

# **Final Report**

## **FRDC Project 2010/401**

### **Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy Including Outcomes from the National Forum – 30-31 March 2011, Cairns**



***Chris Calogeras, Bo Carne, Stan Lui and Stephan Schnierer  
June 2011***

**The Eleven Key RD&E Principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Identified by the Shaping Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Forum – Cairns, 30-31 May 2011**

**Research, development and extension that:**

1. Seeks to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition
2. Resolves issues around access
3. Improves governance and provide pathways to better representation and management models
4. Provides resourcing options in a user friendly and culturally appropriate manner
5. Leads to improved capacity that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
6. Leads to Agencies developing capacity to recognise and utilise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expertise, processes and knowledge
7. Leads to recognition of customary rights and knowledge, including processes to incorporate Traditional Fishing Knowledge and Traditional Fisheries Management
8. Improves knowledge and awareness of impacts on the environment and traditional harvest
9. Provides management arrangements that lead to improved access, protection and incorporation of Traditional Fishing Knowledge and Traditional Fisheries Management input to processes
10. Leads to an increased value for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (economic, social, cultural, trade, health, environmental)
11. Leads to benefit sharing

## **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

### **Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Within the National Strategy**

**Chris Calogeras**

**C-AID Consultants**

**38 Lake Ridge Crt**

**Lake Macdonald**

**Qld 4563 Australia**

**Tel: +61 401692610**

**Email: calogeras@iinet.net.au**

**ISBN: 978-0-9871427-0-2**

**Copyright Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and C-AID Consultants (2011)**

This work is copyright. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), no part of this publication may be reproduced by any process, electronic or otherwise, without the specific written permission of the copyright owners. Neither may information be stored electronically in any form whatsoever without such permission.

#### **Disclaimer**

The authors do not warrant that the information in this document is free from errors or omissions. The authors do not accept any form of liability, be it contractual, tortious, or otherwise, for the contents of this document or for any consequences arising from its use or any reliance placed upon it. The information, opinions and advice contained in this document may not relate, or be relevant, to a reader's particular circumstance. Opinions expressed by the authors are the individual opinions expressed by those persons and are not necessarily those of the publisher, research provider or the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

The FRDC plans, invests in and manages fisheries research and development throughout Australia. It is a federal statutory authority jointly funded by the Australian Government and the fishing industry.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This project could not have taken place if the various associations, agencies, groups, councils and individuals had not provided their valuable time, input and effort working with the steering committee. Their input and participation was critical to the completion of this project.

Gratitude to the Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji, the traditional custodians of the area for allowing us to hold this meeting on their country.

The support of FRDC is acknowledged and greatly appreciated. This project was funded by the Australian Government through FRDC Project No. 2010/401.

## Glossary

Acronym	Description
<b>AFAC</b>	Aboriginal Fishery Advisory Council
<b>AFMA</b>	Australian <b>Fisheries</b> Management Authority
<b>AFMF</b>	Australian <b>Fisheries</b> Management Forum
<b>ARLP</b>	Australian Rural Leadership Program
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
<b>CYLC</b>	Cape York Land Council
<b>DEEDI</b>	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
<b>DoR</b>	Department of Resources, Fisheries
<b>DPIPWE</b>	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
<b>FRDC</b>	Fisheries Research Development Corporations
<b>GBRMPA</b>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<b>IFCoE</b>	Indigenous Fisheries Centre of Excellence
<b>IIRG</b>	Interim Indigenous Reference Group
<b>IRG</b>	Indigenous Reference Group
<b>KLC</b>	Kimberley Land Council
<b>NPF</b>	National Priorities Forum
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>NSWALC</b>	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory
<b>PI</b>	Principal investigator
<b>PIMC</b>	Primary Industries Ministerial Council
<b>Qld</b>	Queensland
<b>RD&amp;E</b>	Research Development & Extension
<b>SA</b>	South Australia
<b>SCU</b>	Southern Cross University
<b>TFK</b>	Traditional Fishing Knowledge
<b>TFM</b>	Traditional Fisheries Management
<b>TLC</b>	Tiwi Land Council
<b>TSCFG</b>	Torres Strait Community Fisher Group
<b>TSRA</b>	Torres Strait Regional Authority
<b>UTAS</b>	University of Tasmania
<b>VISC</b>	Victorian Indigenous Seafood Council
<b>WA</b>	Western Australia
<b>WAFIC</b>	Western Australia Fishing Industry Council

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	OBJECTIVES.....	1
1.2	OUTCOMES.....	2
1.3	KEYWORDS .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>NEED .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>METHODS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE .....	5
5.2	FORUM PHILOSOPHY .....	5
5.3	DETERMINING FORUM PARTICIPANTS.....	6
5.4	DEVELOPING THE FORUM AGENDA .....	7
5.5	FORUM LOGISTICS.....	8
5.6	DEVELOPING FORUM PROCESSES .....	8
<b>6</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1	FINALISING FORUM PARTICIPANTS.....	10
6.2	REFLECTING ON THE LOGISTICS.....	12
6.3	FINALISING THE AGENDA .....	13
6.4	HOW DID THE PROCESS GO .....	16
6.4.1	<i>The Eleven Key RD&amp;E Principles.....</i>	<i>22</i>
6.4.2	<i>Engagement and consultation processes .....</i>	<i>23</i>
6.4.3	<i>Forum Wrap Up and Other Identified Issues .....</i>	<i>25</i>
6.5	FOLLOW UP QUESTIONNAIRE .....	26
<b>7</b>	<b>BENEFITS AND ADOPTION .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PLANNED OUTCOMES .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>32</b>

<b>APPENDIX I:</b>	<b>Intellectual Property .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX II:</b>	<b>Staff.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Appendix III:</b>	<b>FRDC Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG) .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX IV:</b>	<b>Participants/Organisations Contacted to Attend Forum .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>APPENDIX V:</b>	<b>Samples Correspondence Provided to Potential Participants .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX VI:</b>	<b>Post Forum Questionnaire .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>APPENDIX VII:</b>	<b>Identification of Issues Through Small Group Processes and Links to Eleven Key Principles.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>APPENDIX VIII:</b>	<b>PowerPoint Used to Guide Forum Process.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>APPENDIX IX:</b>	<b>Forum Running Sheet for Facilitators .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>APPENDIX X:</b>	<b>Feedback from Small Groups on 11 Key RD&amp;E Principles .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Appendix XI:</b>	<b>FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG).....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Attachment 1:</b>	<b>Forum Opening – Patrick Hone FRDC.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Attachment 2:</b>	<b>ARLP and Numayanga – Nesman Bara &amp; Brooke Rankmore .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Attachment 3:</b>	<b>NT Indigenous Rangers – Jamie Damaso .....</b>	<b>60</b>

## 1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

<b>Project No. 2010/401</b>	<b>Shaping Advice For Indigenous Fishing And Aquaculture RD&amp;E Within The National Strategy</b>
-----------------------------	--

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Chris Calogeras

**ADDRESS:**

C-AID Consultants

38 Lake Ridge Crt

Lake Macdonald Qld 4563

Australia

Tel: +61 401692601

Email: calogeras@iinet.net.au

**CO-INVESTIGATORS:**

Robert 'Bo' Carne

Stan Lui

Stephan Schnierer

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES

- Undertake a strategic meeting with the Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG) members with a view to providing formal advice to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on a range of matters
- Expand the IIRG's capacity by the involvement of people from outside of the group who have expertise and links to assist in improving FRDC's strategic investment in indigenous focussed Research, Development and Extension (RD&E)
- Provide a written report to FRDC that will allow the Board to further develop its investment in RD&E that has a significant benefit to indigenous Australians
- Commence development of an extension process to the broader indigenous community through the links and networks developed at the meeting
- Work towards a process on how best to identify a person with the relevant expertise to act as the indigenous delegate to the National Priorities Forum (NPF), and processes for identifying national RD&E priorities and appropriate collaborations.



## **1.2 OUTCOMES**

- Successfully undertook the initial national forum which brought together Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people from all mainland states and the Northern Territory to discuss indigenous focused RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry
- Developed an extensive network across Australia to support ongoing development of indigenous lead RD&E priorities at a national level
- A large and diverse range of issues requiring RD&E investment were identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- The development of Eleven Key RD&E fishing and seafood focused principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Nominated interim indigenous representatives to attend the NPF
- A revised Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) was formed to provide FRDC advice on its investment in indigenous focused RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry
- Increased the profile of FRDC with its indigenous stakeholders and clarified its role within the national fishing and seafood industry
- The forum methodology, which focused as much as possible on observing cultural protocols, provided a template for future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander meetings. Ways to improve the methodology at any future forums were also identified.

## **1.3 KEYWORDS**

Aboriginal, Fishing and Seafood Industry, Forum, Indigenous, Research, Development & Extension (RD&E), Torres Strait Islander, Traditional Fishing Knowledge (TFK), Traditional Fisheries Management (TFM).

**FINAL REPORT**

<b>Project No. 2010/401</b>	<b>Shaping Advice For Indigenous Fishing And Aquaculture RD&amp;E Within The National Strategy</b>
-----------------------------	--

**2 BACKGROUND**

In April 2010 the National RD&E Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture was endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC). Established under this Strategy was the National Priorities Forum (NPF), a high-level stakeholder partnership to focus national RD&E strategy and industry priority issues.

The Strategy identifies a gap in engagement and identification of indigenous priorities, and that a mechanism for indigenous representation to the NPF hasn't been determined.

At its inaugural meeting, the NPF agreed to utilise the FRDC's Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG), to seek advice from each jurisdiction, to;

- provide indigenous representation to the NPF
- work towards developing better engagement processes in the development of indigenous RD&E priorities
- improve extension of RD&E outcomes and outputs to indigenous Australians.

The IIRG was established in 2010 to provide expertise-based advice on a range of matters relating to engagement with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders regarding aspects of fishing and seafood focussed RD&E (see Appendix III for IIRG membership). The group's overarching goal was to provide advice so as to improve FRDC's investment in fishing and aquaculture for indigenous people.

FRDC also commissioned a project to scope the potential for the development of an Indigenous Fisheries Centre of Excellence (IFCoE) (FRDC Project 2009/323). In August 2010 the FRDC Board was presented with the outcomes of the project by the project's principal investigator (PI). A key recommendation of the report was to expand and enhance the role of the IIRG. FRDC recognised the benefits that could occur from a face to face meeting of the IIRG (discussions to that date had been via teleconference), along with other individuals with expertise in the field of indigenous RD&E.

This project's major focus was to coordinate a forum to bring together the groups identified by FRDC, with a view to addressing gaps within the National RD&E Strategy, as well as assisting FRDC to improve indigenous engagement and RD&E investment.

An important aspect of this report was to advise on the steps and process used in the forum, what worked and what could be adjusted to improve indigenous focussed forums such as this in the future. Subsequently there is more discussion on issues such as selecting

participants, agenda setting, forum processes etc, in this report than may be expected in similar reports.

### **3 NEED**

Based on the results of a survey questionnaire coordinated by FRDC in 2010, at the time of this project's genesis, less than two percent of State fisheries agency RD&E capacity was focussed towards indigenous needs. Only the Northern Territory (NT) had a dedicated operational group focusing on indigenous fishing and aquaculture.

In addition, indigenous input and project assessment by FRDC was limited due to the complexities and costs of engaging effectively with indigenous Australians on fishing and seafood related RD&E. The ability of FRDC's IIRG to provide advice and input had been limited by the relatively short time available during teleconferences to thoroughly work through proposed concepts. While the IIRG was made up of experienced members, there was some ambiguity among the small group surrounding the type of advice that it could provide towards a national approach, whilst being cognisant of FRDC's limitations.

The IIRG identified that a face to face meeting/forum was vital to allow it to develop identifiable indigenous sector input to the National RD&E Strategy. The IIRG was also cognisant that the group lacked the capacity to fully address the broad range of issues relating to indigenous RD&E.

A face to face forum of the IIRG members, along with other individuals with expertise in the field of indigenous RD&E, was considered the most effective mean to build capacity and enhance the value of advice that the IIRG could offer to FRDC. The forum was seen as an opportunity to allow the expansion of the IIRG's capacity by broadening its network through the inclusion of additional people, who could provide expertise and links to improve FRDC's strategic investment in indigenous focussed RD&E, as well as provide an environment conducive to building trust and securing genuine and well-considered input.

This forum was seen as an opportunity to help address the above needs of the FRDC, and to assist the NPF to enhance engagement, as well as RD&E needs for the indigenous commercial and customary sectors.

### **4 OBJECTIVE**

- Undertake a Strategic Meeting with IIRG members with a view to providing formal advice to the FRDC on a range of matters
- Expand the IIRG's capacity by the involvement of people from outside of the group who have expertise and links to assist in improving FRDC's strategic investment in indigenous focussed RD&E
- Commence development of an extension process to the broader indigenous community through the links and networks developed at the meeting

- Work towards a process on how best to identify a person with the relevant expertise to act as the indigenous delegate to the NPF, and processes for identifying national RD&E priorities and appropriate collaborations
- Provide a written report to FRDC that will allow the Board to further develop its investment in RD&E that has a significant benefit to indigenous Australians.

## **5 METHODS**

The IIRG identified the need to broaden the scope of advice to provide FRDC with further direction on its indigenous RD&E investment, and with a view to feeding into the National RD&E Strategy process. To achieve this, FRDC supported a project to facilitate a forum to bring together members of the IIRG, along with a wider group of people, to discuss a range of issues around indigenous lead fishing and seafood based RD&E. The forum sought Torres Strait and Aboriginal participants with experience and expertise from all Australian jurisdictions. In addition, a small number of non-indigenous participants with specific interests/skills were provided an opportunity to attend.

A steering group from within the IIRG and FRDC was formed to co-ordinate the forum.

### **5.1 ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The investigators from the FRDC project (Bo Carne, Stephan Schnierer, Stan Lui and Chris Calogeras), along with Jo Ruscoe from FRDC, formed the project steering committee.

The steering committee's key role was to provide guidance to the PI, to ensure that the project met the timelines and objectives, and could deliver on the agreed outcomes and outputs.

The steering committee met formally via teleconference on five occasions, and interacted regularly on an adhoc basis during the life of the project, as part of determining an appropriate venue, the participant list, the agenda and the forum processes.

### **5.2 FORUM PHILOSOPHY**

It was critical that the forum was undertaken in such a way as to enhance indigenous participation prior to, during, and after the workshop. It was also decided that where appropriate and feasible, key roles would be appointed to indigenous individuals, including the chair and session facilitators. For that reason the process to identify invited participants, facilitators, chairs, venue and program, was considered in many ways to be as important as the outputs and outcomes that would be generated.

### **5.3 DETERMINING FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

The steering group agreed that diversity would be encouraged at the forum, with a view to gaining a level of representation and expertise from across Australia. The potential participants' pool would focus on people who were already engaged in indigenous fisheries issues and/or who had taken a leadership role in policy/projects.

The steering committee sought participants from the following;

- IIRG members
- people identified as potential key participants by IIRG members
- people who had applied for indigenous scholarships
- state/territory representatives identified through regional fisheries agencies based on contacts provided by the agencies in the FRDC indigenous jurisdictional surveys of 2010 (each agency was requested to nominate potential participants or contacts).

In addition to the above sources, potential participants were also sought through a number of representative fishing and land councils, as well as direct contact based on intelligence from the IIRG, agencies and personal contacts. This methodology was particularly used in areas where it proved difficult to clearly identify aboriginal people who had had contact with the fishing and seafood industry.

Emails, letters, phone calls and face to face discussions seeking expressions of interest were provided to the range of people identified above (see Appendix IV for contact list and Appendix V for sample correspondence provided to potential participants).

The steering group also identified the need to have some criteria to determine suitable applicants who came through the expression of interest process, to ensure the people with the necessary skill sets took part in the forum.

It was determined that funded participation would be limited by the budget, but it was anticipated there would be adequate funding for up to 20 participants. It was also determined that self funded participants could be involved as well, but it was acknowledged that if numbers were excessive it may lead to the need for additional space, facilitators etc. A cap of a maximum of 40 participants was set for the forum, with self funders to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses, and to contribute toward their workshop attendance costs.

A list of possible/likely participants was developed and a selection processes undertaken.

It was acknowledged that the final participant list may be a 'moving feast' as potential participants had to determine their availability closer to the forum date, and that final participation would firm up closer to the forum date.

## 5.4 DEVELOPING THE FORUM AGENDA

The initial issues considered as possible agenda items for the forum related to many of the issues raised in the IFCoE project, others identified by the FRDC Board, and as identified as indigenous focussed RD&E needs through the 'Empowering Industry RD&E: Developing an industry driven R&D model for the Australian fishing and seafood industry - partnerships to improve efficiency, profitability and performance (FRDC project # 2009/300)<sup>1</sup>.

Armed with that information and the input from the IIRG, the steering committee commenced agenda development as part of the first steering group meeting in October 2010, with a view to developing the forum agenda over the forthcoming months. In conjunction with FRDC, the steering committee identified specific sessions with a view to developing forum outcomes and outputs to assist FRDC to improve its investment in indigenous focussed RD&E.

The forum was scheduled to be run over two days to allow sufficient time for matters to be fully discussed and consensus based outcomes and recommendations developed.

Proposed initial sessions included;

- assessing the outcomes of the national agency surveys
- identification of existing indigenous networks and structures
- developing realistic frameworks for indigenous consultation processes
- working towards developing priority areas for indigenous focussed RD&E
- identifying future directions and focus for the IIRG
- providing advice on a possible revised membership of the IIRG
- providing advice to FRDC on RD&E areas where it could take a lead role, or alternatively have a supporting role with other already established groups
- developing generic protocols for when FRDC supported RD&E is conducted on indigenous land/water, or where indigenous people are significant beneficiaries
- commencement of the development of an extension process to the broader indigenous community through the links and networks developed at the forum
- work towards a process on how best to identify a person with the relevant expertise to act as the indigenous delegate to the NPF.

Over the following steering committee meetings the forum structure and agenda focus was developed so as to allow the 2 days to be allocated for deliberation of the following;

- building connections, networks and capacity

---

<sup>1</sup> For further information on the Empowering Industry project – go to [www.empoweringindustry.com](http://www.empoweringindustry.com). 'Empowering Industry RD&E: 'Developing an Industry driven RD&E model for the Australian fishing and seafood Industry - partnerships to improve efficiency, profitability and performance' (FRDC project 2009/300)

- identify areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RD&E need in the fishing and seafood industry
- working towards a process on how best to identify a person with the relevant expertise to act as the indigenous delegate to the NPF
- enhancing the IIRG and better define its role within the FRDC framework.

It was also determined that there would be merit in allowing time for relevant case studies to be presented.

## **5.5 FORUM LOGISTICS**

A range of options were identified relating to where and when to hold the forum. The major focus was on ensuring the forum;

- was cost effective
- was held in a place that was 'relatively' easy to get to - accessible
- place provided both indoor and outdoor facilities, to satisfactorily allow for breakout sessions for up to 40 people
- venue and accommodation were at the same place.

Potential locations suggested were Cairns, Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Melbourne or Adelaide. Although the northern venues were considered risky during the cyclone season it was anticipated they would provide a number of venues, and relatively cheap fares and accommodation during off-peak times. Melbourne and Adelaide were both considered good options due to the range of venues and availability of direct flights from all capital cities and Cairns.

A preferred date was proposed for late February or March 2011, to allow feedback into the NPF and the FRDC Board and funding timelines.

## **5.6 DEVELOPING FORUM PROCESSES**

A key aspect of the forum was that it was to be undertaken in such a way as to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation prior to, during, and after the forum. This came about as there had been discussions amongst some indigenous people involved in the fishing and seafood industry, at a number of levels, that at some previous workshops decision making processes that sought information from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders was often not attuned to the cultural needs and protocols that should be followed. The major focus was therefore on running sessions in such a way that allowed sufficient time for matters to be fully discussed and consensus based outcomes and recommendations developed.

For that reason the process to identify invited participants, facilitators, chairs and the

venue, as well as developing the program/agenda, was considered in many ways to be as important as the outputs and outcomes generated through the forum. A major component of this process was to ensure that, where possible, key roles were appointed to indigenous individuals, including chairing and facilitating sessions. Developing and building on networks was also a key aim of the forum. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the IIRG played a vital role during this part of the forum planning process through their own knowledge, and after liaison with their networks, to test and confirm possible options identified at the steering committee meetings.

The forum sought to use the following basic format;

- A. providing participants with information to allow them to understand forum aspirations and proposed processes
- B. extensive introduction of forum participants to provide context and relationships
- C. identification of key issues through a process that;
  - i. sought to identify issues that impact on individuals, families, communities and industries
  - ii. identified ways to improve the situation and the subsequent impact of these improvements
  - iii. identified the type of help needed
- D. sharing all issues
- E. outlining and recording all issues identified by small groups
- F. grouping of similar issues under major headings
- G. identifying key RD&E needs.

Each session was to be run with a view to achieving an outcome or actions that lead to a deliverable.

Key issues, outcomes and actions were to be identified and recorded by the PI and other IIRG members, to form part of the outputs, and importantly, to ensure that participants' views had been accurately captured.

The areas of priority were to be identified by the participants, with a view to providing FRDC with advice and proposed actions that would assist in achieving or working towards developing a set of National Indigenous RD&E Priorities.

Outcomes and outputs were to be extended through the IIRG, forum participants, FRDC, the NPF and other relevant networks.

A questionnaire was to be developed to seek participants' views on a range of issues relating to the forum's organisation, processes and outcomes (see Appendix VI for copy).



## **6 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section assesses the project's results and seeks to explain the processes used, assess the success of the methods employed, and where possible, provide some guidance for any follow up work on this project.

### **6.1 FINALISING FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

From the initial agency contacts, responses were elicited from the NT Department of Resources (DoR) and the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA). Follow up contact by the steering group identified potential participants from South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA) and New South Wales (NSW). These people, along with IIRG members' contacts and contacts from invited participants, lead to a wide mix of potential participants.

The region that it proved difficult to identify potential participants from was Tasmania. Contact was made with Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC), University of Tasmania (UTAS), Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and some individual fishers seeking potential participants, but this did not prove successful. A potential participant, with extensive experience, was indentified and contacted late in the process, and although expressing an interest, were not able to attend the forum at the time.

Potential participant numbers fluctuated during the process, as some people's availability changed leading up to the forum. Updated lists of potential participants were provided to steering committee members on an ongoing basis. Personal networks and contacts were utilised during this period to assist in identifying other potential participants, to broaden the network and diversity of the participant list prior to finalising participants.

A number of individuals and organisations also expressed an interest in being involved in the forum and these were considered by the steering committee, with a view to ensuring there was a mix of participants that best aligned with the forum philosophy.

Based on responses received, representatives were selected from all mainland jurisdictions but unfortunately it wasn't possible to identify any Aboriginal participants from Tasmania who could attend at the time of the forum.

In the end 36 participants accepted an invitation to attend the forum (23 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders) with the balance being non-indigenous people who had direct interest in indigenous activities in the fishing and seafood industry (Table 1). The group had people from many walks of life from within, or with an interest, in the fishing and seafood industry, but participation by females were grossly underrepresented. It was evident that the process used did not identify sufficient Aboriginal or Torres Strait female participants, with only one Aboriginal female attending. As one of the key drivers was diversity, this was obviously a failure of the existing networks used for the project. There would be merit in

starting to build those networks immediately. Future forums would benefit from additional resources being focussed on identifying and supporting greater female participation.

Table 1: Final List of Participants Who Accepted Invitation to Attend Cairns Forum

Name	Role
Alan Haseldine	Munda Wamma Mar Aboriginal Corp
Bo Carne	IIRG member and DoR
Bob Patterson	Yarabah
Brooke Rankmore	Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP)
Chris Calogeras	IIRG member and C-AID Consultants
Chris Roberts	Balkanu (Cape York Development Corporation)
Clarry Rogers	Ranger Coordinator Ngukurr, traditional manager Numbulwar
Cyril Kalippa	Tiwi Land Council (TLC) and ex commercial fisher
Daniel Takai	Torres Strait Community Fisher Group (TSFG) Representative
Denise Lovett	Victorian Indigenous Seafood Council (VISC)
Dennis Ah-Kee	Jaragun P/L
Gavin Mosby	TSFG Representative
Ian Curnow	DoR – on behalf of the Australian Fisheries Management Forum (AFMF)
James Fogarty	Shearwater Consulting and IIRG member
Jamie Damaso	DoR (FRDC Indigenous Development Scholarship)
Jill Briggs	Rural Training Initiatives
Jo Coco	Training
Jo Ruscoe	IIRG member and FRDC
Katie Phillis	IIRG member and WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)
Kevin Giles	Indigenous National Resource Management (NRM) Program
Klynton Wanganeen	SA Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement
Lavenia Tawake	CSIRO
Mervyn Maher	Kimberly Land Council (KLC) Cultural Project Officer
Michael Heindreich	Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation (DEED)
Nesman Bara	Exec Officer Aminjarrinja
Nick Rawlinson	UTAS
Patrick Hone	FRDC
Phil Kerr	IIRG member and VISC
Stephan Schnierer	IIRG member and Southern Cross University (SCU)
Terry Yumbulul	East Arnhem Land (Aboriginal Fisheries Consultative Committee)
Tony Kyle	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Chels Marshall <sup>2</sup>	NSW Aboriginal Fishery Advisory Committee (AFAC)
Jason Wilson <sup>2</sup>	Gomilaroi/Youalaroi Murri- Inland operations
Joe Flick <sup>2</sup>	NSW Aboriginal Land Council and NSW AFAC
Richie Ahmat <sup>2</sup>	Cape York Land Council (CYLC)
Stan Lui <sup>3</sup>	IIRG member and TSRA

<sup>2</sup> Participant was unable to attend due to last minute personal or business matters that arose

<sup>3</sup> Changed employer just prior to the forum and was unable to attend

Unfortunately three participants from NSW had to withdraw for personal reasons the day prior to the forum, and one from Queensland was involved in other urgent work that didn't allow his attendance. Also due to a change in employment status (a move from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority [AFMA] to TSRA), Stan Lui, a member of the IIRG, advised in advance that he would not be in a position to attend the forum, but continued his role on the steering committee and provided advice prior to, during and subsequent to the forum.

As the forum was a first of its kind, it would be reasonable to expect that there was some level of cynicism surrounding it from some sources. On a number of occasions the PI was advised that a particular potential invitee had been to a 'heap of these things and all that they had to show for it was a pile of folders collecting dust – but no actions'! However as the date for the forum drew closer the level of interest increased from a range of sources.

Overall the participant identification process proved successful in identifying a wide range of participants from all mainland regions. In many ways it was an organic process, with contacts and networks developing as more groups and people became aware of the forum. If a similar forum was to take place, the existing participants and the networks developed through it, along with the interest that project outputs and outcomes will generate, should ensure a high level of interest

## **6.2 REFLECTING ON THE LOGISTICS**

Based on a venue selection criteria that sought cost effective, relatively accessible, indoor/outdoor workshop facilities and that allowed the forum and accommodation at the one site, the steering committee and the broader IIRG determined to hold the forum in Cairns at the Cairns Colonial Club Resort, Cairns on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The facility provided a 40 person venue, with workshop facilities that allowed breakout space, including adjoining outdoor areas, accommodation on site, and catering.

The support by IIRG members and organisations in providing advice on participants' logistics as well as financial assistance for travel and accommodation was crucial in pulling the forum together. This was especially important in remote areas where lines of communication and travel, difficult in most instances, were even more challenging due to the impacts of above average rainfall and cyclonic activity in the north. In specific instances DoR provided financial and human resources to ensure participants could attend and return home. In addition organisations like VISC coordinated participants and travel arrangements as did Industry and Investment NSW.

All invited funded forum participants had their travel, accommodation, meals and forum costs covered by the 'Shaping Indigenous RD&E Advice' project.

Coordinating travel across all jurisdictions was a logistical challenge and travel arrangements were very complex for some participants. Consideration was initially given to using a travel or booking agency, but it was felt that it was a less expensive and better option to have someone intimately involved in the project undertake the task so as to have a central, available and flexible focal point for all paid participants. Also it was not feasible to have participants pay for their travel and be reimbursed. In the end all travel was coordinated and paid through the PI's company<sup>4</sup>, C-AID Consultants, as it was felt that this would minimise costs, and provide clear understanding for the steering committee as to each participant's current travel and accommodation status.

Travel arrangements for many participants changed between the time of booking and the time flights were undertaken. The hands on approach allowed this to take place with no major hiccups. In a survey undertaken at the completion of the forum 100% of participants felt that the travel arrangements were good or very good (see Table 4). Accommodation was also coordinated by the PI and the Cairns Colonial Resort function coordinator, and linked with participants travel arrangements.

The use of discounted airfares instead of fully flexible airfares was a decision made by the PI to reduce costs. Fully flexible airfares for the paid participants would have been in the vicinity of \$32,000, whilst actual costs were around \$15,000. This included fees for changing a number of flights and the loss of three fares due to last minute cancellation by participants.

There were some concerns as to possibly going slightly over budget for travel, accommodation, meals and venue fees. This was because some airfares were much higher than initially quoted; some fares needed to be changed, additional accommodation was required due to flight scheduling issues, and somewhere in the vicinity of 10 self funded participants were involved. It was agreed that it was too complex to individually invoice these additional people for meals and venue costs, so the project absorbed those costs.

In the end the forum was completed with the travel and operational expenses coming in under budget.

### **6.3 FINALISING THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda (Table 2) provided to participants was always considered to be aspirational and flexible, allowing appropriate time for discussions to take place on each issue, and also to be responsive and adaptive to the forums needs, particularly those of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants.

---

<sup>4</sup> DoR also provided significant additional funding and support for some NT participants from remote areas

This was particularly important as this was the first meeting of the group and there was a mosaic of understanding of the background, processes and people involved.

In conjunction with FRDC, the steering committee identified session outlines with a view to developing forum outcomes and outputs to build connections, networks and capacity, identify RD&E needs, better define the IIRG's membership and role, and to work towards a process on how best to identify a person to act as the indigenous delegate to the NPF.

It was proposed to have a small number of key agenda components to help achieve these outcomes by focussing sessions on;

1. Perspective Setting
  - aim, scope, processes
  - introductions of participants
  - FRDC process and core business
2. Information Exchange
  - working towards developing priority areas for indigenous focussed RD&E
3. Key Questions that Need Answering
  - identifying future directions and focus for the FRDC
  - developing realistic frameworks for indigenous consultation/extension processes
  - providing FRDC advice on membership of the IIRG or an alternative group
  - providing FRDC with advice on a process how to best identify a delegate to the NPF.

The final draft agenda provided to forum participants is shown at Table 2. Participants were made aware of the aspirational nature of the agenda. It was also made clear that it was felt that better and more sustainable outcomes would emerge by doing fewer items well, rather than to try and merely complete every agenda item to meet forum deadlines. This came with risks as it was possible that items could get bogged down without a clear process forward and/or some or all items may not be covered during the forum.

On the first day the agenda items were all covered, and there appeared to be support for the way the day progressed, with the participants having clear directions of the reasons and processes proposed for the forum, a sound idea of who each participant was and how they fitted into the picture, a clear understanding of FRDC's role and aspirations as well as process for identifying a large range of key priority RD&E needs (see Appendix VII for summary of group outcomes). This is discussed in more detail in the next section.

Table 2: Final Forum Draft Agenda<sup>5</sup>

DAY 1		
Time	Item	Facilitator Presenter
8.45	Welcome housekeeping	Bo Carne
8.55	Forum sponsors opening	Patrick Hone
9.05	Forum overview	Jo/Chris
9.20	Introduction of participants	Stephan Schnierer
9.55	Cultural perspectives	Bo Carne / Terry Yumbul
10.20	Guest speaker	Nesman Bara, Brooke Rankmore
10.30	Morning tea	Chris Calogeras
10.50	1 <sup>st</sup> Phase - Identification of key RD&E issues for indigenous fishing and aquaculture	Bo, Stephan, Dennis Ah-Kee Chris
12.20	Morning wrap up	Bo
12.30	Lunch	
1.30	1 <sup>st</sup> Phase - Identification of key issues – continued	Bo, Stephan, Dennis, Chris
2.15	Sharing the key RD&E ideas	Small group facilitators report back
3.15	Afternoon tea	
3.30	Guest speaker	Jamie Damaso
3.40	Identify key issues	Panel from regions
4.50	Day wrap up	TBA
6.30	Dinner Jardines Room	Chris
DAY 2		
8.30	Welcome and days outline	Bo
8.40	Forum Discussion REPRESENTATION & ENGAGEMENT	Stephan and panel of participants
10.10	Guest speaker	TBA
10.20	Morning tea	Chris
10.35	Confirming agreed key RD&E issues	Bo, Stephan, Dennis Chris
11.20	Forum Discussion – Issue 1* KEY RD&E ISSUES 2 <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	Bo (may also seek expertise from room to assist)
12.35	Lunch	
1.20	Forum Discussion - Issue 2* KEY RD&E ISSUES 2 <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	Dennis
2.35	Afternoon tea	
2.50	Forum Discussion - Issue 3* KEY RD&E ISSUES 3 (if time available) <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	TBA
3.50	Where to from here	Panel - Bo, Stephan, Jo, Chris and forum members
4.30	Closing statements	Patrick and response from participants
4.45	Forum Close	Bo and Stephan

<sup>5</sup> This agenda changed significantly during the forum – particularly day 2

Day two however didn't follow the agenda as the key focus revolved around confirming RD&E priority areas, working on engagement and consultation processes and identifying IRG membership and a representative to attend the NPF. In some ways the processes to resolve these matters took a back seat to generating outcomes. This success or otherwise of this adaptive approach to agenda setting is discussed further in the next section.

#### **6.4 HOW DID THE PROCESS GO**

As previously identified a key aspect of the forum was that it was to be undertaken in such a way as to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation prior to, during, and after the forum. Therefore a major focus of the steering committee was to coordinate sessions in such a way that allowed sufficient time for matters to be fully discussed and consensus based outcomes and recommendations developed.

Where possible and appropriate, the key roles were appointed to indigenous individuals, including overseeing the forum, facilitating sessions and presenting case studies. As shown at Table 2, nearly all roles were undertaken by indigenous people. Only roles that were seeking to provide specific information that was unknown to indigenous participants (e.g. forum sponsors opening address and the forum overview) was undertaken by non-indigenous participants.

The forum was undertaken using the basic format as outlined in the Methods (see Section 5.6), with Day 1 focussing on introduction, scene setting and identifying key RD&E needs. The forum process for sessions C to G as discussed in the Methods Section (see Section 5.6) is shown in Figure 1.

The first day of the forum provided a sound model for engaging participants, especially the opportunity to understand who was in the room and their connection to the process, the fishing and seafood industry, and their roles at a cultural and/or business level. The addresses from the forum sponsor and PI gave clear directions of the reasons and processes proposed for the forum, FRDC's role and aspirations, and the proposed process for identifying key issues, and thereby RD&E needs. A copy of the PowerPoint display that guided participants is shown at Appendix VIII.

The process to gather RD&E issues was undertaken using smaller groups, as it was felt that the large group of 30 plus people wouldn't allow all participants to be involved in discussions. The steering committee's initial idea was to set up groups based on geographic regions. The concept was to have basically a northern group (focussing around linkages to taking dugong/turtles) and a southern group. However when this option was provided to the participants, although a discussion ensued on the merits of the concept, by general agreement it was felt that networking and sharing opportunities would be enhanced if people from the different regions were mixed and they could share information.

## FORUM PROCESS

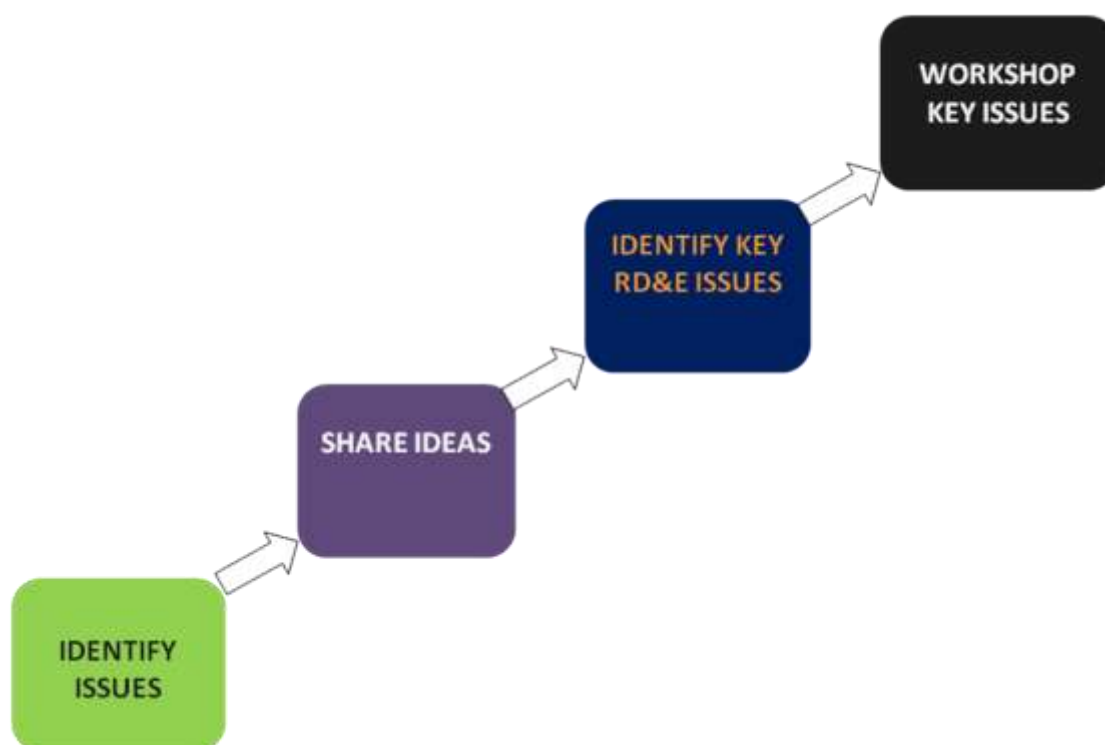


Figure 1: Forum Process to Identify Key Indigenous RD&E Needs

Three groups of roughly 10 participants self formed, each with a nominated facilitator (Bo Carne, Stephan Schnierer and Dennis Ah-Kee) to guide discussions. As well as the forum participants being provided an overview of the proposed process, each facilitator was provided with a running sheet which indicated a preferred path for gathering the relevant data from the group (see Appendix IX for briefing notes/running sheet). The process was one that had been used successfully through the 'Empowering Industry' project, which also seeks to gather individual concerns from participants and then link and combine information to identify key issues. Importantly, it first seeks the views of every person. This process is used to minimise discussions becoming too focussed on one particular area of concern, thereby allowing a more holistic understanding of issues across sectors. The process used for the forum was as follows;

- immediately prior to the forum the facilitators were briefed on the process and provided notes in the form of a proposed running sheet (see Appendix IX)
- proposed processes were outlined to the forum as a whole and questions, validation or suggestions sought
- forum participants broke into three self selected groups (original proposal was for a regional approach, north and south, but participants preferred mixed groups)
- facilitators sought each participant's views on issues that impacted on them, their families, communities and industries - as well as what could be done to improve the



situation, how would this improve it and what type of help would be needed to make this happen

- all issues were recorded by facilitator/scribe on butchers paper, whiteboards or through a live computer screen (so participants could be kept abreast of what had been discussed)
- small group facilitators and/or relevant members from small groups reported back to the forum, outlined all issues identified and identified group priorities
- all ideas were recorded electronically.

This process took until the close of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the forum. The agenda had sought to have progressed further along and it was hoped to have grouped 'like with like' ideas across the three groups and identified priority areas by then.

To allow this to happen in time for day two of the forum, the three small group facilitators, the PI and a number of other interested parties spent some time at the conclusion of day one seeking to identify common threads across the three groups issues. By having the three group facilitators involved it allowed this small group to clarify any issues around what each individual point related to.

Key words or themes were identified from each of the three small group's issues and added to an active PowerPoint list, which was updated and changed live as ideas and concepts were identified, with the final list shown at Figure 2. Each major heading was allocated a number for ease of identification when going through individual group issues (i.e. Recognition = 1, Access = 2 etc).

Issues from each group were then discussed and each individual issue was slotted into one or more of the higher level themes or headings. If necessary, further clarification of the key points were provided by the respective small group facilitators, and each issue was allocated a number or numbers from 1 to 11 (see Figure 3 for an example from one small group and Appendix VII for a summary of the three small group issues).

The need to be able to link individual issues back to the more generic key themes was considered crucial, to ensure that individuals could see how the key themes were developed and also how each particular issue had been incorporated into the process.

This process meant that specific issues were grouped under broader areas of similarity across Australia – a major first step in developing key national issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RD&E needs in the fishing and seafood industry.

Overnight the major headings, as shown in Figure 2, were expanded upon so that each heading was written so that it could be read as an 'action'. These are referred to as the 'Eleven Key RD&E Principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' (Table 3).

## Major Headings – First Try #1

1. Recognition – (legal)
2. Access
3. Governance-Representation/Co-management
4. Resourcing
5. Capacity – investment, people, knowledge, infrastructure
6. Capacity of Agencies
7. ATSI –Knowledge – generation and use of the knowledge
8. Environmental Impacts/Traditional Harvest
9. Management – input to process
10. Value (economic, social, cultural, trade, health, environmental)
11. Benefit sharing

Figure 2: Key RD&E Issues Identified through Small Groups – First Cut

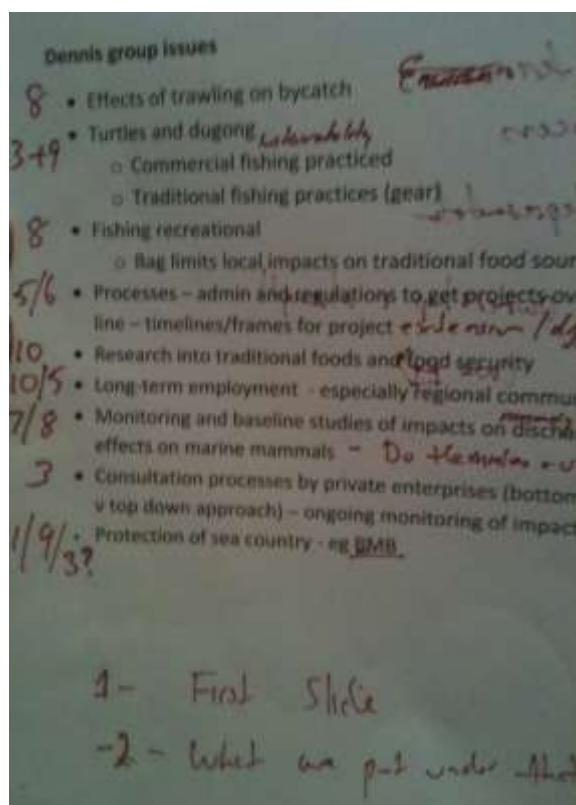


Figure 3: Sample of Small Group Issues Noting Key Themes and Expansion of Issues

In-line with the need for flexibility, the steering committee discussed the proposed agenda and decided to re-jig day two so as to work towards achieving some key deliverables by the forum's end. This meant the key focus resolved around confirming RD&E priority areas, working on engagement and consultation processes, identifying IRG membership and a

representative to attend the NPF. In some ways the processes to resolve these matters took a back seat to generating outcomes which was not in line with the forum philosophy.

Day two commenced with a welcome to country by Seith Fourmile of the Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji, the traditional custodians of the area. The welcome had been planned for day 1 but circumstances didn't allow Mr Fourmile to attend at that time. The participants were grateful that he could make time on day 2.

Table 3: The Eleven Key RD&E Principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as Identified by the Shaping Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Forum

**Research, development and extension that:**

1. Seeks to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition
2. Resolves issues around access
3. Improves governance and provide pathways to better representation and management models
4. Provides resourcing options in a user friendly and culturally appropriate manner
5. Leads to improved capacity that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
6. Leads to Agencies developing capacity to recognise and utilise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expertise, processes and knowledge
7. Leads to recognition of customary rights and knowledge, including processes to incorporate Traditional Fishing Knowledge and Traditional Fisheries Management
8. Improves knowledge and awareness of impacts on the environment and traditional harvest
9. Provides management arrangements that lead to improved access, protection and incorporation of Traditional Fishing Knowledge and Traditional Fisheries Management input to processes
10. Leads to an increased value for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (economic, social, cultural, trade, health, environmental)
11. Leads to benefit sharing

This was followed by a brief scene setting session (but there was far less detail than supplied on day 1 see Appendix VIII), where the day's proposed processes and objectives were outlined. This involved;

- a) seeking forum feedback on the process to date

- b) providing forum participants with information about how the Eleven Key RD&E Principles were developed
- c) seeking feedback and endorsement of the Eleven Key RD&E Principles
- d) seeking endorsement of a process to work towards identifying engagement and consultation processes, focussing on
  - reviewing membership of the IRG
  - seeking a representative for the NPF.

These points are discussed further below.

#### Forum feedback on the process – day 1

There was generally positive feedback on the process utilised on day one. The introductory process, although it took a fair amount of time, was endorsed as it allowed participants to get a better understanding of each person's roles and responsibilities.

The discussion around cultural perspective was again generally supported, as it allowed participants to confirm (especially the non-indigenous participants) the strong and enduring links between water and life and how they were described as 'the source of life'. It also highlighted the roles and responsibilities that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have on a day to day basis with respect to the ecosystem as a whole, and that sea is not just about fish.

The issues around the lack of recognition of cultural LAW, and how it is often relegated by non-indigenous people to being LORE, was noted.

The benefits of incorporating Traditional Fishing Knowledge (TFK) and Traditional Fisheries Management (TFM) into contemporary fisheries management was also noted.

The concept of the small group work was generally supported, as it provided a means to generate a wide range of issues, but there were concerns expressed by some that the process was too rushed, and by others that it was too drawn out and cumbersome. Much of this reflected the diversity of the forum participants, the level of exposure that people had had to the fisheries RD&E process in general<sup>6</sup>, or the development of the national priorities.

In hindsight there would have been value for the chair and facilitators to have got together for half a day to more clearly go over expectations and proposed processes for the forum. This could have involved some informal 'facilitator training' to ensure consistency of process in the small group discussions. Alternatively, or in addition to the 'facilitator training', it may have been worth considering having the small group facilitators work with different groups each session.

---

<sup>6</sup> For example some members of groups, like VISC, had been through extensive processes as part of developing their current business plan which identified a number of key issues and associated actions *For further information contact VISC Project Manager - [phillip.kerr@visc.org.au](mailto:phillip.kerr@visc.org.au)*

The case studies and presentations were well received by all and a number of participants felt that there may have been benefit in having studies from each region. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations are provided at Attachments 1, 2 and 3.

#### Providing information, feedback and endorsement of the Eleven Key RD&E Principles

The process for developing the 11 key principles was explained to forum participants. To test the appropriateness of the principles it was determined that the best process would be for the previous days small groups to test their key issues against the principles to see if they fitted and/or to identify if any additional key principles were required.

The facilitators were also requested to consider if it was possible to amalgamate any of the principles. This is discussed later.

#### Engagement and consultation processes

Initially it was proposed to run a specific forum session on working towards developing a way forward for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and engagement processes in-line with FRDC's capacity. However the forum participants believed that a focus on the eleven principles, specifically addressing the membership structure for the FRDC IRG, and to identify a representative for the NPF were essential forum outcomes, and the broader engagement process could be addressed at a later stage.

Forum participants were briefed on the status of the IIRG and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants were requested to review the membership of the IRG.

Forum participants were also briefed on the status of the NPF and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants were requested to identify a representative to attend the NPF, who could provide an indigenous perspective to the national priority setting process.

These matters are discussed later.

#### **6.4.1 The Eleven Key RD&E Principles**

As mentioned above, the three small groups took the eleven principles and tested them against their key identified issues to see if their particular issues had been incorporated, or were covered, by the principles and/or if there was a means to consolidate the principles without losing participants' connections. This took a significant amount of time and there were some frustrations expressed as to the process taking too long, or conversely that it didn't provide enough time for full discussions on each issue. However, all in all, there was strong support for the principles, but with an acknowledgment that more was still to be done.

The small groups reported back that the eleven principles covered their key needs and could be used as a starting point for guiding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focussed RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry, but that there needed to be clear linkages back to the key issues to provide additional framework to the principles.

Some key feedback (see Appendix X for small group feedback) was that RD&E should always be considered in such a way as to;

- emphasise property rights and any potential impacts on them
- build projects and processes that cover both short and long term, but always with a view to building long term outcomes
- ensure all RD&E proposals have explicit regard to indigenous people's needs and engagement
- ensure allocation issues always have an indigenous component
- ensure that resources are available to assist indigenous project development and have extensions capacity
- have each project build capacity, with a view to succession planning.

It was noted that there may be an option to reduce the number of principles by linking key themes, but at this stage there is merit in remaining expansive and using the eleven principles as a starting point. Any changes need to be documented and linked back to the original statements, or build on the original concepts.

The end point of these discussions was that the eleven principles should stay as they were recorded, but that clear linkages be shown between them and each individual issue identified from the small group processes. This linkage is shown at Appendix VII.

In addition, it was felt that there would be merit in distilling the principles into an 'action or operational plan' by a smaller group selected from the forum, with a view to coming back to the larger group in the future for further input and endorsement, or further change.

At the forum's commencement it was proposed to prioritise RD&E needs, but this did not occur, as without more structure around the principles it was felt that it wasn't feasible or practicable to do so at this stage.

The eleven principles did however provide general guidance for those people/organisations who were considering undertaking indigenous focussed RD&E, and also gave FRDC and the NPF some sound guiding principles.

A number of participants however had to observe their cultural protocols and responsibilities and take these principles back to their communities before they could be formally agreed to. They did however suggest that it would be appropriate to move forward and adjust if necessary in the future.

This session took longer to complete than had been provided for in the forum running sheet/agenda, but as it was the critical component of the forum, the facilitators felt that there was a need to allow the process time to be completed.

#### **6.4.2 Engagement and consultation processes**

The above delay meant that this key allocated session did not have the required time available to fully explore the issues around engagement and consultation. The forum participants were aware of the key project objectives of assessing the make up of the FRDC

IRG and seeking a process to identify a representative to attend the NPF to provide an indigenous perspective.

#### Indigenous reference group

The aim of this session was to develop a process to identify suitable candidates to be members of the IRG. To facilitate this process FRDC representatives at the forum identified the current membership and outlined the proposed roles of the IRG (see Appendix XI for IRG membership). The type of roles outlined included, but weren't limited to;

- determining an agreed meeting schedule and work program for the IRG
- developing terms of reference and processes under which the IRG will operate
- building communication channels within the IRG, to the broader forum participants and beyond
- working towards processes to identify arrangements with respect to a representative for the NPF
- working towards developing a 'futures plan' from the Cairns workshop outcomes and principles to provide more solid actions for progression
- providing advice on a process for getting the Cairns forum group back together to review the IRG outcomes and processes
- providing advice to FRDC on RD&E proposals.

In terms of engagement and discussion, this session didn't fully meet the forum's aims of allowing sufficient time to fully develop the protocols and processes around selecting members for the IRG. This was mainly because the forum had utilised the bulk of its time confirming the RD&E principles and there was an imminent cut off time as the forum drew to conclusion, but it was understood that this issue was a key need by the forum sponsor.

This is not to say that the members selected to the IRG are not of the highest quality, and they will be easily able to undertake the roles expected, it is just that the group probably didn't have enough time to fully understand and explore the issues surrounding the group make up.

In the end the process for selection was based around forum participants offering their service as members of the IRG, or being nominated by forum participants. As a result the following people were nominated, and fully supported by the forum participants, to form the IRG; Stan Lui (Torres Strait), Denise Lovett (Victoria), Bo Carne (NT), Stephan Schnierer (NSW), Kevin Giles (WA) and Dennis Ah-Kee (Qld).

#### Identifying a representative to attend the NPF

The aim of this session was to develop a process to identify a suitable candidate to attend the NPF to provide an indigenous perspective to the national RD&E setting process. To facilitate this process the FRDC representatives at the forum outlined the roles and responsibilities of the NPF and how the potential representative would fit into the picture.

Again, time pressures were evident during this session, with many participants having to leave within a short period to make connecting flights home.

As with determining the makeup of the IRG, the process for identifying a NPF representative was not optimal, with many forum participants not fully aware of how the NPF process fitted with the forum they were currently attending and the bigger picture from an RD&E perspective, and the session being time poor.

As this was considered an extremely important issue, forum participants were cautious about making a long term decision about who should attend the NPF without having adequate time to fully consider the roles, responsibilities, obligations and how information would be distributed along the communication lines to forum participants, the IRG and back to the NPF. To address this it was agreed that the person nominated would be an interim measure until the IRG and/or the wider group had a chance to further consider a process to determine a longer term nomination.

Again the process adopted was to seek expressions of interest from the floor for the role, or for participants to nominate/suggest particular persons for the role. As a result of this process two people were nominated for the role, Kevin Giles and Dennis Ah-Kee.

As the NPF was seeking a sole representative this lead to some discussions around the best process to choose a representative, including sharing the roles, voting, ballots and round table discussions. In the end it was agreed that both Mr Ah-Kee and Mr Giles be nominated in the interim until the IRG developed an alternative for a more long term and sustainable nomination.

#### **6.4.3 Forum Wrap Up and Other Identified Issues**

The nomination of the NPF representatives brought the forum to a close, but there were a number of issues/ideas/needs that were identified over the two days that needed to be captured and actioned. These are briefly touched on below.

- there is a need to not only focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait RD&E from a national perceptive, but at a local and regional level when appropriate
- understanding how TFK and TFM can be applied as law (not lore)
- current processes for RD&E and fisheries management will need to be adaptive and most likely regional, to meet Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aspirations
- agencies, funders and other people who deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders need to understand the preferred consultative and project development process – Slow to develop processes, slow to get planning right, slow to get implementation right then fast to go ahead; i.e. SLOW, SLOW, SLOW then can GO.
- impacts of marine parks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders native title rights need to be considered



- the FRDC Board should undertake appropriate cultural awareness programs to provide them with the tools to better deal with, and understand, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aspirations and needs
- there should be an indigenous representative on the FRDC Board
- there is a need to better understand the nominal value of indigenous participation in the fishing and seafood industry
- capacity building and expertise identification and development is required across all regions
- past, present and proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects need to be identified, documented and used as part of a process to recognise gaps, to better meet RD&E needs
- a pre forum session for chairs and facilitators to clearly go over expectations and process for sessions would enhance outcomes and ensure clarity and consistency of process
- the forum participants will need to meet again to endorse/support the work of the IRG in developing actions from the eleven principles.

## **6.5 FOLLOW UP QUESTIONNAIRE**

A key component of this project was to run the forum in such a way that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders could comfortably operate and drive outcomes, but also to ensure that non-indigenous participants could gain positive outcomes as well. It was considered important by the PI to gauge participants' feelings about the forum. However as time ran out at the forum, the only option was to undertake a post forum follow up through a questionnaire (see Appendix VI). This was sent to all forum participants and sought their views on a number of issues, and requested that they rate them as being very good, good, average, poor or very poor.

The feedback from the forum would be particularly relevant when organising any follow up forums as proposed at the 'Shaping Indigenous RD&E' forum, or for any other meetings that FRDC or other groups may be considering.

It was acknowledged by the PI that responses via email would most likely be limited, and although 14 responded by email, this meant around 50% of participants didn't respond. To address this, the PI sought to phone those who hadn't completed the survey. This is still underway and will be reported to the IRG and FRDC. A summary of the responses to date is shown in Table 4.

Overall the feedback was positive, with most participants rating all aspects of the forum good or very good, although there were some issues around information provided prior to the forum. This is a valid point as there was not a lot of information provided prior to the

forum, and what was provided was done so quite late in the piece. This was mainly because the agenda was still evolving, and the final participant list was only finalised in the week prior to the forum. In hindsight it may have been better to have prepared more information as background (based around a broad draft agenda) and provided that to participants as they confirmed. However this may have also led to confusion at the forum.

There was generally very positive feedback in relation to the forum outcomes and networking and idea sharing opportunities of the forum, as well as the small group work, although there would have been benefit in the facilitators and the PI formally meeting prior to the forum to ensure that session processes were run along the same line by each facilitator and to develop contingency arrangements for the adaptive and flexible approach taken.

Major issues and areas for improvement mentioned by some participants were better time management, clearer forum processes, more time for discussions, a wider diversity of participants and independent facilitators (would have allowed the forum facilitators and their expertise to have been more involved as participants).

Table 4: Summary of Responses to Forum Follow Up Questionnaire

Question	Responses
How were your travel arrangements?	100% felt the arrangements were good or very good
How was your accommodation?	Around 80% felt the accommodation was good or very good with the balance rating it as poor
How were your meals?	Around 85% felt the meals were good or very good with the balance rating it as average
How well did the forum meet your cultural needs?	Around 75% felt their needs were met, 16% felt it was average and 8% felt it poorly met their needs
How was the information provided to you <b>before</b> the forum?	Around 60% felt the information provide prior to the forum was good or very good (most being good) with balance feeling it was average
How was the information provided to you <b>during</b> the forum?	Around 75% felt the information during the forum was good or very good (most being good) with the balance rating it as average
How was your understanding of what the forum was trying to achieved?'	Around 75% felt the they understood what the forum was trying to achieve, 15% understanding was average and 8% felt it was poor
What did you think of the forum outcomes?	Around 75% felt the forum outcomes were good or very good, 15% average and 10% poor
How was the forum run in general?	Around 75% felt the forum was run good or very good, and the balance average
How did you enjoy the forum in general?	Around 90% rated it good or very good, and the balance average
How did the facilitators perform?	Around 75% felt the facilitators performed good or very good, 15% average and 8% poor.
What did you enjoy the most (paraphrased)	Meeting and interacting with people from differ regions and expertise Discussing a range issues

	Hearing other people views and opinions New insights Presentation of projects happening in other areas Networking Meeting active people. Small group - gave a broader input into issues identified
What did you enjoy the least (paraphrased)	Wasn't enough time to complete each session Too much repetition Didn't follow workshop program Facilitators too involved in the issues Outcomes – don't reflect required national RD&E requirements
What three things would make the next forum better (paraphrased)	More female representation Better time management Decisions were made towards the end of the forum both very quickly and almost as a reactive impulse than a proactive nature More younger people More time needed – extra day More presentations Overview of indigenous fishing contexts from each jurisdiction International case studies Allow sufficient time to discuss outcomes Clearer more focussed objective for workshop More focussed sessions and structure Ensure session plans are followed More structure to sessions More outcomes based Daily reviewing time Independent facilitators Ensure that speakers provide information in a way that is linked to a process that allows participants to clearly understand the process and outcomes Broader group Better regional context Provide more information earlier Facilitators to keep group aware of process and continue to track if we were moving in the right direction More co-ordination between the facilitator and group leaders More listening by some people More interactive discussions Site visits

## 7 BENEFITS AND ADOPTION

Benefits have already become evident as a result of this project.

The summary forum outcomes have already been provided to the NPF, DAFF and FRDC's Social Science Subprogram.

All State, Territory and Commonwealth FRABS and Fisheries Agencies will be provided with the outcomes as a means to provide guidance on Aboriginal and Torres Strait RD&E investment.

The nominated interim representatives to the NPF have attended one NPF meeting.

The Cairns Forum's 11 Principles have been provided to a United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Workshop focussing on Article 10(c) Customary Use of Biological Resources in Montreal, Canada in early June 2011. The Montreal workshop involved indigenous people from all parts of the globe who provided information on their activities associated with customary use of biological resources with a view to developing advice which ultimately will go to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties meeting in later 2011. The broad findings identified at the Cairns Forum closely match the principles/ideas being put forward by this expert working group.

## **8 FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

As a result of the success of the forum in providing direction for Aboriginal and Torres Strait RD&E, FRDC has approved a project to provide operational and financial support to the IRG with a view to;

- determining a meeting schedule and work program
- developing terms of reference for the group
- developing processes under which the IRG will operate
- building communication channels within the IRG, to broader forum participants and beyond
- working towards processes to identify a more permanent arrangement with respect to representative(s) for the National Priorities Forum
- working towards developing a 'futures plan' from the Cairns workshop outcomes and principles to provide more solid actions for progression
- key outcomes have been developed and there is a need to identify the RD&E to deliver on the key principles
- providing advice on a process for getting the Cairns forum group back together to review the IRG outcomes and processes
- providing advice to FRDC, NPF, people development program and assistance with the scholarship selection promotion.

The representatives nominated by the forum attended the last NPF meeting held in April 2011.

It is anticipated that some of the project concepts identified at the Forum, and provided to the Montreal workshop on United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in June 2011, may be fed into the international process.

## **9 PLANNED OUTCOMES**

A successful national forum was held which brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from all mainland states and the NT to discuss indigenous focused RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry. As a result of the forum an extensive network across Australia was indentified to support ongoing development of indigenous lead RD&E priorities at a national level.

The project outputs provided FRDC with a source of advice, information and direction in respect to its investment in indigenous focused fisheries and seafood RD&E. FRDC's support of the forum increased its profile with its indigenous stakeholders and clarified its role within the national fishing and seafood industry. The need and benefits that could arise by enhancing FRDC's cultural awareness at an organisational and Board level were identified.

The revised IRG will provide FRDC focussed advice and guidance on indigenous RD&E. Two of the IRG members also undertook to participate in the NPF in the interim, prior to a more permanent arrangement being reached.

The PIMC has received information that can be utilised by the NPF as part of meeting its KPI's, strategic themes and identified actions.

Agencies will be able to utilise the forum outputs and networks to enhance or support their existing commitment to indigenous RD&E. Indigenous focused RD&E activity by Commonwealth and state/territory governments will be able to be shared through the IRG, and developed networks, which can build future collaborations

Indigenous Australians will benefit through increased engagement with the FRDC and the NPF, as well as the development of broader networks for the extension of RD&E.

A large and diverse range of issues requiring RD&E investment were identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The development of 'Eleven Key RD&E fishing and seafood focused principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' has set the foundation for more focused and improved RD&E investment.

The forum methodology, which focused as much as possible on observing cultural protocols, provided a template for future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RD&E focused meetings. In addition, improvements in the methodology and processes have been identified which will enhance any future meetings.

This forum's outputs will provide benefits to a range of stakeholders, agencies and organisations, including the FRDC, PIMC, state, territory and Commonwealth fishery and aquaculture agencies, commercial and recreational stakeholders, and most importantly, Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders.

To extend the forum outputs and outcomes a range of media opportunities are being investigated, such as through agencies and land council magazines and websites, NAILSMA newsletters, and indigenous focused newspapers, such as the Koori Mail. An article has been prepared for the next edition of FRDC's FISH magazine.

As a result of follow up actions and support offered by FRDC, the forum outputs will be developed into a 'futures plan' that can provide more solid actions for progression, and a process for getting the larger forum group back together to review the IRG outputs and processes.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

The 'Shaping Indigenous RD&E Advice' forum was in many ways the first step in a long journey to improve engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have an involvement, or interest, in the fishing and seafood industry. The lack of a coordinated approach and high levels principles has made it difficult for the development of RD&E projects that can build long term investment and capacity.

Bringing together Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people from around Australia provided a unique opportunity to discuss fishing and seafood industry related issues that affect them at a personal, community and regional level, and provided a snap shot of key issues facing indigenous people. The flow on benefits that will accrue from the extensive networks developed through the forum will prove invaluable, not just for FRDC, but fisheries agencies and other relevant organisations. However it was clearly noted that agencies and organisations need to become more aware of cultural protocols if they wish to generate RD&E outcomes that have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support and adoption.

The forum selected a revised IRG and this will allow FRDC to obtain sound advice and guidance on its investment in indigenous focused RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry. This will flow into the NPF, and as the nominated interim indigenous representatives are also members of the IRG, will allow a two way flow of information.

The forum identified a large and diverse range of indigenous focused issues that require RD&E investment. These issues were encapsulated in the 'Eleven Key RD&E fishing and seafood focused principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' that were developed during the forum. The challenge is to now take those principles and generate action that ensures that the identified issues are actioned across the fishing and seafood industry.

The forum methodology, focusing as much as possible on observing cultural protocols, proved successful overall, but was far from perfect. A number of ways to improve the methodology at future forums were identified, specifically time management, process clarity and keeping the group continually informed about what was going on and what was proposed.

FRDC's profile and commitment to its indigenous stakeholders was enhanced through the forum, and its role within the national fishing and seafood industry was clarified.

Forum participants felt strongly that it is important for the momentum generated at the forum to be maintained, and the opportunities that present themselves through improved investment in RD&E for indigenous Australians and the greater community be embraced.

## **11 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- C-AID Consultants. 2009. Blue Mud Bay Stakeholder Consultancy (I) - Final Report - July 2009. Report to the Northern Territory Government. Consultancy ref: NTG - D08-0553
- C-AID Consultants. 2010. Indigenous Consultation, Engagement, Economic Development and Co-Management in the Northern Territory Fishing and Seafood Industry. Blue Mud Bay Stakeholder Consultancy (II) - Final Report – February 2010. Report to the Northern Territory Government. Consultancy ref: NTG - (RFQFI-0029)
- Calogeras, C. and Carne, R. 2010. Scoping study to assess the potential to develop an Indigenous Fisheries Centre of Excellence (IFCoE). Final report to FRDC (Project No2009/323)
- Calogeras, C. and Sarneckis, K. 2009. Openness, Transparency, Clarity and Trust - Moving Forward Together for the NT Fishing and Seafood Industry. Moving to a common vision and understanding for equitable access for indigenous, recreational and commercial fishers: - Northern Territory fishing and seafood industry delegation to New Zealand. Final report to FRDC (Project No. 2008/31)
- Lovell, J. 2010. To explore ways to engage successfully with the indigenous community on fisheries R&D issues. Final Report to FRDC (Project No. 2009/329)

**APPENDIX I: Intellectual Property**

No intellectual property was developed under this project and any knowledge gained through this project is available to the broader Australian fishing and seafood industry.

**APPENDIX II: Staff**

The following staff were involved with this project;

Chris Calogeras	C-AID Consultants	Principal Investigator
Gail Calogeras	C-AID Consultants	Executive Manager

**Appendix III: FRDC Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG)**

Stephan Schnierer	NSW
Stan Lui	Torres Strait
Phil Kerr	Vic
Katie Phillis	WA
Jo Ruscoe	ACT
James Fogarty	QLD
Chris calogeras	NT/QLD
Bo Carne	NT



**APPENDIX IV: People/Organisations Contacted to Attend Forum<sup>7</sup>**

AFMA	
AFMF	NSW Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council
Aminjarrinja Corporation	NSW AFAC
Anindilyakwa Land Council	Rural Training Initiatives Pty Ltd
ARLP	OceanWatch
Australian Fisheries Management Forum	Primary Industries and Resources SA
Australian Maritime College	SA Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation	Shearwater Consulting
Cape York Land Council	South Australian Native Title Services Ltd
Charles Darwin University	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
DEEDI (Qld)	Southern Cross University
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	TSIC
Department of Fisheries WA	Tiwi Land Council
Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries Victoria	Torres Strait Community Fisher Group Representative
DoR (NT)	TSRA
DPIPWE (Tas)	UTAS
Far West Coast Traditional Lands Association	VISC
Framlingham Aboriginal Trust	Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative
FRDC	WAFIC
GBRMPA	Windamara Aboriginal Corporation
Gomilaroi/Youalaroi Murri	Yarabah Council
Gunditjmarra	
Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	
IIRG	
Industry and Investment NSW	
James Cook University	
Jaragun Pty Ltd	
Kalag Entreprises	
Kimberley Land Council	
Koori Employment Enterprises	
Munda Wamma Mar Aboriginal Corp	
Narunga native title group	
New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	
Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation	
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance	
Northern Land Council	

<sup>7</sup> The participant identification process was very organic and many additional people were contacted informally through the IIRG and other contacts and organisations

## **APPENDIX V: Samples Correspondence Provided to Potential Participants**

### EMAIL CONTACT SAMPLE

**Subject:** follow up from FRDC National Priorities Forum Survey - indigenous investments, activities and engagement

Hi All

I am contacting you as a follow-up to a survey that was sent out in August 2010 by Jo Ruscoe of FRDC as part of the National Priorities Forum. As you may recall the survey sought to gather information from AFMF agencies on current investments, activities and engagement processes for indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E.

By way of background, I am a member of FRDC's Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) and working with Jo and FRDC on a couple of indigenous focused projects. The most recent is seeking to arrange a face to face meeting of the IRG through a new FRDC Project No: 2010/401: Shaping advice for Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E within the national strategy. In addition to the seven IRG members the project will also provide assistance to bring together a wider group of people to discuss a range of specific issues around indigenous lead fishing and seafood based RD&E. The project has resources to help fund around 20-25 people, including IIRG members, with a cap of about 40 people all up if other appropriate people wish to self fund. A steering committee of Jo Ruscoe, Bo Carne, Stephan Schnierer, Stan Lui and myself have started working towards the two day forum which we hope to hold in late Feb or March 2011 (exact date and venue still to be finalised).

The following sessions have been proposed for the forum;

1. Perspective setting/introduction
2. Information exchange
3. Key questions that need answering from a RD&E perspective

We are putting together a list of possible participants and a selection process will be undertaken by the steering group and FRDC. I am seeking your assistance in identifying some key indigenous 'go to' people who you feel may be appropriate to attend the forum. We are looking for people who are already engaged in indigenous fishing and aquaculture issues and/or who have taken a leadership role in policy/projects and/or who may wish to help facilitate aspects of the forum.

The steering committee is having a telcon on 20 December and I would really appreciate if you could provide some feedback before then.

Please feel free to give me a buzz to chat about this.

Cheers

Chris

SAMPLE LETTER TO POTENTIAL SELF-FUNDED PARTICIPANTS

ABN: 718 491 85250

Dear

February 2011

**RE:** Invitation to attend forum – Shaping Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's (FRDC) mission is to maximise economic, environmental and social benefits for its fishing and seafood stakeholders through effective investment and partnership in research, development and extension (RD&E). To help the FRDC manage its investment with its Indigenous stakeholders an Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG) was established in 2010. This group identified the need to broaden advice so as to give FRDC further direction on its RD&E investment.

To help achieve this, FRDC has supported a project entitled '*Shaping advice for Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E within the national strategy*'. The project concept is based around a forum which will bring together members of the IIRG along with providing an opportunity to allow a wider group of people to get together to discuss a range of specific issues around indigenous fisheries and seafood based RD&E. A steering committee has been developed to organise the forum and liaise with potential participants to assess their availability to attend.

The forum will host 25-35 participants, and is scheduled for **30-31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at the Cairns Colonial Resort, Cairns**. The forum sessions will include;

- Perspective setting and introduction
- Information exchange – needs and key issue identification
- Sessions to provide answers and directions on key identified issues relating to indigenous lead RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.

The committee would welcome your attendance at the forum and is in a position to pay your workshop fees, main meals and provide morning and afternoon tea. Unfortunately due to limited available funds, the IIRG respectfully request that your employer cover your accommodation expenses, and travel costs. Accommodation is available at the forum venue for a discounted rate of \$127.00 per night, which includes a full breakfast.

Can you please contact Bo Carne on 0401115813 or [Robert.Carne@nt.gov.au](mailto:Robert.Carne@nt.gov.au) to confirm your attendance or otherwise no later than **10<sup>th</sup> February 2011**.

Please feel free to contact myself or Bo if you have any further queries.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Calogeras', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

CHRIS CALOGERAS  
Project Co-ordinator

FRDC Project No: 2010/401: *Shaping advice for Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E within the national strategy*  
C-AID Consultants Australia Tel: 0401692601, Email: [calogeras@iinet.net.au](mailto:calogeras@iinet.net.au) [www.c-aid.com.au](http://www.c-aid.com.au)

SAMPLE LETTER TO POTENTIAL FUNDED PARTICIPANTS

Dear

February 2011

RE: Invitation to attend forum – Shaping Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's (FRDC) mission is to maximise economic, environmental and social benefits for its fishing and seafood stakeholders through effective investment and partnership in research, development and extension (RD&E). To help the FRDC manage its investment with its Indigenous stakeholders an Interim Indigenous Reference Group (IIRG) was established in 2010. This group identified the need to broaden advice so as to give FRDC further direction on its RD&E investment.

To help achieve this, FRDC has supported a project entitled '*Shaping advice for Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E within the national strategy*'. The project concept is based around a forum which will bring together members of the IIRG along with providing an opportunity to allow a wider group of people to get together to discuss a range of specific issues around indigenous fisheries and seafood based RD&E. A steering committee has been developed to organise the forum and liaise with potential participants to assess their availability to attend.


The forum will host 25-35 participants, and is scheduled for 30-31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at the Cairns Colonial Resort, Cairns. The forum sessions will include;

- Perspective setting and introduction
- Information exchange – needs and key issue identification
- Sessions to provide answers and directions on key identified issues relating to indigenous lead RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.

The committee would welcome your attendance at the forum and are offering to cover your air travel and accommodation expenses at the forum venue. If you are in a position to attend could you please advise Bo Carne on 0401115813 or Robert.Carne@nt.gov.au so we can make the necessary arrangements for your attendance. Confirmation would be appreciated by no later than 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

Please feel free to contact myself or Bo if you have any further queries.

Regards



CHRIS CALOGERAS  
Project Co-ordinator



## APPENDIX VI: Post Forum Questionnaire

To all participants who attended the Shaping Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E Forum in Cairns 30-31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

To allow us to better plan for future meetings could you please complete the following questionnaire and email it back to [calogeras@iinet.net.au](mailto:calogeras@iinet.net.au), or post it to Chris Calogeras C/-PO Box 770 Karama NT 0813 or call Chris on 0401692601 to give your responses. To complete the form please circle which answer best fits the question and provide any comments if that makes your answers clearer. Your individual responses will not be provided or reported on.

YOUR NAME: .....

How were your travel arrangements?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How was your accommodation?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How were your meals?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How well did the forum meet your cultural needs?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How was the information provided to you <b>before</b> the forum?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How was the information provided to you <b>during</b> the forum?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How was your understanding of what the forum was trying to achieved?'	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
What did you think of the forum outcomes?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How was the forum run in general?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How did you enjoy the forum in general?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
How did the facilitators perform?	very good	good	average	poor	very poor	Any comments:
CAN YOU PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS WELL						
What did you enjoy the most						
What did you enjoy the least						
What three things would make the next forum better						

## APPENDIX VII: Identification of Issues through Small Group Processes and Links to Eleven Key Principles

<b>Group 1.</b> Bo (facilitator), Brooke, Daniel, Terry, Jim, Tony, Mervyn, Nick, Joe	
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>LINK to 11 PRINCIPLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we get started in a new initiative;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>who helps/support? (advice /extension)</li> <li>link community small business aspirations (helping small groups)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>5, 6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies need to be implemented/followed through; eg WA indigenous fishing strategy after people have committed</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No peak body to provide 'push' for indigenous fishing – a lack of \$</li> </ul>	<b>1, 3, 4,5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFC ranger groups doing well 'nationally', having to find links them together and to other Australian Govt strategies; i.e. 'closing gaps' etc               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited funds, long term focus</li> <li><i>Need innovative ways</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit or research ATSI 'science' ('IP')</li> </ul>	<b>7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little recognition from Govt/management of ATSI connection to country and species</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistencies across states regarding indigenous fishing – govt driven with no real consultation</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify what is customary fishing – can then make sure it is protected</li> </ul>	<b>1, 7, 8</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of cultural pride/discipline; younger people lack of respect for customary responsibility. Difficulty in compliance with cultural law. Cultural governance</li> </ul>	<b>7, 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An industry is being created to 'solve' the indigenous 'problem' - ATSI need to drive</li> </ul>	<b>5, 7, 11</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change lore to law – must be ATSI motivation, need to develop a mechanism. Governance = law</li> </ul>	<b>1, 3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May need motivation - housing/infrastructure/\$\$ to support those that are motivated in remote locations (when urban you lose opportunity for funding). Need to build capacity to address social and commercial needs</li> </ul>	<b>5, 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter – ATSI 'politics' – complexity can be a hindrance on individuals setting up business operations (also government hindrance thru legislation or policy)</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we empower our community. Capacity, resourcing, consultation and extension (local, regional and national)</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding issues; difficulty to 'buy in' having to apply to multiple institution – lack of flexibility, broader than RD&amp;E</li> </ul>	<b>4, 11</b>

<b>Group 2.</b> Stephan (facilitator), Jamie, Gavin, Lavenie, Denise, Phil, Chris R, Kevin, Klynton	
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>LINK to 11 PRINCIPLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial pressures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distance (geography)</li> <li>market access</li> <li>supply maintenance (wind, weather)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>5</b>

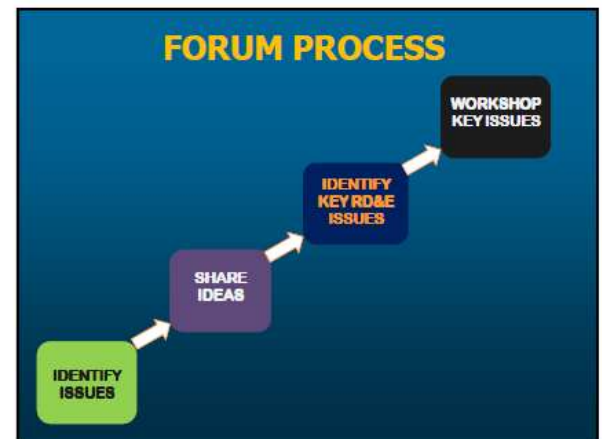
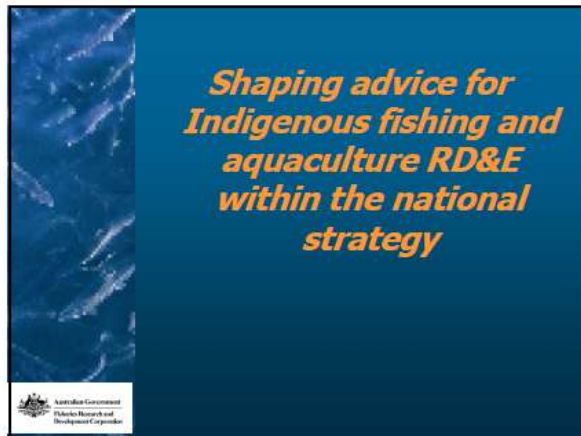
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ develop market capacity</li> <li>○ potential to value add</li> <li>○ Develop indigenous wholesale players</li> <li>○ Pooling effort to be able to stockpile on a regional basis</li> <li>○ to develop sales and marketing capacity</li> <li>○ develop social capacity</li> <li>○ develop community capacity (including understanding whitefella science)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incorporation of traditional fishing knowledge and traditional fishing management with mainstream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ development of a two way street</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	6, 7, 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ecosystem impact of non-indigenous fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify and quantify</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to fishing sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultural management</li> <li>○ legislation and block to revitalize knowledge</li> <li>○ Commercial access      \$ and capacity to gain access (traditional resources)</li> <li>○ Management roles and legislation reduce capacity to get into the industry</li> <li>○ Recreational</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2, 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of recognition Aboriginal fisheries (activity and place) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fishing</li> <li>○ Management</li> <li>○ What is</li> <li>○ Decision making processes – improve engagement capacity</li> <li>○ Need to find means to determine appropriate allocation – piece of the pie (species, spatial, and quantity) + lost opportunity</li> <li>○ Definition of indigenous fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural</li> <li>▪ Commercial</li> <li>▪ Recreational</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Top down approach</li> <li>○ Options for self or co-management</li> <li>○ Real involvement in the decision-making process</li> <li>○ Who can make the decisions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Level of environment and awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Impacts of activities on ecosystem</li> <li>○ Impacts on culture and practice</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	7, 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify investment opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overseas investment</li> <li>○ Benefit sharing – mining example, engagement and opportunities</li> <li>○ Protect indigenous peoples rights as part of resource use</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5, 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional use of resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dealing with people who enter an estate and take fish not in their estate</li> <li>○ Issues with defining cultural rights and access</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3, 7, 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Getting members on appropriate committees</li> <li>○ Resourcing – funding and capacity. – look at caring for country NRM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3, 5, 6, 9

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>example in WA</li> <li>○ Building capacity at all levels</li> <li>○ Government have a responsibility to consult and engage – should be supported then</li> <li>○ Look to build relationships with other sectors – all fishers rely on the resource</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Value of indigenous fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Put a money value on involvement in fishing, broader than direct return - health etc</li> <li>○ Mechanism to determine agreed valuation methods</li> <li>○ Determine the historical value of indigenous catch (lost opportunity + actual catch)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impacts of Marine Parks on native title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Possible impacts on native title</li> <li>○ Compensation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2, 9

<b>Group 3.</b> Dennis (facilitator), Michael, Cyril, Clarry, Jill, Ian, Alan, Nesman, Jo, Bob	
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>LINK to 11 PRINCIPLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Effects of trawling on bycatch</li> </ul>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Turtles and dugong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commercial fishing practiced</li> <li>○ Traditional fishing practices (gear)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3, 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fishing recreational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bag limits local impacts on traditional food sources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Processes – admin and regulations to get projects over the line – knowledge needs timelines/frames for project. Extension needs and difficulties</li> </ul>	5, 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research into traditional foods and food security</li> </ul>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long-term employment - especially regional communities</li> </ul>	5, 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring and baseline studies of impacts on discharge (mining, farming, developments and urban) – effects on marine mammals. ATSI to collect and use information</li> </ul>	7, 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consultation processes by private enterprises (bottom up v top down approach) – ongoing monitoring of impacts</li> </ul>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection of sea country - e.g. BMB</li> </ul>	1, 3, 9

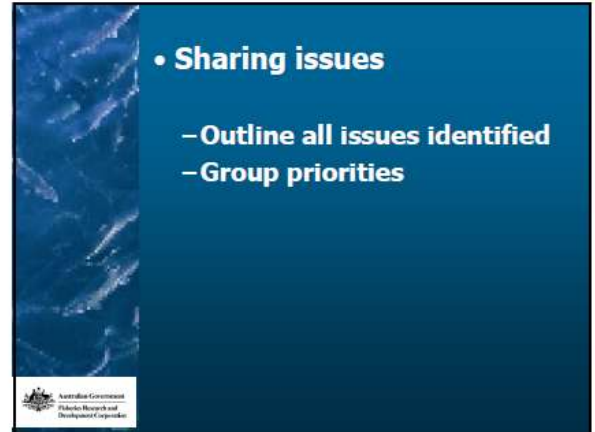


APPENDIX VIII: PowerPoint Used to Guide Forum Process





- **Identification of issues 2**
  - What do you want to change
  - Why
  - What do you hope to achieve thru change
  - What type of help is needed



- **Sharing issues**
  - Outline all issues identified
  - Group priorities



- **Key issues**
  - Similar issues across country
  - What is most important
  - Key regional issues



- **Dinner**
  - Upstairs in Jardines Room
  - 6.30 to 7.00pm
  - Breakfast in Homestead
  - Tomorrow 8.30am
  - Check out 10.00am



- **WELCOME**
- **FORUM – Representation and engagement**
- **FORUM DISCUSSIONS – key issues**
- **WHAT NEXT**
- **CLOSING**

## APPENDIX IX: Forum Running Sheet for Facilitators

### DAY 1

Time	Item	Facilitator Presenter	Key Issues
8.45	Welcome housekeeping	Bo	<b>10 minutes (Welcome to country as well - Seith Fourmile TBA)</b> <u><b>AIM – to set scene for two day forum</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on the fact this forum is for indigenous people to develop <u>their</u> key issues.</li> <li>• Not a representative group – expertise and is a starting point</li> <li>• Outline their responsibilities</li> <li>• Let them know Jo and I will discuss details about timeline, schedule, agenda items etc ;later</li> <li>• Is it ok to take photos during forum for reports etc</li> <li>• Pass onto Patrick</li> </ul>
8.55	Forum opening	Patrick	<b>10 minutes</b> <u><b>AIM - To recognise participants attendance, FRDC role and FRDC's aspirations from forum</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• opening as the sponsor</li> <li>• FRDC, why sponsoring the forum</li> <li>• What has FRDC done in the past</li> <li>• What you hope to achieve</li> <li>• Thank people for coming.</li> <li>• Pass on to Jo and Chris</li> </ul>
9.05	Forum overview	Jo / Chris	<b>15 minutes</b> <u><b>AIM - To outline the nuts and bolts of the forum – explain some key concepts</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is RD&amp;E</li> <li>• how the forum fits into the big picture - reality check</li> <li>• how it will run</li> <li>• logistics etc</li> <li>• what we hope to achieve</li> <li>• Pass onto Stephan</li> </ul>
9.20	Introduction of participants	Stephan	<b>35 minutes_– allow approx 1 min ute per person on average</b> <u><b>AIM - Allow all participants to understand who is in the room</b></u>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table introduction</li> <li>• Name, where from, role, fishery or NRM interest</li> <li>• Pass on to Bo and Terry</li> </ul>
9.55	<b>Cultural perspectives</b>	Bo / Terry	<p><b>25 minutes</b></p> <p><b><u>AIM - To identify the broader linkages to sea country, water and indigenous aspirations (very important for non-indigenous peoples understanding)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bo to facilitate – Terry Yumbul to open.</li> <li>• To provide some grounding as to the issues and roles associated with indigenous connection to sea country/water and aspirations.</li> <li>• Seek any other comments from floor</li> <li>• Focus forum back to workshop outcomes</li> <li>• Pass on to Nesman and Brooke</li> </ul>
10.20	<b>Guest speaker</b>	Nesman / Brooke	<p><b>10 minutes</b></p> <p><b><u>AIM - outline ARLP project findings from a non-indigenous persons perspective and provide an overview of what's happening at Groote (trepang and fishing)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on ARLP learnings</li> <li>• Groote operations – future</li> <li>• Lessons learned</li> <li>• Pass onto Chris</li> </ul>
10.30	<b>Morning tea</b>	Chris	<p><b>20 minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition, what's following and details</li> </ul>
10.50	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase Identification of key RD&amp;E issues for indigenous fishing and aquaculture</b>	<p>Bo, Stephan, Dennis, TBA from group?</p> <p>Chris</p>	<p><b>90 minutes_total</b></p> <p><b><u>AIM - To gather a broad range of issues that affect indigenous people's use of and connection to sea/water. If time group similar issues into broader groups</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline proposed outcomes and process (see below Phase 1 and Phase 2)</li> <li>• Split into two groups based on interaction with turtle dugong or not (i.e. nth and sth)</li> <li>• Bo and Dennis nth group, Stephan and TBA sth group (can use room and two outside areas, take butchers paper, pens etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase</b></p> <p><u>Stage 1</u> - Each workshop participants' views sought on issues that impacted on them, their families, communities and industries – <b>all</b> issues recorded by facilitator/scribe. If possible also get following info;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What could be done to improve the situation</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How would this improve it</li> <li>What type of help do you think you need to make this happen</li> </ul> <p><u>Stage 2</u> - Specific issues grouped under broad areas of similarity</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – day 2</b>  Identify ideas that would help address the issues/problems  Make use of expertise in room to workshop issues and outline potential  Identify RD&amp;E solutions  Develop broad objectives and methods for potential projects that would meet sectors needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass onto Bo</li> </ul>
12.20	<b>Morning wrap up</b>	Bo Carne	<b>10 minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition, what's following and details</li> </ul>
12.30	<b>Lunch</b>		<b>60 minutes</b>
1.30	<b>Identification of key issues – continued</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase</b>	Bo, Stephan, Dennis, Chris	<b>45 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM - To group broader issues into areas of similarity and prioritise issues</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same groups as morning session</li> </ul> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase</b> Specific issues grouped under broader areas of similarity Priority issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass onto Small Group facilitators</li> </ul>
2.15	<b>Sharing the key RD&amp;E ideas</b>	Small group facilitators report back with group members	<b>60 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM - To share and record the issues identified by both groups across the forum</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small group facilitators and relevant members from groups report back to forum.</li> <li>Outline all issues identified</li> <li>Identify group priorities</li> <li>All ideas recorded – (Chris)</li> <li>Pass onto Jamie</li> </ul>
3.15	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		<b>15 minutes</b>
3.30	<b>Guest speaker</b>	Jamie Damaso	<b>10 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM - outline status of indigenous focussed RD&amp;E and related projects in the NT.</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects</li> <li>Processes</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned</li> <li>• Pass onto Panel – (how do we get the panel?)</li> </ul>
3.40	<b>Identify key issues</b>	Panel from regions	<b>70 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to identify and agree on key issues raised by groups, firstly National and the if practicable regional</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight areas of similarity across Australia – key national issues</li> <li>• Use discussion and voting process if appropriate – seeking 2-3 top priorities</li> <li>• Seek agreement on priorities</li> <li>• Highlight key regional issues</li> <li>• Pass onto TBA</li> </ul>
4.50	<b>Day wrap up</b>	TBA	<b>10 minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition, what's following dinner and tomorrow</li> <li>• Pass onto Chris</li> </ul>
6.30	<b>Dinner Jardines Room</b>	Chris	Buffet Dinner starts at 7pm Some complimentary refreshments from 7pm

## DAY 2

Time	Item	Facilitator Presenter	Key Issues
8.30	<b>Welcome and days outline</b>	Bo	<b>10 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to set scene for two day forum</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refocus participants</li> <li>• Recap where we got to yesterday</li> <li>• Outline what we are doing today – end point</li> <li>• Pass onto Stephan</li> </ul>
8.40	<b>Forum Discussion REPRESENTATION &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>	Stephan and panel of participants	<b>90 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to provide a way forward for improving indigenous representation and engagement (in line with FRDC's capacity)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline issue – why is it important</li> <li>• Seek examples of models that work from forum - document</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify limiters to effective engagement/representation</li> <li>• Seek solutions and ways forward</li> <li>• Pass onto TBA</li> </ul>
10.10	<b>Guest speaker</b>	TBA	<b>10 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM - outline status of tropical rock lobster aquaculture and indigenous participation.</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project</li> <li>• Processes</li> <li>• Lessons learned</li> <li>• Pass onto Chris</li> </ul>
10.20	<b>Morning tea</b>	Chris	<b>15 minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition, what's following and details</li> <li>• Bo, Stephan, Dennis after lunch</li> </ul>
10.35	<b>Confirming agreed key RD&amp;E issues</b>	Bo, Stephan, Dennis, Chris	<b>55 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to confirm key National issues</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect back on day 1 discussions – key issues</li> <li>• Seek reconfirmation of priorities - discussion</li> <li>• Revisit priorities if necessary (hope not)</li> <li>• Outline upcoming process - <b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify ideas that would help address the key issues/problems</li> <li>○ Make use of expertise in room to workshop issues and outline potential solutions</li> <li>○ Identify RD&amp;E solutions</li> <li>○ Develop broad objectives and methods for potential projects that would meet sectors needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pass onto Bo</li> </ul>
11.20	<b>Forum Discussion – Issue 1*</b> <b>KEY RD&amp;E ISSUES 2</b> <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	Bo (may wish to seek expertise from room to assist?)	<b>75 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to workshop key issue #1 with a view to determining RD&amp;E solutions to addressing issue</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify issue</li> <li>• Identify ideas that would help address the issues/problems</li> <li>• Make use of expertise in room to workshop issues and outline potential</li> <li>• Identify RD&amp;E solutions</li> <li>• Develop broad objectives and methods for potential projects that would meet sectors needs</li> <li>• Clarify outcome</li> <li>• Pass onto Chris</li> </ul>

12.35	<b>Lunch</b>		<b>45 minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition, what's following and details</li> <li>• Dennis after lunch</li> </ul>
1.20	<b>Forum Discussion - Issue 2*</b> <b>KEY RD&amp;E ISSUES 2</b> <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	Dennis	<b>75 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to workshop key issue #2 with a view to determining RD&amp;E solutions to addressing issue</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify issue</li> <li>• Identify ideas that would help address the issues/problems</li> <li>• Make use of expertise in room to workshop issues and outline potential</li> <li>• Identify RD&amp;E solutions</li> <li>• Develop broad objectives and methods for potential projects that would meet sectors needs</li> <li>• Clarify outcome</li> <li>• Pass onto Chris</li> </ul>
2.35	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		<b>15 minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition, what's following and details</li> <li>• Pass onto TBA</li> </ul>
2.50	<b>Forum Discussion - Issue 3*</b> <b>KEY RD&amp;E ISSUES 3 (if time available)</b> <i>Key issue identified and agreed to previously during workshop processes</i>	TBA	<b>60 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to workshop key issue #3 with a view to determining RD&amp;E solutions to addressing issue</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify issue</li> <li>• Identify ideas that would help address the issues/problems</li> <li>• Make use of expertise in room to workshop issues and outline potential</li> <li>• Identify RD&amp;E solutions</li> <li>• Develop broad objectives and methods for potential projects that would meet sectors needs</li> <li>• Clarify outcome</li> <li>• Pass onto Panel</li> </ul>
3.50	<b>Where to from here</b>	Panel - Bo, Stephan, Jo, Chris and forum members	<b>40 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to clearly identify what is going to happen with the information collected at the forum</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collation of information and issues identified</li> <li>• Potential projects outline developed</li> <li>• Information and potential project outline distributed to all participants for further comment – how best to do this, seek forum response</li> <li>• Final report prepared and more broadly distributed</li> <li>• Relevant projects submitted (steering groups etc)</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If ok – other issues can be listed on empowering site? (Hopefully we have sorted out a bit about how to keep in contact/engage earlier – if not we need to have a discussion)</li> <li>• Pass onto Patrick</li> </ul>
4.30	<b>Closing statements</b>	Patrick and response from participants	<b>15 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM - To thanks participants for their attendance and input and what FRDC role may be in the future</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank people for attendance and input</li> <li>• FRDC, role and commitment to future processes</li> <li>• Some key learnings/points?</li> <li>• Pass on to Jo and Chris</li> <li>• Pass onto Bo/Stephan</li> </ul>
4.45	<b>Forum Close</b>	Bo and Stephan	<b>10 minutes</b> <b><u>AIM – to close forum and set the course for the future</u></b>

## Bo follow up

- Went thru 11 points and analysed each statement and got key themes
- Recognition and representation
  - Management
  - Research
    - Value of customary fishing and customary management (totemic, sacred sites)
  - Development
  - Governance
- Capacity building
  - People
  - Agencies
- Resourcing
- How (issues) v what (doing). Do some linkages
- Be expansive to start with – suggest possible readjustment - show journey thinking
- Conflict resolution techniques – seem as models (language of discussions)

## Stephan follow up

- Emphasize 'property rights' – impacts on rights
- Access
- Representation
  - Short term and build to long term
- All research proposals to have regard for indigenous – core business
- Use list of 11 key points as framework – but if condensed must be linked
- Use the spread sheet approach as proposed by Chris – cut half way

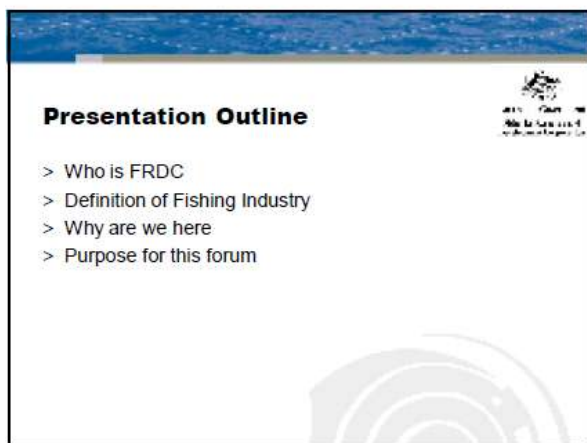
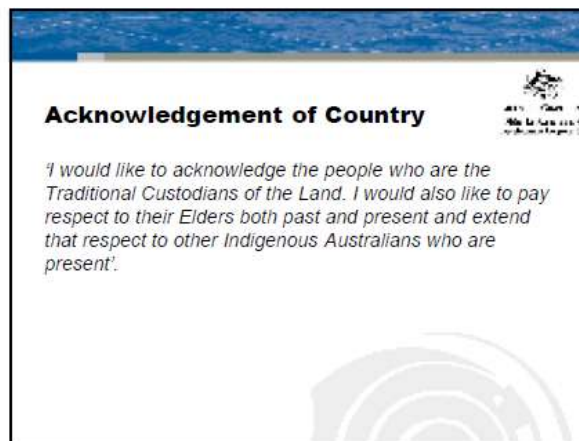
## Dennis follow up

- Allocation of resource
- Assistance in developing projects + extension
- Succession planning –post RD&E
- Use list of 11 key points as framework – but if condensed must be linked

## **Appendix XI:               FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)**

Stan Lui	Torres Strait Islands
Denise Lovett	Victoria
Bo Carne	NT
Stephan Schnierer	NSW
Kevin Giles	WA (also interim National Priorities Forum delegate)
Dennis Ah-Kee	Qld (also interim National Priorities Forum delegate).

## Attachment 1: Forum Opening – Patrick Hone FRDC



## The Fishing Industry

- The “fishing industry” comprises three main sectors:
  - Indigenous
  - Commercial – Wild catch and Aquaculture
  - Recreational

## Why are we here?

2 Main Reasons

## New RD&E Planning Documents



## Working Together – The National Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy

- 14 Sector and 7 Cross-Sector Strategies
  - Our Strategy Approved by Ministerial Council
  - Establishes a national approach
- The concept recognises that basic and strategic research (R) can be provided from a distance, with regional adaptive development (D) and local extension (E) required to improve the uptake of innovation by industry.
- Implementation has started
  - Recognised two major gaps:
    - Extension and Adoption
    - Addressing Indigenous RD&E needs – no representation

## FRDC Indigenous investment

## Purpose – FRDC perspective

- Understand indigenous aspirations
- Commence identification of RD&E key issues and opportunities
- Hear example of what works
- Develop improved indigenous representation and engagement

**Attachment 2: ARLP and Numayanga Venture – Nesman Bara & Brooke Rankmore**

**Engagement – FRDC and ARLP**

**Objectives**

- Explore ways to engage with indigenous communities
- Develop guidelines for engagement
- Build capacity with FRDC to engage









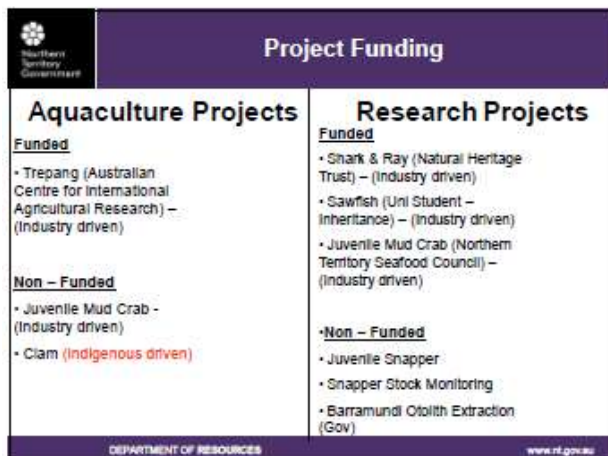
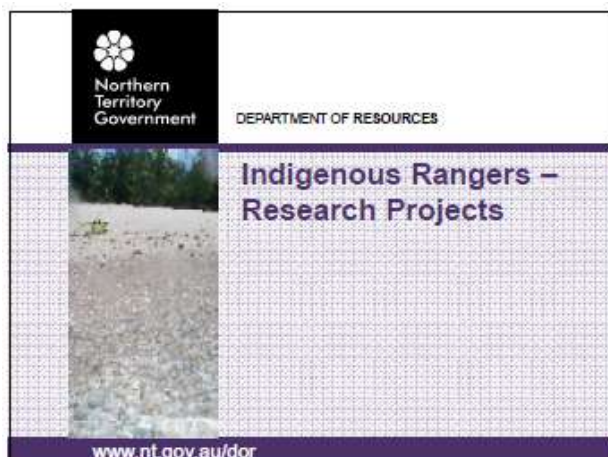


## Nu mayanga – Fishing and Trepang

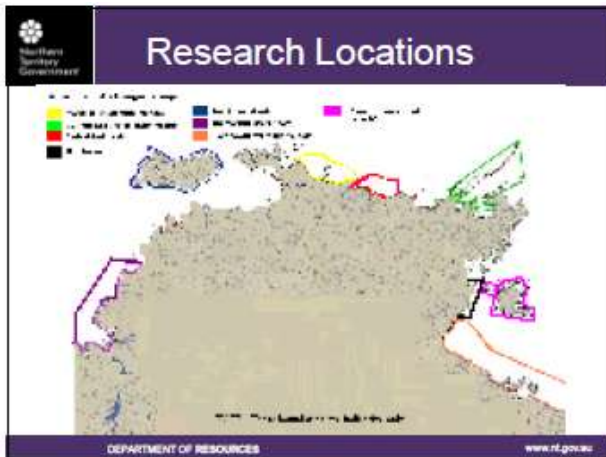




## Attachment 3: NT Indigenous Rangers – Jamie Damaso







## Utilising Rangers

- Location
- Resources – vessels
- Local Indigenous Knowledge
- Efficient
- Combine with patrols
- Getting samples from a Neutral source
- Genuine interest and enjoyment

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)



## Shark & Stingray Project

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)

## Shark and Stingray Project


The main outcomes from this project were:

- Community Engagement through schools
- A successful research model that can now be used for other research projects
- Indigenous Employment – and the development of a Junior Ranger program.
- Community took over the project – Indigenous Lead.

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)

## Sawfish

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)



## Outcomes

- Outcomes
- Employment Opportunities
- Capacity Building for the rangers
- Proven success that this research model can be transferred and utilised for a range of research
- A successful research project undertaken with limited funding

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
www.nt.gov.au



## Key Issues

- Limited Indigenous commercial participation due mainly to no skill capacity
- Need for technical extension support and opportunity, across industry
  - Barramundi, Mud Crab, Coastal Line, Rec. Tourism (FTO), Aquaculture
- Lack of engagement, education and information on extension opportunities.

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
www.nt.gov.au



## Ranger needs



- Opportunities for development
- Some through extension support
- More development to undertake research activities
- -NT Fisheries drafted a MR Policy to improve engagement between scientists, govt, industry and rangers.

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
www.nt.gov.au



## Summary

- Rangers are a valuable tool for RD+E
- Need opportunities for development (some through extension support)
- Need more development to undertake Research activities
- Saves time and money
- Accurate and reliable results, data and outcomes
- Regular monitoring in remote areas
- Capacity building for Indigenous rangers who are genuinely interested in RD+E work
- Then leading into possible fulltime employment with the department
- Benefits rangers through providing a technical background to support their resource management work and traditional lifestyle.
- Govt have insight on how to conduct research models that others can adapt, developing a product that other govt departments can tap into. Effective Indigenous engagement tool.

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
www.nt.gov.au