

Wet Tropics Rainforests Project 12.1:

Indigenous co-management and biodiversity protection

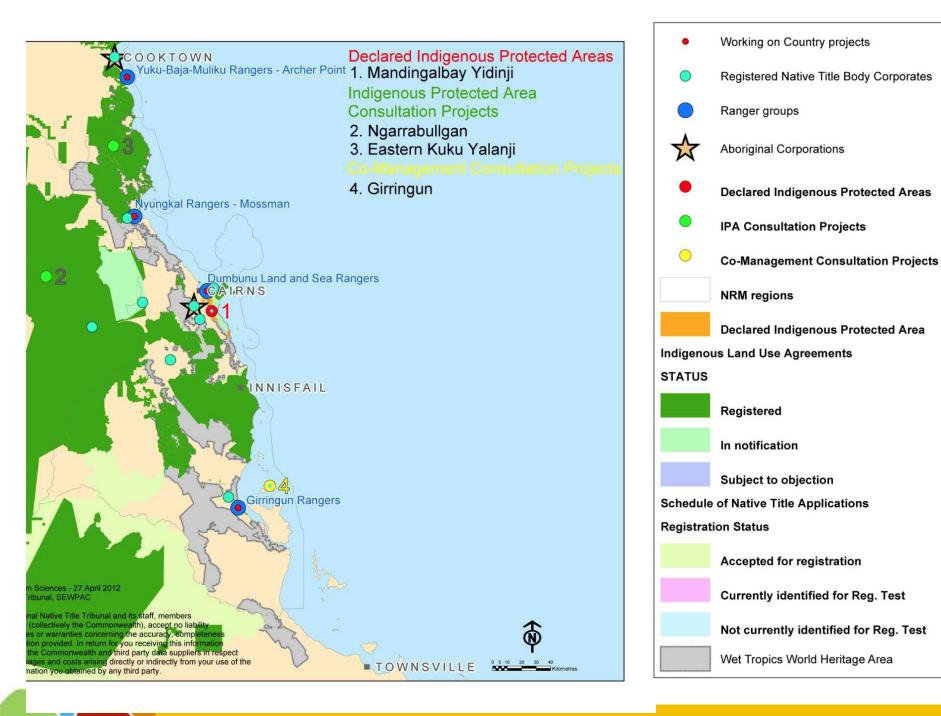
Implementing Indigenous Engagement Principles:

working in co-research mode to generate knowledge and achieve practical sustainable outcome



THE WORK

- Brings management institutions and Traditional Owners together as a collaborative co-research team
- Shares knowledges and explores different views of managing country
- Looks at how management arrangements can better recognise traditional knowledge, culture and practices, and progress stronger (co-/collaborative/joint) management of conservation areas
 - Understand institutions, opportunities and structural barriers
 - Identify and bridge gaps
 - Provide input into policy options and management practice.





RESULTS

Part One: Institutional analysis (Maclean et al. 2012)

- Institutions as the formal and informal arrangements, rules, regulations and social norms that shape behaviour
 - International, national, state, regional, local
 - Regulatory vs non-regulatory
- The extent to which each institution considers the rights, values and roles of Aboriginal people in environmental management
- ◆ Identified significant barriers exist to equitable engagement



TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS hub

Level	Regulatory/ Non-regulatory	Organisations	Rights (native title)	Cultural Values	Roles in Biodiversity Management
Global	1 regulatory 5 non-regulatory	Four United Nations organisations	2 no, 4 yes	6 yes	1 no, 5 yes
National	3 regulatory, 1 non-regulatory	3 Australian Government organisations	4 yes	4 yes	2 yes, 2 no
State (Queensland)	11 regulatory 1 non-regulatory	Multiple State agencies	12 yes	8 yes, 3 no, 1 unclear	6 yes, 4 no, 2 unclear
Regional	5 regulatory 11 non- regulatory	Diverse government, non- government, Indigenous organisations	14 yes, 1 no, 1 unclear	14 yes, 2 no (both regulatory)	15 yes, 1 no (regulatory)
Local	2 regulatory, 3 non-regulatory	Diverse government, non- government, Indigenous organisations	5 yes	4 yes, 1 site- specific	4 yes, 1 site specific



RESULTS

Part Two: Looked at Indigenous views of co-management

a process of Indigenous societies' strategic leadership and rights and responsibility-based engagement

Principles

Fluid movement, TO group's own trajectory; Self-determined level of involvement in shared space; Recognise scale Rights, responsibility and relationship-based engagement

Indigenous societies:

Strategic vision and intent, on the front foot, people, culture, country

Mechanisms

Relationships

Good ones enable

Indigenous roles

Flexible approach

Roundtable of stakeholders who follow-up with actions

Strategic and practical plans and documents

Power

Right to exercise native title, "big-stick", common law rights

Regimes for joint management legislation, policy

Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples

Indigenous leadership &multi-level governance;

Family, Traditional Owner Group, Language Group Alliances, Regional Alliance

Culture

Indigenist ways of knowing, doing, believing;

Lore, law and dreaming

Country

Story places, fire, totems, plants, animals, hunting, fishing, collecting.

Fine-scale, intense local level organisation driving management on country; economic development, making a living from country,



RESULTS

Part Three: Joint Workshop

Indigenous co-management as a process of emergent path-generation towards a new equitable relationship

Indigenous societies'

Renewal through recognition of rights, culture on country

First steps

- Native title, ILUAs
- "Natural" world heritage site

Wet Tropics managed by governments in partnership with communities, including Indigenous peoples Indigenous societies' path

Collaborative engagement with non-Indigenous people on country.

Co-management

Indigenous societies '

New, equitable relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous societies about country

Joint management

- Wet Tropics joint management vision
- Recognision of cultural values
- Support for Indigenous management roles
- Steps along the journey

Shared space

- Stewardship responsibility
- Mutual influence
- Legal co-governance regimes

Joint Wet Tropics new relationship



APPLICATION OF WORK

Rainforest Aboriginal people, government agencies and community organisations in the Wet Tropics region using the outcomes of this research to strengthen their collaboration in ensuring effective sustainable management of these landscapes.......

The principles emerging from the research will likely to be relevant throughout Australia.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Participatory evaluation of current status of Indigenous engagement in the wet tropics against the frameworks
- Identifying gaps between aspirations and current levels of engagement and policy options to bridge these
- Policy and mechanisms for engaging Indigenous knowledge and values for effective joint management













CSIRO

THANK YOU

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