



## Project 2.3.5 eAtlas - Data management for environmental research

National Environmental Science Programme

### Project Summary

The eAtlas is a free public website (<http://eatlas.org.au>) that brings together environmental research data and knowledge from multiple organisations and research programs into one place. It ensures that research data is discoverable, well documented, accessible and reusable now and into the future.

In this project the eAtlas team will work with National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) Tropical Water Quality (TWQ) Hub researchers to:

- Assist and support them with data management guidance and training.
- Ensure that data produced by the Hub projects is published through the eAtlas.
- Provide online visualization of the Hub's spatial datasets.

This project will also improve the eAtlas systems based on stakeholder feedback and recommendations outlined by the NESP Data and Accessibility Guidelines.

### Problem

Access to data and reporting products is vital for effective environmental management and the advancement of environmental science. Unfortunately research data is often difficult to discover, hard to obtain, poorly documented and often not in a form that can be readily used by stakeholders. This reduces the efficiency of research and management as significant time is wasted in identifying, obtaining and processing data products.

### How Research Addresses Problem

The primary role of this project is to support researchers with the curation and publication of their research data via the eAtlas. The eAtlas provides and develops systems for making research data discoverable and accessible via the web, visualising spatial data for quick evaluation of available data, and curating data to ensure its long term preservation.

A screenshot of the eAtlas website front page. The header features the eAtlas logo (a stylized orange star) and the text 'eAtlas.org.au Australia's Tropical Land And Seas'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Projects, Articles, Maps, Datasets, Photos, and About eAtlas. The main content area is titled 'Environmental research, maps and data for tropical Australia'. It is divided into two columns: 'Recent articles' and 'Recent datasets'. The 'Recent articles' column shows an article titled 'How do people value the Kimberley coast?' published on 16 June 2016. The 'Recent datasets' column shows a dataset titled 'COTS Initiation Zone Polygon 2016 (Accelerated Partnership, AIMS)' modified on 30 June 2016. The page is set against a background of tropical marine life.

eAtlas website front page

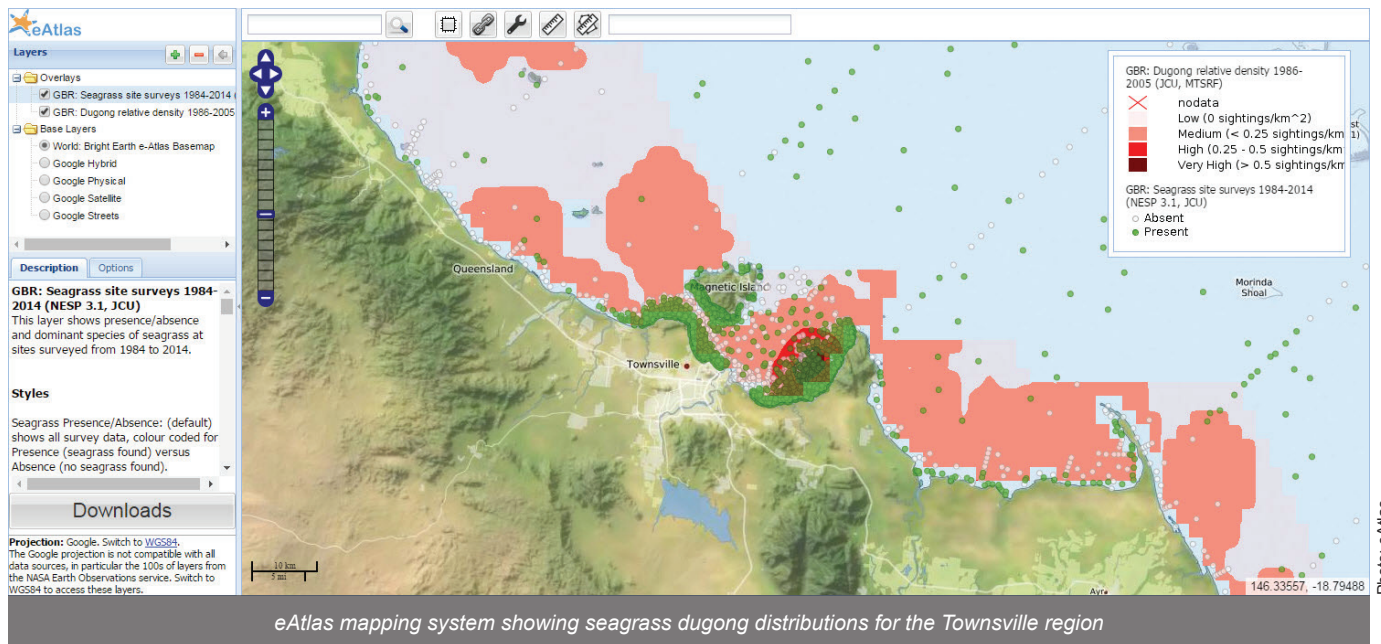


Photo: eAtlas

The eAtlas is an online platform that specialises in managing data from environmental research projects. It allows the discovery and download of hundreds of environmental research datasets from a wide range of institutions and allows spatial data to be visualised in a web based interactive mapping portal with a catalogue of over 3,000 layers. Scientists, managers, and the public can quickly and easily assess the scope and key aspects of these datasets without the need for specialist Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

The eAtlas uses an editorial quality control process to ensure that published research data is of high quality and ready for use by researchers and environmental managers. All data submissions are reviewed by the eAtlas team, to identify dataset anomalies and completeness of the dataset documentation. Any identified issues are then addressed with the authors before the data is published.

The eAtlas supports a number of regional atlases (Torres Strait eAtlas, North West Atlas) that are populated by content partners. These additional atlases broaden the geographic scope of the eAtlas, helping to understand Australia's entire tropical environment.

To assist with discoverability all datasets prepared and published on the eAtlas are exported to national research portals including Research Data Australia (RDA) and the Australian Oceans Data Network (AODN).

## Further information

See [www.nesptropical.edu.au](http://www.nesptropical.edu.au) or contact:

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