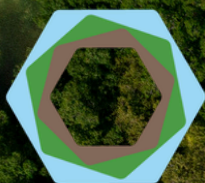
AUSTRALIA

The GLOW team in Australia has been actively monitoring crabs and fish communities in the mangroves on regular field trips, comparing restored versus healthy reference sites. These surveys are helping the team build a stronger understanding of how crab abundance, behaviour, and community patterns differ across mangrove conditions, and how restoration sites may be recovering over time.

Camera-based monitoring has captured detailed behavioural observations, including crabs carrying leaves into their burrows. These small but important behaviours can provide insights into how crabs interact with mangrove vegetation, sediment, and organic matter. The team has also observed differences in crab abundance patterns between healthy mangroves and restoration sites. Encouragingly, some restored sites appear to be tracking towards a similar crab “fingerprint” to that found in healthy mangrove systems.

Night-time monitoring has opened another valuable window into mangrove activity. Early observations suggest that larger crab specimens may be more active at night, revealing patterns that would otherwise be missed during daytime surveys. The camera systems have also captured other animals moving through the mangroves, including a rodent observed at night. In addition to crab monitoring, the Australian team continues to monitor sentinel fish species as indicators of mangrove ecosystem health.

GLOW Australia researchers in the field



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