

# Badu Land and Sea Profile



## OVERVIEW

Traditional island name	<b>Badu</b>
Western name	<b>Mulgrave</b>
Western Islands Cluster	<b>Maluilgal Nation</b>
Local government	<b>TSIRC &amp; TSC</b>
Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC)	<b>Mura Badulgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC</b>
Land type	<b>Continental Island</b>
Air distance from Thursday Island (km)	<b>49</b>
Area (ha)	<b>10222</b>
Indicative max length (km)	<b>11</b>
Indicative max breadth (km)	<b>13</b>
Max elevation (m)	<b>190</b>
Coastline length (km)	<b>49</b>
Population (2011 ABS Census)	<b>783</b>
Area of island zoned development (ha)	<b>162</b>
Area of disturbed / undisturbed vegetation (ha/%)	<b>213 (2.1%) / 10009 (97.9%)</b>

## RANGER GROUP



Rangers  
2015



## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

### LAND



- Native plants and animals
- Burning • Land patrol • Weeds
- Native nursery • Revegetation
- Coastal management (beach patrol)
- Uninhabited island management

### SEA



- Crocodiles
- Turtle and dugong
- Marine debris
- Sea patrol
- Seagrass Monitoring

### PEOPLE



- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Traditional and cultural sites
- Community involvement
- Visitor management
- Research support

## 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) **Very Low**

Sea level rise response options **Very High**





## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

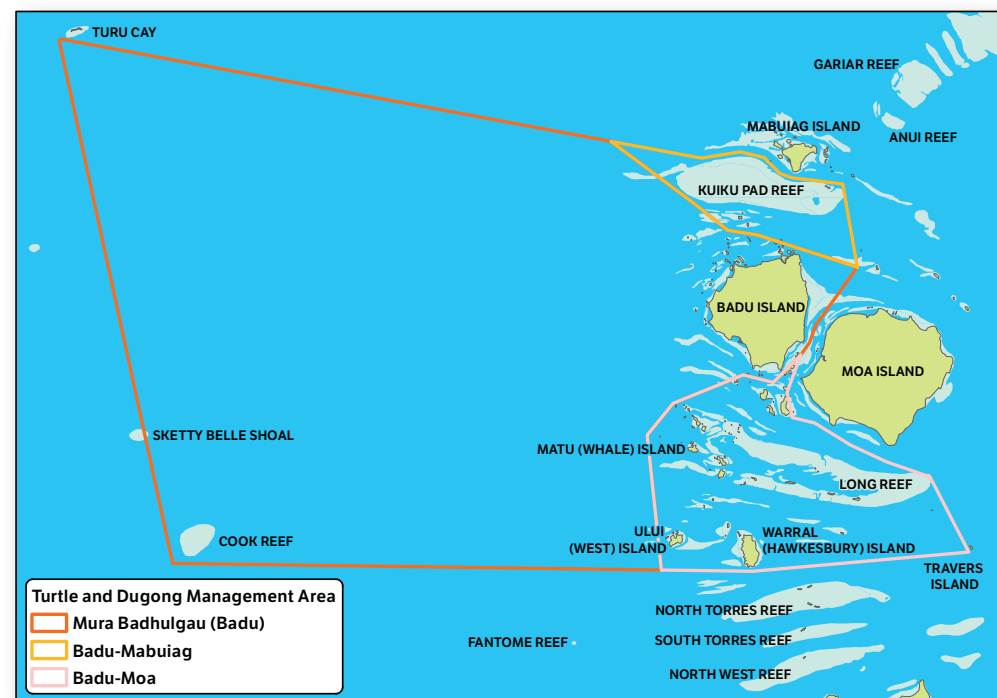
Badu is a large (10,222ha) continental island in the Near Western Cluster of the Torres Strait about 49km north of Thursday Island (Waiben). Badu (population 783) is the second largest community in the Torres Strait, behind Thursday Island. The community is located on the south eastern of the island.

The shape of Badu is roughly square, measuring approximately 11km by 13km. The topography alternates between rocky mountainous outcrops and sandy ridges covered with scattered forest and light scrub areas (highest point 190m). Low lying regions of the island contain both swamps and mangroves. More than 97% of Badu is covered in undisturbed vegetation.

Native title is recognised over Badu Island and is held in trust by the Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC.

## LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT AREA

The Mura Badulgal land and sea management area includes a number of uninhabited islands, reefs and marine areas (see map) covering approximately 444,211 ha. Part of the land and sea management area is shared with Moa and Mabuia.



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 the Sustainable Horticulture Project, including the establishment of a school garden and community fruit tree planting
- Ranger training and participation in intertidal and sub-tidal seagrass monitoring activities
- Ranger and RNTBC participation in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project, including training in the use of the TEK database system
- Marine debris monitoring and management activities, including removal of ghost nets
- Feral animal management, weed mapping and management

## MAIN THREATENING PROCESSES

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

## LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Seventeen management priorities under the themes of Land, Sea, and People are identified in the Mura Badulgal Working on Country Ranger Plan. There are 3 Ranger positions (as at 2015). The Mura Badulgal 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 Mura Badulgal Island community are actively implementing the Mura Badulgal Dugong and Turtle Management Plan 2011-2016, that is built on the vision:

*“To develop sustainable management and use of dugong and turtle resources within the sea boundaries of the Mura Badulgal nation.”*

## 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. Badu has a 'very low' vulnerability rating to sea level rise and a 'very high' response options rating (there are good options to move to a safer site on the island). A rise of 300 cm will need to occur before regular inundation becomes an issue. For more information on climate change, please see the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy 2014-2018.

## TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

The Badu 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 Badu community has an active food producing community gardening program in place to preserve traditional gardening skills and support greater community self-sufficiency in food production. The Mura Badulgal Rangers have played a role in the community nursery including the propagation of native plants for revegetation projects.

## FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Badu 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

Mura Badulgal 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 BADU'S IMPORTANT ANIMALS & PLANTS



Emerald Monitor  
Photo: Tim Vickers, Wikimedia Commons



Eastern Curlew  
Photo: Terry Reis



Buzamaar  
Photo: Melinda McLean



*Cheilocostus potierae*  
Photo: David Fell

## 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>