

RESEARCH

Project 1.2

Project 1.4

Project 1.5

**PROJECT 1.1****Wet Tropics Regional Natural Resources Management Plan****Project Leader: Professor Geoff McDonald (UQ)**

The Rainforest CRC began a partnership with the Wet Tropics Natural Resources Management Board to develop the Wet Tropics Region Natural Resource Management Plan in early 2002. Substantial progress has been made and the project is on track to meet its primary goal, an accredited regional NRM plan in the next 12 months.

The project was triggered by the need to meet the requirements of the new Commonwealth and State programs for resource management, especially the National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity and the National Heritage Trust 2 and more recently the Reef Protection Plan. Essential principles behind these programs are that planning will be conducted and implemented by regional bodies incorporating key stakeholders including local government, catchment committees, Landcare groups and industry. The regional resource management plans will be accredited by State and Commonwealth governments and provide a framework for investment and for coordinating management activities.

The partnership has provided an excellent opportunity to engage the science and planning skills of the CRC with the community. Rainforest CRC scientists have provided important scientific input into the project on topics such as water quality and management, biodiversity targets and needs, rehabilitation, indigenous peoples involvement, information sources, monitoring requirements etc.

**POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Claudia OLLENBURG (GU) PhD

*Economics of rural land use: agriculture, tourism and conservation*

Tiffany MORRISON (UQ) PhD

*Integrating cross-jurisdictional planning and assessment for sustainable regions*

David TEMPLE-SMITH (UQ) PhD

*Decision support systems for ecosystem and vegetation management*