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Project underway to showcase cultural music and dance

A recording project is underway throughout the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) showcasing the traditional and contemporary music and dance of the Bamaga, Seisia, Injinoo, Umagico and New Mapoon communities.

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson and Member for Seisia, Mr Joseph Elu said that community members had so far come together to record 37 pieces of music in traditional Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal languages and dialects including Kala Lagaw Ya, Kala Kawaw Ya, Injinoo Ikya, Torres Strait Creole and English.

“Further recording of traditional dance is also expected to take place in the community in early stages of 2016,” Mr Elu said.

The NPA recording will be the twelfth CD/DVD package produced with the support of the TSRA’s Music and Dance Audit, a project supporting the maintenance and promotion of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artistic and cultural practices.

Mr Elu said the project is an important cultural maintenance initiative, which has been made possible through community participation and guidance in selecting and performing the music and dance featured.

“The recordings are a celebration of our unique music, dance and culture and will become a valuable resource for future generations,” Mr Elu said.

“They are also a powerful resource for supporting the wider promotion of our Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultures.”

The TSRA Music and Dance Audit initiative has produced recording of music and dance from fourteen communities throughout the region since 2007, including Iama, Mabuig, Warraber, Badu, Erub, Boigu, Poruma, Saibai, St Paul’s, the Murray Islands and the Inner Western Islands of Thursday Island, Horn, Hammond and Prince of Wales.

“A separate project to record community music and dance on Masig is also underway and due for completion in the first half of 2016,” Mr Elu said.

For more information on the NPA Music and Dance Audit, or to find out how to get involved, contact the Acting Cultural Development Officer, Regina Turner on 07 40 690 700.

ENDS

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Project participants (L-R) Buigum Tabuai, Fanny Williams and Leonora Adidi



NPA Music & Dance Audit participant, Francis Williams



Project participants (L-R) Michael Jacob, Dalton Agie, Francis Williams, Debrize Mooka and Manu Isua



Mary and Erris Eseli recording for the
NPA Music & Dance Project



NPA Music & Dance Audit project participant
Michael Jacob