Achieving a sustainable future for Australia’s savannas: lessons from a decade of cooperative research
Informing international visitors about our savannas
Achieving a sustainable future for Australia’s savannas: lessons from a decade of cooperative research

Authors of CRC paper

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Many contributors to lessons learned
Aim

to discuss and illustrate four lessons learned:
1. collaborative, not integrative, projects
2. trust and respect above all else
3. act as honest broker, not advocate
4. invest strongly in communication, education and training
Tropical Savannas in Australia: future developments

Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre

Darwin
Katherine
Mareeba-Atherton
Townsville
Kununurra
Broome
Mt Isa

1000 km

Uplands to lowlands

Classic savannas

Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre
Lesson 1: collaborative, not integrative, projects

Integration: joining contributions to achieve project outcomes

Collaboration: working together to achieve project outcomes

Outcomes

Participant 1

Participant 2

Participant 3

Outcomes

Participant 1

Participant 2

Participant 3
FirePlan, a collaborative project to better understand and use fire as a land management tool
Lesson 2: trust and respect above all else

Building trust and respect by sharing unifying concepts:
healthy savannas*
healthy country--healthy people

This place Warrbani - its my country and I feel good to be here for first time. Warrbani make me feel healthy to be alive.. so I eat good food and burn grass to clean im up.

Wulimirr Daniels – Ngukurr 2002

Gaining trust by sharing research findings and local knowledge, while protecting that knowledge

Park ranger sharing stories with children
Lesson 3: act as honest broker, not advocate

Providing basic information in collaborative studies.

Sustainable grazing in savannas on Wambiana Station, Charters Towers, Queensland
Lesson 4: invest in communication, education

Communication: open forums, workshops, and meetings in natural settings
Invest strongly into informing stakeholders
providing information in publications & websites
Invest strongly in education and training

Tropical Environment Management Program
Charles Darwin University

NEW UNIT!

SBI510 An Introduction to Tropical Beef Production

The sustainable management of tropical savannas is one of the most important challenges currently facing Australia and many other parts of the world. To meet this need, the Charles Darwin University (CDU) in conjunction with the Tropical Savannas CRC offers post graduate courses in Tropical Environmental Management (www.cdu.edu.au/ehs/science/rem).

A new core unit is being developed for this program, SBI 510 An introduction to Tropical Beef Production. The unit is designed for students wishing to gain an understanding of beef cattle industries in the tropics and the natural resources context in which they operate both in Australia and other parts of the world.

Students will investigate the establishment and best-practice management of beef cattle production and operations. The integration of environmental, social and economic issues that set the context for these production systems in tropical climates will be examined. Students will develop an integrated business plan for a successful cattle operation that encompasses all these factors.

The unit will feature:
- Networking with experts in production and NRM
- Ecological sustainability and beef cattle operations in the tropics
- Identification of key socio-economic issues associated with tropical beef production,
- Development of a business plan for a beef cattle operation in the tropics based on total quality management principles.
- External availability with a week-long residential to provide exposure to cattle operations and enable interaction with producers and managers.
Conclusion

Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre has fostered collaborative projects that promote communication and networking and so that people:
• learn from each other’s experiences,
• understand each other’s challenges, and
• trust and respect each other’s choices

The key to achieving a sustainable future for Australia’s savannas