

Progress Report CF 2011-116

WAMSI 1 Node 3: science administration, coordination and integration

Marine Science

Project Core Team

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Project Team

granted

Program Leader

granted

Directorate

granted

WAMSI 1 Node 3: science administration, coordination and integration

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Context

In 2005, the State Government allocated \$5 million to undertake research that would underpin management of Ningaloo Marine Park. A research plan was developed to address key strategies in the Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan. In 2007, a joint research body, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) was formed. Parks and Wildlife was the leader of Node 3 of WAMSI, which addressed research in marine biodiversity and conservation. At the same time as the development of WAMSI, CSIRO Wealth from Oceans National Research Flagship program established the Ningaloo Collaboration Cluster (the Cluster) to address the integration of knowledge of reef use, biodiversity and socio-economics into a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) model for Ningaloo Marine Park and the Gascoyne Region in general. The research program of the Cluster complemented that undertaken through WAMSI and collectively these two programs, along with core research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) at Ningaloo, have become known as the Ningaloo Research Program (NRP).

A key focus of the WAMSI component of the program was to ensure the transfer and uptake of knowledge generated through the research into Parks and Wildlife management policies, practices and actions. The research program was completed in December 2011 and the final WAMSI Node 3 report submitted in 2102.

A new component to this project was initiated in 2015 to assess the extent to which new and evolving knowledge generated through NRP has been integrated into decision making processes and identify options to improve its uptake in the future.

Aims

Ensure the coordination and administration of the research program.

Ensure the integration of this research program with other research within WAMSI and with external programs relevant to the Ningaloo Marine Park

Ensure the outputs of research undertaken through the NRP reach target audiences.

Ensure that knowledge transfer and uptake occurs between scientists, resource managers and decision makers.

Ensure the long-term storage and custodianship of data from the research undertaken.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the knowledge transfer and uptake process so that lessons learned can be applied to future WAMSI and Parks and Wildlife research programs.

Progress

- A project was initiated with an external collaborator to assess the effectiveness of the WAMSI Node 3 knowledge exchange process through assessing the extent to which new knowledge generated through the NRP is useful to management and has been uptaken into management activity and processes.
- Parks and Wildlife operational headquarters, regional and district staff participated in interviews with the project leader.
- The project has been expanded to include evaluating changes to social licence based on the investment in research and knowledge exchange activities in the Exmouth community.
- Two seminars were held at Kensington to share the process of this research and the outcomes.

Management implications

- This project will improve the exchange of knowledge between science and managers. It will identify the successes of the NRP as well as the areas where there could be opportunities for improvement and make recommendations on how to best manage knowledge so that it is relevant to managers and reaches target audiences when it is needed.

- The recommendations will inform knowledge transfer activities within Science and Conservation Division and the broader Department.

Future directions

- A manuscript is in preparation on the capacities and processes that may assist in overcoming knowledge transfer barriers.
- A project report will be produced.