

# lama Land and Sea Profile



## OVERVIEW

Traditional island name	<b>lama</b>
Western name	<b>Yam</b>
Central Islands Cluster	<b>Kulkaigal Nation</b>
Local government	<b>TSIRC &amp; TSC</b>
Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC)	<b>Magani Lagaugal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC</b>
Land type	<b>Continental island</b>
Air distance from Thursday Island (km)	<b>98</b>
Area (ha)	<b>180</b>
Indicative max length (km)	<b>2</b>
Indicative max breadth (km)	<b>1</b>
Max elevation (m)	<b>67</b>
Coastline length (km)	<b>7</b>
Population (2011 ABS Census)	<b>316</b>
Area of island zoned development (ha)	<b>25</b>
Area of disturbed / undisturbed vegetation (ha/%)	<b>45 (25.0%) / 135 (75.0%)</b>

## RANGER GROUP



Rangers  
2015



## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

### LAND



- Weeds • Community garden
- Coastal management (beach patrol) • Native nursery
- Native plants and animals
- Feral animals

### SEA



- Crocodiles
- Marine debris
- Coral monitoring
- Water quality
- Turtle and dugong

### PEOPLE



- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Community involvement
- Traditional and cultural sites
- Visitor management
- Training

## KEY VALUES



Healthy sea ecosystems



Marine water quality



Coral reefs



Seagrass meadows



Dugong



Marine turtles



Subsistence fishing



Healthy land ecosystems



Sustainable human settlements



Coasts and beaches



Mangroves and wetlands



Coastal birds

## CLIMATE CHANGE RISK

Vulnerability to sea level rise (+1.0m) **High**

Sea level rise response options **Medium**



## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Iama is a very small (180ha) continental island in the Central Islands Cluster of the Torres Strait about 98km north east of Thursday Island. Iama (population 316) consists of a large steep mass of granite fringed with coral sand flats, the largest being at the northwestern end of the island on which the community is located.

The topography of Iama includes steep rocky hills (highest point 67m) with vegetation including thick scrub and fringing mangroves. About 75% of the island is covered in undisturbed vegetation.

Native title is recognised over Iama and is held in trust by the Magani Lagaugal (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC.



This map is based on existing dugong and turtle management areas and shows the general areas of operation for community-based land and sea Rangers. Best available information (including traditional place names) has been used at the time of publication. This map is indicative only and not intended for native title purposes.

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent land and sea management achievements include:

- Community-based dugong and turtle management plan in place
- Ranger group established and Rangers implementing activities under Working on Country plans
- Community participation in inter-tidal and sub-tidal seagrass monitoring and training activities
- Joint project to protect cemetery with erosion control bags
- Iama tide gauge instrumentation installed and gauge active
- Ranger participation in mangrove and shoreline monitoring and surveys
- Community participation in the Sustainable Horticulture Project, including a community fruit tree planting
- Turtle nesting surveys

## LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT AREA

The lamalgal land and sea management area includes a number of uninhabited islands, reefs and marine areas (see map) covering about 249,067 ha.

## MAIN THREATENING PROCESSES

The main threatening processes affecting the lamalgal land and sea management area relate to climate change (inundation from sea level rise), the spread of pest plants and animals, and declining water quality (including marine debris and increasing sedimentation).

## LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Sixteen management priorities under the themes of Land, Sea, and People are identified in the lamalgal Working on Country Ranger Plan. There are 2 Ranger positions (as at 2015). The lamalgal Rangers will continue to work closely with the community on priority projects including dugong and turtle management, protecting significant cultural sites, preserving Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and managing pests and fire.

## DUGONG AND TURTLE MANAGEMENT

The Iama community is actively implementing the Iama Dugong and Turtle Management Plan 2011-2016, that is built on the lamalgal vision:

*“The lamalgal vision for dugong and turtle management in lamalgal sea country is to develop sustainable management and use of dugong and turtle resources within the sea boundaries of the Kulkalgal nation (Central Islands) so to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of the Traditional Inhabitants.”*

## CLIMATE CHANGE PROFILE

Climate change in the Torres Strait will involve a warming of air and sea temperatures, rising sea levels, more severe weather events, ocean acidification and some changes to rainfall patterns, evaporation, wind and ocean currents. These changes are predicted to have long-term impacts on all of the region's key values across the Land, Sea and People themes. Iama has a 'high' vulnerability rating to sea level rise and a 'medium' response options rating (there are reasonable options to move to a safer site on the island). A rise of 40 cm will start to cause significant tidal inundation of the community. For more information on climate change, please see the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy 2014-2018.

## TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

The Iama community is working to protect Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for future generations. The TEK system enables communities to access information for their own cultural maintenance; support sustainable community based environmental management approaches; and allows Indigenous Rangers' planning and on-ground cultural and natural resource management activities to be informed by *Ailan Kastom* (Island Custom).

## COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE

The Iama community has an active food producing community garden in place to preserve traditional gardening skills and support greater community self-sufficiency in food production. lamalgal Rangers have played a role in the establishment and maintenance of the community nursery.

## FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Iama community is highly reliant on air transport, diesel powered electricity generation and barge transport of supplies and materials to and from the community. Renewable energy options will be explored to reduce carbon emissions and work towards energy independence.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

lamalgal Rangers engage with the community through frequent community notices and Ranger talks, community participation in ranger activities, and an annual community celebration and report back. This ensures land and sea management activities remain relevant to community priorities.

## SOME OF IAMA'S IMPORTANT ANIMALS & PLANTS



Little Tern  
Photo: JJ Harrison, Wikimedia Commons



Eastern Curlew  
Photo: Terry Reis



Liniment Tree  
Photo: Melinda McLean



Komak  
Photo: Nami Kamome

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit the TSRA website at <http://www.tsra.gov.au> and the Torres Strait eAtlas <http://ts.eatlas.org.au/ts>