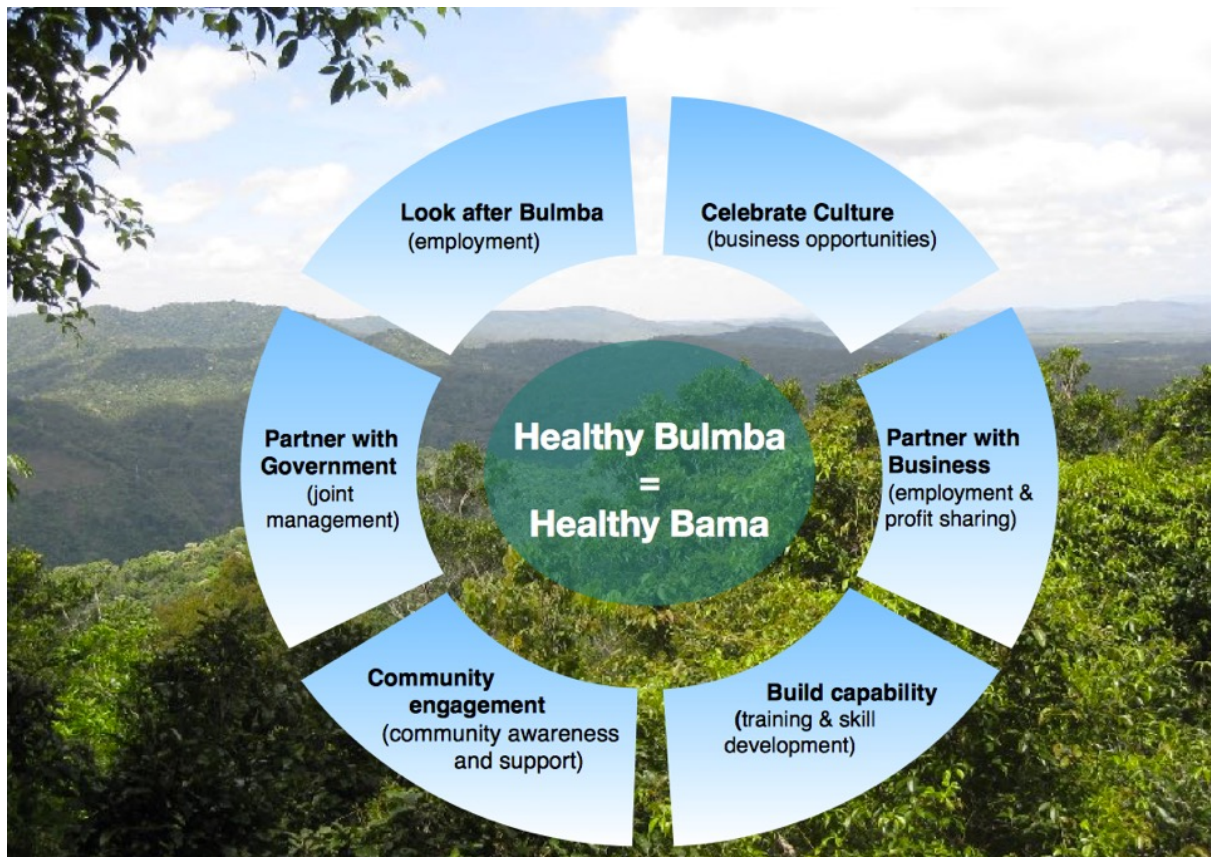


Djabugay Bulmba Bama Plan

Din Din Barron Gorge National Park



DRAFT

20 / 10 / 2018

Djabugay Statement

Djabugay speaking people have and hold strong cultural connections to this country. It captures the essence of our existence through the creation stories and Bulurru the spirit, law and lore is still prevalent in country and people. This gives us the Djabugay people our strength and our identity.

The arrival of Gadja (white men), three generations ago eroded not only our cultural connections but also our ability to derive spiritual, physical and economic sustenance through subsistence living on the land or our trade routes that existed and were widely used.

To this day Djabugay people are yet to recover culturally and economically. Indeed, we are in a position where our country Barron Gorge is one of the most visited places both within our region and nationally. Certainly the unique attraction abounds with natural beauty and wonder; values Djabugay people have held for this special place since time immemorial. As an attraction there are many within the broader community who derive an income from these values. We as Djabugay people have seen a progression of tourism promotions and attractions and tours developed over the years. All of these activities have largely ignored the inclusion of Djabugay cultural connections and knowledge of this country into promotion of Barron Gorge.

For Djabugay people we felt this would change with Native Title determination in 2004. However, 14 years later we are still fighting for recognition of our connection to country, rights to have a say on management and a pathway to wealth creation from our country.

The Djabugay Bulmba Bama Plan is Djabugay people's invitation to the Queensland State Government to work together towards achieving a shared vision for Din Din Barron Gorge National Park.

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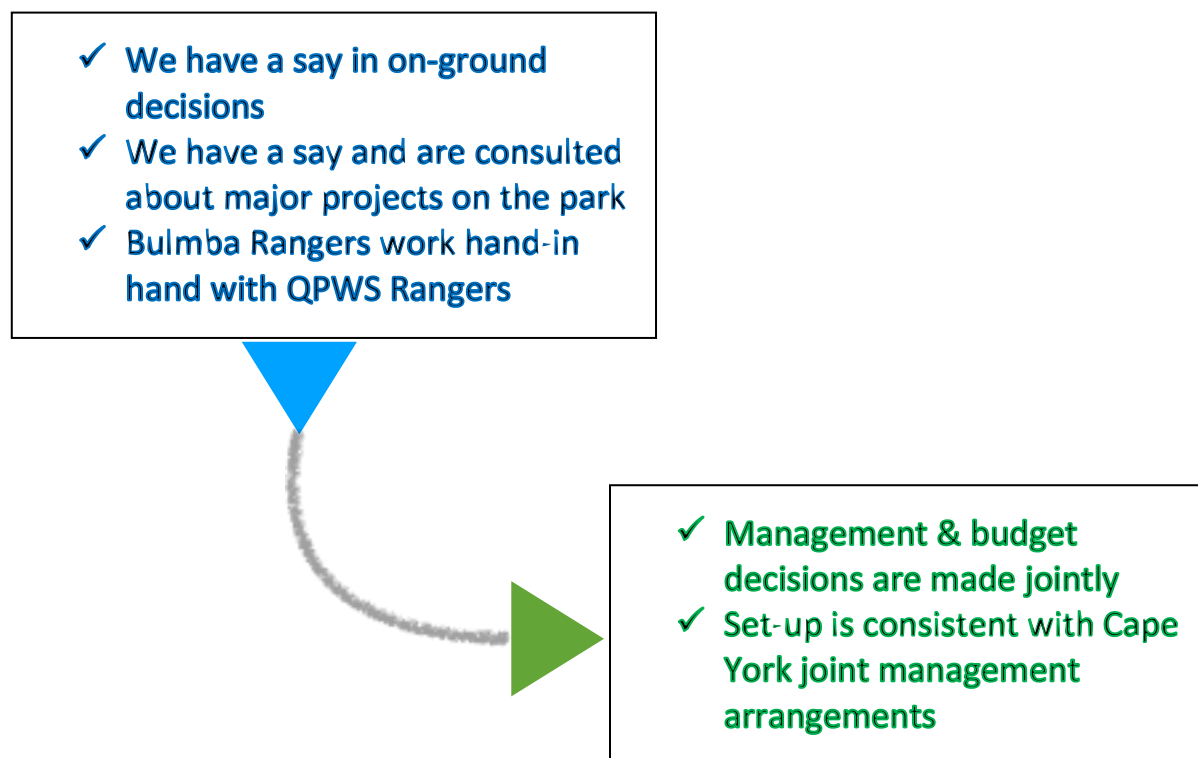
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Introduction and Summary

This plan outlines the Djabugay people’s plans for the management of Din Din Barron Gorge National Park. Din Din is Djabugay country and is a cultural landscape of great significance to Djabugay people. This has been acknowledged in law through a Native Title determination

Djabugay people have been working toward greater ownership and management of the Park for nearly 30 years. This plan is intended to guide the actions required to finally see that aspiration become a reality and is best summarized in the following way:



The Bulmba first presents a summary of some background information on Din Din. It then presents the core elements to be addressed in management. The plan proposes 13 projects to be undertaken to see Djabugay achieve the tasks set out above. There is then a section on monitoring and finally some supporting information in appendices.

Djabugay Vision

By building upon traditional knowledge and past achievements we lead change for our people

We achieved Native Title recognition over the Barron Gorge National Park

We now want to take up our responsibilities as custodians and become actively involved in the operational management of the Park and use our culture and the natural beauty of the park to create business ventures

Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation website: <http://www.djabugay.org.au/>



Din Din, Nyrrumba Bulmba Our Land Our Country

The Djabuganydji Bama are the Traditional Owners of the area known by Djabugay People as Din Din, which includes Barron Gorge National Park (DNPRSR 2013:3).

The Djabugay native title story begins with the ancient history of the Djabuganydji Bama rainforest people who speak the Djabugay language (the Bama) and of Djabugay country (bulmba) which is given voice through Storywaters. These Storywaters speak of the activities of Gurra-Gurra ancestors such as Bulurru Rainbow Serpent, the Two Brothers Damarri and Guyala and Budadji Carpet Snake (associated with Din Din or Barron Falls) from whom all Djabugay are descended and who gave meaning to the Djabugay landscape.

Bauman 2013

Din Din is an area of high cultural significance for the Djabugay People, being central to Bulurru (Storywater):

The centrality of the park within Djabugay territory, is due to several traditional and historical factors. The Barron River and Gorge have always provided a corridor to and from the coast and to the focal areas of Kuranda and Redlynch, where many Djabugay people continue to reside. These are located on either end of the Gorge and the old 'rail motor', now the Cairns-Kuranda Railway, has historically provided Djabugay people with a means of traversing the Gorge and has also provided substantial employment to Djabugay people. The significance of the river is demonstrated in how people have chosen, in the recent past, to articulate their identities as being members of the 'Barron River Tribe'.

There are many old bama walking tracks through the Barron Gorge. These tracks illustrate the importance of the gorge as a corridor between the coast and tablelands. Early explorers also used these tracks, which the Djabugay established, for the same purpose.

Johnson and Claffey 1997:8

Consultation with members of the Djabugay people undertaken in 2001 by independent market researchers commissioned by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (MRG 2001) established the requirement to refer to the park in future as the "Din-Din Barron Gorge National Park"; "Din-Din" being the traditional aboriginal name for the area which holds important cultural and spiritual significance, and that:

...presentation of the park must be sensitive to and mindful of the needs, aspirations and cultural values of, the traditional owners

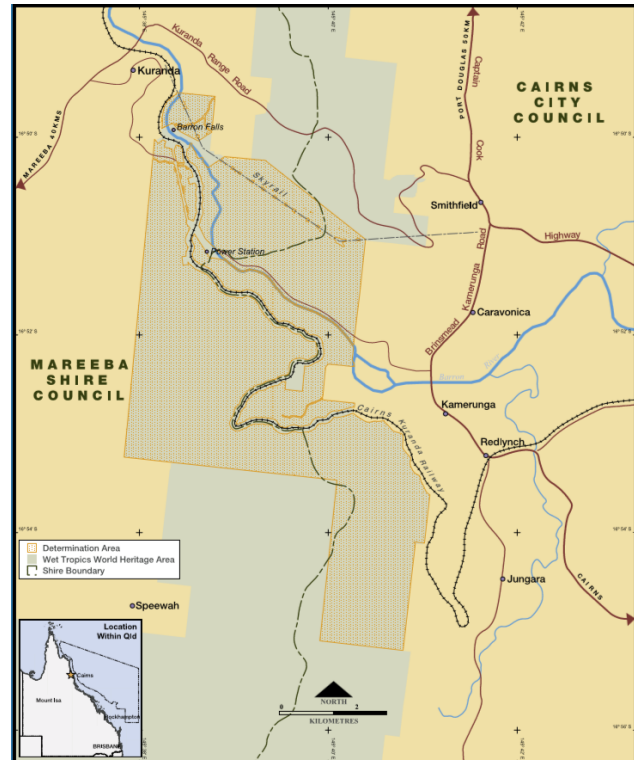
MRG 2001:3

Djabugay Native Title determination

Djabugay People have always known that they never relinquished sovereignty over their traditional lands:

For Djabugay people, the physical features of the claim area not only affirm the veracity of Bulurru Law, but they also stand as tangible proof of the continued presence of Bulurru ancestral and totemic beings on and in Djabugay country (bulmba).

In summary, the physical landscape, and in particular the “Storyplaces” and “Storywaters” associated with Bulurru, serves as evidence of the inalienable connection that exists between the Djabugay claimants, ancestral Bulurru beings and the lands and waters which comprise the claim area.



Pannell 1998

Figure 1: Djabugay Native Title Determination area (NNTT 2004)

An application for determination of native title was lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) on 13 May 1994 (FCA 2004). With assistance from the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC), a connection report was prepared, and numerous mediation meetings were held with the Queensland Government and other parties (Bauman 2013). The Federal Court of Australia finally handed down a consent determination on 17 December 2004 that the Djabugay People hold native title over Barron Gorge National Park, with some areas excluded under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (FCA 2004) (Figure 3). This was the first determination of native title to be made over a national park in Queensland, and the first consensual native title determination as opposed to a litigated determination (FCA 2004).

The determination recognized that the persons holding the communal and group rights are the Djabugay People, who are the common law holders of native title (FCA 2004). However, a High Court ruling handed down on 8 August 2002 (HCA 2000) meant that native title determinations over national parks could only recognize as a non-exclusive set of limited rights and interests, over which the interests of the Crown and other stakeholders may prevail (Bauman 2013).

The nature and extent of the native title rights and interests in relation to the determination area are the non-exclusive rights of the Djabugay People to use and enjoy the land and waters of the determination area to:

- (a) be physically present on the Determination Area;*
- (b) camp on the Determination Area;*
- (c) hunt, fish, gather on, and take the natural resources of, the Determination Area for the purpose of satisfying their personal, domestic social, cultural, religious, spiritual, ceremonial, and communal needs for non-commercial purposes;*
- (d) maintain and protect by lawful means places within the Determination Area of importance to the Djabugay People;*
- (e) perform social, cultural, religious, spiritual or ceremonial activities on the Determination Area and invite others to participate in those activities;*
- (f) make decisions about the use and enjoyment of the Determination Area by Aboriginal people who are governed by the traditional laws acknowledged and traditional customs observed by the Djabugay People.*

Djabugay v Queensland [2004] FCA 1652



Barron Gorge National Park Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)

The Djabugay Native Title Determination was conditional upon the registration of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in relation to Barron Gorge National Park between the Djabugay applicants as representatives of Djabugay People, the State of Queensland and the Djabugay Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (DNTAC) as the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (Bauman 2013).

In the absence of a clear legislative framework for co-management, Djabugay People negotiated an ILUA with the State of Queensland prior to the native title determination, agreeing in good faith to further negotiate to reach suitable management arrangements for Barron Gorge National Park. Following the Federal Court native title determination, the Barron Gorge National Park ILUA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) on 25 July 2005 (Figure 2).

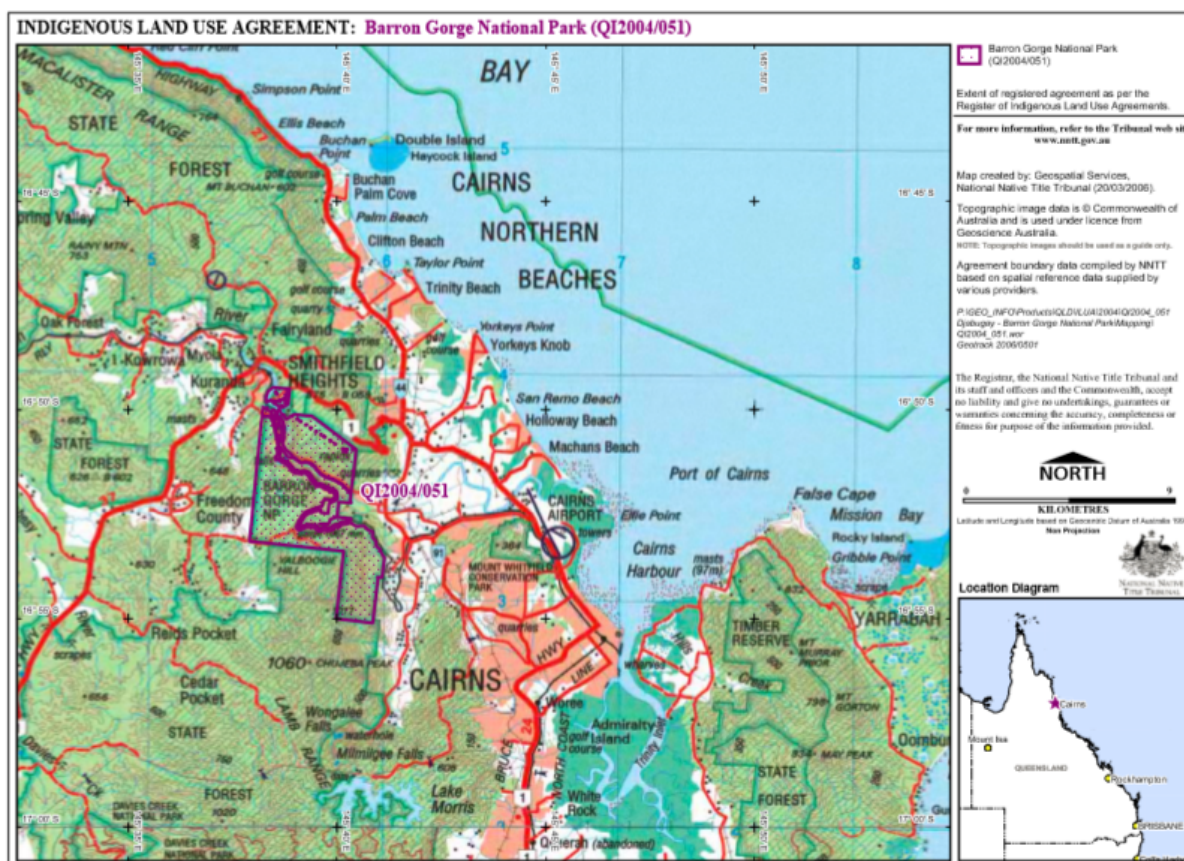


Figure 2: ILUA (QI2004/051) area

The ILUA affirmed the management principles for national parks under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) in preserving, protecting and presenting the area's cultural resources and values, ensuring that use of the area is nature based and ecologically sustainable and ensuring that a joint management area is to be managed, as far as practicable,

in a way that is consistent with any Aboriginal tradition applicable to the area, including any tradition relating to activities in the area (Bauman 2013).

Part 4 of the Barron Gorge National Park ILUA on Further Agreements stated that:

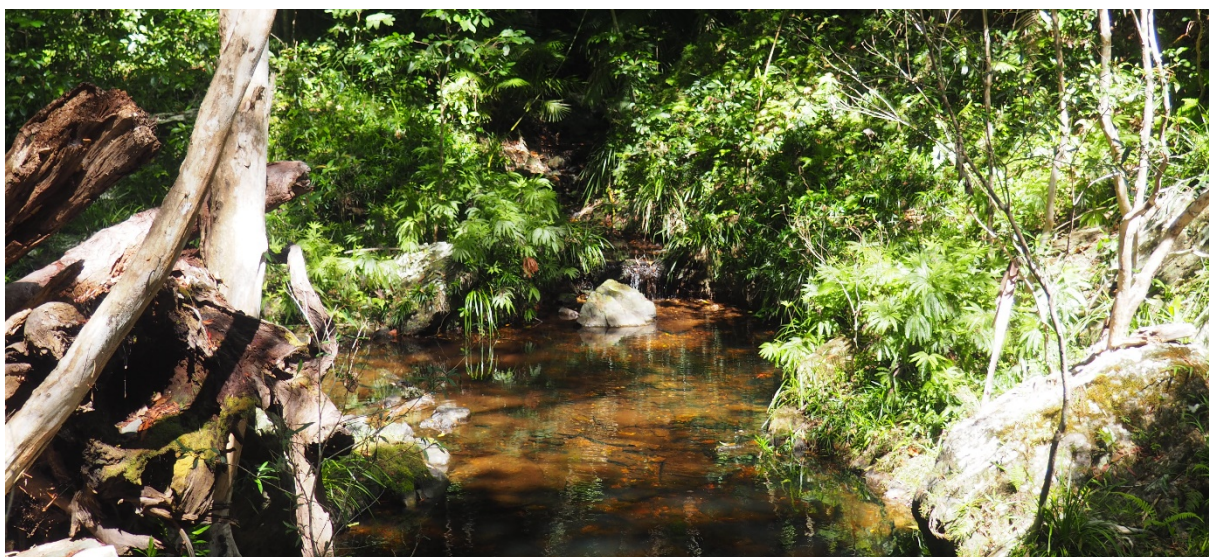
The Parties agree to continue with bona fide negotiations towards a long-term agreement to address each Party's concerns about land management, employment, cultural heritage protection and any other matters that they agree on, as soon as reasonably practicable after the registration of this Agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Clause 2.4 of the ILUA stated that the Agreement expires on the earlier of the following:

- (a) a regulation giving effect to a Management Plan for the ILUA Area in accordance with section 69 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
- (b) 31 December 2010;
- (c) a Determination by the Federal Court that Native Title does not exist in the ILUA Area.

Currently, there is no comprehensive long-term agreement between Djabugay Traditional Owners and the Queensland Government regarding joint management of Barron Gorge National Park. Nor has a regulation giving effect to a management plan in accordance with s 69 of the NCA been put into place. Consequently, the previous ILUA expired on 31 December 2010.

Negotiations for a new ILUA provide an ideal opportunity to work towards a Shared Vision between Djabugay People and the State of Queensland, guiding the development of a joint management model aimed at deriving social, cultural and economic benefits for Djabugay People and the people of Queensland, whilst protecting the natural and cultural values of Barron Gorge National Park.



Djabugay Governance Network

The Djabugay Governance Network consists of six incorporated Aboriginal Corporations (Source: <http://www.djabugay.org.au>)

Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (DTAC)

Incorporated in 1992. Established to be the welfare advocate for the Djabugay People, DTAC has taken on a more political advocacy role and the main property-owning corporation within the Djabugay Governance Network.

Buda:Dji Aboriginal Development Association Aboriginal Corporation (BADA)

Incorporated in 1995. Established to be the cultural arm of the Djabugay People, BADA has also taken on the principle administrative role within the Djabugay Governance Network.

Djabugay Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (DNTAC)

Incorporated in 2004. Established to be the legal entity to hold and manage Djabugay native title rights as the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC).

Djabugay Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation (DEAC)

Incorporated in 2012. Established to act as an umbrella body for income generating corporations (eg Tour Guiding & Nyawarri estate).

Djabugay Tour Guiding Aboriginal Corporation (DTGAC)

Incorporated in 2012. Established to manage Cultural Aboriginal Guided Tours for the Djabugay People.

Nyawarri Estate Aboriginal Corporation (NEAC)

Incorporated in 2012. Established to manage "Nyawarri Estate", named after the late Djabugay Queen Maggie Donahue.

Barron Gorge National Park

Barron Gorge National Park (BGNP) is in the Wet Tropics Bioregion of north Queensland (DNPRSR 2013:1). The park covers 2,820 hectares, extending from the coastal lowlands and valleys inland of Cairns onto the Atherton Tableland Escarpment (Figure 1). BGNP helps protect Australia's most extensive remaining areas of wet tropical rainforests as part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (DNPRSR 2013:2).

The park's Landscape and Scenic Values include;

- Outstanding landscape features of very high scenic appeal, including the spectacular Barron and Stoney Creek falls and the associated deeply incised gorges.
- Geological strata and formations representing 400 million years of landscape evolution.
- Several freshwater rivers and creeks within the Barron River catchment area supplying water to local urban and rural settlements and primary industries.



Figure 3: Location of Barron Gorge National Park (Source: Google Earth)

While most renowned for its tropical rainforest, the park also supports a rich diversity of other vegetation communities (DNPRSR 2013:3). Of the 33 regional ecosystems represented in the park, 18 have endangered or of concern biodiversity status (Appendix 1). Over 150 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including two species of conservation significance under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Appendix 2).

There have been 147 animal species recorded in the park (DNPRSR 2013:3), including 21 species of conservation significance under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and seven species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Appendix 2).

The Barron Falls area was first designated as park reserve R167 until 1923 when it was recommended for gazettal as a National Park due to its popularity as a recreational area (MRG 2001:3). The area was gazetted as Barron Falls National Park in 1940 and in 1983 the park name was changed to Barron Gorge National Park.

BGNP is one of Queensland's most popular national parks and is strongly promoted domestically, interstate and overseas (DNPRSR 2013:3). Park visitors can enjoy diverse nature-based activities including bushwalking, swimming and canoeing. There are also highly developed visitor sites that receive high levels of use, especially by large groups. The park is important for residents of Cairns and the Tableland areas who visit and enjoy the park for family outings and low-key recreation. Commercial activities concentrate around Barron Gorge and Barron Falls, with most visitors arriving at the park via commercial tours on the Cairns to Kuranda Scenic Railway, Skyrail Rainforest Cableway or through rafting tours (DNPRSR 2013:3).

BGNP is governed according to the following legislative framework (DNPRSR 2013:1):

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth)
- Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007 and Management Program 2007–2017

Planning Context

The following plans, agreements and strategies also guide management of BGNP (DNPRSR 2013:1):

Wet Tropics & Tourism Management:

- Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
- Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998
- Protection through Partnerships
- Wet Tropics Walking Strategy 2001
- Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy 2004
- Wet Tropics Nature Based Tourism Strategy 2000

Water Management

- Water Resource (Barron) Plan 2002
- Barron River Management Action Plan 2000
- Barron River Integrated Catchment Management Strategy 2004

International Agreements

- Bonn Agreement
- China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Species Recovery Plans

- Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
- Recovery plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*
- National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*
- National recovery plan for the northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*

Thematic strategies

- Level 2 Fire Strategy
- Level 2 Pest Strategy



Joint Management and Bulurru Law

Djabugay People fervently wish to take up their customary responsibilities for their traditional lands.

During the years leading up to the native title determination, Djabugay repeatedly expressed their interest in jointly managing Barron Gorge National Park at meetings and mediations with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) (Bauman 2013):

As native title holders, Djabugay people wish to achieve a significant and increasing measure of management and control over the park. They accept that the park will remain but would like to see it regulated by an increasing level of Djabugay management.

Djabugay native title holders wish to make sure that their cultural and land interests are properly dealt with by Aboriginal decision-making processes which are supported by the Chief Executive.

Djabugay 1997:3

For many years Djabugay People have expressed concerns about existing arrangements for management of Barron Gorge National Park, specifically in relation to the lack of meaningful involvement by traditional owners and indigenous park staff, restrictions on traditional use of natural resources and the high numbers of tourists and certain tourist activities:

The main concerns that Djabugay people have in relation to the BGNP are recognition, control and the present unfettered use of the park by non-Djabugay people. Djabugay resolutions to these concerns are all consistent with the principles of the NCA. The protection and preservation of the World Heritage values of the national park is the overarching principle upon which Djabugay people base their proposed resolutions. ... the health and well-being of Djabugay society is intrinsically connected to the health and well-being of Djabugay land, of which the BGNP is a central feature.

Johnson and Claffey 1997:15-16

Despite the Djabugay Native Title Determinations being the first consensual native title determination over a national park in Queensland, Djabugay People are yet to attain the kinds of joint management arrangements being implemented elsewhere in the state, such as on Cape York and North Stradbroke Island (Bauman, Hayes & Lauder 2013). A decade has passed since a Djabugay person has been employed in a park management capacity.

At a planning workshop in 2008 facilitated by Bushwork Consultants, Djabugay People again reaffirmed their interest in jointly managing the Park at every level; their requirement for a Djabugay majority board of management; and the need for resourcing of a Djabugay office within the Park with appropriately paid Djabugay staff and a realistic operational budget (Bauman 2013). However, a 2008 Draft Management Plan for the park was considered to fall well short of Djabugay aspirations, as it failed to:

- include Djabugay aspirations in its vision;

- prescribe any rights for our future involvement in the park;
- reflect the spirit of negotiations which took place around the ILUA including Djabugay aspirations and repeated requests for joint management arrangements;
- match activities with resources including support for the Djabugay Ranger Agency which is currently inoperative but which the draft Plan purports to support;
- have a time frame rather than a wish list of things that might occur;
- provide for any commercial benefit for Djabugay.” (Djabugay nd(b))



Din Din Barron Gorge - Building Djabugay Bama (People's) Nguma Future

- By building upon traditional knowledge and past achievements we lead change for our people.
- We achieved Native Title recognition over the Barron Gorge National Park.
- Now we want to take up our responsibilities as custodians and become actively involved in the operational management of the Park and use our culture and the natural beauty of the park to create business ventures.

Our Aspirations

- Barron Gorge National Park is universally known as part of a wider Djabugay Cultural Landscape.
- Djabugay Bama to work side by side with QPWS to manage and protect the cultural and natural values of the park.
- Bama Plan and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 jointly inform the operational plan for Barron Gorge National Park.
- Management and commercial exploitation of Barron Gorge National Park provide long term employment and successful business outcomes.

How We Will Get There

- We will create a Bulmba Plan for the management and interpretation of Barron Gorge National Park.
- We will present the Bulmba Plan to the Queensland State government for recognition and endorsement.
- We will strengthen relationships with key stakeholders (including QPWS) and tourism industry (including Skyrail and Kuranda Scenic Rail) in order to involve our Rangers in the day to day management of our Country through fee for service arrangements.
- We will use Barron Gorge National Park to establish cultural based businesses.

Targets: things we want to protect and maintain

While all parts of Barron Gorge are important to Djabugay people, there are some things we want to specifically protect and manage. These are our Targets. We have identified these looking across all previous consultations and processes (eg Djabugay 1997, Johnson 1997) and confirmed them through consultation for this process. They are shown here and briefly described below (detailed information is contained in background documents and is not reproduced here):



Barron River, falls and gorge



Conservation values of the Barron Gorge



Cultural resources



Decision-making control



Djabugay cultural activities in Barron Gorge



Djabugay people



Locations of cultural significance



Park infrastructure



Scenic amenity



Tourism and visitor opportunities

Barron River, falls and gorge



Landscape features including Barron River and Stoney Creek falls and associated deeply incised gorges (DNPRSR 2013).

Geological strata and formations representing 400 million years of landscape evolution (DNPRSR 2013)

Freshwater rivers and creeks within the Barron River catchment area (DNPRSR 2013)

Djabugay have a deep cultural connection to creation stories with each of these waterways within the gorge.

Cultural resources



All natural resources, sites and areas of significance to Djabugay people (Djabugay 1997:10), and for part of our culture, stories and language (from meeting 08/03/18).

Maintaining present day stream flows and water quality are important for preserving cultural resources in the environment (QNRM 2001).

There is great importance of the River in its daily usage of the Djabugay Bama” (from meeting 08/03/18)

Conservation values of the BGNP



A rich diversity of vegetation communities including tropical rainforest (DNPRSR 2013).

33 regional ecosystems including 18 with endangered or of concern biodiversity status (DNPRSR 2013).

Over 150 species of plants, including two plant species of conservation significance under the NCA (DNPRSR 2013).

147 animal species, including 21 animal species of conservation significance under the NCA and seven species listed under the EPBCA (DNPRSR 2013).

Decision-making control



As native title holders, Djabugay people wish to achieve a significant and increasing measure of management and control over the park.

Djabugay native title holders wish to make sure that their cultural and land interests are properly dealt with by Aboriginal decision-making processes supported by the Chief Executive.

The Djabugay people expect their native title to mean they can enter into negotiations with Queensland for a joint land-use and management agreement under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

Djabugay people want to work with government at different levels. Having a strong working and communication relationship with Regional staff

but also working through with higher levels of Department of Environment and Science.

Djabugay cultural activities in the BGNP



Din Din is part of a living culture and a place where cultural activities continue. The continuation of those activities is a significant value in the Park.,

Djabugay people have had to apply for permits to conduct many of their cultural activities in the BGNP.

Djabugay people find it insulting that they have to obtain permits the same as non-Djabugay people.

Djabugay people



Djabugay people themselves are critical to the health of the Park.

The Park is a landscape with values that are inextricably linked to Djabugay people, their culture and their aspirations.

For Djabugay the park represents many values beyond the conservation values recognized by others, including: Education, recognition, connection between generations, opportunities for a level of self-sufficiency, maintaining good health, opportunities for the next generation / youth, and a way to communicate with others.

Locations of cultural significance



The Park contains many specific locations that have a high level of significance to Djabugay people. The protection of these sites can create some challenges, as many are places Djabugay would prefer to keep confidential, but they are required to share them, even in general, in order to see them protected.

In the past Djabugay people were willing to disclose information providing the site was protected from exploitation (DNRM 2001:52). However sometimes the best strategy for site protection is to say nothing (DNRM 2001:52).

Protection of these places is of key importance.

Park infrastructure



For a relatively small area the park has a very high level of infrastructure (Djabugay 1997:13). This includes access roads, interpretive signs, viewing platforms and walking tracks.

While not on-park Cairns-Kuranda Railway and Skyrail infrastructure pass through the park.

Current walking tracks to give acknowledgement to indigenous foundations (from meeting 08/03/18).

Good quality infrastructure is critical to many Djabugay aspirations: protection of the Park from

the impacts of substantial visitation and maximizing the benefits from that visitation.

Scenic amenity



Rugged mountain scenery and outstanding natural features including Barron River and Stoney Creek Falls and associated deeply incised gorges (DNPRSR 2013:2).

Tourism and visitor opportunities



Barron Gorge is one of the most visited National Parks in Queensland and this represents both a challenge and an important opportunity for Djabugay.

Djabugay people see that their country is a place that people want to come and visit, and that this is a significant asset to be protected and maintained in good condition.

Understanding and taking advantage of that opportunity in full is a key need to be addressed through this plan.



Threats: things we don't want to happen

There are a number of things that are getting in the way of the health of our Targets – stopping them from being as healthy and positive as they can be. We have identified these looking across all previous consultations and processes (eg Djabugay 1997, Johnson 1997) and confirmed them through consultation for this process. These are shown here and described below. Many of these have been raised in all consultations, with little perception of their being resolved.



Pest animals



Lack of awareness of BGNP as a cultural domain



Impacts from big developments



**Lack of communication
Ad hoc nature of contact**



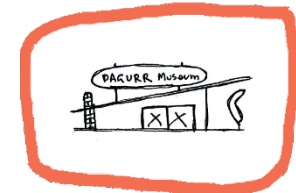
Pest Plants



Over-use of the national park



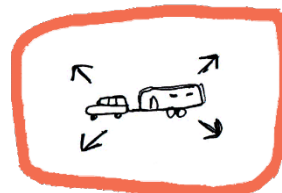
Unemployment



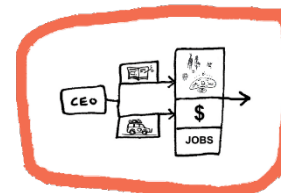
Djabugay material culture being held by others



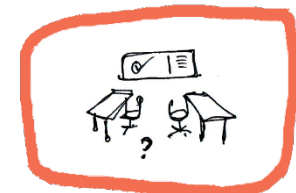
Inappropriate fire regimes



Poorly managed visitation



Inadequate regulation



Lack of basic office facilities

Relationship between Threats and Targets

The table below shows a simple relationship between the threats and the targets. This provides some guidance to the key areas that need focus for implementation of this plan, and those that need more urgent attention. The Threats have not been formally ranked, and this would be desirable in future.

Threats \ Targets	Djabugay people	Tourism and visitor opportunities	Cultural resources	Conservation values	Djabugay cultural activities	Barron River	Park infrastructure	Locations of cultural significance	Decision-making control	Scenic Amenity
Inappropriate fire regimes										
The impact of big developments										
Lack of awareness of BGNP as a cultural domain										
Poorly managed visitation										
Over-use of the national Park										
Pest Plants										
Lack of basic office facilities										
Inadequate mechanisms to regulate and control exploitation of natural resources										
Lack of communication /ad hoc nature of contact										
Djabugay material culture being held by museums and other institutions										
Pest animals										
Unemployment										

Table 1: Relationship between Targets and Threats

Pest animals



Djabugay are concerned about the lack of coordinated programs feral animal control within the park.

Including feral pigs, wild dogs, feral cats, cane toads and black rats (DNPRSR 2013:4).

Feral pigs are particularly widespread throughout the Wet Topics Bioregion (DNPRSR 2013:4)

Pest Plants



Djabugay are concerned about the lack of coordinated programs re-vegetation and weed control within the park.

Major declared pest plants include laurel clockvine, miconia, hymenachne, Singapore daisy, lantana and African tulip (DNPRSR 2013:4).

Non-declared pest plants include guinea grass which is prevalent around the McDonalds and Smiths walking tracks (DNPRSR 2013:4).

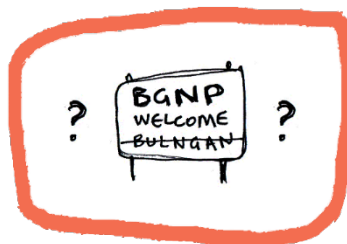
Inappropriate fire regimes



Inappropriate fire regimes prevent regrowth of native vegetation in some areas and could threaten cultural places (DNPRSR 2013:4)

There is also a lack of consultation of use and management of fire.

Lack of awareness of BGNP as a cultural domain

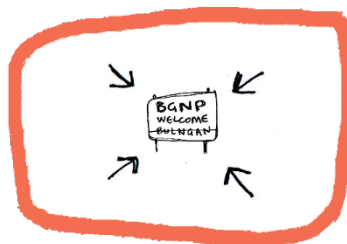


Djabugay are concerned there is not enough recognition and awareness that the park is Djabugay native title land.

Locations of cultural significance and other areas of the park are presently not regulated and monitored in any way.

Government officials also have access to all areas of the park without consideration for Djabugay cultural heritage matters.

Over-use of the national park

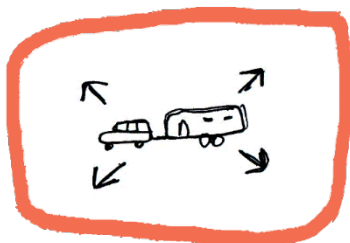


BGNP has some of the highest visitation levels of any of the Wet Tropics World Heritage listed parks.

The park is presently under severe visitation pressure with park infrastructure overloaded.

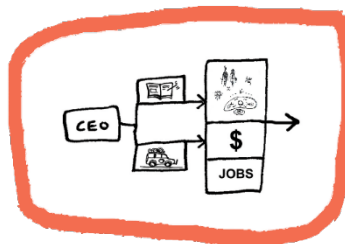
Djabugay wish to ensure that their concerns regarding the present over-use of the national park be investigated and rectified in the development of a statutory management plan.

Poorly managed visitation



Djabugay people are very concerned that tourist activity will continue to increase without proper planning and limitations imposed in future.

Inadequate ways to manage use of natural resources for cultural purposes



Mechanisms to regulate and control exploitation of natural resources for cultural purposes within the park are inadequate.

The protection and management of resources under threat from Skyrail activities are of utmost concern.

Lack of recognition of water rights as non-consumptive users) (QNRM 2001:59).

Lack of access to watercourses and associated vegetation for the benefit of re-establishing Indigenous culture (QNRM 2001:59).

Impacts from big developments



Djabugay have major concerns about impacts from big developments such as Skyrail on their cultural property (intellectual and material).

Environmental damages within developments should be liable to compensation (from meeting 03/08/18)

Lack of communication and the Ad hoc nature of contact



Unemployment



There is an urgent need for training in the higher levels of park administration.

Employment in other areas of community development are virtually non-existent. Recent perspectives are that people have been "Without work for too long" (from meeting 08/03/2018)

Development of park infrastructure has not taken into account cultural or environmental considerations.

Despite Djabugay concerns about this over many years there is still no proper planning to prevent cultural and environmental degradation.

Djabugay people do not presently have any say over the numbers of visitors to the park or the conduct of their activities.

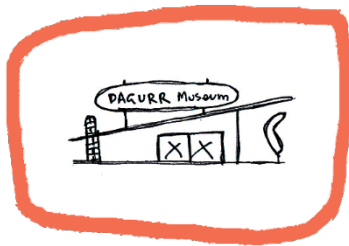
Djabugay people have no input as to the criteria for commercial permits.

DoE and WTMA have made attempts to consult Djabugay about operations and activities in the national park and surrounding region.

Local government bodies have not, in the past, consulted with the Djabugay people about public works.

There are a number of other public works issues pending in the park and therefore the development of agreed protocols are urgently required.

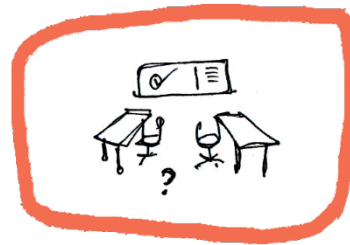
Djabugay material culture being held by museums and other institutions.



There is much concern about examples of Djabugay material culture being held by museums and other institutions.

Djabugay people want all artefacts belonging to them returned. This includes from government agencies, museums and other sources.

Lack of basic office facilities



A lack of adequate funding for park activities, and office facilities significantly restricts Djabugay participation.

Without adequate resources Aboriginal participation in management will not succeed.



Projects and Strategies: things we do and plan to do

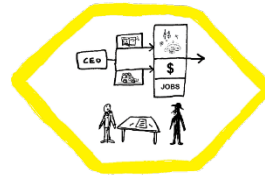
We have identified 14 projects to address the needs we see in Din Din. We have identified these looking across all previous consultations and processes (eg Djabugay 1997, Johnson 1997) and confirmed them through consultation for this process. The most important of these is the establishment of a Joint Management regime over the Park, to unlock the opportunities in the park for Djabugay and other Park users and managers. Beyond that, the development of our capacity and economic opportunities will underpin our management of Din Din for ourselves and others.



Partner with Government (joint management)



Community Engagement (community awareness and support)



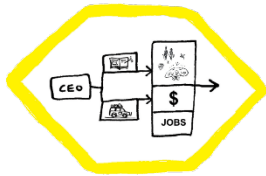
Management Planning and Impact Assess



Conservation of Native Plants and Animals



Cultural Resource Management



Build Capacity (training skill and development)



Look after Bulmba (employment)



Din Din National Park naming



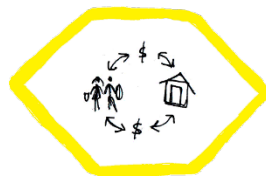
Pest Management



Infrastructure Management



Celebrate Culture (business opportunities)



Partner with Business (employment and profit sharing)



Access and Visitor Management



Fire Management

ENGAGEMENT

Partner with Government (joint management)



OBJECTIVE: An appropriate park management agreement to maximise Djabugay interests in the park.

STRATEGY: Djabugay to work with the Queensland Government to establish a Joint Management arrangement over BGNP.

We see this as working together. We think it is important to be asked by government “what do you want / what do you need”? as well as invite government / stakeholders to come and see what we are doing – build stronger relationships – recorded / walk away happy with what we have done.

We believe the Miriung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework (Hill 2008) and the Parks Australia ‘capability and congruence’ models are useful in developing a cultural planning framework and enable capacity building for Djabugay People to enable joint management of Barron Gorge National Park (see Appendix 4).

Essentially they suggest the need for:

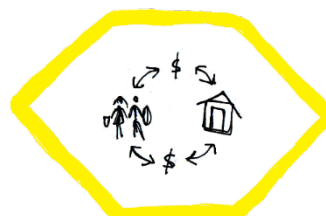
- A strong foundation of rights and responsibilities
- Capable organisations
- Clear policy framework

Therefore we see the key steps to Joint Management as:

- Legally binding dispute resolution mechanisms deal with breaches of any agreement
- Adequate funding for the initial joint management of the park including the Board of Management and operational requirements
- An Aboriginal majority Board of Management to direct policy and operational matters in the park.
- Djabugay people take a high level of control of park management for the BGNP
- An entirely Aboriginal Board of Management

We believe the Cape York Joint Management framework should be extended to Barron Gorge as a way of enabling this approach.

Partner with Business (employment and profit sharing)



OBJECTIVE: Increasing employment and income for Djabugay and business in the Park and enhancing business opportunities in the Park

STRATEGY: Establish partnerships with existing and new commercial operators in BGNP to benefit Djabugay

It has already been noted that a key opportunity is for revenue (including royalties) generated from commercial activities in the park to be made available to increase Aboriginal participation in park management.

This would result in increasing employment and income for Djabugay and business in the Park and enhancing business opportunities in the Park.

This could be achieved by:

- Establishing Joint Ventures with businesses in the Park
- Fee For Service – provision of skilled teams / people that can support businesses in the park
- Employment partnership with existing business – Skyrail / Kuranda Rail / Stanwell / Parks

Community Engagement (community awareness and support)



OBJECTIVE: Community (young / old / non-indigenous / business / residents / disabled - access) positive about Djabugay ownership and management

STRATEGY: Djabugay to work with other BGNP users to build cross cultural awareness

STRATEGY: DTAC actively working with all stakeholders to promote listening to each other

Djabugay people are proud of their cultural heritage and take every opportunity to promote their culture.

Djabugay people are concerned about the representation of their culture by non-Djabugay people.

Djabugay people want to maintain control over their intellectual and cultural property.

Djabugay people have been instrumental in ensuring that the Djabugay language is taught at the local primary school.

"The provision of relevant educational information about Barron Gorge is important in promoting an understanding and appreciation the park's natural and cultural values, visitor opportunities, appropriate behaviour and potential hazards. Off the park information is available via the department's website and brochures from relevant accredited tourism information centres." (DNPRSR 2013:4)

Some key Actions here are:

- More consultations with Bama people / More meetings
- Cultural camps – Mona Mona – engage back on land
- Return to country – take people back to country.
- Back to country days in BGNP.

CAPACITY

Look after Bulmba (employment)



OBJECTIVE: Job opportunities for younger people

STRATEGY: Bulmba Ranger Operations (Djabugay Natural and Cultural Resource Management Agency)

Many Djabugay people already have skills useful for park management from previous employment.

Djabugay Rangers have completed Certificate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Natural and Cultural Management through TAFE.

Re-establish Djabugay Rangers working in a Djabugay Natural and Cultural Resource Management Agency.

Djabugay Rangers should be vested with powers as 'conservation officers' under Section 127 of the NCA.

Look to training and employment in:

Fire management, recording cultural sites / water ways / plant species, Weed and pest control, People management, Monitoring, Secretarial / management / operation and work planning / financial management, Risk management / risk assessment and mitigation / Natural Resource Management

Options for employment

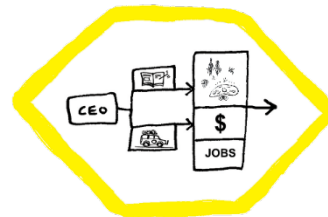
Djabugay Rangers who have completed certificates in Cultural and Natural Heritage Management could be vested with powers as 'conservation officers' under Section 127 of the NCA and work for an independent Djabugay Natural and Cultural Resource Management Agency.

Djabugay Rangers could be employed by QPWS as rangers, field staff, environmental educators and cultural interpreters, or employed by QPWS to perform specific tasks on a fee for service basis.

Djabugay business enterprises could be contracted to perform conservation management work, for example in the management of cultural sites (see below).

Djabugay people employed as guides and cultural interpreters in Djabugay and other tourism-based business enterprises.

Build Capacity (training skill and development)



OBJECTIVE: To provide all services required for the management of the Park

STRATEGY: Establishment of a Djabugay Community and Ranger office to deliver Park needs

Building Djabugay capacity, initially over a 5 year period. Need to maintain a Djabugay Community and Ranger office in Kuranda. In negotiation with the Park, establish a clear plan / outline of what exactly is required for management – learn the day to day needs of managing the park. More recruitment / equipment to support people. Already have skills / capacity to work with tourists / tourism

Djabugay people recognise that DoE has expertise in park management and that it will take some time for Djabugay people to gain this expertise themselves.

Djabugay people want to engage in capacity building to assume their customary responsibilities for their traditional lands.

Management of Aboriginal cultural resources could be enhanced through gaining specialised skills in ecological management.

Once an agreed management plan is finalised Djabugay people believe that they can provide substantial input into its implementation.

Key actions include:

- Establishment of office facilities in the park and/or Kuranda Village.
- Networking with other ranger groups
- Foster expertise from within their own community - Tapping in to expertise (community / elders) for skills development

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Cultural Resource Management



OBJECTIVE: Minimising the impact of tourists on key cultural heritage values.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain and clean sacred sites, and people are educated on the importance of the sites so they are respected and be more involved when they walk around Park. Restrict access to certain areas on the park.

STRATEGY: Djabugay active use and exploitation of cultural and natural resources

STRATEGY: Djabugay lead cultural resource management activities in BGNP.

STRATEGY: Djabugay and QPWS to work together to restrict access to key culturally significant areas.

STRATEGY: Shared-history cultural resource management

Try to be on the Park as much as possible – be present – patrolling and monitoring where people are going.

Aboriginal management and control of all culturally important areas with a site recording program under Djabugay control (Johnson 1997:13).

For all Aboriginal places of cultural significance, consultation should occur with the right Traditional Owners to help determine management provisions, prior to the start of any operations near these sites (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Key activities:

- Connect to country - walk on country (Meeting 08/03/2018)
- Cultural classes, vision and guidelines (Meeting 08/03/2018)
- Restriction to sacred areas (Meeting 08/03/2018)

Celebrate Culture (business opportunities)



OBJECTIVE: Celebrating cultural days on country and more to do with education

STRATEGY: All tourism operations in BGNP include Djabugay people and Djabugay culture and use Djabugay landscape to refer to BGNP

STRATEGY: DTAC to explore and if feasible develop commercial visitor centre

STRATEGY: Provide Fee for Service services to stakeholders / operators / agencies in and around BGNP

Commercial tour operations in the national park include the Cairns-Kuranda Railway, Skyrail, white-water rafting,

guided tours and abseiling (Djabugay 1997:12).

and a Federal Government TQUAL grant to operate and manage Aboriginal cultural

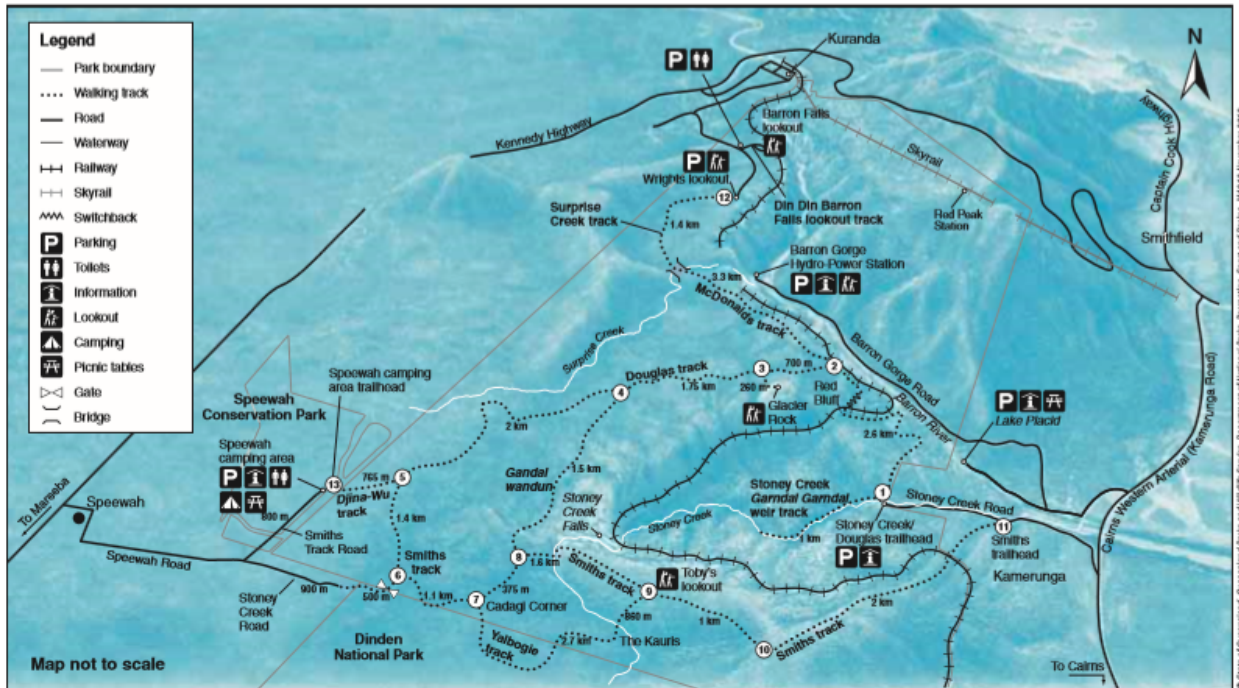


Figure 4: Visitor facilities within Barron Gorge National Park (Source DNPRSR)

Other activities offer opportunities for commercial tours such as bush walking and sight-seeing.

Additional walking tracks could lead to further commercial opportunities.

Djabugay people should receive revenue generated through issue of permits for commercial operations within Barron Gorge NP.

Tourism

Tourism offers excellent opportunities for Djabugay to establish business enterprises based on conducting guided walks which feature cultural interpretation, and appreciation of the natural values, of Djabugay Country and other cultural activities that celebrate Djabugay Culture. The Djabugay Tour Guiding Aboriginal Corporation (DTGAC) was established in 2012 using matching funding from Skyrail, Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

guided tours from the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway Barron Falls Station.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority developed a Wet Tropics Walking Strategy (WTMA 2001) guided by a Shared Vision:

The Wet Tropics Management Authority, land managers, Rainforest Aboriginal people, walkers and the tourism industry will work together in a spirit of partnership to provide a diverse mix of walking experiences which enhances the presentation, enjoyment and protection of both World Heritage values and the Aboriginal cultural landscape. WTMA 2001

Walking is a significant activity and attraction for tourism, one of the region’s major industries which in 1997 was estimated to contribute over \$750 million per year to the region’s economy (Driml 1997). Many tourism operators rely

on walks in the rainforest to satisfy the needs of their tourists, whilst local governments have realised the importance of walks to attract both visitors and regional residents, providing economic benefits to their shire (WTMA 2001). The construction and maintenance of walks also offers significant employment opportunities within the region.

The strategy acknowledges the role of Rainforest Aboriginal people in developing an industry based on bushwalking 'products' and the need to consult with Aboriginal people from the outset:

Rainforest Aboriginal people have a special interest in walking management due to the cultural significance of many walking tracks and the opportunities for employment through tourism and track construction and maintenance.

Rainforest Aboriginal people will be consulted when setting priorities and making decisions about particular walks and as part of broader discussions about their country. WTMA 2001

Aboriginal people are seeking to increase their role in walking management through negotiations for joint management agreements, indigenous land use agreements and involvement in commercial tourism operations:

Aboriginal people's involvement in both tourism and the management of walking has the potential to enhance their links with country and culture and establish an improved economic base for local communities. There is increasing recognition and understanding of the native title rights and interests of traditional land owners. This necessitates a more coordinated and proactive

approach to promote Aboriginal involvement in management and mitigate the potential impacts of walking activities on the Aboriginal cultural landscape. WTMA 2001

Barron Gorge National Park contains walking tracks and other visitor facilities which are integral to the Wet Tropics Walking Strategy (Figure 9). A cultural heritage study and archeological survey (Bottoms et al 1995) was conducted to inform a walk development strategy entitled *Djina:la Galing - Going on Foot, Draft Barron Gorge National Park Walking Track Strategy including adjoining tenures* (QNPWS 1996) proposing additional tracks and track upgrades within the park. The Wet Tropics Walking Strategy identified six potential long distance 'iconic' walks including the Cairns/Kuranda/Lamb Range Network which is centred on but extends beyond Barron Gorge National Park. Market research conducted in 2001 (see below) identified a 'serious walkers' user group with the potential to increase in numbers once long-distance walking tracks became better developed as 'Iconic Tracks'.

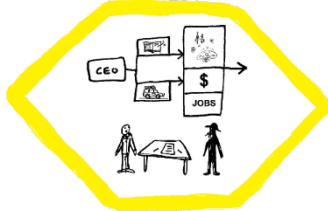
Other business enterprises

Other opportunities for business enterprises include those based on:

- Re-vegetation and rehabilitation work, especially of areas disturbed by mining activities;
- Artefact production and retail.
- Conservation management work, particularly for the management of cultural sites, could be contracted to Djabugay business enterprises.

OPERATIONS

Management Planning and Impact Assessment



OBJECTIVE: Sustain the environment in good condition for the future, protecting important values of the Park

STRATEGY: Djabugay and QPWS collaborate to develop, implement and adapt a culturally appropriate management plan for the BGNP

STRATEGY: Djabugay and QPWS establish a shared impact assessment process for decision-making on developments in the BGNP

Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) have consulted with Djabugay about operations and activities in the park and surrounding region.

However, local government bodies have not consulted with Djabugay People about public works.

The Djabugay were unable to respond to Skyrail development proposal, and ensure their concerns were properly considered, due to inadequate resourcing.

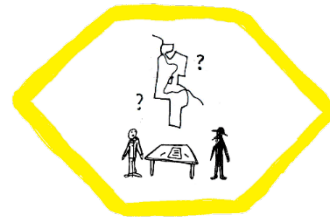
Other public works are proposed in the park so there is an urgent need for agreed protocols for consultation.

Key activities are:

- A clearly defined shared process of decision-making for the park, including clear definition of roles and responsibilities

- Shared plan of management an approval by Aboriginal majority Board of Management mandatory
- Researchers and research projects to be approved by the Djabugay Community

Din Din National Park naming



OBJECTIVE: Clear boundaries and title – known by Djabugay name

STRATEGY: Establish Djabugay naming for all features of the BGNP including the Park itself

Areas adjacent to the park, that may have an impact on the management of the park, investigated for possible inclusion as extensions to the national park.

Protect the old camp at Redlynch and question whether it may be included in the national park as a living area.

Key activities are:

- All Djabugay materials using Djabugay names / naming
- Start putting up Djabugay names at locations in Park
- Seek acknowledgement of cultural areas
- Build public awareness and support

Access and Visitor Management



OBJECTIVE: Allow maximum people to visit and use Din Din with minimum impact on the values and diversity and create and income from that access and visitors

STRATEGY: Djabugay to use the management plan, signage and infrastructure management to ensure culturally appropriate access.

Develop planning with QPWS to restrict access to key culturally significant areas.

Sites and areas identified as being sensitive to Djabugay people are to be identified and documented.

Specific areas will require the presence of Djabugay Rangers should non Djabugay people, including government representatives, wish to visit them.

Djabugay have the right to enter and inspect any parts of the park to protect and manage cultural values and native title interests.

Access permission to come from an appropriate Djabugay agency, rather than permits from DoE.

Research into the sustainable use of the national park to be conducted as soon as possible.

Key actions are:

- Gateway access -like Mossman Gorge – timetables / buses for access / proper signage to tell people about people and land

- Access permission to come from an appropriate Djabugay agency
- Djabugay enter and inspect any parts of the park to protect and manage cultural values and native title interests
- Sites and areas sensitive to Djabugay people are to be identified and documented

Infrastructure Management



OBJECTIVE: Djabugay to maintain all park infrastructure and if things being built then come back to Djabugay for first opportunity to build

STRATEGY: Djabugay secure contracts for or otherwise lead infrastructure management in the BGNP

Manage the park and associated visitor infrastructure consistent with the management characteristics of the park to ensure that it does not impact upon scenic values (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Minimise the scale and visual impact of public utilities on the landscape (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Key actions are:

- Shared infrastructure plan that has a broader perspective of the values / goals and Djabugay oversee implementation
- Develop Project Management skills within Djabugay to support infrastructure projects

- Information signs / story signs / interpretation signs can be installed by Djabugay in both languages
- General maintenance contracts held by Djabugay eg Hand rails etc on walking tracks include HSE

- Flora and fauna surveys
- Partnerships with researchers / students

NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservation of Native Plants, Animals and Water



OBJECTIVE: Sustain the environment in good condition for the future, protecting important values of the Park

STRATEGY: Participate in and lead surveys and other assessment of the conservation values of BGNP

Djabugay people want to preserve the conservation values of the BGNP in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Identify key park attributes affecting species biodiversity and abundance and establish a priority list of representative plant species and communities requiring special management (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Maintain native plant and animal abundance, diversity and resilience by methods of least intervention in preference to active habitat management (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Key actions are:

- Skills development for flora / fauna survey techniques



Pest Management

OBJECTIVE: Minimising the impacts of pests on Din Din and its values

STRATEGY: Manage pest plants and animals in accordance with the Level 2 Pest Management Strategy" (DNPRSR 2013:6)

Djabugay people want to preserve the conservation values of the BGNP in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Key actions are:

- Work with surrounding landholders to manage Pests
- Some weeds may be able to be eradicated at specific locations that have specific significance

Fire Management



OBJECTIVE: Rejuvenation / revegetation / maintaining sacred sites using a cultural burning regime

STRATEGY: Djabugay and the PWS manage fire on BGNP in a culturally appropriate way and "... in accordance with the Level 2 Fire Strategy for the park" (DNPRSR 2013:6)

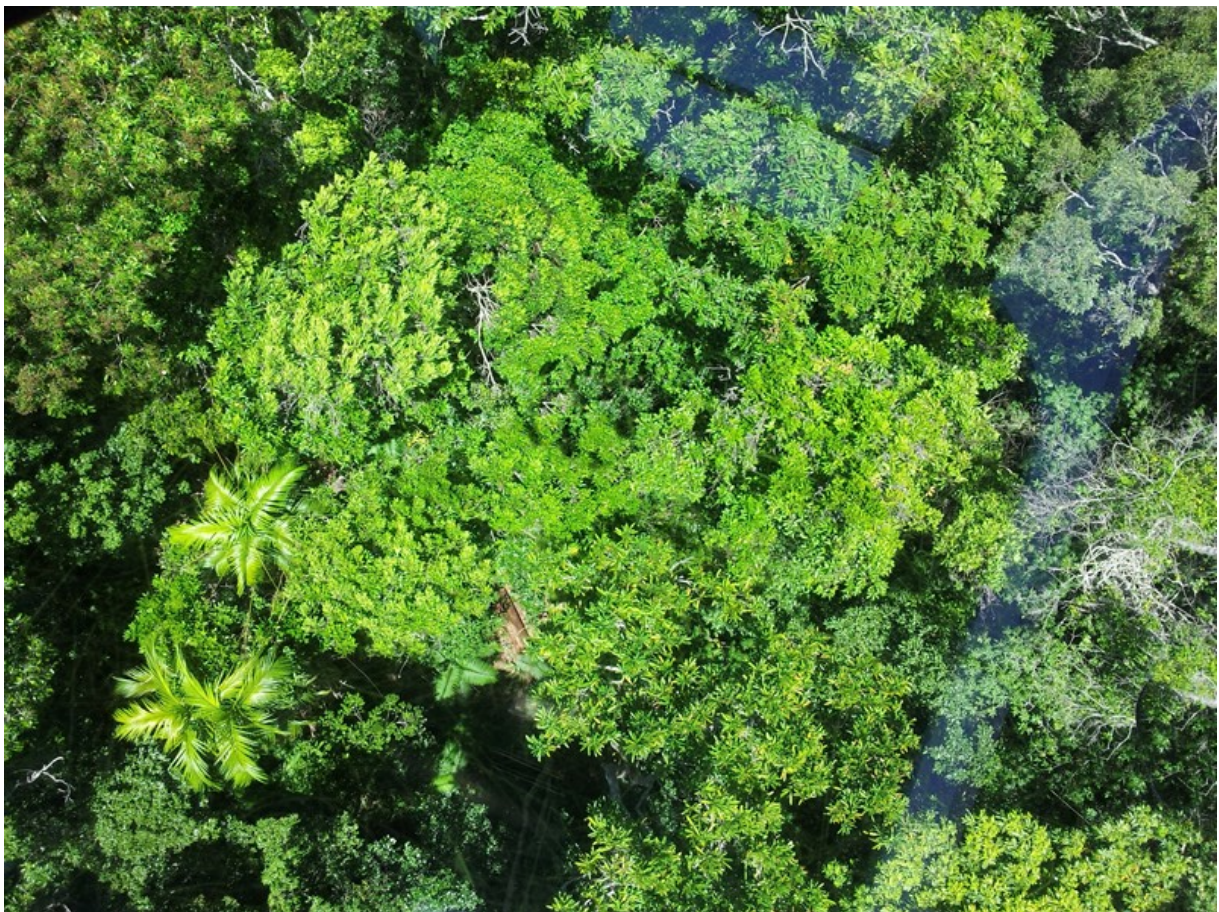
Djabugay people want to preserve the conservation values of the BGNP in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Fire Management in accordance with Cultural burning considerations and implementation.

Manage fire in accordance with the Level 2 Fire Strategy for the park (DNPRSR 2013:6).

Key actions are:

- Team to complete fire training
- Working in conjunction with QPWS - annual burn planning
- Trial burning and then expand as learning and success.



Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation, or checking up and adjusting, the plan is done by looking at four things (see figure below):

1. Have the Strategies been acted upon?
2. Are they achieving the Objectives?
3. Are the Targets healthy?
4. Does this mean our projects should keep going?

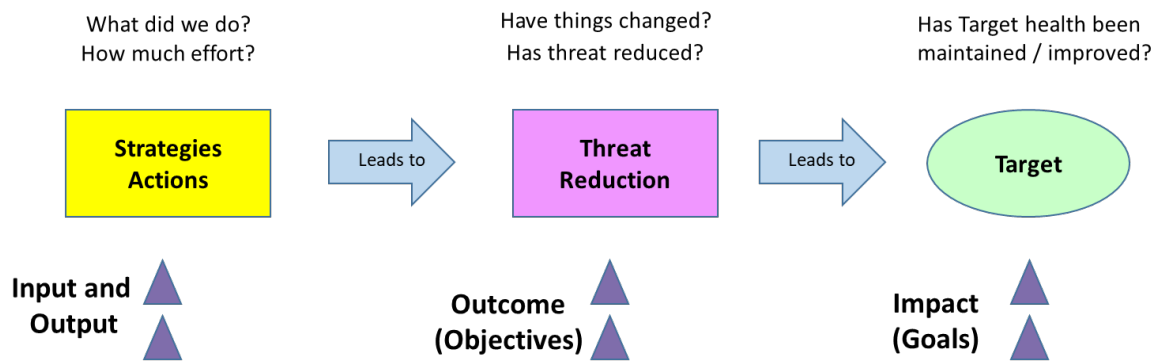


Figure 5: Relationship between the different parts of our monitoring

Checking on Strategies is the simplest and done most often and simply answers the question “Are we using the plan?”. It involves a regular review of the Actions in the work plan to see if they are being done, and check their progress.

Checking Objectives builds on implementation monitoring, but in addition to simply recording an activity, we look at all the information we have collected from our completed work and think whether it is showing us that we achieve a change.

Monitoring Targets and their ongoing health tells us whether, with all the activities and successes in our strategies, we are actually seeing improvement. This is typically the most difficult of all three levels of monitoring and requires the greatest investment in time and resources data-capture and analysis. Because natural targets often respond to change only over time, status reporting is undertaken at the time when the Healthy Country Plan gets typically reviewed.

We look at each of these below.

Strategies (Inputs and Outputs)









Rating progress with Strategies is the most straightforward level of monitoring and should be started immediately as a way of maintaining momentum.





















A recommended rating approach is shown below:







RATING	EXAMPLE
Not specified	We really don't know and have no information
Scheduled for future implementation	We have not got around to this yet, but we will
On-Track - Ongoing, generally on track	We are doing it, and it is all going as we expected (more or less)
Minor Issues - Ongoing, has minor issues that need attention	We are doing it, but there have been some delays due to weather / technical problems
Major Issues - Ongoing, major issues that need attention	We are doing it, but there have been some significant delays that we are not sure we can resolve
Completed - Successfully accomplished	We did it
Abandoned - No longer relevant or useful	We don't think we need to do this anymore

Figure 6: Strategy rating

Each Strategy is reviewed and rated against the scale and appropriate remedial action (where required) nominated.

Project / Strategy	People	Progress Rating	Progress Details
 Look after Bulmba (employment)	BH, HS, RC		
 Bulmba Ranger Operations (Djabugay Natural and Cultural Resource Management Agency)	BH*, HS, RC		
 Build Capacity (training skill and development)			
 Establishment of a Djabugay Community and Ranger office to deliver Park needs			
 Cultural resource management			
 Djabugay active use and exploitation of cultural and natural resources			
 Djabugay lead cultural resource management activities in BGNP			
 Shared-history cultural resource management			

Project / Strategy	People	Progress Rating	Progress Details
 Celebrate Culture (business opportunities)	TC, BH, HS, AB, RC, RT5, IC		
 All tourism operations in BGNP include Djabugay people and Djabugay culture and use Djabugay landscape to refer to BGNP	BH*, HS, TC		
 DTAC to explore and if feasible develop commercial visitor centre	BH*, HS, IC, TC		
 Provide Fee for Service services to stakeholders / operators / agencies in and around BGNP	HS*, AB, BH, RC, RT5		
 Community engagement (community awareness and support)			
 Djabugay to work with other BGNP users to build cross cultural awareness			
 DTAC actively working with all stakeholders to promote listening to each other			
 Partner with Government (joint management)			
 Djabugay to work with the Queensland Government to establish a Joint Management arrangement over BGNP			
 Partner with Business (employment and profit sharing)			
 Establish partnerships with existing and new commercial operators in BGNP to benefit Djabugay			
 Conservation of Native Plants, Animals and Water			
 Participate in and lead surveys and other assessment of the conservation values of BGNP			
 Pest Management			
 "Manage pest plants and animals in accordance with the Level 2 Pest Management Strategy" (DNPRSR 2013:6)			
 Fire Management			
 Djabugay and the PWS manage fire on BGNP in a culturally appropriate way and "... in accordance with the Level 2 Fire Strategy for the park" (DNPRSR 2013:6)			
 Management Planning and Impact Assessment			
 Djabugay and QPWS collaborate to develop, implement and adapt a culturally appropriate management plan for the BGNP			
 Djabugay and QPWS establish a shared impact assessment process for decision-making on developments in the BGNP			

Project / Strategy	People	Progress Rating	Progress Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Din Din National Park naming 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Establish Djabugay naming for all features of the BGNP including the Park itself 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Access and visitor management 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Djabugay to use the management plan, signage and infrastructure management to ensure culturally appropriate access 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Infrastructure management 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Djabugay secure contracts for or otherwise lead infrastructure management in the BGNP 			



Objective (Outcomes)

Indicators have not yet been determined for the Objectives in each project, and these will need to be developed as the plan is implemented and Djabugay are ready to review the outcomes. Candidate indicators have been proposed in the Table below.

For the purposes of monitoring it will be important to set ‘thresholds’ or ‘levels’ for the monitoring to report into. An example criteria is provided below:

THREAT THRESHOLDS (connected back to threat rating – Scope, Severity, Irreversibility)		Confidence:		What is the Trend	
LOW	Desirable status (low area / impact); requires little intervention	Intensive Assessment		Unknown	?
MEDIUM	Moderate area / impact; some intervention required for maintenance.	Expert Knowledge		Strong Increase	↑
HIGH	High area / impact; requires significant human intervention.	Sampling Based		Mild increase	↗
VERY HIGH	Widespread; return to healthy state increasingly difficult; may result in total loss of values.	Rapid Assessment		Flat	→
		Rough guess		Mild Decrease	↘
		Not Specified		Strong Decrease	↓

Figure 7: Objective indicator rating guide

Progress toward Objectives should be reviewed annually for priority projects and every second year for other projects.

Project	Objective	Candidate Indicators
Look after Bulmba (employment)	Job opportunities for younger people	Employment and participation
Build Capacity (training skill and development)	To provide all services required for the management of the Park	Proportion of services provided by Djabugay (in \$)
Cultural resource management	Minimising the impact of tourists on the ground	Visitor demographics Visitor satisfaction
	Maintain and clean sacred sites, and people are educated on the importance of the sites so they are respected and be more involved when they walk around Park	Site disturbance
Celebrate Culture (business opportunities)	Celebrating cultural days on country and more to do with education	# / value of cultural enterprises operating

Project	Objective	Candidate Indicators
Community engagement (community awareness and support)	Community (young / old / non-indigenous / business / residents / disabled - access) positive about Djabugay ownership and management	Frequency and participation
Partner with Government (joint management)	An appropriate park management agreement to maximise Djabugay interests in the park.	Agreement in place
	Legally binding dispute resolution mechanisms deal with breaches of any agreement	Agreement in place
	Adequate funding for the initial joint management of the park including the Board of Management and operational requirements	Funding levels as proportion of need
	An Aboriginal majority Board of Management to direct policy and operational matters in the park.	Board composition
	Djabugay people take a high level of control of park management for the BGNP	Djabugay Board satisfaction
	An entirely Aboriginal Board of Management	Board composition
	Employment and having partnership / working together	Employment and participation
Partner with Business (employment and profit sharing)	Increasing employment and income for Djabugay and business in the Park and enhancing business opportunities in the Park	Employment and participation
Conservation of Native Plants, Animals and Water	Sustain the environment in good condition for the future, protecting important values of the Park	Trajectory of threats
Pest Management	Minimising the impacts of pests on Din Din and its values	Trajectory of priority pests in the Park

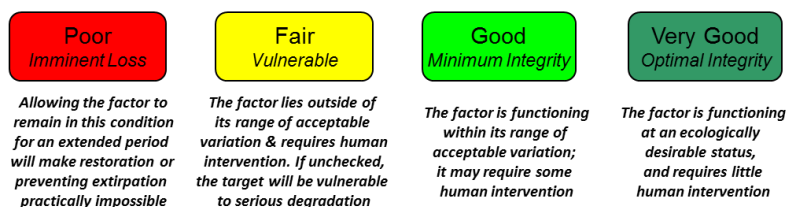
Project	Objective	Candidate Indicators
Fire Management	Rejuvenation / revegetation / maintaining sacred sites using a cultural burning regime	Trajectory of unmanaged fire in the Park
Management Planning and Impact Assessment	Sustain the environment in good condition for the future, protecting important values of the Park	Djabugay Board satisfaction
Din Din National Park naming	Clear boundaries and title – known by Djabugay name	Completion of re-naming program
Access and visitor management	Allow maximum people to visit and use Din Din with minimum impact on the values and diversity and create and income from that access and visitors	Visitor demographics Visitor satisfaction
Infrastructure management	Djabugay to maintain all park infrastructure and if things being built then come back to Djabugay for first opportunity to build	Infrastructure quality assessment



Targets (Impacts)

For the purposes of monitoring Targets need to have:

1. A clearly established understanding of the baseline (starting) health
2. Clear indicators and agreed ‘levels’ that those indicators need to reach



3. A SMART Goal we want to achieve, using the indicators

Indicators have not yet been determined for the Targets, and these will need to be developed as the plan is implemented and Djabugay are ready to review the impacts. Candidate indicators have been proposed in the Table below.





The Status (current condition / baseline) of Targets should be established as soon as possible, and monitoring started also as soon as possible. However, it will likely be 3-5 years before a change will be seen, and so while monitoring should occur now review will not be required until 2020/21.

Target	Candidate Indicators
Barron River, falls and gorge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Water quantity
Conservation values of the BGNP (rainforest, rich and varied wildlife)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of species across the Park • Population trend of priority species
Cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability and accessibility • Djabugay satisfaction of knowledge transfer
Decision-making control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djabugay satisfaction about decision making
Djabugay cultural activities in the BGNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djabugay satisfaction • Frequency and participation
Djabugay people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djabugay satisfaction about benefits from Din Din • Employment and participation
Locations of cultural significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intact-ness (physical / cultural)
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djabugay satisfaction with infrastructure • Visitor satisfaction
Scenic Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor satisfaction
Tourism and visitor opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor demographics • Visitor satisfaction

Table 2: Targets and candidate indicators for review

Project Progress

Looking at each of the areas above (Strategies, Objectives and Targets) individually can help to see how projects are progressing. However, once each of these three areas of monitoring is happening regularly than we can start to look at progress in a project by checking all three elements in a related project, for example:

Project / Target / Objective / Strategy	Progress	Progress Details
 Look after Bulmba (employment)		
 Djabugay people		
 Job opportunities for younger people		
 Bulmba Ranger Operations (Djabugay Natural And Cultural Resource Management Agency)		

Adapting

Adapting the plan is an ongoing process of regular review and is not left to the end of the proposed plan time. Creating a "culture" of review is important to ensure that work being done in the plan is as effective as possible and requires the following key elements.

1. Regular quarterly review of implementation by the Operational team
2. Effective learning also depends on being able to review previous work, outcomes and results.

It is essential that a simple approach to information be established to keep track of all records relating to implementing the plan. A simple "folder" approach is cheap and easy to implement, storing any materials, reports, photographs, Cyber tracker logs etc, in folders under project or asset names. Supported by simple record keeping the small regular reviews will feed up into larger midterm and full plan reviews as shown.



Figure 8: view and Adaption Hierarchy

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Abbreviations

BGNP - Barron Gorge National Park

CDEP - Community Development Employment Program

CYLC - Cape York Land Council

DoE - Department of Environment

DNPRSR - Department of National parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

DTAC - Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

FCA - Federal Court of Australia

LU&MS - Land Use and Management Strategy

NNTT - National Native Title Tribunal

NQLC - North Queensland Land Council

PCB - Prescribed Body Corporate

WTMA - Wet Tropics Management Authority

Appendix 1: Regional Ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Regional ecosystem name	Biodiversity status
7.3.26	Casuarina cunninghamiana woodland to open forest on alluvium fringing streams	Endangered
7.3.28	Rivers and streams including riparian herbfield and shrubland on river and stream bed alluvium, and rock within stream beds	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.11.3	Semi-deciduous mesophyll vine forest on metamorphics, of the moist and dry foothills and lowlands	Of concern
7.11.6	Syncarpia glomulifera ± Eucalyptus pellita open forest of metamorphics, on deep soils	Endangered
7.11.10	Acacia celsa open to closed forest on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.13	Corymbia torelliana open forest usually with a vine forest element, on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.16	Eucalyptus portuensis and Corymbia intermedia open forest to woodland, on wet and moist metamorphics of foothills and uplands	Endangered
7.11.18	Corymbia intermedia and/or C. tessellaris ± Eucalyptus tereticornis medium to tall open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on coastal metamorphic headlands and nearcoastal foothills	Of concern
7.11.19	Corymbia intermedia and/or Lophostemon suaveolens open forest to woodland of uplands, on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.26	Rock pavements with Allocasuarina littoralis and Syncarpia glomulifera open to closed shrublands or Bombax ceiba and Cochlospermum gillivraei open woodland, or Acacia spp. shrubland, on metamorphics	Endangered
7.11.27	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest or microphyll vine-sedge forest of wet metamorphic uplands and highlands	Of concern
7.11.28	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed metamorphic ridge crests and steep slopes. Distinguished from 7.11.1 and other similar ecosystems by its low, wind-sheared nature. Notable for the occurrence of mountain dwelling species at relatively low altitudes	Of concern
7.11.30	Simple notophyll vine forest of Blepharocarya involucrigera on metamorphics	Of concern
7.11.32	Syncarpia glomulifera and/or Allocasuarina spp. ± heathy understorey, medium to tall woodland to open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), of steep rocky metamorphic slopes with shallow soils	Of concern
7.11.38	Lophostemon confertus low woodland to low closed forest ± Acacia celsa, Syncarpia glomulifera and Allocasuarina spp. on steep metamorphic slopes	Of concern
7.11.44	Eucalyptus tereticornis open forest to woodland of coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.12.21	Eucalyptus grandis open forest to woodland, or Corymbia intermedia, E. pellita, and E. grandis, open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered

Table 3: Regional ecosystems (DNPRSR 2013:7-8)

Appendix 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track Status
Plants				
<i>Wetria australiensis</i>		Vulnerable		Medium
<i>Alpinia hylandii</i>		Near threatened		Low
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened		Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened		Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	square-tailed kite	Near threatened		Low
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Litoria nannotis</i>	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria nyakalensis</i>	mountain mistfrog	Endangered	Critically endangered	Low
<i>Litoria rheocola</i>	common mistfrog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened		Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian lacelid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
<i>Hemibelideus lemuroides</i>	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>	green ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i>	Herbert River ringtail possum	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	diademed leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened		Low
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable		High
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden-tipped bat	Near threatened		Medium
<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened		Low

Table 4: Species of conservation significance (DNPRSR 2013:8)

Appendix 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	-	-	y
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	-	y	y	y
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	-	y	y	y
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	eastern great egret	-	y	-	y
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	y	-	-
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	y	-	-	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	y	-	-	-
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	satin flycatcher	y	-	-	-
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	y	-	-	-

Table 5: Species listed in international agreements (DNPRSR 2013:9)

Appendix 4: Joint Management Models and Principles

Parks Australia have developed a matrix for thinking about different models of joint management based on the intersection of ‘capability’, being the capacity and willingness of Traditional Owners and park staff to deliver park management, and ‘congruence’, being the level of agreement between partners on the vision for, and delivery of, park management (Parks Australia 2016 (c):5) (Figure 5).

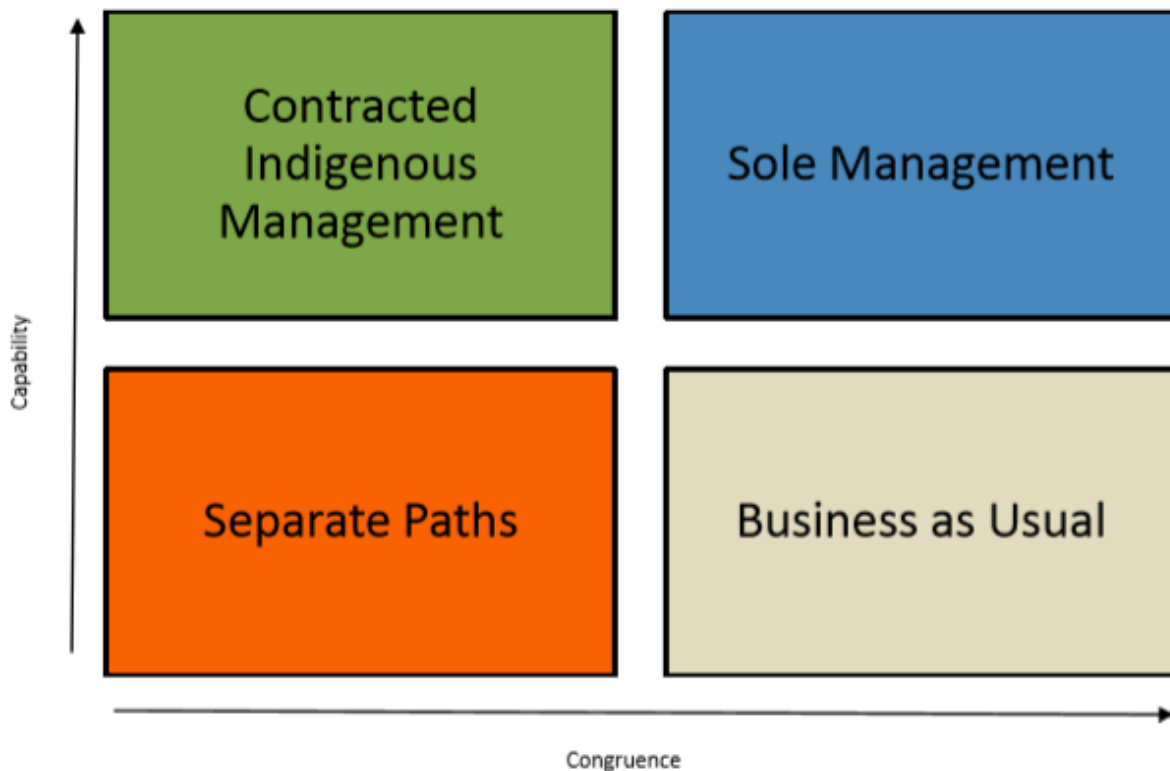


Figure 9: Capability and congruence in joint management (PA 2016(c):5)

Where capability and congruence are both low, Traditional Owners and park managers are on different trajectories, leading to a ‘Separate Paths’ model with little consensus around future management. Where capability is low, but there is a high level of congruence between Traditional Owners and park managers, a ‘Business as Usual’ model will operate, with little input from Traditional Owners. Where capability is high, but there is little consensus around future management, there may be scope for park management to be contracted out to indigenous rangers under a ‘Contracted Indigenous Management’ model. Where both capability and congruence are high, Traditional Owners and government park managers have a shared vision for the future of park management, reflecting a ‘Sole Management’ model whereby management is delivered solely by indigenous park managers (Parks Australia 2016(c):5).

Parks Australia identified three themes represented by a human figure in developing their *Working Together* model for joint management of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Figure 6). The experience and lessons learnt by Parks Australia in developing joint management models should be drawn upon in developing a model for joint management of Barron Gorge National Park.



The Uluru-Kata Tjuta working group's three themes of joint management

Figure 10: Uluru-Kata Tjuta model of working together (PA 2016(a):5)

Parks Australia have also developed a framework for establishing a shared vision and indicators of success for the relationship to ensure Traditional Owners and park staff have a common tool for assessing and monitoring the health of the joint management relationship into the future. They describe this framework as the “two pillars of successful joint management” (Figure 7).

Regardless of which model of joint or co-management is implemented, we believe that the two pillars of joint management are fundamental to its success. They provide the flexible approach needed to adapt to changing Traditional Owner aspirations and government policy agendas, supported by a strong structural framework. Having tangible tools for supporting and operationalising joint management theory into day-to-day activities will ensure joint management arrangements remain strong into the future.

The foundational issue of what we do together underpins the governance (or structure) of joint management, and can be addressed via a process for collaboratively agreeing on, implementing and monitoring priorities from the management plan – one of the key governance tools. In parallel to this, the foundational issue of how we work together directly relates to the relationships (or process) of joint management.

Parks Australia 2016(b)

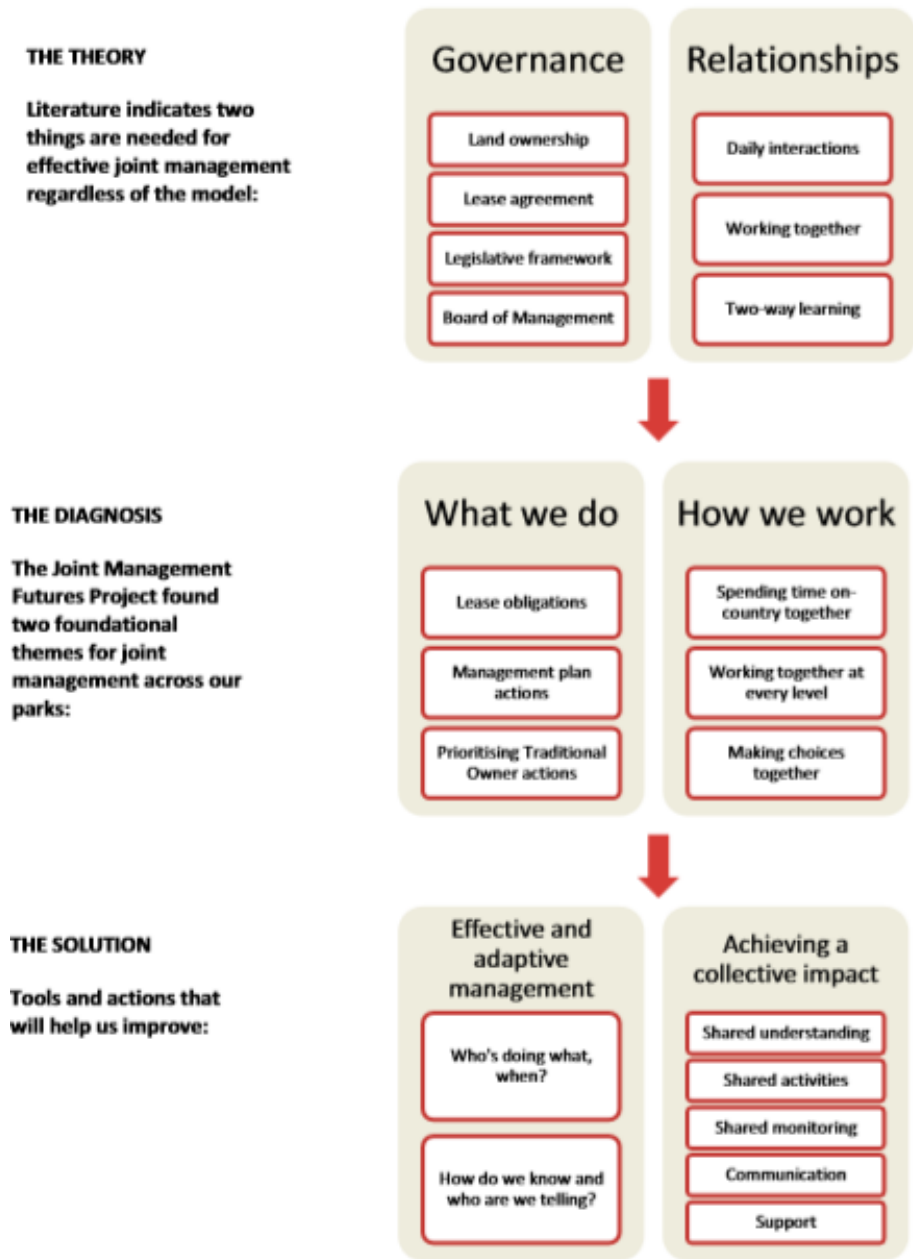


Figure 11: Two pillars for successful joint management (PA 2016(b):12-13)

The Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework (Hill 2008) may also be useful in developing a cultural planning framework and enable capacity building for Djabugay People to enable joint management of Barron Gorge National Park (Figure 8).

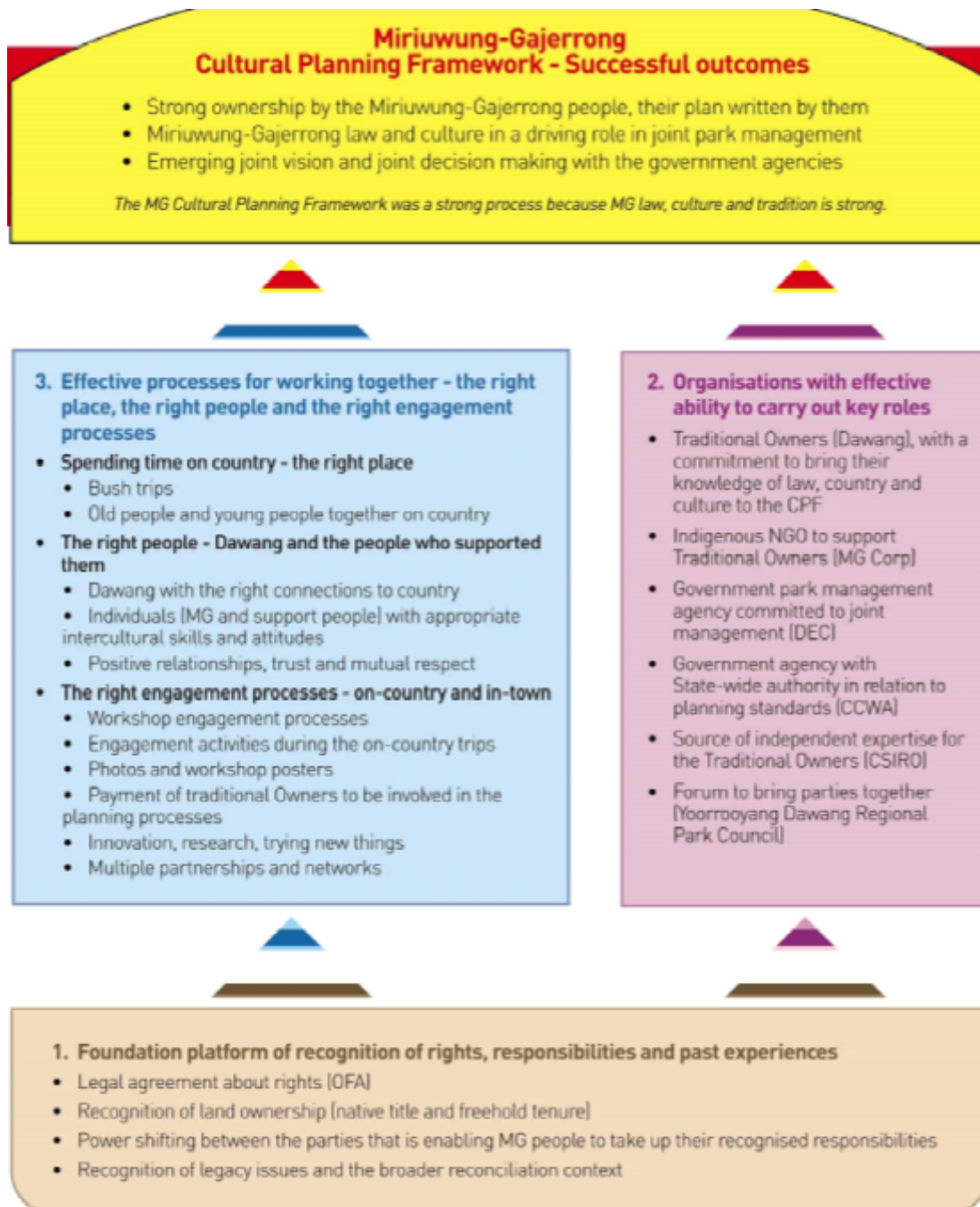


Figure 12: Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework (Hill 2008:8)

Appendix 5: Tourism Market Research

2001 market research

Market research conducted in 2001 (MRG 2001) indicated the following numbers of visitors at four major destinations:

- Barron Falls Lookout - ~500,000 visitors
- Stoney Creek Valley - ~170,000 visitors
- Barron Gorge - ~170,000 visitors
- Wright's lookout- ~30,000 visitors

This research also identified four primary user groups (MRG 2001):

- **Group one; first time visitors:**

Primarily coming to Kuranda, who had an interest in what was described as 'the rainforest experience', but had limited time available and were seeking an introductory exposure.

- **Group Two:**

This group was identified as being fragmented and consisting of:

- b) second time visitors to the area who were returning to Kuranda to further their experience;
- c) first time visitors who had done their own research into the area and wished to undertake a more in-depth experience;
- d) locals visiting the area for family recreational usage.

- **Group Three: Weekend campers, family outings.**

It was suggested that this group might consist of local families, hikers and backpackers.

- **Group Four: Serious hikers:**

Although comparatively small in number, it was agreed that they had the potential to increase in numbers once the walking tracks became better developed (Iconic Tracks). This group identified as being important to the long-term profile development, recognition and integrity of the park.

Report on Visitation and Use at Barron Falls

A more recent report into visitation and use of Barron Falls as part of a broader study of sustainable nature based tourism in the Wet Tropics determined visitor profiles, travel patterns, reasons for visiting Barron Falls, perceptions of the natural environment, perceptions and use of the site facilities, perceptions of signage and satisfaction with the visitor experience (Carmody and Prideaux 2011).

The following key findings are based on a visitor survey (N = 294) undertaken at Barron Falls between March and June 2009. Where findings are reported as a mean, 1 represents the lowest level of agreement with given statements by survey respondents, while 6 represents the highest level of agreement.

Respondent Profile

- Barron Falls is visited by both domestic (56.1%) and international (43.9%) visitors.

- The largest group of respondents was aged 20-29 years (37.3%).
- Couples with no children (n = 156) were the largest travel party segment.

Travel Patterns

- Visitors to Barron Falls travelled from Cairns (30.7%), Kuranda (22.8%), Port Douglas (10.6%) and Mareeba (9.9%).
- Respondents leaving Barron Falls were heading to Cairns (34.6%), Kuranda (20.3%) and Port Douglas (9.9%).
- Road signs (39.4%), word-of-mouth (26.4%), tourist maps (26.4%) and travel guide books (25.0%) were the key sources of information used by visitors prior to visiting Barron Falls.

Reasons for Visiting Barron Falls

- The natural features and scenery were the main motivation for visiting Barron Falls.
- Domestic visitors sought to experience tranquillity, whereby international visitors were motivated by the natural environment.

Perceptions of the Natural Environment

- The natural environment is considered interesting (mean = 5.68), in good condition (mean = 5.41), well managed (mean = 5.39) and appealing (mean = 5.35).

Perceptions and Use of the Site Facilities

-

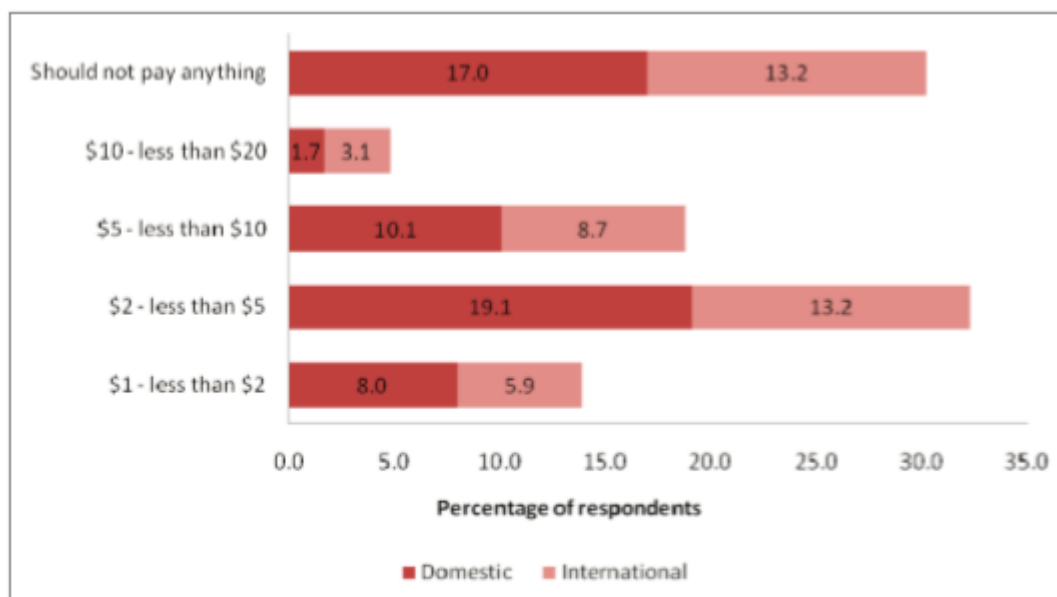


Figure 13: : Survey respondents' willingness to pay an access entrance fee (from Carmody and Prideaux 2011:19)

- The site facilities at Barron Falls are considered to be in good condition (mean = 4.93).
- The presence of a ranger at the site was not strongly supported (mean = 3.61).
- The boardwalk (83.2%), viewing platform (80.6%) and walking track (77.7%) were the most popular facilities.

Perceptions of Signage

- The directional signage at Barron Falls is considered easy to find (mean = 5.09) and helpful (mean = 5.01).
- The safety signage is considered easy to understand (mean = 5.18).
- Information about the natural features is considered informative (mean = 5.11).

Satisfaction with the Visitor Experience

- The boardwalk and natural beauty of Barron Falls enhanced visitors' experiences of the site.

The report also gauged willingness to pay and access or entrance fee to visit Barron Falls (Figure 10).

This market research and visitor profile information will be used to inform business planning for Djabugay cultural tourism business enterprises