BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN REMOTE NORTH AUSTRALIA

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BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN REMOTE NORTH AUSTRALIA

Large ‘action research’ component.

Transform current fire/emergency/land mgt

Build on Existing Capacity / Capability

Nexus between:

- Fire / emergency / land mgt &
- Payment for Environmental Services
- Traditional knowledge
- Northern ‘world view’
THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN BNH CONTEXT

360,000 People
+ Communities from 'outer regional' to 'very remote'.

Legend:
- Study focal area (>600 mm and >1000 mm rainfall/yr isohyets)
- Indigenous discrete communities (ABS 2011)
  - 100 - 499
  - 500 - 2499
  - 2500 - 10000

= Very limited community resilience
Understanding Resilience from a remote community perspective

Documenting governance and leadership structures that work

Identifying emerging opportunities for wealth through PES

Focussing on existing strengths and capacities

Enhancing capacity through training and PAR

Document physical risks in landscapes and communities
LANDSCAPE RISK ASSESSMENT

Focussing on existing strengths and capacities

Document physical risks in landscapes and communities

The ability to fall back on natural resources and traditional practices following disasters is a key part of remote Aboriginal community resilience. Understanding the genuine risk these resources face from fire, flood and cyclones is fundamental to developing a strategic approach to investment for improving resilience.
GOVERNANCE THAT WORKS

Documenting governance and leadership structures that work

Focussing on existing strengths and capacities

While part of bureaucracy, fire and emergency management in Australia has a devolved structure, relying on volunteers. Recognising that Aboriginal cultural settings are fundamentally different to the dominant culture, this part of the project sets out to identify ways of devolving fire and emergency management in remote communities. As far as we know this hasn’t been done before...
Understanding Resilience from a remote community perspective

Surveys, workshops and interviews to get an understanding of what people in remote communities think the big issues are for their resilience. The results were surprising: “Resilience” was a word they didn’t know. Day to day issues of poverty and dysfunction far outweighed concerns about ‘disasters’.

“...the biggest disaster is government.”

No one had ever talked to them about this stuff.

Focussing on existing strengths and capacities.

Understanding Resilience from a remote community perspective.

BNHCRC.com.au
“PAR”- PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH:

- Focussing on existing strengths and capacities
- Enhancing capacity through training and PAR

Participants begin to:
- Propose new strategies and new research
- Identify how they can contribute to resilience
- Improve their understanding of the role for government
“PES” - PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Identifying emerging opportunities for wealth through PES

Focussing on existing strengths and capacities

Economic Analysis of costs and benefits in $ terms.

- Savings from improvements in health and social systems.
  - Savings on $300M Conservation Estate Mgt

Local, national & global values from water quality improvement.

- Premium Carbon Credits
- Biodiversity Offset Credits
Understanding Resilience from a remote community perspective

- Documenting governance and leadership structures that work
- Identifying emerging opportunities for wealth through PES
- Enhancing capacity through training and PAR
- Focussing on existing strengths and capacities
- Documenting physical risks in landscapes and communities
TRACK RECORD : NAFI
...FIRES OF DIFFERING INTENSITY RELEASE DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF GREENHOUSE GAS...
Carbon credits earned from Savanna burning projects, as at March 2015

Note: 1 carbon credit = 1 t.CO2e = AUD15 (as of May 2015)

Current savanna burning projects

Western Australia
5 Projects
422,617 ACCUs

Northern Territory
7 Projects
701,483 ACCUs

Queensland
22 Projects
209,843 ACCUs

1,333,943 ACCUs issued for 34 projects
Cohesive Community Structures

Improved Local EM Plans

Shared Responsibility

Improved land and water function

Better Investment in DRR

Increased community efficacy

Improved livelihoods

Reduced wildfire risk

Improved shared community wealth

Improved EM Capacity

Meaningful, culturally relevant work

Improved EM Leadership

Improved EM Capacity

Improved Social Capacity

Cohesive Community Structures

Understanding Resilience

Document Good Governance

ID PES Opportunities

Document Landscape Risks

Enhance Capacity - PAR

Community Resilience
The Australian Governments CRC program has achieved remarkable changes in fire and emergency management.

Providing equity of service in remote north Australia is closely linked to ‘closing the gap’.

BNH Management structures (volunteering) lends itself to innovation.

Landscape-scale change is possible.