



**Northern Australia  
Environmental  
Resources  
Hub**

National Environmental Science Programme

## Research Priorities for Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) across northern Australia

### Project Context

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) make up more than 45 per cent of Australia's National Reserve System, protecting biodiversity, ecosystem services, cultural and community values. They receive a high level of support from the Australian Government. Since 1998 72 IPAs have been established, covering more than 64 million hectares of both land and sea country across Australia.

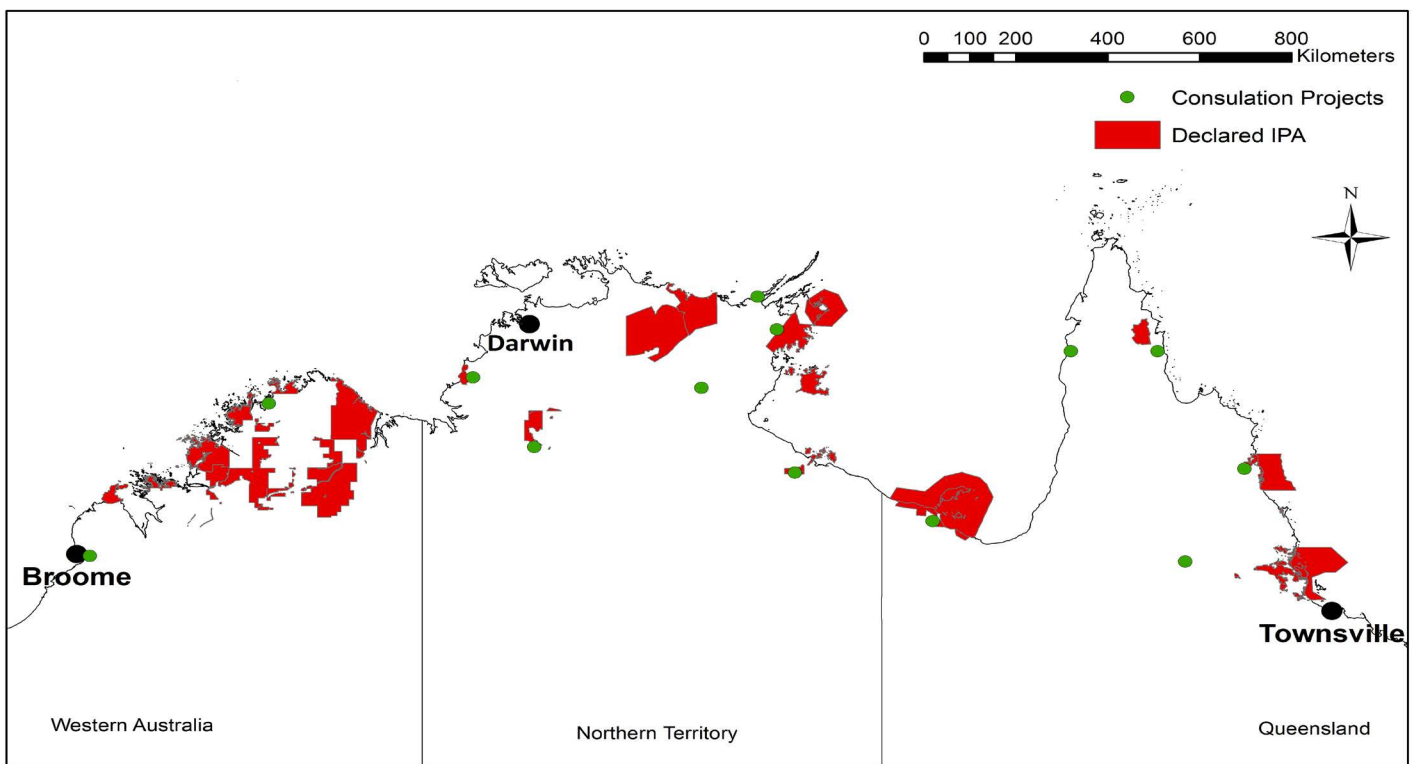
This project aims to provide an assessment of the research priorities for IPAs in northern Australia. In collaboration with IPA managers, government, non-government and research stakeholders across the north of Australia, the project team will undertake literature reviews, hold workshops and conduct interviews. This information will be used to develop recommendations about the most important IPA research for support through the NESP Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub.

### Who is doing the research?

Researchers from CSIRO, the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance and James Cook University are leading the project. The work is being guided by a Steering Group of six people from Indigenous organisations in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory, two Australian Government representatives, and a person from a philanthropic organisation.

### How is the research going to be conducted?

The project team wants to run a strong, fair process that is guided by IPA managers and partners, based on Indigenous peoples' goals, to build confidence in government, private and not-for-profit research investors and others. IPA and non-IPA groups, research partners and investors in Northern Australia will make recommendations about the most important research priorities for them through this project. The team will also look at reports such as IPA Management Plans and Healthy Country Plans to see what they say about research priorities. The research will follow ethical standards and work on the basis of mutual benefits, mutual trust and mutual respect.



Northern Australia IPAs (excluding Torres Strait) that are covered by the project. The data from which this map is derived is available at: <https://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/pubs/ipa-map-july2015.pdf>

## How can you be involved?

We would like to invite Traditional Owners and staff involved in managing IPAs to share experiences, discuss issues and challenges, and identify priorities for research that will support their aspirations for land and sea country. Pilot workshops have been held with the Steering Group, coastal communities in the Kimberley in WA and two more are being held in November - one in the Top End of the NT, and one for inland IPA communities in the Kimberley. A range of topics will be discussed at these workshops, including an update about the Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub, Traditional Owner involvement, past IPA research priorities, and what people see as the future priorities for managing country.

Over the next few weeks we will also interview people involved with northern Queensland IPAs, as well as government, community and industry stakeholders involved in IPAs. We are keen for you to be involved, so please don't hesitate to contact **Ro Hill**, **Melissa George** or **Natalie Stoeckl** if you would like to attend a workshop, be interviewed or just have a chat!

## Outcomes

A report on research priorities for IPAs across northern Australia will be delivered to the Australian Government in early 2016. A separate report will also be prepared to provide a better understanding of the multiple benefits of IPAs, the appropriate methods for assessing those benefits, and stakeholder needs for information about the economic 'value' of those benefits. These reports will be used to develop a multi-year research plan supported by the NESP Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub. The final report will be finished by June 2016.

## Further information

For more information, you can contact:

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