

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA hub

Collaborative Research to Manage Freshwater Habitats on Lama Lama Country, Cape York

Far North Queensland Pest Forum Ingham, Thursday 21st November 2013 C. Davies, M. Down, M. Jackson











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PROJECT PARTNERS Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation's Lama Lama Rangers Griffith University NAILSMA South Cape York Catchments

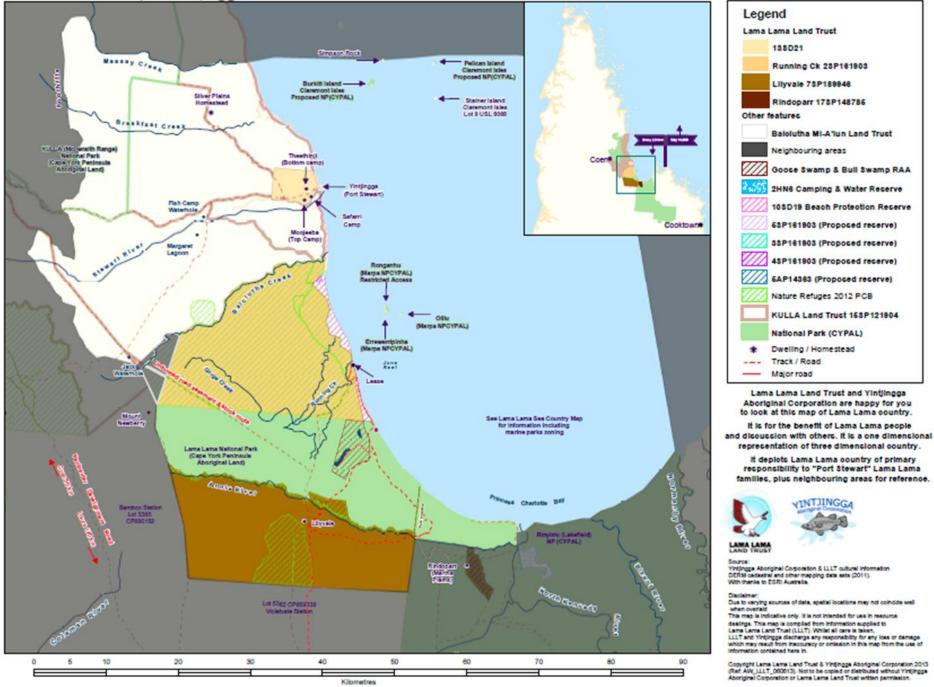






THE YINTJINGGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION'S LAMA LAMA RANGERS

Lama Lama Country of Yintjingga Lama Lama families





Nature refuge

Rindoparr Area B Nature Refuge & Rindoparr Co-ordinated Conservation Area

This is a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Access is only by permission of the land-holder.

AMA LAMA AMA LAMA ITIONAL LANDS

Queensland Government

NO HUNTING NO SHOOTING NO SHOOTING OU STURBING CATTLE NOU IAUTHORISED CAMPING OU IAUTHORISED ACCES

Trespassers will be prosecuted

Scrubby Lagoon





SOUTH CAPE YORK CATCHMENTS



Local community natural resource management group, based in Cooktown

Worked with Lama Lama to undertake condition assessments of 5 wetlands in 2009 and 2010

Used the Cape York Freshwater Wetland Assessment (CYMAG) methodology developed by Cape York Marine Advisory Group Environmental Inc.





North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd (NAILSMA)

NAILSMA is an Indigenous-led not-for-profit organisation that empowers Indigenous people across north Australia to care for country and future generations of Australians.



Looking after Our Country... Our Way

NAILSMA's approach

- Practical solutions that support Indigenous people and the management of their lands.
- Assist Indigenous people through livelihoods and employment on their country.
- Culturally appropriate programs focusing on Indigenous knowledge and contemporary science.
- Supporting Traditional Owners to contribute to healthy country and healthy people on traditional lands.



Looking after Our Country... Our Way

Looking after our country...our way

- The North Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development
- I-Tracker
- Water Resource Management
- Saltwater People Network
- Carbon Program





Looking after Our Country ... Our Way

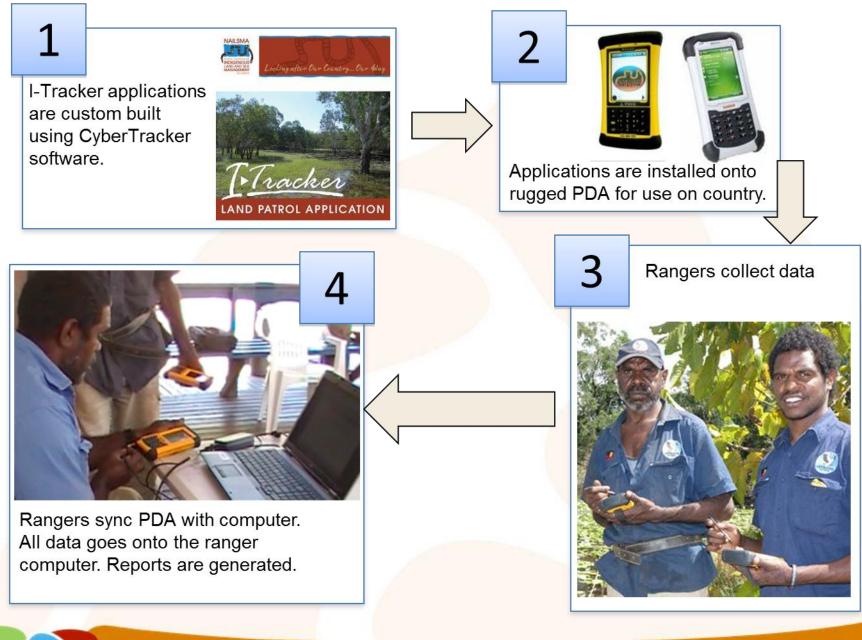
Fracker

•What is I-Tracker? (Indigenous Tracker)

- I-Tracker, is short for Indigenous Tracker;
- Gives Indigenous communities the power to record, analyse and map land and sea management data locally;
- Provides a network across north Australia of ranger groups collecting and managing information.
- Partnering with scientists and researchers
- Provides training, development and technical support for Indigenous rangers.

Looking after Our Country ... Our Way

I-TRACKER DATA COLLECTION TOOL



Lama Lama Rangers and I-Tracker

The Lama Lama Rangers are part of the NAILSMA I-Tracker network

Already using I-Tracker applications for some patrol work

Discussed issues of freshwater management with NAILSMA during training visits







Looking after Our Country ... Our Way







IMPACTS OF FERAL PIGS ON TROPICAL FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

Dr. Jim Mitchell Senior Zoologist BIOSECURITY QUEENSLAND

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation Pig management on Lama Lama Country Shooting Baiting







Pig management on Lama Lama Country Fencing

Bassani: Fencing completed 2010 Fish Camp: Fencing almost complete Future fencing works will be undertaken, sites to be prioritised



THE PROJECT

- Repeat indepth CYMAG condition assessments of 5 sites and add additional sites
- Develop a rapid assessment technique based on CYMAG method, and a customised I-Tracker tool to collect and manage the data
- Link data from satellite imagery to onground knowledge of country to provide a picture of recent history of wetland conditions
- Plan for ongoing freshwater monitoring for Lama Lama
- Build local capacity for research and monitoring (training and data collection tools)
- Share the methodology and I-Tracker application with other Indigenous ranger groups across the region

CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

- CYMAG condition assessment is a very comprehensive methodology
- Connectivity
- Riparian vegetation (including weeds)
- Aquatic vegetation (including weeds)
- Water quality
- Human disturbance
- Habitat
- Acid sulphate soils (where required)
- 4 site assessment for bank condition includes quadrats for measuring feral & managed animal impacts



CONDITION ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Lilyvale	Late Dry 09	Early Dry 10		Early Dry 13		Late Dry 13
Bassani		60	?	67	?	52
Beach		70		72		60
Bull	47			79		59
Goose	60			75		55
Scrubby	66			73		71

>85%	Excellent
76 – 85%	Very good
66 – 75%	Good
56 – 65%	Medium
46 – 55%	Average
35 – 45%	Poor
<35%	Very poor



New sites assessed Nov 2013

Port Stewart: Fish Camp 1 & 2, 7 Mile and 5 Mile Silver Plains: Homestead, Alligator Hole, Pikers, Joe's Lagoon and 1 Mile

MONITORING WATERHOLES USING SATELLITE IMAGERY: DOUG WARD AND KENN TEWS



Landsat data is FREE and easy to obtain Takes a image of the same place every 16 days Has a 20 + year image archive that is easy to access

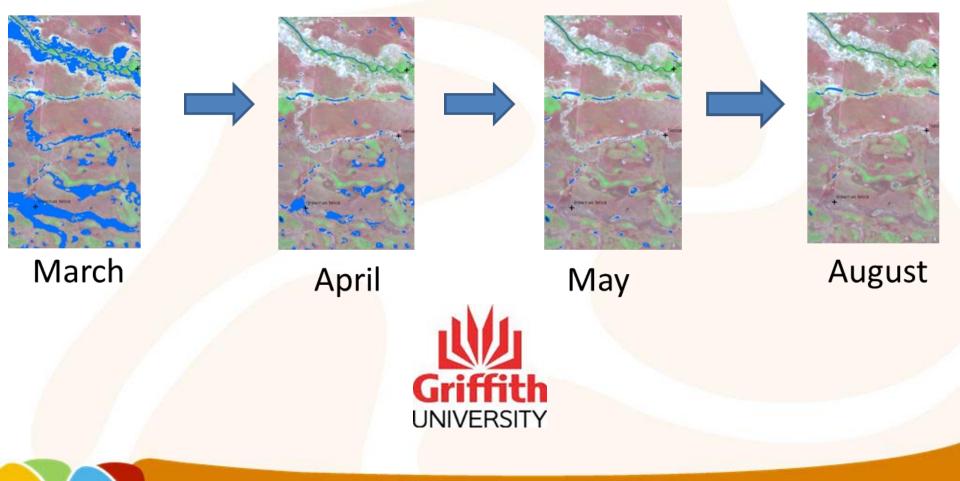


Landsat data can help identify

Inundation patterns: How much water is in the various wetlands, how long it is retained each year, connectivity between wetlands

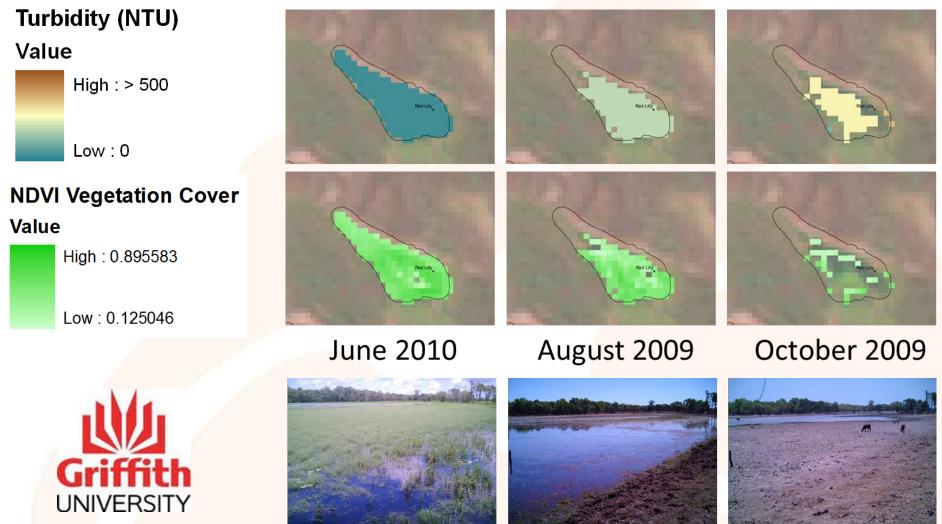
Wet season flooding

Dry season waterholes



Landsat data can help identify

How wetland turbidity changes over time % of the surface is covered by aquatic vegetation seasonally



29.60 inHg J 8 30°C) 10/08/09 02:00 PM REDLIL

Remote sensing workshop wet season 2013-14 Repeat full assessments + trial & update rapid assessment method and I-Tracker application early dry 2014 Outreach phase mid 2014 to share outcomes and tools with other Indigenous land and sea management groups

