

Northern Australia Irrigation Futures	Charles Darwin University
Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project	NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts

Teleconference

Thursday 2 February 2006

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

Apologies:

Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Rick VanDam and Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

Agenda:

1. TRIAP update (provided by email)
2. CDU Update (provided by email)
3. NRETA Update
4. NAIF Update
5. Collaborative Opportunities
6. Next Meeting

Minutes

1. TRIAP Update (Rick VanDam by email)

- Renee visited DEH Canberra in December to discuss options in terms of the format/content of our final reporting products. If necessary, Renee can provide some details at the next teleconference, when she will be back from leave.
- We will be holding a workshop in Derby around 17 Feb for the Fitzroy River risk assessment component of our project. This is being run in conjunction with a workshop on social values by Sue Jackson.
- Wayne Erskine is currently at ERISS, and with Mike Saynor, is in the process of completing a detailed geomorphic classification of our three focus catchments - Flinders, Daly, Fitzroy.

2. CDU Update (Michael Douglas by email)

- The TRACK CERF proposal has made it through the first round and we are now starting work on the full application.
- A few projects lead by partners in the TRACK consortium were funded under the recent LWA call. These include: (1) valuation and management of tropical river ecosystem services (Anna Straton), (2) Gully erosion in tropical rivers (Andrew Brooks), (3) Flows and fisheries production in tropical rivers (Ian Halliday and Julie Robbins).
- The Daly River Discussion group (which was raised in a previous phone call) has been handed over to me to manage and so I will shortly be contacting Jeff to clarify how it fits with other activities proposed under the NAIF project.
- Michael contacted Sue Jackson and Anna Staraton about being on this group for phone hookups but they were happy to provide input and receive updates from Michael.

3. NRETA Update (Ian Smith)

- NT government and Commonwealth agencies have reached agreement on a project proposal under the Australian Government Water Fund.
- Tindall aquifer model is in preparation to enable assessment of sustainability of existing and new licence applications and to help determine what licence conditions should apply to create flexible licensing and avoid overallocation. The model requires further work and is a pilot for further modelling under the proposed Australian Government Water Fund project.
- Submissions to government are in preparation to establish a Daly River Resources Management Committee. As proposed, the Committee would include relevant senior Government officers and members of the community. It would be directly accountable to a Ministerial Council and may be established as early as April.
- A key question is how the proposed Daly Discussion Group links with the Daly River Resources Management Committee and with the NAIF project. Ian will discuss this with Michael in the first instance.
- Bill Freeland is project manager for an adaptive management project running in the Daly near the research farm. Ian will forward information on the project.
- Status of the SKI proposal was discussed. Ian to speak with Peter Whitehead to discuss how NAIF becomes viewed as one activity within SKI then discuss further with Keith.

3. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin)

- NAIF Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation plans have been completed for approval by the Steering Committee on 14/2/06.
- The NAIF Stakeholder Reference Group is now operational. It consists of 9 members, three each from WA and QLD, two from NT and one from NSW.
- Need to finalise the NT case study work plan. Jeff and Ian to discuss next week.

4. Collaborative opportunities

- Linkages between NAIF and SKI proposal.
- Linkages between Daly Discussion Group, NAIF and Daly River Resources Management Committee.

5. Next meeting

Thursday 02 March 2006
1:30pm CST

Summary of Actions

Action	Who	When
Michael, Jeff and Ian to discuss relationship between Daly Discussion Group and NAIF.	Michael Douglas	ASAP
Ian to discuss with Peter Whitehead how NAIF becomes viewed as one activity within SKI.	Ian Smith	ASAP