Introduction to the Tropical Ecosystems Hub of the National Environmental Research Program

Peter Doherty, Science Leader, NERP TE Hub
Program Objective

The key objective of the National Environmental Research Program is to:

*Improve our capacity to understand, manage and conserve Australia’s unique biodiversity and ecosystems through the generation of world-class research and its delivery to Australian environmental decision makers and other stakeholders.*
The horns of a dilemma

Why we have to try something different to save Africa’s rhinos

Koalas
How do they judge restoration?

Crocodiles
Tracking them just got easier

Lions
Is funding apportioned ‘fairly’ among threatened species?

Decision Point
Decision Point is the monthly magazine of the Environmental Decisions Group (EDG). It presents news and views on environmental decision making, biodiversity, conservation planning and monitoring. See the back cover for more info on the EDG. Decision Point is available free from http://www.decision-point.com.au/

Plus
Turtles and night lights
Saving sea otters and abalone
A new biodiversity offsets calculator
The illegal trade in tiger parts
Summer Scholars report back
Mission

The NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub will address issues of concern for the management, conservation and sustainable use of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA), and the terrestrial and marine assets underpinning resilient communities in the Torres Strait, through the generation and transfer of world-class research and shared knowledge.
Essential Statistics
$25.8 Million (NERP) and total value of $61.9 million
Operating Model

The Hub is a partnership between research providers (AIMS, CSIRO, JCU, UQ, ANU, GU), research-users including Australian and Queensland government agencies, management authorities (GBRMPA, TSRA, WTMA), NRM bodies, conservation NGOs, regional industries, indigenous groups and the general public.
GBR Water Quality projects

NERP TE Hub Implementation Groups for...

Rainforest projects

GBR Biodiversity projects

Torres Strait projects
Discover, learn, investigate and download environmental research and reference data for the Great Barrier Reef, its catchments, the Wet Tropics and the Torres Strait.

Recent articles

- **NERP-TE Project 12.2 - Harnessing natural regeneration for cost-effective rainforest restoration (Griffith University)**
  
  Posted on **29 November 2012**
  
  The project will assist decision-makers to more efficiently restore biodiversity to degraded rainforest landscapes by providing new knowledge about the outcomes of lower-cost natural regeneration (incl... read more

- **NERP-TE Project 7.2 - Invasive species risks and responses in the Wet Tropics (CSIRO)**
  
  Posted on **29 November 2012**
  
  This project focuses on understanding the current and future risk of invasive species in the Wet Tropics (incl... read more

Recent datasets

- **e-Atlas World Baselayer Version 1 (AIMS)**
  
  Posted on **4 May 2013**
  
  The e-Atlas baselayer is a collection of datasets from third parties styled and combined together... read more

- **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Boundary (GBRMPA)**
  
  Posted on **27 April 2013**
  

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 traditional owners in the region will be central to this research. The project will engage traditional owners and local stakeholders, including the Girringun and Tjinaway Dieri peoples, to ensure that the research is relevant and responsive to local needs and priorities.

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

Girringun artists and rangers prepare for Arts workshop with CSIRO researchers, Gyambol Wetlands.
Poster Session

1715-1915

TODAY

Refreshments provided