



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

Building resilient communities for Torres Strait Futures



Torres Strait Futures Workshop

22nd – 23rd October 2012

Shangri-la Hotel, Cairns



Australian Government





Team

CSIRO

James Butler

Tim Skewes

Erin Bohensky

Yiheyis Maru

Sara Busilacchi

James Cook University

Cass Hunter

Reef and Rainforest Research Centre

Juliana Doupe

Jo Johnson



Uncertain Torres Strait futures

Rapid drivers of change

- Climate change
- Peak oil
- PNG population growth
- PNG resources boom
- Disease and biosecurity
- Human migration

Implications for livelihoods

- Threats
- Opportunities

Need for pro-active and
participatory planning





Research questions

1. What are the possible future changes in environmental and socio-economic drivers in the Torres Strait?
2. How will they affect communities and their livelihoods?
3. Which communities are most likely to be impacted by changes?
4. What is their capacity to adapt?
5. What 'no regrets' strategies will enhance communities' capacity to adapt?
6. What makes Torres Strait communities resilient?
7. What effect does the project have on stakeholders' perceptions?

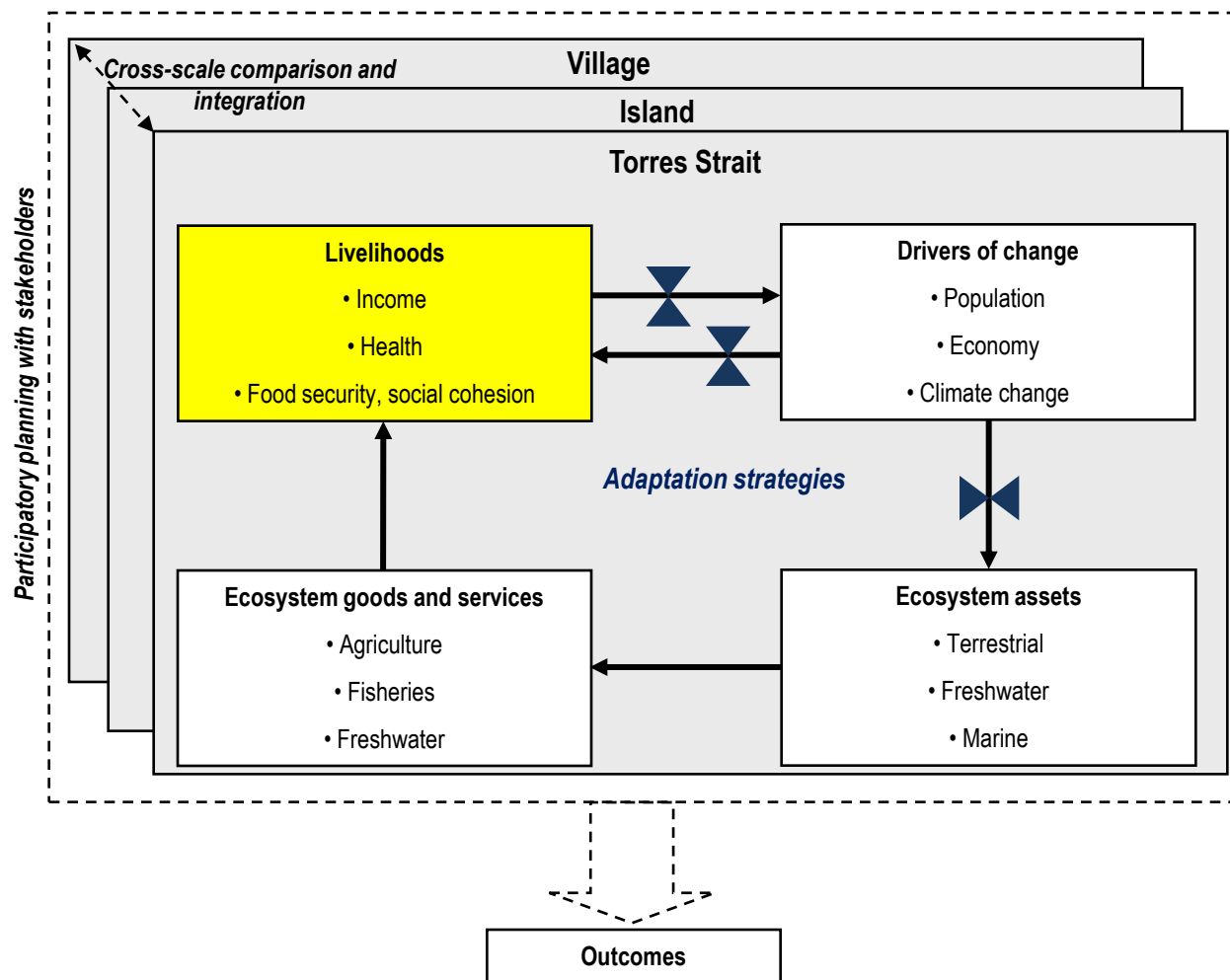


Outcomes

1. Provision of information to communities and regional stakeholders to advise strategic decision-making (including Treaty)
2. Identification of alternative livelihoods and 'no regrets' strategies
3. Increased capacity for communities and stakeholders to avoid mal-adaptive strategies
4. Support the development of community-based holistic plans for adaptation planning

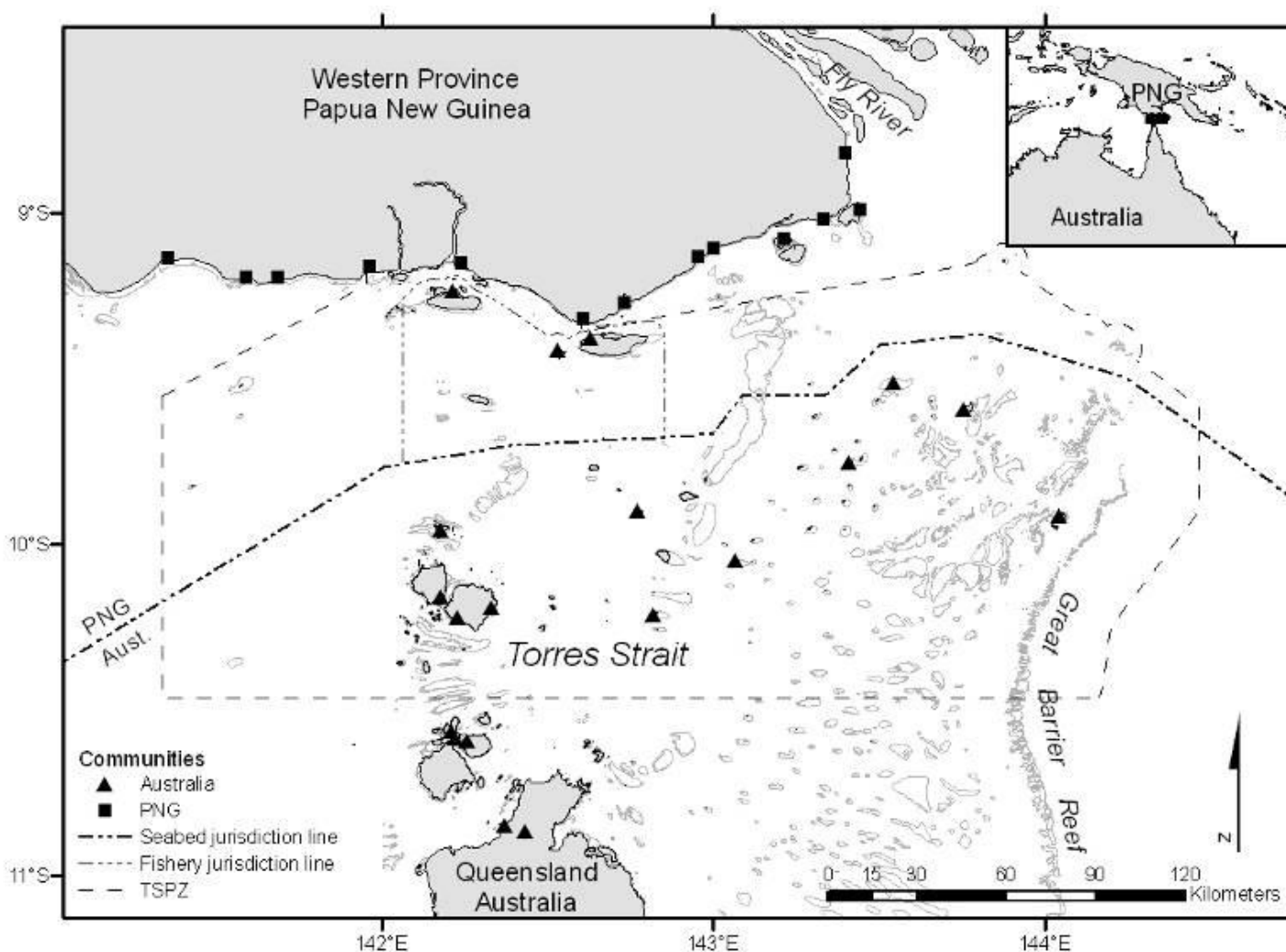


Research framework





Project focus



Protected Zone islands:

Boigu
Dauan
Saibai
Ugar
Erub
Mer
Masig
Poruma
Warraber
Iama
Mabuiag
Moa
Badu



Agenda

DAY 1: Monday 22nd October 9 am – 5 pm

Session 1: What are the drivers of change for Torres Strait communities and their livelihoods?

Session 2: What are the desired and possible futures for Torres Strait communities?

Session 3: What impact will the Business as Usual future have on human well-being?

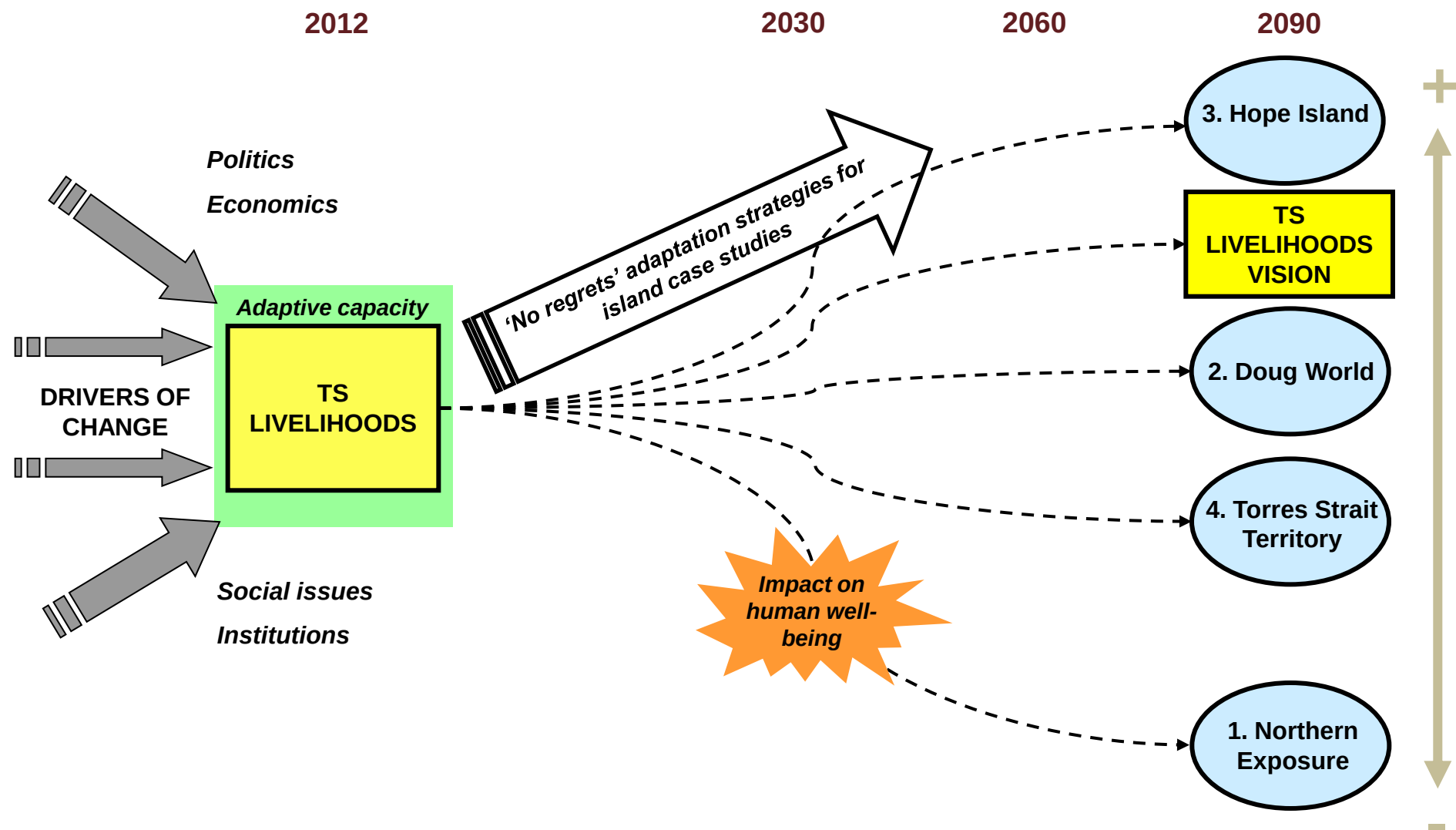
DAY 2: Tuesday 23rd October 8.30 am – 5 pm

Session 4: What is the adaptive capacity of Torres Strait communities today? **(TRADITIONAL INHABITANTS MEETING)**

Session 5: Which are the most vulnerable communities and livelihoods in the Torres Strait?

Session 6: What are the priority adaptation strategies required to improve livelihoods in the Torres Strait?





THANK YOU ESSO



National Environmental
Research Program



Name: Dr. James Butler
Organisation: CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences
Phone: 0437030120
Email: james.butler@csiro.au



Australian Government



