

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

Teleconference

Friday 7 April 2006

10:30-11:30pm CST

Present:

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF) , Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU), Rick VanDam and Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

Apologies:

Keith Bristow (NAIF), Ian Smith NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts

Agenda:

1. TRIAP update
2. CDU Update
3. NAIF Update
4. Collaborative Opportunities
5. Next Meeting

Minutes

1. TRIAP Update (Rick VanDam and Renee Bartolo)

Sub-project 1:

- Rick met with Brendan Edgar from LWA about 5 weeks ago about
 - a) an extension to the June deadline for this sub-project. A CD containing the GIS and related data will be submitted in line with the original June deadline, however the hardcopy report containing the associated analysis and ecological typology will not be submitted until October.
 - b) request for additional funding for sub-project 2 because the scope has expanded from the original scope to include an overview/preliminary risk assessment of the broad north Australian tropical region.
- This sub-project is progressing well with most theme leaders having completed their themes.
- The geomorphic classification reported on in the last meeting has been completed. The classification for the Daly region will be sent to meeting participants.

Sub-project 2:

- A stakeholder consultation focussed on agreeing upon the key ecological assets and threats for the Fitzroy River was held in Derby on Friday 17 February. Fourteen people attended. An interim report has been sent out to WA stakeholders.
- A stakeholder consultation has been scheduled for the Flinders River to be held in Richmond on May 9.
- Stakeholder consultations for the Daly River will be initiated in the next few weeks. This will be initially conducted through NRM facilitators until it is determined whether the Daly stakeholders would like to attend a workshop. Bart Kellett (NAIF) intends to conduct stakeholder interviews in the Daly also. It was suggested that Renee and Bart inform each other about their plans. Also Renee will inform Michael Douglas and Ian Smith of what is occurring.
- The background document on the Ecological Risk Assessment approach is near completion and meeting participants will be notified when it becomes available.

2. CDU Update (Michael Douglas)

- The TRACK CERF application was submitted Friday 31 March. It will be a few months before they will find out if it was successful.
- CDU hosted a riparian workshop under LWA's Tropical Rivers Program, last month.
- A riparian workshop focused on Rapid Appraisal Assessment methods funded by DEH will be held at CDU on 28 April. About 20 people working in this area will be attending.
- A Northern Gulf Rivers project has been funded that involves CDU (Michael Douglas), JCU (Damien Burrows) and Griffith University (Andrew Brooks).
- Daly Discussion Group- have got as far as possible with the responses received. This will be discussed further with Ian Smith and Jeff Camkin.
- TRACK link with NAIF- TRACK will be an end user of the results/product from NAIF. They should remain linked/connected but should not be rolled into one.

3. NAIF Update (Jeff Camkin)

- Bart Kellett will be interviewing key stakeholders in case study areas (including the Daly River) to capture and analyse stakeholder's personal views in relation to irrigation in the area, including pressures, responses and adaptive capacity of the community.
- National Water Commission Workshop on the irrigation specific call for projects under the Water Smart Australia Program was held in Canberra on 29-30 March. The irrigation call is focused more on infrastructure rather than research and is typically looking for projects in the order of \$1M or more, that are collaborative and have stakeholder support. Proposals close on 16 June. During the workshop there were break out groups, one forming for Northern Australia. They suggested that irrigation needs to be sustainable, and that they are seeking leadership to coordinate this across the North. The NAIF project is seen as an avenue for providing some of this leadership.
- RiverSymposium 2006-Jeff has been investigating the possibility of having a series of presentations or workshop on northern Australia with the organisers. TACK and TRIAP both expressed interest at participating in something like this. There may be a possibility that LWA could fund such a session. Jeff Camkin is organising a 3 week visit for August/September by a Brazilian water resource management lecturer, Dr Henrique Chaves. Henrique is the Brazilian coordinator for UNESCO Hydrology, Environment, Life and Policy program and lecturer on water resource management with the University of Brasilia. He will present at Riversyposium and may be able to do a workshop in Darwin.

4. Collaborative opportunities

- Meeting: Jeff Camkin, Ian Smith and Michael Douglas to talk about:
 - The link between the Daly Discussion Group and the Daly River Resources Management Committee
 - The relationship between TRACK and NAIF
 - Possibilities of a workshop run by Henrique Chaves (Brazil) on water resource management to be held in Darwin.
- Water Commission funding opportunities-keep each other informed on progress.

5. Next meeting

Thursday 04 May 2006

Summary of Actions

Action	Who	When
Check with Barry Hart if it is OK to pass Barry's project details with respect to the Daly River onto Rick	Michael Douglas	ASAP
Ensure that the meeting participants are informed about stakeholder consultation processes in the Daly River for the TRIAP.	Renee Bartolo	As required
Arrange for Bart Kellett to contact Renee regarding his stakeholder interviews for the Daly River.	Jeff Camkin	ASAP
Send meeting participants the interim report from the Derby Fitzroy River workshop.	Renee Bartolo	ASAP
Arrange a teleconference to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The link between the Daly Discussion Group and the Daly River Resources Management Committee• The relationship between TRACK and NAIF• Possibilities of a workshop run by Enrique Chavez (Brazil) on water resource management to be held in Darwin.	Ian Smith, Jeff Camkin and Michael Douglas	Before 4 May
Email NAIF draft work plan for the Daly River to Michael Douglas and Rick van Dam.	Jeff Camkin	ASAP
Talk to other TRACK members regarding interest in a North Australia session at RiverSymposium	Michael Douglas	4 May
Send the abstract of Henrique Chaves's Riversymposium paper to meeting participants.	Jeff Camkin	ASAP