

Overview

Dr. Eva Abal is a leader in integrated science strategy and a knowledge integrator/broker, with skills in:

- *Innovation framework development*
- *Overseeing large-scale, transdisciplinary programs*
- *Synthesis, translation and communication of research outputs for end users*
- *Brokering science with potential investors*
- *Independent expert panel convening, coordination and synthesis*
- *Catalysing, designing and implementing the research pathway/s to impact*

Eva's experience includes over 15 years as Science Director with Healthy Waterways Partnership (whole-of-government, whole-of-industry and whole-of-community); 8 years as Strategic Science Director/Chief Scientific Officer with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (a non-for-profit organization that connects business to research in solutions); and 6 years as the Director, UQ Water Initiative and Sustainable Water Program of the University of Queensland's Global Change Institute. In these roles, Eva has demonstrated skills in leading and managing large-scale transdisciplinary programs towards a path to impact. Eva is experienced in establishing and maintaining collaborative networks, strategic alliances and applied research initiatives. She has excellent communication and engagement skills, especially in building partnerships.

Eva has a deep passion and commitment in towards integrative pathways that bridge research/academia and managers/policy makers is evidenced in her being invited by the Asian Development Bank to be one of the authors of the Asian Water Development Outlook 2011 and 2016, that charts progress in water security in Asia and the Pacific,

Qualifications

Ph.D. Botany	The University of Queensland Brisbane QLD 1992-1996 <i>Scholarship: Equity & Merit Scholarship Scheme (administered by AusAid)</i> Thesis: Light, nutrient and water quality interactions with the seagrass, <i>Zostera capricorni</i> Aschers
MS Marine Biology	University of San Carlos (under the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD) Cebu City, Philippines 1982-1984 <i>Scholarship: Philippine Development Scholarship Program and Genu Carrageenan (now CP Kelco)</i> Thesis: Ecophysiology of the cultivated red algae, <i>Eucheuma</i> sp.

Employment

Adviser, Strategic Projects and Partnerships (part-time) 2017-present

International Water Centre

Description of role:

- *Providing leadership and advice on strategic partnerships and projects (predominantly international projects);*
- *Assisting CEO in the development of productive partnerships between the International Water Centre and external partners such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank in line with the strategic plan;*
- *Working with the Business Manager to scope and potentially implement innovative financing mechanisms to ensure sustainability of the organisation and shaping the organisation as a leader in global water sustainability solutions.*
- *Establishing and maintaining collaborative networks, strategic alliances and applied research initiatives to bring a whole-of-water cycle approach to the design of innovative solutions and tools that optimise decision-making and meet the end user needs;*
- *Engaging through publications and other materials aimed to influence decision-makers, including discussion papers, value proposition papers and other forms.*

Independent Convener, Science Expert Panels (part-time) 2017-present

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Description of role:

- *Scoping and developing value propositions for Independent Expert Panels for Gold Coast Water and other Utilities);*
- *Convening meetings/workshops and producing synthesise reviews and recommendations for each review and meeting, ensuring that clients' needs questions are addressed;*
- *Facilitating the client-panel interface to ensure that the specific panels deliver the review through an independent and rigorous process*

Director, Sustainable Water Program 2015-2017

Global Change Institute (GCI), University of Queensland

Description of role:

- *Providing leadership and strategic advice on future trends in the program area, including developing and implementing a strategic plan for the program consistent with the GCI's Strategic Plan;*
- *Leading the development of productive partnerships between the University research community and external partners such as the CSIRO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank in the core areas of concern with the GCI;*
- *Establishing and shaping the GCI as a leader in global sustainability solutions by effective utilisation of UQ's institutional capability and research excellence, and the establishment of external research opportunities and strategic partnerships;*
- *Maintaining collaborative networks, strategic alliances and research initiatives to bring a whole-of-system approach to the design of innovative solutions and tools that optimise decision-making and meet the needs of end users;*

- *Securing sustained funding to support the activities of the GCI by establishing strong relationships with business, government, philanthropy and community organisations;*
- *Educating the global community on global change issues by developing a range of learning programs in the GCI's key challenge areas;*
- *Engaging through publications and other materials aimed to influence decision-makers, including white papers, working papers, quarterly and other reports on significant activities and developments associated with the program;*
- *Raising awareness and build an understanding of the global challenges by undertaking communication and engagement activities across UQ, our partners and global networks;*

**Director, Strategic Science (0.5FTE) /
Chief Scientific Officer (0.4 FTE)**

2013-2016
2008-2012

Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)
1/29 Longland Street, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Description of role:

- *Providing high-level support to the Managing Director in relation to the strategic science direction of the Foundation.*
- *Working with the Managing Director and Director of Projects and Partnerships to scope projects that achieve the GBRF's mission, including the development of proposals for the Foundation's investors/partners;*
- *Convening and coordinating the International Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) (including targeted agenda setting, pre- and post- briefings of the Chair and members, off-session meetings and tasks);*
- *Overseeing GBRF's Research Portfolio, providing guidance and management of the evaluation and selection of scientific projects by the Board and ISAC;*
- *Supporting the translation and adoption of research outcomes for end-users alongside the Director of Projects and Partnerships;*
- *Identifying and bringing emerging issues and opportunities to the attention of the;*
- *Developing a value proposition to position GBRF as the "Think and Do Tank" and "ReefIdeasLab" for the Reef;*
- *Representing the Foundation on nominated panels and committees, and as otherwise required;*
- *Speaking on issues relating to the Reef and on GBRF projects to supporters, investors and the general public as required.*

Director, UQ Water Initiative (0.4 FTE)

2011-2014

Office of the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor. University of Queensland

Description of role:

- *Brokering The University of Queensland's expertise in water and coral reef research with research partners and investors;*
- *Developing a Value Proposition and subsequent Strategic Plan for a UQ Water Initiative (working closely with UQ Energy Initiative and relevant University Institutes, Centres and faculty);*
- *Leading workshops and strategic meetings to coordinate input into the development of inward-looking (internal UQ) and outward-looking (end-users)*

engagement strategies;

- *Establishing partnering and collaborative networks, strategic alliances and research initiatives to bring a whole-of-system approach to the design of innovative solutions and tools that optimise decision-making and meet the needs of end users;*
- *Establishing and shaping UQ as a leader in global sustainability solutions for water resources management by effectively utilising UQ's institutional capability and research excellence, and establishing research opportunities and strategic partnerships;*
- *Convening the Annual UQ Water Forum*

Manager, Decision Support Tools and Integration Projects (0.2 FTE)

Mar-Aug 2011

South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Brisbane, Queensland

Description of role:

- *Overseeing the decision support tools and integration projects (Receiving Water Quality Model, Management Strategy Evaluation, health-e-waterways);*
- *Championing the applicability of these tools and building capacity of stakeholders;*
- *Synthesising and effectively communicating scientific information for incorporation into management actions;*
- *Leveraging of resources to develop strong partnerships between researchers and managers to enhance management-driven research.*

Director, Science Program (1.0 FTE 1996-2007; 0.8 FTE 2008-March 2011)

1996-Mar
2011

South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership (HWP)

Brisbane, Queensland

Description of role:

- *Developing the Science Strategic Plan for the organization in consultation with stakeholders and the Science Expert Panel;*
- *Convening the various advisory panels of HWP (Science, Modelling and Monitoring);*
- *Coordinating the annual review of the Science Program by the Science Expert Panel and stakeholders;*
- *Overseeing the scientific activities of HWP, including quality assurance of the research and information;*
- *Synthesising, translating and disseminating information to stakeholders and ensuring research outputs drive management actions;*
- *Leveraging of resources to develop strong partnerships between researchers and managers to enhance management-driven research and informed decision-making process.*
- *Supporting the HWP Director in achieving the targets and objectives of the Partnership; and*
- *Championing HWP in regional, national and international forums.*

<p>Part-time Chief Scientist (0.2 FTE) International Water Centre (IWC) Brisbane, Queensland, Australia <i>Description of role:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Developing the Strategic Research Business Plan for IWC;</i> • <i>Conducting consulting work in relation to the Australian-China Environmental Development Program (ACEDP), mainly in developing activity design documents for key components (e.g. environmental flows and river health, ecological compensation);</i> • <i>Providing lectures and supervising student theses for the IWC Masters in Water Management Program;</i> • <i>Providing lectures on science communication as part of short-term training programs;</i> • <i>Developing and providing regular presentations to international delegations on integrated water management; Oversight and coordination of the Science Integration Panel.</i> 	2007-2011
<p>Department Tutor (marine botany) Department of Botany, University of Queensland St. Lucia QLD 4072 Australia</p>	1992-96
<p>Research Assistant (part-time) Department of Botany, University of Queensland St. Lucia QLD 4072 Australia Project: Biological Indicators Research Project (Australian Research Council-funded)</p>	1995-96
<p>Associate Professor (biology, marine biology) Iligan Institute of Technology Iligan, Lanao del Norte</p>	1986-1992

Expertise/ Interests

- Scientific leadership, management and coordination of large-scale transdisciplinary projects and teams aiming at the development of strategies to protect and enhance social, economic and environmental values of waterways and ecosystems;
- Development and operationalisation of integrated research and innovation plans for management of water resources and protection of ecosystem health;
- Development of targeted research portfolios and value propositions that reflect clear path to impact for investor funding;
- Facilitation of the development of Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and Report Cards for natural resource or waterways management to input into policy and planning and leverage necessary investments;
- Synthesis, translation and effective communication of research outcomes to facilitate path to impact and adoption by managers and policy makers;
- Building partnerships and facilitating linkages amongst scientists; between scientists and managers/stakeholders; and between scientists and corporate entities through fostering

integrated transdisciplinary research to address bigger challenges and solve 'wicked problems';

- Innovative strategies and new methodologies to package, translate, effectively communicate and enhance impact of research outcomes to provide knowledge to managers, policy makers and the public at the "right time" and in the "right format" e.g. how technology can be embedded in ecosystem research, etc.)
 - Provision of training to develop and implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Frameworks and develop robust products that can be used to leverage management and corporate investments (e.g. Ecosystem Health Report Cards; value propositions, etc.).
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