



THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands and PNG
Newsletter No. 3 2009

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1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

Note from the Vice Chair

Dear WCPA Colleagues,

Thank you very much to Newsletter member volunteers Robyn James and Carina Wyborn for their assistance with this newsletter. I would strongly welcome a volunteer to monitor more NGO sites and to cover New Zealand and PNG. Also if you are doing work for WCPA internationally through a specialist group or task force or other mechanism please let me know so the newsletter can reflect your contribution.

I draw members attention to the large volume of materials appearing on the critical role of the role of protected area systems in both climate change mitigation (retention of carbon, inclusion of carbon-rich habitats, ongoing sequestration) and in ecosystem-based climate change adaptation (ecosystem services, restoration of beneficial habitats, disaster mitigation, community-based adaptation). This will be the dominant issue in conservation for the foreseeable future and the reports referred to below are highly recommended reading. (If you read only one the World Bank Report is

comprehensive). Hopefully WCPA can develop further meetings on this topic to continue our representations to government to more strongly factor nature into climate change policies.

Other efforts have included the writing of the report on the marine meeting, organization of the Linking Landscapes Summit in October, the initial Northern Australia Meeting in August and increasing our capacity in New Zealand. We have also put in a submission to the Northern Territory review of the Living Rivers Program. We are also working on making stronger representations to the Australian government to specifically support Pacific nations in the implementation of their marine and terrestrial protected areas under the CBD and as a key methods of building resilience to climate change .

Please consider the item below, as WCPA membership is a commitment to contribute.

Best wishes Penny
Penelope Figgis AO , Vice Chair , IUCN WCPA Oceania

Member Opportunities

Think about joining a Specialist Group !

Specialist groups (previously called task forces) and task forces (for time bound tasks) are often the most focused way you can contribute to the work of IUCN WCPA. You can also join other WCPA networks

Mountains and connectivity contact g.worboys@bigpond.com

Marine Issues jon day j.day@gbrmpa.gov.au

WCPA Pacific Exchange Penelope.figgis@ozemail.com.au and Elizabeth erasito
eerasito@nationaltrust.org.fj

Those leaders marked in yellow are Australians, illustrating the regions strong international contribution.

Specialist Group/Task Force	Contact	Contact
Caves and Karst Specialist Group	Jay Anderson	rossjay@iinet.net.au
Cities and PAs Specialist Group	Ted Tryzna	Ted_Trzyna@InterEnvironment.org
Conservation Planning Task Force	Bob Pressey	bob.pressey@jcu.edu.au
Cultural and Spiritual Values Specialist Group	Rob Wild	Rob-Wild@ltsi.co.au
Ecological Restoration Task Force	Karen Keenleyside	karen.keenleyside@pc.gc.ca
Freshwater Task Force	Harry Biggs	Biggs@parks-sa.co.za
Grasslands Specialist Group	Bill Henwood	Bill_Henwood@pch.gc.ca
Healthy Parks – Healthy People Task Force	John Senior	jsenior@parks.vic.gov.au
High Seas MPAs Specialist Group	Krista Gjerde	Krista.gjerde@iucn.org
Private Protected Areas Specialist Group	Brent Mitchell	brentmtitchell@qlf.org
Protected Landscapes Specialist Group	Jessica Brown	jbrown@qlf.org
Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group	Paul Eagles & Robyn Bushell	eagles@healthy.uwaterloo.ca
Economic Values of PAs Specialist Group	Nick Connor	Nicholas.Conner@environment.nsw.gov.au
Wilderness Specialist Group	Cyril Kormos	Cyril@wild.org
Management Effectiveness Specialist Group	Fiona Leverington & Jose Courrau	Fiona.leverington@uq.edu.au
Biodiversity outcomes and PAs Task Force	Stephen Woodley	Stephen.Woodley@pc.gc.ca
Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods Task Force	Lea Scherl & Phil Franks	lea.scherl@bigpond.com
Transboundary Specialist Group	Trevor Sandwith & Charles Besancon	tsandwith@tnc.org
Legislative Frameworks Task Force	Ben Boer	benboer@law.usyd.edu.au

Representations

Submission Living Rivers

The WCPA has supported a strong conservation regime to maintain the rivers and catchments of the NT in natural or largely natural condition by stopping key threats, such as major land clearing, large scale irrigation development, in-stream mining and new dams.

All measures should be taken while protecting land rights and Native Title rights, and ensuring free prior and informed consent of Indigenous communities to the designation of Living Rivers Catchments. WCPA supports the aspirations of Indigenous communities to access and care for Country, and create sustainable economic development opportunities to help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

Letters Kerr and McMullen

The Commission is making representations to Duncan Kerr and Bob Mc Mullen as Parliamentary secretaries for the Pacific Island Affairs and International Development Assistance to urge the Australian government to offer Ausaid assistance to Pacific nations to develop their protected area systems, including community conserved terrestrial areas and locally managed marine areas.

Progress on Sustainable Future for Northern Australia

Last year many of us attending the Australian Protected Area Congress were inspired by hearing about the Canadian Boreal Initiative. This large scale initiative covers Canada's vast northern forests. A wide range of stakeholders from government, First Nations, conservation groups and resource companies have developed a framework for the future of the north.

The Boreal Forest Conservation Framework is based on the best available principles of conservation biology and land use planning. The goal of the Framework is to preserve at least half of the Boreal Forest in a network of large interconnected protected areas and to support sustainable communities, world-leading ecosystem-based resource management practices and state-of-the-art stewardship practices in the remaining landscape.

<http://www.borealcanada.ca/framework-e.php>

Many of us have long believed we need a similar inspiring vision and framework for Australia's great north. The first steps are being taken at a meeting in early August to establish a consortium of ENGOs, Indigenous groups and businesses for a strong, well articulated vision for what is required for conservation and sustainable development of the North. It will be underlain by principles such as social justice and opportunity for indigenous people and long term viable and ecologically sustainable industries.

News of Members

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, former Executive Director, **Alan Feely** has left Queensland Government to take up a position in the private sector. Alan was appointed to the role of Executive Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in 2002 and over the term of Alan's leadership he has overseen a significant expansion of the parks estate to nearly 12.5 million hectares, and has ensured that the necessary systems and processes are in place to manage them well. Alan has been a great supporter of the WCPA both financially and in other ways and we wish him well in his new roles. Like all members he is appointed as an individual and remains a member.

Welcome and congratulations to Andrea Leverington, the new head of Parks Queensland who has been invited to be a WCPA member.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REPORT ON THE ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

IUCN WPCA PACT 2020 is an extremely important international project which may interest many members. The project is a partnership between IUCN (including secretariat, commissions and regions), WWF, TNC, CI, WCS, UNEP-WCMC, Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance; Wild

Foundation, Fauna and Flora International. The goal is to fully establish the role of Protected areas in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

A key outcome is a major report currently being prepared. The goal is to produce an authoritative report that:

- Makes the case for the role of protected area systems in climate change mitigation (retention of carbon, inclusion of carbon-rich habitats, ongoing sequestration).
- Makes the case for the role of protected area systems in ecosystem-based climate change adaptation (ecosystem services, restoration of beneficial habitats, disaster mitigation, community-based adaptation)
- Promotes the need for additional measures to ensure that protected area systems are resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Makes recommendations for international and national policies, funding and commitments, especially through the UNFCCC and CBD that incorporate resilient protected area systems.
- Provides initial guidance for mitigation and adaptation measures involving protected area systems.

If you believe you have case study material of direct relevance please contact Trevor S. Sandwith [tsandwith@tnc.org] or Nigel Dudley [nigel@equilibriumresearch.com]

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED – WORLD BANK REPORT ON ROLE OF NATURE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Reports are pouring from the world's think tanks and it is not easy to keep up but the World Bank's **Convenient solutions to an inconvenient truth : ecosystem-based approaches to climate change** report is highly recommended as giving a comprehensive picture of the critical role played by natural systems in both mitigation and adaptation.

Current efforts to address climate change focus mainly on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly through cleaner energy strategies, and on attempting to reduce vulnerability of communities at risk by improving infrastructure to meet new energy and water needs. This report attempts to set out a compelling argument for including ecosystem - based approaches to mitigation and adaptation as a third and essential pillar in national strategies to address climate change. The report is targeted at both Bank task teams and country clients. Such ecosystembased strategies can offer cost-effective, proven and sustainable solutions contributing to, and complementing, other national and regional adaptation strategies.

<http://www-wds.worldbank.org> put the title in search.

MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ICIMOD has recently produced a new public interest booklet on 'Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change' developed from the contributions made at the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference in November 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The publication uses a question and answer format with beautiful illustrations to introduce a selection of the ideas presented and discussed by representatives from the eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas region and a variety of global programmes and others. It highlights the need for cooperation in research and data collection to help address the impacts of climate change on this mountain system which includes parts of four global biodiversity hotspots. The full conference proceedings is packaged on a CD-ROM included with the booklet. You can download both documents from the following sites: Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change

<http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/613>

THE NATURAL FIX? THE ROLE OF ECOSYSTEMS IN CLIMATE MITIGATION

The role of natural carbon sinks and natural systems in building resilience seems such an obvious part of the climate debate yet we are still struggling to get natural systems recognized for their importance in holding and drawing down carbon, while of course delivering all their other major benefits. Arm yourself with more good information. This UNEP-commissioned, Rapid Assessment report presents carbon capture and storage through a Green Economy lens outlining the potential in terms of natural systems – systems from forests to grasslands that have been doing the job in a tried and tested way for millennia.

Currently the world's ecosystems, instead of maintaining and enhancing nature's carbon capture and storage capacity, are being depleted at an alarming rate. Some 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions are coming from the clearing and burning of forests, the vast carbon bank in peatlands and the tundra are threatened by drainage and thawing and many agricultural soils are degraded or degrading. Safeguarding and restoring carbon in three systems – forests, peatlands and agriculture might over the coming decades reduce well over 50 gigatonnes of carbon emissions that would otherwise enter the atmosphere: others like grasslands and coastal ones such as mangroves are capable of playing their part too.

http://www.unep.org/pdf/BioseqRRA_scr.pdf

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM STRATEGY 2009-2030

Australia's National Reserve System Strategy 2009-2030 was released early in June. The new strategy outlines national targets for the NRS and includes provisions for the projection of critical refuge areas for climate change resilience. The NRS remains a priority area under the Rudd Government's *Caring for our Country*, with an additional \$180 million committed for the expansion of the reserve network over the next five years (this is in addition to increased funding for indigenous protected areas).

The strategy outlines directions for the NRS under six key theme areas: International and National Context; Protected Area Design and Selection; Protected Area Establishment; Protected Area Planning and Management; Science, Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Performance Reporting; and Strengthening Partnerships and Community Support. The strategy recognises the importance of climate change and the landscape planning context for managing Australia's biodiversity into the future. The strategy can be found at:

<http://environment.gov.au/parks/publications/nrs/pubs/nrsstrat.pdf>

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIA'S EPBC ACT

An interim report of the independent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) Act has been released, pulling together the key issues raised through public submissions and consultations to date. The aim of the interim report is to stimulate discussion about some substantial issues relating to the Act and the extent to which it is achieving its purpose. There are no conclusions or recommendations at this stage.

Key areas for further consideration include:

- the purpose of the Act;
- the division and harmonisation of responsibilities for the environment between the Commonwealth and the states and territories;
- the appropriateness of the current matters of National Environmental Significance as triggers under the Act and proposals for the inclusion of additional triggers;
- alternative approaches to biodiversity conservation;
- improved arrangements for performance auditing and compliance; including for Regional Forest Agreements and other bilateral agreements;
- the scope for review of decisions made under the Act; and
- opportunities for streamlining environmental regulation.

It is a statutory requirement that the Act is independently reviewed every 10 years. The current review is due for completion by the end of October 2009.

The interim report can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review/publications/interim-report.html>

AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS CORAL TRIANGLE

In May Minister Garrett attended a high level meeting of the Coral Triangle Initiative in Manado Indonesia. He launched a multi-year commitment by Australia in support of the CTI that will evolve and respond as the initiative grows. It included an immediate contribution of \$2 million in direct support for the CTI. It will focus on four main areas: capacity building, marine conservation training, addressing destructive fishing practices, and protecting vulnerable species.

The Minister said "this investment is Australia's 'downpayment' in support of the CTI and recognises that we are with you for the long haul".

Australia will also support a government training program in marine conservation planning and the use of science in policy starting with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and provide an inventory of Australian marine science education and training courses to enable a rapid response to capacity needs. Australia will also fund a scoping study to work with partners to understand the social drivers and ecological and economic consequences of these practices and identify possible solutions. Australia will also fund the development of a regional marine mammal conservation plan to share knowledge across the CTI on practical solutions.

NEWS FROM THE WHALING COMMISSION

- The International Whaling Commission has endorsed a five-year non-lethal whale research proposal for the Australian-led Southern Ocean Research Partnership. Environment Minister Peter Garrett said this is a major success for Australia and a ground-breaking agreement from the IWC that will direct future non-lethal research activities.
- Australia will contribute \$1.5 million to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to support key conservation and scientific activities of the Commission, said Environment Minister Peter Garrett.
- Environment Minister Peter Garrett joined the International Fund for Animal Welfare to release the report Whale Watching Worldwide at the International Whaling Commission annual meeting in Portugal. In the decade since the previous report the whale watching industry has grown substantially around the globe. "In 2008 alone, more than 13 million people enjoyed whale watching in 119 countries resulting in more than \$2 billion in expenditure," Mr Garrett said. More information <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20090623.html>

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEANS AND DIRECTORS (ACEDD)

The Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (ACEDD) was established earlier this year. This is an initiative of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and Macquarie University, Sydney. This is part of CEC's program to catalyse networks of universities in Meso America, Southern Africa and amongst Arabic speaking nations as part of its endeavours for the IUCN World Conservation Learning Network.

"The Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (ACEDD) is an association of people drawn from Australian universities and with line responsibility for environmental science and/or environmental studies programs and endeavours." (Constitution) The vision of the ACEDD "will be the peak professional advocate for excellence in environmental sciences and environmental studies in Australian higher education and will effectively represent the interests of these fields and the sector among government, non-government and private sectors."

The Council has set up a working group to relate to Pacific issues and will develop a data base of university staff working in the Pacific. We hope the Council opens the door to hundreds of academics that may provide information and knowledge to IUCN. The Council heard a report on the World Conservation Learning Network from Wendy Goldstein (Deputy Chair of CEC) and the development of a data base of environmental units and courses/ programs that will be publicised on the WCLN portal. A report was also filed by Professor Peter Nelson President of the ACEDD (Macquarie University) about a workshop on climate change adaptation education amongst universities and NGO course developers. For more information Contact [Wendy Goldstein](#)

MINING EXPLORATION ON PRIVATE PROTECTED AREAS

In recent years there has been a substantial shift to include more private land with high biodiversity values in the NRS, so that such lands now cover more than 2.5 million hectares. With 70% of Australia's land area held under private freehold, leasehold or indigenous titles, engaging such landholders is a vital component of the response to the continuing decline of Australia's ecosystems. However some issues remain challenging including leasehold conditions which are not consistent with conservation and the legal precedence of mining interests on private lands.

A case that highlights this is the 7,912 ha *Bimblebox Nature Refuge* in central-west Queensland which could be completely cleared and dug up for a proposed open-cut coal mine. Coal exploration began on the property in 2008 and unless there is intervention it is likely that Waratah Coal will start exporting the coal that lies underneath *Bimblebox* in the next couple of years, at a rate of 50Mt per year.

Bimblebox contains a number of threatened ecosystems and species and is located in a bioregion declared an Australian Biodiversity Hotspot, but where only 2.3% of land area is held in formal reserves. *Bimblebox* was secured in 2000, purchased with the savings of a number of concerned individuals, and around \$300,000 of NRS program funding, for the express purpose of saving it from being cleared. In 2003, the "perpetual" *Bimblebox Nature Refuge Agreement* (category VI Protected Area under the IUCN classification system) was signed with the Queensland government to permanently protect the conservation values of the property. Despite this status there is currently no effective formal mechanism to prevent mining. While nature refuge status allows for some minor provisions on the conduct of mineral exploration, mining rights take when a mining license is sought. For further information contact Sonya Duus: sonya.duus@anu.edu.au or visit www.bimblebox.org

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Australian Government has approved more than \$403 million in Caring for our Country funding to a wide range of organisations to undertake environmental and sustainable farming projects. The funding includes:

- \$293 million for 56 regional organisations, more than 1200 community groups and more than 12,000 landholders to protect and conserve Australia's natural resources - our farming land, water, coasts, plants and animals
- \$51.8 million to help deliver on the Government's election commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef;
- \$57.5 million to support 57 significant projects across Australia, including targeting weeds such as blackberry and lantana; pests such as rabbits and protecting Ramsar wetlands.

For more information visit <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/funded/index.html>

ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009-2012

The management plan for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park expired on 28 June 2007. A draft management plan has been prepared for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. This plan will guide management of the Park for a period of 10 years. In March 2006 the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management and Director of National Parks sought public comments on how the park should be managed. Comments received were taken into account when preparing this draft plan. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management and Director of National Parks now invite members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the draft plan. Comments on the draft plan must be sent by Friday 4 September 2009. For more information visit <http://environment.gov.au/parks/publications/uluru/draft-plan.html>

DRAFT NATIONAL KOALA CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009-2014

The first National Koala Conservation Strategy was released in 1998, aiming to conserve koalas by retaining viable populations in the wild throughout their natural range. In 2006 the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council agreed to review the strategy. The principal finding of the review was that the aims and objectives of the strategy were sound, but they were not implemented effectively.

This strategy is now being revised by the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy Steering Committee on behalf of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. The Steering Committee has prepared a draft in consultation with a number of koala researchers and managers, in order to provide a basis for consultation with stakeholders and the general public. Objectives and actions outlined in the draft require further consideration of their extent, timing, priority and costs, all of which will be informed by public comment. Submissions close COB Wednesday 5 August 2009. Contact glenda.shelly@environment.gov.au or visit <http://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/koala-strategy/index.html>

NEW NATIONAL PARK IN QUEENSLAND – KULLA (MCILWRAITH RANGE) NATIONAL PARK

The new Kulla (McIlwraith Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) covers 160,000 hectares of tropical rainforest on Cape York. The area is valued for its outstanding beauty and biological richness with spectacular escarpments, gorges, waterfalls and rainforests that have been the home of Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Kulla is an acronym for the for the initial letters of the Kaanju, Umpila, Lamalama and the Ayapathu people – the four clan groups with historical connection to the area. The park is to be jointly managed by the Kulla Land Trust and the Queensland Government. For more information visit <https://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/park/index.cgi?parkid=269>

KIMBERLY SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Kimberley is one of Australia's special places. It is recognised as one of Australia's 15 National Biodiversity Hotspots and its marine environment is internationally renowned as one of the world's most pristine and ecologically diverse. The region also supports a vibrant indigenous culture with a diverse and ancient heritage. The Kimberley also contributes to the economy of WA and debate is currently taking place over the future development of the area for industries such as tourism, offshore oil and gas, mining, agriculture, indigenous art and culture. *A synthesis of scientific knowledge to support conservation management in the Kimberley region of WA* has been prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation as a starting point to summarise scientific knowledge relevant to biodiversity conservation in the region. Public input is now being called to help develop the strategy through a consultation process that will be led by an independent facilitator. For more information see <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/land/major-initiatives/kimberley-science-and-conservation-strategy.html> and for information on the campaign being led by NGOs visit <http://www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/kimberley>

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

NEW R&D PUBLICATIONS NEWSLETTER

Department of Conservation now publish an online publications newsletter as well as listing all new DOC Science and technical publications.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/science-and-technical/new-publications/>

RANGITOTO & MOTUTAPU ISLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

The Auckland Conservancy has embarked on an ambitious programme to restore the iconic Rangitoto and Motutapu islands in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The project aims to remove through poisoning and trapping the seven remaining mammalian pests - feral cats, rabbits, stoats, hedgehogs, Norway rats, ship rats and mice - from Rangitoto and Motutapu islands. This builds on the successful removal of possums and wallabies from the islands in the 1990s, and the reforestation of parts of Motutapu. This is a flagship project, due to its size, complexity and proximity to Auckland city. It will be the next step in a long line of island restoration programmes following pest eradications that have been happening in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park since the 1990s. The restoration of these islands will protect the world's largest pohutukawa forest, and will provide a 3,800ha environment that could support some of New Zealand's most endangered wildlife, including kaka, kiwi and takahe.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/islands-closed-for-second-drop/>

GREAT WHITE SHARK CONSERVATION

NZ is one of the world's hotspots for the globally vulnerable great white shark. NZ Department of Conservation is currently undertaking research into the movements and biology of this species in collaboration with NIWA, and Dr Ramón Bonfil of Shark-Tracker. This research includes the use of satellite tags to track individual white sharks' movements within New Zealand waters and between New Zealand and neighbouring countries; investigation of photo-identification for monitoring trends in abundance; collection of DNA samples from living and dead specimens to assist with analyses of global stock structure; investigation of age, growth, reproduction and diet.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/sharks-mango/great-white-sharks/>

SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE STUDY

For the past four years a nationwide research project has investigated the movement patterns of southern right whales. DOC is currently gathering sighting information from the public and using photo-identification and genetic samples to determine the population status of individuals seen around mainland New Zealand. The purpose of a current DOC research programme is to clarify the relationship between the whales that are seen around mainland New Zealand and those that are known to be from the New Zealand subantarctic region. Such a population would be in peril due to the rarity of mainland whales and the numerous threats they currently face. It is therefore important to determine the population structure for this species so that adequate management can be afforded. **DOC is urgently after a few more biosy samples of southern right whales. They are a few samples from 30 need to nap the genetic code of whales around NZ. It is possible that those in NZ waters are a separate** separate population to those found in subantarctic waters.

Southern right whales are spotted off the coast from June to September and DOC asks the public to report sightings of the whales to its **0800 DOCHOT line (0800 36 24 68)** and, if possible, to photograph the whales.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/marine-mammals/whales/southern-right-whales-tohora/>

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE- FROM MANADO TO COPENHAGEN

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) was launched during the World Ocean Conference at a Leaders Summit in May. This represented new ground breaking commitments by the six governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste to an extraordinary joint effort to safeguard the world's richest marine resources and thereby ensuring food security for millions of people who dependent on these resources.

The Heads of States formally adopted one of the most comprehensive and specific plans for marine conservation, the CTI Declaration. The Coral Triangle, the epicenter of marine life and diversity contains 76% of all known coral species and more than 3000 fish species despite only covering 1.6% of the planet's oceanic area. Over 120 million people directly depend on these resources. This area also supports the largest tuna fisheries in the world, which generates billions of US dollars globally every year. The value of tourism and fishery industry, as well as shoreline protection is estimated to be USD 2.3 billion per year.

These valuable but yet vulnerable marine resources are threatened by over harvesting, pollution and unsustainable and uncoordinated coastal development. The CTI leaders recognise the urgent need to address poverty issues in the Coral Triangle countries, as well as the need for a stronger climate change focus.

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/media/press/2009/WWFPresitem12850.html>

FISHING CLOSURES IN PACIFIC

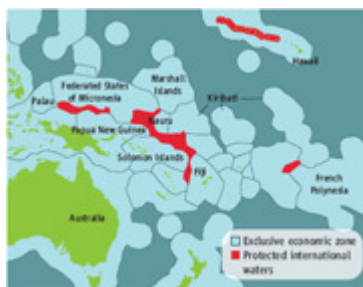
IUCN has welcomed the decision by Western Pacific island nations in early June to close an area three times the size of California to fishing activity, effectively creating the world's largest no-take zone. The decision was reached in order to protect one of the world's last great tuna stocks. The fishing effort in the economic exclusion zones (EEZs) around the islands, mainly carried out by

foreign fleets that pay the island states for the right to fish, will continue at a unsustainable rate, however, according to IUCN.

"It's a great leap forward, for sure," says Kelvin Passfield of the Pacific Ocean Fisheries Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "But I'm afraid it's not going to be enough. If you don't cut 30% of the take when you need to, it usually means you'll have to cut 50% later."

Two high seas pockets will be closed to fishing on January 1, 2010 and the fate of two more will be decided at the next meeting of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in December 2009. Source: [Nauru Science Magazine article May 2009](#)217KB

Map of areas closed to fishing, Western Pacific Photo: sciencemag.org



6. UPCOMING

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International Conference in Perth, Australia from August 23 – 27, 2009. <http://www.seri2009.com.au/>

During the conference Parks Canada, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Parks Australia, the New Zealand Department of Conservation, Parks Victoria, and the Western Australia Department of Environment and Conservation, are organizing an expert workshop on Best Practices for Ecological Restoration in Protected Areas. Its goal is to make significant contributions to the development of an IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guideline for Ecological Restoration as called for at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in October 2008. It will also build awareness and support for related initiatives such as the implementation of article 8 f (ecosystem restoration and species recovery) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The provisional agenda for the workshop will be forwarded to the selected experts in May 2009. The workshop will be conducted in English. More information Karen Keenleyside Karen.Keenleyside@pc.

Linkages in the Landscape Conference, Kingscliff, NSW 6th-9th October.

This conference emerged from last years APAC Congress and discussions with NRM colleagues on how much we had in common and yet how siloed the worlds of NRM and Protected Areas remain. The whole world of connectivity, or landscape approaches is being discussed a great deal internationally, not only as a response to fragmentation but as a key way in which to build the resilience of ecosystems and wildlife to climate change impacts. Reserve the dates and more information will shortly be available.

Environment Institution of Australia & New Zealand Conference: Policy to Practice, Canberra, 20-21 October 2009

This conference is for all environmental professionals across Australia and New Zealand who are interested in policy development and the practice of implementing policy to achieve better environment outcomes. This Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) conference represents an opportunity for practitioners to discuss which environmental policies work and why. It is expected that the conference will cover a broad range of traditional policy issues from soil conservation, environmental impact assessment and endangered species protection through contemporary policy issues such as water security, climate change risk assessment and carbon pollution reduction. For further information visit <http://www.conlog.com.au/eianz/index.html>

Biodiversity and Climate Change, Tasmania, 30 November to 3 December 2009.

The Society for Conservation Biology will hold a Symposia with the theme 'Managing biodiversity in a time of global change', University of Tasmania, Hobart Tasmania, 30 November to 3 December 2009. The meeting will address this theme across a full range of Oceania terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems as well as Antarctic ecosystems. Conservation Scientists, Managers, Practitioners, Policy-makers, Educators, NGOs and students are the target audience. Visit the meeting website for more information and online submission www.cdesign.com.au/scboceania2009

Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress, Melbourne, and 11th-17th April 2010

Update: The event is expected to attract over 1000 delegates from across the world. Hundreds of organisations around the world have either already lined up to support the Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress, or have been contacted to do so. The list of organisations which have an interest in the philosophy and concepts involved is extensive, including all park related organisations, national, state and local government health departments, physical and mental health related bodies.

Participants will come from many other sectors including urban planning, community development, tourism, education and urban and protected areas. Australian mental health organisation Beyond Blue through its chairman Jeff Kennett AC is a key partner making a substantial commitment to the congress and the healthy parks healthy people concept.

The diversity of delegate's perspectives and their experiences will add substantially to this philosophy. Commercial enterprises will also be involved and already businesses in the insurance, urban development, recreation and nursery fields have expressed interest. Private architectural, engineering, transport and consulting firms have also offered support. The Congress web site is <http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/>