1530 Conservation in paradise: prioritising management actions on islands in tropical Australia; Bob Pressey, Jana Brotánková, Ian Craigie, Lesley Gibson, Stephen Hall, John Hicks, Cheryl Lohr, Keith Morris, John Olds, Malcolm Turner, Amelia Wenger.

This presentation describes the rationale, methods and expected results of two closely associated research projects. A team at James Cook University is collaborating with Queensland Parks and Wildlife, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife to develop a decision-support tool for management of islands in the southern Great Barrier Reef and off the Pilbara coast. Both projects involve island managers in the design of the tool and the collection of data. The operational model for the decision-support tool attempts to approximate, within the limits of reliable information, the full complexity of the decision-making process. The model considers spatially explicit data on biodiversity features, threats, and the effectiveness and cost of alternative management actions. Sub-models address dynamics of threats (e.g. management actions on one island mitigating risk on others), costs (e.g. dependence on field itinerary and number of islands visited), and actions (e.g. recognition that not all actions will be fully implemented). Underway are development of the prototype software and intensive elicitation of data from managers and other experts. Work planned for 2014 includes analysis of the sensitivity of priorities to uncertainties around parameter values and missing data.

1550 The costs of conservation management on islands – developing a framework to understand and optimise spending; Ian Craigie & Bob Pressey.

The costs of conservation management actions are never far from the mind of managers who need to maximise 'bang for the buck' with budgets that are often inadequate. Yet financial costs are often one of the least understood aspects of conservation plans and projects, which are often written without direct reference to their costs. Conservation on islands is logistically challenging and practically complex, so optimising spending to achieve multiple objectives on multiple islands over a number of years requires a framework to allow us to move beyond the current 'back of the envelope' calculations, which can lead to missed opportunities to maximise spending efficiency and reduce costs. Here I present a preliminary framework for thinking about management costs on