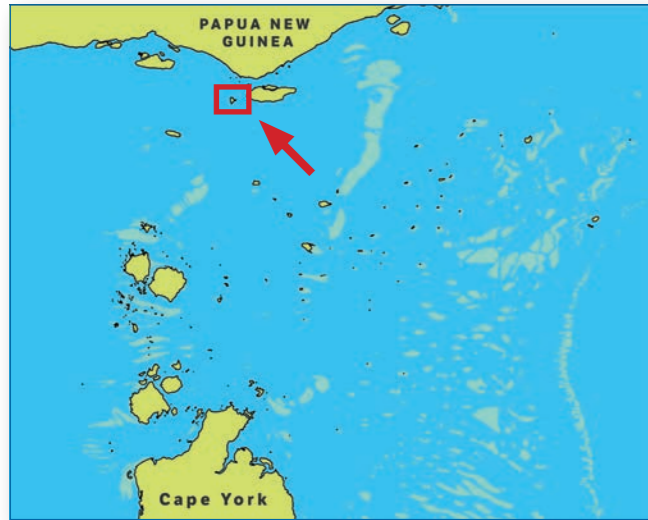


Dauan Land and Sea Profile



OVERVIEW

Traditional island name	Dauan
Western name	Mount Cornwallis
Top Western Islands Cluster	Guda Maluilgal Nation
Local government	TSIRC & TSC
Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC)	Dauanalgalw (TSI) Corporation RNTBC
Land type	Continental Island
Air distance from Thursday Island (km)	135
Area (ha)	364
Indicative max length (km)	3
Indicative max breadth (km)	3
Max elevation (m)	295
Coastline length (km)	10
Population (2011 ABS Census)	133
Area of island zoned development (ha)	21
Area of disturbed / undisturbed vegetation (ha/%)	35 (9.6%) / 329 (90.4%)

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

RANGER GROUP



Rangers
2015



MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

LAND



- Weeds
- Burning
- Native plants and animals
- Community garden
- Native nursery

SEA



- Turtle and dugong
- Marine Debris
- Sea Patrol

PEOPLE



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

CLIMATE CHANGE RISK

Vulnerability to sea level rise (+1.0m) **Very Low**

Sea level rise response options **Very High**



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Dauan is a very small (364ha) continental island in the Top Western Islands Cluster of the Torres Strait about 135km north of Thursday Island. Dauan (population 133) lies just a few km from PNG and is a high granite outcrop of acid volcanic origin. The community is located on the northern side of the island.

The topography of Dauan is very steep with the highest point at 295m above sea level. Together with the hill of Mabaduan on the adjoining PNG coast, Dauan forms the most northerly extension of the Australian Great Dividing Range, which in the Torres Strait becomes a sunken chain of islands that once extended as a bridge to the northern landmass. More than 90% of the island is covered in undisturbed vegetation including elevated closed vine forests and fringing mangroves.

Native title is recognised over Dauan and is held in trust by the Dauanalgalaw (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC.

LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT AREA

The Dauan land and sea management area includes a number of uninhabited islands, reefs and marine areas (see map) covering about 297,726 ha. The land and sea management area is shared with Saibai.



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 a community fruit tree planting
- Agave, Brazilian joy weed and Giant Rubber Tree weed control program underway

MAIN THREATENING PROCESSES

The main threatening processes affecting the Dauan 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

Thirteen management priorities under the themes of Land, Sea, and People are identified in the Simakal Working on Country Ranger Plan. There are 2 Ranger positions (as at 2015). The Simakal 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 Dauan community is actively implementing the Dauan Dugong and Turtle Management Plan 2011-2016, that is built on the Mura Dauanalgalaw vision:

“Mura Dauanalgalaw’s vision is to look after, manage and protect the area of waru a dhangal, to educate our younger generations through the sustainable management of these species.”

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. Dauan has a ‘very low’ vulnerability rating to sea level rise and a ‘high’ response options rating (there are good options to move to a safer site on the island). A rise of 250 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 Dauan 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 Dauan 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 Simakal Rangers have played a role in the community nursery for propagation of native plants for revegetation projects.

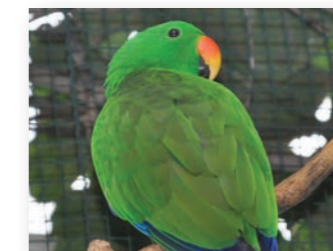
FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Dauan 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

Simakal 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 DAUAN’S IMPORTANT ANIMALS & PLANTS



Eclectus Parrot
Photo: Quartl, Wikimedia Commons



Littoral Whiptail-skink
Photo: Bernard Dupont, Wikimedia Commons



Native or Cape Bamboo
Photo: David Fell



Alectryon repandodentatus
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>