



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS

**THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA**

**Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands and PNG
Newsletter No. 2 2010**



New Zealand Herald

In May an estimated 40,000 New Zealanders joined one of the biggest protests in Auckland for decades, to protest the Government's proposal to lift protection and allow mining on conservation land. In July the government announced it would not go ahead with these proposals recognizing the emphatic message from New Zealand's people about the importance of its protected areas for the national culture, sense of being New Zealanders and economy.

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UPCOMING

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

Dear WCPA Colleagues,

I am back refreshed at the desk after WCPA's meeting in Canada and a few days experiencing the sheer majesty of the Canadian Rockies and soon after that hiking the Thorsbourne Trail on the wonderful wilderness island of Hinchinbrook – hard on the knees, but good for the spirit. I hope to catch up with many ANZ members at the Parks Forum conference in late August.

Good News from New Zealand

WCPA members will be buoyed by the news that the deeply concerning proposal to remove legislative protection to allow mining in parts of New Zealand's conservation estate will not go ahead and all New Protected Areas will automatically get protection. Congratulations to the New Zealand people and organisations who rallied to support the integrity of their conservation estate.

Profound thanks to my colleague and Deputy Vice Chair Bruce Jefferies who has worked assiduously on this issue along side the NZ Committee for IUCN, many conservation organisations and ordinary caring New Zealanders to defend the outstanding natural areas of New Zealand. Bruce and others point out that there are still grounds for concern as the government insists it will explore in many other areas.

Biggs Visit brings WCPA together

In early June many members were able to catch up at the meetings around the visit of South African Dr. Harry Biggs, expert on adaptive management. These events occurred in 3 cities Brisbane 27th May, Sydney 2nd June and Canberra 4th June. Thanks to all

concerned with the organisation especially Graeme Worboys, Rod Atkins, Marc Hockings and David Clarke.

WCPA Steering Committee meets in Canada

The Commission Steering Committee held its annual meeting in Hinton Alberta, Canada on the edge of Jasper National Park. Two key topics were the upcoming CBD COP10 Meeting in Nagoya Japan and the 2014 World Parks Congress. In Nagoya WCPA will continue its work to ensure the centrality of Protected Areas in the CBD and revise and improve the largely successful Programme of Works on Protected Areas. Key themes will be the role of natural systems in climate change mitigation and adaptation; the critical strategy of inclusive landscape (and seascape) scale connectivity conservation for multiple biodiversity, livelihood, cultural and climate change benefits, the need to dramatically enhance marine conservation at all scales and the need to communicate the many values and benefits of protected areas to build constituencies of support.

Three nations have put in bids for the 2014 World Parks Congress Australia, Singapore and Turkey. The decision will be made by IUCN's Council in November. If Australia wins it will be all hands on deck with a great deal of work to be done to make it "the best ever!"

The Steering Committee heard many inspiring reports from around the world proving the enormous power of international collaboration in such areas as management effectiveness evaluations, the generation of new continental scale conservation corridors, the dramatic efforts of the marine division which has many initiatives around the world and is at the forefront of clever use of media to communicate the message of marine conservation (see www.protectplanetoocean.org) and the strong international efforts to get nature recognised as more than just a victim in the climate change debate.

Member Opportunities

A list of WCPA specialist Groups and Task Forces is attached. It is taken from the IUCN WCPA website where it is hard to find. I have not attempted reformatting as it is difficult. I encourage all members with the capacity to join at least one group to add their expertise.

Ted Trzyna from the WCPA **Cities and Protected Areas Specialist Group** attended our meeting in Canada. He is keen to attract new members. The focus of the Cities Specialist Group is on connecting nature conservation with urban people, places, and institutions, with particular reference to protected areas.

The Web site is at www.interenvironment.org/pa.

A page describing their recent and current activities is at-

www.interenvironment.org/pa/2008.htm.

A page describing BiodiverCities 2010, to be held in Paris on 6-8 September, in which the Cities Specialist Group is an active partner, is at www.biodivercities.net

If you are interested in joining this task force contact Ted Trzyna,

Ted_Trzyna@interenvironment.org

The **Tourism Specialist Group** also has a new Chair, Anna Spenceley from South Africa and those members with a special interest and expertise to offer this important group should contact her annaspenceley@gmail.com

Representations

- June 3rd Meeting with of PF Harry Biggs & Graeme Worboys with Robyn Kruk Secretary DEWHA, Gerard Early Deputy Sec. and Peter Cochrane Director of National Parks

- Letter and most recent presentation of “A Natural Defence Strategy for Australia” to Minister Garrett
- Letter from PF and Peter Valentine to Minister Garrett and Prime Minister re need to reincorporate Koongara Mining Lease into Kakadu World Heritage Area.
- Letter with Bruce Jefferies to New Zealand government re Game Council and National Parks
- Letter to Tasmanian Government welcoming the appointment of Marine Conservation Manager
- Meeting Pepe Clark new Director of the nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Letters to Australian Park Agency heads in appreciation of their support.

News of Members

Peter Shadie, previously of IUCN Protected Area Program in Geneva and then head of PA programs in Asia has returned to Australia and is working with the World Heritage Institute in the Blue Mountains.

Peter Brown who headed up the People and Parks Foundation , the Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation has moved to head up Save the Children in Victoria.

WCPA Senior Advisor, Dr. Graeme Kelleher continues to contribute to the global marine conservation effort and has been elected to the Scientific Committee of the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa

Missing member contacts: Can anyone help me with anew contact phone or email for Alan Feely, Wendy Craik, and in NZ Kay Booth, Elspeth Wingham or Felicity Wong.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IUCN GETS READY FOR COP 10 NAGOYA

Members who are interested in or involved in the forthcoming meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan.

Members can follow IUCN's involvement at <http://www.iucn.org/cbd/meetings/cop10/>

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) will be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010. It will include a high-level ministerial segment to be held from 27 to 29 October 2010.

WCPA plans to be involved in the redevelopment of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and more generally maximizing the recognition of protected areas as the most cost efficient, legally reliable and effective long term mechanism for biodiversity conservation.

Strategic issues for evaluating progress and supporting Implementation of the Convention will be considered and it is anticipated that the negotiations to will result in the adoption of an instrument on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

CANADA SIGNS THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

21 member companies of the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), and nine leading environmental organizations have recently unveiled an unprecedented agreement that applies to 72 million hectares of public forests licensed to FPAC members, 16 million hectares of which is in Quebec.

The Agreement will conserve significant areas of the vast Boreal Forest in Quebec and Canada, protect threatened woodland caribou and apply the highest environmental standards to forest management. Environmental organizations will engage in recognizing

and applauding the efforts of participating companies to international markets, giving them a competitive market edge.

"The importance of this Agreement cannot be overstated," said Avrim Lazar, President and CEO of FPAC. "FPAC member companies and their ENGO counterparts have turned the old paradigm on its head. Together we have identified a more intelligent, productive way to manage economic and environmental challenges in the Boreal that will reassure global buyers of our products' sustainability. It's gratifying to see nearly a decade of industry transformation and hard work greening our operations, is culminating in a process that will set a forestry standard that will be the envy of the world."

More information: www.CanadianBorealForestAgreement.com

GLOBAL PROTECTED AREA INFORMATION

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge is a treasure trove of information on protected areas world wide. I have included their recent publications list but the site is well worth exploring.

http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/protected_areas.htm

Reports (all are available to download on the site)

- Progress towards the Convention on Biological Diversity terrestrial 2010 and marine 2012 targets for protected area coverage (2009)
- Technical report for the IUCN international workshop "Looking to the future of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Area"
- Parks article on progress towards the CBD targets
- The ecological representativeness of the global protected areas estate in 2009: progress towards the CBD 2010 target (2009)
- Global analysis of the protection status of the world's forests: supplementary material (2009)
- Global Forest Protection
- Nature news article on global forest protection paper
- Working Toward High Seas Marine Protected Areas (2008)
- State of the world's protected areas 2007 - An annual review of global conservation progress (2008)
- Protecting the future: carbon, forests, protected areas and local livelihoods (2008)
- Protected areas: an effective tool to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries? (2008)
- The Costs and Benefits of Forest Protected Areas for Local Livelihoods: a review of the current literature (2008)

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS – NEW REPORT

A new Report is available on the important topic of the social assessment of conservation initiatives, including protected areas. The publication can be found at

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14859IIED>

The 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in 2008 called on Parties to ensure protected areas contribute to the eradication of poverty and to sustainable development. Understanding the social effects of protected areas is a prerequisite for ensuring this contribution, but to date there is little data available to allow this. Some studies provide contradictory evidence from the same sites because they have been carried out with different methodologies or with different biases and assumptions. This not only makes it difficult for robust comparisons across protected areas but further complicates the task of addressing genuine concerns or of enhancing potential benefits.

This issue is likely to become increasingly important as the pressure to protect land and natural resources escalates – for example under proposed schemes for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). The *Social Assessment of Protected Areas* (SAPA) initiative arose in recognition of the lack of a standardised, objective approach by which to qualify and quantify these impacts.

The outputs are documented on IIED's Poverty and Conservation Learning Group website: <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/activity.php>

CARBON REDUCTION, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WEBSITE

UNEP-WCMC, with support from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), has launched a new website highlighting the potential for actions on reducing emissions from land use change to secure additional important benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services (co-benefits). The website demonstrates the utility of spatial analyses to assist decision makers in identifying areas where high carbon, high biodiversity priority, and ecosystem service values overlap, which represent opportunities for securing co-benefits. It showcases UNEP-WCMC's recent work with in-country partners on developing such analyses and includes an interactive mapping tool that allows users to explore the spatial relationships between carbon and co-benefits.

To access the website and interactive tool, please go to www.carbon-biodiversity.net
For more information please contact: ccb@unep-wcmc.org

THE NATIONAL PARKS INSTITUTE LEADING STRATEGIC CHANGE SEMINAR, 2010

WCPA Member Tony English from Parks Victoria read about the Opportunity to attend this seminar via our list server. Tony reports:

The National Parks Institute is a partnership between the US National Parks Service and the University of California. The NPI has a focus on supporting leaders in conservation agencies and NGOs by providing executive training and developing a network of practitioners who will continue to support each other over the course of their careers.

Over eleven days in April and May 2010 the NPI ran its first course which focused on Leading Strategic Change. After an international Expression of Interest process twenty nine participants were selected to attend. Half of the participants were staff from within the US National Parks Service, such as Park Superintendents and Regional Directors. The other participants represented parks agencies and NGOs from countries such as Paraguay, Chile, Bhutan, China, Lebanon, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

The seminar was hosted at a number of US National Parks managed sites such as the Golden gate National Recreation Area, Yosemite and the new Merced Campus of the University of California. The course explored a number of themes such as understanding organizational cultures, leading change, developing partnerships, and exploring the link between science, policy and land management. A linking theme focused on the future of park management and challenged participants to explore the environment in which they will be working over the next ten to twenty years.

Presenters included senior staff from the Stamford Business School, lecturers from the University of California and past and present members of the US National Parks Service. The group also had the privilege of a closed session with President Jimmy Carter who

spoke about his involvement in the protection of Alaska and the role that strong leadership can play in shaping environmental management.

The participants are now focused on developing a strong network within the NPI and it is expected that a similar seminar will be conducted next year. The seminar was an incredibly enriching and inspiring experience that had a profound impact on all participants.

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

BIODIVERSITY INVISIBLE IN NATIONAL ELECTION

The Commission takes no part in partisan political processes but would make a general comment that it is deeply disappointing that in the UN International Year of Biodiversity when Australia is getting more and more hard evidence of the decline of its unique species of plants and animals and the ailing state of many ecosystems, that the conservation of Australia's natural capital is simply not on the agenda of either major party. We have advocated an approach out of last year's Linking Landscapes Conference called 'A Natural Defence Strategy' and will renew our efforts after the election to get an adequate recognition that the future of Australia, its land, seas and people is dependent on a healthy natural systems.

SAVING AUSTRALIA'S PLANTS AND ANIMALS: NOT A PRIORITY?

Another example of how In July Australia's Environment Ministers met for the 21st meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) in Darwin. The Council decided on five priority areas for 2010 and beyond: air quality, water quality, heritage, waste and chemicals. Again this is deeply concerning that biodiversity seems to be relegated to a non priority issue. WCPA will write to all Ministers to make the case for elevating the priority of nature conservation and management far higher in the agenda to begin to address the serious threats which abound.

HEALTHY PARKS CONGRESS - A HEALTHY SUCCESS

The Congress staged by Parks Victoria in April proved very successful, especially for an inaugural event seeking to attract participants from across a range of sectors and disciplines. The Congress attracted 1064 delegates of which 155 were from 36 overseas countries. In addition there were 78 'volunteer assistants'. Some 300 presenters, including 16 eminent international speakers, were included on a program across the disciplines of physical and mental health, planning, environment, community development, tourism and education.

The ideas of parks of all kinds as health infrastructure is likely to grow dramatically in coming years. The Government of British Columbia are in discussion about developing the concept and a consortium of UK executives, with support from the EUROPARC Federation, has committed to seeking political and corporate support for the idea of a second HPHP Congress in London post Olympic Games in 2012.

A "Melbourne Communiqué", has been developed to provide an official 'vehicle' for global advocacy of the Healthy Parks Healthy People philosophy. The communiqué and proceedings are now available for your viewing on the Congress Website. Go to: www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/proceedings

OUTBACK STORES 9.7 BILLION TONNES OF CARBON

WCPA has championed the role of intact nature in climate change mitigation (carbon storage) as well as adaptation. A new report released in July by the NOUS Consulting Group provides strong validation of this approach. It found that Australia's vast Outback plays a vital role in absorbing and storing damaging climate pollution and, if better managed, the area could become a key factor in reducing the nation's greenhouse emissions. The study, "Outback Carbon – An Assessment of Carbon Storage, Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Remote Australia," was commissioned by The Nature Conservancy and the Pew Environment Group as part of their joint Wild Australia Program. It found that 9.7 billion tonnes of carbon is stored in the forests, grasslands and woodlands across Australia's Outback.



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An additional 1.3 billion tonnes of carbon could be stored by 2050 in this massive 'pollution bank' through protection and better management. This additional level of carbon storage equals taking 7.5 million cars off the road every year for the next 40 years and cutting Australia's greenhouse emissions by 5 per cent by 2030.

Measures such as better managing fire and grazing, controlling feral animal populations, reducing land clearing and encouraging regrowth of native vegetation will store additional carbon while also helping reduce the rapid rate of extinction of Australia's native animals and plants. The report can be downloaded from the wild country site: <http://wildaustralia.org/>

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WHITHER MARINE CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA?

This issue was communicated on the list server but is summarised to ensure all members are aware of the issues. Both NSW and Victoria have declared support for moratoriums on the declaration of new marine protected areas while the federal opposition has declared, if elected in the forthcoming election, to place a moratorium on the entire national system of bioregional marine assessments which includes identification of new marine protected areas.

IUCN WCPA is strongly committed to achieving the CBD goals of national and regional systems of marine protected areas. Many IUCN member groups have responded strongly that these are serious moves in the wrong policy direction at a time when the world's marine environments need more, not less protection. IN NSW the move appears to be a direct result of the power of the anti parks movement represented by the Shooters Party. Victoria argues it is just consolidating having declared their marine parks in 'one hit' in 2002. This is contested by marine conservation specialists and the use of the word 'moratorium' is giving momentum to the direction which risks taking hold in other fragile situations in SA, WA and NT.

NEW SOUTH WALES MARINE PARK "SUPPORTED BY SCIENCE"

Given the item above it is a great irony that marine park declarations received scientific support in an independent review commissioned by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. The report contains 24 recommendations for further research

and protocols, all of which have been adopted by the department. Marine parks rely on research, including seabed mapping that shows their locations provided the best combination of habitats for maintaining biodiversity. They also depend on biodiversity and population studies that show species and ecological communities inside marine parks benefit from the restrictions imposed on the area's use - fishing is tightly regulated and mining and mineral exploration are prohibited.

RIVER RED GUMS PARKS AT LAST

A long campaign by scientists and environmental groups has resulted in an eleventh hour reprieve for the greatly damaged river red gums of the riverina. In July the NSW Government established more than 100,000 hectares of river red gum parks in the Riverina, with a support package of up to \$97 million for affected timber industry workers, regional communities and to set up and manage the new parks.

The range of new reserves, including national parks, regional parks and Indigenous Protected Areas, together with existing parks in Victoria, forms a stronghold for this species which has been severely impacted by water depletion. Hopefully with more emphasis on environmental flows and better management this beautiful and iconic species can in part recover. These reserves were established following an assessment on the Riverina Bioregion by the Natural Resources Commission.

To read the full assessment and recommendations visit

www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/Workwedo/Forestassessment/Riverredgumforestsassessment.aspx

NEW SOUTH WALES PARKS AND TOURISM

After a highly contentious inquiry and debate in NSW the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Visitors and Tourists) Bill 2010* was recently passed by the NSW Parliament. Environmental groups deeply fear a 'thin end of the wedge' which would commercialise our sanctuaries of the natural world, while others wish to see parks remain relevant in an urbanized culture and feel well managed and constrained tourism can build a constituency of support. Only time will tell if we can have the positive without the negatives, however Tasmania, Victoria and New Zealand and South Africa do have models of park tourism which, in the main, appear to walk the fine line.

The changes seek to:

- clarify, without broadening, the types of activities and visitor facilities allowed in national parks
- put constraints on the scale of new accommodation in parks
- rule out, for the first time, developments such as major resorts, rifle ranges and large sporting complexes
- strengthen the environmental checks and balances by introducing new sustainability measures
- require that any leasing and licensing proposals in national parks be consistent with the natural and cultural values of the land
- increase public scrutiny of leasing and licensing arrangements
- allow small groups to walk in wilderness with a paid guide

<http://nswnationalparksandwildlifeservice.cmail1.com/T/ViewEmail/r/27701C2821617004/517910D0863729AA0F8C96E86323F7F9>

GARRETT SAYS NO TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND MINING EXPANSION

Environment Minister, Peter Garrett has rejected a proposal to expand phosphate mining on Christmas Island as it would have unacceptable impacts on nationally listed threatened species, migratory species and Commonwealth land.

The Minister stated that "the proposal cannot go ahead without unacceptable impacts on the island's biodiversity". This is an island with its ecology under significant threat and which is already suffering as a result of a range of threatening processes, including land clearing, invasive fauna and weed invasion.

The company was proposing to clear 256.3 hectares of fragile rainforest which would lead to direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the island's biodiversity. Its effects would extend well beyond the immediate area of clearing and would have a serious impact on a number of island species, including the island's red crabs which play a key role in maintaining the island's rainforest habitat. It would also result in significant loss of habitat for the Christmas Island goshawk and Christmas Island hawk-owl, as well as impact on the threatened Abbott's booby and Christmas Island frigatebird.

WORLD FAMOUS BIRD HABITAT PROTECTED FOREVER

A world-famous bird watching property in Queensland was added to Australia's National Reserve System, protecting the habitat of hundreds of bird species. Not-for-profit group the Australian Wildlife Conservancy purchased the 14,000 hectare Bowra Station near Cunnamulla for conservation, with \$1.2 million from the Australian Government through Caring for our Country and generous private donations. Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett joined celebrations at the new Bowra Sanctuary today, on the eve of the International Day for Biological Diversity.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100521a.html>

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT OUR WORLD HERITAGE

School students across the country can learn about Australia's 17 World Heritage places with the launch of Australia's World Heritage Places Education Program and Competition. Heritage Minister Peter Garrett launched the education program and competition, inviting students to discover the value and importance of Australia's many unique World Heritage sites.

"World Heritage sites are special places which are recognised and treasured by the world, not just by the nation where they are located," Mr. Garrett said.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2010/mr20100521b.html>

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

GAME HUNTING PROPOSALS THREATEN PARKS

WCPA and the NZ Committee for IUCN are continuing to add their voices in opposition to government proposals which would establish a Game Animal Council and allow for more hunting of feral animals in protected areas and 'legitimise' these introduced species in New Zealand's conservation lands. They are very concerned that the government will hand increased control to public conservation land to this new organisation. The Hunters want the legal status of wild deer, pigs, tahr, and chamois changed to "game animals" and their recognition as "valued introduced species".

However there is scientific evidence that feral pests at any stocking density damaged ecosystems and the biodiversity of native plants and animals, and the Department of Conservation (DOC) has previously refused to give priority to hunter interests over indigenous biodiversity.

Under current proposals DOC would retain rights in places given priority for conservation purposes only, but the Game Council would manage deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs outside those areas, and would also manage the environmental impact of the pests.

Forest and Bird said the proposed council was unbalanced, and its management of the animals would damage forests and plants on public conservation land. They stated that "If we want healthy forests and tussock lands, then DOC, not hunters with vested interests, must continue to manage pest animals and hunting activity," he said. "The department does a very good job".

"Letting hunters manage pest animals is not in the best interest of hunters, conservation or New Zealanders.

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/news/on-safari-in-national-park-near-you>

ADDITIONS TO WESTLAND TAI POUTINI NATIONAL PARK

Over 4,400 hectares of land were officially added to Westland Tai Poutini National Park in June. The new additions consist of areas at Okarito Lagoon, Three Mile Lagoon on the coast south of Okarito, Alpine Lake and further land at Omoeroa Bluff, Waikukupa and Gillespies Beach.

The Westland Tai Poutini National Park features some of New Zealand's most breath-taking scenery and the new areas enhance its integrity. The New Zealand Conservation Authority had recommended the areas be added to the park over the past few years.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/new-additions-to-westland-national-park/>

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

SPREP LAUNCHES STUDY ON REGIONAL FINANCING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has commenced a study with a view to establishing a regional Climate Change Fund or other mechanism. It will aim to help Pacific island countries improve access to and management of the various financial resources being committed globally to combat climate change.



While millions of dollars in climate change funding are currently available at the global level, the Pacific region faces challenges in the ability to access this funding. There are also the added difficulties with effectively managing and implementing many of the projects under current funding arrangements. The lack of resources to design and develop proposals and general limitations in technical expertise are major challenges. Compounding the issue are the different expectations and reporting requirements of the different donor organisations.

The study will assess resources currently available to Pacific Island Countries for Climate Change initiatives and will identify likely new funding. This information will

help guide future national and regional responses and policies, including coordination arrangements. The results of the study will be presented to the SPREP Ministerial Meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea in September this year. Contact Espen Ronneberg espenr@sprep.org

THE WAY FORWARD FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation calls upon Pacific Island countries to commit to investing in natural solutions to reduce the impacts of environmental and climate change as a matter of urgency.



This was one of the outcomes of the 13th gathering of the Roundtable which met in Samoa recently. The Meeting brought together close to 100 nature conservation practitioners and stakeholders who are committed to working together for effective conservation action in the Pacific region.

David Sheppard and Taholo Kami

"Natural Solutions to Environmental and Climate Change in the Pacific" was the theme of the gathering that resulted in a number of outcomes, one of which is a collective commitment to identifying innovative approaches to finance natural solutions, particularly through climate change adaptation funding.

The conference identified key specific areas which it needs to strengthen such as capacity building, communication mainstreaming climate change and natural resource economics.

Over the course of the past week, the Working Groups of the Roundtable looked at a range of nature conservation issues including Protected Areas, Invasive Species and Marine Conservation. The thematic Working Groups are the implementing mechanism of the Roundtable, ensuring on-ground activities that support national conservation priorities. There were also specific working groups to look at strengthening links with regional initiatives such as the Coral Triangle Initiative, Pacific 2020 as well as a country-specific working group for capacity building in PNG.

"The Roundtable is a great idea that provides a mechanism for keeping the energy of the Nature Conservation Conference alive," said David Sheppard, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which hosted the 13th Meeting of the Roundtable. "The meeting nurtures networking and friendships while providing a forum for good technical discussion".

http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=801

MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (MESCAL)

The MESCAL project's overall goal of this is to help Pacific Islanders effectively manage their mangrove and associated coastal ecosystems to build resilience to the potential consequences of climate change and variability on coastal areas and support/enhance livelihoods. The project will also investigate the feasibility of obtaining carbon credits for mangrove conservation/restoration projects. The MESCAL project focuses on five Pacific Island countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) to achieve these objectives.

It is envisaged that the MESCAL project will serve as a platform for future Pacific-wide integrated coastal ecosystem management support under the Pacific Mangrove Initiative umbrella.

The use of resource and environmental economic analytical information to support economic development and environmental conservation decisions is relatively new in the Pacific. In recent years IUCN-Oceania has gathered practicing resource economists and other interested people to share ideas to progress economic analysis for sustainable resource management in the Pacific.

http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/oceania/oro_programmes/oro_initiatives_pmi/oro_mescal/

PNG AUSTRALIAN MOU ON KOKODA

On July 8th the Australian and Papua New Guinean (PNG) Governments signed a Second Joint Understanding to support sustainable development of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track region, and protection of its special values.

The Second Joint Understanding 2010-15 builds on the achievements made by Papua New Guinea and Australia following the signing of the first Joint Understanding in 2008. It will improve the lives of local communities, by providing access to the potential economic benefits arising from the development of renewable resources including hydropower, water, forest carbon and tourism.

The announcement also raised the possibility that the nations will also work towards a possible nomination of the Owen Stanley Ranges for World Heritage Listing. www.environment.gov.au/heritage/international-projects/kokoda

WCPA Member Peter Hitchcock has been the government's advisor on Kokoda.

UPCOMING

"The Politics of Biodiversity" NELA Conference

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and National Environmental Law Association will be holding its National Conference in Australia's Capital on 20-23 October 2010 on the theme "The Politics of Biodiversity" This will be a unique opportunity to hear challenging presentations on the politics of preserving the world's biodiversity for future generations.

The NELA National Conference is Australia's pre-eminent environmental law conference bringing together Judges, academics, legal practitioners, planners, scientists, government officials and policy analysts. To receive regular email updates on topics and presenters register your interest for the 2010 National Conference at nelaust@ozemail.com.au and <http://www.nela.org.au/>

"Climate Change and Biodiversity" IUCN Academy of Environmental Law 14th -17th, September Ghent Belgium

The Chair and Oceania Vice Chair of WCPA will represent the Commission at an important gathering of global lawyers in Belgium. The Conference We will be promoting the concepts contained in the publication *Natural Solutions* and WCPA's global work on connectivity conservation.

CBD COP10 Nagoya

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held from 18th to October 2010.

This meeting will take place during the International Year for Biodiversity (IYB) as declared by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 61/203. During the course of the year events will occur in every region of the world to raise public awareness of the importance of biological diversity to human well-being.

Strategic Issues for Evaluating Progress and Supporting Implementation of the Convention will be considered and it is anticipated that the negotiations to conclude an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing will result in the adoption of an instrument on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

WCPA will be at the meeting promoting the critical and central role protected areas play in the entire world effort to maintain biodiverse life on earth.

<http://www.cbd.int/cop10/>

The WCPA Steering Committee Meeting in Hinton, Alberta on the edge of the Jasper/ Banff National Park and World Heritage Area, June 2010

