



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

**Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF)
15 July 2007 Progress Report**

Program 3: Torres Strait: Status, Use and Trends

Project 1.3.4: Communication, community engagement and enhanced delivery

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Summary

The science projects conducted in MTSRF Programs 3 and 4 need to be conducted in the context of an engagement system like that developed for the CRC Torres Strait. This system involves an Indigenous liaison officer employed by the MTSRF and based at the offices of the Torres Strait Regional Authority on Thursday Island.

It is important that the results of research be made accessible to users. This is sometimes to be done in specialised, tailored ways. However, it is increasingly desirable to also make information available using web-based delivery and similar tools. Such a system is also to be developed through Theme 5 of the MTSRF Programme.

Project 1.3.4 will facilitate researcher activity in Torres Strait through newsletter articles, community visits and meetings where appropriate and report its activities to Theme 5.

Project 1.3.4 Progress Report 1

Development of a plan of liaison and facilitation activities and communication events/products to assist MTSRF researcher activity in the Torres Strait (e.g. meetings, workshops, information flyers, etc.) for year to June 2008.

Table 1: Community Liaison Officer Plan of MTSRF Torres Strait Activities for 2007/2008.

Communications Type	Purpose	Activities	Timeframe	Comments
Field Visits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide feedback on projects completed under CRC Torres Strait program; 2. Provide explanation of projects being conducted under MTSRF program; and 3. Explain, seek input and prioritise indicators for Project 1.3.5 (Integrated Report Card system) 	Targeted field visits to a minimum of 10 outer island Communities	August to October 07	Meetings with Island Councils have been difficult to organise presently due to the unresolved status of Island Councils following the Qld Govt's plan to amalgamate them. A clearer picture of how this will work is expected on 1 August 2007
Conferences	Provide a broader view on Torres Strait MTSRF program to mainland Torres Strait Islanders as well as other scientific researchers, govt agencies and Indigenous peoples.	Inclusion of MTSRF program as part of TSRA Land & Sea Management Unit's scheduled presentation at National Indigenous Land & Sea Conference in Cardwell.	9 October 07	Forums such as this allow for improved and expanded networks.

MTSRF Project 1.3.4 Milestone Report

Communications Type	Purpose	Activities	Timeframe	Comments
Internet	Establish formal links between TSRA/LSMU, CSIRO, AFMA, RRRRC and MTSRF websites	Work with TSRA Public Affairs Officer and IT team on proposed revision and update to TSRA website.	By Nov 07	Incorporation of CSIRO's draft Torres Strait database website within the TSRA website will improve access to historical scientific data and fit within the recommended review of the CRC Torres Strait program.
TSRA Newsletters	Provide regular updates to Torres Strait communities on status and progress of MTSRF projects		Ongoing	This medium will continue to be used to provide updates to communities.
Information flyers	To better inform Torres Strait communities on MTSRF program and establish LSMU's Community Liaison Officer as local point of contact.	Develop in-house, in collaboration with RRRRC communications personnel, before circulating to relevant Agencies for approvals.	By Sept 07	A flyer with general information on the MTSRF program and CLO role will be an important handout to leave with Islander communities following visits.
TSRA Board Meetings	Provide updates and seek project endorsements where necessary	Attend quarterly Board meetings as required.	Ongoing	This may include attending TSRA Executive meetings and briefing the Environment Portfolio member also.
MTSRF Steering Committee	Participate on MTSRF Steering Committee to provide strategic direction and alignment with delivery of land and sea management initiatives			
Technical Advisory Group Updates	Provide updates to TAG members as required.			
Other briefings	Provide program status information as required by TSRA and RRRRC management	As required	Ongoing	