



Looking from Sisters Island across Stephens Island to the North Barnard Islands, 2019

Mandubarra Sea Country Cultural Values

Disclaimer

This outcomes report has been produced by Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Incorporated (Inc.) to advise the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) in relation to key cultural values held by Mandubarra Traditional Owners as the custodians of Mandubarra Sea Country, north-east Australia.

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Mandubarra Sea Country Cultural Values: 2019-2020 mapping project has been developed by Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Inc, with assistance from the Regional Advisory and Innovation Network (RAIN) Pty Ltd.

Our Sea Country mapping project was funded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Management Inc. thank the Authority for their continuing support and collaboration in support of the *Mandubarra Regional Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement*.

Acknowledgement



We acknowledge and pay our abiding respects to our Ancestors - our Old People; to our Mandubarra Elders past, present and future emerging; and to all Mandubarra families and Traditional Owners, wherever you may be living across the world.

1. Mandubarra Traditional Owners

We Mandubarra Traditional Owners are a clan group of the Mamu speaking people of northeastern Australia. Mandubarra people are also at times known as Wabubarra people. We identify as the Traditional Owners of Mandubarra Sea Country - from Mourilyan Harbour south to the mouth of Maria Creek at Kurrimine, the north and south Barnard Islands group, and coastal and outer reefs including the King Reefs and Sisters-Stephens Reef. The main families recognised as being concerned with coastal and saltwater Mandubarra country are the Appo, Drahm and Epong families as descendants of our grandmother and great-grandmother Bombetta Wa-Way (who was also known as Bombita, Bumbida, Betsy or Betty). Anderson family descendants of Bombetta, whose members mostly still live on Palm Island, also hold connections to our country.

Wabubarra / Mandubarra lands and waters are centred on the area around Silkwood and Japoonvale extending west towards Downey Creek. Mamu people regard Liverpool Creek and the South Johnstone River as the northern boundary of our country, Downey Creek as its western boundary and North Maria Creek as its southern boundary. We are the custodians and recognised native title holders of our ancestral lands, seas and freshwaters through the 2013 Mamu People native title determination made by the Federal Court of Australia. The determination includes the north and south Barnard groups of islands, but not the sea below the highest astronomical tide (HAT) mark. Regardless, we as Mandubarra people assert an abiding interest in our Sea Country, and associated marine biodiversity and resources, and in the continuing use and management of our traditional marine resources within our Sea Country through the 2018 *Mandubarra Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement* (TUMRA).

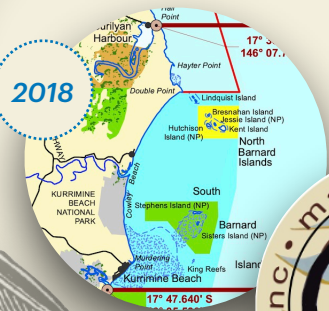
Mandubarra people and country saw increased European pressures and presence from 1872 onwards. Mamu people living to the north and inland to the west and south-west were heavily impacted by European cedar-logging and the establishment of plantation agriculture - the origins of today's sugar and banana industries. Many Aboriginal people from the region between present-day Innisfail and Cardwell were forcibly removed from their homelands to the Hull River Mission from 1914 - 1918. In 1918 that mission was destroyed by a severe tropical cyclone, with many Aboriginal people escaping back into the hills and ranges of the region. Survivors who stayed at the mission site were sent to Palm Island - only a few of whom were Mamu people - and of these, a number returned to the Johnstone River area.

Unlike in many other parts of Australia, local removals are considered not to have caused a significant deterioration in the quality of local Aboriginal social life in the broader Johnstone River area, and Mamu people lived in camps on their traditional country well into the 20th century. Living Mandubarra Elders, and other Mamu Elders, recall living and growing up in such camps on our respective traditional lands.

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Mandubarra families as descendants of our Old People through time immemorial as Custodians of our Country

Mandubarra TUMRA accredited



Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Incorporated



Cook's "Endeavour" moved through our Sea Country

1770



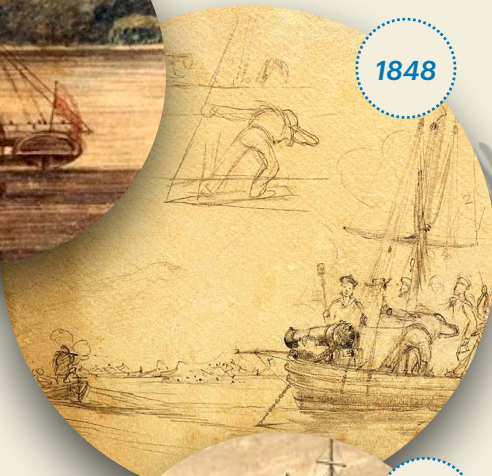
1819 P.P. King's "Mermaid", Rockingham Bay King names the Barnard Islands

1819



sailors in boats from HMS "Rattlesnake" firing on ancestors of our neighbours the Djiru people 1848

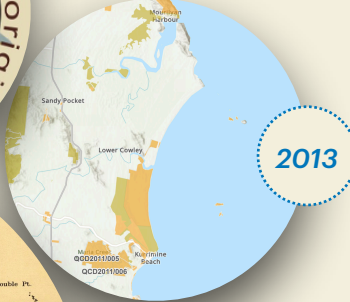
1848



Owen Stanley sees many huts at present-day Kurrimine

Mamu native title determination on behalf of Mandubarra and other clans

2013



In 1872 Moersby's crew landed at Kurrimine and shot some of our Old People

1872



HMS "Basilisk" (Torres Strait 1874)

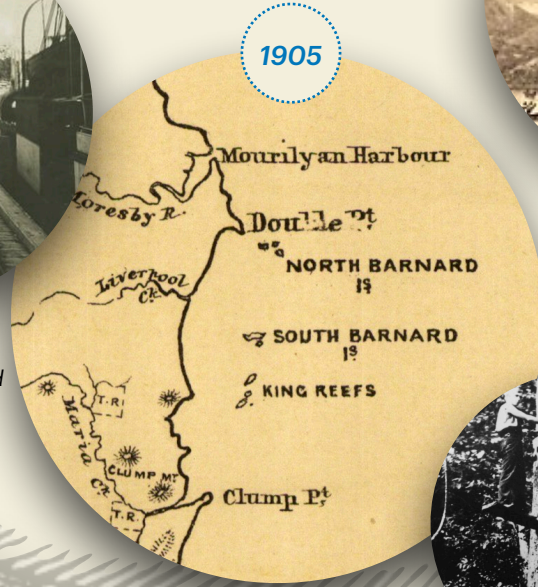
G.E. Dalrymple camped on and surveyed our country

1873



1905 survey map of our country

1905



Bananas being loaded on the Lass O'Gowrie at Cowley

1907



Cane labourers Goondi Bend

1885



Timber cutters, Tablelands area

1905



1950 cadastral map of our country

1950



1910 survey map of our country

1910



migalu bani-y the white fellas come

our mission statement

Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Incorporated operates on an environmental management platform and facilitates Native Title issues on behalf of the Mandubarra people that include projects and programs that involve education about the natural environment, Aboriginal Culture and the importance of environmental sustainability to the community.



Mandubarra Sea Country extract from a map by Phillipe Vandermaelen published in 1827
'Contrée boisée' means 'wooded country' in French



Entrance to Mourilyan Harbour at about 1885 **Mandubarra Sea Country**

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2. Mandubarra Sea Country

Mandubarra Sea Country extends from Hall Point on the southern side of Mourilyan Harbour south along the Queensland coast to the mouth of Maria Creek at the southern end of Kurrimine Beach, and includes all lands (and islands), coastal and marine waters within that area, and further extending out to the Australian continental shelf.

Most of our Sea Country is now contained within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park below the line of the highest astronomical tide (HAT). Both marine parks are part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, added to the World Heritage list in 1981.

This cultural heritage values report uses the agreed Mandubarra TUMRA area as its mapping footprint.

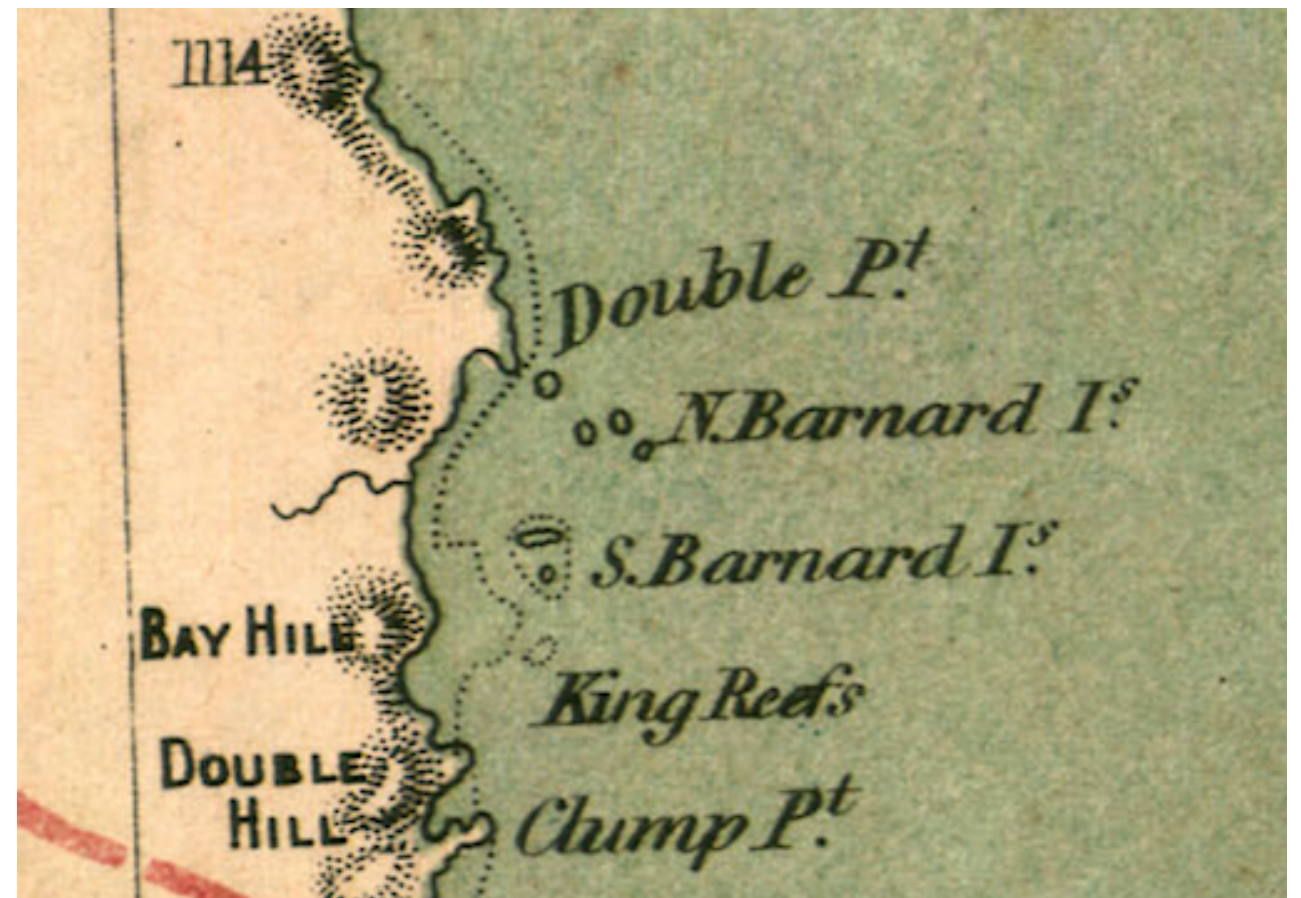
- ▶ Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Incorporated represents and promotes the interests of Mandubarra Sea Country Traditional Owners as custodians of our ancestral lands, seas and waters.
- ▶ Mandubarra Sea Country Traditional Owners entered into a *Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement* (TUMRA) in April 2018.
- ▶ Mandubarra Traditional Owners hold exclusive native title and non-exclusive native title for some coastal lands and islands within our Sea Country under the 2013 *Mamu People* native title determination: our native title rights and interests are facilitated by the Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC*.

* RNTBC - registered native title body corporate

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Barnard Islands 1848, sketch by Oswald Bierly on HMS Rattlesnake: above
Mandubarra Sea Country - detail from a 1868 map of the Kennedy district: below





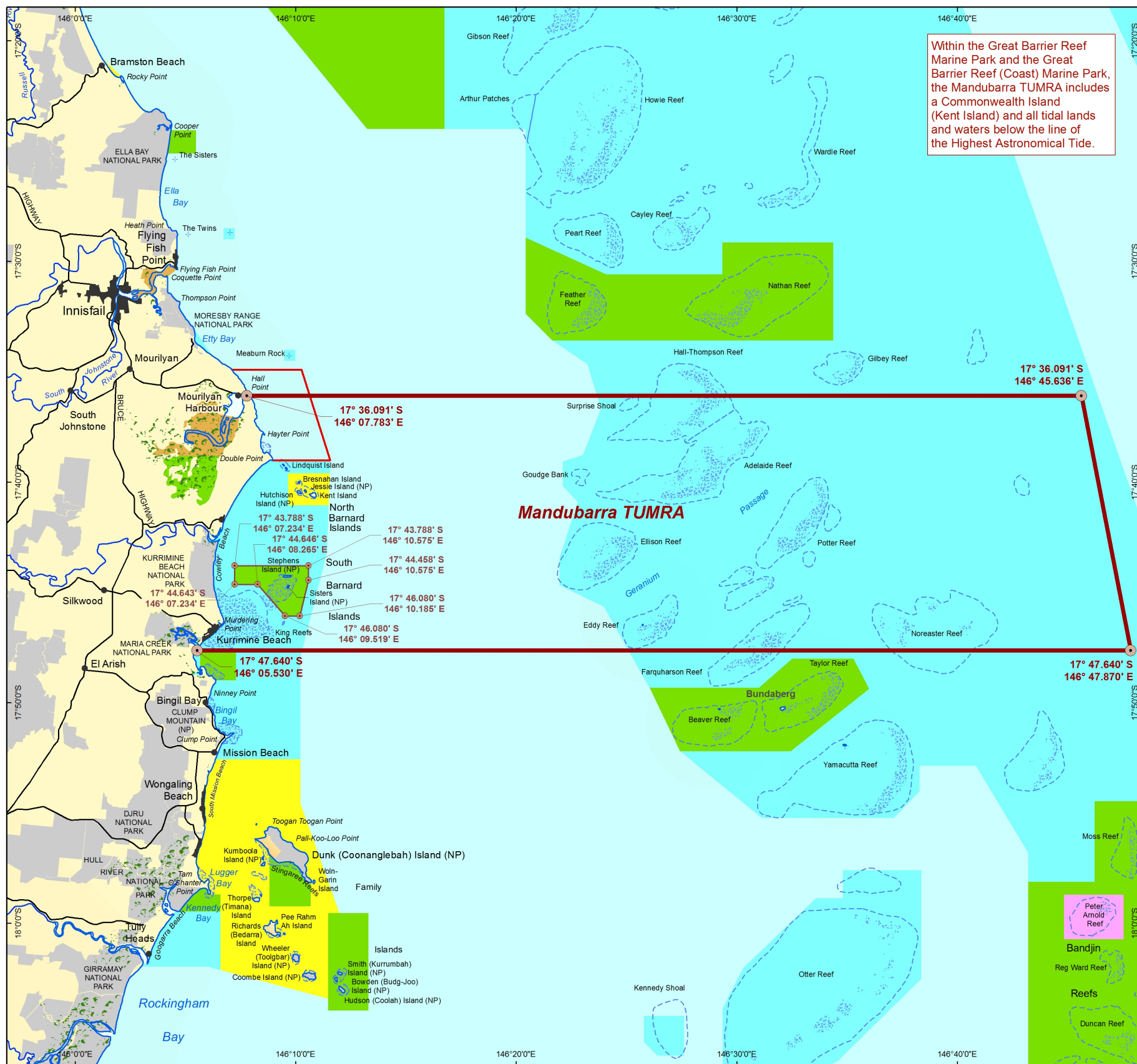
Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government

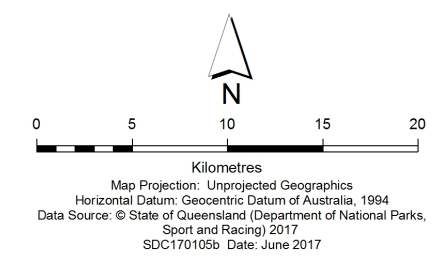
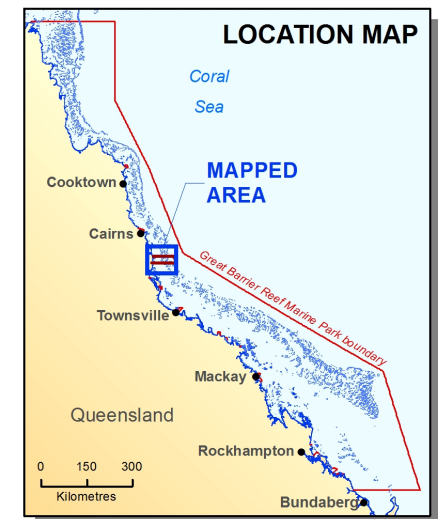
Mandubarra TUMRA Cultural NoTake Zone Schedule 3

Within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef (Coast) Marine Park, the Mandubarra TUMRA includes a Commonwealth Island (Kent Island) and all tidal lands and waters below the line of the Highest Astronomical Tide.



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
| ● Mandubarra TUMRA cultural no take zone coordinate | Marine Parks Zoning |
| — Mandubarra TUMRA cultural no take zone boundary | General Use |
| ● Mandubarra TUMRA coordinate | Habitat Protection |
| — Mandubarra TUMRA boundary | Conservation Park |
| — Great Barrier Reef Marine Park boundary | Buffer |
| ● Rock | Scientific Research |
| ● Drying Reef | Scientific Research (closed to public access) |
| ● Indicative Reef boundary | Marine National Park |
| ● Population centre (symbolised) | Preservation |
| ● Population Centre (to scale) | Estuarine Conservation |
| — River | |
| — Road | |
| — Mangrove | |
| — National Park | |
| — Mainland and Islands | |



Mandubarra Sea Country Map



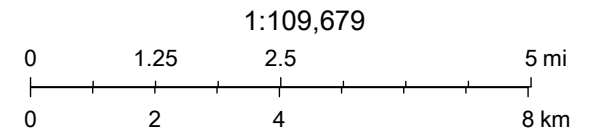
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- Terrain NRM Bdy
- WTMA Conservation Strategy Corridor
- World_Heritage_Area
- Littoral_Rainforest - Wholly
- Great Barrier Reef
- Littoral_Rainforest - Potential
- Wet Tropics
- Wetland on the vegetation management wetlands map
- Sub Catchments
- Wetlands - Directory of Important Wetlands
- GBR Reefs

Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Incorporated is involved in the current National Landcare program funded Littoral Rainforest values mapping project being facilitated by the Wet Tropics regional natural resource management body Terrain NRM.

Littoral rainforest is also listed as a critically endangered ecological community. It is rainforest growing right on the coast. It faces pressure from both directions, with coastal development and coastal erosion and inundation.

<https://terrain.org.au/building-rainforest-resilience/>



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

3. Mapped cultural values

During 2020 we have undertaken a project to bring together and map our Sea Country cultural values.

This project was made much more complicated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related government-issued health regulations, including restrictions on gatherings.

We have had to develop new and different approaches to bringing together the knowledge held by our Elders and documenting them for our people and our partners who work with us in the care of our Sea Country.

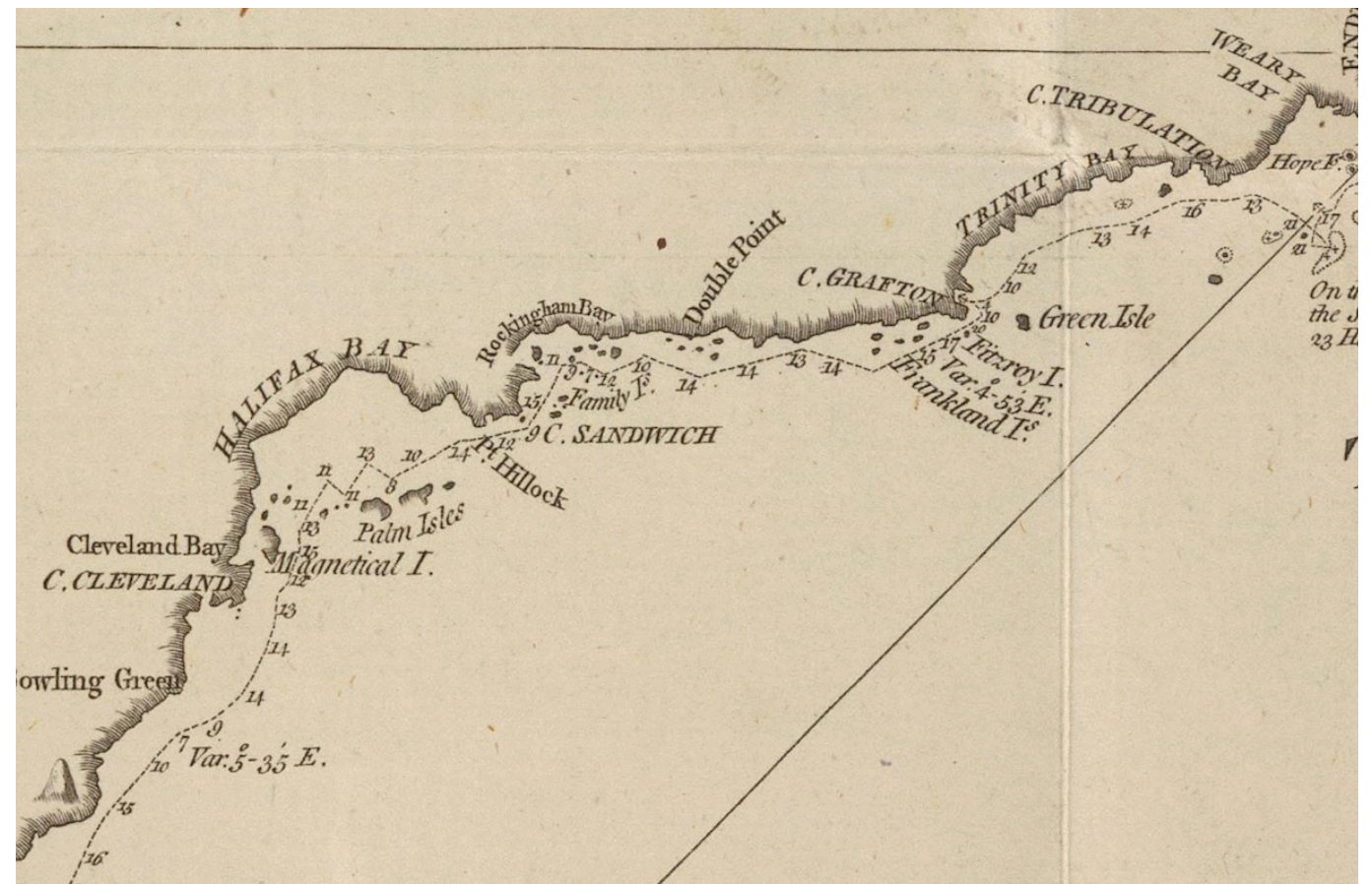


above: Mandubarra Sea Country - looking from Sisters Island over to Double Point and beyond

below: HMS Endeavour under command of Lieutenant Cook passed by offshore in 1770

As part of our project we have progressed:

- ▶ a draft *Mandubarra Sea Country Statement* (page 10)
- ▶ high level mapping detailing sharable Mandubarra Sea Country cultural values information for our agency partners (pages 12 and 15)
- ▶ indicative, proposed *Mandubarra Cultural Values Assessment Guidelines* (2020 draft) for our agency partners (page 16)
- ▶ a “first cut” outline of our proposal to develop a *Mandubarra Sea Country Plan* during 2020-2021 and establish the Mandubarra Sea Country Rangers (set out in a separate document)



how we went about our mapping project

Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Inc. introduced the cultural values mapping project to its members in late 2019 during a Mandubarra Cultural Day, held at Kurrimine Beach on 7 December 2019. That event was also attended by staff from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as MALSI partner agencies. The project is resourced by GBRMPA as part of the implementation of the Authority's *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*.

During 2020, the project progressed despite the severe restrictions imposed on public gatherings and meetings, as well as general daily activities, as a result of public health emergency declarations in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The following activities were able to be undertaken and completed in progressing the project and finalising this outcome report.

Date	Activity	Where	Who was involved
October 2019	Mandubarra approach RAIN, RAIN provides introductory video to inform members	via video recoding	MALSI and RAIN
November 2019	Mandubarra request formal quote from RAIN at initial contract discussion meeting (27/11), RAIN provides quote to assist with project (28/11)	Flying Fish Point	MALSI, Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee members and RAIN
7 December 2019	Mandubarra Cultural Day: RAIN introduction	Kurrimine Beach	Mandubarra Traditional Owners, MALSI, Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee, RAIN
22 February 2020	Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee meeting: introducing cultural values mapping project	Chjowai Hall, Innisfail	Mandubarra Traditional Owners, Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee and partner agencies, RAIN
16 March 2020	1st Cultural Values Mapping Workshop	Roscoes, Innisfail	Mandubarra Traditional Owners, RAIN
<i>19 - 21 March 2020 - Government COVID-19 restrictions come into force across Queensland and Australia. Queensland - Stage 1 easing of restrictions apply from 15 May 2020, Stage 2 from 1 June 2020</i>			
31 March 2020	RAIN writes to MALSI to suggest alternative approaches to progressing the mapping project	-	RAIN, MALSI
3 April 2020	MALSI advise alternative approach acceptable	-	MALSI, RAIN
8 - 16 April 2020	RAIN with MALSI review develops Q & A document, explanatory letter	-	RAIN, MALSI
April 2020	MALSI distributes Q & A doc and letter to members with requested response date mid May (later extended into June 2020 to allow for more input into project by Mandubarra Traditional Owners.	-	MALSI, Mandubarra Traditional Owners
early May 2020	RAIN records short video for MALSI to complement Q & A document, MALSI circulates via private FB page to Mandubarra Traditional Owners. RAIN commences drafting Cultural Values document	-	RAIN, MALSI, Mandubarra Traditional Owners
29 May 2020	Meeting with MALSI directors and Mandubarra TUMRA Coordinator to review initial draft Cultural Values document (limited to 6 people)	Moresby	MALSI, Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee members and RAIN
12 June 2020	Finalised draft versions of <i>Mandubarra Cultural Values mapping document</i> and <i>GBRMPA Cultural Values mapping report</i> provided to MALSI and Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee by RAIN	-	RAIN, MALSI, Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee
August 2020	Mandubarra members and leadership to consider final drafts and pass project report to GBRMPA	-	MALSI and Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee
September 2020	Mandubarra Cultural Values mapping project finalisation and celebration	Kurrimine Beach	Mandubarra Traditional Owners and invitees, RAIN



top: Mandubarra members at RAIN's first introductory meeting, February 2020
bottom: First cultural mapping workshop held at Innisfail, early March 2020

explanatory video

Mandubarra sea country

traditional, historical, contemporary, natural and cultural values

your values



top: 2020 cultural values Q & A booklet with background information to guide Mandubarra cultural values mapping discussions and considerations
bottom: topographical maps were also used for our cultural mapping project

4. Mandubarra Sea Country Statement (2020 draft)

Our families, as Mandubarra Traditional Owners, are the custodians of Mandubarra Land and Sea Country given our bloodline descent from our grandmother and great grandmother, Bombetta Wa-Way. Mandubarra lands, seas and freshwaters are located in far north Queensland, Australia. Thousands of generations of our people have lived in this part of the world, since time immemorial; through the ages: with falling seas and rising seas.

Our native title rights and interests have been recognised by the Federal Court of Australia as part of the 2013 Mamu People native title determination.

Mandubarra Sea Country extends from Mourilyan Harbour south to the mouth of Maria Creek at Kurrimine, the north and south Barnard Islands group, and coastal and outer reefs including the King Reefs and Sisters-Stephens Reef.

We continue our close associations and spiritual connections with our Sea Country and our islands and reefs, and with our coastal country. We are maintaining our abiding custodial responsibilities and our cultural obligations to care for and protect Mandubarra Sea Country, which supports and gives life to globally significant marine animals, plants and ecosystems: today part of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef.

We are very concerned about the health and survival of our Sea Country within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The many and growing pressures on our Sea Country, from both global and local human land uses and associated pollution, harm Mandubarra cultural values at every level. We are very concerned about illegal netting in our local rivers and creeks, and Illegal harvesting within Mandubarra Sea Country especially of crayfish.

Badjgal (green sea turtle) finds it harder to nest successfully. Our culturally significant indicator species like giwan (flame tree) and galbay (black wattle) are not flowering at their normal times anymore. Biodiversity such as listed migratory seabirds on our beaches are being harmed by illegal 4-wheeler drivers. Our islands and much of our coastal country are now mostly national parks or part of Commonwealth defence lands. Culturally significant birds like ruguju (Torres Strait pigeon), yijili (sea eagle) and gumbugan (cassowary) are today limited to only isolated habitat "islands".

Mandubarra Lore requires our people, our Elders and our younger generations to be out on Sea Country, to realise both ancient custodial responsibilities and new opportunities to create and enliven new economies for Mandubarra Traditional Owners - today and into the future. We must be on Sea Country in active and meaningful ways to be healthy ourselves. We are working to create fulfilling new jobs for our people to care for Mandubarra Sea Country.

Mandubarra employment on our Sea Country will allow us to better implement the *Mandubarra Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement*, accredited by Australian and Queensland governments through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2018, and under which we have put in place a voluntary moratorium on cultural take of badjgal and dugong, to allow their local populations to have a chance against the huge odds they face.

We are determined to pass on Mandubarra Lore, Language, Dances, Traditions, Customs and Practices to our younger ones and our future generations. We will be active custodians of our Sea Country, so that our living inheritances as Mandubarra Traditional Owners continues, thrives and survives.

5. Mandubarra jabun and wajali

Our connections as Mandubarra Traditional Owners extend from jabun (the coast) out across wajali (the sea).

Our ancestral links to country extend to our relationships to garri (the sun), gagalum (the moon), girnyja (the stars), girribirr (wind), gambal (rain) and yugan (the sky).

In the name of our Old People, we are custodians of Mandubarra Sea Country, and hold obligations for the ongoing care of the places, animals, birds and plants of our Sea Country.

Places of special significance include:

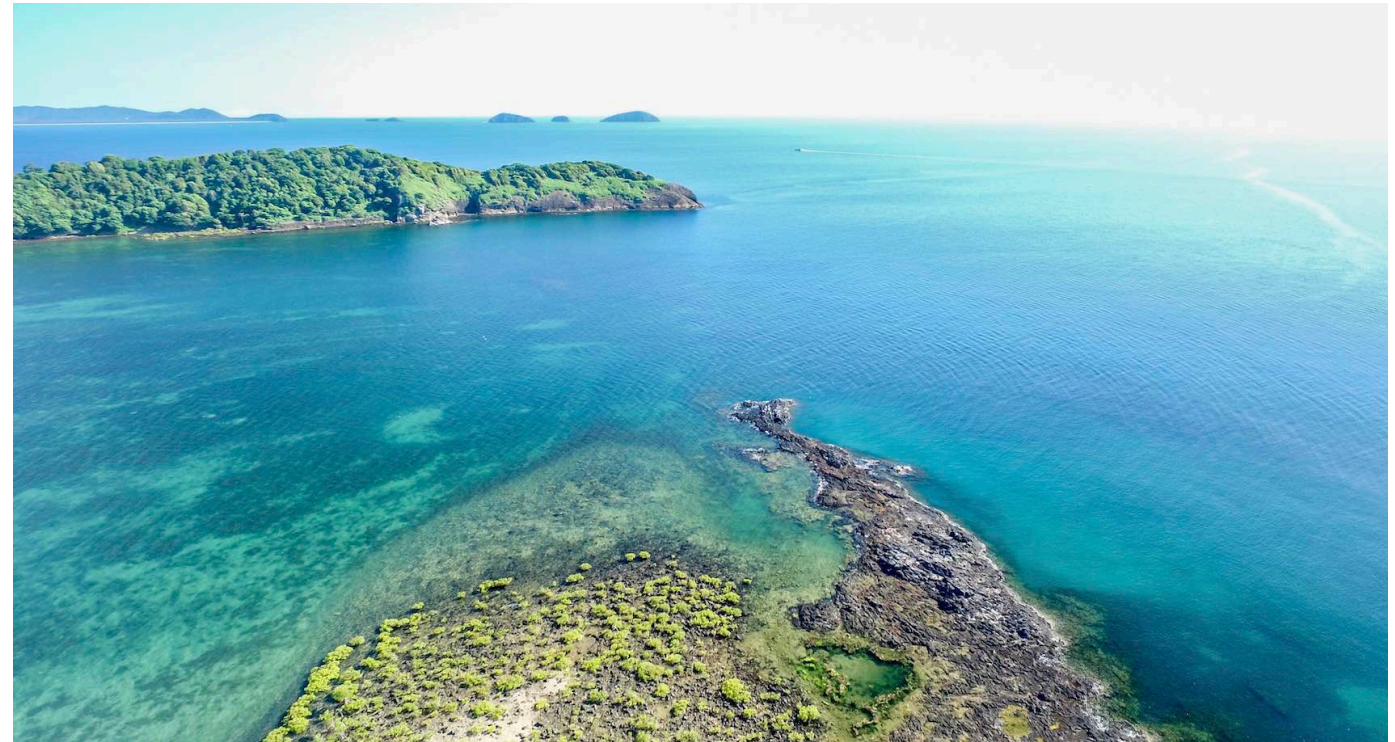
- ▶ Kurrimine Beach
- ▶ Cowley Beach
- ▶ King Reefs, Sisters-Stephens Reef
- ▶ Double Point
- ▶ Mandubarra Island and Brown's Beach
- ▶ all islands in the north and south Barnard groups

Animals species of special cultural significance:

- ▶ Green sea turtle
- ▶ Eels
- ▶ Dugongs
- ▶ *Other traditional marine resources* like Mangrove Jacks, Barramundi, Mullet, Coral Trout
- ▶ *Traditional food resources* like Seagulls, Terns, Torres Strait Pigeon, Golden Grunter
- ▶ *Health indicator animals* like Coral Trout, Crayfish, Clam shells, Manta Rays, Dolphins, large numbers of birds present

Plants of special cultural significance include:

- ▶ Seasonal indicator plants like Flame trees and Wattle
- ▶ Cultural resource plants like Black Bean etc.



Mandubarra Sea Country - Sisters Is., Stephens Is., the North Barnard Islands and Double Point

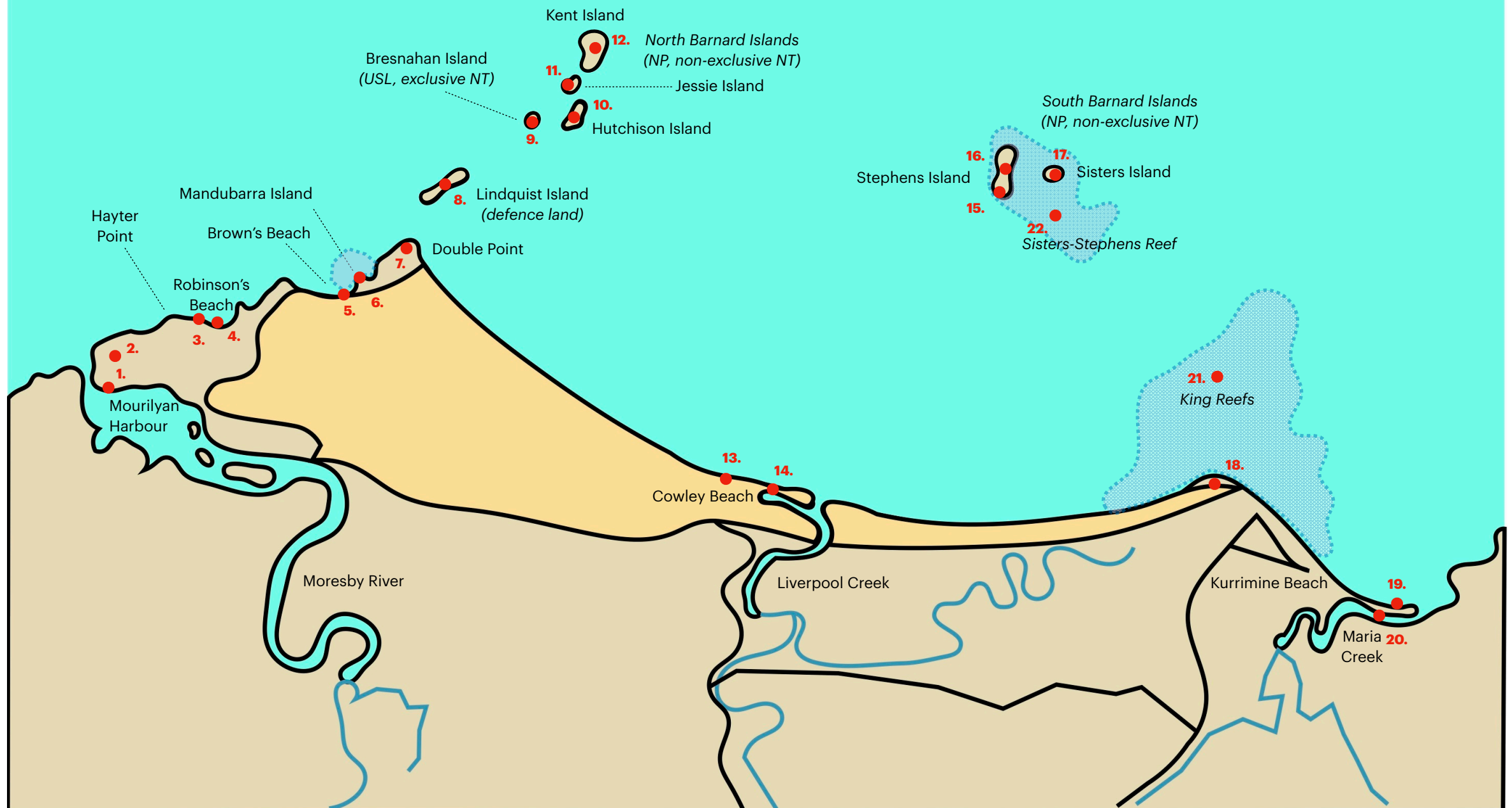


Mandubarra Sea Country - Stephens Island Fish Trap, Mandubarra Cultural Site

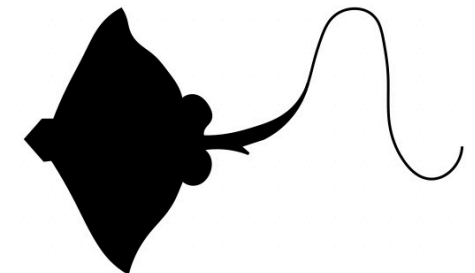
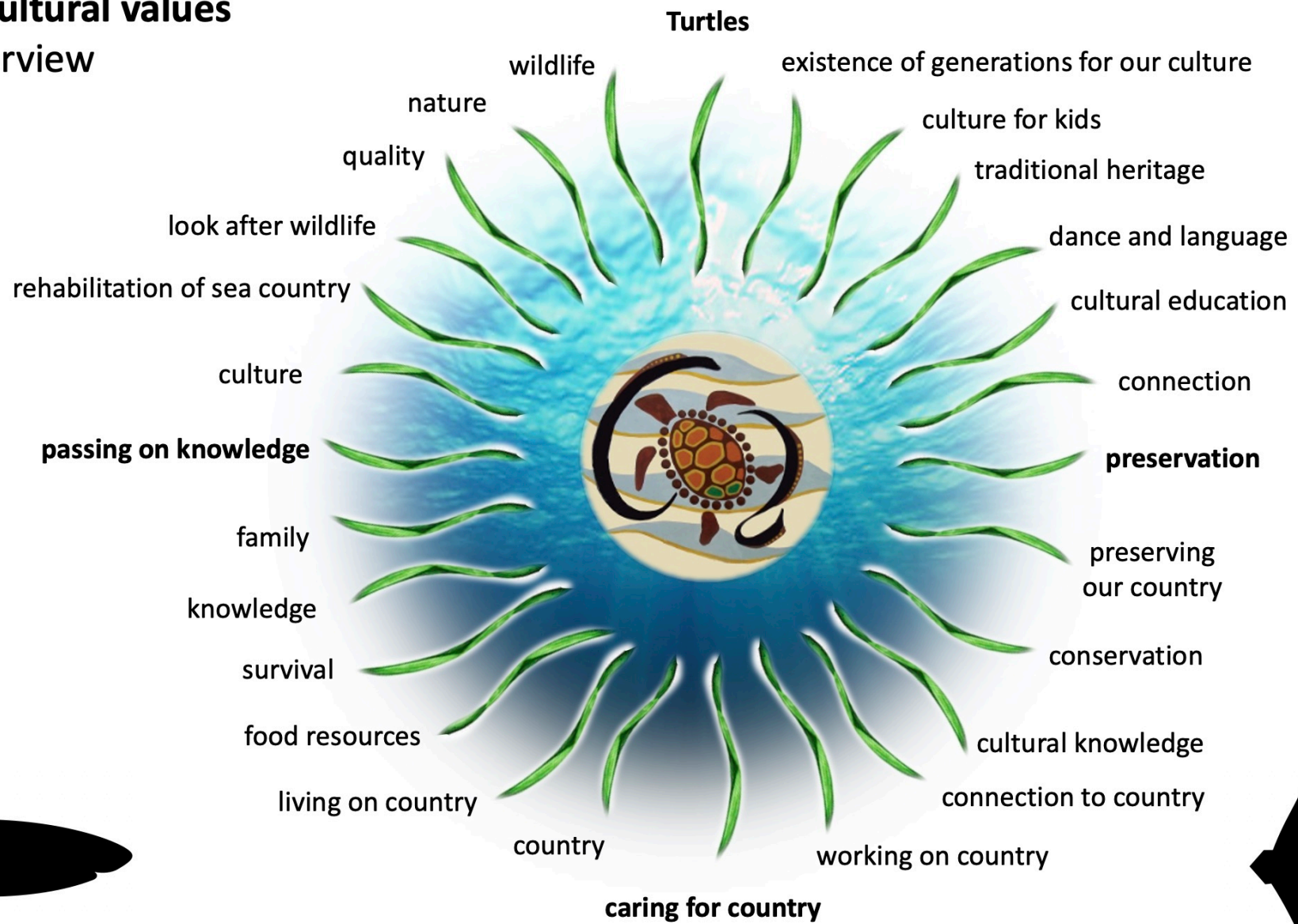
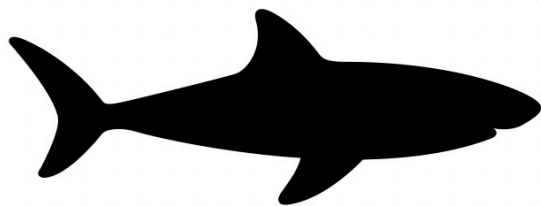
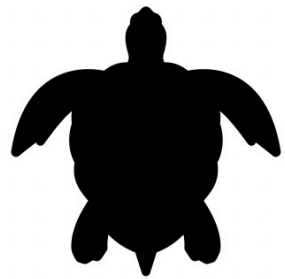


Key to numbered Mandubarra cultural sites:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Mandubarra Shell Midden (Camp Point) | 12. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Kent Island) |
| 2. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Georgie Hill) | 13. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Cowley Beach) |
| 3. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Robinsons Beach) | 14. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Liverpool Creek mouth) |
| 4. Mandubarra Fish Trap (Robinsons Beach) | 15. Mandubarra Fish Trap (Stephens Island) |
| 5. Mandubarra Shell Midden (Browns Beach) | 16. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Stephens Island) |
| 6. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Mandubarra Island, Browns Beach) | 17. Mandubarra Story Place (Sisters Island) |
| 7. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Double Point) | 18. Mandubarra Historical Site (Kurrimine Beach) |
| 8. Mandubarra Fish Trap (Lindquist Island) | 19. Mandubarra First Contact Site (Maria Creek - sand spit at mouth) |
| 9. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Bresnahan Island) | 20. Mandubarra First Contact (Maria Creek waterway) |
| 10. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Hutchinson Island) | 21. King Reefs |
| 11. Mandubarra Story Place (Jessie Island) | 22. Sisters - Stephens Reef |



Mandubarra cultural values an overview



6. Mandubarra Sea Country protocols (2020 draft)

Mandubarra Lore is the knowledge of our Ancestors we have been given by our Elders and our Old People.

Mandubarra Land and Sea Country looks after our people, therefore the Mandubarra people must look after our Land and Sea Country.

Seek permission first from Mandubarra Elders before entering our Sea Country to hunt or to camp there.

Our new protocols are to educate others - including other Indigenous people, Islander people and the wider community - of our Cultural Lore on Mandubarra Sea Country. We are looking to put in place new protocols for the shared management of our Sea Country through our TUMRA Steering Committee and as part of our partnership with GBRMPA.



Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol: Place contains Mandubarra Cultural site/s. Mandubarra Elders free, prior and informed consent should be sought before GBRMPA issues any permits for activities within surrounding marine protected areas. Both the Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee and Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC should be informed well before any applicable permit/s are issued by the Authority.



Mandubarra Sacred Site protocol: Place contains Mandubarra Sacred site/s. Mandubarra Elders free, prior and informed consent must be sought before GBRMPA issues any permits for activities within surrounding marine protected areas. Both the Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee and Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC must be informed well before any applicable permit/s are issued by the Authority. Mandubarra Elders or designated Traditional Owners should have the opportunity to be involved in GBRMPA compliance or reef health monitoring activities at Sister-Stephens Reefs.



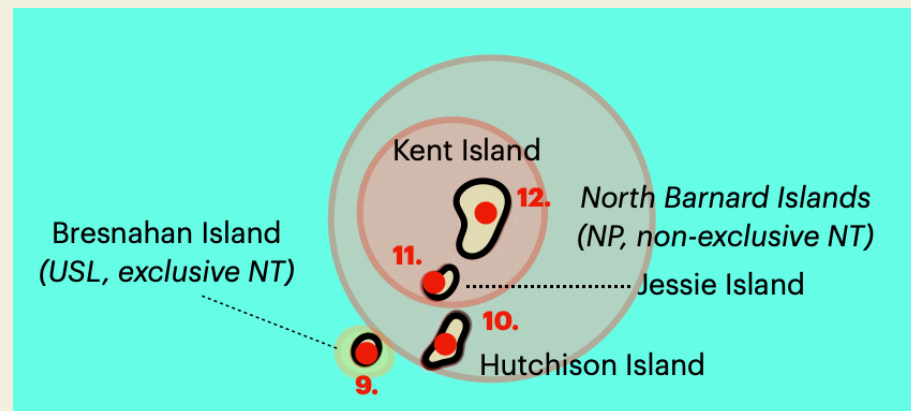
Mandubarra Restricted Access protocol: Mandubarra Elders permission will be required to access Bresnahan Island. The island above the HAT is exclusive native title land, held by Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. The Authority is asked to ensure that any permitting applications for waters around this island be notified to the Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee as well as to the RNTBC.



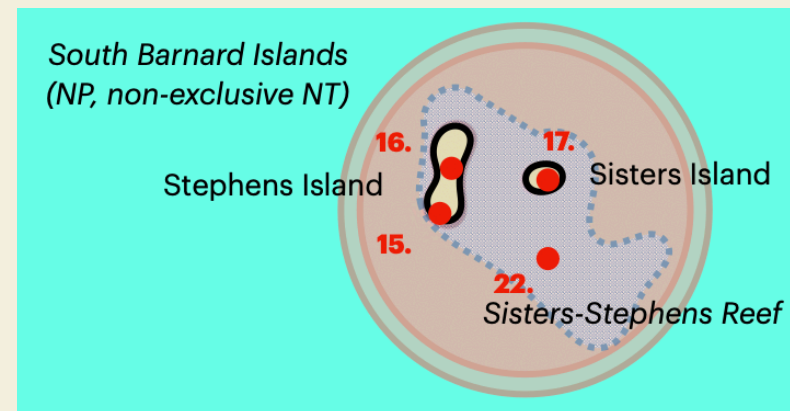
Mandubarra Restricted Access protocol (proposed)

Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Inc are seeking to progress return of Mandubarra Island (a part of Browns Beach).

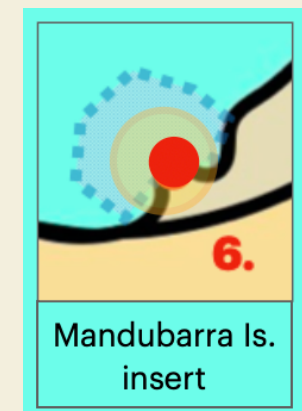
The Authority is asked to ensure that any permitting applications for waters around this island be notified to the Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee as well as our RNTBC.



Mandubarra Sea Country - North Barnard Islands



Mandubarra Sea Country - South Barnard Island






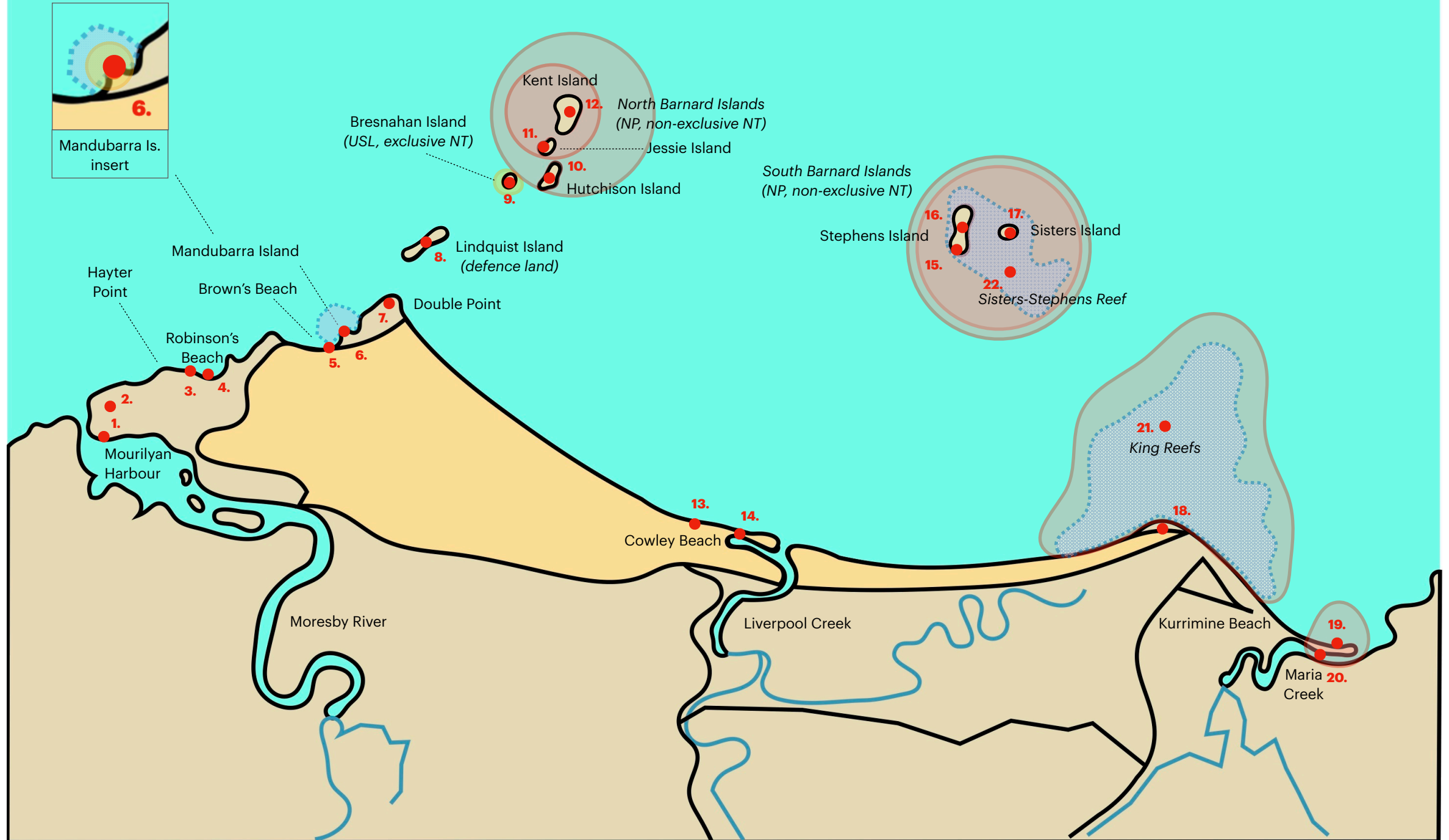
Mandubarra Island



Key to numbered Mandubarra cultural sites:

- | | |
|--|--|
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| 5. Mandubarra Shell Midden (Browns Beach) | 16. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Stephens Island) |
| 6. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Mandubarra Island, Browns Beach) | 17. Mandubarra Story Place (Sisters Island) |
| 7. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Double Point) | 18. Mandubarra Historical Site (Kurrimine Beach) |
| 8. Mandubarra Fish Trap (Lindquist Island) | 19. Mandubarra First Contact Site (Maria Creek - sand spit at mouth) |
| 9. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Bresnahan Island) | 20. Mandubarra First Contact (Maria Creek waterway) |
| 10. Mandubarra Cultural Place (Hutchinson Island) | 21. King Reefs |
| 11. Mandubarra Story Place (Jessie Island) | 22. Sisters - Stephens Reef |

-  Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol applies - see *previous page*
-  Mandubarra Sacred Site protocol applies - see *previous page*
-  Mandubarra Restricted Access protocols apply - see *previous page*



proposed **Mandubarra Cultural Values Assessment Guidelines** (2020 draft)

Permit applications for research activities proposed within, or potentially impacting, Mandubarra Sea Country:

Mandubarra Sea Country Research and Environmental Monitoring Protocol (Mandubarra Sea Country Consultation Protocol)

Our Sea Country contains special and unique places of significance to our people, as well as globally recognised and protected places and living species.

Bajgal (Green Sea Turtle) and Eel are our clan totems. Our people have lived on our Sea Country here for thousands of generations.

All of our Sea Country is special. Some sites within Mandubarra Sea Country are sacred to our people, or where powerful spiritual forces continue to abide.

These powerful places have the potential to cause harm to ourselves and to others if they are entered or disturbed without the guidance of our Elders or the free, prior and informed consent of ourselves as Mandubarra Elders and Traditional Owners.

All activities on our Sea Country, including scientific research and environmental monitoring, have some potential to cause harm to these places and sites.

As Mandubarra Traditional Owners we have ongoing custodial responsibilities for, and customary obligations toward, Mandubarra Sea Country and to the culturally significant and other native species which inhabit our Sea Country. We know that many of our marine resources are under growing threat from serious pressures. We are doing our bit to protect our Sea Country's special places and culturally significant species through the *Mandubarra Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement*. Through this Mandubarra Sea Country Protocol we ask other users of our Sea Country to respect our connections and our cultural duty of care.

This means, that as a minimum, we expect from our partners who share in the responsibility of protecting and caring for our Sea Country:

- our involvement in your decision-making processes founded on the principles of our free, prior and informed consent;
- regular and transparent communications;
- culturally-sensitive time frames for our responses to your request;
- having particular regard to our right to negotiate concerning new infrastructure, economic development and biodiscovery matters impacting our Sea Country;
- having particular regard to our governance responsibilities for Sea Country with respect to the permitting of commercial and/or research activities; and
- prioritisation of Mandubarra Traditional Owner fee-for-service contracts for marine monitoring and compliance activities within our Sea Country.

As Traditional Owners and native title holders of Mandubarra Sea Country we undertake our business, including attending to governance matters for our Country, through the following representative arrangements:

- Mandubarra Region Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) Steering Committee: Saltwater Traditional Owners of the Mandubarra Region TUMRA area are represented on this steering committee, from the Traditional Owner Family Groups comprising the Saltwater Traditional Owners of the Mandubarra Region. The committee makes decisions for all matters relating to marine issues or marine management within the Mandubarra TUMRA area. Contact: Mandubarra TUMRA Coordinator by email to tumra@mandubarra.com.au
- Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Incorporated: Mandubarra Traditional Owners representative organisation, which engages with partners in the care and management of Mandubarra Land and Sea Country. Hosts the Mandubarra TUMRA Steering Committee and supports its operations and planning. Hosts cultural days, holiday camps and the Mandubarra Junior Rangers program. Coordinates school talks and on-country monitoring activities (biosecurity, engagement species, flora and fauna, turtle nesting and hatching, mangrove health and seagrass monitoring). Contact: Chair, Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Incorporated by email to info@mandubarra.com.au
- Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC: Native Title representative body for all Mamu People including Mandubarra native title holders. Contact: Chair, Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC c/- Contact Officer Ms Lorraine Maund 10 Bombala Street Mourilyan QLD 4858.

Our families are represented on each committee and/or entity in accordance with their respective terms of reference, articles of association and/or rule book.

summary of Mandubarra Cultural Values: Sites

Certain sites included below are listed Mandubarra cultural heritage sites under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)* and included on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register maintained by the Queensland Government's Dept. of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

As Mandubarra Traditional Owners we have compiled our own internal, restricted access cultural heritage database to record site-specific traditional knowledge, imagery, condition reports and monitoring data. That database is managed directly by Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Inc.

The *Mandubarra Sea Country Research and Environmental Monitoring Protocol* (Mandubarra Sea Country Consultation Protocol) applies to all of our sites.

Type	Site on Mandubarra Sea Country	Jurisdiction	Mandubarra heritage value	Management sensitivity	Preferred management strategies
Mandubarra Story Place	Jessie Island	QPWS, GBRMPA*	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Sacred Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandubarra Sacred Site protocol - Cultural heritage buoys - Designated no anchorage buoys - Culturally authorised signage - Jessie and Sisters islands
	Sisters Island	QPWS, GBRMPA*	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Sacred Site	
Mandubarra Shell Midden	Camp Point	Ports North	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol - Culturally authorised signage
	Browns Beach	Dept. of Defence, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
Mandubarra Fish Trap	Stephens Island	GBRMPA*	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandubarra Sacred Site protocol - Cultural heritage buoys - Designated no anchorage buoys - Culturally authorised signage - Stephens Island
	Browns Beach	Dept. of Defence, GBRMPA*	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
	Lindquist Island	Dept. of Defence, GBRMPA*	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
Mandubarra Reefs	Sisters-Stephens Reef	GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
	King Reefs	GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
Mandubarra Cultural Place	Georgie Hill	Dept. of Defence	sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
	Robinsons Beach	Dept. of Defence	sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
	Mandubarra Island Browns Beach	Dept. of Defence, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Restricted Access protocol (to be negotiated)
	Double Point	Dept. of Defence, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
	Bresnahan Island	Mamu RNTBC, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandubarra Restricted Access Area (to be formalised) - Designated no anchorage buoys
	Hutchinson Island	QPWS, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culturally authorised signage - Hutchinson and Kent islands
	Kent Island	QPWS, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
	Cowley Beach	CCRC, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	
Liverpool Creek mouth	CCRC, GBRMPA*	very sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site		
Mandubarra First Contact Site	Kurrimine Spit / Maria Ck mouth Maria Ck waterway	CCRC, GBRMPA* DNRM, DAF	extremely sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
Mandubarra historical site	Cowley Beach	CCRC	sensitive site	Mandubarra Cultural Site	Mandubarra Cultural Site protocol
Non-Indigenous heritage	<i>Browns Beach settlement WW2 fortifications (Georgie Hill) Mourilyan Harbour</i>	<i>Dept. of Defence Dept. of Defence Ports North</i>	<i>heritage sensitivities</i>		

* the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) jurisdiction is the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park / World Heritage Area below the level of the Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)

summary of Mandubarra Cultural Values - Species

Marine animals and plants found in our Sea Country hold special cultural significance to Mandubarra Traditional Owners.

The health of our Sea Country has declined over the past 200 years since Europeans entered our Sea Country and started to exploit its biodiversity for profit: from beche-de-mer (*Holothurians sp.* sea cucumber) fishing in the 1890s-1910s, extensive coral hunting and aquarium fish collection through to today's mass tourism, recreational and commercial fishing, trawling and merchant shipping. Our Sea Country is still used for military training exercises. It has been mined / quarried for lime used in agriculture.

The *Mandubarra Sea Country Consultation Protocol* also extends to matters impacting the marine and terrestrial species found across our coastal and marine Sea Country.

Mandubarra Sea Country Species	Mandubarra heritage value	Significance to Mandubarra Traditional Owners	Mandubarra management strategies
Green Sea Turtle	TOTEM - cultural no take	extremely sensitive species	Mandubarra Region TUMRA, voluntary moratorium on take, seagrass monitoring, annual nesting / hatching monitoring
Eel	TOTEM - cannot be hunted	extremely sensitive species	Monitoring of numbers seen on Sea Country
Dugong	Sea Country health indicator Traditional food resource	very sensitive species	Mandubarra Region TUMRA moratorium, seagrass monitoring (where resourced)
Bottlenose Dolphins, Snubfin Dolphins	CULTURAL INDICATOR species (Sea Country health)	very sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring by observation
Manta Rays	CULTURAL INDICATOR species (Sea Country health)	very sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring by observation
Whales	CULTURAL INDICATOR species (Sea Country health)	very sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring by observation
Coastal rays	CULTURAL INDICATOR species (Sea Country health) Traditional food resource	sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring by observation
Shellfish: oysters, clams, pippis	FOOD resource	very sensitive species	Limited numbers collected for personal use
Crustaceans: Crabs, Crayfish	FOOD resource	very sensitive species	Limited numbers collected for personal use
Fish species: Mangrove Jack, Barramundi, Mullet, Coral Trout, Golden Grunter	FOOD resource	sensitive species	Limited numbers collected for personal use
Bird species: Seagulls, Sea Hawks, Torres Strait Pigeons	CULTURAL INDICATOR species (Sea Country health) Traditional food resource (eggs)	sensitive species	Limited egg collection for personal use in accordance with native title rights and where no conservation area restrictions apply
Shorebirds: Terns, Beach Stone Curlews	Sea Country health indicator	sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring by observation
Coastal and island plants: Flame Tree, Wattle	CULTURAL INDICATOR species	sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring of plant health
Coastal and island plants: Pandanus, Black Bean	CULTURAL RESOURCE species	sensitive species	Opportunistic monitoring of plant health

7. janyja (now) muguy (for a long time)

We have considered our priorities for our care of our Sea Country as Mandubarra Traditional Owners / custodians during the 2020 cultural values mapping project.

Our considerations have involved discussions with our Elders and younger Mandubarra people at both face-to-face meetings and workshops. Priorities set out here are supported by our leaders and our members.

Our partnerships with GBRMPA and other agencies will be very important in helping us to realise our priorities.

In summary our 2020-21 Sea Country priorities are:

Mandubarra janyja ("now": to end 2020)

1. continue to implement the Mandubarra TUMRA
2. work with GBRMPA to implement our *Cultural Values Assessment Guidelines*
3. secure funds for Sea Country planning
4. scope our Sea Country Rangers project

Mandubarra barray ("next week": to end 2021)

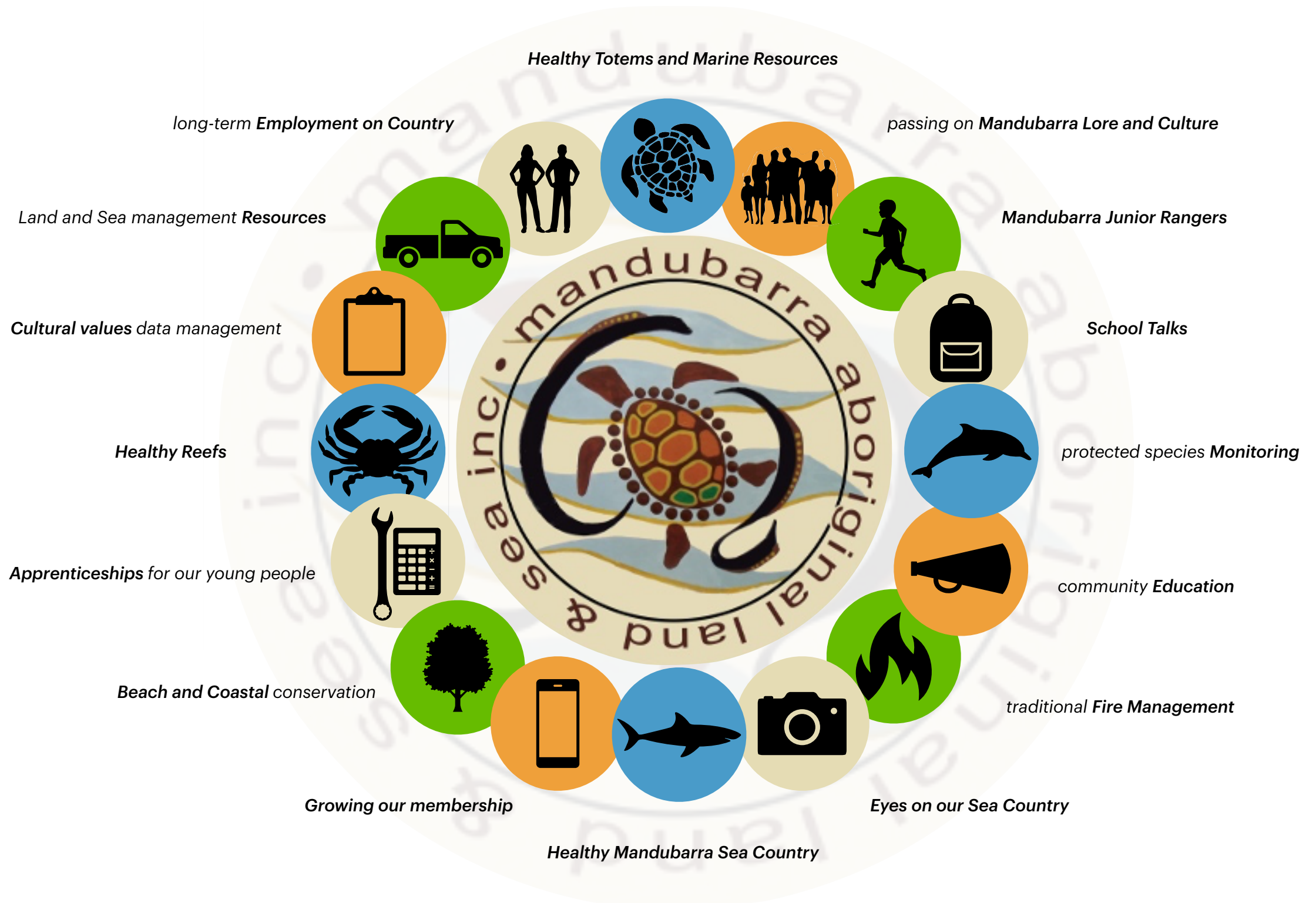
5. Sea Country planning to develop our *Mandubarra Sea Country Plan*
6. develop a formal proposal and lobby for resources for Mandubarra Sea Country Rangers



Mandubarra Sea Country - Mandubarra Cultural Site - Stephens Island Fish Trap



Bresnahan Island (part of the North Barnard Islands group)
Tenure: Unallocated State Land (USL)
Exclusive Native Title
subject to Mamu Protected Areas Indigenous Land Use Agreement



...monitoring it, seeing it, then watching the turtles come out - we're involved in the whole process. And never have we been involved in the process from the beginning to the end. ...it makes you become more positive... you also feel more connected to your country as well. Because you're not only looking after it but you're also seeing what's coming from it from you looking after it.

Rebecca O'Donnell

from Journey of Hope video produced for Mandubarra Aboriginal Land & Sea Inc. 2011



Green Sea Turtle

Original Artwork © Naomi Epong, Bungu (Wave in Sea) Art

Commitment, Courage and Unity tells the story in my painting of the Green Sea Turtle, her journey long and exhausting back to her special place to lay her eggs. Then comes the day, baby turtles hatch and life carries on, the beauty of the Green Sea Turtle lives on.

My mum and dad inspired me, the commitment they have in the work they do with caring for Turtles.

Naomi Epong - Bungu Art 2020

