

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub Torres Strait Project Factsheet

Improved approaches for detection of disease and preventions of spread in the Torres Strait

Project leader: Dr Susan Laurance (JCU)

The National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems (NERP TE) Hub is an environmental science program funded by the Australian Government with six projects in the Torres Strait.

About this project

Torres Strait acts as a bridge to Australia for transport of animal-borne diseases. The aim of this project is to improve ways of finding exotic animal diseases brought into the Torres Strait. The researchers will look at what causes wildlife diseases to establish and persist in the region. They will also study how diseases are spread by insects and birds.

Why this research is important

Diseases carried by animals are serious threats to human health, agriculture and Australian wildlife. There is a real chance that disease could enter Australia through people or animal movements in the Torres Strait so monitoring and being able to detect disease are vital.

Research benefits for the community

Improved methods of detecting and monitoring disease will result in increased capacity to protect Torres Strait biodiversity and people from disease.

Who is leading this project?



Photo: JCU

Dr Susan Laurance
James Cook University

Susan is a tropical leader at JCU's School of Marine and Tropical Biology. She is interested in how human activity affects rainforest plants and animals.

P: (07) 4042 1111

E: susan.laurance@jcu.edu.au



Photo: TSRA

Vic McGrath
TSRA

Vic is Senior Community Liaison Officer with TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit

P: (07) 4069 0801

E: vic.mcgrath@tsra.gov.au



Capturing birds such as this silvereye for the detection of blood borne parasites (Avian Malaria)



Dagmar Meyer Steiger, JCU Masters Student studying disease vectors

Research partners



TSRA
www.tsra.gov.au

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 3: Managing for resilient tropical systems
Program 11: Resilient Torres Strait communities
Project: 11.2

NERP TE Hub researchers acknowledge the valued input of the traditional owners and communities of the Torres Strait



Australian Government
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

