

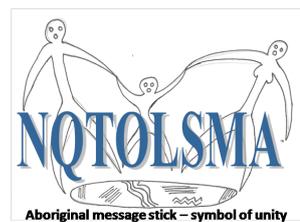
# Wet Tropics Traditional Owners Strategic Research Directions Workshop Report

Held in Innisfail, 15-16 September 2009

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## Acronyms Used in this Report

AHC	Australian Heritage Council
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ARC	Aboriginal Research Council
CBD	Central Business District
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
FNQ NRM Ltd	Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd. (now Terrain NRM)
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JCU	James Cook University
MTRSF	Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility
NQTOLSMA	North Queensland Traditional Owner Land and Sea Management Alliance
NQTOWLMA	North Queensland Traditional Owner Water and Land Management Alliance [this was the title which the Indigenous participants determined was preferable to the hitherto used NQTOLSMA]
NRM	Natural Resource Management
RAAC	Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee
RRRC	Reef and Rainforest Research Centre Ltd.
TO	Traditional Owner
WTMA	Wet Tropics Management Authority
WTWHA	Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

# 1. Introduction

This report documents the outcomes of the 'Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics Strategic Research Direction Workshop' held in Innisfail on 15 and 16 September 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Present outcomes and experiences from MTSRF<sup>1</sup> funded Rainforest Aboriginal research during the period 2006-2010;
- Provide a synthesis of work that occurred through the Rainforest CRC relevant to Aboriginal peoples;
- Provide opportunities for Traditional Owners to discuss emerging research priorities for natural and cultural resource management, including consideration of new priorities set by the Australian Government;
- Provide opportunities for interactions between Traditional Owners, managers and researchers regarding these emerging issues and priorities;
- Enable direction-setting by Traditional Owners for the next stage of MSTRF funded research;
- Advise the MTSRF on the best means of ensuring ongoing advice to researchers about Aboriginal considerations and connections in research during the final year of the MTSRF program; and
- Identify processes for ongoing engagement of Traditional Owners for establishing the next stages of MTSRF funded research.

## 1.1 Background

While at some level ALL research conducted in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is of interest to Traditional Owners it has become increasingly clear that they have particular areas of research interest and they wish to take an active role in the design and conduct of this research. While there is one project within the MTSRF program that was specifically designed to address this, it was a small component of the overall MTSRF program which was originally conceived and funded prior to a full understanding of the Indigenous research interests in the area.

The current MTSRF funding is due to end in 2010 and a new bid proposal is currently being prepared. The Strategic Research Directions Workshop was conceived as a step to addressing Indigenous research interests more comprehensively if Stage 2 of the MTSRF is funded.

## 1.2 Format of this report

This is the final version of an earlier draft report that was distributed for comment.

Section 1 of this report sets out the framework and context. It explains why the workshop was held and who helped to set it up. In the draft report, it also introduced the purpose of the report and how participants could make changes, comments or corrections.

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<sup>1</sup> Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (see [http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrf/theme\\_4/program\\_9.html](http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrf/theme_4/program_9.html))

Section 2 describes the research context. It is important to note that the workshop was not 'starting from scratch' but was conceived as part of a range of research agendas in relation to the Wet Tropics that had existed for some time. While hopefully some of the outcomes will inform other government departments and individuals who are engaged in research activities, the workshop was developed and paid for by the MTSRF and Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC). Section 2 attempts to provide some background to these research bodies and to set the workshop context.

Section 3 of the report provides an outline of the two-day workshop program. It describes some of the exercises carried out and what they aimed to do.

Section 4 provides a brief overview of past research that has been carried out in the Wet Tropics which was developed to address Indigenous issues or involve Indigenous people. Appendix 1 provides a summary of all recommendations contained in these earlier reports.

It is important to note that Section 4 does not include ALL scientific research carried out in the Wet Tropics region. If you wish to look at the full range of research into species and ecosystems, you can find a lot of it on the websites listed below.

The Rainforest CRC was a predecessor of the RRRC and produced many reports. These can be found at: [http://www.rrrc.org.au/rfrcr/rfrcr\\_reportseries.html](http://www.rrrc.org.au/rfrcr/rfrcr_reportseries.html)

MTSRF funded project outputs related to rainforest research are available for download at both of the following URLs:

[http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrft/theme\\_4/program\\_9.html](http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrft/theme_4/program_9.html)

[http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/research\\_reports.html](http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/research_reports.html)

Section 4 of this report also includes a very brief description of the sample projects that were presented during the Strategic Research Directions Workshop (see Section 4.3). The purpose of these presentations was not to provide a full report of each project, but to introduce each item and then focus on issues emerging from that research that should be taken into account in considering future research priorities.

Section 5 outlines the process of workshop discussion and prioritisation of research issues and presents the overall outcomes of the workshop. It is acknowledged that the resulting list of research priorities is not necessarily exhaustive and prospective researchers are encouraged to further develop research ideas with relevant communities. Similarly, specific Traditional Owner groups may have different priorities or at least place different weightings on certain research issues.

### **1.3 Acknowledgements and roles**

The workshop project was led by Professor Steve Turton as a task within MTSRF Project 4.9.1 'Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area'. Funding (\$30,000) for the Strategic Research Directions Workshop was provided to Giringun Aboriginal Corporation acting as the NQTOLSMA Working Party. Giringun employed Troy Wyles-Whelan as the event organiser to arrange the workshop venue and invitations, and arrange travel and accommodation for Traditional Owners. During the workshop itself the Indigenous participants made a resolution to change the acronym for this alliance (see page 5) however in all other ways, such as the composition of the alliance, it remains the same entity.

James Cook University, through MTSRF funding, supported the workshop by engaging Warren Canendo and Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy to plan the workshop with Giringun,

determine the program, liaise with researchers and managers of the Wet Tropics, facilitate the workshop and document the outcomes.

The CSIRO supported this project through in-kind contributions that included the involvement of Dr Rosemary Hill, who helped establish the process with the NQTOLSMA, as well as recruiting and guiding the team. They also contributed \$5,000 directly to Giringun. Leanne Cullen (a CSIRO post-doctoral research fellow) provided photos as indicated in the report. She and Rosemary Hill participated in the workshop. Key agencies including Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) participated in and assisted in the dissemination of information about the workshop and have been key partners in relevant MTSRF projects.

#### **1.4 Attendees**

Each of the 18 Traditional Owner groups of the Wet Tropics was invited to send two people to participate in the workshop. Representatives from James Cook University, RRRC, Terrain NRM, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and WTMA were also invited.

Thirty participants attended the full workshop and their contact details are provided in Appendix 3. Several others attended specific sections of the workshop.

## 2. Research Context

Any activities undertaken in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA), including 'research', need to be seen in the context of existing agreements relating to the management of the WTWHA. Traditional Owners have generally become more assertive in their calls for greater involvement in research. Recognition of their rights through initiatives such as the the Regional Agreement (see Section 2.1 below) has helped to validate and reinforce their interests with managers, researchers and other stakeholders.

Initiatives that are important in terms of the context within which research is carried out in the Wet Tropics include:

- the Regional Agreement;
- the Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan; and
- the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility.

Some general points relating to each of these is provided below as context to later discussions about future research directions. Most of the information below can be found on the websites devoted to these initiatives. Hyperlinks are included in the text to make it easy to skip to the webpages for further information if you are reading this report in digital format and have internet access.

### 2.1 The Regional Agreement

The [Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement](#) was signed by all parties on 29 April 2005 at Warrina Lakes, Innisfail. The Agreement addressed the key recommendations from the 1998 report [Which Way Our Cultural Survival?](#) The overall goal of the Agreement is to achieve joint management of the Wet Tropics with Traditional Owners. The Agreement is between the 18 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups of the Wet Tropics, WTMA and the Commonwealth and State Governments, and sets out the basis for joint management of the WTWHA.

The main features of the Agreement include:

- **Establishment of the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC)** as the peak organisation to broadly represent Rainforest Aboriginal people on land and cultural heritage matters across the WTWHA;
- **Establishment of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC)** by recognition of the ARC as a statutory advisory committee to the WTMA Board;
- **Increased participation in decision making** through the Agreement to include a second Rainforest Aboriginal person on the WTMA Board;
- **Recognition of the cultural values of the Wet Tropics** through support to list the World Heritage Area for its cultural values on the National Heritage List and potentially the World Heritage List (to complement its current World Heritage listing for natural values); and
- **Participation in policy, planning, permitting and management** through a set of principle/guidelines and very detailed protocols which outline appropriate ways to involve Rainforest Aboriginal people in World Heritage management.

How well the Regional Agreement is working is unclear as it does not appear to be audited in any way. Its five year anniversary will be in April 2010, which would provide an appropriate

milestone for assessment. Certainly it is relevant to the current discussions to note that the ARC has collapsed and to date the Government has not funded an alternative body to take its place. To this end the Traditional Owners held a meeting at the commencement of the Strategic Research Directions Workshop to establish another body – the North Queensland Traditional Owners Water and Land Management Alliance (NQTOWLMA). This name was to replace the preliminary name [NQTOLSMA] used to describe this alliance. The composition of the alliance, which has participated in this project and the planning of the workshop, remains the same. To minimise confusion the new acronym will be used throughout the rest of this report regardless of whether the actions described were pre- or post-meeting where the acronym was changed. However the logo used on the front of this report has yet to be updated/redesigned to reflect this change.

## **2.2 The Aboriginal Cultural and NRM Plan**

In response to the aspirations of Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics Natural Resource Management (NRM) region, it was recognised that a document outlining their cultural and NRM requirements and priorities should form part of the overall Regional Plan for NRM investment (an initiative of the Rainforest CRC, see background information at <http://www.jcu.edu.au/rainforest/nrmplans.htm#BamaPlan>). *Caring for Country and Culture: The Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan* ('The Aboriginal Plan' or 'Bama Plan') was officially launched on 29 April 2005 in Innisfail, North Queensland, in conjunction with the launch of the Regional Agreement, by Traditional Owners, FNQ NRM Ltd (now Terrain NRM) and the Rainforest CRC.

The Aboriginal Plan focuses on social, cultural and economic dimensions of NRM. It was developed as a blueprint that outlines a clear way forward for government and the broader community to develop equitable partnerships with Aboriginal people to address a wide range of social, cultural, environmental and economic issues. The Aboriginal Plan is based on the premise that Traditional Owners play a pivotal role in the ecologically sustainable development of northern Australia and aims to increase opportunities for and involvement of Indigenous peoples in local and regional resource management.

The extent to which the Aboriginal Plan is consulted or adhered to is questionable. Given that the Plan was developed specifically so that Traditional Owner priorities would 'form part of the overall regional ... NRM investment in the Wet Tropics' this apparent failure to implement the Plan or measure investment outcomes against it is a problem. Like the Regional Agreement itself there is little indication that the Aboriginal Plan is used effectively by management agencies, research bodies or individual researchers or Wet Tropics industry bodies. Unfortunately no formal review/auditing process was established with the Plan's adoption. This is a pity as the Plan is fairly comprehensive especially in regard to Indigenous management aspirations and interests and could be a valuable tool for achieving effective joint management. An appropriate time to audit achievements against the actions and strategies identified in the Plan would be 2010. Much of the focus of the Plan is on 'management' rather than 'research', however a brief review of the Plan reveals that a number of the identified strategies and actions could be interpreted as research priorities and certainly targeted research would help inform some of the issues. They have been incorporated into the compilation of recommended research actions and priorities in Appendix 2.

## 2.3 Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)

The Wet Tropics website ([http://www.wettropics.gov.au/res/res\\_default.html](http://www.wettropics.gov.au/res/res_default.html)) points out that we need to UNDERSTAND our rainforests:

*'If we are to protect the rainforest for future generations, we must understand it. The first step is to learn more about the extraordinary diversity of animals and plants and how they interact. Scientists also need to understand the changes taking place – both naturally occurring and human induced. Research results then need to be incorporated into how the World Heritage Area is managed.'*

To ensure this understanding, the Scientific Advisory Committee was established:

*'The Scientific Advisory Committee was set up to advise the [Wet Tropics Management] Authority's Board on scientific matters relevant to managing [the] World Heritage Area. Members of the scientific community nominate for the committee and are appointed by the Board every three years. The committee meets several times a year to identify and evaluate research needs in all areas of science including the social, biological and physical sciences. The committee also evaluates the effectiveness of management strategies supported by the Authority, and may also be called upon to examine and advise on development proposals and perceived threats to the World Heritage Area.'*

There is also an Indigenous Committee – the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC) – whose interests go beyond scientific research. The RAAC is an advisory body to the WTMA. As it represents all the Traditional Owner groups this would seem an appropriate group to receive reports from agencies on implementation of the Aboriginal Plan on a regular basis.

## 2.4 Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF)

The [Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility \(MTSRF\)](#) was established in 2006 to ensure the health of North Queensland's public environmental assets – particularly the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the Torres Strait – through the generation and transfer of world-class research and sharing knowledge. The MTSRF received \$40 million Australian Government funding for four years (2006-2010) and undertakes a wide range of research, including public good research.

The goals and research objectives of MTSRF are to:

- ensure the protection, conservation, sustainable use and management of the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the Torres Strait;
- foster an understanding of the interactions of North Queensland's natural environment with the social and economic aspects of the region's communities;
- support the adoption of science-based knowledge in policies and practices for ecologically sustainable management; and
- facilitate capacity-building for sustainable environmental management and environmental management research, in partnership with the community, environmental managers, research institutions, industry and policy-makers.

The MTSRF developed a research program based on five key themes:

1. Status of ecosystems;
2. Risks and threats to ecosystems;
3. Halting and reversing decline of water quality;
4. Sustainable use and management of natural resources; and
5. Enhancing delivery.

Of these themes, only Theme 4 includes program (Program 9) that directly engages with the Aboriginal community. [Program 9 'Sustainable Use, Planning and Management of Tropical Rainforested Landscapes'](#) (Research Providers: JCU, University of Queensland, Griffith University). Within this program there are currently seven projects running (Projects 4.9.1 to 4.9.7). [Project 4.9.1](#) is the only project specifically addressing Indigenous issues and interests (Research Providers: JCU) and is led by Professor Steve Turton. A number of sub-projects have been undertaken under the banner of Project 4.9.1.

## **2.5 Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC)**

The [Reef and Rainforest Research Centre \(RRRC\)](#) was created in 2006 to implement the MTSRF in North Queensland.

### 3. Workshop Format and Rationale

The Strategic Research Directions Workshop program (Table 1) was developed in partnership with the NQTOWLMA Working Party (then NQTOLSMA). The workshop was conceived not only as a way to inform the future Wet Tropics research agenda, but also as an opportunity for Traditional Owners to come together and develop a strategy for broad co-operation and consultation to replace the mechanisms established by the now defunct Aboriginal Research Council (ARC). For this reason a large part of Day 1 was set aside for the inaugural NQTOWLMA meeting.

Early discussions with the Working Party revealed that one of the research related issues that was likely to come up for robust discussion was that of research protocols incorporating the complex interplay of copyright/intellectual property and ethics. For this reason a session was specifically included on these issues on Day 1 of the program before discussions about research projects and future directions. This included a discussion of the existing protocol and issues; the draft Indigenous Protocols Kit. Maureen Fuary outlined a best practice model distilled from her research project which reviewed a range of models of Indigenous engagement and these formed the basis of discussions on this issue.

It was considered that the matters of (i) the establishment of the broad consultative body and associated arrangements, and (ii) issues surrounding research protocols and intellectual property rights were fundamental to the rest of the workshop program, and so these matters were scheduled for discussion on Day 1.

**Table 1:** Strategic Research Directions Workshop program.

Day 1 – 15 September 2009			
Time	Item		Speaker(s)
8:30 am	Welcome to Country		
9:00-12:00	NQTOWLMA Meeting	See meeting agenda	Phil Rist – Chair
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch		
1:00-1:45	Setting the Scene	Workshop purpose, RRRC funding bid	Steve Turton
1:45-2:10		WTMA – Issues and priorities	Nigel Hedgcock
2:10-2:30	Outline of Workshop Format		Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
2:30-3:00	Afternoon tea		
3:00-5:00	Research Protocols	The existing protocol and issues	Facilitator: Maureen Fuary
		The draft Indigenous Protocols Kit project	TBA
		A best practice model	Maureen Fuary
		Discussion and wrap-up	
6:30 pm	BBQ	Launch of Linda's book	Steve Turton / Linda Leftwich

Day 2 – 16 September 2009			
Time	Item		Speaker(s)
8:30 am	Introduction to Day 2	Housekeeping announcements	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
8:45-9:15	Brief Overview of Past Research	Has it met the goals outlined in the Bama Plan? Achievements and gaps	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
9:15-10:30	Short research reports – implications for future research	Social well-being and cultural indicators (9:15-9:30)	Leanne Cullen
		Telapea Invasive Fish Project (9:30-9:45)	Warren Canendo and Monica Granditti
		Cultural Mapping (9:45-10:00)	Warren Canendo and Cavel Cora
		Discussions – pulling together the research implications	
10:30-11:00	Morning tea		
11:00-12:00 pm	Research reports (cont'd)	National/World Heritage Listing – Indigenous values (11:00-11:20)	Ro Hill
		Climate Change – Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Lifeways (11:20-11:40)	Steve Turton and Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
		Discussions – future research	
12:30-1:30	Lunch		
1:30-2:30	Making sense of recommendations from past research and adding new directions	Brain storming exercise: – List of past recommendations (will be provided); – New research issues from the Traditional Owners	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
2:30-3:15	Setting Priorities	Exercise – Break into 2-3 groups	Groups – Warren Canendo and Troy Whyles-Whelan
3:15-4:15	Afternoon tea		
4:15-4:45	Setting Priorities	Groups report back and general discussion	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy
4:45-5:00	Where to from here		
5:00-5:15	Thank you, etc.		

### 3.1 Focusing on values

To help us keep our focus on why we were all concerned with research in the Wet Tropics, each participant was given a number of green paper leaf cut-outs. Participants were asked to write down something they valued about the Wet Tropics rainforests on each leaf. This 'value' could be a place, an object, a cultural practice or an intangible quality. For example, one leaf could read 'Josephine Falls' while another could read 'hunting cuscus', and yet another could read 'the feeling of tranquility I get when walking in the forest'. These leaves were then stuck onto a cardboard symbolic representation of a rainforest tree (see Figure 1).

The values identified through this exercise were not exhaustive, but served as a tool to focus the thoughts of workshop participants on some of the important values that they seek to protect and which may require further attention (whether management or research) to achieve that protection.

In the end the leaves captured a mix of values, actions and practices. Values identified by workshop participants are listed in Table 2.



**Figure 1:** The rainforest tree used to symbolise Traditional Owner values.

**Table 2:** Rainforest values identified by workshop participants. Where applicable, the number of times a value was mentioned by more than one participant is shown in brackets.

Values of Wet Tropics rainforests		
Educational values	Conservation	Spiritual values
Sounds of nature	Spirituality (4)	The coolness
Clean, natural air (2)	The birthplace of knowledge	Economic values
Story places	Hunting (2)	Possums
Trees (3) / Trees are life	Pride	Feeling of home/country
Preserving Bama lifestyle	Fresh rainforest air	Nature
Flora and fauna	Water quality	Totems
Green	Aboriginal survival, and how rainforest helped	Story places and walking tracks

Values of Wet Tropics rainforests		
Bush tucker (2)	Cultural teaching	Water (4)
Land and cultural heritage	Sea	Plant resources – part of our lives
All the animals and insects	Trees make the world beautiful	Rain (3)
Leaves are beautiful / I love leaves	Bennett's [tree] kangaroo	Fresh rainforest springs
Breeze and traditional spirits travelling through the rainforest	Spirit – 2,000 years before us to now	Bongo roo
Everything	My mob (2)	Big rain forest trees
Lore	Land and cultural heritage	Relationship with rain forest
Waterways	Story places	Love of flora
Sense of freedom	Home	Energy and peace
Habitat	Cassowary (2)	Fruit
Sacred sites	People (2)	Plants and animals (2)
Peace and quiet of nature		

Even while focusing on the values of the rainforest, some participants could not resist raising issues that required attention during this exercise – issues associated with actions, directions and/or concerns (Table 2). These include a number of values that participants feared were threatened and some perceived consequences. See also Table 8, which lists the complete set of issues requiring research and attention after the presentations, discussion and consideration of the threats and values.

**Table 3:** Issues raised by participants that require further attention in order to protect the values outlined in Table 2. Where applicable, the number of times an issue was mentioned by more than one participant is shown in brackets.

Areas requiring research and management attention		
Education	Present day usage	Elders (2)
Plant research with Traditional Owners	Sustainability (2)	Youth
Protecting country	Access, traditional ownership/recognition	Disgusted when you see lots of clearing
Water research on the tablelands – why are there so many logs in the North Johnstone River?	Climate change effects	Average rain
Concerns about change, e.g. why is the bush turkey building his nest, but he has no female partner? Linked to Traditional Knowledge and changes noticed by Traditional Owners		

### 3.2 Research protocols

The Research Protocols session was led by Dr Maureen Fuary (Figure 2), who has previously completed a report for the MTRSF entitled [‘An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for ‘best practice’ research solutions’](#) (Fuary, 2009). A summary of major recommendations is included in Appendix 1.

Maureen started the session by outlining the current protocol for research and provided some of the key findings of her research in the area. This topic as always generated discussion and it was noted by some of the participants that a previous project ‘The Indigenous Protocols Kit’ had never been finalised. The researchers involved in this project, which had been undertaken by the now defunct ARC, had been asked to provide an update for the workshop but it was not forthcoming and it is not clear whether this project ever reached any resolution. That this matter is still considered to be an issue is indicated by its inclusion in Table 8.



**Figure 2:** The presentation by Maureen Fuary on research protocols yielded fruitful workshop discussion.

One of the issues raised by Traditional Owners was the way in which their research interests were carried into a small subset of the research undertaken in the Wet Tropics – this being the research that a departmental officer considered they would be interested in. They pointed out that as ‘owners’ they were interested in all the research being conducted.

In her presentation Maureen provided some examples of participatory research (Figure 3). Examples cited included that by Ro Hill and Yalanji (2004); Nursey-Bray and Rist (2002, plan for sea country with Giringun groups) and GBRMPA and Nursey-Bray (2006, Hope Vale).

Some of the common principles of the best practice research projects included:

- Consultation, negotiation and free and informed consent are the foundations for research with or about Indigenous peoples:
  - The responsibility for consultation and negotiation is ongoing;
  - Consultation and negotiation should achieve mutual understanding about the proposed research;
- Respect, Recognition and Involvement:
  - Respect Indigenous knowledge systems and processes;
  - Recognise the diversity and uniqueness of peoples as well as of individuals;
  - Respect and preserve intellectual and cultural property rights of Indigenous peoples;
  - Indigenous researchers, individuals and communities should be involved in research as collaborators;
- Benefits, Outcomes and Agreements:
  - Use and access to research results should be agreed;
  - Community should benefit from and not be disadvantaged by the research;
  - Negotiation of outcomes should include results specific to needs of the community; and
  - Formal agreement for the conduct of a project based on good faith and free and informed consent.

<b>BENEFITS FROM RESEARCH</b>	
<b>Recipient Benefit</b>	<b>Outcome/ Product</b>
Nurse-Bray	Increased skills, knowledge & cross cultural understanding. Career. PhD. Publications.
Hope Vale	Negotiation forum. Community ownership. Information collection. Video PhD information back to community. Transcripts. Oral histories. Return of Archives, photos on CD, album and booklets
CRC Reef/ JCU/ PhD Supervisors	Enhanced understanding of Indigenous values. Co-authored publications. Presentations, Ph.D.
Agencies	Enhanced understandings for application in management. Background/Policy paper.

**Figure 3:** Examples of projects and outcomes involving ‘best practice’.

### **3.3 Past, current and future research (Day 2)**

On Day 2 workshop delegates reviewed past research, discussed the way in which this research had or had not contributed to achieving Indigenous goals for the Wet Tropics, and heard from completed or continuing projects of particular interest to Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics. It was only after this that discussion focused specifically on **future** research directions (see Table 1 for the specific sequence of presentations). To focus on these a combination of small break-out groups were formed to discuss and document participants' opinions on the important research issues of relevance to Traditional Owners.

Several exercises were used to help capture the important issues and to help to prioritise them, albeit fairly generally. Firstly, small break-out groups were used so that people could discuss what they thought to be important research issues. In their discussions they were asked to keep in mind:

- Research that they as Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics want to generate and drive; and
- Research that other people are doing/might do that they just want to know is happening.

The results of these discussions were brought back to the larger groups and discussed.

Secondly, to get an understanding of the perceived relative importance each Traditional Owner present at the workshop was given a number of red stick-on dots and invited to stick them beside the listed issues that they considered to be the most important. They were also given one yellow sticker. While recognising that all of the issues discussed were clearly important to Traditional Owners, they were asked to place the yellow sticker against the one issue that 'if they had limited resources, would be the one they would action above all others now.'

## 4. Past and Current Research

### 4.1 Rainforest CRC projects

Projects undertaken by the Rainforest CRC (up to and including 2006):

- [‘Yamani Country: A Spatial History of the Atherton Tableland, North Queensland’](#), Sandra Pannell, with contributions from Ngadjon-Jii Traditional Owners (2006);
- [‘Reconciling Nature and Culture in a Global Context? Lessons from the World Heritage List’](#), by Sandra Pannell (2006);
- [‘Developing the Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan: Workshop Proceedings’](#), by Libby Larsen and Sandra Pannell (2005);
- [‘Cultural Tourism in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area: A Strategic Overview for Bama’](#), by Sarah Ignjic (2001); and
- [‘Yalanji Waranga Kaban: Yalanji People of the Rainforest Fire Mangement Book’](#), for which the Rainforest CRC and Eastern Kuku-Yalanji bama received the CRC Association Award for Excellence in Innovation, 2005, ‘Innovation in Education, Training and Public Outreach’.

### 4.2 Relevant projects undertaken by the MTSRF, 2006-2010

Project 4.9.1 ‘Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area’:

- Now in fourth year. Organisations involved: JCU, CSIRO, Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, Terrain NRM, WTMA.
- Project 4.9.1 has three main objectives:
  - To understand Indigenous natural resource use within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area through the completion of reviews and comparative assessments;
  - To optimise Traditional Owner engagement and knowledge in natural resource management; and
  - To enhance opportunities for building capacity in Traditional Owner groups for engagement in research and management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- [‘An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resources use and purposes, with recommendations for ‘best practice’ research solutions’](#), by Maureen Fuary (2008);
- [‘Cooperative Conservation: Beyond the Rhetoric’](#), by Jennifer A. Gabriel (2007). A report highlighting international Best Practice recommendations for World Heritage Protected Areas and identifying ‘best practice’ models and practical solutions that could be applied in the Wet Tropics;
- [‘Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being’](#), by Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgcock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill (2008). A report of the Alliance Workshop held at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-9 October 2008;
- [‘MTSRF Project 4.9.1 Milestone Report, 31 October 2008’](#), by Steve Turton, project progress report.
- [‘MTSRF Project 4.9.1 Milestone Report, October 2007’](#), by Michael Wood, project progress report.

- [‘MTSRF Project 4.9.1 Final Milestone Report, 2007’](#), by Michael Wood, project final milestone report detailing a draft desktop report on Aboriginal resource use, values and knowledge and the progress made on evaluating current models, methods and techniques used in extending intellectual property regimes to cover indigenous knowledge dealt with in the Aboriginal Rainforest Council's Cultural Mapping project.

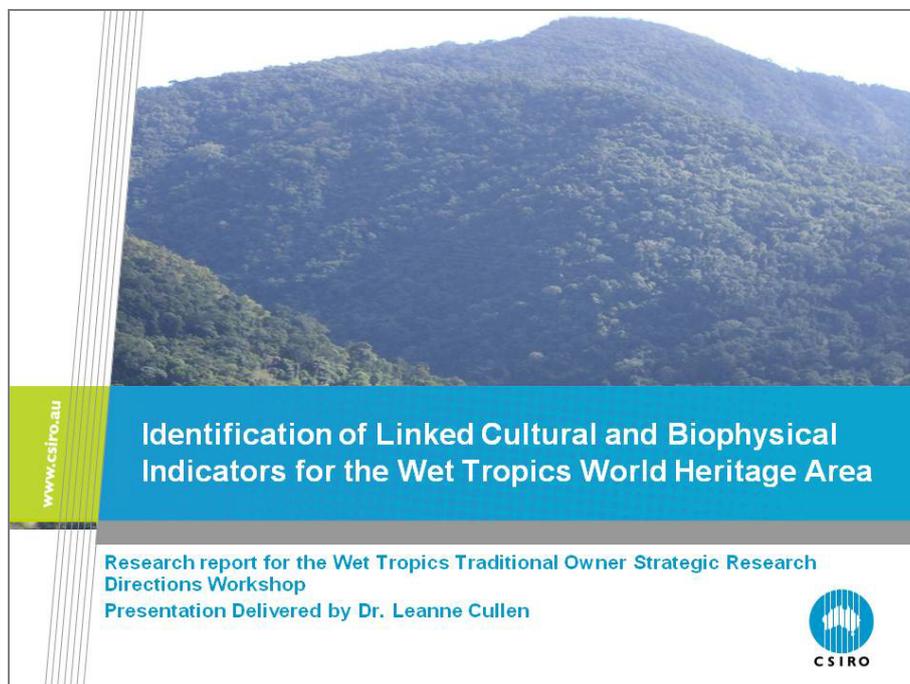
### 4.3 Sample projects

A number of presentations on projects that are of particular interest to Traditional Owners were delivered at the Strategic Research Directions Workshop. These projects were presented with a view to generating discussion about implications for future research.

#### 4.3.1 Cultural indicators

The project, ‘The Identification of Linked Cultural and Biophysical Indicators for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area’ is being undertaken by post-doctoral research fellow Leanne Cullen in collaboration with several community case studies. The project seeks to identify cultural indicators linked to the rainforest and highlight why the continued health of the rainforest is important to rainforest Aboriginal cultures.

One of aims of the MTSRF is to develop a monitoring program for biodiversity that will include critical indicators of ecosystem health and thresholds of concern to trigger management action. This project addresses a gap in the overall MTSRF Research Programme, which has to this point focused on indicators of biodiversity rather than ‘biocultural’ diversity.



**Figure 4:** Leanne Cullen presented an update on the Cultural and Biophysical Indicators project.

The over-arching aim of this project is to develop appropriate cultural indicators for use at the community scale, and at the regional scale for use in routine monitoring and management of

the Wet Tropics and in support of any future applications for re-nomination of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for its cultural values.

Indicators developed must be indicative of changes in Rainforest Aboriginal Culture (positive or negative), and MUST be things that communities feel are acceptable and appropriate to measure and include in routine monitoring programmes.

In the course of this project, researchers (scientists and community co-researchers) have identified the following emerging research directions of relevance to Aboriginal communities in the Wet Tropics region:

- Climate change ('using science to solve real-world problems');
- Seasonal changes (associated with a changing climate);
- Well-being implications of climate change;
- Adaptation to climate change and shifting baselines;
- Adaptive natural resource management;
- Well-being of people and country (and links);
- Cultural impacts of habitat fragmentation (legislative and physical); and
- Development of sustainable Indigenous livelihoods 'alternative industries' (and economic development).

#### 4.3.2 Mallamburra Yidinji River Restoration (Tilapia Invasive Fish Program)

Researchers involved in the program include Monica Gratani (Masters Student, JCU Townsville), Frank Royee, Saunders Ambyrum, James Butler, Peter Valentine, Damien Burrows and Warren Canendo. The following summary is adapted from the presentation to the workshop by Monica Gratani.



**Figure 5:** The Tilapia Invasive Fish Program.

### *Aims of the study*

- Investigate Mallamburra values for the river;
- Develop community based indicators of river health / tools for management;
- Look after the river / environmental services;
- Increase the involvement of Mallamburra in the management of the Mulgrave River;
- Cultural sensitiveness; and
- Create incomes.

One aspect of this study undertaken to date looks at developing management tools for managing the invasive fish species, Tilapia. A tool for invasive fish management may be found in natural fish poisons traditionally used by Aboriginal people.

### *Why is this project important?*

- It helps Mallamburra people to retain their knowledge so it is available for future generations.
- It helps to find traditional environmental ways to fight against Tilapia, in the river.
- How did the researchers and community work together?
- Elders are the people who have the knowledge of poison plants: they helped the others to find the right way to work together.
- The team worked in the laboratory with plants and fish.
- They made experiments with three plants and Tilapia.
- Information collected in this project remains the property of Mallamburra Yidinji community.

### *What did the researchers discover?*

Plants stunned Tilapia, which are pest fish in the Mulgrave River. Fish were drugged by the plants and could be caught easily.

### *What's next?*

The research team wants to work together on other aspects of the knowledge of the Mallamburra community and to apply this knowledge to the management of the Mulgrave River, so that Traditional Owners can look after country with their traditional methods.

## **4.3.3 Cultural Heritage Mapping**

People involved in this project include Chantal Roder, Warren Canendo, Cavel Cora and Troy Mallie. The workshop presentation was made by Warren Canendo and Cavel Cora. The project was supported and hosted by Terrain NRM after the ARC ceased operations.

### *Origins and purpose of the project*

The origins of this project lie in the commitments in the Aboriginal Plan and the Regional Agreement. Traditional Owners wanted to record and map their cultural sites and participate effectively in the National and International Heritage listing processes involving the Wet Tropics.

The ARC, Giringun and FNQ NRM obtained \$1 million to undertake Cultural Heritage Mapping in the Wet Tropics.

*What is this project important?*

This project is about empowering Traditional Owners by:

- Keeping knowledge and stories on country;
- Preserving our connection to land for future generations; and
- Utilising best management practices for land and sea country.

*Recommendations for future work*

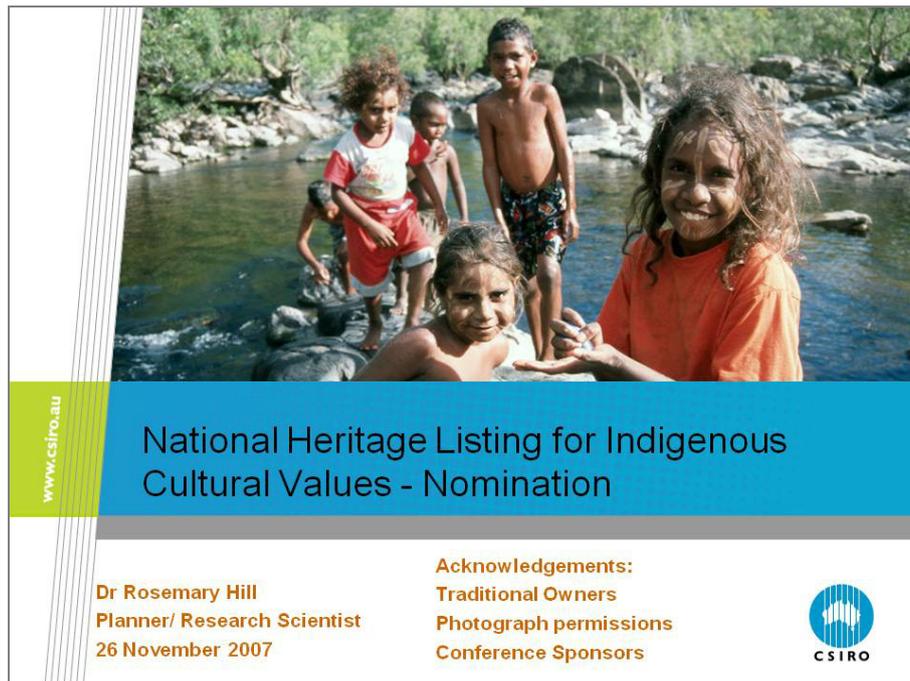
- Cultural Heritage Mapping database to be rolled out to all 18 Tribal groups of the Wet Tropics;
- Secure funding for the Cultural Heritage Mapping database for the 18 Tribal groups;
- Government support and help to maintain the creation of effective cultural heritage recording tools and increased skills in communities to enable sub-regional and local entities to work in equitable partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous land management organisations;
- Capacity to support Traditional Owners to engage in the development of new regional arrangements and new 'Caring for our Country' funding arrangements for the next significant investment period;
- Supportive engagement with government, research and industry groups helping to build sustainable career pathways in cultural heritage, land management, mining, tourism and the arts; and
- Enabling tools to ensure respect for and recognition of Indigenous Intellectual Property rights.

**4.3.4 Update on National and World Heritage Listing – for cultural values**

CSIRO planner and research scientist Dr Rosemary Hill presented an update on this project.

The project involved a fairly complex process with many steps and stakeholders:

- Aboriginal Rainforest Council governance process;
- Appointment of Intellectual Property Sub-committee, oversee the nomination process;
- Key Aboriginal leaders, chaired by Professor Henrietta Fourmile;
- MTSRF Project 4.9.1 team documentation – several reports;
- Digital video of key elders' presentation;
- Draft nomination document;
- Expert Panel Workshop held in association with ICOMOS international conference;
- Key advice from Australian Government Heritage Assessment Branch;
- Revised nomination finalised between MTSRF/ARC team and submitted by the ARC in December 2007; and
- Successful in being accepted on Government work plan.



**Figure 6:** Rosemary Hill presented an update on the re-nomination process.

### *Overview of the Nomination*

The nomination document requires a Statement of Significance, which addresses specific criteria laid down in the legislation. The letters a), f) and i) in the statement below indicate those criterion in the legislation that are relevant to the Wet Tropics nomination.

The nominated place, the WTWHA, is of outstanding cultural heritage significance to Australia because:

- Our Rainforest Aboriginal People's culture is unique in Australia in enabling us to occupy rainforest on a permanent basis prior to European colonisation, whereas other rainforest regions in Australia were only occupied on a semi-permanent, seasonal basis;
- Our Rainforest culture that enabled this occupation is based on a continuing and living cultural heritage of Traditional Ecological and Management Knowledge and sustainable land use and cultural practices of great significance to Rainforest Aboriginal People today;
- Our technological innovations that enabled our occupation, including our fire management practices, and our food gathering and processing techniques are unique in Australia in their diversity and complexity; and
- Our intangible living cultural heritage of stories associated with the creative activities of our Ancestors gave us the knowledge to live in the rainforest in a manner that we find profoundly meaningful. This knowledge is encoded in our landscapes, in our stories, in our songs and our dance and provides us with the basis of the way we understand the world and the environment in which we live.

## Criteria

**a – The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.**

In addressing this criterion we had to answer the following:

- Aa Describe the history of Aboriginal occupation of rainforests in Australia and why the wet tropics is an outstanding expression of Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values.
- Ab Describe any particular cultural practices that underpin Aboriginal occupation of the Wet Tropics (burning regimes, processing of toxic plants) and whether any of these are unusual in the Australian context.
- Ac Describe the way in which Aboriginal people relate to the land.

**f – The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.**

The address to this criterion was based on technical innovation in fire management and toxic food processing. In relation to these the nomination dossier had to provide information to address the following points.

Fire management technical innovation:

- Fa Describe the range of burning practices used by the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- Fb Identify burning practices used by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in other parts of Australia.
- Fc Identify if any of the practices used in the WTWHA are unique or uncommon.
- Fd Identify if the diversity of burning practices used within the WTWHA is higher than found in other areas of Australia.

Toxic food processing technical innovation

- Fe Describe the range and diversity of practices used by Rainforest Aborigines to process toxic plants within WTWHA
- Ff Identify practices relating to the processing of toxic plants in other parts of Australia and Torres Strait
- Fg Identify if any of the processing practices used in the WTWHA are unique or uncommon
- Fh Identify if the diversity of practices used within in the WTWHA for processing toxic plants is higher than found in other areas of Australia.

**i – The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.**

This required information to address the following points.

The importance of the place as part of Rainforest Aboriginal Traditions

- la Describe why the place is important as part of Rainforest Aboriginal tradition.
- lb Outline stories about the 'occupation' of the rainforest area that would link back to criteria (a)
- lc Summary of food related stories

### *Further work*

The WTWHA is currently on the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) work plan in relation to assessing its nomination to the National List. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) assessment process can take up to two years and involves wide consultation. The DEWHA prepares a report for the AHC. The AHC assesses the nomination and provides a recommendation to the Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, who makes a decision whether to list or not.

It is only after this process that any decision to proceed with a nomination to amend the World Heritage Listing to include cultural values will be determined. At this stage further research may be required.

## **4.4 Other projects**

Of course there are many other research projects happening across the other themes and programs. And they are important because they relate to such things as:

- Understanding the Wet Tropics and the animals, plants and environmental processes that create and sustain it; and
- Threats such as climate change impacts, and uses that threaten important aspects of the Wet Tropics.

### **4.4.1 The impact of climate change on the Wet Tropics Bioregion over the next ten, forty and sixty years**

*'Climate change is any long-term significant change in the 'average weather' that a given region experiences. Average weather may include average temperature, precipitation and wind patterns. It involves changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere over durations ranging from decades to millions of years. These changes can be caused by dynamic processes on Earth, external forces including variations in sunlight intensity, and more recently by human activities.'*  
(IPCC, 2007)

#### *Wet Tropics of Queensland and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas*

These natural icons both face serious threats from climate change this century. Temperature increase is probably the most serious threat to both ecosystems and will lead to loss of biodiversity and decline in ecosystem function, particularly in the northern Great Barrier Reef and upland rainforests.

#### *Expected Climatic Changes*

Temperature: By the year 2030, Cairns' annual temperature is expected to rise by 0.6-1.0°C, and by 2070 it is expected to increase by 1.5-2°C (Source: Hennessey *et al.* 2008).

Rainfall: A slight drying trend is predicted together with stronger seasonality of rainfall, i.e. short but intense 'wet seasons' and longer and drier 'dry seasons' (Source: Hennessey *et al.* 2008).

Number of hot days: The predicted increase in hot days for Cairns is significantly lower than that expected in other parts of tropical Australia (for 2070: Townsville >80 days; Darwin >180 days) (Source: Hennessey *et al.* 2008).

**Queensland tropical cyclones:** Cyclone frequency is unlikely to change but the intensity of (severe) Category 3-5 cyclones may increase by 60% by 2030 and 140% by 2070 (Abbs *et al.* 2006).

**Cairns sea levels and storm surge risk:** Observations show an increasing rate of rise in sea level (Church and White, 2006; Church *et al.*, 2005). Sea level is likely to rise by 8-14 cm by the year 2020, 19-37 cm by 2050 and 32-56 cm by 2070 (Horton *et al.* 2008).

**Table 4:** Climate change predictions for the Wet Tropics region. Source: Hennessey *et al.* (2008).

Variable	Scenario 1 – 2020	Scenario 2 – 2050	Scenario 3 – 2070
<b>Climate change for Cairns relative to 1971-2000 average</b>			
Temperature (min. and max.)	0.6°C ↑	1-1.6 °C ↑	1.3-2.5 °C ↑
Sea level and storm surge risk	8-14 cm	19-37 cm	35-56 cm
Increase in days over 35°C	+1	+ 4-8	+ 5-28
Total Rainfall (%)	-0.7	-1.9	-3.0
Number of rain days	0.0 (Little change)	-0.1 (Little change)	-0.1 (Little change)
Percentage increase in heavy rainfall	1.8	5.1	8.2
Cyclone intensity of Category 3-5		60% ↑	140% ↑
Atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub>		500 ppm	
Sea surface temperature (°C)	0.5 ↑	1.3 ↑	2.1 ↑



**Figure 7:** The Cairns CBD is only slightly above current sea level. Photograph: Wiki Commons used under GNU Licence Agreement.

**Table 5:** Likely biophysical effects of climate change on Wet Tropics rainforests.  
Source: Wilson and Turton (2009).

Variable	Scenario 1 – 2020	Scenario 2 – 2050	Scenario 3 – 2070
<b>Effects of climate change on Wet Tropics rainforests</b>			
Core habitat remaining	85% ↓	55-68% ↓↓	40% ↓↓↓↓
Extent of rainforest	Slight reduction on current extent	Significant loss – drier forest type; rainforest isolated to patches at higher altitude and coast	Major reduction – isolated to highest peaks and coast
Loss of endemic vertebrates e.g. rainforest ringtail possums and tree kangaroos, birds and frogs (upland endemics)	0	1-4 spp.	4-12 spp. Extinction of all or most of these spp.
Occurrence of forest fires	Slight increase	Moderate increase	Large increase
Cairns City – extent of storm inundation	32 sq km inundated	71 sq km inundated (most of downtown)	>71 sq km inundated
Likelihood of flood event during the wet season (flooding causing highway closure to Tablelands and south of Cairns)	Increase	Moderate to high increase	Moderate to high increase
Change in the proportion of these habitats (compared with the present time): Notophyll forest (highlands) Mesophyll forest (uplands) Woodlands	Slight decline Little change Slight increase	Major loss Moderate loss Moderate increase	Major loss Major loss Major increase

**Table 6:** Likely biophysical effects of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.  
Source: Wilson and Turton (2009).

Variable	Scenario 1 – 2020	Scenario 2 – 2050	Scenario 3 – 2070
<b>Effects of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef</b>			
Disturbance from climate change	Minor	Moderate-Severe	Severe
Bleaching	More frequent; some loss of coral diversity Bleaching <1 year out of every ten years	Reef bleached; 95% loss of coral reefs >once every 5 years	Reef bleached; 95% loss of coral reefs Annual event
Coral structure	No major damage	Structural damage; 50% decline in iconic coral species and shift to crusting forms	Rubble. Total loss of coral structure
Macro algal cover	Minor coverage – isolated	High coverage across reefs	Very high – extensive coverage
Invertebrates	Little change	Major decline	Few rubble inhabitants
Obligate Reef Fish (10% of total fish speciation; small colourful species)	Little change – decline on some reefs	Major decline	Total loss and 70% decline in pre-existing fish
Herbivorous species of fish	Little change	Increase	Dominant type but also a decline in species
Seabirds	Decline in nesting colonies	Major decline	Colonies crashed (loss of pelagic food source)

#### 4.5 Climate change impacts: threats to Traditional Owner values

In order to focus workshop participants' thoughts on climate change implications for the Wet Tropics rainforests the exercise involving the symbolic rainforest tree was re-visited.

After listening to the presentation on the likely climate change scenarios relevant to the Wet Tropics region, participants were asked to reflect on the symbolic rainforest tree and the values they had noted on the green leaves (Figure 1). This time, using yellow and orange leaves, participants were asked to write down what values, places and practices they feared would be affected or lost through the impacts of climate change. These were then stuck at the base of the tree as fallen or 'lost' leaves.

These concerns and issues can be seen in Figure 8 and are listed in Table 7 below.

**Table 7:** Perceived threats to the Wet Tropics rainforests from climate change recorded by workshop participants. Where applicable, the number of times a value was mentioned by more than one participant is shown in brackets.

Wet Tropics rainforest values, places and practices perceived to be under threat from climate change		
Everything	Management of traditional lands	Water resources for TOs
Acknowledge sacred sites	Hunting	Loss of trees overarching the waterways / loss of shady places
Doing traditional practices	We as TOs are forever paying the price for government actions	Adapting to loss of rainforests
Loss of creeks to swim in	Listening to Indigenous people	Loss of sounds of wind
People not listening to warnings and not making enough changes in lifestyle to reduce temperature rise	Loss of rainforest	Listening to Indigenous peoples of the world regarding sacred sites and climate change
Loss of country	Our cultural practices to continue irrespective	Loss of diversity
True recognition of connection to country	Spread of weeds and pests	Cultural
Loss of animals: turkey, wallaby, scrub fowl, turtle, kangaroo, goanna	Provide sacred site protection	Sites to enjoy gone
Rainforest	Decline in food preservation	Crab, fish, mussels, coral, sea urchins
Climate change affects everything	Rainforest loss due to increased temperatures	Loss of rain; brown not green
Decreased rainforest cover due to increased human migration from southern states	Hunting and gathering	Can't see a possum
On the tableland, cyclones will affect the habitat of animals	Loss of cultural history	Water (3)
Trees, grass, people, language, cultural heritage, sacred sites	Management of Traditional lands	People will have to help change the climate
Loss of cultural places	Water – lagoon, spring, reef, creeks, sea, rivers	Elevation of sea level – loss of story, places and loss of culture



## **4.6 Conclusions**

From the overview of work that has already been undertaken in the Wet Tropics we can see that although there is currently only one project of limited resources within the MTSRF, work undertaken in that project and other joint venture projects has given rise to a number of recommendations that have yet to be actioned. They have revealed a myriad of research issues relevant to Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics region.

Despite a significant investment of time, resources and effort into the development of the Aboriginal Plan by government, stakeholders and Traditional Owners, and despite its subsequent endorsement by State and Commonwealth Governments, there has been little or no discernible effort or resources committed to its implementation. There is no matching of research and management investment or outcomes to the strategies and actions of the plan. However it is clear that this document remains a valuable resource outlining Aboriginal interests and aspirations relating to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. There are both research and/or management implications related to these issues and aspirations.

We have seen from the examples of research presented in the workshop that there are strong research collaborations between some researchers and Traditional Owner groups however it seems clear that these are opportunistic. The inclusion of a specific Indigenous research theme or alternatively an Indigenous program area within multiple themes in the next round of the MTSRF provides the potential for a more systematic approach to Indigenous research interests.

While research agendas can only be one component of an action strategy to implement the Aboriginal Plan it would be useful if any correlation between the MTSRF Indigenous research agenda and the Aboriginal Plan were highlighted and some mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the plan was developed

The Strategic Research Directions could not address all of these issues – however it did play an important role in identifying and prioritising research issues. The following section will look at the range of research recommendations/issues arising from the Aboriginal Plan, and past research carried out by the MTSRF and Rainforest CRC, as well as issues generated by workshop participants.

## 5. Research issues and priorities

### 5.1 Review of research issues arising from past research

Several preparatory steps were undertaken before workshop participants were asked to discuss what they saw as the major Indigenous research issues. Firstly, prior to the workshop, previous reports and their recommendations were reviewed. Appendix 1 provides a compilation of the recommendations for further research from past research projects. For the purposes of the workshop each recommendation was listed on a separate piece of paper. Because there was a high degree of overlap between these issues they were then roughly grouped into issues and posted around the room. Participants were given the opportunity to look at these issues/recommendations following the discussion arising from the presentation of the sample projects.

Secondly, the WTMA presented the results of an internal exercise that it had recently undertaken to identify both research and management issues (Appendix 2). Participants were asked to also consider these in their deliberations where they were relevant to research.

Thirdly, presentations of current research and climate change were provided to help focus on some of the emerging issues that were being identified by researcher currently working in the Wet Tropics region. Workshop participants were then asked to break into small groups and discuss and identify what they saw as the important future research issues for the Wet Tropics and to bring this back to the broader group for further discussion.

After the groups had reported on their discussions, their recommended research issues were posted around the walls along with the recommendations from earlier research. Participants were now each given a number of red dots and one yellow dot. They were asked to walk around the room and put the red dots against the research issues most important to them. They were then told that the yellow dot represented the issue of most urgency. Hypothetically, they were asked to imagine that they were given the choice to research one issue right now and they had to place the yellow dot against that issue. As there were several non-Indigenous participants who wished to take part they were each given a green dot and asked to place it against the issue they considered most urgent. The reason for separately identifying the non-Indigenous priorities was to maintain the primary objective of the workshop; that is, to identify *Indigenous* research directions.

### 5.2 Results

To see the full list of research issues/recommendations and the distribution of ranking dots amongst them –see Table 7.

#### Yellow Dots

Subset of important issues that Traditional Owners would like to see investigated immediately:

- Country-based cultural mapping for each TO group (9 dots);
- Carbon trading (2 dots);
- Medicinal plants and medicine (2 dots); and

- Capacity building/training small number of TOs to trace and source cultural materials held in places in Australia and elsewhere (training ongoing through internships or scholarships) (1 dot).

Non-Indigenous participants saw the most immediate priorities as being:

- Traditional Environmental Knowledge;
- Socio-economic cultural indicators;
- Developing ways of measuring success in achieving governance and management; and
- Intellectual Cultural Property.

### **Red Dots**

Research issues of importance to Traditional Owners. The issues above are a subset of those that TOs see as the most important Indigenous research priorities. There was a strong clustering of the issues that TO participants considered important. These are listed here in order of importance as indicated by the number of red dots assigned:

- Protecting places and sites/cultural mapping (11);
- Climate Change (11);
- Waterways and Fisheries (10);
- Medicinal Plants/Medicine (6);
- Indigenous Tourism (6);
- Women's business (5);
- General research to underpin management (5), specified as follows:
  - Explore potential for collaborative research in ALL research carried out in the Wet Tropics (2);
  - Improve benefits of scientific research for TOs and build capacity (2); and
  - Measuring success/achievement/governance and management (1);
- Traditional Environmental Knowledge (4);
- Carbon trading (4);
- Socio-economic cultural indicators (4);
- Resources and capacity building for Indigenous communities to do/manage research (4);
- Intellectual Cultural Property (3);
- Aboriginal values and World Heritage/National Listing (2);
- Ethics – methods processes and agreements (2); and
- Languages – documentation and recording (2).

### 5.3 Recommendations

While some caution must be exercised in drawing conclusions about the level of consensus on the prioritisation of research issues from this exercise involving limited time and a small but representative group of participants, the range of issues can be accepted with confidence as representing the broad range of research interests of Traditional Owner groups. In addition to the consideration of the issues on the day by the workshop participants, these issues are representative of the collaborative work undertaken between Indigenous people and researchers in the region over the past several years.

This report has been prepared to inform planning for future budget bids in relation to Stage 2 of the MTSRF (2010 onwards). It should be used with caution for any other purpose but could be used by future researchers as an indicator of potential areas of collaboration; by communities as a check list of issues when discussing research agendas in their community context; and by management agencies as one source of information about future work that might be developed to address Indigenous interests in the Wet Tropics region.

The key to the usefulness of this document as a first phase consultation resource by researchers and managers will be the quality of further consultation with specific TO groups. This report should not be used as the sole consultation tool/authority in developing research projects.

It is recommended that:

- That RRRC uses this report as a basis for preparing funding bids for a strong and expanded Indigenous research component in Stage 2 of the MTSRF;
- Specifically, that immediate and long-term projects are developed and resourced that address:
  - Country-based cultural mapping for each TO group (9 dots);
  - Carbon trading (2 dots);
  - Medicinal plants and medicine (2 dots); and
  - Climate change and its impact/implications for the Wet Tropics and the Wet Tropics Indigenous communities (11 dots);
- That JCU and other universities involved in the MTSRF along with RRRC explore, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, ways to address the capacity building/training of a small number of TOs through internships/scholarships, etc. This might involve a Wet Tropics targeted intern/cadetship program in addition to a targeted intake and scholarship program for researchers in the science and social sciences;
- A five-year program of research is developed and funded that addresses the research priorities listed under the red dot exercise above;
- That a cover sheet is developed for ALL MTSRF project funding applications that include a check list of which priorities are addressed in the research (including those in the Aboriginal Plan) so that some general analysis is possible in relation to the implementation of Indigenous research interests.
- That while accepting that specific agreements can be developed to meet individual community/researcher needs, any such agreements relating to research in the Wet Tropics regions will be consistent with and based on the AIATSIS Research Protocols and Ethics, their Plain English Statement and Letters of Support templates and no Indigenous research will be approved or funded that does not meet this requirement.
- This report is distributed to all TO groups and widely distributed to relevant Wet Tropics researchers/institutions.

**Table 8:** Research priorities to address current and future issues.  
 'AC&NRMP' = Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan (Recommendation)

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
<b>Intellectual Cultural Property</b>			3 ●		1 ●
Develop intellectual and cultural property protocols for collection, use, access and storage of information at local, sub regional and regional levels (AC&NRMP 29.4)	✓				
Develop a legal framework and policies that recognise and protect Aboriginal ICPR (AC&NRMP 2.1)	✓				
Develop and implement culturally-appropriate benefit-sharing arrangements for the use of Traditional Owners ICPR in biodiscovery, research (AC&NRMP 2.3)	✓				
Develop an education strategy and plain English information kit for Aboriginal people on ICPR issues, including current legislation and policy (AC&NRMP 2.5)	✓				
Develop and implement an educational campaign on Aboriginal ICPR (AC&NRMP 2.4)	✓				
Develop binding protocols and mechanisms for research institutions to ensure that Aboriginal ICPR issues are respected in research approval processes original	✓				
Documentation and protection of Aboriginal knowledge of country (Michael Wood 2007)	✓				
<b>Ethics – methods, processes, agreements</b>			2 ●		
Promote the use and adoption of the AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies by all researchers and organisations that undertake research in the region (AC&NRMP 13.6)	✓				
Implement the 'Rainforest Aboriginal Involvement in Research' component of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement to ensure that research commissioned by NR&M, WTMA, EPA, and DEWHA in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area conforms with the AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies (AC&NRMP 13.5)	✓				
<b>Climate Change</b>			11 ●		
Transfer resources e.g. as in Indigenous people and climate change initiatives.	✓				

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
Investigate/research the likely impacts of climate change on the cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) of Rainforest people in the Wet Tropics	✓	✓			
Investigate impact of climate change on Indigenous practices					
Investigate Impact of climate change on significant species					
Wet Tropics Indigenous issues related to climate change	✓				
Sharing strategies with Indigenous experience dealing with climate change in the Wet Tropics.		✓			
Researching seasonal fruiting/ Cultural Indicators	✓				
Researching issues around impact of climate change on water and tangible and intangible values affected	✓				
Animals/ Cultural Indicators and climate change	✓				
Research, document seasonal calendar / past and present	✓				
Sharing climate change strategies and experiences amongst international and Indigenous communities	✓				
Impacts of climate change past and present on ceremonial practice + evidence of past climate change reflected in ceremonial/stories traditions	✓				
Processing of foods (need to be leached)	✓				
<b>Measuring success / achievement / governance and management</b>			1 ●		1 ●
Developing performance indicators for implementation on of the AC&NRMP	✓				
Further research addressing the broader question of how traditional governance systems are successfully integrated into the management of large-scale World Heritage forested sites is recommended. This research would ideally involve an analysis of case-studies within the WTWHA, such as the (2006) study by Rosemary Hill (which highlighted gaps between policy and legal mechanisms) (Jennifer Gabriel 2007)					

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
Resource the Cultural Heritage Body to effectively administer the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 in conjunction with NRM (AC&NRMP 4.3) [more about money and people but could include research/information and skills]	✓				
<b>Places and sites / cultural mapping</b>			11 ●	9 ●	
Undertake a country-based mapping project which clarifies boundaries for each Traditional Owner group (with appropriate cultural protocols) (AC&NRMP 1.3)	✓				
Implement the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement Cultural Heritage Management and Mapping Protocol (AC&NRMP 4.4)	✓				
Documentation and protection of Aboriginal knowledge of country (Michael Wood 2007)					
Identify threatened places of significance and develop management plans for high priority areas (AC&NRMP 5.1)	✓				
Practical projects with all Aboriginal Rainforest groups to document their unique cultural and heritage values. There is a critical need for ongoing support for the cultural heritage mapping project beyond its pilot phase (Jennifer Gabriel 2009)	✓				
Protecting sacred sites		✓			
Documenting Traditional knowledge and exploring what it can do to change the behaviour of Australian and international community		✓			
Cultural Heritage Mapping Data base to be rolled out to all 18 Tribal groups of the Wet Tropics					
Secure funding for the Cultural Heritage Mapping Data base for the 18 Tribal groups					
Government Support and help maintain the creation of effective cultural heritage recording tools and increased skills in communities to enable sub-regional and local entities to work inequitable partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous land management organisations					
Capacity to support traditional owners to engage in the development of new regional arrangements and new Caring for Our Country funding arrangements for the next significant investment period					
Supportive engagement with government, research and industry groups helping to build sustainable career pathways in cultural heritage, land management, mining, tourism and the arts					

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
Enabling tools to ensure respect for and recognition of Indigenous intellectual property rights					
Engagement with National Heritage Listing processes to support the cultural heritage re-listing of the WTWHA					
The creation of effective cultural heritage recording tools and increased skills in communities to enable sub-regional and local entities to work inequitable partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous land management organisations					
Capacity to support traditional owners to engage in the development of new regional arrangements and new Caring for Our Country funding arrangements for the next significant investment period.					
Links to Indigenous and non-Indigenous natural resource management arrangements. This includes the development of working relationships with Wet Tropics Bama Country based planning frameworks and support for implementation of the regional agreement.					
Support Indigenous fire regimes best practices in the Wet Tropics					
<b>Aboriginal values and World Heritage / Natonal Heritage Listing</b>			2 •		
Undertake the research required to develop a submission to meet criteria for the WTWHA to be listed on both the National Heritage List and the World Heritage List as a Cultural Protocol of the Agreement, Regional Agreement and the Cultural Heritage Management and Mapping Landscape as per the Wet Tropics (AC&NRMP 6.1)					
Develop a submission to meet criteria for the WTWHA to be re-nominated as a World Heritage Cultural Landscape (AC&NRMP 6.2)					
Implement the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement Cultural Heritage Management and Mapping Protocol (AC&NRMP 4.4)					
<b>Research in Language</b>					
Complete an assessment of languages in the region by the Regional Aboriginal Language Maintenance Committee (AC&NRMP 8.1)	✓				
Record oral histories from language speakers in the region (AC&NRMP 8.1)	✓				

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
Document Aboriginal languages in various forms (video, computer databases, story books, word lists, dictionaries, etc.) (AC&NRMP 8.4)	✓				
<b>Plants and animals</b>					
Undertake research to establish the cultural significance and extent of the impact of introduced plants and animals on cultural values (AC&NRMP 11.2)	✓				
Determine the status and threats to culturally-significant plants and animals (AC&NRMP 11.3)	✓				
Promote Traditional Owner groups and organisations as key delivery organisations for research and all aspects of the management of culturally significant species (AC&NRMP 13.2)	✓				
Resource and support Traditional Owners to coordinate the documentation of Aboriginal knowledge of plants and animals, including past and present distribution, cultural significance, customary management, use and threats (with appropriate recognition of ICPR) (AC&NRMP 11.1)	✓				
Impacts on all cultural sites/ deer, rabbits, pigs and many species of weeds		✓			
Impacts of pests and weeds on culturally significant plants and animals,		✓			
Weeds / animals impacts on all water ways and Traditional Owners' walking tracks, story places		✓			
<b>Womens' Business</b>			5 ●		
Water ways drying up and they can no longer perform specific rituals/ practice and vice versa		✓			
Women Cultural Knowledge/ pass down to younger generation		✓			
<b>General Research to Underpin Management</b>					
Ensure that all permitted activities take into particular account any native title rights, socio-cultural values, cultural heritage protection, intellectual(AC&NRMP 5.8) [This implies that sound management decisions will be based on 'knowledge' – good information – this means research into these areas is required to achieve this aim]	✓				

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
Further research addressing the broader question of how traditional governance systems are successfully integrated into the management of large-scale World Heritage forested sites is recommended. This research would ideally involve an analysis of case-studies within the WTWHA, such as the (2006) study by Rosemary Hill (which highlighted gaps between policy and legal mechanisms) (Jennifer Gabriel 2009)	✓				
A comprehensive global thematic study to document the current status of partnerships supporting community authority and social structures in world heritage forested sites would be beneficial not just at the regional level, but also on a national and global level (Jennifer Gabriel 2009)	✓				
In each research project the potentials for collaborative research be explored, recognising that some research will not lend itself to full collaboration (Maureen Fuary 2009)	✓		2 ●		
improve the benefits of scientific research for traditional owners and increase traditional owner capacity for world heritage area management and monitoring through collaborative research (Michael Wood 2007)	✓		2 ●		
<b>Resources for research – research capacity building</b>			3 ●		
Resource the Cultural Heritage Body to effectively administer the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 in conjunction with NR&M. (AC&NRMP 4.3) [more about money and people but could include research/information and skills]	✓				
Consideration be given to training a small number of Traditional Owners in the necessary research skills to enable them to trace and source cultural materials held in a number of places in Australia and elsewhere, and that this be an ongoing project possibly supported through Internships or scholarships (refer to actions 7.1 to 7.7 Strategy 7 WTAPPT 2005: 71) (Maureen Fuary 2009)	✓		1 ●	1 ●	
<b>Indigenous Tourism</b>			6 ●		
Scoping or pilot study of indigenous tourism in the Wet Tropics					
<b>Carbon Trading</b>			4 ●	2 ●	
How many Indigenous tourist operators in the Wet Tropics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest and native species</li> <li>• Burning regimes</li> <li>• Nursery's for growing bush tucker/ native species</li> </ul>					

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
<b>Waterways and Fisheries</b>			10 ●		
Increase recognition and protection of Traditional Owners' values for waterways (AC&NRMP 17)	✓				
Increase the involvement of Traditional Owners in research, planning and management of waterways (AC&NRMP 18)	✓				
Increase recognition and protection of Traditional Owners' values for waterways (AC&NRMP 17)	✓				
Undertake research to document the aspirations of Traditional Owners for fisheries and incorporate these into fisheries management plans (AC&NRMP 24.6)	✓				
<b>Medicinal Plants/Medicine</b>			6 ●	2 ●	
<b>Socio-economic cultural indicators</b>			4 ●		1 ●
Identify critical indicators and thresholds of concern for the economic and cultural status of both indigenous and non-indigenous local human communities within the WTWHA	✓				
Identify links between these economic and cultural indicators, and ecosystem health	✓				
Develop a framework for the identification of economic and cultural indicators and a subsequent monitoring protocol will be developed and will be applicable to other World Heritage Areas and other Protected Areas both inside and outside of Australia	✓				
Indicators of cultural wellbeing (like the Happiness Index)	✓				
<b>Language</b>			2 ●		
Non-Indigenous people should learn Indigenous language/culture, two-way capacity building	✓				
Complete an assessment of languages in the region by the Regional Aboriginal Language Maintenance Committee (AC&NRMP 8.1)					
Document Aboriginal languages in various forms (video computer databases, story books, word lists, dictionaries etc) (AC&NRMP 8.4)					
Record oral histories from language speakers in the region (AC&NRMP 8.1)					

Research Subject / Specific research issue/project	Recommendation from previous research	Research issue raised by Traditional Owners	Red dots	Yellow dots	Green dots
<b>Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK)</b>			4 ●		1 ●
Documentation of ecological knowledge of biota and involvement in management programs (Michael Wood 2007)	✓				
Documentation and protection of Aboriginal knowledge of country (Michael Wood 2007)	✓				
There be an in-depth evaluation of the ways in which IK and TEK continues to be researched in relation to Western forms of knowledge (e.g. LINKS, NAILSMA, Tropical Savannas CRC) (Maureen Fuary 2009)	✓				
Resource and support Traditional Owners to coordinate the documentation of Aboriginal knowledge of plants and animals, including past and present distribution, cultural significance, customary management, use and threats (with appropriate recognition of ICPR) (AC&NRMP 11.1)	✓				

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# Appendix 1

## Recommendations from previous research

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	People need food security and incomes (livelihoods).
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Collectivist approach (moving away from individualist).
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	We need to identify why people are losing skills/losing their way of producing. Related to a point made about the government of France supporting local farmers to maintain farming lifestyles. Why this couldn't happen for Indigenous people elsewhere?
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Capacity building may need to be gender specific: e.g. female elders teach girls.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Develop capacity building from youth.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Combine wisdom from various cultures.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Non- Indigenous people should learn Indigenous language/culture. 2way capacity building.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Ask Indigenous people to teach non- Indigenous people Indigenous ways. We want to learn from you too. We need to work together to build every ones capacity (for engagement and management).

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Need monetary investment to incorporate Indigenous knowledge/ways into conservation initiatives
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	We need to change mainstream thinking. Indigenous knowledge can be equal to non- Indigenous knowledge: this is a challenge.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Tell us your perceptions and knowledge – how do you know that things are changing? Non- Indigenous people must listen.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Non- Indigenous researchers should not extract knowledge.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Indicators of cultural wellbeing (like the happiness index).
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Indigenous people should be employed in research positions.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Non- Indigenous people should write/speak in plain language that anyone can understand.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Outsiders should spend time in communities to build trust, knowledge and respect and to learn to love the culture.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Feedback should be provided to Indigenous communities.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	We need resources allocated directly to Indigenous communities e.g. funding for communities to build their capacity in a way that they decide is appropriate.

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	We need to facilitate engagement at every level e.g. mapping/research stage to interaction with government and policy makers. Indigenous people must be involved in the development of management tools for example.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Indigenous people need the capacity to fight external extractive companies – this goes back to the ability/capacity to engage at different levels.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Power: how do people get their power back? Links with other groups/networks. Need help making these links. If links/networks developed Indigenous people may have enough power to apply pressure to extractive companies for example, as a supportive collective.
2008	Indigenous Cultural Action for Biological and Cultural Conservation and Human Well-Being	Rosemary Hill, Leanne Cullen, Nigel Hedgecock, Christine George, Warren Canendo, Justin McCaul and Desmond Hill	Transfer resources e.g. as in Indigenous people and climate change initiatives.
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	There be an in-depth evaluation of the ways in which IK and TEK continues to be researched in relation to Western forms of knowledge (e.g. LINKS, NAILSMA, Tropical Savannas CRC);
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Contemporary and changing positions on the protection of Intellectual and Cultural Property and Indigenous knowledge continue to be monitored (e.g. WIPO; local developments and applications)
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	The engagement of Traditional Owners in research could range from brokering a project to being involved as full partners at every stage
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	The degree and nature of engagement will depend on a number of factors, including: the research project itself; the desire of Traditional Owners to be involved in each project; and the skills base of involved parties at the time

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	In each research project the potentials for collaborative research be explored, recognising that some research will not lend itself to full collaboration
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Consideration be given to the power differentials in negotiating agreements, especially whole of government agreements with Traditional Owners over natural resource management
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Consideration be given to establishing formal links with a number of research bodies committed to quality and respectful research being undertaken with Indigenous people in Australia, such as AIATSIS
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	This be done with a view to 'fine tuning' research protocols and agreements, and for utilising their resources to access, store and/or repatriate data
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Consideration be given to ways in which the establishment of strong working relations, advisory relationships, and partnerships with statutory bodies in Australia and elsewhere, such as AIATSIS, universities and museums, could forge and maintain strong dialogue around the issues of repatriation, or at the very least, ready access to cultural materials from the Wet Tropics
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Consideration be given to training a small number of Traditional Owners in the necessary research skills to enable them to trace and source cultural materials held in a number of places in Australia and elsewhere, and that this be an ongoing project possibly supported through Internships or scholarships (refer to actions 7.1 to 7.7 Strategy 7 WTAPPT 2005: 71);
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Consideration be given to the findings of IFaMP on the need for highly trained and skilled, monitored and mentored Indigenous negotiators and 'process' specialists

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	The AIATSIS <i>Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies</i> be adopted and that research agreements and protocols should be comprised of non-negotiable principles (see the list in report).
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	It be recognised that flexibility is critical to any research project, whether undertaken by Indigenous or non-Indigenous researchers, collaboratively or non-collaboratively
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	It be recognised there are key outcomes and benchmarks of every research project and where these change significantly there needs to be communication
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Models of 'co-research', 'transdisciplinary' research, cultural mapping and Indigenist research be seen as current and different 'best models' of research offering different angles, perspectives and outcomes
2009	An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions	Maureen Fuary	Any 'best practice model of research' be seen as a work in progress
2007	Cooperative Conservation: Beyond the Rhetoric A report highlighting International Best Practice recommendations for World Heritage Protected Areas: Identifying 'best practice' models and practical solutions that could be applied in the Wet Tropics	Jennifer A. Gabriel	Further research addressing the broader question of how traditional governance systems are successfully integrated into the management of large-scale World Heritage forested sites is recommended. This research would ideally involve an analysis of case-studies within the WTWHA, such as the (2006) study by Rosemary Hill (which highlighted gaps between policy and legal mechanisms).
2007	Cooperative Conservation: Beyond the Rhetoric A report highlighting International Best Practice recommendations for World Heritage Protected Areas: Identifying 'best practice' models and practical solutions that could be applied in the Wet Tropics	Jennifer A. Gabriel	Further research is also recommended to provide a deeper understanding of the success and limitations of the Canadian cooperative parks model, which has successfully integrated customary resource management, tourism initiatives and conservation imperatives for over 30 years

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2007	Cooperative Conservation: Beyond the Rhetoric A report highlighting International Best Practice recommendations for World Heritage Protected Areas: Identifying 'best practice' models and practical solutions that could be applied in the Wet Tropics	Jennifer A. Gabriel	In addition, given that the aim of governance in world heritage sites is to achieve a high degree of protection, which 'can be achieved concurrently with partnerships with a range of players, including partnerships that support community authority and social structures' (Hill 2003:2), a comprehensive global thematic study to document the current status of partnerships supporting community authority and social structures in world heritage forested sites would be beneficial not just at the regional level, but also on a national and global level
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji <sup>2</sup>	Michael Wood	The gap analysis revealed limited support for Aboriginal Rainforest people to control and record their own intellectual property. To address this issue there is an urgent need to resource practical projects with all Aboriginal Rainforest groups to document and enhance their unique culture and heritage values. There is a critical need for ongoing support for the cultural heritage mapping project beyond its pilot phase based on two years funding.
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Increased access to and use of Country
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Documentation and protection of Aboriginal knowledge of country
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Involvement in documentation, management and protection of places of cultural significance
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Repatriation and management of material cultural
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Implementation of Aboriginal language programs

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rirc.org.au/publications/downloads/491-JCU-Wood-2007-Final-Milestone-Report.pdf>

Date	Source report/paper	Authors	Recommendation
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Documentation of ecological knowledge of biota and involvement in management programs
2007	Project 4.9.1: Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Forecasting risk of exposure to Irukandji	Michael Wood	Sustainable hunting, gathering and cultural maintenance
2007 (oct)	Project 4.9.1 – Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics MTSRF October 2007 Milestone Report	Michael Wood	Identify critical indicators and thresholds of concern for the economic and cultural status of both indigenous and non-indigenous local human communities within the WTWHA
2008 (oct)	Project 4.9.1 – Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics MTSRF October 2007 Milestone Report	Michael Wood	Identify links between these economic and cultural indicators, and ecosystem health
2009 (oct)	Project 4.9.1 – Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics MTSRF October 2007 Milestone Report	Michael Wood	Develop a framework for the identification of economic and cultural indicators and a subsequent monitoring protocol will be developed and will be applicable to other World Heritage Areas and other Protected Areas both inside and outside of Australia
2010 (oct)	Project 4.9.1 – Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics MTSRF October 2007 Milestone Report	Michael Wood	Improve the benefits of scientific research for traditional owners and increase traditional owner capacity for world heritage area management and monitoring through collaborative research

## Appendix 2

### *WTMA research and management priorities*

Research Focus	Indigenous Priorities
<b>Indigenous Specific</b>	Cultural heritage mapping / TO ecological knowledge recording as participatory research with WTWHA land owners/managers as end users, including recording, access and use in planning and on-ground management; and National Heritage List / World Heritage List.
	Country-based Planning that informs, for example, native title and Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiations; National Park management plans; Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements; catchment plans and National Heritage List / World Heritage List.
	Business ready Indigenous NRM institutions – leadership, governance and operational core capacity/competency requirements.
	Engagement practices - review and recommendations of current practices (Regional Agreement and other specific government agency protocols).
<b>Mainstream with discreet Indigenous rights/interests</b>	Indigenous tourism – market feasibility and capacity requirements for sustainable entry into the industry
	WTMA's RAIN Report as presented to SAC at the April meeting, record of notes from that meeting, and as re-presented at the July meeting (and RAAC records of discussion in relation to it from the April and July meetings), issues relevant to RAP interests, and current status.
	Negotiating Indigenous participation in World Heritage Area (Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) management, e.g. AHWIN activity, and in national park management (viz National Park ILUA and National Park management plan negotiations).
<b>Mainstream with generic Indigenous interests integrated</b>	The relevance of 'FNQ 2031' and how can be utilised by RAP/FNQ TO groups ('applied research').
	Socio-cultural NRM monitoring and reporting criteria - Development and implementation of Key Performance Indicators for 'State of the Wet Tropics' and the IUCN
	Including Indigenous perspectives in existing research (e.g. how WTMA included TO considerations in the Fire and Cassowary Management workshops, and intended others, e.g. WTMA's climate change theme)

## Appendix 3

### List of workshop participants

Name (Alphabetical Order)	Contact Address	Group / Organisation
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