

Coast to Coast 2012 - Living on the Edge

Symposium 2: Alternative futures for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems

Property scale planning for the GBR coast

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Experience in water quality governance

Evolution in distinct and overlapping phases:

- Phase One (2003-2008; 2008-) - Encouraging voluntary adoption of better practices.
- Phase Two (2009-) – government intervention in the direct regulation to achieve change.
- Phase Three (2006) - frameworks of duty of care to integrate policy tools and offset trading schemes to achieve regional management targets .

(Source: Emtage and Vella, Forthcoming)



Reef Rescue/Reef Protection Package

Key-features:

- Duty of care frameworks
- Regional delivery approach linked to national targets
- Concerted efforts in education, skills building and information provision
- Incentives funding
- Reef Regulations



Result: “the 2008 scientific consensus statement that ‘current management interventions are not effectively solving the problem’ has now decisively changed”

The actual effects of these changes on the Reef will not be measured for up to several decades however, and the concern exists that these actions will not be enough to ‘save the reef’ (Brodie *et al*, 2012, p94).

GBR futures

- Future outlook of resource condition in the GBR is of concern.
- Tighten management regimes at the property scale
 - Further tighten management practices for agriculture
 - Coastal catchment land users
 - Marine users/property rights holders
 - Risk:
 - “Fiddling while Rome Burns”
- Adapt resource-use systems (land and marine)
 - In response to resource condition decline and climate change
 - Develop new opportunities, markets, business solutions
 - Risk:
 - New business solutions and market opportunities are aspirational and untested and costs of transition unknown and potentially high.
 - Financial, economic, social, cultural, institutional capacity for change needs to be fostered.

Opportunities for Property Planning

- Strategic property planning – used by decision makers in business, industry and government for over 40 years.
- Some developments:
 - A. Land suitability analysis for sustainability
 - Field, farm, catchment, regional/national (and international) scales
 - Strategic decision support (Smith and McDonald 1998, 2000)
 - B. Scenario Planning
 - What possible futures might look like, reframe existing decisions by providing a new context within which they are taken.
 - C. Regional/watershed governance and planning
 - New institutions and social science perspectives to build capacity (Allan *et al* 2008)

What could a more strategic approach look like?

	Region	Property scale
Scenario Planning	Climate change. Disasters. Resource condition.	Resource quality and availability. Markets and drivers Social/community expectations.
Risk Assessment	Biodiversity. Land. Water. People/culture.	Practice-based management assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vegetation- Soil- Drainage- People/culture.
Integrated Action Planning	Regional targets for environment, social and economic health. Coordinated capacity building across scales.	Property-scale targets linked to property scale risks and regional targets. Capacity via enabling mechanisms.

Practice-based framework

Practice Framework	Governance arrangements	
Ecosystem Service Delivery	A	Monitoring Market-based payment mechanisms Direct Incentives Positive measures (recognition schemes, education/information programs)
Best Management Practice (BMP)	B	Monitoring Direct Incentives Positive measures (recognition schemes, education/information programs)
Code of Practice (Duty of Care)	C	Monitoring Regulation Education/information programs
Outdated and unacceptable	D	Monitoring Regulation Punitive measures Education/information programs

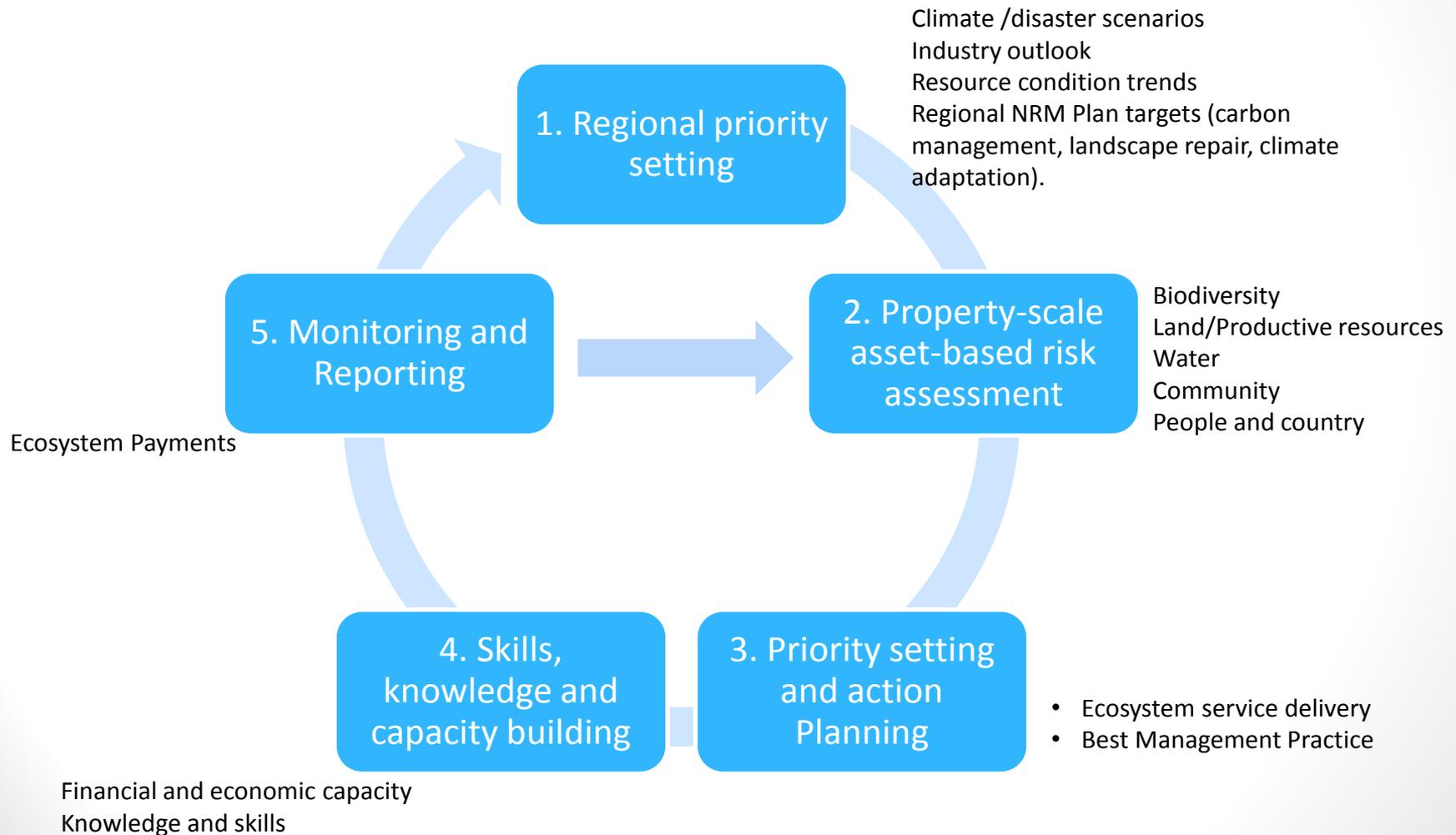
Applications

1. Benchmark Existing Practice
2. Action Planning
3. Change management
4. Eco-Accreditation
5. Reporting and Communication
6. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Multiple Assets, Industries and Multiple Goals

- Regional:
 - Increase Biodiversity Coverage and Connectivity
 - Reduce resource decline (soil, water)
 - Increase greenhouse gas mitigation in landscape
- Industry:
 - Reduce reliance on vulnerable declining resources.
- Property:
 - Manage vegetation, land, and nutrients to acceptable standards
 - Diversify income streams – eg: access eco-accreditation premiums and carbon market payments

Steps in the process



Concluding thoughts

- Property planning has the potential to underpin change at the property scale in the GBR.
- Water quality foundations can be ramped up to address bigger resource condition and climate challenges across industries and communities in the GBR
- Coordinated property planning needs to be linked to regional targets and integrated governance mechanisms build capacity and supports landholders through a positive change program.

References

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