



BDTNRM Media Release

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BDTNRM Celebrates Biodiversity Month

Biodiversity means biological diversity, or 'the variety of all life forms'. During Biodiversity month, Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM's (BDTNRM) Biodiversity Programme coordinator, Dr. Bronwyn Houlden, is highlighting our activities that contribute to a biologically healthy and diverse region.

Dr. Houlden explained that, "BDTNRM is addressing a number of environmental strategies to maintain and improve our region's biodiversity. We are focussing on maintaining and rehabilitating habitat, protecting threatened species and regional ecosystems, linking conservation and land management and controlling pests and weeds". Threatened Species Month is a chance to focus on Queensland's aquatic and coastal threatened species. To highlight these species, BDTNRM will be sending out a threatened species kit to all the primary schools in the region, which will contain lots of resources including a free DVD 'One in a thousand: the miraculous life of the sea turtle'.

BDTNRM is working with farmers, scientists, government and non-government organisations to help save a number of endangered species including Irwin's Turtle.

Eseya irwini is a rare species of turtle, discovered by Steve and Bob Irwin, and found only in a 100km stretch of the Broken-Bowen River system west of Mackay. BDTNRM is committed to helping with a comprehensive James Cook University study of this poorly known species by funding the tracking equipment used to determine its breeding and nesting patterns.

Weeds and pest animals are also significant natural resource management issues in our region. BDTNRM is working with major stakeholders and local government to develop a region wide Pest Management Strategy and to undertake on-ground works to manage pest and weeds.

"Biodiversity is essential for sustainability," Dr. Houlden said. "Biodiversity underpins the processes that make life possible. Healthy ecosystems are necessary for maintaining and regulating atmospheric quality, climate, fresh water, marine productivity, soil formation, cycling of nutrients and waste disposal. Biodiversity also has spiritual and recreational significance for most people and our region's biodiversity values and services extend well beyond the regional boundary to include national and international benefits".

For more information on any of BDTNRM's Biodiversity projects visit:

<http://www.bdtprm.org.au/projects/biodiversity.html> or contact Bronwyn Houlden, BDTNRM Programme Coordinator, Bronwyn.Houlden@bdtprm.org.au Ph: 07 4724 3544