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COMMUNITIES SHARE TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AT PULU FORUM

Six significant cultural sites have been recorded by Mabuiag community members at the Pulu Knowledge Exchange Forum sponsored by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

The Exchange Forum, held at Pulu Islet, last month is part of the TSRA's Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) Project, which aims to identify, declare and manage IPA's in the Torres Strait Region.

The Torres Strait has two existing declared Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs), these are Deliverance Island and Pulu Islet.

The Pulu Knowledge Exchange Forum presented an excellent opportunity for knowledge sharing and capacity building between Mabuiag Rangers and community members.

Over four days, community members were interviewed about the cultural heritage sites on Pulu. The sites identified and recorded included Rock-arts, Tiger Shark Rock Shelter, the Pulu Kod Site, Kawmayn Rock, Balancing Rock and Augudalkula.

Community members also took the opportunity to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge for future generations. Additional recordings were made; these included turtle mating, as an important food source; a person dancing to signify the cultural dancing carried out on Pulu; and some lifestyle shots of community members diving and spear fishing.

The TSRA Chairperson John (Toshie) Kris said there are many significant cultural sites throughout the Torres Strait region.

"The TSRA is working with communities to identify and record them to ensure they are protected for future generations."

The TSRA IPA's project is funded through the Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (DSEWPaC) Caring for our Country initiative.

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TSRA Media Contact – John Ramsay, 07 4069 0700

CAPTION: Mabuiag Rangers inspect a site at Pulu Islet.