

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Project CF4 Factsheet

Research project output navigator for local government

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About the project

The uptake of research knowledge by end-users is influenced in the main by three key components (adapted from Campbell 2007).

- An operational spokesperson (non-academic corresponding author, management articulate researcher) who can frame the language of the research in that of the 'doer'
- Concrete recommendations (clear thresholds, classified and quantified data) that provide a basis for a decision process within the limitations of the research
- Dissemination of research results in outputs other than published articles (map products, decision tools) that are accessible, available and of interest/utility to end users

Research programs often overlook one or more of these components and as a result research outputs are underutilised by end-users regardless of the relevance or quality of the results. It is at this stage that an intermediary or knowledge brokering role can assist.

This project facilitated the delivery of research project outputs into a range of formats for uptake in relevant planning and policy tools for local government . This and other project products are designed to enable knowledge transfer between local government managers, planners, operational staff and researchers to:

- Improve capacity of researchers to understand the relevance of their work to local government end-users; and
- Improve uptake of research results by local government end users

In this instance the research project navigator is designed to assist local government end-users determine which of the projects from the TE Rainforest Hub are most relevant to them.

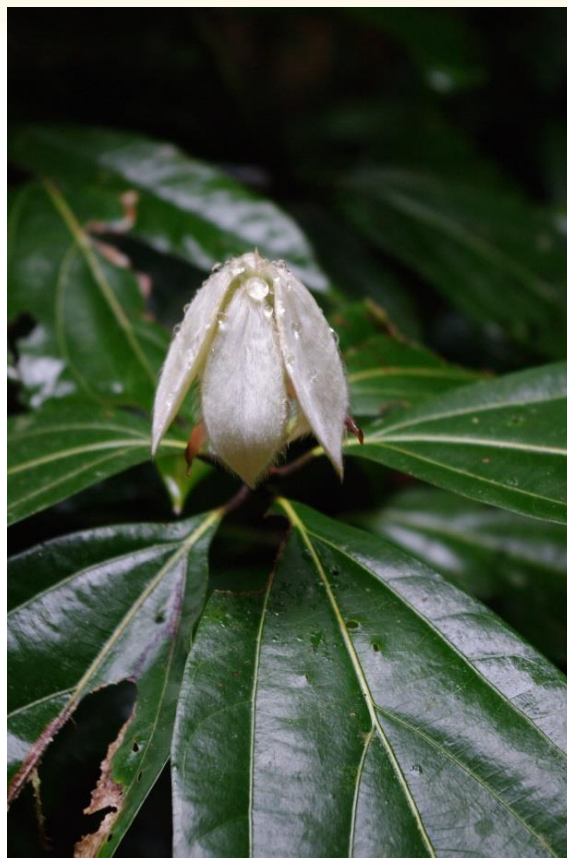


Photo: Bollygum

Research project navigator

The purpose of the project output navigator is to assist local government (LG) practitioners to explore the outputs of the NERP TE Rainforest Hub most relevant to their needs and area of business.

The navigator provides a summary and overview table with direct links to individual project summary resources hosted on the NERP TE and RRRRC website.

Campbell, A. (2007) An investigation into the conservation impact of research published in the scientific literature. Masters Thesis, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Imperial College London.

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Ease of research synthesis and uptake analysis

A framework was used to analyse the ease of synthesis and uptake of the outputs of individual projects by local government. Individual projects were scored against two measures, relevance and applicability, across six areas of local government business

- Governance
- Community
- Indigenous engagement
- Economic development
- Strategic planning
- Operations and implementation

A three measure scale was used to rank the relevance (R) and applicability (A) for each project across each category. Key questions addressed in the ranking process were:

Relevance

- Is the knowledge/information important to the local government?
- Is it connected to or does it provide connection to the business of local government?

Relevance (R)	
H	Highly relevant, meets or expands on an existing or essential need. Relates directly to the business of local government. Provides a direct connection or fills current knowledge/information gaps.
M	Relevant to knowledge and business needs of local government but not essential information/knowledge.
L	Not directly relevant to the business of local government. Beyond scope of knowledge or information requirements in most cases.

Applicability

- How easily is the knowledge/information applied to a local government situation/context?
- Is it presented or compiled in a format/context which enables uptake, adoption or synthesis?

Applicability (A)	
A	Uptake or adoption is readily achieved via 'out of the box' knowledge /information products or approaches. Format of research output matches well to implementation requirements. Actions/strategies required for implementation are clear.
B	Uptake and adoption requires further synthesis and translation of knowledge/information. Course of action is relatively clear but further work is entailed prior to adoption.
C	May provide narrative or thematic support to a concept or process; however a course of action is unclear, not established, or beyond scope of local government business.

A categorical matrix was used to classify the outputs by the relative ease of uptake and synthesis of research outcomes by local government as highest, moderate, lowest. These are used within the navigator table to guide end users to the research outputs most relevant and applicable to their area of interest.

H+A	M+A	L+A	Highest Moderate Lowest
H+B	M+B	L+B	
H+C	M+C	L+C	

Relevance and applicability matrix and categories

The navigator is not intended to be a review of the utility or value of the science, but of its relevance and application to local government. In this way it is designed to assist in guiding LG practitioners to the most pertinent information and knowledge gathered by the program.

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Project (hover for factsheet)	Key research themes and concepts navigator	Research reports and results
PROJECT 3.1	<i>Biodiversity (fauna) - Species monitoring and distribution; status, trends and future distribution; drivers of biodiversity; climate change; conservation planning</i>	Factsheet 1 Article 1
PROJECT 3.2	<i>Biodiversity (flora and fungi)- taxonomic and phylogenetic richness; mountain top flora/fungi; patterns and hotspots for plant taxonomic and genetic diversity/richness; climate change</i>	Factsheet 1
PROJECT 3.3	<i>Biodiversity- frogs and reptiles; ecotones (rainforest/dry forest transitions) critically endangered and missing or missing species; survey and assessment; disease (resistance and recovery) in populations (Chytrid); species re-introduction</i>	Factsheet 1 Article 1, 2
PROJECT 3.4	<i>Flying fox and Cassowary – estimating population size; patterns of movement; seasonal patterns in distribution; responses to and implications for human/fauna interactions</i>	Factsheet 1 Article 1
PROJECT 7.1	<i>Rainforests and fire – responses of rainforest margins to fire; littoral rainforest, Mabi forest; implications for management; mahogany glider; expansion of rainforest into woodlands</i>	Factsheet 1 Report 1
PROJECT 7.2	<i>Invasive species – weeds; feral pigs; management strategies, eradication versus containment; climate change, adaptation and future projections; pest management planning</i>	Factsheet 1 Article 1
PROJECT 7.3	<i>Climate change and extreme weather events, biodiversity – exposure to extremes; refugia from extreme weather events; species based vulnerability to extreme climatic events; risk management and projected impacts</i>	Factsheet 1
PROJECT 12.1	<i>Indigenous co-management, natural and cultural values– collaborative governance approaches; assessment and analysis of current systems and processes; ILUA's, IPA's and other go-governance instruments, Federal and State government arrangements</i>	Factsheet 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
PROJECT 12.2	<i>Rainforest restoration , natural regeneration – economic and ecological context of restoration; comparisons between natural regeneration and tree planting; emerging technologies and approaches; cost-effectiveness and decision support</i>	Factsheet 1, 2 Article 1
PROJECT 12.3	<i>Tourism, Wet Tropics World Heritage Area - relative social and economic value of WT WHA; perspectives of tourists and indigenous/non-indigenous residents; valuation of natural systems; traditional versus new analysis approaches</i>	Factsheet 1
PROJECT 12.4	<i>Governance and planning- ecosystem service markets; climate adaptation; landscape resilience; designs and recommendations on appropriate regional governance and integrated planning structures; aligning ecosystem services market investments with priorities in biodiversity</i>	Factsheet 1 Report 1, 2 Article 1

For more information, supporting data and mapping products from the research projects go to:



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Project number (hover for factsheet)	Relevance (R) and applicability (A) to local government											
	Governance		Community		Indigenous engagement		Economic development		Strategic planning		Operations	
	(R)	(A)	(R)	(A)	(R)	(A)	(R)	(A)	(R)	(A)	(R)	(A)
PROJECT 3.1	M	C	H	B	M	B	L	C	H	B	H	B
PROJECT 3.2	L	C	M	C	M	B	M	C	M	B	M	C
PROJECT 3.3	L	C	H	A	H	B	L	C	H	B	M	B
PROJECT 3.4	H	B	H	B	M	B	M	B	H	B	H	A
PROJECT 7.1	M	C	M	B	H	B	L	C	M	B	M	B
PROJECT 7.2	M	B	M	B	M	A	M	B	H	A	H	A
PROJECT 7.3	H	B	H	B	H	B	M	C	H	C	M	C
PROJECT 12.1	M	B	M	C	H	A	L	C	M	C	M	C
PROJECT 12.2	L	C	H	A	M	B	M	B	H	B	H	A
PROJECT 12.3	H	B	H	B	H	B	H	B	M	B	M	B
PROJECT 12.4	M	B	M	C	M	C	H	B	H	B	M	B

Scaled scores for relevance and applicability were combined to provide an overall level of ease of synthesis and uptake for each project by category

Highest
Moderate
Lowest

For more information, supporting data and mapping products from the research projects go to:



Project: CF4: Disseminate knowledge from rainforest projects to the business and needs of local government

For more information about this project, please contact:
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