

Integrated environmental assessment to inform sustainable development decisions

A preliminary analysis for northern Australia

Increasing focus on the development of northern Australia is seeing the region experience major investment and development in a landscape that boasts significant environmental and cultural values.

Robust development planning and decision-making processes are needed to meet the needs of investors and the community, and to reduce the risks to both the region's unique values and future economic opportunities.

Patch Clapp

The challenge

Achieving high-quality investment and development in the north requires planning and decision-making that can account for the complexity and diversity of values of the region, can facilitate acceptable trade-offs and is based on the best available knowledge.

What is integrated environmental assessment (IEA)?

Integrated environmental assessment (IEA) is an approach for combining knowledge from diverse disciplines and knowledge systems to inform and improve development decisions.

How could IEA help?

IEA could assist in de-risking investment in northern Australia while protecting and enhancing cultural and environmental assets, including through

- informing Commonwealth, state, regional and local policy and planning decisions
- informing strategic assessment and environmental impact assessment processes
- exploring scenarios of environmental and development futures.

The project

The aim of this project is to support decision-makers in the design and delivery of IEA processes that would bring significant benefit for both investors and communities, and improve the quality and implementation of policy, regulatory, planning and project decisions in northern Australia.

Our approach to collaborative effort

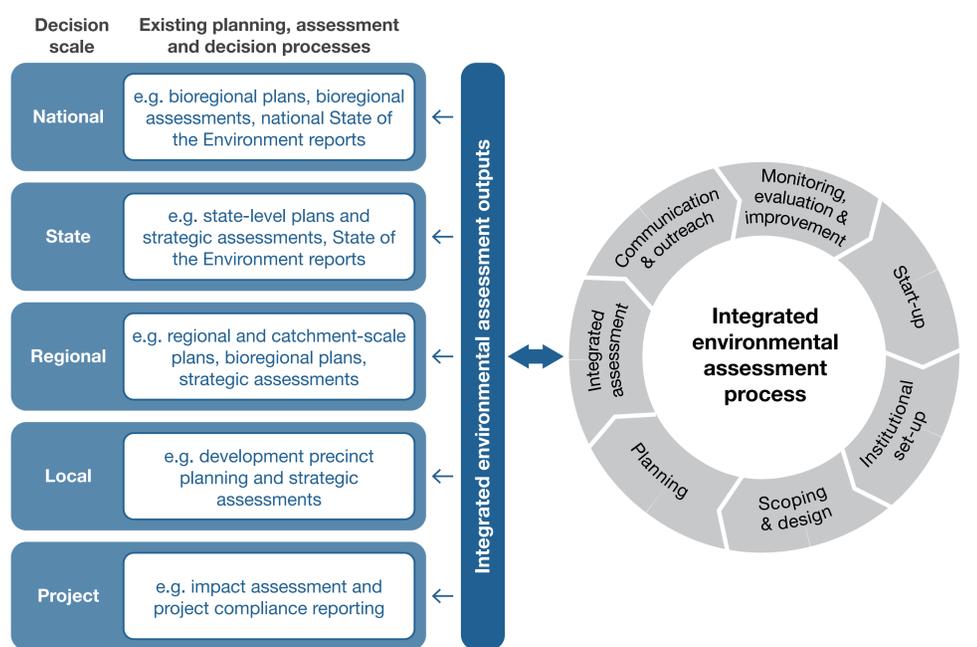
We are seeking to work with stakeholders across northern Australia to support them to adapt and tailor an existing IEA framework to fit in with existing planning and decision-making approaches.

Further information

Visit nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/integrated-environmental-assessment-to-inform-environmental-decisions or contact Mat Hardy mat.hardy@unimelb.edu.au or Allan Dale allan.dale@jcu.edu.au



The geographic scope of this research is the area defined as northern Australia by the Office of Northern Australia. The outputs of the project will be applicable in this region, but the framework and recommendations about the approach will be applicable nationally. Map data courtesy Australian Bureau of Statistics.



Relationship between IEA and existing planning, assessment and decision processes, at different scales.



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