Torres Strait eAtlas

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e-delivery of scientific and environmental knowledge for Torres Strait

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Problem

• Significant research has been undertaken in Torres Strait but very little is broadly accessible.
• Access to research and reference maps is vital for good environmental management.
• The eAtlas is a platform for making environmental research and reference data accessible via the web.
• Develop quality accessible base maps for Torres Strait.
What is the Torres Strait eAtlas?

• Website and mapping system for making environmental research available online.
• Intended to improve access and use of science.
  • Researchers, Managers, Public
• Maps, data, meta-data, visualization tools, articles.
• Regional eAtlas to remove clutter of the main eAtlas covering the GBR and Wet Tropics.
DEMONSTRATION
Website

- Projects
- Articles
- Datasets
- Search
- Maps
- Weather

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Project information

- Collation of products of each project
- Overview of project and outcomes
- Reports from NERP Tropical website
- Datasets
- Photos
Map Gallery

- Highlights of some of the mapping layers to get users started.

[Image of the Map Gallery section from ts.eatlas.org.au]
Interactive maps

- Add layers from a collection of over 800 layers.
- Create quick maps for reports.
- Download data directly from the mapping system.
- Displays linked metadata.

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END OF DEMONSTRATION
Improved Torres Strait imagery

- Imagery has broad appeal and use.
- Patchy existing coverage particularly marine areas.
- Needed to collect and process imagery for reef mapping.
- Combined best Landsat 5 over 25 years with aerial imagery from Queensland Government.
- 30 m marine areas, 10 cm community areas.

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Reef mapping for Torres Strait

- No open detailed mapping dataset of Torres Strait previously exists.
  - Needed for Torres Strait eAtlas basemap.
  - Needed by GBRMPA to process RIHS surveys in Eye on the Reef.
- Extend the reef mapping north of GBR marine park.
- Use Landsat 5, 7, 8 archives and many other sources of info.
- Work is still ongoing
Torres Strait Features (1:50k mapping)

- Mapping: islands, reefs, cays, submerged sand dunes, rocks
- Torres Strait Reefs
  - 2600 reef features
  - 320 larger than 1 km²
- GBR Features
  - 3800 reef features
  - 1880 larger than 1 km²
Cultural Festival – Community Engagement

- Information stall at Winds of Zendath cultural festival, Thursday Island (Sept 2014)
- Demonstrated to over 70 locals
  - Popular with children
- Most interest in:
  - Showing others where they are from (high resolution imagery)
  - Dugongs, Turtles, Geology
- Good computer skills
- Great geographic knowledge

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Tagai State College – Community Engagement

- Four classes from Year 11 and 12 Marine Studies and Conservation and Land Management
- Activities:
  - How to find information on the site.
  - How to make maps for assignments.
- Good engagement from students.
- One class used the Torres Strait eAtlas for an oceanography assignment.
- Provided a copy of the Physical eAtlas for the Land and Sea Discovery centre.

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