



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

NERP Indigenous Engagement Strategy

2013-2014 Including Torres Strait Guidelines

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Forum Title: Implementing the NERP TE Hub Indigenous Engagement Strategy



RELEVANCE OF WORK

- **The overall objective** is to facilitate the wide recognition of the benefits of combining and acknowledging Indigenous Ecological Knowledge with western science to manage the natural and cultural environment.
- The **aim** of the NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub Indigenous Engagement Strategy and Implementation Plan is to *scope opportunities and encourage research leaders to consider methods of engagement with traditional owners and Indigenous communities.*
- To assess opportunities for knowledge transfer between Indigenous groups and researchers during the remaining term of the Hub (2013-2014).



MAIN GOAL

- The overall goal of this Indigenous Engagement Strategy (IES) and Implementation Plan (IP) is to:
- ensure a meaningful two-way engagement relationship for the NERP TE Hub that will recognise the interests, rights and Indigenous ecological knowledge (IEK) of Traditional Owners in land and sea country, and
- to develop a working partnership of Indigenous groups and Hub representatives, including researchers, scientists and others



OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub research is relevant and of benefit to Indigenous communities and organisations.
- To ensure the NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub research is conducted according to the highest ethical standards and respects Indigenous priorities and values.
- To scope opportunities for Indigenous engagement, employment, skills transfer, sharing of knowledge and the increase of cultural awareness amongst all parties.
- To effectively communicate research results and share knowledge between Indigenous peoples and researchers.
- To facilitate effective Indigenous participation in Hub governance.



TORRES STRAIT APPLICATION

- Initial contact to be made with the TSRA LSMU.
- The LSMU will then seek formal endorsement from the TSRA Board for research activities.
- LSMU project team and community liaison contact PBC, TOs and elders prior to the intended fieldwork.
- LSMU confirm if able to assist and accompany the researchers in the field.
- Community Notice and Project Factsheet.
- If needed, agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the researchers and the LSMU staff.
- Logistics confirmed with the LSMU at least two months prior.
- Feedback to community stakeholders within three months.
- Provide results and reports for comment.
- Acknowledgement of the support provided.



MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS

- Continue working with all communities, government agencies and researchers.
- Support policy co-ordination, research, planning and adaptive management.
- Acknowledgement of the processes for effective engagement.
- The “buddy” system of communication.
- Conduct research in an ethical manner, mindful of Indigenous cultures and Intellectual Property ownership.



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THANK YOU

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