Project summary
This project will work with a range of stakeholders to identify the most effective governance systems for managing climate change adaptation in the Wet Tropics through the emergence of new ecosystem service markets. The project will directly contribute to:

- Regional climate change adaptation policies and planning processes.
- Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations’ role in guiding emerging carbon markets in Australia and the region.

Why this research is needed
Emerging carbon farming legislation is driving the need for new arrangements to guide carbon-based and other ecosystem services markets. In the face of climate change, we need to better understand how we can better integrate landscape planning with biodiversity conservation to take advantage of these markets. The project will provide stronger regional partnerships and knowledge to guide these emerging ecosystem services markets and build capacity within the region to capitalize on these markets.

Research-user focus
The outcomes of the project will be useful to a range of stakeholder organisations including regional NRM bodies and state and Australian Government agencies. Research-users include Terrain NRM, Cape York Peninsula NRM, Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Outcomes
This project will deliver tangible benefits that will:

- Result in higher-quality regional NRM plans over the next three years.
- Guide the emerging ecosystem services market
- Build capacity within the region to mobilise access to this market.
- Contribute to national and state policy on NRM planning and ecosystem services markets.

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 3: Managing for Resilient Tropical Systems
Program 12: Managing for Resilience in Rainforests
Project: 12.4

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