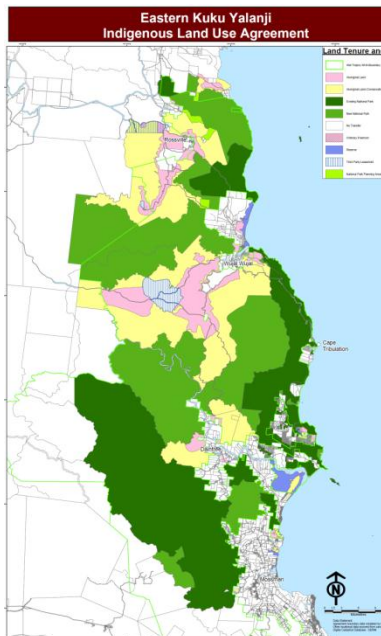


# Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Project - October 2011 Update



Eastern Yalanji Land and Sea Country extends from near Port Douglas to south of Cooktown, including the Mossman, Daintree, Bloomfield and Rossville areas. In 2007, the Eastern Yalanji Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) divided Eastern Yalanji *bubu* (land) into different tenures. In late 2011, about 65,000ha of land is being handed back to the Eastern Yalanji *Bama* (People) as Aboriginal freehold nature refuge (“Yellow Zone”) and Aboriginal freehold (“Pink Zone”), and larger areas are being added to the Daintree and Ngalba Bulal national parks.



## Why an Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA?

In 2009, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners held a number of meetings and decided to go ahead with a staged IPA across Eastern Yalanji Country. Some of the main reasons for this were:

- *“To put Country back together”* – the Eastern Yalanji IPA will cover both land and sea country and different tenures, including marine and national parks, Aboriginal freehold nature refuge and reserves
- *The need for Traditional Owner-driven planning and management* – rather than responding to planning being undertaken by others on Eastern Yalanji Country, Traditional Owners drive the IPA planning process
- *To get resources to manage Country* – Eastern Yalanji people are now responsible for managing about 50,000ha of nature refuge and public reserves, currently with no management resources



*Yalanji warra muruku junkurrjimaka bamangka bubuku*

## Current status of the Eastern Yalanji IPA project

Draft management plans have been prepared for Stage 1 – Kuku Nyungkal Country (project-managed by CSIRO) and Stage 2 – Jalunji-Warra Land and Sea Country of the Eastern Yalanji IPA. Both clans want their parts of the Eastern Yalanji IPA to include both land under sole Eastern Yalanji ownership or trusteeship, as well as national parks and marine parks for co-management.



The IPA management plan drafts include a vision statement and identify the IPA area, IUCN category and governance arrangements. The plans outline:

- values identified by Traditional Owners, including Eastern Yalanji culture, Traditional knowledge and management, as well as important plants, animals and habitats such as waterways, significant vegetation types and reefs;
- threats to these values, such as culture losing strength, lack of funding, pest plants and animals, bad development, disrespectful visitors and climate change; and
- strategies and actions to deal with threats to values, for example cultural strategies, ranger funding and training, stakeholder engagement and pest strategies.

Both plans emphasise the key value of Traditional Owners carrying out their responsibilities as the primary managers of their Country, caring for natural and cultural values on land and sea. The plans identify the barriers currently preventing Traditional Owners from again taking up these responsibilities as threats, and propose strategies to overcome these.

### Next steps

Stakeholder involvement will be critical for the success of the Eastern Yalanji IPA, particularly on the large areas of national and marine parks to be co-managed. An Eastern Yalanji IPA Advisory Committee workshop is proposed for 5 December 2011 to inform partner agencies and look at the future management of Eastern Kuku Yalanji land and sea Country coordinated through the Eastern Yalanji IPA.

Remaining stages of the Eastern Yalanji IPA will be determined in late-2011.

For more information on the Eastern Yalanji IPA, please contact Jabalbina's planning and development coordinator, Rowan Shee, on phone (07) 4098 5500 or [pdcc@jabalbina.com.au](mailto:pdcc@jabalbina.com.au).

*Yalanji warra muruku junkurrjimaka bamangka bubuku*