



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

## **Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility Milestone Report, December 2007**

**Program 3: Torres Strait: Status, Use and Trends**

**Project 1.3.1: Climate change impacts in the Torres Strait: Building resilience and planning adaptation strategies**

**Project Leader: Dr Donna Green, Climate Change Research Centre, The University of New South Wales (UNSW)**

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### **Summary**

Scientific report on data sets and knowledge gaps is currently being written. Rather than bring scientists together (due to the difficulty of finding a time and place that they could all meet) the scientist collating the report is travelling to meet with scientists as needed.

Research protocols for IP collection have been decided upon. They will integrate the AIATSIS, NAILSMA and TSI research protocols as appropriate in combination with consultation with relevant TSRA staff. Training of Islanders delayed due to council elections (see following section) at request of TSRA coordinator.

### **Project Outputs / Milestones**

<b>Targeted Activity</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on scientific workshop: Examine data sets and identify gaps in knowledge, develop collaborative links to produce necessary geospatial datasets (UNSW).</li><li>• Report on protocol discussions and methodological agreements between stakeholders for TEK documentation, training of Islanders completed and recording projects begun (UNSW).</li></ul>	1 December 2008

### **Project Results**

#### ***Description of the results achieved for this milestone***

Anticipated final delivery date of scientific report is 30 January 2008. This date is delayed due to initial late signing of contract (delay caused by UNSW grant office rearrangement) and revision of approach due to difficulty of bringing key scientists together. Initial agreements with key scientists begun early October, and are continuing over November and December. Co-ordinating scientist (Alexander) is engaged to continue this work with revised deadline.

IP arrangements and research protocol have been researched and decided upon. Initial scoping exercise of Island researchers assessed with assistance by TSRA co-ordinator. Training process held off until after council elections, however it is hoped that initial discussions about this work can continue informally prior to this time.

This project is on track; however sections have been delayed due to late contract signing and Island elections. In the meantime, other sections of the work have been progressed (e.g. climate change projections). Projections will be discussed with Whetton project (at request of RRRC to endeavour to keep consistency in projection outcomes).

### ***Explanation of Activity Changes***

No substantive changes to the project are foreseen. Alexander is replacing Bishop for the scientific report due to Bishop's retirement from the CSIRO.

### ***Communications, Major Activities and Events – During next milestone reporting period***

Anticipated revised data for scientific report completion is 30 January 2008. Revised climate impact workshops for islands occurring mid April 2008 (date to be confirmed with TSRA coordinator and Island councils). This trip will combine negotiations with councils post elections and engagement arrangements with TEK consultants.