

Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

Management Plan 2013 - 2023



Mungalla Station
Indigenous Protected Area

Bandjin Traditional Owners

Gulnay Traditional Owners

Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area
Elders Steering Committee

Djiru Warrangburra
Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Girramay
Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Goondaloo
Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Warrgamay Bada Bada
Aboriginal Corporation



Gugu Badhun
Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Our caring and looking after Country revolves around post-cyclone recovery and building resilience for the future



Clockwise from top left - Yasi mapping courtesy of WTMA © Queensland Government 2011- the 'Orange Crew', Meunga Creek Fish Habitat Area - Giringun Rangers on patrol - Cardwell Range at Jumbun, Murray Upper - Proud to be a Giringun Ranger - Hinchinbrook Island (centre). All other images © Giringun Aboriginal Corporation 2013-2023

GIRRINGUN REGION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 - 2023

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Since August 2009, Giringun Aboriginal Corporation has chaired the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Steering Committee* on behalf of our Traditional Owner member groups. The Steering Committee has been instrumental in realising the declaration of the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*, the *Mungalla Station Indigenous Protected Area* and the *Yabulum Indigenous Protected Area*. The Steering Committee has greatly benefited from the shared advice and knowledge of the many committed and dedicated collaborative management partner representatives attending since 2009.

This document includes images of Giringun Artists' artworks and imaged reproductions of artwork details. We thank all Elders and Traditional Owners who have kindly permitted use of their work. We respectfully acknowledge the assistance and support provided to all Giringun Artists by the Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre and our Arts Manager, Dr Valerie Keenan.

This document includes photographic images of significant cultural and natural sites within our region. We thank all Elders and Traditional Owners who have permitted use of photos on country.

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by Giringun Aboriginal Corporation in collaboration with Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners of land, seas and waters within the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Area and wider region, with the assistance of Ellie Bock (Regional Advisory & Innovation Network (RAIN) Pty Ltd). The *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Management Plan* reflects the general land and sea management, cultural and natural resource management intentions of Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners as these apply to the broader geographic region known as the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas. Jirrbal People support declaration of the IPA in principle.

This document has been prepared as a strategic regional level guide to best practice collaborative management of the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas. It does not contain nor constitutes legal advice in any form, and as such remains without prejudice. It is not intended to be or to provide a definitive framework for local actions on country or the making of local strategy by Giringun-affiliated Traditional Owners in any particular instance.

Giringun's operations and activities are undertaken for and on behalf of its member Traditional Owner groups: Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu peoples, for their direct benefit, the direct benefit of Elders and young Aboriginal people, and for the general benefit of the north Queensland community.

WARNING: This publication may contain images of and references to deceased persons. Readers are reminded that explicit cultural protocols govern use and release of images and names of the deceased.

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TRADITIONAL OWNER STATEMENT

Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu country is special and of great importance to Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Peoples; our Ancestors and all of our Peoples' generations - past, present and future.

As the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Lands, Freshwaters and Saltwaters of the southern wet tropics and the northern dry tropics of north east Australia, we have declared and dedicated the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* for the benefit of all future generations and our region's diverse communities of species.

We welcome and acknowledge the addition of the Aboriginal-held *Mungalla Indigenous Protected Area* and the privately-held *Yabulum Indigenous Protected Area* into the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*, exemplifying our shared commitment as Traditional Owners and as partnering landholders to positive outcomes.

As Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups affiliated with Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, our Plan is the framework for our meaningful engagement in the regionally strategic, collaborative management of our traditional Lands, Waters and Sea Country, which our Ancestors and our Peoples have looked after from Jujaba time.

Our Peoples' active, meaningful and sustained participation, at all levels and in all aspects of, protected areas and Aboriginal Land and Sea management is a key vision of Girringun's Founding Elders, who are further concerned with the generation of genuine training and long term employment for our young people on country. We welcome the partnerships we have built over 15 years with Commonwealth, State and local government agencies, NQ Dry Tropics NRM and Terrain NRM.

In realising the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*, we are formally putting into effect fully recognised Land and Sea management roles for our people across country, as initiated and as guided by our Elders, past and present.

Our priorities in caring for Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu country at regional and local scales are set out in this *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Management Plan*, which underpins the declaration and dedication of our collaborative Indigenous Protected Areas.

We Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners recognise the many critical threats our country - and our cultural and natural resources - have faced since occupation, which continue to confront us today and which will increasingly challenge us into the future.

In recognising these diverse and escalating threats to country, we are working with our public and private partners to ensure the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* and the many uniquely special native plants and animals which call our Land and Sea Country home, survive the serious new challenges now facing the Earth and all the peoples of our region.

The Board of Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, April 2013

INTRODUCTION - PURPOSE OF THE GIRRINGUN REGION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS (IPA) MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas will be declared over existing Commonwealth and State protected areas including Conservation Parks, National Parks, State Marine Park and Commonwealth Marine Park under collaborative management arrangements expressed in certain formal memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and formal letters of support. Land (terrestrial) and Sea (marine) Country within the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* forms part of the internationally recognised and protected Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

The Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas will be declared over agreed privately-held Aboriginal and non-Indigenous lands nominated by their respective landholders, under directly negotiated and agreed collaborative management arrangements expressed in formal memoranda of understanding (MoUs).

Additional areas of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous lands may be bought into the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* over time, including agreed local government reserves under future joint or full Aboriginal trustee arrangements, to be confirmed through appropriate negotiated formal agreements.

The *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Management Plan* has been developed by the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation ('Giringun') in collaboration with Giringun's nine Traditional Owner member groups: the Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Peoples of north east Queensland, to guide the regional level implementation of the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* over our peoples' respective Land and Sea Country. Jirrbal Peoples have expressed their support for declaration of the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* however presently are considering their direct involvement.

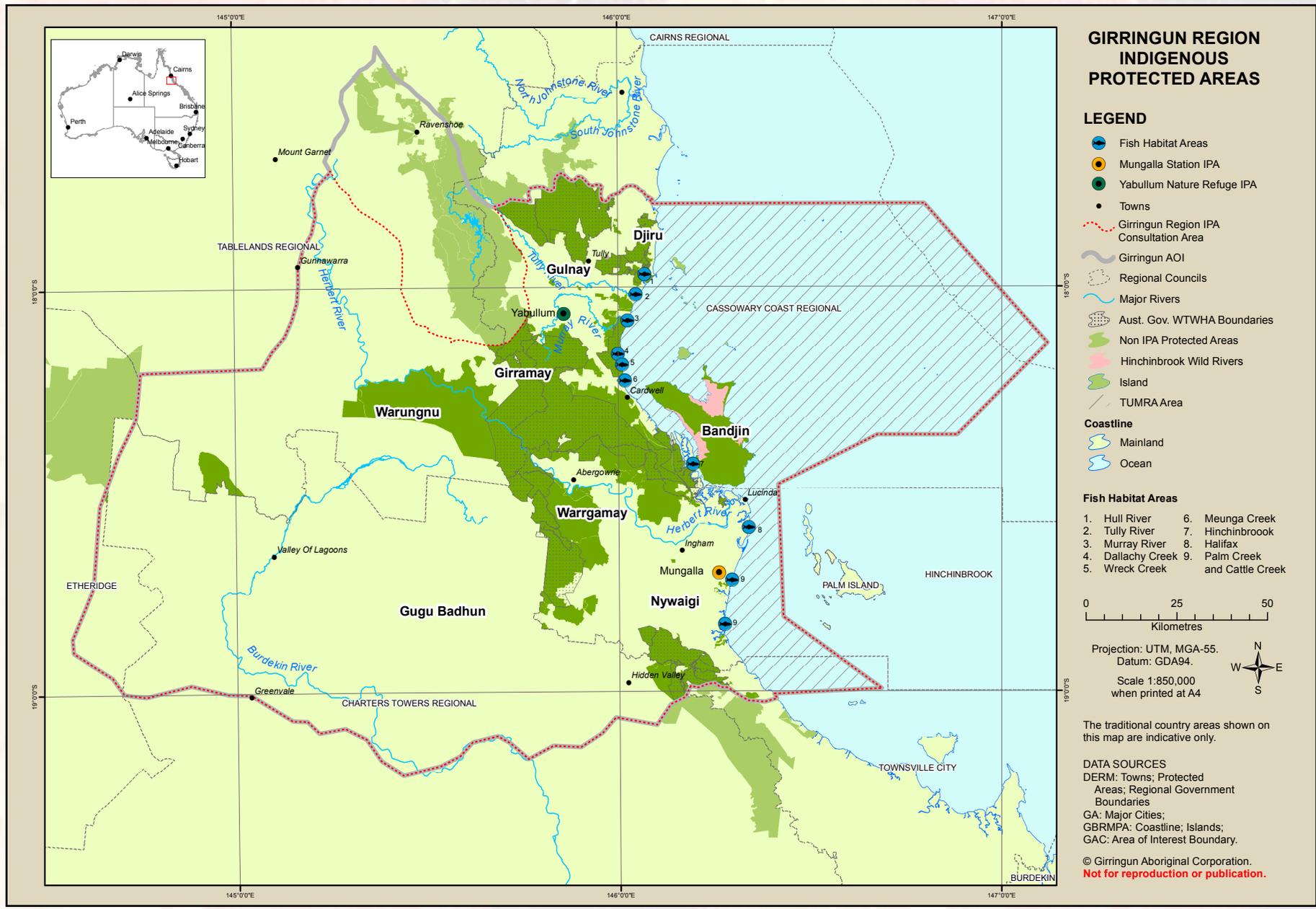
The purposes of the GRIPA Plan are to describe:

- Our Peoples as the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas;
- Areas of our respective ancestral Lands, Waters and Seas included within the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas;
- Our priority concerns about what is happening to our respective ancestral Lands, Waters and Seas today;
- Processes we have adopted to plan for, declare and progress into the future the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas;
- How our many GRIPA partners with legal management responsibilities for our Lands, Waters and Seas will work with us collaboratively;
- How our Land and Sea Country areas will be looked after by the Giringun Rangers in association with Giringun; and
- How our country will be looked after by us as Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas.

We thank the Queensland Government and the Australian Government in their assistance since mid 2009 to confirm these arrangements. We thank the many State and Commonwealth agency staff and managers without whom these precedent co-management arrangements would not have been possible to initiate or finalise.

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Gundula weeve © Marjorie Krjün 2009, Giringun Aboriginal Arts

SECTION 1 – OUR PEOPLES: TRADITIONAL OWNER INTERESTS IN THE GIRRINGUN REGION

The Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

Traditional Connections

We are the Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugul- Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Peoples: Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Girringun Region.

Places were part of a network of knowledge which was traditionally passed on orally. There were three strands to this network. Firstly, there was intimate knowledge of the territory in which hunting, fishing and gathering activities took place.

Each group of families making up a band or clan within the tribe had a particular country... areas rich in resources... generally have a large number of names referring to each small section of the river, creek or lagoon so that people can refer to exact locations....

The second strand to the network of site knowledge is the system of myths or creation stories. These places describe how places familiar in the landscape of the district came into being. Stories tell how Jujaba [creation] story people named places or caused places to have their shape. The third strand is related to the second and is the system of naming [children after specific places].

(Pedley 1994:60-62)

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GIRRINGUN REGION¹

The Jujaba Period

Creation and dreaming stories form the basis of the customary laws and traditions of the Traditional Owner affiliated groups of Girringun. Each group or groups have principle stories that tell of the initial creations of their traditional lands. The story of Girugarr, for example, was recorded by Dixon (1987) and Henry (1967) as being the first mythical surveyor of most of the eastern areas of the Girringun region, including Gulnay, Djiru, Jirrbal, Bandjin, Girramay and Warungnu traditional lands.

As with many creation stories, they often geographically overlap and link together large areas of country and neighbouring tribal groups. Henry (1967:17) recorded that:

“Girugarr rose out of the ocean near Hinchinbrook Island, part man, mostly eel and gazed around the newly made countryside. The rugged grandeur of Hinchinbrook Island impressed him and he rose from the water and pronounced its name loudly. He then plunged into the sea and came out on top of the mountain at the back of Cardwell. He saw a freshwater lake surrounded by mangroves and he called it Girringun lake. Another journey underground brought him out at Murray Falls. “I name you Gweeyouroaree Falls”. He named the cassowary (Goondoyee)... and he finally came to rest on Mt Mackay (Cootaamee)”.

Similarly, the creation of the water and waterways in the region is told by an Elder in 1974.

“This is a story about the water in the beginning... how we got the water... the animals they the ones that never had water... we got water through the animals... they reckon all these wallabies, kangaroos and cassowaries, they reckon they were the human beings in the time before we become human being. The blue-tongue lizard, he was a different tribe

from the Murray Upper... he was Valley of Lagoons tribe”. (T.Warren 1974)

“Away across Kirrama Range and not far from Glen Ruth Homestead there lies a great white stone. In the days of our ancestors this stone marked the scene of a great event. At that time the kangaroos wandered the land looking for water... bungurrah... the blue tongue lizard was the keeper of the water so they asked him for help. He told them to dig in that dry creek there. The kangaroos went away and dug deep until they became very hot and thirsty .. but there was no water. A great thirst spread across the land and there was a great gathering of all the animals to talk over their plight. There was the frilled lizard, the bandicoot, the possum, the kangaroo rat, the porcupine, the black and yellow goanna and others. One of the kangaroos was sent up to Limestone Creek to find the little white rat and they asked him to follow bungurrah, who they hoped would lead them to water. And so it was that when bungurrah came to the secret place of the water, and carefully lifted the stone with his yam stick, the little rat rushed in and pushed the stone and flew aside. There was a tremendous noise of surging water, which came bursting out of the ground and flooded everywhere. All the kingfishers skimmed ahead of the water, carving out channels to hold the precious fluid. Bunnah Euramo (Tully River) came down from the hills one way, Bunnah Meetee (Murray River) came down another way and the Herbert flowed away behind the ranges until it came to the sea”. (Henry 1967:19)

In the lower and upper Herbert River area, the gabul and yamanie stories featuring the carpet python or snake endow the lands with its physical forms, language, law and other cultural properties. Gabul created the Herbert River and Hinchinbrook Channel as he travelled, and the Two Sisters stories relate to areas of Hinchinbrook Island. In turn these stories are carried on into Girramay country and beyond.

¹ by Leigh Pentecost (BA Hons), consultant archaeologist to Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

“From Ingham all people come, come to fighting ground at Bilyana, fight, then go back... then another mailman get people come up again to Murray Upper... the people belong to Warrami, they got a fighting ground there. Big fight there... people come from everywhere, come from Innisfail, from Clump Point, Ingham and Ravenshoe. Big mob from Ravenshoe come down, all the way down the river and they start fighting at Upper Murray”.
(Joe Kinjun 1974)

Below: Aboriginal man - Djiru Country early 1900s (image: E J Banfield)



The Traditional Owner groups affiliated with Giringun Aboriginal Corporation shared, prior to the invasion and settlement of Europeans and others, distinctive cultural practices, allowing them to exploit and live within the southern Wet Tropics regions of Queensland for many, many thousands of years. Researchers have constructed a broad outline of the nature of their subsistence and settlement patterns.

The communities exhibited a relatively high population density, in relation to the rest of Australia, that incorporated semi-permanent and permanent camps, and subsistence strategies that were generally seasonally driven, as well as an accompanying unique material culture that was adapted to the diverse rainforest, coastal and dry country ecosystems. Social, political, economic and ceremonial interactions with neighbouring groups were very frequent and complex.

Customary laws covered everything from ownership of country to resource distribution. Shell and stone tools were traded over large distances and traps woven from lawyer vines were used to hunt a variety of animals and birds very successfully. Large stone fish traps were constructed in the larger rivers, along the coast and offshore islands. The Scraggy Point fish traps at Hinchinbrook Island are still extensive today and date to ~2,000 years old (Campbell 1978). Similarly, camp ovens located on the floodplains have been revealed to date to 2,000 years old and in constant use until about 100 years ago (Crothers 1998). Recently, hundreds of open campfires were recorded in Gugu Badhun country (M. Strong pers. comm.).

Intrinsic to the maintenance of the overall cultural lifestyle were the ceremonial gatherings which took place at regular intervals during the year. It was during these events that major tribal and inter-tribal business and grievances were settled and included personal, family and tribal disputes, marriage negotiations, trade and exchange of goods, local and regional news, songs, dances and stories.

These ceremonial grounds were linked via a huge network of walking tracks that connected the Giringun region and beyond, with gatherings continuing into the 1900s. The last was held in the 1940s. Walking tracks still evident today and whose cultural significance continues to be passed on by oral history, include the Juburriny Track and the Dalrymple Track, amongst others.

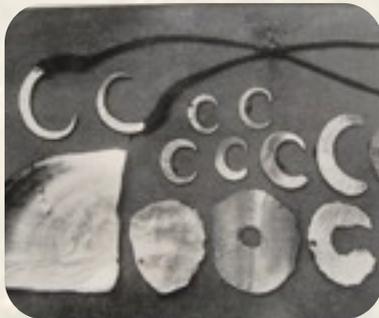


© Maureen Beeron, Giringun Arts 2010

Girringun Region Post-contact History

“On nearing the beach the natives stood in the water beckoning us to come on shore. I had a conversation with them... they wanted to know whether we came to have a corroboree with them, or whether we came as enemies: to which I answered that we came as friends, but as we were going inland we wished them to keep away, or if they did not we would make war. I then said that they must clear out and tell others to do so, as we wished to occupy the land, and would shoot any who approached... They told us to leave and not return, and then they went away”.

James Morrill, as reported in the *Maryborough Chronicle* 25/4/1864



Aboriginal shell fish hooks Djiru Country early 1900s (image: E J Banfield)

“They never seen white man in this Cardwell district... many native camps along that beach. One morning they look out to sea and saw this ship... they come to the shore... and a couple of men rowed out and all the boys had their shields and boomerangs and met these two men. They look at them and they thought they return from heaven, that gulli in Murray Upper language. He came off the boat into the shore with the other men and bring flour, tobacco, sugar and tea... threw all the blankets out to them... and threw the clothes out to them... they thought this man was changing his skin... he peel himself like a snake”. (Tom Warren 1974)

Early Exploration and Colonial Invasion

European documentation of indigenous people occupying the Girringun region began with Capt. Cook in 1770 on the Endeavour, when he sailed the area surrounding Halifax Bay, the Palm Islands, Rockingham Bay and Cape Sandwich on Hinchinbrook Island while heading north. Traditional Owners were seen in their canoes around the Palm Islands at this time (Beaglehole 1955) and Lt Jeffreys on the Kangaroo, in 1815, stopped to obtain fruits from Traditional Owners on Goold Island. Later that year, the Lady Elliott was wrecked just south of Cardwell (Jones 1961).

Four years later, Philip King on the Mermaid embarked on the first of 4 surveying voyages in the region. Both he and Cunningham (1819-1822), a botanist, documented the presence of a dozen people and their huts on Goold Island, exchanged goods with them and saw many men and canoes along the shores of Rockingham Bay (King 1827). The Beagle was the next vessel to visit Rockingham Bay in 1839, and in 1843, the Fly and Bramble were used to continue the survey of the region (Stokes 1847).

The first European terrestrial exploratory party in the Girringun region was led by Ludwig Leichhardt in 1845. He and his men travelled through the south-west territory of Girringun through Gugu-Badhun traditional lands, the Burdekin River region, on his way north to Port Essington (Leichhardt 1847). Two years later in 1847, Edmund Kennedy and his party crossed the north-eastern areas of the Girringun region, via Rockingham Bay through Girramay, Gulnay and Jirrbal lands on their way to Cape York (Carron 1849). Both parties extensively documented their observations of the Traditional Owners they encountered during their journeys.

In 1859, the same year that Queensland was declared a separate colony by Governor Bowen, Dalrymple (1865) led a small expedition of pastoralists-explorers inland from near Rockhampton to the Valley of Lagoons. Their aim was to conduct a detailed exploration of the land first favourably described by Leichardt (1847) and Gregory (1844). As a result of this, the beginning of the 1860's saw the first registrations for pastoral leases in the newly opened Kennedy District. By 1864, Dalrymple established the first non-indigenous settlement in the Girringun region at Port Hinchinbrook, later

renamed Cardwell in 1868. Among those that landed included Lt. Marlow and 3 indigenous troopers from the Qld Native Police, John Dallachy a Botanist, and Arthur Scott.

James Morrill, who accompanied Dalrymple's first settlement party in 1864, described first contact with the Traditional Owners they met along Rockingham Bay (see left). Similarly, the Traditional Owners recorded their experience of seeing their first 'white man' in their country (also see left).

In the lower Herbert River region, the traditional lands of the Nywaigi and Warrgamay peoples were also being invaded by European pastoralists. Some of the first to settle near present day Ingham were the Atkinsons, the Cassadys were at Mungulla in 1865, the Allinghams at Waterview and Muralambeen and Sub-Inspector Johnstone from the Native Police lived at Molonga in 1872 (Allingham 1977). Neame (1871) noted that in these early days there were no settlers on the north side of the Herbert River, and in fact, there were no European settlers living between there and Cardwell. On the southern side however, Mackenzie took up land at Gairlock, Haig was at Bemerside, Gardiner at Cudmore's selection and Hawkins took up land further up the Herbert River. By 1878 sugar cane grew to the extent that 2 crushing mills were erected at Seaforth and Gairlock and the towns of Ingham and Halifax sprang from this industry. Over the next few years, land around Trebonne Creek and Ripple Creek were also cleared and farmed. Frank Hives bought land at Gowrie Creek, named his selection Rose Vale and local Warrgamay people were used to help clear his land (Bolton 1972).

By the early 1900s a vast amount of Girringun's traditional owners' lands were selected for pastoral runs. Prominent holdings then included the Valley of Lagoons and Greenvale Stations (Burdekin River), Herbert Vale (Herbert River), Wyandotte Station, Christmas Creek, Kirrama Station, Mt Surprise, Gunnawarra and Kangaroo Hills. Between 1873 and 1890 the northern areas of the region were occupied and stations such as Woodleigh, Evelyn, Wooroora, Mandalee, Wairuna and Tirrabella were formed.

Mineral prospectors from the south found gold on the Star River in 1865, on the Palmer River in 1872, and J. Mulligan in 1875 found payable quantities of tin and gold on the Wild River within Jirrbal country. These finds, along with John



Top: Aboriginal man - Djiru Country early 1900s

Below: Aboriginal women and children - Djiru Country early 1900s (images: E J Banfield)



Moffatt's opening of the first tin mine at Herberton led to the immigration of over 20,000 miners from southern Australia, all seeking their fortunes. Within 10 years, the town of Herberton had a population of over 3,000 immigrants, a number of whom were Chinese. By 1878, two new ports had been opened at Cairns and Port Douglas, and many of the first rush of alluvial gold miners to the Palmer and Hodgkinson rivers were casting around for alternative prospects (Kerr 1979:7).

In 1879, the local government boundaries were established in the region under the *Divisional Board Act (1879)* and Cardwell lay within the Hinchinbrook Division, which extended from Cape Grafton to Halifax Bay. Dray tracks were built linking stations to each other and the coastal regions and bridges were built.

From the early days of European settlement, South Sea Islanders were brought to the region to work as farm labourers, but from the 1880's the pastoralists in the upland areas of the Girringun region changed to Indigenous labour, after the Government banned the use of Islander labour in areas more than 30 miles from the coast.

However, in the Herbert River area, at least 1,000 South Sea Islanders continued to work on the local sugar cane plantations until 1901, when the Government finally prohibited the use of their labour and many returned to their homelands. Those who remained lived a precarious existence with some squatting on Crown Lands along creeks and rivers. Others settled at 'The Gardens', which is on a property located at Halifax then owned by Andersen. Many lived there until the 1960s (Bolton 1972).

Traditional Owners' Resistance and Consequences of the Invasion

Violent clashes between the Traditional Owners and the new waves of settlers were exacerbated considerably by the continual influxes of new and eager miners and pastoralists in search of homes and income. The settlement patterns of the graziers were highly selective, tending to reflect the reports of the earlier explorers and focus on the fertile, well watered river valleys within the Girringun region. Not unsurprisingly, this created serious grounds for bloody conflict as they and the Traditional Owners were now competing for the most

reliable resources. Many Traditional Owners were pushed out of their country, and their familiar hunting and gathering areas were physically destroyed by grazing and farming.

The role of the Native Police was based on collective punishment without trial and they often took upon themselves the roles of 'police, counsel, judge, jury and executioner' (Loos 1981). The policy of the day concerning Traditional Owners was to:

"... keep them out", designed to force the Aborigines away from the water courses and prospective homestead areas... until they were adjudged sufficiently subjugated and destitute to be admitted on settler's terms, and were let in. (Loos 1976)

John Davidson arrived in Cardwell in 1865 and grew the first sugar cane in the Murray River area. Davidson wrote in his diary that Sub-Inspector Murray of the Qld Native Police had promised to come up from Cardwell and "clear out the neighbourhood" and wrote on a number of occasions that they had "pitched into freely" groups of "natives". The following year Davidson settled in an area he called Bellenden Plains and the first Pacific Islanders in the Murray River area were brought to the property as labourers, some of whom stayed. His sugar plantings failed and he left the area in 1868 (Davidson 1865-1868).

One of the many punitive raids on Traditional Owners' camps in the then Kennedy district occurred on Hinchinbrook Island in 1867. Capt. Major and a party of troopers raided several large camps on the island which consisted of 40 to 50 huts. The camps were reported later that month as having been "visited, surrounded and captured" (Cleveland Bay Express 30 Nov. 1867). And again in 1874, when Rev. Fuller went to Hinchinbrook Island to set up a missionary station,

"... found only women and children, all the men having been shot by the Native Police a few weeks prior to his arrival". (McNab 1880:4)

In the Halifax Bay area, Cassidy (in Curr 1886) wrote that:

"In 1865 when the Halifax Bay country was first occupied by the whites, the tribe was estimated to have amounted to about 500 persons. The number which existed in 1880 are set down to about 200 souls. This decrease my informant



Aboriginal women and children
Djiru Country early 1900s
(image: E J Banfield)

The Hull River Settlement

In 1912, a site for the first government-run Aboriginal settlement in the north was chosen just north of the Hull River in Djiru country.

Howard (1912:9) wrote:

“The establishment of a settlement at the Hull River will, I feel sure, be the means of stopping the supply of opium to the natives, and will also have the effect of controlling the undesirable relations so much in evidence”.

attributes to the brutality of the Native Mounted Police and some of the settlers, who, in the beginning, relentlessly hunted down and shot as many of the males of the tribe as possible. The present excess of females over males bears out this statement”.

The Traditional Owners’ continued resistance to the European invasion of their traditional lands was again brutally punished, when in 1872, after the wreck of the brig Maria at Tam O’Shanter Point in Djiru country, two survivors told of the murder by Aboriginal people of other survivors. In response, Sub Inspector Johnstone, his troopers and local landowners proceeded to the area –

“the tribe was surprised before daylight and several unfortunate blacks were shot down by the native troopers, who showed an unrestrained ferocity that disgusted our officers”. (Jones 1961)

However, Chris Wildsoet, an early resident of the area spoke to some of the Aboriginal survivors and was told that their people were driven into the sea, all the women and children were shot and only 5 survived (Woolston and Colliver 1975).

During these hardest of times, many Traditional Owner “survivors” decided to stay close to the more friendly settlers and often lived on their so-called properties in exchange for free labour. This occurred right across the Girringun region. Jones (1961:279) wrote that:

“... what happened to the Aboriginal as the white man’s controlled land encroached more and more on his birthright was scarcely different from what happened in other remote areas. The black’s offensive aggressiveness of the 1870s was defensive by the 1890s.”

This situation is not surprising in the light of the many deliberate massacres of large numbers of people that were perpetrated against all nine of the Traditional Owner affiliated groups of Girringun. Researchers have recorded oral testimony of these killings from Elders who were told by their parents and grandparents.

In 1974, a Senior Gulnay Elder (Mr Joe Kinjun) recorded in an interview that:

“First people there all died... Dallachy he done shot ‘em, horsemen and all that. All this way to there – Ravenshoe. All

run away from there to Culpa Creek. He kill ‘em and old Henry, he tell them please come up, everybody, tracker, and shoot our people. That’s in our early days”. (Black Oral History Collection 1974).

The figure given by Meston in 1889 for Queensland estimated that for every white person that was killed, 50 Aboriginal people died.

Even in the early 1920’s massacres were still occurring. Davis (1994:35) recorded a Jirrbal Elder’s story about a camp at Cedar Creek (near Ravenshoe):

“My mother and father came down from Kirrama for a buya (ceremony). That was very important business. There was big trouble at that time .. Millaa Millaa people, came over and there was a big fight. Then police came. They came down and fired shots.

That’s the time I was born – that was about 1920. That ceremony ground is still important for us. But now it’s important place for white people. It’s business place for them too. They call it Ravenshoe Golf course.” (Tom Murray)

More recently, scores of oral histories recorded from other surviving Traditional Owners have indicated that the killings continued to occur in places such as the upper Tully River, Davidson Creek and the Herbert River Falls region (Girringun historical records).

The Act of 1897 and the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement

Two major reports concerning the conditions of the Queensland Aboriginal people were commissioned in the late 1890s. Meston (1896) reported to parliament the actions of the Queensland Native Police and the atrocities they had committed across the state, and accused them of killing innocent men, women and children and that people were ‘hunted like animals’.

The following year, Parry-Okeden (1897) investigated these allegations, but his report defended their actions. These two reports ultimately shaped the lives of all Aboriginal people in Queensland for the next 60 years.

Palm Island

“We were bundled up again, same as before. All the women and children had to follow behind because we still had the whiteman’s guns on us. We were put into two boats. All we knew was that now we were being taken to a place called Palm Island”.

Below: Palm Island
looking east from Hinchinbrook Is.



In 1897 the Queensland parliament passed the *Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act (1897)* which enforced broad ranging legislative mechanisms that were used to control all aspects of Aboriginal people’s lives in the state until the 1960s.

The Act provided for the creation of reserves run by the government, which they hoped would, among other things, at that time, curb the spread of opium addiction amongst the Indigenous population.

These reserves would ultimately provide the settlers with a ready source of cheap labour, serving to keep the Traditional Owners under the complete control of the authorities.

The Hull River Aboriginal Settlement officially began in 1914 and immediately 265 people were removed to there from across North Queensland. Indigenous people were taken from Barambah, Clump Point, Dotswood, Ingham, Mourilyn, Strathmore, Valley of Lagoons, Yarrabah and Yungaburra (Langevard Database DFSIA 1993/03/31).

The opening of the settlement caused considerable concern amongst the local settlers across the Girringun region, and they were unhappy with the prospect of Indigenous labour shortages and the inconvenience of the location of the reserve. The demand for labour was heavy, especially on the stations, and often exceeded the number of Aboriginal people available for labour (Jones 1961).

From its beginning in 1914 to its demise during a cyclone in 1918, hundreds of Traditional Owners were removed to the settlement, but it was well known locally that escape into the nearby rainforested refuges within the Cardwell Ranges was possible, and frequently attempted and succeeded.

Hundreds of small and large camps were inhabited by the surviving Traditional Owners, most working on stations and returning to camp at night to as much as possible, continue their traditional lifestyles and use their resources.

Banfield (1925) noted that “the bush kept them in strict seclusion, providing food and shelter - safe from official interference”.

Palm Island Removals

Palm Island, which is south-west of Ingham, was chosen for the site of the new settlement that opened at the end of 1918. Many absconders from the ruins of the Hull River settlement were quickly re-caught and removed.

Palm Island was a closed institution in which the ‘inmates’ lives were strictly controlled by the authorities and escape was difficult. However it was sometimes possible for Traditional Owners to be released to former employers for ‘holidays’. Some of these people subsequently disappeared and returned to their traditional lands. Kumm’s (1980) research has highlighted the result that one of these round-ups to Palm Island had on the movements and lifestyle of some. Her informant told her that while her parents were taken away to Palm Island, her parent’s local group were still living a traditional lifestyle, and in an effort to escape future round-ups, they moved their base camp into the hills near Murray Falls. People avoided being removed by signalling to each other when they saw the police and:

“... people running away in the hills everywhere... they didn’t make a fire.. might be seen the light burning, smoke coming... might be make a little camp at night-time... then come down here, sneak down night-time get sugar, tea and smokes from Warrami (on the Murray River)”.

Over the next 4 decades, Traditional Owners of the Girringun region were removed to Palm Island, absconders re-captured and some received the ‘right’ to go back to their families as long as they worked for a settler. However, some were still known to be still living and resisting the invasion in the Cardwell Ranges in 1920 and:

“Some have never been to any settlement and the whole of these are armed with spears and other weapons” (Letter dated 1920 to Chief Protector).

During the 1930’s in Queensland, the government found that there existed major health problems amongst the Indigenous population. Fantome Island, near Palm Island, was used to segregate and treat Indigenous people who had contracted leprosy and other diseases. By 1933 there were over 200 inmates housed on the island (Kidd 1997). Due to the Depression, the government cut the funding to Aboriginal departments and the Chief Protector was directed to make

For the Future

“What we are looking for now... to have a better home you know... decent home for our family... so they can go to school. Our family go to school from the wrecked old home... so we been trying to get a home and we hope the government will help us out this way”. (J. Muriata).



Camp on the north Murray,
Tully District 1940s
(image: State Library of Queensland)

the Indigenous people bear much of the costs of their ‘relief and protection’. One measure he took was to procure money from the bank accounts of patients who were on Fantome Island to pay for their treatment. Widespread corruption in the Queensland government’s handling of Aboriginal wages and savings was exposed by a researcher working at Cherbourg in 1934 (Kidd 1997).

Three Acts were introduced during the 1930’s that expanded the influence of official controls of Indigenous lives:

- 1930 *Election Amendment Act* – this removed the right for all defined ‘half-castes’ to vote at State elections.
- 1934 *Amendment Act* – ‘mixed-race’ people had their exemptions, if any revoked.
- 1939 *The Aboriginal Preservation and Protection Act* – this act allowed ‘half-castes’ to be free to earn their own living.

Others who were declared by the Court to be in need of protection, reserve residents or the off-spring of an Aboriginal mother living on a reserve were also subject to the last of the aforementioned acts (Kidd 1997:133-146).

The 1970’s to the Present

The majority of the Traditional Owners of the Girringun region, up until the 1960s and early 1970’s, were living in scattered fringe camps on the edge of towns, on parcels of vacant crown land, on the margins of local pastoral or agricultural properties, on Palm Island and in some cases in missions like Yarrabah.

Those existing in camps on the edges of creeks and rivers were often under compulsory work agreements with property owners. Wages were limited and often jobs were seasonal. Traditional subsistence practices thus continued to be of importance and served to supplement the household economy.

Following the 1967 Referendum giving the Commonwealth government the constitutional right to legislate on behalf of Indigenous people, there was a general trend towards the recognition of Indigenous rights. This led to a change from the assimilation policy to the self-determination policy which in turn saw the rise in Aboriginal organisations incorporated for the provision of basic services such as health and housing for

Indigenous people. This period was one where demands for recognition of Aboriginal land rights began to be heard and given some effect by the Australian government.

Establishment of Representative Organisations

During the early 1970’s, the local Traditional Owners such as the Girramay, Jirrbal and Gulnay people began to press the government authorities for better living conditions. In 1971 CAMU Community Co-operative was established at Kennedy and incorporated in 1972. CAMU was established to provide homes for local Traditional Owners who were still living in shacks on private properties or as squatters on crown land.

In 1976, after petitions to the government, land at Murray Upper on the Murray River was acquired by the Aboriginal Loan Fund Commission for the local Traditional Owners to live on. The property was named Jumbun Ltd in 1978 and was set up to manage the land for the people. Jumbun community has gradually grown, now has a population over 100 people.

In 1996 Girringun Elders and Reference Group was jointly formed by Traditional Owner groups who could trace their descent from Warrgamay, Nywaigi, Warungnu, Bandjin, Jirrbal and Girramay people. The original six groups were quickly joined by three others, the Gugu-Badhun, Djiru and Gulnay, and the Reference group was changed to Girringun Aboriginal Corporation in 1998. The organisational structure is a reflection of the regional patterns of association between the various groups in the southern rainforest region, which is derived from traditional forms of association in the past.

The organisation represents the present-day continuity of the regional system of Aboriginal customary law. It provides a forum for Elders and other members of the Traditional Owner community in the region to meet regularly, enabling formal process development to resolve questions and issues of customary law and practice arising in the present day context.

The incorporation of Traditional Owner interests at a regional level allows for the recognition of Traditional Owner interests without the need to carefully document and delimit those interests at the level of the state engagement. The organisation thus provides a superstructure or umbrella organisation for the continuing operation of what is a dynamic system of law and custom in relation to country.

Our Land and Sea Management Vision



Land and Sea

Hull River mouth, where Djiru Country meets Gulnay Country on the Coral Sea coast

MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND SEA COUNTRY

Caring for our Land and Sea Country, building and sustaining our people's cultural, social and spiritual well-being and keeping our Culture alive are the cornerstones of Giringun's vision, operations and future directions - these remain key Giringun objectives, defined as such by our founding Elders in the early 1990s.

Our Land and Sea Management Vision

Giringun's founding objectives also include achieving the more effective, better resourced and enhanced cross-cultural management of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

Our Land and Sea Management vision is:

Our Land and Sea Country is special and of great importance to all our People; our Ancestors and all our Generations past, present and future. As the Traditional Owners of Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu country, we are working together, with all levels of government and other partners, to holistically look after and care for our country.

Much of our traditional Land and Sea Country is protected for its environmental values (natural heritage) under State and Australian laws. In late 2012 the Wet Tropics of Queensland was re-listed on the National Heritage List for its Aboriginal cultural values. Management involvement remains unclear, even where determined native title is held by some of our groups.

Since the foundation of Giringun in the mid 1990s, our Elders and senior Traditional Owners have been working towards our own meaningful involvement in the management of our Land and Sea Country. Most of our country is owned privately, with our own access to important sites and places on most tenures remaining highly restricted. This causes our Elders great grief.

In the mid 2000s Giringun started to seriously invest in the building of a regional level Land and Sea management program. The achievements of this long term Giringun program include the Cardwell Indigenous Ranger Unit, the *Giringun Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA)* signed in 2005 after 2 years of discussions, establishing the Giringun Rangers, and the 3.5 year consultation process which has resulted in the *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* declaration.

Giringun supports its Aboriginal Traditional Owner member groups to realise more meaningful management involvement at all levels: from policy making, to planning, to on-ground management responsibilities for our unique and special region.

We have outlined how we will build our organisation, including our regional Land and Sea management program, into the future over the medium term in the *Giringun Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan 2012-2015*.

Giringun's corporate vision is:

Strong Aboriginal people, strong Culture, strong Country

Our corporate mission is:

To provide sustainable outcomes for the enhancement of social, cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic well-being for the benefit of Aboriginal people of the Giringun region through strong leadership, direction and strategic partnerships

Our corporate objectives are:

- To continue to provide a financially and internally stable and viable representative not for profit Aboriginal Corporation
- Assist and support Traditional Owners to develop individual and community capacity skills and facilitate and encourage them to take their place in the various local and regional planning, and on-ground activities, within the region
- Build healthy, strong culturally and socially rejuvenated families and individuals who are educated, skilled and empowered to take control of their lives and destinies and function well within the community
- Build confident, high-esteemed and inspired youth participating in the broader society and fulfilling their responsibilities and aspirations
- Strengthen our ownership of, presence on and our people's roles and responsibilities in the management, use and caring of our traditional Land and Sea Country
- Develop sustainable and realistic economic opportunities with Traditional Owner engagement and participation in regional and local economies and their development of economic activities on country

**Equity in Decision-Making
Culturally Assured Management**



*Girringun Aboriginal Corporation
Annual General Meetings 2011 and 2012*



Traditional Owner Decision-making

Girringun seeks the culturally assured, full and equitable participation of Aboriginal Traditional Owners in all aspects of decision-making, and at all levels, of policy development, planning and management decision-making and implementation.

Girringun as an organisation was born from the advocacy intentions of our senior Aboriginal Elders who wished to set up appropriate naming protocols for newly created protected areas in the region during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Cultural underpinnings to Girringun's regional governance strengths are firmly based in the Aboriginal laws and customs of Girringun's Aboriginal Traditional Owner member groups.

Recent research clearly demonstrates the positive outcomes long-term collaboration between Traditional Owners can generate (Griener and others 2007, Zurba and others 2012).

Traditional Owner initiated regional scale co-management of country across multiple tenures benefit from:

TRADITIONAL OWNERS OWNING A SHARED VISION FOR COUNTRY, CULTURE AND PEOPLE

CULTURAL ASSURANCE – making sure all of the right people are involved all of the time

EQUITY – ensuring a process underpinned by free, prior and informed consent

CONSIDERING ALL LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS OR AGREEMENTS applying to planning tenures

AGREEMENT MAKING TO ENDORSE regional coordination and local implementation

AGREEMENTS SPECIFIC to:

- each Aboriginal co-management partner
- each non-Indigenous co-management partner

ROLLING SITUATION ANALYSIS of the current and emerging planning context – *who is doing what, where are they doing it, how and why are they doing it and when?*

The advent of native title law in Australia during the early 1990s increasingly required the organised input and advice of Aboriginal Traditional Owners into related proceedings and the collection of related evidence.

Girringun's strength and longevity as a community-owned and driven body is based in the continuing, longer term involvement of its Traditional Owner member groups.

Over time, Girringun has achieved many of its initial aims. The organisation continues to drive innovation in regional, strategic conservation outcomes, across all jurisdictions, both locally and at landscape scale.

The many wins Girringun and its member groups have achieved are solid testament to the ability of our member groups to work together at regional scale, and to continue to be able to attract sustained investment, based on our very high standards of financial accountability and transparency.

Girringun's success is further testament to the exceptional vision of our founding Elders and the on-going commitment of all of our Traditional Owner member groups, our greatly dedicated staff and our voluntary Board.

Girringun's regional IPA initiative sets out to strengthen the respective position of all of Girringun's Traditional Owner member groups, by enabling and best supporting at the regional scale the respective business on country priorities each member group holds, in and of their own right.

What Do We Mean By Cultural Assurance?

Girringun considers a culturally assured approach to Land and Sea Management, land use considerations and related development approval processes to be the best practice model for the future.

The foundations of cultural assurance are respect, recognition and responsibility for Traditional Owners and their values in the long term sustainable use of country and its resources.

Under such an approach, the concerns of respective Traditional Owners - as these relate to the protection, retention and resilience of both cultural and natural resources / values - will be considered in a meaningful and holistic way, providing a solid and viable basis for long term economic, ecological and social sustainability.

Permanent Meaningful Employment

Contracted Ecosystem Services



Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Girringun Rangers managing World Heritage protected Land and Sea Country

Long Term Employment and Contracted Services

Girringun's ultimate aim is to achieve sole statutory land and sea management roles for Traditional Owner interests across the region's protected areas, on a standing professional fee for service basis.

The Girringun Rangers, the Cardwell Indigenous Ranger Unit, the Girringun Region TUMRA and Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas are keystones to the meaningful involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of declared protected areas, and other tenures in our region.

The recent re-listing of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA) for its globally unique Aboriginal cultural values makes all of Girringun's land and sea employment initiatives critical to creation of a well resourced, professional Aboriginal management presence in all our protected areas.

Presently the Girringun Rangers are employed directly by our Corporation and resourced from competitive grants successfully obtained through State and Australian Government programs: particularly the Queensland Indigenous Land & Sea Rangers and Working on Country programs.

A 2011 report into the Working on Country (WOC) program states:

Many WoC-funded ranger groups are involved in partnerships with a diverse range of government, scientific, natural resource management and conservation organisations, which have both environmental and social benefits for the individuals and organisations involved. In 2009-10 Indigenous ranger groups reported a range of social and health benefits, such as:

- *increased pride, self-esteem, independence and respect from peers*
- *improved organisational skills;*
- *increased involvement in the community including sports and governance;*
- *improved skills in interacting with the wider community;*
- *improved outlook on work, life and family;*
- *better nutrition, increased physical activity and fitness;*
- *weight loss, giving up smoking, reduced consumption of alcohol;*
- *increased access to bush food resources;*

- *obtaining drivers licences.*

Ranger groups also provide direct benefits for community members, enabling greater access to country which in turn facilitates the maintenance of cultural responsibilities for country, increased physical activity, access to bush foods and traditional medicines etc. For some rangers, however, these benefits are partially offset by increased stress from 'community humbug'; and others are still learning to deal with an increase in income, community pressures and the day to day responsibilities that come with employment.

Contracted ecosystem services and fee for service work is a key Land and Sea Management implementation strategy of our organisation, to enable the Girringun Rangers to operate across a wide range of tenures, including on Aboriginal-held and/or native title returned lands.

The current Girringun Ranger program will achieve clear and positive outcomes to ensure all Girringun's Traditional Owner member groups are able to offer support for their work across country at all times.

Our region's Aboriginal cultural values makes all of Girringun's land and sea employment initiatives critical to initiating a well resourced, professional Aboriginal management presence across country.

Other sustainable development opportunities presently being implemented or explored to generate compatible ecosystem services of contracted fee for service employment for Traditional Owners and our younger generations include:

- Girringun Native Plant Nursery
- Expanding the Girringun Rangers
- Growing the Girringun Junior Rangers program
- Implementing the Girringun Fire Strategy
- Contracted private forestry management services
- Biofuel (ethanol) generation plant investment
- Cultural tourism at Mungalla
- Supporting our communities to manage returned lands

Traditional Owner-governed organisations

Region-wide Collaborative Management



Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation
Chairperson signing the Girringun Region
IPA MOU 2012

Our Member Group Organisations and Regional Collaborative Management

A core objective for Girringun is development of sustainable and realistic economic opportunities for and with our member Traditional Owner groups, to resource and strengthen their own engagement and participation in regional and local economies and their own development of economic activities on country.

It is very clearly recognised and acknowledged by Girringun that the decision to include within the regional IPA those areas of land and sea in which its member groups hold rights and interests, rests with the Elders and self-determined representatives of our Traditional Owner member groups.

To enable effective regional decision-making by our affiliated Traditional Owner groups, Girringun acknowledges that local decisions will only be made by Traditional Owners through their own respective decision-making forums and protocols, on the basis of free, prior and informed consent.

For our member groups with an existing determination or well progressed native title claim, the representatives are the Board of each group's registered Native Title Prescribed Body (PBC).

- Like our fellow countrymen and women, the realities our member groups face today in realising our land ownership and management aims are many and complex.
- PBCs hold key decision-making and governance roles in determining their involvement and/or participation in larger, regional voluntary management frameworks.
- Our member group PBCs holding determined rights and interests will make their own decision about whether or not to include a parcel (or parcels) of returned land held in exclusive possession within the regional IPA. The collaborative IPA partners in this case are the PBC and Girringun.
- Where a PBC decides to include native title determined land held in non-exclusive possession within the regional IPA, the ILUA applying to the determined land will set out the relevant management arrangements negotiated between the PBC and the third party concerned, for example the State agency or a local government.

- In this case, Girringun and the PBC would then consider a MOU to include the land in the regional IPA, subject to the agreement of the relevant third party.

Local to regional co-management may lead to more effective and meaningful on-ground implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), particularly where ILUAs have been negotiated for ecologically significant lands where a high level of local resourcing is unlikely in the short term.

Legally determined local arrangements (e.g.: ILUAs) remain privy to the respective parties concerned. Girringun may be invited by an affiliated group to observe native title discussions where appropriate or relevant, but this remains a matter for each group's consideration and judgement.

Inclusion of the land area is confirmed by a *handshake on paper agreement*: a non-legally binding Girringun Region IPA Memorandum of Understanding (IPA MoU).

Cultural protocols will direct how and to what extent Girringun assists the respective Traditional Owners to manage any IPA included lands.

Girringun has negotiated Ranger MoUs with the senior Elders of its member groups to enable the Girringun Rangers to work on country and to set out the various cultural protocols by which they may do so on each group's country.

For both PBCs and Traditional Owner community-based organisations the question of adequate sustained resourcing of corporate capacity to ensure the necessary consistent governance, planning expertise and operational capacity is to hand for Traditional Owners remains the essential concern in generating real and meaningful socially, culturally, economically and ecologically sustainable outcomes for Traditional Owners, their respective native title or other returned lands, and their own desired, regionally collaborative management of their Land and Sea Country.

Current Traditional Owner Management Activities



Current Traditional Owner Management Activities

Active management participation and collaboration builds social capital, collective strength and individual skills. These factors build pride in individuals, in communities and in the creation of shared achievements.

To build strong support and acceptance of the Girringun Rangers by Girringun's member groups, and to directly assist the Girringun Rangers, our Land and Sea program supports the engagement of our Elders as knowledge experts, as guides on country and as management directors.

Girringun creates trainee positions and apprenticeships to build the confidence, life skills and work ethic of our younger people and of our people who are long term unemployed.

Currently Traditional Owners affiliated with Girringun are actively involved in the following existing and emerging Land and Sea Management activities within the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*:

- ▶ Coastal cultural heritage surveys
- ▶ Girringun native plant nursery establishment
- ▶ Revegetation of remnant or degraded country (habitat)
- ▶ Cultural material resource documentation and collection
- ▶ Ethnobotany publications
- ▶ Water resource planning and water values identification
- ▶ Collaborative research to support co-management
- ▶ Seagrass-Watch monitoring program with JCU (formally Fisheries Qld)
- ▶ Photographic and video documentary-making
- ▶ Contracted fee for service management of reserve lands
- ▶ Contracted eradication of invasive weeds
- ▶ Contracted endangered species surveys
- ▶ Contracted cultural heritage assessment
- ▶ Contracted cultural heritage clearance

In the immediate aftermath of Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi in February 2011, Girringun employed 90 additional staff over a period of 18 months, leading a new Queensland Community Disaster Response initiative involving disaster management agencies.

Girringun's Strategic and Regional Leadership Roles

A core objective of Girringun is to assist and support Traditional Owners to develop individual and community capacity skills and facilitate and encourage them to take their place in the various local and regional planning, and on-ground activities, within the region.

Girringun assists and facilitates this at many different levels.

Girringun has been instrumental in representing Aboriginal interests in regional natural resource management (NRM), in establishing the Queensland Traditional Owners Network (QTON), in supporting regional Sea Country and fisheries management arrangements and in the establishment of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA).

To build equity of access for Traditional Owners and to ensure their engagement in important regional management processes, Girringun actively brokers and facilitates:

- ▶ Equitable relationships between Traditional Owners and external researchers to promote and support culturally assured and ecologically sustainable research on country
- ▶ Robust, positive relationships between Traditional Owners, land managers and users for culturally assured and ecologically sustainable stewardship of country
- ▶ Informed and empowered engagement of Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal community in the development of culturally assured, ecologically sound and longer term viable Aboriginal Land and Sea enterprise
- ▶ Sustained involvement of Traditional Owners in on-ground land and sea assessments and formal research
- ▶ Meaningful Traditional Owner engagement in statutory water resource planning and governance arrangements
- ▶ Policy reform advocacy
- ▶ Considering engagement in development offsets negotiated under State marine habitat offset policy and federal Biodiversity offset policy arising within the region
- ▶ Meaningful Traditional Owner engagement in local river management frameworks (river trusts) and restoration
- ▶ Meaningful Traditional Owner engagement at regional scale in Local Marine Advisory Committees

SECTION 2 – OUR COUNTRY: SIGNIFICANT VALUES OF THE GIRRINGUN REGION

Our Ancestral Lands, Waters, Seas and Resources

Significant Land and Seascapes of the Giringun Region



Hinchinbrook Island, 2009
Giringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas

The Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas contain significant Aboriginal cultural values. Since 1996 Giringun has assisted its member Traditional Owner groups to consolidate their cultural data, including site records for some 1,600 known sites. Giringun National Park contains 110 known sites.

Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Ancestral Country

The ancestral and custodial country of Rainforest Aboriginal People, stretching some 1,250,000 square kilometres from near Townsville to Cooktown, is recognised globally and nationally for the inscribed natural values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and nationally for its Aboriginal cultural values.

- An outstanding variety of landforms from rugged mountains dissected by deep gorges to volcanic craters and cones, escarpments, coastal lowlands, stretches of coastline with sandy beaches, rocky headlands and (shingle) beaches, mangrove mudflats and fringing reef
- Weathering, erosion and deposition over the past 25 million years in particular have produced a great variety of soil types
- Hinchinbrook Island contains evidence of the sequence of evolution of the regional landscape, particularly over the last 600 million years
- Aboriginal occupation in the area between Cooktown and Cardwell is thought to date back to at least 40,000 years ago.

The *Wet Tropics Regional Agreement* between Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Queensland government agencies and the Australian Government sets out intentions to recognise Aboriginal interests within the World Heritage Area and to progress shared management arrangements.

The *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* is an example of how the initial Aboriginal intent of this Agreement can be translated into positive action. Although some Rainforest Aboriginal peoples assert that the Agreement has been seen to generate no real meaningful outcomes for them, it can provide a platform for negotiations and a foundation for engagement.

Wet Tropics Traditional Owners - Giringun region
Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu peoples, and Jirrbal People.

Other Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics WHA
Djabugay, Gunggandji, Koko Muluridji, Kuku Yalanji, Ma:Mu, Ngadjon-Jii, Wanyurr Majay, Wulgurukaba, Yidinji and Yirrgandyji tribal groups

Statutory Managers of Protected Areas in the WTWHA
Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)

The Wet Tropical Forests of Queensland

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Declared Property on UNESCO World Heritage List

Listed for its natural values, proposed for re-listing on World Heritage List for its unique Aboriginal cultural significance

The Australian Heritage Commission has determined that this place has Indigenous values of National Heritage significance

The Wet Tropics is a region of spectacular scenery and rugged topography with fast-flowing rivers, deep gorges and numerous waterfalls between Townsville and Cooktown on the north-east coast of Queensland and covers an area of approximately 894 000 hectares. Mountain summits provide expansive views of undisturbed rainforests.

The Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics are considered to represent the first wave of the Aboriginal occupation of Australia, making theirs the oldest rainforest culture in the world.

Rainforest culture differs markedly from that of most other Australian Aboriginal tribes, with its heavy dependence on arboreal (tree-climbing) skills, everyday use of toxic plants and unique weapons.

Jumbun at Murray Upper continues to be a major centre of Rainforest Aboriginal culture into the present day.

Significant Land and Seascapes of the Girringun Region



Wallaman Falls - Warrgamay Country
Girringun Region Indigenous
Protected Areas

Global Natural Significance of the Wet Tropics

The Wet Tropics of Queensland is part of the World Heritage List in recognition of its outstanding natural universal values:

- An outstanding example representing the major stages in the earth's evolutionary history
- An outstanding example representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes
- Contains examples of superlative natural phenomena or features of exceptional natural beauty
- Contains important and significant habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity

The Wet Tropics provides the only remaining intact habitat for numerous rare species of native plants and animals. At least 390 plant species can be classified as rare or very restricted and, of these, 74 are regarded as threatened. At least 25 animal species are regarded as very rare, including the threatened northern bettong, spotted-tailed quoll, southern cassowary, yellow-bellied gliders and mahogany gliders.

Vegetation of the areas is mostly rainforest but includes mixtures with *sclerophyll* (open forest) tree species that occur as emergent and co-dominant canopy species. Fringing the rainforests are areas of tall, open forest and tall, medium and low woodland. A striking feature, unique to Australia, is the often sharp demarcation between rainforest and *sclerophyll*. Traditional Aboriginal fire use appears to have influenced this.

The Wet Tropics rainforests contain an almost complete record of the major stages in the evolution of plant life on Earth. Many species within this World Heritage Area originated when Australia was part of the Gondwanan super continent. Almost continuously forested in highland areas, the area is one of the largest expanses of intact forested land left in Australia.

- The World Heritage Area supports all 13 major Australian rainforest types and non-rainforest vegetation types
- 6300 square kilometres of rainforest makes up about 60% of the whole area
- It is the largest contiguous area of rainforest left in Australia. Some isolated and remoter parts have not ever been accessed or used by Europeans
- The majority of accessible, productive forest has been logged,

Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners - Girringun region
Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Nywaigi and Warrgamay peoples.

Other Traditional Owners of the GBR WHA

70 Traditional Owner groups whose Country extends along the Queensland coast hold interests in the Great Barrier Reef.

Statutory Managers of the GBR WHA

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA),
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) Marine Parks,
Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (DAFF)

some very heavily. Logging stopped in 1988 when the area was inscribed on the World Heritage Register.

- Most hill slopes adjacent to cane lands or roads have been degraded by wildfire since Aboriginal fire management ceased with European colonisation
- Vine invasions threaten some heavily storm damaged areas
- Severe tropical cyclones recently hit the area in 2006 and 2011
- Past mining activities have damaged parts of country now within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Girringun Saltwater Peoples' Ancestral Country

The Great Barrier Reef

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Declared Property on UNESCO World Heritage List

Listed for its natural values

Listed Indicative Place on the Commonwealth Heritage Register

The Girringun Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement between Saltwater Traditional Owners of the Girringun region, instigated by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Indigenous Partnerships program and accredited by Queensland and Commonwealth management agencies recognises the Traditional Owners' interests in the Girringun TUMRA region.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2,000km along the eastern coast of Queensland and covers about 34,870,000 hectares on the continental shelf.

The reef is not a continuous barrier but a broken maze of some 2,500 individual coral reefs, some with coral islands

Significant Land and Seascapes of the Girringun Region



Green Turtle
Girringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas

called cays. Reefs range in size (less than 1ha to more than 10,000ha) and in shape (flat platform reefs to elongated ribbon reefs).

Most reefs are submerged under water, with some being exposed at low tide. Individual reefs are made of accumulated remains of plant and animal skeletal material (calcium carbonate), supporting living plants and animals.

The Great Barrier Reef system is an outstanding example of coral reef evolution representing significant geological processes, biological evolution and human interaction with the natural environment.

The reef is by far the largest single collection of coral reefs in the world. These reefs represent major stages of the earth's evolutionary history. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the richest and most diverse biological systems in the world, reflecting the maturity of the ecosystem which has evolved over millions of years.

The reef supports hundreds of species of fish and coral as well as other marine organisms. Hundreds of species of birds frequent the reef with cays providing important breeding grounds for sea birds. It is of international significance in the study of natural history with scientific researchers from many parts of the world investigating its unique flora and fauna.

Global Significance of the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is part of the World Heritage List in recognition of its outstanding natural universal values:

- *The cays and continental islands support 242 species of birds, including 40 species of sea birds, 21 species of which have significant breeding colonies in the area.*
- *The Reef is the world's largest, most complex expanse of coral reef, including many unique forms of marine life: over 1,500 species of fish, 400 species of coral in sixty genera, 4,000 species of shells, mussels and related animals, Green, Leatherback, Flatback, Loggerhead, Hawksbill and Pacific Ridley turtles, whales, dolphins and Dugong.*

Girringun Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (the Girringun Region TUMRA)

The Girringun Region TUMRA was first put in place by Saltwater Traditional Owners of the Girringun region to authorise traditional hunting of Marine Turtles and Dugong by way of permit.

The TUMRA is overseen and administered by the Girringun Region TUMRA Steering Committee, supported by the Girringun TUMRA Coordinator.

The TUMRA Steering Committee and Coordinator liaise closely with the Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee and the Girringun IPA Coordinator.

The Reef has nesting sites of world importance for Green and Loggerhead turtles. All marine turtle species are protected under Commonwealth and Queensland legislation. Girringun Rangers undertake marine turtle management and monitoring.

Commonwealth Heritage Places

The Ancestral Country of Girringun's affiliated Traditional Owner member groups

Hull River National Park

Djiru and Gulnay Country

Registered on Register of the National Estate

Indicative Place: Commonwealth Heritage Register

Listed for its natural values

Swamplands of the wet tropical lowlands are a unique feature in the Australian context, providing rich bird habitat over about 1060ha and situated in the foothills of the Tam O'Shanter range sloping gently down to the coastal lowlands.

- *Vegetation is a mosaic of different types of mesophyll vine forest on higher slopes, open forest into melaleuca woodland on flatter, poorly drained country*
- *Strips of riverine vegetation are found along several creeks*
- *Estuarine section contains a significant area of mangroves and mudflats*
- *Representative lowland vegetation on granite soils of the west coastal plains*
- *Situated on Mount Coom Road and Collins Road, 2km west of*

Significant Land and Seascapes of the Girringun Region



Rockingham Bay seashore 2011
Gulnay Country - Jingalinga
between Hull Heads and Tully Head

Mission Beach South, in two sections: 1) on the southern side of the Hull River estuary, including Mount Coom, and 2) on the northern side of the Hull River and south of Carmoo Creek

- Naturally dissected boundaries
- Adjacent to Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Girringun Region TUMRA applies for traditional hunting.

Girramay National Park (Edmund Kennedy) Girramay and Gulnay Country

Registered on Register of the National Estate

Listed for its natural values

Natural coastal wetland area containing a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Girringun Region TUMRA in place to authorise hunting of turtle and dugong by Traditional Owners by way of permit within the Girringun TUMRA region.

- Largest remaining *Melaleuca viridiflora* (paperbark) woodland between Cairns and Cardwell
- Undisturbed coastal swamp area containing mangroves, paper-barks, rainforest, tea tree, sedges, fan palm and sword grass
- Extends along coast at Rockingham Bay between Murray River and Meunga Creek
- Includes extensive wetlands in the hinterland
- Adjacent to Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Girringun Region TUMRA applies for traditional hunting.

Kennedy Reserve, South Mission Beach

Djiru Country, close to Gulnay boundary

Registered on Register of the National Estate

Listed for its historic values

This is a parcel of vacant Crown land (320 ha) on the southern extremity of Tam O'Shanter Point, surrounded by Djiru National Park.

- Hills dominated by mesophyll vine forest. At the foot hills a complex swamp forest runs into a wide sand flat
- Mostly closed forest of acacias, eucalyptus, melaleucas, palms and epiphytes

- Mangroves occur on the Hull River side of the Reserve and well developed strand vegetation behind the broad Sandy Beach
- Located 1.5 km south of Mission Beach South, between the mouth of the Hull River and Tam O'Shanter Point
- Landing site of the Edmund Kennedy expedition 24 May 1848
- No change to natural environs since Kennedy's landing here in 1848, other than cyclonic disturbance.

Rockingham Bay Area

Djiru, Girramay and Gulnay Country

Registered on Register of the National Estate

An area of about 10,000 ha located between about 5km north of Cardwell and 1km south-west of Tully Heads, featuring an outstanding complex of woodlands, vine forests and wetland types on soils of impeded drainage, rarely more than a few metres above sea level.

- High biological and environmental integrity
- A complex mosaic of ecosystems supports exceptional diversity of habitats with extensive well zoned mangroves, wetlands, fresh and brackish swamps, vine forests, and palm forests
- Giant melaleuca trees, abundant epiphytes, relict beach ridges and marine plains are features of the area
- Wetlands of great complexity, with 14 wetland types recorded
- Represents the greatest complexity of wetlands recorded for a single area of Queensland
- High species diversity
- Murray River Wetlands contain most mangrove species known to occur in Australia
- Several rare and uncommon plant species found here
- Apart from the western, northern and part of the southern perimeter areas, the area is virtually pristine
- The shoreline is unspoilt, but was severely impacted by cyclonic disturbance in 2011
- The area is mainly a large floodplain, swampy in many places.
- Near the sea, strips of vegetated beach sands occur which contain evidence of past shoreline trends, interspersed with

Significant Land and Seascapes of the Girringun Region



Djiru Land and Sea Country
Girringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas

lagoonal deposits (mud and salt pans) and mangrove swamps

- Broad fringes of mangrove swamps with a multitude of tidal inlets and saltwater creeks common along the coast
- Identified as an area which represents an optimum location for the preservation of the natural diversity of the region
- Mangrove diversity is high in the area, with 30 of the 36 described mangrove species recorded in Queensland found here

The Girringun Region TUMRA applies for traditional hunting.

Tully Training Area

Gulnay Country (also in part Jirrbal Country & Mamu Country)

Registered on Register of the National Estate

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Commonwealth Government Department of Defence

Research conducted in this area over the last 30 years by CSIRO have included investigations into ecological processes, revegetation after lowland rainforest disturbance, radiocarbon dating of charcoal deposits (27,000 years to 3,500 year before present), rainforest and eucalyptus community dynamics determined by fire, and un-logged complex vine forest.

- Includes the Downey Creek, Liverpool and Jarra Creek valleys
- Contains the largest remaining areas of unlogged complex vine forest on basalt or alluvium in the wet tropical lowlands
- Contains the largest remaining areas of vine forest with palms on alluvium in the wet tropical lowlands
- Contains large area of unlogged vine forest
- Highly significant as the lowland and coastal range rainforests of the Wet Tropics region have been almost completely cleared for agriculture and urban development;
- 1 of 3 population strongholds of the endangered Cassowary
- Cassowaries are significant in that many rainforest plant species are dependent on the Cassowary for seed dispersal and thus the ongoing maintenance of the rainforest
- Acts as a transition zone from ranges to coastal environments
- Supports migration of fauna and exchange of genes and species
- Fairly natural condition, but considered too small to have any

major integrity of natural values

- Complex Mesophyll Vine Forest on basalt or alluvium in the Wet Tropics is the optimal development of rainforest in Australia due the favourable conditions of climate and fertile soil
- This complex rainforest community, together with the adjoining rainforest and sclerophyll forest types, ensure that this is a dynamic and complex ecosystem

Djiru National Park

Djiru Country

Registered on Register of the National Estate

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

An area of about 245 hectares located on Alexander Road about 2 kms north of Mission Beach.

- Surrounds Clump Mountain and Bicton Hill at the northern end of the Walter Hill Range extending east to the coast
- Contains relatively large areas of wet and very wet lowland rainforest (Mesophyll vine forest)
- Lowland rainforest is an endangered vegetation community in Australia having been largely cleared for agriculture
- Supports tall closed forest and closed forest
- Natural condition with small picnic area.

Bingal Bay

Djiru Country

Indicative Place on the Register of the National Estate

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Re-growth forest with diverse vegetation, including cassowary food trees Partly cleared but being re-vegetated to rainforest as cassowary habitat

- Established to provide habitat protection and regeneration for cassowaries

All of the above listed areas were massively impacted by severe tropical cyclones in 2006 and 2011.

Significant Land and Seascapes of
the Girringun Region



Valley of Lagoons - Gugu Badhun Country
Girringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas

Valley of Lagoons

Gugu Badhun Country, close to Warungnu boundary

Register of the National Estate

This area comprises the pastoral holdings - Valley of Lagoons, Reedy Brook Station and Kinrara Station, located in close proximity to Kinrara National Park.

The diversity of environmental settings within the area is not commonly found within one location and has allowed for the development of relatively rich flora with 145 plant species found in this location being indication of its current status.

- An area of shallow silty lakes and lagoons formed by the blocking of the Burdekin River by a lava flow that extruded from Kinrara crater some 20 kms to the north dated to less than 71,000 years ago as one of the youngest in Australia
- Some 3,400 hectares in size and located 30 kms north north-east of Greenvale and 100 kms south south-east of Einasleigh
- Significant as a permanent inland wetland associated with dry rainforest
- Includes a diverse range of rich wetlands and other plant communities, also providing a great diversity of habitats for water birds and a refuge during dry seasons
- Important breeding ground, notably for the rare pygmy goose
- Very selective plant communities restricted to this area
- Dry rainforests in generally good condition

Paluma - Running River Area

Nywaigi Country, close to Gugu Badhun boundary

in proximity to Warrgamay, Wulgurukaba and Bindal Country

Inventory of the Register of the National Estate

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

This area contains:

- The only substantial and readily accessible transect from the crest of the coastal range to the dry western plains in the northern region
- Occurrences of several species of significance well outside their normal range



above: on the road through Warungnu Country



above: Crystal Creek - Paluma area - Nywaigi Country
Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

FLORA

Native Plants, Traditional Resources
and Listed Species



BANGGINYU

Hope's Cycad - *Lepidozamia hopei*
Girringun Region Indigenous
Protected Areas

Girringun Region Ancestral Rainforest Resources

Protected Plants (Flora)

Declared under the Nature Conservation Act 1994 (Qld - NCA) and Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth - EPBC)

The native plants of the region have been used by Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu peoples for millennia. Bush staples are still being used today, including the collecting and preparation of toxic plants using traditional leaching and preparation methods.

The diverse native plants of our region form the basis of our traditional Aboriginal economies and our ongoing subsistence and supplementary food and cultural resources to the present.

A well-known toxic plant is *bangginyu* (*Lepidozamia hopei* or Hope's Cycad) which continues to be used to the present day. This plant, often marked as individual clan or family property by footholds made over many hundreds of years, is the focus of a proposed project to date and document the many long established stands of this endemic plant in the Girringun region.

Girringun's Ethnobotany projects over the past few years have produced 4 country-specific plant guides, developed for Traditional Owners themselves, by Traditional Owners:

- ▶ Plant species for rehabilitation of the upper Burdekin region
- ▶ Plants and their cultural uses for Nywaigi Country
- ▶ Plants and their cultural uses for Warungnu Country
- ▶ Plants and their cultural uses for Girramay Country

All native plants are protected to a certain extent by State and Australian environment laws.

The following 2 pages list some of the many known species of native plants used by Rainforest Aboriginal people in the Wet Tropics, with a focus on plants known to be used by the Ancestors, Elders and Traditional Owners of every Girringun member group. Many of these plants are still used today.



above: Native Nutmeg (*Myristica insipida*)
Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas



above: Cedar - the 'red gold' of the first Europeans in our region
Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

<i>Abelmoschus manihot</i>	Yellow Native rosella, Native Rosella	<i>Davidsonia pruinensis</i>	Ooray (Davidson Plum)
<i>Acacia species</i>	Various native Salwoods, Lancewoods and Wattles	<i>Dendrocnide moroides</i>	Stinging Tree, Stinging Bush
<i>Acmena hemilampra</i>	Broad leaf Lillypilly	<i>Dendrocnide photinophylla</i>	Shiny leaved stinging tree
<i>Acmenosperma claviflorum</i>	Grey Satinash	<i>Dianella species</i>	Flax lilies
<i>Acronychia acronychioides</i>	White Aspen	<i>Dillenia alata</i>	Red Beech
<i>Acronychia vestita</i>	Fuzzy Lemon Aspen, Hairy Aspen	<i>Dioscorea species</i>	Various yams
<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	False Red sandalwood, Red bead tree	<i>Diploglottis species</i>	Various native 'Tamarind' trees
<i>Agathis robusta</i>	Kauri Pine	<i>Dysoxylum arborescens</i>	Various native 'Mahogany' trees
<i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i>	Cunjevoi, spoon lily	<i>Eleagnus triflora</i>	Milla Milla Vine
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	Red Ash, Sarsparilla	<i>Eleocarpus species</i>	Various Quandong trees
<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	Blue Ginger	<i>Endiandra species</i>	Various native 'Walnut' trees
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Milky Pine	<i>Entada phaseoloides</i>	Matchbox Bean
<i>Alyxia spicata</i>	Chain Fruit	<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i>	Native Monstera
<i>Amomum dallachyi</i>	Green pineapple ginger, Green ginger	<i>Eucalyptus species</i>	Various Gum, Bloodwood, Iron / Stringy Barks
<i>Antidesma bunius</i>	Herbert River Cherry	<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Bolwarra, Spearhandle tree, Native Guava
<i>Aponogeton bulbosus</i>	Cardwell Lily	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexander Palm	<i>Exocarpus spp</i>	Wild cherry
<i>Argyrodendron trifoliolatum</i>	Black Tulip Oak, Crowsfoot	<i>Exoecaria agallocha</i>	Mangrove
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Birds nest fern	<i>Faradaya splendida</i>	October Glory
<i>Austromyrtus dallachiana</i>	Lignum	<i>Ficus species</i>	Various Figs
<i>Austronnesia blackii</i>	Blood vine	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Supplejack, Whip vine
<i>Bambusa moreheadiana</i>	Climbing bamboo	<i>Flindersia species</i>	Various native 'Ash, Silkwood, Maple and Pine'
<i>Banksia species</i>	Banksia	<i>Franciscodendron laurifolium</i>	Crowsfoot (white) cabbage
<i>Beilschmedia species</i>	Various native 'Walnut' trees	<i>Freycinetia excelsa</i>	Climbing pandanus
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame Tree	<i>Ganophllum falcatum</i>	Scaly Ash, Red fruit Tamarind
<i>Breynia stipitata</i>	Fart bush, Dwarf's Apple	<i>Glochidian species</i>	Various native 'Cheese' and 'Button'-woods
<i>Buchanania arborens</i>	Buchanania, Jam Jam	<i>Gmelia species</i>	Various native 'Teak' trees
<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Nicker nut, Grey Nicker	<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>	Fern-leaved Grevillea
<i>Caesalpinia robusta</i>	Mother-in-law Vine	<i>Grevillea striata</i>	Beefwood
<i>Calamus species</i>	Lawyercane, Wait-a-while	<i>Grewia papuana</i>	Dingo's Balls, Mugilam Bush, Dhaman
<i>Callicarpa pendunculata</i>	Velvet leaf	<i>Halfordia scleroxyla</i>	Jitta, spermwood, kerosene tree
<i>Callistemon species</i>	Various native Bottlebrush	<i>Hedraianthera prophyropetala</i>	Hedraianthera
<i>Canastanospermum australe</i>	Black Bean, Moreton Bay chestnut	<i>Helicia australasica</i>	Creek Silky Oak, Austral Oak
<i>Cardwellia sublimis</i>	Northern Silky Oak, Bull Oak	<i>Helmholtzia acorifolia</i>	Northern Stream Lily, Helmholtzia
<i>Carnarvonia aralitifolia</i>	Caledonian Oak	<i>Heritiera littoralis/Sterculia quadrifolia</i>	Peanut tree, Red fruited kurrajong
<i>Casuarina species</i>	Various casuarinas (sheoak)	<i>Heteropogon triticeus</i>	Giant spear grass (native bamoboo)
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Northern Olive	<i>Hibiscus species</i>	Various native Hibiscus
<i>Cordyline species</i>	Various Palm Lily, Cordyline	<i>Homolanthus nutans populifolius</i>	Bleeding Heart Tree
<i>Corymbia species</i>	Gums, Bloodwoods, Ash	<i>Hougonia jenkinsii</i>	Fish hook vine
<i>Crinum pendunculatum</i>	Swamp lily, River Lily	<i>Hoya nicholsoniae</i>	Hoya with white and green flowers
<i>Cryptocarya species</i>	Various native 'Laurel' trees	<i>Hydiastele wendlandiana</i>	Wendlands Palm
<i>Cycas media</i>	Queensland Cycad, Palm Cycad, Nut Palm	<i>Hysperpa decumbens</i>	Hairy Hypserpa

<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	blady grass	<i>Platynerium superbum</i>	staghorn fern
<i>Jagera pseudorhus</i>	Foambark/Pink Tamarind	<i>Pleiogynium timorense</i>	Burdekin Plum
<i>Juncus continuos</i>	Common rush	<i>Podocarpus amarus</i>	Black Pine
<i>Leea indica</i>	Bandicoot Berry	<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Brown Pine, Plum Pine
<i>Lepidozamia hopeii</i>	Zamia Palm	<i>Pogonolobus reticulatus</i>	Medicine bush
<i>Licuala ramsayi</i>	Australian Fan Palm, Licuala Palm	<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	Basswood, Black Pencil Cedar, Celerywood
<i>Ligustrum australianum</i>	Brown Ebony	<i>Pothos longipes</i>	Candle Vine
<i>Lithomyrtus obtusa</i>	Beach Myrtella	<i>Pouteria asterocarpon</i>	Yellow boxwood
<i>Litsea leefeana</i>	Bollygum, Brown bollywood, Bollywood	<i>Pouteria chartacea</i>	Dugulla, Thin-leaved Coondoo
<i>Lomandra species</i>	Various native Mat Rushes / Lomandra	<i>Pouteria myrsinodendron</i>	Pimply Ash
<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	Swamp Mahogany	<i>Pouteria xerocarpa</i>	Blush Coondoo, Northern Coondoo
<i>Lycopodium phelgmaria</i>	Tassel Fern	<i>Premna serratifolia</i>	Coastal Premna, Creek Premna
<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	Climbing fern, snake fern	<i>Psychotria nematopoda</i>	Dallachys psychotria
<i>Macaranga species</i>	Various Macaranga	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken fern, Austral Bracken
<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>	Cockspur Thorn Vine	<i>Randia sessilis</i>	Brown Randia
<i>Melaleuca species</i>	Various native 'Paperbark' trees	<i>Rhodamnia species</i>	Various native Malletwood
<i>Melia azederach</i>	White cedar	<i>Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa</i>	Finger Cherry
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Spermwood, Bonwicks Euodia	<i>Rhus taitensis</i>	Pink Poplar, Maidens bush
<i>Melodinus australis</i>	Bellbird Vine, Harlequin Fruit	<i>Rhysotoechia robertsonii</i>	Roberts Tuckeroo
<i>Melodorum leichardtii</i>	Acid drop vine, Zig zag vine	<i>Rubus moluccanus</i>	Wild raspberry, Bramble
<i>Mischocarpus exangulatus</i>	Red bell mischocarpus	<i>Sarcopetalum harveyanum</i>	Pearl Vine
<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Queensland Nutmeg	<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Umbrella Tree
<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>	Leichardt Tree, Yellow cheesewood	<i>Semecarpus australiensis</i>	Tar Tree, Native Cashew
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	White bollygum, Velvet-leaf	<i>Sloanea macbrydei</i>	Northern Yellow Carabeen
<i>Neonauclea gordianiana</i>	Hard Leichardt, Moody Gum, Yellow Hickory	<i>Smilax australis</i>	Sarsparilla vine
<i>Niemeyera prunifera</i>	Palm boxwood, Brown Pearwood	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	White Silky Oak, Wheel of Fire Tree
<i>Nymphaea species</i>	Various types of Waterlily	<i>Stephania japonica</i>	Snake vine, Tape vine
<i>Ophiorrhiza australiana</i>	Australian snake root	<i>Syzygium species</i>	Various native Lilypilly, Satinash, Cherries
<i>Opisthiolepis heterophylla</i>	Blush Silky Oak	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	Eastern Gondola Bush
<i>Ottelia ovalifolia</i>	Swamp Lily	<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i>	Arrowroot
<i>Pandanus species</i>	Pandanus	<i>Terminalia cattapa</i>	Sea Almond
<i>Paraserianthes toona</i>	Acacia Cedar, Red Siris, Mackay Cedar	<i>Tetrasynandra species</i>	Various Tetra Beech trees
<i>Persicaria subsessilis</i>	Hairy Knotweed	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo grass
<i>Persoonia falcata</i>	Geebung	<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Common Fringe Lily
<i>Phaleria clerodendron</i>	Scented phaleria	<i>Timonius timon</i>	Tim tim, Timonius tree
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Frogsmouth	<i>Toona ciliata</i>	Red Cedar
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Bamboo grass	<i>Trema aspera</i>	Various native 'Poison Peach'
<i>Piper caninum</i>	Common native pepper	<i>Trichosanthes species</i>	Various native 'Water Gums'
<i>Pisonia umbellifera</i>	Cabbage Pine, Cabbagewood	<i>Trichosperma pleiostigma</i>	Beach Tulip Oak, Mangrove Tulip
<i>Planchonella vestita</i>	Northern Yellow Boxwood	<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>	Johnstone's grass tree
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple, Billy Goat Plum	<i>Xanostemon species</i>	Various native Penda
<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>	Elkhorn fern	<i>Xylopia maccreae</i>	Orange jacket

FAUNA

Native Animals, Traditional
Resources and Listed Species



GUNDUY

Southern Cassowary

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Giringun Region Ancestral Rainforest Resources

Protected Animals (Fauna)

Declared under the Nature Conservation Act 1994 (Qld - NCA) and Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth - EPBC)

The native animals of the region have been used by Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu peoples for millennia. Bush staples are still being used today, including the hunting and preparation of freshwater and marine subsistence resources using traditional preparation methods.

The diverse native animals of our region form the basis of our traditional Aboriginal economies and our ongoing subsistence and supplementary food resources to the present. Fishing in our fresh and salt waters is a major activity enjoyed by all Traditional Owners. Eels are highly significant culturally.

A well-known native animal from our region is *gundy* (the southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*)). Gundy's country has been greatly broken up by European land uses.

These ancient animals are now highly endangered in our region, and are regularly killed by humans driving vehicles, domestic dogs and pigging dogs. Feeding of Cassowary after natural disasters and the DNA sampling of these birds are issues which also cause Traditional Owners grave concern.

Culturally assured scientific research is a priority to arrest the extinction of these magnificent birds, whose survival is critical to the health of Rainforest country across the Wet Tropics.

The following 2 pages list some of the many known species of native animals holding continuing spiritual and cultural values of significance for the Ancestors, Elders and Traditional Owners of Giringun's member groups.



above: Goanna (spotted tree monitor)
Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas



above: Black Bream (Bugal) - a regional favourite
Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

BIRDS

Alcedo azureus
Alcedo pusilla
Todiramphus sanctus
Todiramphus macleayii
Tanysiptera sylvia
Nycticorax caledonicus
Cacatua galerita
Macropygia amboinensis
Fregata ariel
Fregata minor
Alectura lathamii
Megapodius reinwardt
Rhipidura leucophrys
Dicrurus bracteatus
Calyptorhynchus banksii
Pelecanus conspicillatus
Grus rubicundus
Porphyrio porphyrio
Dromaius novaehollandiae
Ducula bicolor
Aquila audax
Lopholaimus antarcticus
Eudynamis scolopacea
Casuaris casuaris
Threskiornis aethiopica
Ninox novaeseelandiae
Aplonis metallica
Larus novaehollandiae
Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
Tyto multipunctata
Burhinus grallarius
Anseranus semipalmata
Trichoglossus haematodus
Ardeotis australis
Megaloprepia magnifica
Cygnus atratus
 Various species

Azure kingfisher
 Little kingfisher
 Sacred kingfisher
 Forest kingfisher
 Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher
 Rufous Night Heron
 Sulphur-crested cockatoo
 Brown cuckoo-dove
 Lesser frigatebird
 Great frigatebird
 Australian brush turkey
 Orange footed scrubfowl
 Willie wagtail
 Spangled drongo
 Red tailed black cockatoo
 Pelican
 Brolga
 Swamp Hen
 Emu
 Torres Strait Pigeon
 Wedge tailed eagle
 Topknot pigeon
 Koel, Stormbird
 Southern Cassowary
 White Ibis
 Southern Boobook (or Mopoke Owl)
 Shining starling
 Seagull, silver gull
 Jabiru, Black necked stork
 Lesser sooty owl
 Bush stone-curlew
 Magpie Goose
 Rainbow lorrieket
 Plain turkey
 King pigeon
 Swan
 Duck

FRESHWATER FISHES

Argyrosomus japonicus
Acanthopagrus butcheri
Ophieleotris aporos
Anguilla obscura
Anguilla reinhardtii
Tandanus tandanus
Lates calcarifer
Hephaestus fuliginosus
Hephaestus tulliensis

CARTILAGINOUS FISH

Various species
Manta birostris, *M. alfredi*
 Various species

MAMMALS

Aepyprymnus rufescens
Antechinus flavipes
Bettongia pencillata pencillata
Bettongia tropica
Canus lupus dingo
Dasyurus hallacatus
Dendrolagus lumholtzi
Dugong dugon
Hypsiprymnodon moschatus
Isoodon macrourus
Macropus agilis
Macropus dorsalis
Macropus giganteus
Macropus parryi
Macropus robustus
Ornithorhynchus anatinus
Petaurus sp.
Perameles nasuta
Petrogale assimilis
Petrogale sharmani
Pteropus alecto
Pteropus conspicillatus
Pteropus scapulatus

Jewfish, Silver Jewfish
 Black bream
 Snakehead gudgeon/Mud cod
 Pacific Short-finned Eel
 Long-finned Eel
 Freshwater Catfish
 Barramundi
 Sooty Grunter
 Tully River Grunter

Stingray
 Manta Ray
 Sharks

Rufous bettong
 Yellow-footed antechinus
 Rat kangaroo
 Northern Bettong
 Dingo
 Northern Quoll
 Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo
 Dugong
 Musky Rat Kangaroo
 Northern Brown Bandicoot
 Agile wallaby
 Black-striped wallaby
 Grey kangaroo
 Whiptail wallaby
 Common wallaroo
 Platypus
 Gliders
 Long-nosed Bandicoot
 Allied rock wallaby
 Sharman's rock wallaby
 Black flying fox
 Spectacled flying fox
 Little red flying fox

Tachyglossus aculeatus
Thylogale stigmatica
Uromys caudimaculatus
Wallabia bicolor
Dactylopsila trivirgata
Pseudocheirus archeri
Trichosurus vulpecula
Hemibelideus lemuroides
Pseudochirulus herbertensis
Pseudocheirus peregrinus
Phasolarctos cinereus

REPTILES

Morelia spilota
Morelia kinghorni
Chelodina canni
Myuchelys latisternum
Chelodina longicollis
Chelodina novaeguineae
Elseya latisternum
Elysea dentata complex
Emydura krefftii
Chelonia mydas
Derموchelys coriacea
Eretmochelys imbricata
Crocodylus johnstoni
Crocodylus porosus
Acanthopphis antarcticus
Acanthopphis praelongus
Oxyuranus scutellatus
Pseudechis porphyriacus
Tiliqua scincoides
Varanus gouldii
Varanus scalaris
Varanus semiremex
Varanus varius
Varanus panoptes
Varanus timorensis

Short beaked echidna
 Red-legged pademelon
 White tailed rat
 Swamp wallaby
 Striped possum
 Green ringtail possum
 Common Brushtail Possum
 Lemuroid Ringtail possum
 Herbert River Ringtail possum
 Common Ringtail Possum
 Koala

Carpet python
 Amethystine python
 Cann's snake-necked turtle
 Saw-shelled turtle
 Eastern snake-necked turtle
 New Guinea long-necked turtle
 Saw-shelled turtle
 Snapping turtle
 Krefft's short-necked turtle
 Green sea turtle
 Leatherback sea turtle
 Hawksbill sea turtle
 Australian freshwater crocodile
 Estuarine crocodile, Saltwater croc
 Death Adder
 Northern Death Adder
 Coastal taipan
 Red bellied black snake
 Eastern blue-tongue lizard
 Sand monitor
 Spotted tree monitor
 Rusty monitor
 Lace Monitor
 Yellow-spotted monitor
 Spotted tree goanna

INSECTS

Various species
Various species
Apis (genus)
Abispa ephippium
Chortoicetes terminifera
Cerabycidae (family)
Cicadidae (family)
Coleoptera
Oecophylla (genus)
Eurynassa australia
Trigona species

AMPHIBIANS

Litoria (genus)

CRUSTACEANS

Mictyris longicarpus
Macrobrachium tolmerum
Macrobrachium australiense
Macrobrachium sp.
Scylla serrata
Janus species
Natantia group
Nautilus alumnus

MOLLUSCS

Unio sp
Ostrea sp
Potamides sp
Megeagrina sp
Chione sp
Arca sp
Pinna sp
Nerita sp
Thersites pachystylis
Sphaerospira bellaria (Hinchinbrook Is)
Sphaerospira mourilyani (Mission Beach, Tully, Ifail)
Sphaerospira mazee (Girramay NP, Ingham, Cwell)
Sphaerospira mulgravensis (Orpheus Is, Palm Is)

Butterfly
 Dragonfly
 English Bee
 Hornet, potter wasp
 Locust
 Adult longhorn beetle - Jumbun
 Cicadas
 Beetles
 green ants
 Larvae
 Native bee

Green Tree Frog

Soldier crab
 East Australian river prawn
 Common Australian river prawn
 Koombooloomba prawn
 Mud crabs
 Crayfish
 Shrimps
 Nautilus shell

Mussels
 Oysters

Snail
 Land snail
 Land snail
 Land snail
 Land snail

SECTION 3 – OUR PRIORITY CONCERNS: CRITICAL THREATS FACING THE GIRRINGUN REGION

What is Happening to Our Cultural and Natural Resources, Lands, Waters and Seas Today

Significant Threats to Country within the Girringun Region



Blencoe Falls
Girringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas

Critical Threats within the Girringun Region impacting on Cultural and Natural Values

Reducing the Impacts of Threatening Processes

Engagement of Traditional Owners requires multi-year investment into education, training and skills development, and the development of career pathways within management agencies. It also requires greater cross-cultural awareness and commitment to building a new culture of meaningful, equitable partnerships for effective cooperative management.

Cooperative approaches and realistic resourcing are fundamental to tackling the serious environmental, natural resource and cultural heritage management issues facing our region which faces a range of key threatening processes:

- Serious declared pest plant (weed) control issues, in particular Lantana (WONS²), Siam weed and invasive pasture grasses
- Major vertebrate pest animal control issues, in particular pigs, wild dogs, tilapia and feral cats
- Climate change impacts, in particular loss of upland rainforest habitat, loss of key species, increasing coastal and riparian (river-side) erosion and sea level rise
- Rapid population growth, extreme development pressures and increasing vehicular traffic impacting on endangered land-based (terrestrial) and sea (marine) species
- Increasing tourism and visitors to protected areas
- Water use and water quality issues
- Non-native invasive fish species such as tilapia
- Habitat loss for important marine species such as marine turtles and dugong
- By-catch from commercial fishing activities, recreational and commercial gill-netting of coastal creeks
- Run-off issues associated with intensive farming of coastal

floodplains and wetlands, mid catchments and lowland areas next to rivers

- Continuing loss of language and cultural knowledge through early loss of our Elders and other family
- Lack of meaningful employment on country for Traditional Owners of all ages, and limited opportunities for sustainable enterprise development
- Continuing destruction of cultural sites and places of importance to our Traditional Owners

These critical threats have been identified, together with priority strategies to minimise these threats, in a range of existing management planning documents developed by Girringun, various of its member groups and by our IPA co-management partners under statutory requirements.

Introducing Traditional Owner CNRM Strategies

During the past decade, Girringun has facilitated country-based Cultural and Natural Resource Management (CNRM) planning with some Traditional Owner member groups and for the Girringun region (see Section 5b of this Plan below).

These plans detail CNRM strategies and actions for the whole of the Girringun region, and also for specific areas of country in the region, as directed by Elders and Traditional Owners.

As Traditional Owners of lands, waters and seas contained within large protected area estates as National Park, Marine Park or conservation reserve tenures, we seek an on-going, meaningful role in the development and implementation of management policy at all levels, in addition to full involvement in the delivery of on-ground protected area management services and resource management outcomes.

Too often park and protected area management is set and defined without reference to Traditional Owner knowledge, Aboriginal customary laws and cultural considerations. The

² WONS: Weeds of National Significance

How can you help to get the key to open the door?

Questions were asked. Tree planting, water quality, natural trees from the place back there.

Looking after the animals and plants, replacing bush tucker so that animals and bush tucker come back, and looking after the water systems.

Over the years, fish have been harder to find, bush tucker hard to find, chemicals running off, killing.

Culture - old people correct to go on here, to talk in language... if you look at the natural environment, spirituality is connected; when people die they go back to country.

(Chris Kennedy quoted in *The Wet Tropics Aboriginal Resource Management Plan* - ref. Larsen and others, 2006:62)

It is not sufficient to merely establish a set of formal structures and legal guarantees because these will, more than likely, be developed and implemented from within an institutional culture that is often far removed from the perspective and 'world view' of the Aboriginal minority.

(Which Way Our Cultural Survival: Review of Aboriginal Involvement in the Management of the Wet Tropics WHA, 1998: 23)

concept of joint-management has had only limited effect in Queensland to date and presently does not effectively facilitate or secure active Traditional Owner engagement in actual management practice or meaningful policy development.

In Australia and elsewhere, there are many examples of effective collaborative management arrangements which empower Traditional Owners to take on active roles in formal protected areas management, including enforcement roles.

In the Girringun region presently an effective, legally recognised enforcement role for Traditional Owners is restricted to engagement through the general and specified employment structures of mainstream statutory management agencies. This is a key focus area for future policy reform.

In order to progress the long-held and sincere aspirations of our Traditional Owner member groups in gaining greater and more concrete management engagement and enforcement powers on our Land and Sea Country, five (5) key strategies are under Traditional Owner consideration and development in collaboration with our *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* partners - statutory agencies, local government, private landholders and regional NRM bodies.

These key regional-level collaborative management strategies are:

- ▶ Cultural and Natural Resource Management
- ▶ Research and Education, including fisheries monitoring program through boat ramp surveys
- ▶ Community Relationship and Engagement
- ▶ Visitor Site Management
- ▶ Planning, Governance and Capacity Building

An overview of relevant up-dated strategies at regional scale is provided in Table 1 below.



above: STCYasi 2011 - severe weather events are expected to impact the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas in future (Image courtesy of NASA)



above: Rubbish left on country threatens the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

Table 1 - Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Collaborative Management Strategies

Management strategies	Scope of works	General Milestones	Projected Outcomes
CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Weed Management	Control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) and priority weeds using mixed methods - Girringun PMP	Appropriate control of Siam weed, water hyacinth, Hymenachne, rubber vine, Gamba and Guinea grass, lantana, pond apple, sickle pod. Review Girringun Pest Management Plan (PMP)	By 2023, manage and reduce impacts the areas infested by WONS, with strategic control of environmental weeds within the IPA
Feral Animal Management	Control of feral pigs	At least 3-5 pig traps operating year round, developing trapping programs with IPA partners	By 2023, increase by 5% feral pig trapping sites within the IPA and decrease trapping at existing sites as a result of trapping success
	Control feral cats, wild dogs	Continue refining feral cat trapping techniques and wild dog control	By 2023, be more effective in the use of refined feral cat trapping techniques
Fire management planning and monitoring	Control of Weeds of National Significance using applied fire management with cultural and ecological knowledge	Weed control using fire, Hymenachne, water hyacinth, rubber vine, Guinea grass, sickle pod, lantana	By 2023, incorporate cultural (traditional) knowledge to applied fire management, establish a cultural calendar for IPA fire management
Sea Country and TUMRA Management	Operational delivery of the Girringun Region TUMRA Implementation Plan	Maintain TUMRA hunting permits and data, regularly patrol Girringun Region TURMA area, work with marine management and compliance agencies to transfer enforcement roles	By 2023, have better conservation and enhanced understanding of dugongs, sea turtles, coastal dolphins and related marine species populations within the Girringun Region TUMRA area
River and Wetland Management	Water monitoring, patrols, law enforcement, observation and reporting compliance; vertebrates presence/absence	Conduct at least 1 biophysical water and vertebrate (presence/ absence) monitoring event each year Regular boat patrol for marine monitoring	By 2023, have improved water quality records and data; and have a better understanding of dugongs, sea turtles, coastal dolphins and marine species populations within the Girringun region
Traditional Knowledge sharing	Facilitating preservation and transfer of traditional knowledge	Engagement of Elders with Rangers in planning and management activities	By 2023, Traditional Knowledge is recognised and regularly inserted into all collaborative management planning exercises within the IPA
Cultural Site Management	Cultural sites appropriately mapped and managed	Completed surveys of cultural sites, cultural sites management plans for agreed sites in IPA	By 2023, all known cultural heritage sites are mapped, with appropriate cultural heritage management protocols in place for each site
	Fish trap management	Traditional fish traps protected	By 2023, all traditional fish traps are well mapped and managed
	Monitoring and maintenance of burial sites and other sites of cultural significance	All burial sites protected and in good condition Coordinated weed and fire management works	By 2023, known burial sites and sacred sites are respected and appropriately managed as agreed

Table I (continued) - Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Collaborative Management Strategies

Management strategies	Scope of works	General Milestones	Projected Outcomes
RESEARCH and EDUCATION			
Monitoring of Country and Research Partnerships	Monitoring of terrestrial wildlife	Six (6) monitoring sites implemented and recording information	By 2023, compile a comprehensive list of sites with stable terrestrial wildlife populations
		Integrate monitoring of southern Cassowary with feral pig monitoring and trapping	By 2023, maintain stable populations of southern Cassowaries within the IPA
	Monitoring of sea wildlife	Establish an on-going culturally assured and agreed dugong and coastal dolphin monitoring system with JCU researchers	By 2023, establish solid data base of marine wildlife recordings in coordination with academic institutions including JCU
		Continue recording sea turtle presence during patrolling (I-Tracker), and undertake tagging twice a year with JCU researchers and others	By 2023, a comprehensive management strategy for long term marine turtle conservation is in place, resourced and operational
	Monitoring of marine debris	Conduct regular surveys to log marine debris data along Girringun Region TUMRA coast. Feed information into Tangaroa Blue project.	By 2023, a comprehensive data set contributing to the management of marine debris within the Girringun Region TUMRA area is in place
	Seagrass monitoring	Continue seagrass monitoring in partnership with the Seagrass-Watch program (JCU) at Goold Island.	By 2023, establish solid data base of seagrass monitoring data, to complement collaborative monitoring program at Goold Island since 2008
	Research partnerships with academic & research organisations	Establish comprehensive partnerships with universities to carry out research on country	By 2023, establish strong research cooperation with scientific community to benefit the region
Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property	Acknowledging and recognizing Intellectual Property of Traditional Knowledge	Establish clear guidelines for proper recognition of Intellectual Property over Traditional Knowledge across all information provided by Traditional Owners of the Girringun region.	By 2023, implemented a comprehensive framework to protect the Intellectual Property rights of Traditional Owners.

Table 1 (continued) - Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Collaborative Management Strategies

Management strategies	Scope of works	General Milestones	Projected Outcomes
COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT			
Community Education and Engagement	Engaging young students in Girringun Junior Ranger program activities	Young students are more engaged in Girringun Junior Ranger program activities	By 2018, more young students are regularly engaged in Girringun Junior Ranger program activities
	Engaging schools through the Girringun Junior Ranger program	At least 3 schools within the Girringun region engaged in Girringun Junior Ranger activities (6 activities per school per year)	By 2018, At least 3 schools within the Girringun Region are engaged in Girringun Junior Ranger activities (being a total of 18 activities per year)
	Girringun Junior Ranger program is well established	A steady and solid Girringun Junior Ranger program is well established, delivering at least 1 Ranger per school per year for GRIPA collaborative management activities.	By 2023, the Girringun Junior Ranger program is delivering at least 1 Ranger per school per year for IPA collaborative management activities
Community assistance for disaster recovery	Engaging with local authorities and key stakeholders to plan for action for potential natural disasters recovery in the region	Well prepared Girringun Rangers and staff support to lead action of disaster recovery in coordination with local authorities.	By 2023 a well established and recognised capacity of Girringun Aboriginal Corporation to assist the community with disaster recovery actions in the region.
VISITOR SITE MANAGEMENT			
Visitor Site Management	Maintenance of visitor sites and development of visitor signage	Visitor information brochures and cultural signage confirmed by affiliated Traditional Owner groups	By 2018, all major visitor sites within the GRIPA have culturally assured Traditional Owner information available
	Cultural information added into site specific visitor signage	Signage with cultural information confirmed by affiliated Traditional Owner groups	By 2018, Girringun Rangers are providing regular fee for service guided talks to tourists at key sites in the Girringun Region IPA

Table 1 (continued) - Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Collaborative Management Strategies

Management strategies	Scope of works	General Milestones	Projected Outcomes
PLANNING, GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING			
Planning and consultation with Traditional Owners	Planning and Governance in NRM	Elders, Traditional Owners and Rangers participate regularly in all governance bodies providing input and advice for all aspects of planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of management	By 2018, Giringun Rangers operate effectively under a regularly financed annual business plan, with solid guidance from GRIPA partners and Traditional Owners
Staff development	Staff development and capacity building	Training of Rangers in different skills as per personal development plan and GRIPA management needs	By 2023, a 75% increase in current Giringun Ranger numbers demonstrating sufficient skills and leadership.
Community Education and Engagement	Engaging schools through the Giringun Junior Ranger program	At least 3 schools within the Giringun region engaged in Giringun Junior Ranger activities (6 activities per school per year)	By 2018, At least 3 schools within the Giringun Region are engaged in Giringun Junior Ranger activities (being a total of 18 activities per year)
	Collaborative management agreements with local government authorities	All identified priority local government reserves are under comprehensive and consistent collaborative management involving Traditional Owners of the respective Country concerned	By 2023, at least 2 agreements are in place with local government to collaboratively manage selected priority local government reserves
	Participation in and engagement with key stakeholders groups	Regular participation in Community NRM and NRM stakeholder meetings and forums, including the Giringun Rangers' Conference	By 2023, all communities are aware of the Giringun Region IPA, Traditional Owner and IPA partner contributions to the conservation and sustainable development of the region

SECTION 4 – MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE GIRRINGUN REGION IPA: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GIRRINGUN REGION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

Processes we have adopted to declare and dedicate the Girringun Region IPA

Girringun-affiliated Traditional Owners Elders Past and Present



Girringun Region TUMRA Launch with senior Elders, 2005
 L-R: (back) Uncles B. Butler (dec.), J. Andy, R. Butler Snr, C. Beeron, (front) C. Wyles, Aunty M. Kinjun

Decision Making founded in Aboriginal Law

Girringun was conceived and birthed as a regional round table by our Elders to establish appropriate naming protocols for protected areas in the region late last century. Girringun's decision making processes however are based on ancient Aboriginal laws and practices: in recognising and respecting the independence of its 9 member Traditional Owner groups, and in bringing tribes together regionally to consider land and sea business.

The Girringun Region IPA and its decision-making processes similarly enable the decision-making of member groups by respecting the way in which the groups conduct their own business and in which they chose to determine the nature of their business through Girringun.

This is often difficult because of the many demands placed on PBCs particularly, but also other corporations to report and manage all business according to strict corporate rules, when most activities are conducted on a not-for profit basis.

Some Girringun affiliated Traditional Owner groups have native title holding prescribed bodies corporates (PBCs):

- ▶ Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation is the Djiru registered native title body corporate
- ▶ Girramay Aboriginal Corporation is the Girramay registered native title body corporate
- ▶ Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Corporation is the Gugu Badhun registered native title body corporate
- ▶ Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation is the Jirrbal registered native title body corporate

Some groups have interests in land holding corporations:

- ▶ Nywaigi Land Aboriginal Corporation holds title to the Mungalla property via Ingham which is managed by the Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation for Business
- ▶ Badjuballa Aboriginal Corporation holds title to the Badjuballa pastoral holding via Mount Garnet

Other groups have their own corporations:

- ▶ Warrgamay Bada Bada Aboriginal Corporation assists the Warrgamay people to achieve their aspirations
- ▶ Goondaloo Aboriginal Corporation has been set up to become the Warungnu PBC after determination of their native title claim

Some groups remain incorporated:

- ▶ Bandjin people
- ▶ Gulnay people

Girringun's Board is made up of a representative from all of our member Traditional Owner groups. Some Board representatives are Elders, whilst some are younger Traditional Owners. This mix attempts to bridge the divide between managing business as a contemporary Australian Aboriginal corporation, and the traditional decision-making role of Elders.

For the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas cultural assurance protocols mean that all levels of decision-making must be considered and engaged in developing the regional collaborative management relationship and framework.

Collaborative management happens on a Two-Way basis:

- ▶ between Girringun and its member group corporations or senior Elders (where a group is not incorporated); and
- ▶ between Girringun's member Traditional Owner groups through Girringun, and statutory and other protected area managers.

The Two-Way approach must take into account the roles of each member group's Traditional Owner organisation and their right to make decisions according to Aboriginal customary law.

The built-in complexities and challenges of such multi-layered relationships can be seen in Figure A below.

Girringun Region Indigenous
Protected Areas Steering Committee

Girringun Region TUMRA Steering
Committee



Commonwealth and other IPA partners
visiting Murray Falls, Girramay
National Park
Girramay Country, 2010

Regional IPA Governance Arrangements

Overall facilitation and agency engagement in the consultation and planning process before declaration of the Girringun Region IPA has occurred primarily via the highly collaborative Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee, chaired by Girringun, with automatic membership open to all collaborative IPA partners.

The Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee was established in 2009, very early in the consultation and planning process. The Steering Committee has been instrumental and critical in gaining support for this co-management IPA and for other co-management IPAs in the Wet Tropics of Queensland region.

Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee membership is:

- Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (chair)
- Girringun Rangers, Coordinator and TUMRA Coordinator
- Traditional Owner group or corporate representatives
- Yabulum Nature Refuge
- DSEWPaC Indigenous Protected Areas program
- DSEWPaC Working on Country program
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Wet Tropics Management Authority
- Queensland Dept. Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, specifically Fisheries Queensland
- QPWS Regional Manager Northern, Rangers in Charge
- QPWS Regional Manager Northern Marine, Rangers in Charge
- QPWS Team Leader Indigenous Engagement
- Regional NRM bodies: NQ Dry Tropics NRM and Terrain NRM
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Australia)
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council

The Girringun Region IPA Coordinator is the secretariat for the Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee.

Each of Girringun's affiliated Traditional Owner groups can also nominate a specific PBC or landholding body governing committee representative where Aboriginal returned lands are to be included in the regional collaborative IPA.

All statutory agencies partnering the collaborative IPA are invited to join the Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee.

Girringun insists that, commensurate with the senior decision-making role of Elders or elected representative

Traditional Owners – all agency delegates appointed to this Committee are regional, district or program managerial staff.

The terms of reference for the IPA Steering Committee are:

1. Guide the ongoing implementation of collaborative management arrangements underpinning the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*, and provide high level coordination between Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, its affiliated Traditional Owner groups and Collaborative Management Partners to oversee timely and effective delivery of *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* collaborative management activities.
2. Support collaborative management planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation arrangements across the range of participating tenures and interests partnering Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and its member Traditional Owner groups, whose traditional lands and seas are within the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*.

Development of shared management agreements, including memorandums of understanding (MoUs), is progressed on an individual basis with all Collaborative Management Partners.

Regional TUMRA Governance Arrangements

The Girringun Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) Steering Committee was established in 2005, following initial accreditation of this precedent regional Sea Country agreement. Girringun Saltwater Traditional Owners: Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Nywaigi and Warrgamay peoples are parties to this agreement, which took 3 years to consider fully.

The Girringun Region TUMRA is a legal agreement accredited by the Australian and Queensland governments, established under *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* regulations. A TUMRA allows Traditional Owners to self-regulate their traditional hunting of marine protected species within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park World Heritage Area.

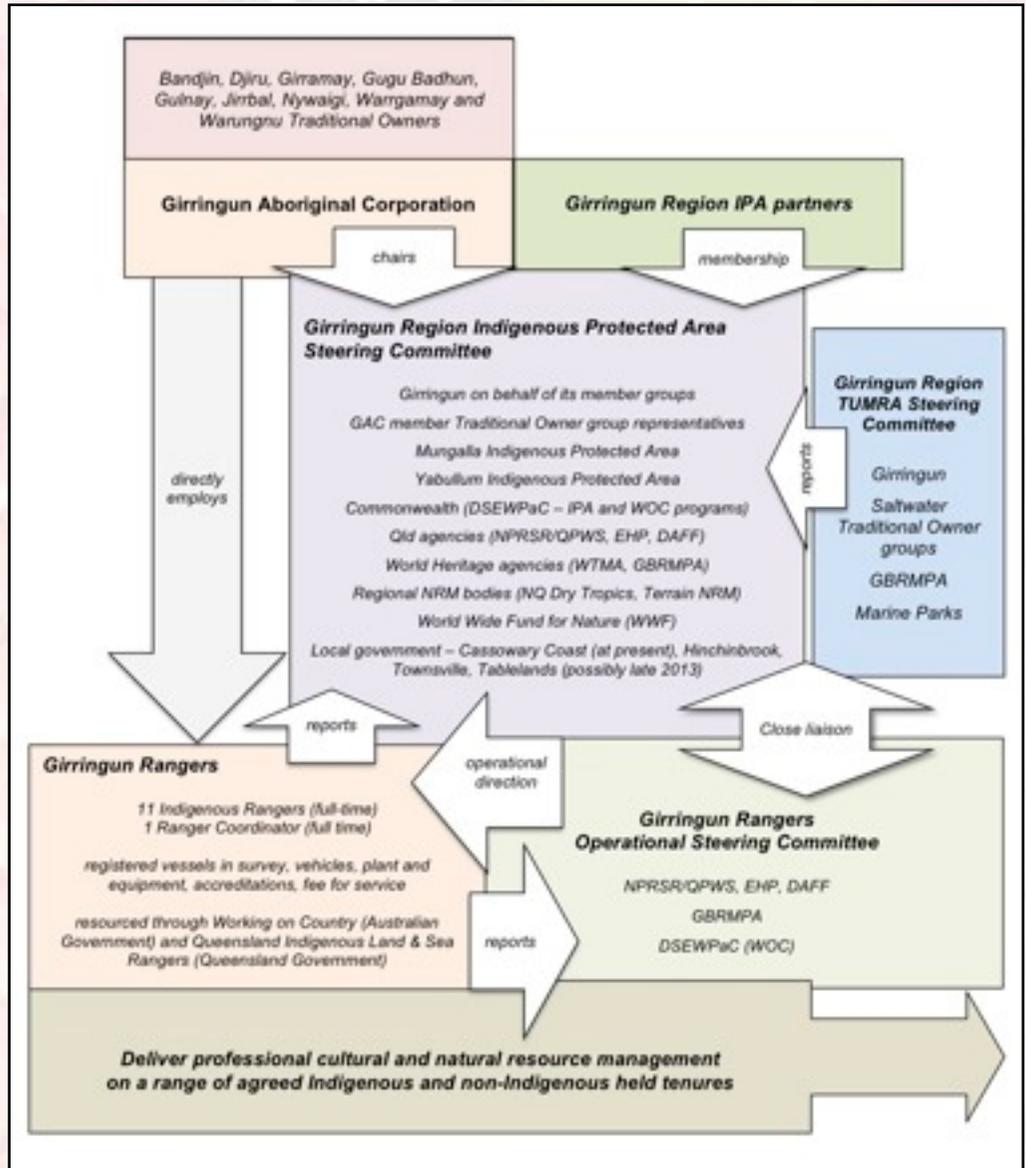
Girringun TUMRA Steering Committee membership includes:

- Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (chair)
- Saltwater Traditional Owner group representatives
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Both Steering Committee structures and their respective collaborative relationships are illustrated in Figure B below.

GIRRINGUN REGION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

FIGURE B



SECTION 5 – MAKING THE GRIPA WORK ON THE GROUND: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GIRRINGUN REGION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS
Processes we have adopted to plan for and implement the Giringun Region IPA

Giringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement



Giringun Rangers working on operational planning Nywaigi Country - Paluma, 2011

Giringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement Framework

Collaborative Management Arrangements between Traditional Owners, Giringun and GRIPA Partners

The Giringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement Framework provides the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and our Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas partners with guidance, as key partners in day to day IPA co-management, on how to assess our shared progress in working together to achieving shared goals as set out in the respective individual collaborative management agreements.

Adapted from an original framework developed by Giringun, and QPWS during 2004-2007, with input from Fisheries Queensland (Qld Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and GBRMPA, the *Giringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement Framework* monitors and assesses our multiple IPA partnerships and related Giringun Ranger work outcomes.

The basis of the original framework is earlier University of Queensland PhD research, further refined with reference to monitoring and evaluation frameworks developed to support collaborative / joint management of Australian protected areas.

The framework is not intended to assess the performance of organisations, agencies or individuals. It is not intended to be part of an official performance assessment tool, but rather to help all partners to the *Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and our Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* to pursue shared collaborative management goals.

The framework adopts evaluation concepts to assess protected areas management effectiveness as well as applying adaptive management recommendations.

This collaborative IPA management initiative focuses on shared objectives or common ground between Giringun, on behalf of affiliated Traditional Owners, and all GRIPA partners (Table 2).

Table 2. Individual and shared spaces of GAC and the partners for collaborative management

Shared objectives may grow as collaborative management arrangements progress and trust strengthens between and amongst the parties.

Individual space of IPA partners	Shared space between partners (shared objectives and common ground)		Individual space of Giringun Traditional Owners
	Shared vision and long term objectives	Shared mid-term objectives	
Conservation and protection of biodiversity	Giringun Rangers involved in all management activities	Stronger skills within the Giringun Rangers	Autonomy of Giringun Rangers
Delivery of annual Ranger business plans	Large number of Giringun Rangers managing throughout the Giringun Region IPA	Strengthen leadership and presence of Giringun Rangers throughout the GRIPA	Self sufficiency
Law Enforcement	Direct involvement of more Elders and Traditional Owners in managing cultural and natural assets within the GRIPA	Increased two way learning (Traditional Knowledge and Western Knowledge) applied to country management.	Enforcement of customary and statutory law
Compliance with all relevant regulations	Giringun as a reliable fee for service provider of cultural and management services within the GRIPA.	Increased participation of Elders and Traditional Owners in sharing Traditional Knowledge	Access to all of Country
	Working together Traditional Owners and partners	Strengthened work of the GRIPA Steering Committee	Power sharing about what to do on Country (protected areas)

Assessment and Monitoring Criteria and Indicators



Girringun Rangers working on operational
planning
Nywaigi Country - Paluma, 2011

The Framework enables the joint monitoring and assessment of collaborative management arrangements and their status by all partners, and allows for the continual adaptation of efforts to achieve identified shared objectives.

This greatly assists in effective communication and information sharing between IPA partners, which in turn builds stronger relationships and trust, improving professional co-operation.

Collaborative Management monitoring and assessment criteria and indicators

The *Girringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement Framework* provides a set of 22 indicators, related to six (6) criteria, identified by Girringun as critical in assessing *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* collaborative management.

The indicators have been categorised according to the IUCN management effectiveness evaluation elements of *context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs* and *outcomes*.

Most of the Framework's indicators concentrate on assessing the *processes* occurring within co-management partnerships.

Criteria and indicators are able to be updated as collaborative management continues to achieve common objectives and opens other joint management opportunities over time.

Collaborative Management Partners ('partners') are able to revise, modify or add new criteria and indicators as appropriate. Current criteria and indicators are listed below. The Steering Committee referred to in this section is the Girringun Region IPA Steering Committee.

Co-Management Assessment Framework Process

Step 1

The main agreed collaborative arrangement assessment criteria and indicators are expressed as questions below.

VISIONS, OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

1. Are the values and common objectives to be achieved clearly identified by the decision makers of each IPA partner and Girringun?

RELATIONSHIP

2. Are Girringun and our IPA partners clear that commitment, respect and support are necessary to achieve common objectives and visions?
3. Are Girringun and our IPA partners comfortable with the way they are participating in the decision making process (Steering Committee and other form of joint decision making)?
4. Have Girringun and our IPA partners begun new joint activities related to the protection and conservation of country (protected areas)?
5. Are there more Traditional Owners and especially Elders working more closely with IPA partner officials?

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

6. Does the current structure and operation of the Steering Committee allow an appropriate representation from Girringun and our IPA partners?
7. Is the on-ground operational level (our IPA partners and Girringun) implementing the decisions made at Steering Committee level (meetings), into their plans?
8. Are the joint decisions being transferred with no problems to the lower chain of command? (from the Steering Committee to the IPA partner delegate and Girringun Ranger Coordinator level and from this level to the on-ground operational level)?
9. Are cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?
10. Are non-cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?

PLANNING

11. Are the activities in the Annual Business Plan being carried out according to the directions/desires given by the Steering Committee?
12. Do Girringun and our IPA partners consider that the achievement of things related to the Girringun Rangers is contributing to each other's institutional objectives/plans?

Step 2

Each indicator is given a value from a set of four (4) pre-established levels of performance.

The value assigned to each level of performance is in the form of a colour: green, yellow, orange or red.

The colours and corresponding levels of performance to which the indicators are compared form an assessment scale.

Colours as assessment values	Interpretation of assessment values
GREEN	The performance of this indicator is very effective / or the indicator shows a very effective way of doing things together.
YELLOW	The performance of this indicator is effective / or the indicator shows an effective way of doing things together.
ORANGE	The performance of this indicator is poorly effective / or the indicator shows poor effectiveness in the way the parties are doing things together.
RED	The performance of this indicator is ineffective / or the indicator shows an ineffective way in working together.

Girringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement Assessment Framework, Criteria and Indicators



Siam Weed control - Girringun Rangers and QPWS collaboration

13. Are there more Elders, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in general feeling more connected to country?
14. Is the condition of cultural sites improved by the management actions taken by the Girringun Rangers?
15. Are Girringun and our IPA partners able to jointly participate in all stages of planning?
16. Do Girringun and our IPA partners consider that the current skills of the Girringun Rangers are at the appropriate level to assist in achieving common goals?

INFORMATION SHARING / COMMUNICATION

17. Are Girringun and our IPA partners sharing internal and/or administrative or operational information that could help each other better understand the way each party operates?
18. Have Girringun and our IPA partners been promoting and sharing cultural aspects surrounding their relationship (bush camps, field trips, meetings, social meetings, etc)?
19. Are Girringun and our IPA partners frequently using alternative channels of communication to keep each other informed?

CAPACITY

20. Are the available infrastructure, materials and equipments sufficient to accomplish the proposed common objectives?
21. Do Girringun and our IPA partners consider that the funds available to each are sufficient to achieve the proposed collaborative management?
22. Are Girringun and our IPA partners jointly engaged in activities towards achieving better capacity building to sustain the Girringun Indigenous Rangers?
23. Do Girringun and our IPA partners consider that there are enough staff from each party with improved skills to support the joint management actions?

**Girringun Region Collaborative Management Arrangement
Assessment Framework, Criteria and Indicators**

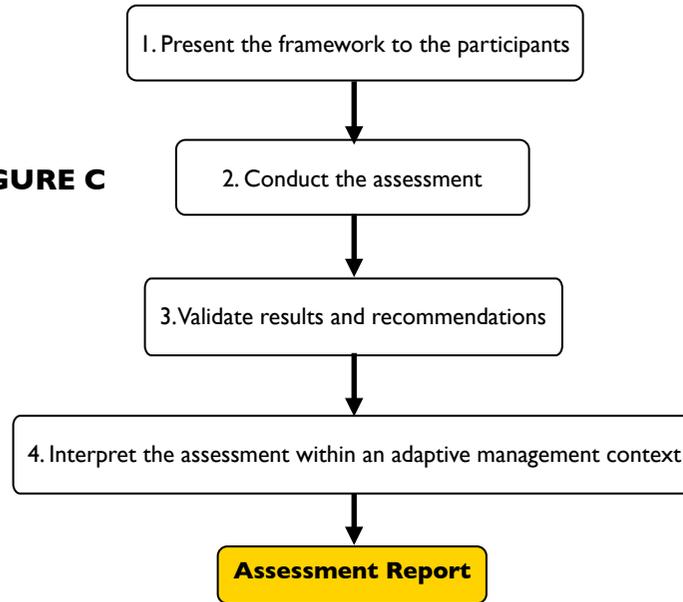


Girringun Rangers working on Country Dalrymple track, Girringun National Park, Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

Step 3

Once all of the planning and preparation for the assessment has been completed, the assessment can be carried out. The following steps are suggested in Figure C below.

FIGURE C



The assessment is a shared assessment: the participants need to share discussion of the situation being assessed and respect each other’s points of view. The assessment should be interpreted in terms of joint efforts to achieve common objectives. Each IPA partner and Girringun should be able to see how well they are performing in their respective collaborative management agreement.

- ▶ After the assessment they should be able to answer the question: *are we doing better, the same, or worse than when we started our co-management agreement?, and why?*
- ▶ The assessment is a tool to enable the parties to find relevant information to help them decide what steps to take to improve their partnership and to achieve their collaborative management goals.
- ▶ The parties need to be open in discussing the best way to proceed when a particular indicator or criterion has been

assessed as being ineffective, with little or no progress being made towards desired outcomes. On the Assessment scale this would be given the value ‘red’.

- ▶ The parties can then decide whether to continue to put resources, time and effort into a particular process or activity, to omit it, change it or to adapt it to the new situations found in the assessment.

The results of the assessment are not meant to assess institutional or individual performance but to assess how the parties, independent of the level at which they are involved, are progressing towards where they both want to be.

Tables 3.1 - 3.6 Evaluation Data Recording Tables

Tables 3.1 - 3.6 (refer to example tables in Appendix 1) provide for the recording of monitoring and evaluation information for all collaborative management partnerships and implementation arrangements underpinning the IPA collaborative management initiative.

- ▶ Criterion 1: Visions, Objectives and Values (Aspirations)
- ▶ Criterion 2: Relationship
- ▶ Criterion 3: Governance and Management Arrangements
- ▶ Criterion 4: Planning
- ▶ Criterion 5: Information Sharing and Communication
- ▶ Criterion 6: Capacity

Table 4 Assessment Matrix

The Assessment Matrix (Table 4) is provided below as an example to illustrate how the overall assessment outcome is able to be recorded from time to time, using the colour-coded values pre-assigned against performance indicators for assessment (as described at Step 2 above).

This allows for an overview of the entire Assessment process and all related outcomes to be generated immediately.

Annual progress against all selected assessment criteria and indicators are able to be progressively monitored and evaluated using this matrix.

- ▶ Assessment Matrix for *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation*

Table 4 Assessment Matrix for Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Criteria and indicators (expressed as questions)	Assessment value (in colour: green, yellow, orange, red)
1. VISIONS, OBJECTIVES AND VALUES	
1.1. Are the values and common objectives to be achieved clearly identified by the decision makers of each party?	
2. RELATIONSHIP	
2.1. Are Girringun and the partner clear that commitment, respect and support are necessary to achieve common objectives and visions?	
2.2. Are Girringun and IPA partners comfortable with the way they are participating in the decision making process (Steering Committee and other joint decision making)?	
2.3. Are decisions always accepted jointly by Girringun and the partner?	
2.4. Are there more Traditional Owners and especially Elders working more closely with the partner officials/ reps?	
3. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	
3.1. Does the current structure and operation of the Steering Committee allow an appropriate representation from Girringun and the IPA partner?	
3.2. Are the directional decisions (Steering Committee) being transferred with no problems to the operational level (Girringun Rangers / and or QPWS Rangers)?	
3.3. Are cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?	
3.4. Are non-cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?	
4. PLANNING	
4.1. Are the activities in the Annual Business Plan being carried out according to the directions/desires given by the Steering Committee?	
4.2. Do Girringun and the partner consider that achievement of the related work of the Girringun Rangers is contributing to each other's institutional objectives / plans?	
4.3. Are there more Elders and Traditional Owners in general feeling more connected to their country?	
4.4. Is the condition of cultural sites improved by the management actions taken by the Girringun Rangers?	
4.5. Are Girringun and the partner able to jointly participate in all stages of planning?	
4.6. Do Girringun and the partner consider that the current skills of the Girringun Rangers are at the appropriate level to assist in achieving common goals?	
5. INFORMATION SHARING / COMMUNICATION	
5.1. Are Girringun and the partner sharing internal, administrative and/or operational information that could help each other better understand the way each operates?	
5.2. Have Girringun and the partner been promoting and sharing cultural aspects surrounding their relationship (bush camps, field trips, meetings, social meetings, etc)?	
5.3. Are Girringun and the partner frequently using alternative channels of communication to keep each other informed?	
6. CAPACITY	
6.1. Are the available infrastructure, materials and equipment sufficient to accomplish the proposed common objectives?	
6.2. Do Girringun and the partner consider that the funds available to each are sufficient to achieve the proposed collaborative management?	
6.3. Are Girringun and the partner jointly engaged in activities towards achieving better capacity building to sustain the Girringun Rangers?	
6.4. Do Girringun and the partner consider that there are enough staff from each party with improved skills to support the collaborative management actions?	

SECTION 5A – GIRRINGUN AND GRIPA MANAGEMENT: COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT: GIRRINGUN, ABORIGINAL IPA PARTNERS AND STATUTORY IPA PARTNERS
How Land and Sea Country will be looked after with the help of Giringun and the Giringun Rangers

**Ecologically and Culturally Sustainable Management of World Heritage, Fisheries and Water
 Ecosystem Services Enterprise Development**



*Giringun Rangers undertake native plant revegetation in 2010
 Djiru Country - Mission Beach*

Ecologically and Culturally Sustainable Management of World Heritage, Fisheries and Water

As Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners of Lands, Seas and Waters in the region, we see our responsibilities for looking after country as bringing together the many management agencies and tenures under management together - Land and Sea - holistically.

Our stated management intent is:

To deliver integrated and holistic, culturally assured and ecologically resilient management of our Land and Sea Country, as globally unique Aboriginal cultural land and seascapes vulnerable to human induced climate change, by way of long-term equitable relationships with our partners.

Our regional collaborative management IPA brings together:
as Land (Terrestrial) Managers

- Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners
 - the Wet Tropics Management Authority
 - Australian Government management agencies
 - Queensland Government management agencies
 - Local government
 - Regional NRM bodies
 - Private landholders - Aboriginal and non-Indigenous
 - International collaborators and academic researchers
 - Academic, policy development and research organisations
- as Sea (Marine) Managers
- Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Nywaigi and Warrgamay
 - the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 - Australian Government management agencies
 - Queensland Government management agencies
 - Regional NRM bodies
 - International collaborators and academic researchers
 - Academic, policy development and research organisations

Ecosystem Services Enterprise Development

Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners are developing their capacity to deliver ecosystem services at various levels.

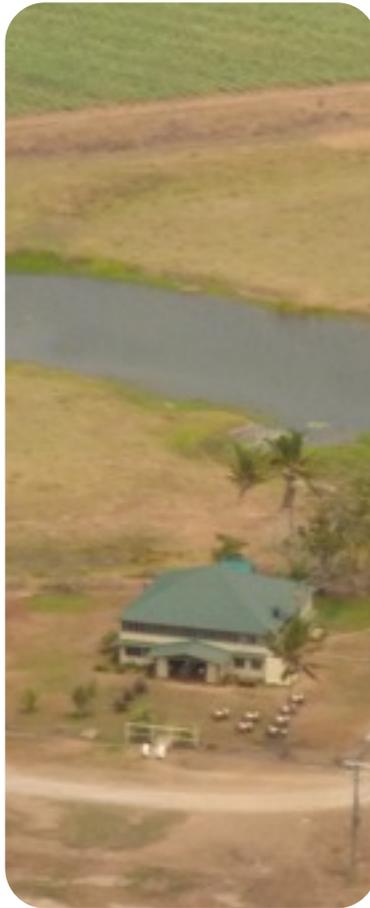
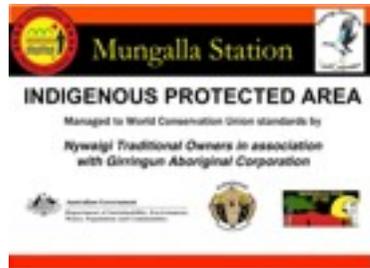
Through Giringun, our member groups are investing in the development of the Giringun Native Plant Nursery (funded by a 6 year Biodiversity Fund grant), contracted fee-for-service ecological fire management and a local alternative energy pilot project. (NQ Bio-Energy in Ingham). The NQ Bio-energy initiative is a commercial joint-venture with the private sector.

Over coming years, the **Giringun Native Plant Nursery** will deliver coordinated, targeted resources and support for priority biodiversity resilience and enhancement on private Aboriginal lands and public and private non-Indigenous tenures within the Giringun Region IPA. The native nursery directly complements existing professional ecosystem services delivery by the Giringun Rangers and our collaborative IPA partners.

Giringun's habitat regeneration activities are now particularly relevant in the post-cyclone Yasi context, and aim to maximise improved connectivity, biodiversity restoration and enhancement outcomes for targeted wetland, riparian, shrubby forest, shrubby woodland and grassy woodland ecosystems on co-managed lands. Activities enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change, projected to impact upland and coastal areas.

Our recently completed **Giringun Fire Strategy 2012** (draft) investigates fee-for-service enterprise development from applied Aboriginal fire management. For future ecosystem enterprise development, areas where fire management is required but not already established will need to be further identified within the Giringun region. Additional discussions with IPA partners in this respect will take place during 2013.

The *Giringun Region IPA Plan of Management* is a directional plan spanning between 5-10 years. Annual Business Plans will describe the tailored, prioritised co-management activities of the Giringun Rangers and IPA partners. The 2012-13 Business Plan is appended to this Plan to provide a guiding template.



Mungalla Homestead, 2011
Mungalla Station IPA

Mungalla Station Indigenous Protected Area Returned, Aboriginal-held Land - Nywaigi Country

827 hectares - IUCN Category VI (6)

In the year 2000, Nywaigi Traditional Owners saw the return of Mungalla, held by the Nywaigi Land Aboriginal Corporation on our behalf. We started Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation for Business to develop sustainable Aboriginal enterprises and caring for country. Mungalla Station is integral to the connections of Nywaigi People to Nywaigi Country and a very important cultural place of significance.

The Mungalla Station Indigenous Protected Area is located about 15 km east of Ingham, containing some 807ha of freehold land and a 20.5ha special lease. Mungalla sits among extensive coastal wetland complexes and on its eastern edges, features sensitive coastal areas with sand dunes, swales and salt pans.

Today, Mungalla is home for Nywaigi people on festive days, hosts signature annual community events, employs Nywaigi people and locals in an award-winning Aboriginal cultural and natural tourism venture, agists prime stud cattle, trials applied weed control methods and supports rehabilitation of country. Mungalla's well-developed grazing area is bordered by Palm Creek and its considerable wetlands and freshwater swamps.

Mungalla is a very important cultural place, being of the highest traditional and historical significance to all Nywaigi Traditional Owners, of great historic significance to the Aboriginal people of the Ingham district and diverse people of South Sea Islander descent, whose ancestors were bought here in the mid 1800s. The 'Captive Lives' exhibition presents these hard, earlier times.

Mungalla's original homestead lives on in the lifetime memories of many locals and is a recognised, regionally significant historic site: the Cassidy Archeological Area. We conduct regular cultural and eco- tours on the land, introducing tourists to Mungalla's unique history, sites and natural beauty.

Mungalla enjoys one of the oldest stud breeding reputations in northern Queensland. Agisted cattle are bred and fattened on the property to this day and we are growing our own herd.

Through Mungalla Station, Nywaigi are able to contribute to the health of the extensive Halifax Bay Wetlands, by being involved in long term collaborative weed control programs carried out with local Councils, researchers and NRM bodies.

Mungalla Station was acquired for and granted to Nywaigi Traditional Owners by the Indigenous Land Corporation. Nywaigi are gaining business skills and resource management expertise, building leverage to work with others to holistically manage country. Guided by our knowledge and modern technical methods, we manage the impacts of historic clearing, grazing and agriculture.

Nywaigi Country Planning

Nywaigi Country extends along the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area coastline from Rollingstone some 45km north of Townsville and the Lucinda district at the northern end of Halifax Bay, inland to Toobanna and Ingham State Forest in the north, and to Paluma Range National Park in the south west.

The *Nywaigi Stronger Connection to Country Plan* is founded in the vision of working together with government and regional NRM bodies to achieve our aspirations as Nywaigi Traditional Owners in a more practical and realistic way, stating (in part):

We recognise and acknowledge the compromise of the present government to the world and to Australia, to provide Aboriginal peoples with a more comprehensive approach to working with our cultural rights and values.

In this plan we describe our country and the areas of our country where we would like to have more direct participation in the caring of country and the decision making processes related to it. We propose programs based on our capacities, current initiatives and funding opportunities from government and NRM regional bodies, but also we foresee future alliances with academic and research institutions.

This plan is an effort to translate the holistic way our people see the world and our country into a contemporary way of doing business with non-Aboriginal people, particularly government. This plan identifies four programs of action, that for us are just part of an integrated cultural concept of caring for country and our own wellbeing. However we present them in a way that can match current regional planning and the methods of compartmentalised governments.

We identify a clear managerial and operational structure that can help to implement this plan. We take into account our ongoing business enterprise through the Mungalla Station and use it as leverage to care for the whole of our traditional Nywaigi Country.

MUNGALLA STATION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA



Northern Weeping Cabbage Palm
(*Livistona drudei*)

Mungalla Station, Nywaigi Country
photo courtesy of J.L. Dowe 2008

In 2006 the ILC funded property management planning for Mungalla which noted that Mungalla's wetland areas are listed as 'endangered' in *The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems* (ref: Sattler and Williams 1999 in LPM Creative Rural Solutions, *Mungalla Property Management Plan* draft May 2006).

Mungalla Botanical Inventory

A Botanical Inventory of plants was undertaken in 2008 to record vegetation in the Mungalla Coastal Habitats Management Area

The primary study areas were wetland margins, Mungalla's eastern dunes and swale areas, and a series of elevated dunes and associated swales on consolidated sands in the north, descending into permanent freshwater wetlands in the south.

The Mungalla Botanical Inventory's key findings included:

- ▶ The transition between the wetlands and the drier habitats is abrupt. The area has been subjected to cattle grazing since the 1870s, and much of the elevated area has been previously cleared and much of the present vegetation represents regeneration.
- ▶ Of special interest is the occurrence of the Endangered Northern Weeping Cabbage Palm (*Livistona drudei*) on the wetland margins, and in some drainage lines where soil moisture levels remain permanently high.
- ▶ The Inventory identified (native or introduced) 30 tree species, 21 shrub species, 22 herb species and 7 grass species, 18 vine and scrambler species and 1 fern species
- ▶ Significant infestations of major wetland weeds *Hymenachne* (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), Para Grass (*Urochloa mutica*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), *Salvinia* (*Salvinia molesta*).
- ▶ The dunes and swales consist of an overstorey of *Acacia* species and *Alphitonia excelsa*, with a dense understorey of herb, shrubs and grasses.
- ▶ The impacts of past wildfires are evident.
- ▶ Major weeds in the dunes and swales area include *Lantana* (*Lantana camara*) and *Hyptis* (*Hyptis suaveolens*).

- ▶ The wetland margins are dominated by Paper barks (*Melaleuca leucadendra*), and the wetlands by *Hymenachne* (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), Para Grass (*Urochloa mutica*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), *Salvinia* (*Salvinia molesta*).
- ▶ Some plantings associated with the original homestead in the Cassady Archeological Area may be the earliest introductions of Mango (*Mangifera indica*) and Coconuts (*Cocos nucifera*) in northern Queensland.
- ▶ Although hydrology of the wetlands has been impacted by the construction of walls, and water is impounded for greater times than in natural systems, there is important habitat values associated with them if the present [2008] degradation can be controlled.

(ref: Dowe, J.L. (2008) *Botanical Inventory of Mungalla Coastal Habitats*, ACTFR Report 08/15 September 2008, Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research).

Mungalla Wetlands Management

Mungalla's wetlands were traditionally harvested by our people over tens of thousands of years. Since European colonisation all wetlands on Mungalla have been drastically altered by changed land-uses in the Herbert River valley and at Mungalla. We value Mungalla's wetlands and we work to improve the condition of our wetlands to restore their many cultural values and provide for their better use.

Since 2008 we have worked closely with local governments, research organisations and NRM bodies to control Weeds of National Significance, in particular *Hymenachne* on Mungalla and neighbouring lands in the lower Herbert River catchment.

At that time, the Mungalla Wetlands Strategy was developed by us in collaboration with CSIRO and JCU wetland scientists, State and Australian government agencies to guide our efforts to restore and sustainably manage Mungalla's diverse wetlands.

Hymenachne Control in the Lower Herbert

Various *Hymenachne* control measures and methodologies have been implemented and trialled at Mungalla over the past 5 years, resourced through consecutive contracts under the Caring for Our Country program. Managed cattle grazing is a critical aspect of effective on-ground *Hymenachne* control.

MUNGALLA STATION INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA



Wetlands at Mungalla Station,
Nywaigi Country
photo courtesy of LPM Creative Rural
Solutions

Olive Hymenachne is a declared Weed of National Significance (WONS). Introduced in the 1970-80s as a 'ponded pasture' and distributed widely across higher rainfall grazing areas of tropical Australia, this plant has spread increasingly through the catchments of major northern tropical river systems, including the Herbert River catchment of north Queensland.

Hymenachne presents a serious land management challenge in the lower Herbert catchment. The *Mungalla Station Indigenous Protected Area* is located in the lower Herbert floodplain at the southern-most extent of the wet tropics and the northern-most extent of the dry tropics of north eastern Australia.

This location is subject to extreme wet season flooding events but may also dry out significantly in years experiencing average rainfall. A rigorous approach to Hymenachne management requires whole of catchment effort.

Best practice management³ of larger Hymenachne infestations such as those of the lower Herbert catchment includes:

Goal 1) *Prevention of spread*: Mungalla Station has actively managed the on-property Hymenachne infestations since 2009 under a range of collaborative projects. Caring for Our Country has resourced a continuous program of collaborative scientific Hymenachne management by Nywaigi Traditional Owners, regional NRM bodies, Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the Herbert River Catchment Landcare group.

Goal 2) *Adverse impacts are minimised*: Strategic control using integrated methods have been implemented at Mungalla Station since 2009. These include pro-active land management, controlled grazing, seasonally limited and location specific chemical control methods, hand removal, mechanised removal, in situ application of saltwater and limited aerial chemical control at appropriate times of the year. Efforts have focused on removing key infestations in local creeks.

Goal 3) *National commitment to management established and maintained*: The Queensland Government has reduced its declared weed control programs since early 2012, however related resources are available on application via *Everyone's Environment* grants. The Australian Government's Caring for

Our Country program supports WONS control by Aboriginal landholders. Nywaigi people partner scientific researchers, all levels of government, catchment stakeholders, local landholders and weed control specialists to deliver effective management of WONS across the lower Herbert catchment including on the *Mungalla Station Indigenous Protected Area*.

Goal 4) *Avoid release of additional ponded pasture species with weed potential*: Grazing has historically led to the introduction of ponded pastures and pasture weed species such as Olive Hymenachne, Guinea Grass and Para Grass.

The 2006 National Hymenachne Control Manual considers controlled grazing a management tool, where floodplain areas dry out during the dry season and where grazing in riparian areas actively reduces floating weed mats without further spread of the weed through cattle movements (pp. 29-30).

At Mungalla Station, stud cattle are agisted in specified paddocks which are well fenced and routinely maintained.

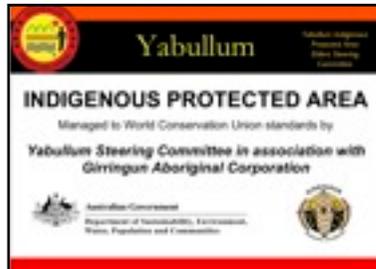
Stock is rotated within these selected paddocks and are not permitted graze areas immediately adjacent to waterways bordering or traversing the property.

Hymenachne control extension and communication projects have also been facilitated and implemented across the broader Herbert catchment by Landcare groups and local government.

Both the Nywaigi Land Aboriginal Corporation and the Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation for Business are recognised partners in the broader regional effort alignment and strategic approach to integrated pest and invasive species management.

The Hinchinbrook Shire Council coordinates and integrates its pest management priorities, including its WONS control programs, with other local governments of the greater north Queensland region through the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQ ROC), who engage a full-time Regional Pest Management Coordinator to progressively integrate and synthesize local government pest management across the wider north Queensland region.

³ Best practice management guidelines include: the *Hymenachne National Priority Framework 2008-2010*, the *National Hymenachne Management Group Hymenachne Control Manual (August 2006)* and the *Fish Habitat Guidelines FHG 005 Fisheries Guidelines for Managing Ponded Pastures (2004)* developed by the Queensland Government.



YABULLUM IPA
Cultural Site, traditional and historical
Camp and Cemetery

Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area

Yabullum Nature Refuge

The area known as Yabullum is the traditional Girramay name for the old camping area and nearby freshwater lagoons which lie within the Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area and Nature Refuge lies. Yabullum means 'place that never dries up'.

Yabullum contains seven (7) post-contact Aboriginal burials and is located on the vast floodplain of the Murray River. Before non-Indigenous contact times, many hundreds of camps were located along stretches of the Murray and Tully Rivers and their tributaries, and many of these camps are still known about today and actively recorded by the community.

Girramay, Jirrbal and Gulnay Elders and Traditional Owners, with the agreed assistance of Girringun and the Girringun Rangers Unit, have discussed and planned for future protection of the cultural heritage values of the cemetery and all of the significant Aboriginal cultural values associated with Yabullum.

The precedent declaration of the Yabullum IPA and the *Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area: Aboriginal Cemetery and Nature Refuge Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (June 2012) are the results of this collaborative management approach.

The Yabullum IPA comprises 31 ha private freehold land on the Murray River floodplain, north Queensland, bordered to the west by the Murray River and a freshwater lagoon to the east.

The *Yabullum Nature Refuge* (no. 839) was declared on 17 December 1999 by agreement between the land-holder Ms Suzanne Smith and the Queensland Government as a Nature Refuge under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992*. A statutory conservation covenant is attached to the land.

Yabullum supports five (5) regional ecosystems, within the wet tropics bioregion, identified as endangered in *The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems* and critical habitat for the endangered southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*).

In 2001 corridor plantings were undertaken to secure and improve the conservation status of the southern Cassowary through native habitat rehabilitation and remnant protection.

Yabullum was recently impacted by the effects of category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone 'Yasi' in early 2011, resulting in the



Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area
Steering Committee meeting at Yabullum, 2012

loss of, and significant damage to, many larger native trees and a substantial exotic weed infestation.

The agreed objectives of the *Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area: Aboriginal Cemetery and Nature Refuge Cultural Heritage Management Plan* are to:

- Protect and preserve the cultural and natural values and significance of the area for the Elders and Traditional Owners, both in the present and the future.
- Maximize Traditional Owner involvement in all management decisions that may impact on the cultural heritage sites and values and the surrounding environment within Yabullum.
- Maximize Traditional Owner involvement in all works in relation to the cultural heritage sites, the natural environment and in all monitoring activities in the future.
- Establish mechanisms to mitigate potential impacts on the cultural heritage sites and natural resources from human activities and if possible, extreme environmental processes.
- Manage the cultural heritage sites and the natural environment in order to ensure their future integrity.

Day to day management is the responsibility of the Elders and the Girringun Rangers.



Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area - surveyed Lot on Plan (top) and aerial photograph (below)

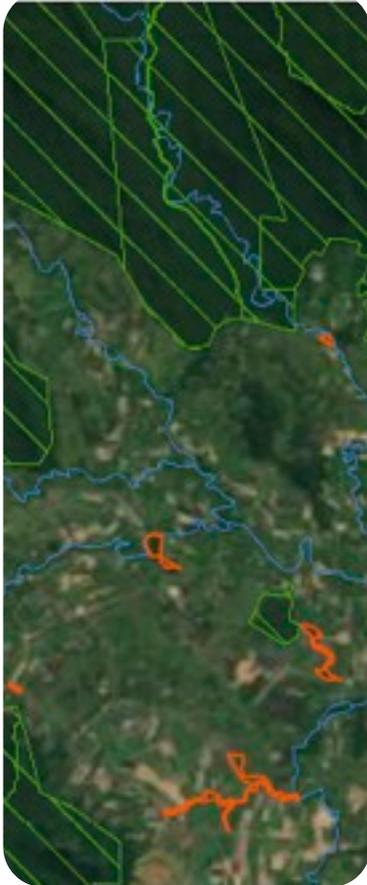


Yabullum cultural site before clearance, April 2012



Yabullum cultural site clearance overseen by Elders, June 2012

Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Shared Reserve Management
Collaboration with Local
Government



Shared Management
Selected Cassowary Coast Regional
Council held reserves

Shared Council Reserve Management Cassowary Coast Regional Council Reserves

The Collaborative Management arrangements underpinning the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas include a developing relationship with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, one of four (4) local government authorities with statutory roles in the broader Girringun region.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) entered into between the Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) and Girringun, limited fee for service and shared management activities are under trial for a number of CCRC held reserves.

In the immediate term, all collaboratively managed reserves remain Council-held, pursuant to existing statutory trusteeship arrangements set out under the *Land Act 1994 (Qld)*.

Over the longer term, negotiated and agreed changes to trustee arrangements may see these collaboratively managed reserves transferred into joint or full Aboriginal trusteeship, (with commensurately increased management responsibilities) over time, subject to Queensland Government considerations and relevant Ministerial approvals.

This developing relationship is considered to be an important part of overall development of the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* into the future.

Presently the following CCRC-held environmental and other reserves have been identified for collaborative management:

- ▶ Gaynbul at Warrami - Reserve for drainage, Blackman Rd, Warrami - Lot 96 RP904399 (44ha) and Lot 90 RP868968 (73.6ha)
- ▶ Jingalinga (Djingalinga) - Reserve for Recreation, Lagoon Rd, Rockingham – Lot 119 CWL2323 (5.4ha)
- ▶ Munro Hill - Reserve for Park, South Davidson Rd, Munro Plains – Lot 99 RP893490 (10.6ha)
- ▶ Garden Island - Reserve for Recreation, Garden Island – Lot 5 CWL3940 (13.63ha)
- ▶ Clump Point - Reserve for Scenic and Recreation Purposes, Marine Parade Mission Beach – Lot 540 NR7350 (5.95ha)
- ▶ Wongaling Beach - Reserve for Recreation, Camping and Park, Wongaling Beach – Lot 109 CWL3519

Formal inclusion of Council-held reserves within the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* over time will be subject to agreement by the respective Traditional Owners of country, and also agreement with government interests on appropriate International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories.

Collaboration with Other Local Governments Hinchinbrook Shire, Tablelands, Townsville City

Girringun has also received the support of other local governments with interests in the region to declare the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*.

Letters of support have been secured from:

- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Townsville City Council

These provide in principle support for the declaration of the collaborative management Indigenous Protected Areas. Further discussions with these local governments will be pursued by *Girringun* together with its member groups whose country falls within the jurisdiction of these Councils.

Again, the formal inclusion of any Council-held reserves within the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* over time will be subject to agreement by the respective Traditional Owners of country and also agreement with government interests on appropriate IUCN categories.



Nauclea orientalis - Leichardt tree or Yellow cheesewood
Gaynbul, *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*

**Culturally Assured Protocols for
Research and Development
Innovative Public and Private
Partnerships**



Girringun - CSIRO Water workshop,
Gaynul Lagoon
Girramay Country 2011

Culturally Assured Visitor Protocols

As *Traditional Owners*, we request that all Visitors be aware of the correct protocols for visiting our Land and Sea Country.

Our **Protocols for Country** include:

- Informing our own organisations and Girringun about major new visitor initiatives or developments on country
- Respecting and acknowledging the special relationship between Traditional Owners of the Girringun region and our land and sea country
- Consulting Traditional Owners about access to sensitive areas, particularly for potential high impact activities
- Engaging in low or minimal impact activities on country
- Properly consulting Traditional Owners about accessing and using traditional walking tracks on our country,
- Taking care not to disturb native vegetation or wildlife
- Collecting and disposing of all rubbish properly

Cultural Assurance for Research and Development

As the *Traditional Owners of Lands, Seas and Waters within the region*, we request that all researchers wishing to access country be aware of correct protocols for undertaking research on country.

Our **Protocols for Researchers** are:

- Fully identifying any actual or potential cultural heritage impacts arising from a research proposal
- Applying best practice ethics including the full consideration of Aboriginal intellectual cultural property rights in conducting research on country
- Identifying and informing Traditional Owners about a research proposal, its aims and objectives
- Seeking permissions to enter Traditional Owner country and areas of significance
- Being aware of the requirements of Queensland biodiscovery legislation
- Being aware of the present limitations for effective Traditional Owner engagement in biodiscovery
- Negotiating and implementing benefit sharing agreements where commercial use or application of traditional knowledge about endemic plants is a goal of research and development projects

Innovative Public and Private Partnerships

Given the significant and globally unique natural and cultural values of our country, demand for access to country within the Girringun region for scientific and commercial purposes is growing.

Girringun is involved in innovative research projects and ecologically sustainable commercial development initiatives.

An Example of a current Shared Research project

Girringun - CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country flagship

This collaborative research project started in 2010 after Girringun's initial submission into the Queensland Government's Wet Tropics Water Resource allocation and planning process, resulting in inclusion of Aboriginal persons on its Community Reference Panel. CSIRO approached Girringun with the proposal, centred on making a case for an Indigenous water resource allocation across the region.

The research involved:

- Assessment of how knowledge partnerships established through regional water planning activities can provide the necessary decision-support for Traditional Owners to articulate their water values and participate more equitably in water management decisions and resulting implementation.
- Identification of mechanisms to enable different types of knowledge to be integrated into planning objectives and associated gap identification.
- Translation of research outcomes to inform strategic decision making and feed back into adaptive action.
- Enhanced capacity of the Girringun community to plan and implement environmental management and community development projects, in particular those related to water resource planning.
- Sharing of knowledge between the project team, Representative Co-researcher and the Girringun community.
- Journal articles to be published in the international sphere
- A report regarding the issues and challenges facing Indigenous regional water planning and management in the Wet Tropics region.
- Enhancement of the CSIRO contributions to knowledge and understanding of the issues and challenges facing Indigenous regional water planning and management in the Wet Tropics region

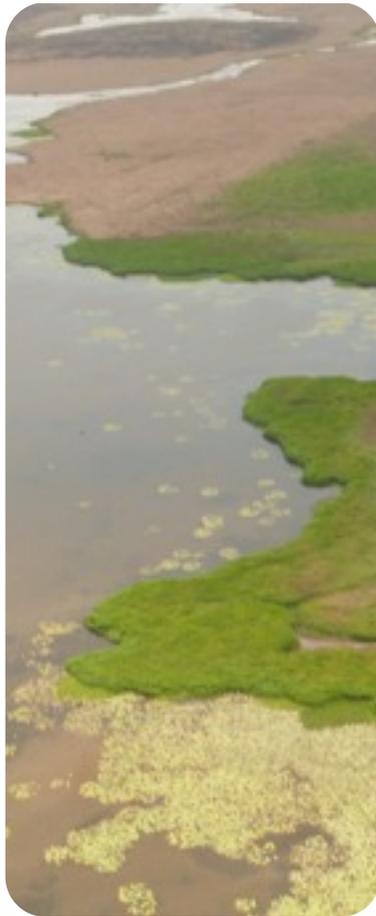
SECTION 5B – GROWING THE GIRRINGUN REGION IPA: FUTURE ABORIGINAL COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking after our Land and Sea Country into the Future as the Aboriginal Traditional Owners

Potential Further IPA Stages

Future Ecosystem Services
Enterprise Development

Ecologically and Culturally
Sustainable Management



Coastal Wetlands
Halifax Bay, Nywaigi Country

Potential Future Girringun Region IPA Additions

Aboriginal organisations in our region hold various lands as freehold or leasehold title. Should an Aboriginal landholding organisation wish to propose their land for inclusion in the Girringun Region IPA in the future, voluntary agreements are able to be negotiated with Girringun to formalise their inclusion over time.

The following Aboriginal-held properties which have high cultural and/or ecological values are not included in the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas but may be added in future at the discretion of their Aboriginal respective landholding organisations.

Badjuballa Station via Mount Garnet

23,000ha Pastoral Holding held by the Badjuballa Aboriginal Corporation with membership comprising three (3) Traditional Owner groups, the Girramay, Jirrbal and Warungnu peoples, whose traditional estates meet at this location on the Kirrama Range.

Southern parts of the property have recently been fenced to exclude cattle from the adjacent Girringun National Park and Blencoe Falls gorge, a regionally significant cultural site.

Badjuballa Station holds great traditional, historic and contemporary significance for Traditional Owners, as many of Elders worked on the property and neighbouring pastoral stations in the past.

CAMU land at Kennedy

A selection of freehold portions granted to and held by the CAMU Community Cooperative (camu means 'water' in the local Girramay language), located at Kennedy and along the Bruce Highway.

The property has been used for primary production in the past, and may be used for IPA related purposes in the future, subject to negotiation.

Jumbun Community at Murray Upper

A selection of freehold portions intended for grant to the predominately Girramay and Jirrbal peoples living at Jumbun,

acquired by the Commonwealth in the mid 1970s but currently retained by the Australian Government's Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) on behalf of the intended grantees. The property is used for primary production, and may be used for IPA related purposes in the future, subject to negotiation.

Future Ecosystem Services Enterprise Development

As Aboriginal Traditional Owners of our ancestral and custodial lands, seas and waters, we also have responsibilities for managing our native title and other returned lands.

At group, group corporate or PBC levels, CNRM capacity and social capital building to maximise the community benefit and Aboriginal enterprise development potential of native title tenures and other returned lands is a critical priority for Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners, as is the generation of independent income to cover landholding and land management costs.

Ecologically and Culturally Sustainable Management

Cultural & Natural Resource Management Planning

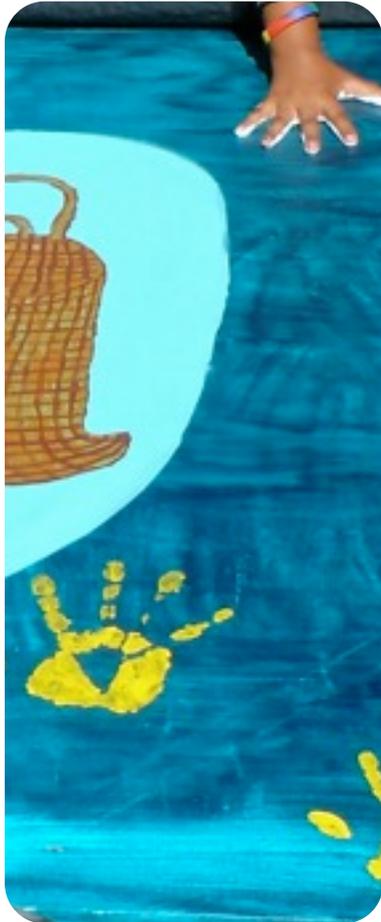
From 2006 onward, Girringun has assisted our member groups to progress cultural and natural resource management (CNRM) planning at country and/or property scale.

Badjuballa, Djiru, Gulnay, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi peoples took up the opportunity to develop country-based CNRM Plans in the late 2000s.

Country-based planning considers all of the tenures and actors involved in managing land and sea country or defined areas on country (like a property).

A Girringun Region CNRM Plan was also created through this project, which was co-funded by our regional NRM partners.

Traditional Owner Determined and Directed Management Priorities



Native Title determinations have been made for Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun peoples and for the Jirrbal People

Traditional Owner Determined and Directed Management Priorities

Traditional Owner bodies charged with holding returned lands and/or determined rights and interests face a highly complex and legalistic set of administrative and land management obligations. Yet the amount of public and other resources available to Traditional Owner land holding or management bodies is minimal.

The realities Giringun's affiliated member groups face today in relation to realising their land ownership and land management aspirations are many and complex.

In Giringun's view, the local scale of caring for country based in Aboriginal law and customary practices remains the fundamental element of scale for Traditional Owners given their continuing spiritual ties and cultural obligations to their respective ancestral country.

However, European administrative regimes applying to contemporary tenures, ownership rights and management responsibilities across the Giringun region have almost fully disabled and excluded Traditional Owners from having any real or meaningful say over what happens on or what happens to their country.

This reality can be contrary to the initial expectations held by Traditional Owners with respect to their ability to legally own, access and/or use country and its resources following a successful native title determination.

This continues to re-enforce the social, cultural and economic marginalisation of Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities.

The symbolically potent but at times restricted outcomes generated through native title processes can alleviate this to some extent. On the other hand, native title determined arrangements are seen by some Traditional Owners to be designed to facilitate the endorsed exploitation of country, in general these are commercial non-Indigenous interests who must often be compelled to acknowledge the cultural and associated traditional ecological 'values' of country.

The actual realities of legally, administratively, financially and physically managing native title and other returned lands, and their related legally required corporations, can be daunting.

Returned lands are subject to legal pest species management obligations, landholding taxes and fees. In addition to the various socio-cultural uses Traditional Owners envisage for their returned lands, these legal obligations must be able to be resourced over the longer term.

This requires independent sources of income. The necessity of considering and progressing rapid economic development of returned lands becomes paramount. Development constraints applying to returned lands can be considerable and confusing.

Traditional Owners corporations operating outside of the negotiated native title royalties sphere must compete for negligible cultural heritage funding or minimal environmental management resources under highly specific grants.

Priorities for Cross-Country Collaboration

Where Traditional Owner partners to regional collaborative management arrangements (like the Giringun Region IPA) hold determined native title outcomes or currently progressing native title matters to consider, registered native title PBCs hold key decision-making and governance roles.

This also applies to native title holders determining their involvement and/or participation in larger scale voluntary land and sea management arrangements.

From Giringun's perspective the priority collaborative management objectives in our dealings with our Traditional Owner member groups are:

1. Collaborative protected area management planning
2. Regional scale co-management implementation
3. Building cross-agency support for direct Traditional Owner involvement in the Giringun Region IPA
4. Strengthening cross-jurisdictional collaborative management
5. Cross-bioregional collaborative NRS management
6. Integration of on-ground co-management delivery
7. Professional skills training and capacity building
8. Culturally assured knowledge exchange

Traditional Owner Determined and Directed Knowledge Sharing Priorities

Monitoring and Data Collection



Giringun Rangers - Fire Management activities

Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Area - Giringun N P

Traditional Owner Determined and Directed Knowledge Sharing Priorities

The Giringun Region IPA is the regional framework for engagement between Giringun's Traditional Owner groups and external partners who undertake work at regional scales of resource use planning, applied management or research.

The cultural heritage rights and interests of our Traditional Owner member groups has always been an essential element of our business. Giringun has achieved outstanding results in identifying, protecting and managing the heritage of country. Giringun will continue to provide a professional service to Traditional Owners and government agencies including:

- Providing professional advice to Traditional Owners about cultural heritage, their Ancestors, their Elders and country
- Providing professional advice to agencies concerning heritage issues
- Facilitating Traditional Owner involvement in the management of their heritage
- Continued identification, protection and management of the cultural heritage resources of the Giringun region
- Continuing to update and manage our GIS cultural heritage database
- Facilitate a working relationship with the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA) on behalf of Traditional Owners affiliated with Giringun
- Developing heritage and environmental management plans
- Providing assistance to government agencies and others concerning heritage issues and appropriate consultation protocols

Traditional Owners request that management agencies, landholders and developers take their legal obligations with respect to cultural heritage matters seriously and properly consult with them about their heritage interests before commencing development activities on country.

Giringun can be contacted for advice on appropriate referrals to Traditional Owner groups within the Giringun region or for advice and information about any cultural heritage issue currently affecting, or with the potential to affect, country.

Monitoring and Data Collation (mapping change in our cultural land and seascapes and biodiversity)

Giringun's capacity to assist external parties to gain access to or to receive, on a fee for service basis, data for their various projects has steadily developed over the past decade, since the initial development of Giringun's in-house cultural knowledge data base, which contains GIS / GPS data and digitised audio and video records for some 1600 inventoried cultural sites.

Access is strictly authorised and highly restricted, however the database is open to the respective Traditional Owners of sites to query or draw information from.

The database was further reviewed and updated as part of a Board endorsed project: *Giringun GIS: Integrating Traditional Ecological/Environmental Knowledge with other data sets for NRM application*, which commenced in 2005 with investment from NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM, the two regional NRM bodies whose areas of operation include the Giringun region.

Our publication *The Giringun Way: the integration of Aboriginal and cultural knowledge systems with GIS for NRM application - and other cultural projects (2007)*, outlines how this has provided for the continued acquisition, storage, management, interpretation and dissemination of information for improved decision making, planning and management within both NRM regions.

Cultural Heritage monitoring remains an on-going priority for Giringun, and this multi-year project has to date achieved:

- Groundtruthing of GPS references for individual sites
- Improving site information accuracy and consistency
- Adding all available research and resource references
- Collection and publication of Ethnobotanical knowledge
- Critical Habitat and other Vegetation management
- QPWS prescribed burns and Cultural Heritage protection
- Cumulative Impacts analysis using Future Act Notices
- Post Yasi coastal cultural heritage survey and review
- Fee for service data provision for external partners

NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM partner Giringun and our affiliated Traditional Owner member groups in the Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas initiative.

SECTION 6 – OUR PARTNERS' ROLES: STATUTORY CONSERVATION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE GIRRINGUN REGION

Collaboration with GRIPA Partners with Legal or Other Management Responsibilities for Our Lands, Waters and Seas

Legal (Statutory) and Other
Managers of the Collaborative
Management *Girringun Region*
Indigenous Protected Areas



© Sally Murray 2011, *Girringun Arts*
from the *Girringun Region Indigenous*
Protected Areas Collection

Cassowary Coast Regional Council

website: <http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/>

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is a designated local government authority established pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*, State legislation that governs local councils in Queensland. The Act gives councils flexibility in how local government councils make decisions and deliver services, allowing them to do this without intervention by the State government or the minister responsible for local government.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is charged with the good rule and government of the Cassowary Coast local authority area, which forms the northeast part of the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*. The Council's corporate vision is to retain the region's unique tropical lifestyle whilst valuing its exceptional natural environment and creating a balanced, sustainable economy. Its mission is, by building the foundations of a new regional Council and providing integrity and strong leadership combined with excellence in service to customers, to become a Council in which the community has confidence.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

website: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) is responsible for managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its work is guided by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, a Corporate Plan, Australian Government policies, portfolio budget statement, Outlook Report and government priorities.

Outcome Statement

The long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community, through the care and development of the Marine Park.

GBRMPA objectives and strategies for 2010-2014

- Objective 1: Address key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef, including (amongst other initiatives) partnering with the Queensland Government, other governments, Traditional Owners and other relevant bodies to address the remaining impacts from fishing, and illegal fishing and poaching and other emerging risks using an ecosystem based management approach.
- Objective 2: Ensure that management delivers ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef, including (amongst other initiatives) partnering with Traditional Owners to ensure sustainable traditional use of marine resources and protection of

Traditional Owner cultural and heritage values, and collaborating with industry, reef users, other governments and the community to implement best practice approaches and certification programs to ensure protection and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef

- Objective 3: Maintain a high performing, effective and efficient organisation.

The Authority uses the best available scientific information to guide management, and engages with experts and the community through four (4) Reef Advisory Committees, including the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee, and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees. Out on the water, field management and enforcement of zoning rules is carried out with Queensland and Australian Government agencies. The Authority reports to the federal Minister for the Environment.

Fisheries Queensland

website: <http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/28.htm>

Fisheries Queensland, a part of the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is the lead agency in developing the policy framework to protect and conserve fisheries resources, including fish habitats, whilst maintaining profitable commercial and enjoyable recreational fishing sectors. Fisheries Queensland acknowledges traditional and customary fishing through legislation, compliance and ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities.

Fisheries Queensland manages fisheries resources through two program streams; Fisheries policy and strategy and Fisheries monitoring and operations. Fisheries policy and strategy program reviews, evaluates and implements fisheries legislation, regulation and policies for commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing along with aquaculture. Protection of fisheries habitat and marine plants is a key role for Fisheries Queensland under this program.

The Fisheries monitoring and operations program collects data on fish species and fishing activities through surveys and logbook data and administers fishing licensing. Compliance and education services are delivered by the Queensland Boating and Fishing Patrol (QB&FP), which also administers the Queensland Shark Control Program, and delivers on water compliance services on behalf of Maritime Safety Queensland, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and State and Commonwealth marine park agencies.

Fisheries Queensland has been involved in developing and implementing various Land and Sea Strategies for several Aboriginal

**Legal (Statutory) and Other
Managers of the Collaborative
Management Giringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas**



Giringun Rangers - Cultural Care and
Monitoring activities

Shell tool: Giringun Region Indigenous
Protected Areas

and Torres Strait Islander groups throughout Queensland and in developing several Indigenous Protected Area management plans.

NQ Dry Tropics

website: <http://www.nqdrytropics.com.au/>

NQ Dry Tropics is one of 14 recognised Natural Resource Management bodies in Queensland that works with federal and state governments to deliver positive outcomes for natural assets. As a community based not-for-profit company, NQ Dry Tropics works to improve the environment in north Queensland's dry tropics for over a decade. Areas of focus include improving water quality, supporting sustainable farming and grazing practices, protecting rare and threatened species as well as native habitat, and engaging the community to achieve this outcome.

**Queensland Government Department of National
Parks, Recreation, Sport & Racing**

website: <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/>

The Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (DNPRSR) and the Chief Executive DNPRSR and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) and Chief Executive DEHP have responsibility for the management of all Queensland protected areas and native wildlife in accordance with the *Forestry Act 1959*, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Marine Park Act 2004*.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages the State's national parks, State forests (non-plantation areas) and, marine parks and fish habitat areas on behalf of the State Government and the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

QPWS has responsibility for managing more than 400 State forests and timber reserves gazetted under the *Forestry Act 1959*, over 600 reserves, including national parks, conservation parks, resource reserves and forest reserves, gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, as well as Queensland's 7 recreation areas established under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*. Additionally QPWS manage 70 Declared fish habit areas under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Managing National Parks

The cardinal principle for managing national parks is to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values. Natural condition means protection from human interference - allowing natural processes to proceed. Other management principles for national parks are to present the park's cultural and natural resources and their values; and to ensure that park use is nature-based and ecologically sustainable. Parks are managed for nature first., however nature-based recreational use is

encouraged, where possible. Mining is not allowed on a national park but oil and gas exploration can be permitted (as at May 2013). If development has to proceed, park managers must ensure that any adverse impacts are kept to a minimum. A national park is set aside forever. A park or part of a park can only be revoked or cancelled with the consent of Parliament.

Managing Marine Parks

QPWS is directly responsible for managing State marine parks with a total area of approximately 72,000 square kilometres and holds primary responsibility for day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (345,000 square kilometres).

Each Queensland marine park has unique features that require specific management. However, objectives common to all include:

- protecting and preserving plants, wildlife, ecosystems, and features of special scientific, archaeological or cultural importance
- encouraging appreciation and awareness of natural history
- ensuring the park remains a diverse, resilient and productive ecological system while allowing people access to its resources

Each park has a Zoning Plan identifying its different zones and the activities that are allowed in each. It can also designate specific locations for special management. These plans are developed and altered with input from traditional custodians and user groups.

Managing Declared fish habitat areas

Declared fish habitat areas (FHA) are areas protected from physical disturbance associated with coastal development and declared under Queensland's *Fisheries Act 1994*. They are part of Australia's Nationally Representative System of Marine Protected Areas, and fit within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Protected Area Management Category VI - 'Managed Resource Protected Area'.

Queensland's declared fish habitat area (FHA) network provides long-term protection for fish habitats that are essential to sustaining our fisheries. All habitat types (e.g. vegetation, sand bars and rocky headlands) within a declared FHA are equally protected from direct physical disturbance and coastal development.

Partnerships with Traditional Owners

QPWS encourages the involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of their traditional country.

Community rangers

Indigenous community rangers - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander rangers who work for their community council or corporation - are

**Legal (Statutory) and Other
Managers of the Collaborative
Management Girringun Region
Indigenous Protected Areas**



Girringun Rangers - Land & Sea
Management services
Data collection and recording - Girringun
Region Indigenous Protected Areas

vital in the management of protected areas. In Queensland, more than 100 qualified community rangers are working to protect their Land and Sea Country. QPWS staff cooperate with community rangers to meet common goals. Community rangers:

- maintain marine resources at sustainable levels
- look after cultural sites
- help enforce marine park regulations in their areas
- manage tourism, feral species and coastal stabilisation
- developing economic enterprises (e.g. fishing, tourism, construction of walking tracks, boardwalks, and cultural centres) to aid Indigenous self-determination. QPWS helps in this work by providing financial assistance and training to rangers and community councils, participating in collaborative projects in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and State marine park areas.

Given their unique skills and traditional knowledge, community rangers play an important role in ensuring that QPWS officers and Traditional Owners can work together to manage and sustain the ecological and cultural values of Queensland's protected areas. The Girringun Rangers Partnership is a leading example of this approach.

Terrain NRM

website: <http://www.terrain.org.au/>

Terrain NRM is the Natural Resource Management body for the Wet Tropics. It is a not-for-profit company whose membership includes over 120 local organizations with key roles managing the region's natural resources according to the targets and actions set out in the Wet Tropics regional NRM plan.

Natural resources are the foundation of the Wet Tropics regional economy and culture. Terrain is charged with building regional consensus between Governments, industry and the community about the key targets and actions needed to secure the health of our water, biodiversity, soil, river, climate, traditional owner and community assets. Terrain NRM draws investment into the region to help its members deliver on their delivery priorities.

Wet Tropics Management Authority

website: <http://www.wettropics.gov.au/>

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is established under the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* to provide leadership, facilitation, advocacy and guidance in the management and presentation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area ensuring Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention is met in relation to the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area. The Authority reports to the Australian and Queensland Governments

through an independent Board of Directors. The Authority operates compliant with administrative and financial arrangements of the Queensland public sector through the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Authority's role is based around conserving the outstanding values through protection and rehabilitation, sharing through presentation and promoting discovery, understanding and connection to the rich natural and cultural values and enriching people's lives through connecting and creating outstanding opportunities. Building strong, supportive and collaborative partnerships is essential to achieving these outcomes.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority supports Rainforest Aboriginal people in expressing their knowledge, culture and management practices on country through a proactive and conciliatory approach to supporting them to protect and manage their country. Equitable and culturally respectful participation of Traditional Owners in management of the World Heritage Area requires adequate capabilities and capacities at all levels of engagement.

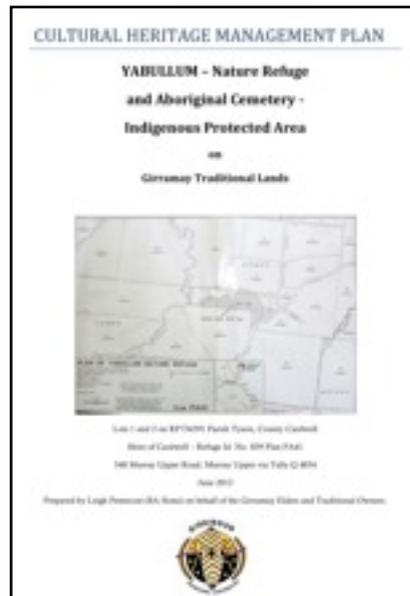
In partnering the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas*, the Wet Tropics Management Authority will continue to support and assist Girringun and member Traditional Owner groups to:

- Ensure their effective engagement in policy, planning and regulated usage of their country
- Secure resources, partnerships and other social capital to support their active expression of their knowledge, cultures and management practices and to participate in the regional economy
- Extract maximum value from this IPA in realising their rights and interests
- Collect, record and communicate their knowledge, cultural practices and heritage values and to express them in management of their country
- Negotiate native title and/or other land access, use and management agreements to harmonise the rights, interests, obligations and aspirations of all partners
- Maintain relationships of mutual trust and respect and facilitate a two way flow of information and skills to exchange and build capacity among Girringun and member Traditional Owner groups and the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority commends Girringun in driving the development of the GRIPA Plan and looks forward to our continuing partnership in making it work on the ground in a manner that brings socio-economic benefits to Girringun and member Traditional Owner groups and conservation of the outstanding values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

LIST A – OUR MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR COUNTRY: TRADITIONAL OWNER PLANS FOR COUNTRY DEVELOPED TO DATE THROUGH GIRRINGUN

GIRRINGUN PRODUCED PLANS



Relevant Plans produced by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

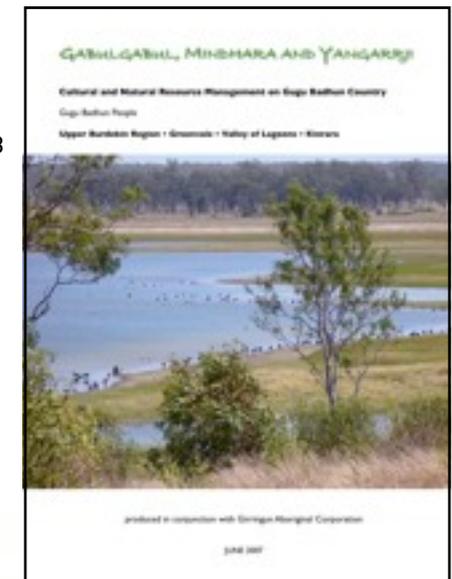
Our Country, Our Future: Traditional Owner Cultural and Natural Resource Management Priorities in the Girringun Region of North Queensland (2007)
Girringun Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan 2013-2015
Annual Workplan of the Girringun Rangers

A Selection of Cultural Heritage Management Plans produced by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area, Aboriginal Cemetery and Nature Refuge Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Warrami Area Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Gaynbul Area Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Paluma National Park - Jourama Falls Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Princess Hill Conservation Plan
Kinrara National Park - Valley of Lagoons Cultural Heritage Assessment
Indigenous Cultural Significance Assessment Djiru Country October 2007
Archeological Survey of Coastal Areas Adjacent to Rockingham Bay and Halifax Bay, North Queensland 1998
A Documentation of Cultural Heritage Sites and Values in Selected Areas within the Girringun Region 2000

Traditional Owner Cultural and Natural Resource Management (CNRM) Plans

Caring for Djiru Country: Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan (2007) Djiru Traditional Owners
Looking after Gulnay Country: Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan (2007) Gulnay Traditional Owners
Caring for Badjuballa Country: Cultural and Natural Resource Management on Badjuballa Station (2007) Jirrbal, Girramay and Warungnu Peoples
Gabulgabul, Mindhara and Yangarrji: Cultural and Natural Resource Management on Gugu Badhun Country (2007) Gugu Badhun Traditional Owners
Nywaigi Stronger Connection to Country Plan 2008 - 2013 (2008) Nywaigi Traditional Owners
Mungalla Business Plan 2009-2013 (2008) Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation for Business
Property Management Plan for Mungalla (2006) LPM Creative Rural Resources for Indigenous Land Corporation



LIST B – OUR PARTNERS MANAGEMENT PLANS: RELEVANT GRIPA PARTNER MANAGEMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Commonwealth

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan
 Keeping it Great: a 25 year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
 Girringun Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) Implementation Plan
 Clump Point Site Management Plan (GBRMPA and Djiru Traditional Owners)
 Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Queensland

GBR Coast Marine Park Zoning Plan
 Brook Islands National Park and Goold Island National Park Management Plan 1999
 Djilgarin and Jalum Conservation Parks Management Plan 2011.
 Family Islands National Park Management Plan 2000
 Hinchinbrook Island National Park Management Plan 1999
 QPWS Management statements for National Parks: Girringun, Girramay, Hull River, Mount Mackay, Djiru, Paluma Range, Clump Mountain, Halifax Bay Wetlands, Japoon, Kinrara, Kirrama, Koombooloomba, Maria Creek, Millstream Falls, Tully Falls (and Recovery) and Tully Gorge (and Recovery)⁴
 QPWS Fire and pest strategies
 Hinchinbrook Dugong Protected Area Plan
 Fisheries Act 1994
 Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010
 Fisheries (Coral Reef Finfish) Management Plan 2003
 Fisheries (Freshwater) Management Plan 1999
 Fisheries Regulation 2008 (eg: inshore netting, closed waters, fishing closures, Dugong Protected Areas, recreational bag and size limits, declared Fish Habitat Areas)
 Declared Fish Habitat Areas Management Schedules A and B, encompassed in Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008 and Fisheries Queensland Management Plans (as above)
 Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
 Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Other Relevant Plans

Sustaining the Wet Tropics – NRM Plan for the Wet Tropics NRM Plan (Terrain NRM Ltd)
Caring for Country and Culture – Traditional Owner Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan for the Wet Tropics (Aboriginal Plan Project Team)
A Caring for Country Plan - Traditional Custodians of Country in the Burdekin Dry Tropics Region and Burdekin Dry Tropics Board (2005)
 Master Plan for Queensland Parks System
 Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy (2004)
 Wet Tropics Management Authority Strategic Plan
 Recovery Plan for Mahogany glider *Petaurus gracilis*
 Recovery Plan for Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*
 Recovery plan for stream dwelling rainforest frogs of wet tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland
 Queensland Tourism Townsville North Queensland Tourism Opportunity plan 2009-2019

⁴ Since 2009, prior to the change of the government in Queensland in early 2012, Girringun actively contributed to the review and revision of several Plans of Management including those for Girringun, Girramay, Hinchinbrook & Family Islands and Southern Wet Tropics. The current Queensland Government has not finalised earlier draft Plans of Management, with no active National Park management planning consultations presently underway.

SCHEDULE 1 – INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA TYPE: GIRRINGUN REGION IPA CO-MANAGED AREAS AND RELATED IUCN CATEGORIES

Areas declared and/or dedicated under the Girringun Region IPA



Looking across
the Hinchinbrook Channel

Note: Protected areas in shaded text are acknowledged and respected as being in part Jirrbal Country, and in part also the country of the region's other Traditional Owner groups. Jirrbal People are still considering their involvement in the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas initiative (2013).

Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas

The Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas comprise a range of conservation tenures and multiple-use protected areas. In total the whole of the Girringun Region IPA is over 1.2 million hectares in size.

Aboriginal-held Indigenous Protected Area

827 hectares - IUCN Category VI (6)

Mungalla Indigenous Protected Area

Private Protected Areas

31 hectares - IUCN Category IV (4)

Yabullum Indigenous Protected Area (declared Queensland Nature Refuge no. 839)

National Parks

About 462,000 hectares - IUCN Category III (3)

Brook Islands National Park

Clump Mountain National Park

Djiru National Park

Family Islands National Park

Girramay National Park

Girringun National Park

Goold Island National Park

Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Hull River National Park

Kinrara National Park

Kirrama National Park

Maria Creek National Park

Mount Mackay National Park

Paluma Range National Park (part thereof)

Tully Gorge National Park

Tully Gorge National Park (Recovery)

Conservation Parks

About 1,120 hectares - IUCN Category III (3)

Djilgarin Conservation Park

Jalum Conservation Park

Walter Hill Range Conservation Park

Fish Habitat Areas

About 26,000 hectares - IUCN Category IV (4)

Hull River

Tully River

Halifax

Wreck Creek

Murray River

Dallachy Creek

Meunga Creek

Hinchinbrook

Cattle-Palm Creek

Marine Protected Areas

About 729,300 hectares - IUCN Category VI (6)

Girringun Region TUMRA Area in the

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and

State Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

World Heritage Areas

IUCN Category VI (6) - about 1.24 million hectares (included above)

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (in part)

Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (in part)

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APPENDIX 1 – GIRRINGUN REGION IPA COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION MATRIXES

Tables 3.1 - 3.6 Assessment Criteria Tables

The tables on the following pages provide an overview of the Framework as it applies to the monitoring and evaluation of Collaborative Management partnerships and implementation arrangements underpinning the *Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas* collaborative management initiative.

- Criterion 1: Visions, Objectives and Values (Aspirations)
- Criterion 2: Relationship
- Criterion 3: Governance and Management Arrangements
- Criterion 4: Planning
- Criterion 5: Information Sharing and Communication
- Criterion 6: Capacity

CRITERION 1: VISIONS, OBJECTIVES AND VALUES (Aspirations)

Table 3.1

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source of information
I. Are the values and common objectives to be achieved clearly identified by the decision makers of each party?			

CRITERION 2: RELATIONSHIP**Table 3.2**

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source and type of information
2. Are GAC and the partner clear that commitment, respect and support are necessary to achieve common objectives and visions?			
3. Are GAC and the partner comfortable with the way they are participating in the decision making process (Steering Committee and other form of joint decision making)?			
4. Are decisions always accepted jointly by GAC and the partner?			
5. Are there more Traditional Owners and especially Elders working more closely with the partner officials/ reps?			

CRITERION 3: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**Table 3.3**

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source and type of information
6. Does the current structure and operation of the Steering Committee allow an appropriate representation from GAC and the partner?			
7. Are the directional decisions (Steering Committee) being transferred with no problems to the operational level (Girringun Rangers/ and or QPWS Rangers)?			
8. Are cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?			
9. Are non-cultural sites regularly visited and managed by the Girringun Rangers?			

CRITERION 4: PLANNING**Table 3.3**

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source and type of information
10. Are the activities in the Annual Business Plan being carried out according to the directions/desires given by the Steering Committee?			
11. Do GAC and the partner consider that the achievement of things related to the work of the Giringun Rangers is contributing to each other's institutional objectives/plans?			
12. Are there more Elders and Traditional Owners in general feeling more connected to country?			
13. Is the condition of cultural sites improved by the management actions taken by the Giringun Rangers?			
14. Are GAC and the partner able to jointly participate in all stages of planning?			
15. Do GAC and the partner consider that the current skills of the Giringun Rangers are at the appropriate level to assist in achieving common goals?			

CRITERION 5: INFORMATION SHARING / COMMUNICATION**Table 3.5**

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source and type of information
16. Are GAC and the partner sharing internal and/or administrative or operational information that could help each other better understand the way each party operates?			
17. Have GAC and the partner been promoting and sharing cultural aspects surrounding their relationship (bush camps, field trips, meetings, social meetings, etc)?			
18. Are GAC and the partner frequently using alternative channels of communication to keep each other informed?			

CRITERION 6: CAPACITY**Table 3.6**

Indicator	Value	Comments/Recommendations	Source and type of information
19. Are the available infrastructure, materials and equipments sufficient to accomplish the proposed common objectives?			
20. Do GAC and the partner consider that the funds available to each are sufficient to achieve the proposed collaborative management?			
21. Are GAC and the partner jointly engaged in activities towards achieving better capacity building to sustain the Gerringun Rangers?			
22. Do GAC and the partner consider that there are enough staff from each party with improved skills to support the collaborative management actions?			



Girringun Region



INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

Managed to World Conservation Union standards by

***Aboriginal Traditional Owners
affiliated with Girringun Aboriginal Corporation***



Australian Government

**Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities**



Queensland Government



**Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

