

Mangrove and freshwater habitat status of Torres Strait islands

Project leaders: Dr Norm Duke & Dr Damien Burrows (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

Working together with Traditional Owners and Rangers, the researchers will look at different mangrove areas around the islands. They want to build a picture of what mangroves look like now so they can measure any changes in the future.

Why this research is important

Torres Strait Islanders know a lot about the different mangrove systems on their islands. Scientists want to learn about these mangrove areas to establish a baseline of mangrove status and condition. This is important because mangroves are some of the most threatened areas in Torres Strait. They also play an important role in protecting the islands against rising sea levels and king tides.

Research benefits for the community

The benefits of the project include:

- Baseline data on mangrove condition which land and sea rangers and community groups can use to monitor future changes
- Baseline data on freshwater habitats, fish and water plants to monitor change and support improved management practices
- Links to the MangroveWatch community monitoring program will help communities in managing mangrove habitat
- Community discussions on values and management of mangroves and freshwater habitats and increased awareness of the importance of these systems, especially among land and sea rangers.

Who is leading this project?



Photo: JCU

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Norm is a mangrove ecologist specialising in monitoring, surveying and mapping and investigating disturbances to tidal wetlands.
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Photo: JCU

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Photo: TSRA

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Badu Ranger Supervisor Troy Stow assists with aerial surveys of Badu Island wetlands

Photo: N. Duke

Project partners



Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au

Theme 1: Assessing ecosystem condition and trends
Program 2: Natural resources of the TS land and sea
Project: 2.2

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

