Developing emergency management opportunities for remote Indigenous communities in northern Australia

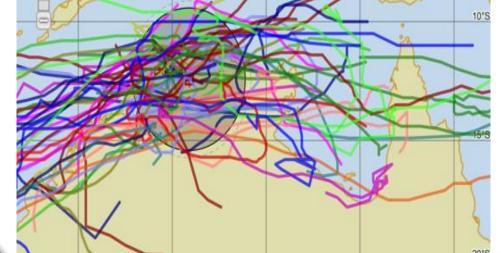
Kamaljit K Sangha on behalf of our team at the Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research, CDU

Project: Building Community Resilience in Northern Australia

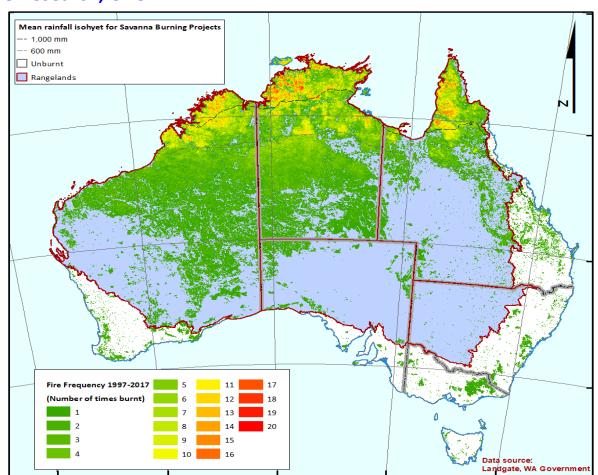
- i. Emergency Management Partnership NAILSMA and ARPNet
- ii. Scenario Planning for remote community risk management DCBR, Charles Darwin University

Problem: Frequent extensive bushfires, cyclones, storms and floods including cut-offs for several coastal communities over 2-3 months every year — ongoing issue!

11 tropical cyclones/yr





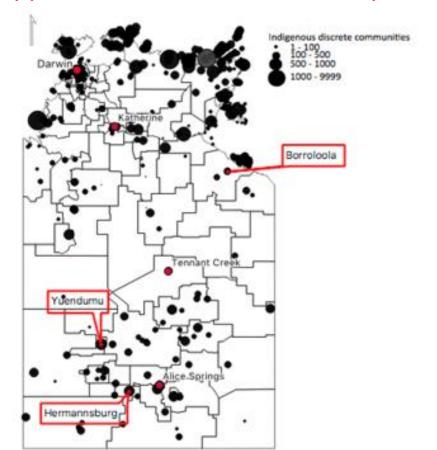








Approach to build resilience: empowering local communities and exploring economic opportunities

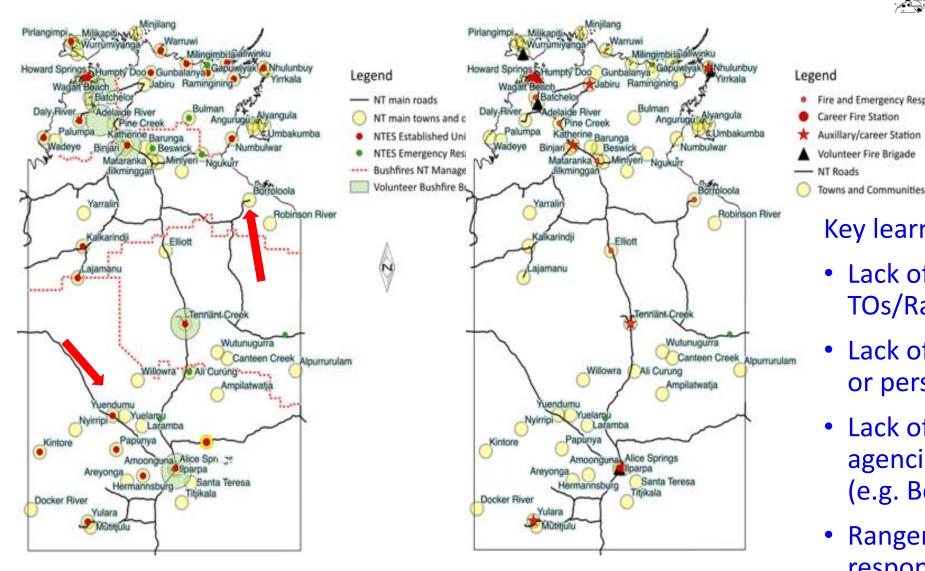


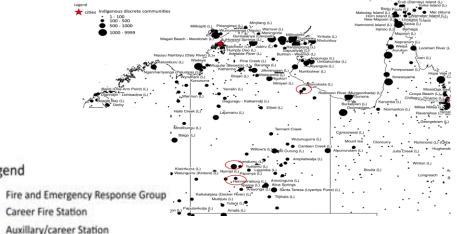
Community	Key stakeholders consulted to date
Borroloola (NT Gulf)	Waanyi Garawa Rangers Lianthawirriyarra Rangers (marine) Northern Land Council DCM; Bushfires NT; Police and FRS PM&C & Borroloola Interagency Secretariat
Central Australia	Warlpiri Rangers (Yuendumu) Tjuwanpa Women Rangers (Hermannsburg) Men Rangers - Hermannsburg Central Land council Centralian Land Management Association NTES; Bushfires NT MacDonnell – and Central Desert Regional Council

- Stage 1. Focus group meetings with the Rangers in three remote communities
- Stage 2. Meetings with the EM agencies and other stakeholders
- Stage 3. Scenario Planning workshops including detailed cost and benefit analyses of Business as Usual and alternative (joint work) opportunity models.



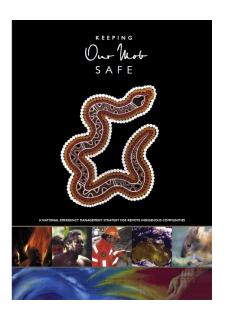
NT- Emergency Services and Fire Rescue Services resource distribution





Key learnings:

- Lack of involvement but TOs/Rangers want to involve in EM
- Lack of knowledge about EM plans or personnel
- Lack of co-ordination among the agencies for sharing of resources (e.g. Borroloola)
- Rangers are usually the first responders to help their community but ...



Developing a Joint Natural Hazards Management Platform (JMP)

<u>Peoples' livelihoods, local economies</u> and cultural assets

Natural landscape

- Highly fire prone landscape with extensive bushfires occurring mostly late in the dry season every year (August-October)
- Frequent cyclones, storms and floods cuttingoff remote communities for months during the wet season
- Wildfires and floods affect areas of significant conservation values including Aboriginal cultural and sacred sites, and land used for grazing and other production purposes

Joint natural hazards Management Platform (JMP)

- Locals trained and empowered to manage NH at their community/property scale in each remote and rural area
- Institutions supporting infrastructure, resources, local training, and recognising local knowledge, etc.

Local knowledges, and socio-cultural landscape

- Much less populated towns and communities in rural areas, but people regularly experience natural hazards
- Wildfires and cyclones directly affect locals' socio-cultural assets, as well as biodiversity and water resources (of interest for the wider public)
- Risk to peoples' health/well-being

Sustainable management and use of resources

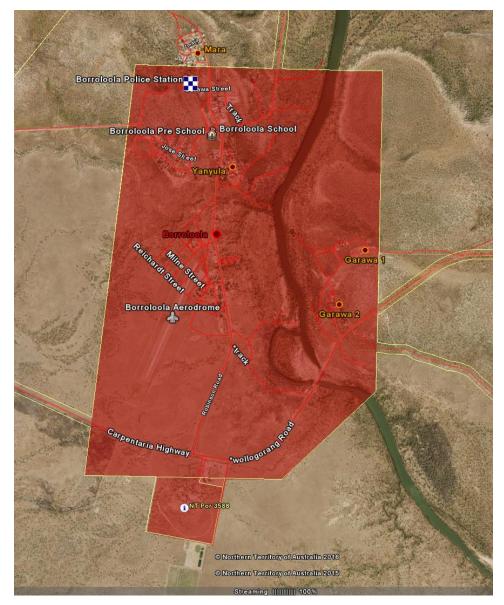
Collective landscape-scale planning and management

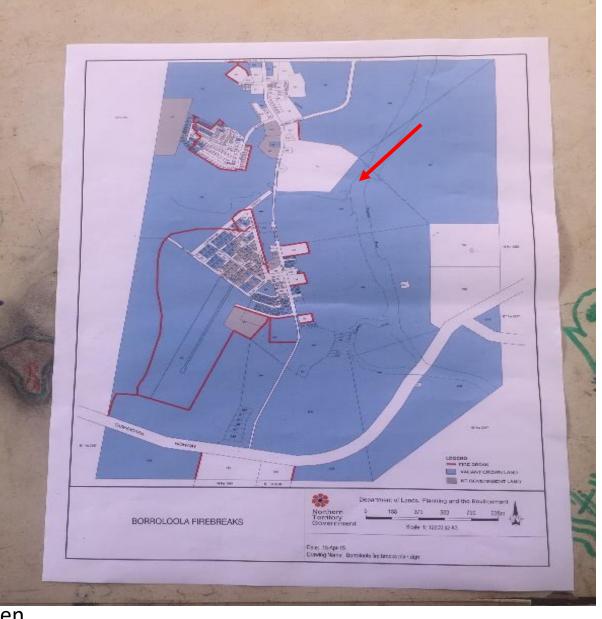
Organisational and Institutional systems

Organisations: NTPFES, NTFRS, NTES and Bushfire NT

- Coordination and cooperation among all the agencies at the local and regional scales
- Effective and updated management strategies developed and implemented in participation with local peoples
- Pro-active agency engagement with the right people in remote communities
- Incentive mechanisms for the locals to manage NH







need for someone local to assist government people when working in the community, to translate and explain the local politics, as there are often issues due to misunderstanding