

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub Project Factsheet

Indigenous co-management and biodiversity protection

Project leader: Dr Rosemary Hill (CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences)

Project summary

The project seeks to improve understanding of practices that can underpin co-management arrangements for conservation areas, including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA).

A co-research team of CSIRO scientists, Rainforest Aboriginal peoples, protected area managers and other key partners will investigate the potential of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs), and other collaborative models and tools, to engage Indigenous values and world views. The team will focus on the conditions under which these arrangements lead to effective joint management.

The overall goal of the project is to identify the means for effective engagement of Indigenous knowledge and co-management for biodiversity and cultural protection in the region; and for joint management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area between governments and Rainforest Aboriginal peoples, in partnership with communities.

Research-user focus

Rainforest Aboriginal people, government agencies and community organisations in the Wet Tropics region will use 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 be relevant throughout Australia.

Outcomes

The project will deliver tested mechanisms for co-governance and collaboration between Traditional Owners, government managers, and other key partners, for biodiversity and Indigenous cultural conservation in the Wet Tropics region.

Project Partners:



Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers taking visitors on a guided walk in their Indigenous Protected Area.



Giringun artists and rangers prepare for Arts workshop with CSIRO researchers, Gyambol Wetlands.



Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elders Roslyn Port and Ena Shipton performing warming ceremony to prepare visitors to walk on country.

Photos (from top to bottom) R. Hill, K. Maclean, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. Reproduced with the permission of the Traditional Owners

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au

Theme 3: Managing for Resilient Tropical Systems
Program 12: Managing for Resilience in Rainforests
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For more information about this project, contact:

Dr Ro Hill (CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences)
ro.hill@csiro.au