



INFORMATION (plain language statement)

Project Title

Yagarrajalajalan nagula buru: We all care for saltwater Country

Project Description

'Yagarrajalajalan nagula buru: We all care for saltwater Country' is a collaborative research project to identify and map human activities and values in Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park (YNRBMP) in Broome (Western Australia). This project is part of a wider research initiative on the ecology and conservation values associated with dugong and marine turtles, customary harvest and other human activities and social values in YNRBMP.

Coastal marine parks are commonly accessed by a variety of different users and groups with different values and for different reasons and types of activities. This is especially true for areas shared amongst culturally diverse groups, where different values can result in contrasting ideas regarding management and use of marine parks. Social values aren't just about the direct benefits the marine park provides but also about the intangible connections people have with these places. Identifying, documenting, and analysing the range of activities and social values is a crucial component for understanding how marine parks are perceived and used, that may then inform more effective planning and management. The project will seek to:

1. Map and understand the human activities in YNRBMP, including customary harvest;
2. Map and understand the social values associated with YNRBMP;
3. Identify the range of key beliefs across different community groups in relation to customary hunting/ harvest of Dugong and Green Turtle in YNRBMP;
4. Investigate compatibility of different activities, and different values associated with shared marine resources in YNRBMP, particularly for green turtle and dugong;
5. Explore how different researchers on the team manage various challenges that arise using the project as a case study;
6. Determine how best to communicate research outputs to the key groups to achieve ongoing project objectives about connection to country for Yawuru and increased community understanding of the cultural values associated with YNRBMP;
7. Explore the cultural responsibilities associated with the management of turtles and dugongs, including the living cultural heritage of the land and sea country, as well as the cultural and social obligations associated with the distribution of customary harvest; and



- Contribute to the meeting the cultural KPIs of YNRBMP with practical outcomes through this applied research.

The Research team will produce a range of material over the multi-year research program including:

- Community reports/newsletters
- Project updates will be shared via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and a project website
- Detailed spatial and temporal maps of human activities and values in Yawuru Nagulagun
- Insights into developing a best-practice model for conducting genuine and effective two-way science that could be used as a template for future research regarding access and use of resources on country
- A public exhibition of research outputs including photographs, film, audio, material culture and maps;
- Outcomes directly linked to achieving the cultural KPIs of Yawuru Nagulagun and subsequent management strategies;
- Collaborative papers in academic publications (Australian and international)
- An international conference on two-way scientific collaboration for effective marine park management.

The methods developed through this project will increase knowledge for Kimberley Aboriginal people and the broader Australian population about key community beliefs about customary harvest, that will provide detailed understanding of patterns of activities and potential for conflict or compatibility between activities. It will also assist with ongoing management practices to contribute to improved management and mitigation strategies within YNRBMP.

Field trips will be conducted during the Dry Season each year under the guidance of Cultural Advisors to ensure cultural protocols are maintained during the project. Professional development support in recording, tagging, monitoring, maintenance, and management programs will be provided. Tablet technology and digital photography (including photogrammetry) will be used to gather data.

The justification for the project is its ability to support Aboriginal people to access their Native Title area and undertake customary and cultural practices within Yawuru Nagulagun, sharing this experience with young and old as part of a framework for intergenerational knowledge transfer.

The Project Team

The project team is led by Dr Adrian Gleiss (Murdoch University) and is being conducted by researchers at Murdoch University, University of Notre Dame Australia, Edith Cowan University, and Nyamba Buru Yawuru. The wider research project is funded by the Western Australian Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science, and Innovation as part of the state government's commitment to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

What are we doing?

This research will involve local Aboriginal people, the broader local Broome community and other stakeholders who are connected to and/or use YNRBMP. Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate in this study, you may be asked to participate in the following tasks:

- Complete an activity and value mapping exercise guided by the workshop facilitator. This will involve you marking on a hardcopy map of the marine park study area the



types/names and locations of activities you do or have done. You will also be asked to mark areas on the study area map that you value and how / why you value them.

2. Complete a short questionnaire about who you are to help us better understand the activities and values mapped by the study participants. The questionnaire responses will be linked to the map you have completed using a code and will be anonymous.
3. Engage in yarning with researchers as part of customary or cultural activities on YNRBMP.
4. Participate in one-on-one interviews or small group workshops to discuss customary or cultural activities in YNRBMP.

All data collected during will be stored on password protected computers of the researchers and copies will be provided to the participants and participating organisations.

What am I expected to do as a participant?

You will be asked to participate in discussions on Country in an informal way with the researchers with this information captured on the maps or as part of audio-recorded interviews or questionnaires.

Your participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw without discrimination or prejudice. If you withdraw during or immediately after the mapping exercise, all information you have provided will be destroyed. If your data has already been de-identified or published, a day or more after the workshop, it may not be possible to destroy data that you provided. In this instance, all your information will be attributed anonymously. This is a requirement of the Human Research Ethics Committee of all of the participating universities which has reviewed this project. This is standard practice for academic research projects.

Are there any risks?

The research carries some risk, and we will be guided by cultural advisors throughout the project to ensure everyone's cultural safety. While unlikely, if there are any locations or informal discussions that make you feel uncomfortable or distressed, please inform the project team. There is also a risk that despite our efforts, if you want to keep your identity confidential, you may be identified through the stories that you share, and so you should not share anything that would incriminate you or cause others to take an unfavourable view of you.

Are there any benefits?

This project has been developed to support 'mabu liyan' (wellbeing) as the Yawuru community continues to practice customary hunting/harvest on Yawuru Nagulagun. It also seeks to support Indigenous livelihoods around the management of sustainable harvest and use of marine resources; as well as improvements to management practices within YNRBMP and the development of strategies associated with customary hunting practices. The knowledge gained may help others in the future.

Will I be identified (anonymity)?

The intent of the research team is to identify people's contributions to the development of the data capture method. However, you can certainly choose to contribute anonymously and can request this when signing the consent form. Access to the data you provide will be restricted to the research team and identifying details will be stored separately from the rest of the research data if you choose to remain anonymous. Published results will only be reported in aggregate, and you will not be identifiable within published outputs unless you have elected otherwise.



Privacy Notice

In collecting your personal information for this research, all universities must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Data Storage

Data will be securely stored on password-protected computers of the project team with a backup at Murdoch University. Copies of the data will also be provided to Nyamba Buru Yawuru and DBCA where relevant and appropriate.

- **How long:** All research data will be retained and securely stored for at least five years following publications arising from the research.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** After the storage period, data will be transferred to Nyamba Buru Yawuru and DBCA where relevant and appropriate.

Queries and Concerns

Contact details for more information

If you have any questions about this mapping project please feel free to contact the project supervisors, Dr Halina Kobryn (h.kobryn@murdoch.edu.au), or Dr Michael Hughes (m.hughes@murdoch.edu.au) or Dr Joanna Pearce (joanna.pearce@ecu.edu.au).

- For more information about the larger project you can visit <http://www.yagarrajalajalan-nagula-buru.org> or email info@yagarrajalajalan-nagula-buru.org, or contact Dr Adrian Gleiss (A.gleiss@murdoch.edu.au).
- If you would like to contact someone in Broome, you can contact Mel Marshall & Lloyd Pigram at Nulungu Research Institute, 08 9192 0670 or nulungu@nd.edu.au
- **Contact Details if in Distress:** If you feel distressed by any questions, you should contact the Headspace (08 9193 6222) or Lifeline (13 11 14).

Ethics Committee clearance

This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2023/190). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics & Integrity on Tel. 08 9360 6677 or e-mail ethics@murdoch.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

This project has received clearance from the respective Human Research Ethics Committees.

