

<b>Northern Australia Irrigation Futures</b>	<b>Charles Darwin University</b>
<b>Tropical Rivers Inventory &amp; Assessment Project</b>	<b>NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment &amp; the Arts</b>

**Teleconference**  
**Thursday 01 December 2005**  
**1:30-2:30pm CST**

**Present:**

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF) , Keith Bristow (NAIF), Ian Smith NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts, Rick VanDam, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP), Renee Bartolo (TRIAP).

**Apologies:**

Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU)

**Agenda:**

1. TRIAP update (R.Bartolo)
2. NAIF update (J.Camkin, K. Bristow)
3. NRETA update on Daly River (I.Smith)
4. Collaborative Opportunities
5. Next meeting

**Minutes**

**1. TRIAP Update**

- Followed up with Bob Wasson regarding the status of the list being compiled on research projects in the Daly. Progress has been made but it is not yet finished.
- A TRIAP update meeting for the project team was held on 21 November. Major outcome was determining the project's final outputs. Also Renee will arrange to meet with Louise Rose (DEH) to determine what DEH envision as the final output.
- The timeline for completion of sub-project 1 has been extended until June 2006.
- The ecological assets and threats overview draft document as part of sub-project 2 is near completion. This will be sent out to stakeholders for comment.
- We will meet with Maria Kraatz who coordinated the submission of an Inland Waters project brief under Identifying Aquatic Priorities. This project aims to assess the risk to the environmental and cultural values of inland waters, at a catchment scale across the NT.
- Consultations for the Fitzroy are in the final planning phase with Sue Jackson.
- Currently acquiring data on Daly land clearing figures, fisheries data for the Daly and pig-nose turtle data.

- Renee will meet with Elizabeth McDonald (ERIN) to discuss
  - pilot project ERIN conducted for NLWRA which included work on Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Integrity.
  - methods applied to construct Forested Stream Length Data for the SoE Report 2006. This component was not conducted for northern Australia and may applied to the Daly.

## **2. NAIF Update**

- The project workplan has been finalised.
- Jeff recently visited Darwin and found it very useful to meet a lot of the stakeholders. He did not manage to meet with NAILSMA or the NT Environment Centre.
- The Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANCID) visited Darwin last week. They are holding their national conference in Darwin in October 2006. People showed interest in being involved. There will be a call for papers in the new year.
- There is a need to collate information relating to the projects underway in the Daly Region from a broad triple bottom line perspective which includes socio-economic and cultural values. It is believed the list Bob Wasson is compiling is focussed on ecological functions.

It is proposed a workshop take place in March 2006 to present a collation of projects that are occurring in the Daly Region and identify any gaps.

- The NTG are participating in an Inventory of Irrigation that is inclusive of the whole of northern Australia.

## **3. NRETA Update**

- There is a proposal from Charles Darwin University for an Annual Policy Forum on Natural Resource Management in Northern Australia. The first such Forum may be held in Darwin in April 2006.
- A possible theme for the first Forum is: 'Solutions to issues of water use in northern Australia', which will examine catchment water use, including those semi-arid and arid areas throughout WA, NT and QLD, and perhaps focussing on two aspects:
  - impact of invasive species
  - role of indigenous rangers in managing water resources including the impact of invasive species
- NRETA are finalising an agreement under the Australian Government Water Fund with the National Water Commission for a project focussing on the Daly and Darwin Rural Regions: "Sustainable development and management of water resources in Northern Australia: a model approach".
- ABS have released a report on irrigation use in Australia. The NT is the second most efficient user of water.

## **4. Collaborative opportunities**

- Currently working on a proposal involving the NT, WA, QLD governments to examine hydrogeological settings / groundwater / groundwater-surface water interactions and related issues for submission to the Australian Government Water Fund's Raising National Water Standards program.

## 5. Next meeting

Thursday 02 February 2006

1:30pm CST

### Summary of Actions

Action	Who	When
Jeff will contact Ian to examine dates for the March workshop	Jeff Camkin	Friday 09 December
Ian send ABS report on irrigation use in Australia to Keith	Ian Smith	ASAP
Ian to send National Water Commission project proposal through to meeting members	Ian Smith	Friday 09 December
Determine if NAP reporting format is of use to report and collate projects occurring in the Daly Region	All- Send comments back to Ian	ASAP