



**Marine  
and Coastal**

**National Environmental Science Program**

## **Protected Places Initiative 2021-2023**

**Project 1.1**

### **Vision**

By 2028, effective protection and conservation of at least 30 per cent of Australia's jurisdiction, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.

### **Mission**

The Protected Places Mission will deliver the science to support the protection and conservation of biodiversity, cultural, Indigenous, and heritage values through well connected, equitable and effective systems of protected places, and other effective area-based conservation measures across at least 30 percent of Australia's jurisdiction, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.

### **Process for Developing Initiative Strategy**

Initiative co-leads engage with identified areas of DAWE to scope research needs. Science Partnerships section will liaise with co-leads to ensure that all relevant sections are consulted.

To assist in the process different areas will be asked:

- a. What are the goals for this area by 2028 (ie end of the NESP)
- b. What needs to change to achieve those goals
- c. What scientific information do you need to make that change
- d. What are the current activities that are working towards that change

Initiative co-leads will use this information to develop mission projects in collaboration with research users and research providers.

## Potential Outcomes

1. Supporting the management of Australia's protected places by building capacity of indigenous communities and organisations to determine, lead and disseminate science to support protected place management. Thus, ensuring Indigenous peoples benefit from protected places, including protection of social and cultural values, training, and employment.
2. Building capacity for consistent, standards-based approaches to collecting, analysing, managing, and reporting social, economic and environmental data to identify the key drivers of resilient populations and ecosystems in protected places, particularly climate change and impacts from multiple drivers.
  - a. Within Australian Protected Areas, World Heritage Areas and, Ramsar sites.
  - b. Understanding, describing, and quantifying the different pressures found within each protected place.
3. Improving the governance of Australia's protected areas by reviewing approaches to monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) in Australia to identify best practice and highlighting opportunities to develop complementary approaches between programs and across land sea/nexus.
  - a. Ground truthing the effectiveness of existing management.
  - b. Implementation of MERI framework for AMPs and science support for terrestrial protected places.
4. Development of cost-effective methods and strategies to monitor the status and trends of biodiversity, cultural, indigenous, and heritage values.
  - a. Within Australian Marine Protected Areas, Heritage Areas and Marine Park, Ramsar sites.
  - b. Incorporating traditional knowledge into management practices.
  - c. Improved understanding of the distribution of biodiversity in marine and terrestrial protected places.
5. Restoration of landscapes/seascapes within protected places.
6. Delivery of scientific support for Australia in meeting obligations and reporting for Protected Area related international treaties & agreements (e.g., CBD, CITES, CMS, UNEP, BBNJ)

Outcomes will be refined/adjusted in consultation with research-users.



## Project Leads

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ABOVE LEFT: Wet Tropics World Heritage Rainforests (Image: Yvette Williams, RRRC) ABOVE CENTRE: Kelp Forest ABOVE RIGHT: Grasstree county. OPPOSITE PAGE: Pod of killer whales surfacing above the head of the Henry Canyon, south of Bremer Bay (Image: Rebecca Wellard, Curtin University)