

RESEARCH

Project 4.2

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A message  
for respondents to  
'A Study on  
Environmental Issues'  
by Amy Smith,  
MAppSci Candidate  
James Cook University

## PROJECT 4.1 Strategies for Sustainable Rainforest Visitation and Use

*Project Leader: Dr Joan Benrupperbauer (JCU)*

This project systematically addresses the impacts of visitation and use in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Bioregion. The project implements a research agenda for continuing longitudinal research on psychosocial and biophysical impacts and changes, and relevant conservation and management strategies. In addition the project incorporates and integrates both natural and social science perspectives, individual, situational, and systems-based levels of analysis, and protected area conservation needs. Multiple environmental psychological methods which consider the nature and consequences of people-environment transactions in the WTWHA are incorporated and addressed as integral to considerations of biophysical impact and effective environmental management strategies.

Project emphases include the nature of individual encounters with this World Heritage environment, reciprocal impacts, both positive and negative, of visitor and user transactions in the WTWHA, and the role, use, and place meaning of the WTWHA in the life of the local community, including indigenous and nonindigenous residents. Impacts of management practices, interpretation materials, setting design, roads, and local indigenous and nonindigenous use are as important to the project as tourist perceptions, experience, and outcomes. The project is distinctive in that an important mission is to develop effective and useful measures and indicators of psychological, social and biophysical impacts, and to integrate these measures with other indicators of impacts and change, and program and policy effectiveness, in the WTWHA and bioregion.

### POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sue-Ellen O'FARRELL (JCU) Hons  
*Place attachment in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area*

Amy SMITH (JCU) MAppSci

*The effects of a flagship species on peoples' intentions to behave environmentally*

Nigel YOUNG (JCU) PhD

*Biophysical impacts and psychosocial experiences associated with use of selected long distance walking tracks in the Wet Tropics region, north Queensland*