

# Marine turtles and dugongs of the Torres Strait

Project leaders: Professor Helene Marsh & Dr Mark Hamann (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

In this project Helene, Mark and their team will:

- Work in partnership with TSRA Rangers, TOs and island communities
- Carry out aerial surveys to check dugong numbers across the Torres Strait
- Use satellite tracking to understand how turtles and dugong use their habitats.
- Monitor and analyse marine turtle and dugong population trends
- Look at the main threats to turtles and dugongs
- Compare Torres Strait turtle and dugong populations with international populations

## Why this research is important

The project will help the Australian and Queensland governments, TSRA and local communities better manage turtles and dugongs.

## Research benefits for the community

This project will:

- Improve turtles and dugong management
- Improve the understanding of Rangers, communities, researchers and decision - makers so that we can monitor and manage turtles and dugongs for future generations
- Improve non-indigenous people's awareness of the importance of the traditional and cultural aspects of dugong and turtle management



The Torres Strait has globally significant numbers of turtle and dugong



## Who is leading this project?



Photo: TSRA

**Professor Helene Marsh**  
**James Cook University**

Helene is a world expert on dugongs.

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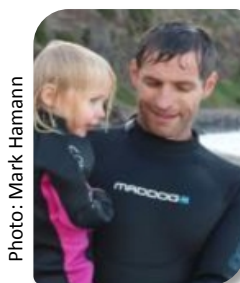


Photo: Mark Hamann

**Dr Mark Hamann**  
**James Cook University**

Mark is a marine turtle specialist.

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Photo: TSRA

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## Project partners



Find this project at [www.nerptropical.edu.au](http://www.nerptropical.edu.au)

Theme 1: Assessing ecosystem condition and trend

Program 2: Natural resources of the TS land and sea

Project: 2.1

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