

Community-based Management Planning Brief

This brief outlines in detail the activities involved in coordinating a community-based approach to management planning. The activities listed are currently being undertaken in Far NW Tasmania and Roebuck Bay, WA.

Undertake a desktop assessment and prepare a Background Paper

- Collate:
 - Available information from previous community consultation projects
 - Existing information on natural and cultural values
 - Information on the management framework (eg. tenure and management responsibility, zoning, legislation and policy affecting the site, current and future land management)
- Analyse
 - Gaps in natural values information
 - Gaps in community consultation
- Prepare a Background Paper (ie background information synopsis)

Guided by the Background Paper, establish a Community Reference Group (CRG) and Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and consult with them on the Background Paper via a facilitated workshop

- Guided by the Background Paper, identify key stakeholder groups in the community and invite these groups to nominate representatives to the proposed CRG.
- Invite organisations with relevant scientific and technical expertise to nominate the most appropriate representative to the STAG.
- Hold the first meeting of the CRG to introduce the Project Team, provide background information on the task and discuss the proposed approach to management planning.
- Agenda for facilitated workshop:
 - Participant self-introductions
 - Project team, background to the project and general way forward
 - Agree Terms of Reference for the CRG
 - Short presentation on natural, cultural & economic values of the area
 - Facilitated discussion of values identified and identify any additional values to be considered in preparing the Management Plan
 - Begin shared identification of threats to natural, economic and social values of the area
 - Where to from here
- Suggested Terms of Reference for the CRG:
 - To establish and maintain 2-way dialogue between the group and the community, both through representation and communication
 - To provide advice to the core Project Team on the best ways to communicate with the wider community
 - To facilitate input of community views into the Draft Management Plan in a 2-way process

- To provide locals with a sense of local “ownership” of the Draft Management Plan
- To bring local knowledge into the process, understanding the local community and linking that with technical expertise
- Raise broad awareness of the project (ie. activities planned in agreement with the Community Reference Group) and circulate contact details for the Project Team and CRG.

Undertake a values, condition and threat assessment (desktop and/or on-ground) and prepare an Issues Paper

- Undertake an assessment and analysis of Values, Condition, Issues and Management practices, including current practices and recommended practices that could be considered components of a future management plan (desktop and/or on-ground).
- Based on an analysis of gaps in existing knowledge – background paper - carry out further desktop and on-ground research including:
 - Natural and Cultural Heritage Values Assessment (eg. biological, climate, geology, hydrology, water quality, cultural heritage)
 - Social and Economic Values Assessment (eg. recreation, industry)
- Draft an Issues Paper to guide consultation with the CRG and STAG to facilitate identification of potential management strategies and actions in the draft management plan.
- Suggested structure for the Issues Paper:
 - Introduction
 - Statement of intent
 - Purpose
 - Management issue, current response and potential components of the management plan
 - Matrix of values and management issues

Develop a Communication Strategy to disseminate information in the Issues Paper to raise broad awareness in the community

- Draft a simple Communications Strategy to target dissemination of information in the Issues Paper among the broader community to raise awareness about values and their condition, management issues, and current and potential management strategies and actions.
- The Communication Strategy should include:
 - Key topics and experts
 - Target audience groups
 - Opportunities to reach target audience groups (eg. articles in the local paper, talks to groups, public information sessions, etc)

Consult with the CRG and STAG on the Issues Paper and Communication Strategy, via focus groups and a facilitated workshop

- Hold a series of Focus Group meetings with stakeholder groups to seek feedback and input on the Issues Paper (eg. information gaps – values and threats, preferred management actions and priorities).
- Facilitate a workshop with stakeholder groups to build consensus on:
 - Priority management strategies and recommended actions
 - How the plan will be managed and reviewed
 - The process for moving from the Issues Paper to a Draft Management Plan

Implement the Communication Strategy

- Coordinate delivery of activities identified in the Communication Strategy and record information on events, participants and feedback.

Develop the Draft Management Plan

- Develop a Draft Management Plan, guided by input from the STAG and CRG that includes:
 - Priority values for management
 - Threats to the priority values
 - The sources of those threats
 - Management strategies and recommended actions to manage those threats, including goals for each priority value
 - Monitoring & review – allowing changes and adaptation to new needs and ways of thinking.
- Coordinate an independent Technical Review of the Draft Management Plan

Consult with the CRG and STAG on the Draft Management Plan, via a facilitated workshop

- Present the Draft Management Plan to the CRG for feedback and refinement via a facilitated workshop to build consensus on Values, Threats, Management Strategies and Actions, and Monitoring and Review components.
- Seek CRG input on public release of the Draft Management Plan

Public release of the Draft Management Plan

- Disseminate the Draft Management Plan via:
 - Articles and advertisements to promote the release of the Draft Wetland Management Plan, including information on how to access copies (library, WWW, CRG, etc).
 - Public Meetings to present an overview of the planning process and key components of the draft Management Plan.