



THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS  
OCEANIA  
Newsletter No. 4 2011



The recent transfer of the Koongara mining lease adjoining Nourlangie Rock (pictured) to the Kakadu National Park and World Heritage Area is a great gift to the nation and the world by the traditional owners. Photo Commonwealth

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##### 1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

###### From the Vice Chair

Dear colleagues,

The year rushes by for us all. On the newsletter I am being helped a great deal by the fine work of editor, Louise O'Flynn and NZ and Pacific Deputies Kathy Walls and Ana Tira.

It has been a very exciting month for Australian conservation in particular, with dramatic new announcements for conservation in Western Australia's Kimberley region, the announcement of a \$946 million biodiversity and ecosystem fund which really for the first time has properly acknowledged the massive importance of natural systems to both climate change mitigation and adaptation and a sensational national workshop on Wildlife Corridors which showed the very wide acceptance of the concept of connectivity conservation as the key direction for both biodiversity conservation and land based approaches to carbon storage and building climate change resilience.

Many of you have asked for an update on the **World Parks Congress**. It is still a little delayed in terms of a formal announcement, as various vital steps are put in place, however it is still highly likely that Australia - Melbourne will be the venue in 2014. You will be the first to be informed when it becomes official but in the meantime please start thinking in terms of what you would like to showcase in 2014 and perhaps start liaising with national or international colleagues to ensure you have a product to present or launch at the Congress. You will never get a better chance to promote your work to your regional and global peers.

###### Member Opportunities

Four opportunities are coming up before the end of the year.

**IUCN Oceania Forum Brisbane, 23-25<sup>th</sup> August** Members will have received information about this gathering of IUCN people in the region to allow input into IUCN's forward planning and to prepare for the next IUCN World Congress in Korea in September 2012. Numbers are limited so apply now for registration. Preference will be given to active members of Commissions.

###### **Adelaide, 31<sup>st</sup> August Tourism and Parks Forum, the Adelaide Zoo**

The Department of Environment and Heritage will be holding a forum on tourism and national Parks at the Adelaide Zoo. The Vice Chair will be a keynote speaker. Further details will be distributed when they are finalised.

###### **Tom Kiernan, President US National Parks Conservation Association Sydney 10<sup>th</sup> September**

WCPA, the NSW Office of Heritage and Environment and National Parks Association NSW are putting together a meeting around the visit of Tom Kiernan. Tom joined NPCA as president in January 1998 heading up an independent organization that defends and

protects America's national parks. Previously, Tom served as president of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. He was a senior-level official in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation under George H.W. Bush, where he won the Gold Medal for his role in achieving consensus with businesses and environmentalists on a \$450-million pollution-control project at Grand Canyon National Park.

Under his leadership, NPCA has launched several programs targeted to making specific, lasting improvements in the National Park System. These include the Center for Park Management, which provides parks with the tools needed to make efficient and effective business decisions, and the [Center for State of the Parks](#), which has developed and applied scientific methodology to the assessment of the health of the natural and cultural resources within the national parks.

### **Olivier Chassot 16<sup>th</sup> December**

IUCN WCPA, the Great Eastern Ranges partners and the NSW Office of Heritage and Environment are putting together a meeting with Oliver Chassot one of the international heroes of connectivity conservation . Oliver from Costa Rica has been a central figure in the construction of the Meso American Corridor which spans central America. More details will be distributed when they are to hand

### **Representations**

- **Land for Wildlife 6<sup>th</sup> May** The Vice Chair addressed the national conference in Sydney.
- **Evidence to SOE** WCPA members, the Vice Chair , Virginia Young, Brendan Mackey and Graeme Worboys gave expert input to the State of the Environment team on natural heritage.
- **Sharks and Marine NSW** Letters have been sent to the NSW government to highlight concerns over recent removal of protection from marine sites.
- **Marine conservation in SA** A letter has been sent to the SA government urging adequate sanctuary zones in the marine park system.
- **Biodiversity and Climate Change** A submission is being compiled for the current Senate Inquiry.
- **WWF publication of 'Building Natures Safety Net'** A substantial number of WCPA members attended the launch of WWF's publication Building Nature's Safety Net. WWF, and in particular Dr. Martin Taylor deserves congratulations for this important regular assessment of the progress we are making in the effort to build the National Reserve System.
- **Wildlife Corridors/Connectivity Conservation Forum** Many WCPA members were present at a very important workshop put together by Bob Debus in his role as the Chair of the National Wildlife Corridors Task Force.

### **News of Members**

Congratulations to the **Hon Bob Debus**, who has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

**Tony Fleming** has a new role as the new Director of the Australian Antarctic Division. The following link has an interesting story on Tony's family links to Antarctica.

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/media/news/2011/new-director-of-the-australian-antarctic-division>

Warm congratulations to WCPA Members **Colin Jackson, Jo Davies and Sam Robinson** of Conservation Volunteers Australia for winning the United Nations World Tourism Organisation award for innovation in tourism. CVA won for their innovative use of 'voluntourism' to rehabilitate the Island Reserve, a property of 208 hectares (450acres) situated 10km west of Bacchus Marsh (population 17,000), 60km from Melbourne. Conservation Volunteers has mobilized hundreds of local and international eco-volunteers, corporate supporters, community and educational groups to help restore this heavily degraded landscape.

<http://www.wyseworkabroad.org/association/docs/UNWTO%20SUMMARY>

**REMINDER If you have news to share please share it – if you have changes to advise please do so !**

## 2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **MULTIPLE OCEAN STRESSES THREATEN “GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT” MARINE EXTINCTION**

An international panel of experts has released a report warning that marine species are at risk of entering a phase of extinction unprecedented in human history. The preliminary report arises from a 'State of the Oceans' workshop co-hosted by IUCN in April, the first ever to consider the cumulative impact of all pressures on the oceans. Considering the latest research across all areas of marine science, the workshop examined the combined effects of pollution, acidification, ocean warming, over-fishing and hypoxia. The scientific panel concluded that the combination of stresses on the ocean is creating the conditions associated with all previous major extinction of species in Earth's history, with the speed and rate of degeneration in the ocean is far greater than anyone has predicted. The Panel believes that the first steps to globally significant extinction may have already begun with a rise in the extinction threat to marine species such as reef-forming corals.

“The findings are shocking,” says Dr Alex Rogers, Scientific Director of the International Programme on the State of the Ocean which convened the workshop. “As we considered the cumulative effect of what humankind does to the ocean, the implications became far worse than we had individually realized. This is a very serious situation demanding unequivocal action at every level. We are looking at consequences for humankind that will impact in our lifetime, and worse, our children's and generations beyond that.” The report makes recommendations and calls on states, regional bodies and the United Nations to implement measures to better conserve ocean ecosystems, and in particular demands the urgent adoption of better governance of the largely unprotected high seas which make up the majority of the ocean. For further information, visit: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/?7695/Multiple-ocean-stresses-threaten-globally-significant-marine-extinction>



### **PROTECTED AREAS BILL APPROVED FOR GUYANA**

On July 7, 2011 at a sitting of Guyana's Parliament the Protected Areas (PA's) Bill was approved by all parties sitting in the national assembly. With the passage of the legislation an announcement for new protected areas in Guyana is anticipated. These would bring the country closer to the requirement of the International Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) to which it is a signatory.

WWF Guyana, Conservation International and other environmental organizations in Guyana and globally have been lobbying for the passage of this bill for several years. The Bill provides "for the protection and

conservation of Guyana's natural heritage and natural capital; the creation, management and financing of a national system of protected areas."

Additionally this piece of legislation aims to advance the recovery and rehabilitation of degraded areas and gives recognition to conservation efforts of Amerindian communities. The newly approved Bill also stipulates the establishment of a PA Commission and PA Trust Fund, both of which are an integral part of developing an effective, efficient and sustainably managed PA system in Guyana.

This development could also be a great incentive to the progress of Pan-Amazon Vision on Protected Areas, as led by RedParques and the WCPA South American Vice Chair Julia Miranda and supported by the WWF Living Amazon Initiative, IUCN and Secretariat of CBD, and support the role of the Amazon and Guyana's as a model region in achieving of the CBD 2020 Global Biodiversity Targets which are so importantly related to the climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as linked to the green economy and poverty alleviation.

### **MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF 23 MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THAILAND**

Thailand's Department of National Parks (DNP) and IUCN are undertaking a project to analyse the effectiveness of 23 marine and coastal protected areas and the wider Thai MCPA network. The

project aims to strengthen coastal and marine stewardship in Thailand's marine and coastal protected areas as a foundation for sustainable development. Capacity building workshops were held earlier this year with staff from the 23 Coastal and Marine Protected Areas evaluating the management of these protected areas and the success to date in protecting the values for which they were designated.

Recommendations will be made to address MCPA management concerns and to demonstrate best practice management improvement activities and the management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) methodology will be integrated into the DNP's monitoring and evaluation processes to enable it to carry out MEE internally in the future. The MEE results will be available to stakeholders and it is envisioned that this will help to promote transparency and accountability within Thailand's MCPA network. The MEE process will also help to better equip Thailand's MCPA network to withstand negative impacts such as climate change and development pressures, whilst also positioning Thailand as a leading exponent of contemporary MEE processes, and producing a MEE system for other countries to adopt. For more information, visit:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/?7467/Management-Effectiveness-Evaluation-of-23-Marine-Protected-Areas-in-Thailand>

### **WORLD HEALTH DAY 2011**

To mark World Health Day in 2011, Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, issued a statement about the vital importance of biodiversity to maintain a healthy planet for healthy people. In his statement, Djoghlaif emphasised the critical importance of understanding that biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and that the provisioning of ecosystem services are essential for human health. Healthy societies rely upon healthy ecosystems, yet despite the overwhelming weight of evidence, the health benefits that biodiversity provides remain largely underappreciated and unknown to most policymakers and to the public at large.

At COP10, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as a common framework for action by all stakeholders in all sectors for the period 2011–2020. The linkages between biodiversity and health are acknowledged in the Strategic Plan and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There are opportunities for synergy between the work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Health Organization. The five target areas of work in the Global Plan of Action for Children's Health and the Environment 2010–2015 strongly support the Convention's mandate and make reference to multiple links with environmental protection, climate change and more. In his statement, Ahmed Djoghlaif emphasized that with the critical implications of biodiversity loss becoming increasingly clear, we must act now and collectively if we want to achieve a healthy planet for healthy people. For further information, visit:

<http://www.hphpcentral.com/article/world-health-day-2011>

## **3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS**



### **KIMBERLEY SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

Members have previously been advised on the major announcements of the Western Australian government on this iconic and globally significant cultural and biological region. \$63m will be spent over 5 years to implement the strategy which has a strong emphasis on connectivity conservation indigenous opportunities and whole of landscape management – all key WCPA priorities.

A summary and other document can be downloaded at <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/6558/2378/>

The key outcomes are:

#### **1 Kimberley Wilderness Parks**

The Kimberley Wilderness Parks will establish the State's largest interconnected system of marine and terrestrial parks covering more than 3.5 million hectares, including:

## **2 A new landscape approach to conservation to manage fire, introduced animals and weeds**

The internationally significant north Kimberley will be protected and maintained through collaborative action with land managers at a landscape scale to manage fire and to address the threats posed by introduced animals and weeds, which extend across property boundaries.

## **3 Training and employment for Aboriginal rangers**

The landscape-scale conservation initiative and new marine parks will create significant opportunities to train and employ Aboriginal rangers in managing their traditional land and sea country. This will build on ranger programs currently run by the Kimberley Land Council and others.

## **4 Investing in knowledge and making information accessible**

A new six-year marine science program will be undertaken in the Kimberley to improve management and help protect marine ecosystems and wildlife, both inside and outside the new marine parks.

## **5 A major boost to nature-based tourism**

### **COMMONWEALTH HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE CLIMATE IMPACTS ON AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY**

In June the Commonwealth Government asked the House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee to conduct an inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate, in particular in relation to nationally important ecosystems.

The Committee has invited submissions addressing one or more of the points listed in the TOR:

- terrestrial, marine and freshwater biodiversity in Australia and its territories
- connectivity between ecosystems and across landscapes that may contribute to biodiversity conservation
- how climate change impacts on biodiversity may flow on to affect human communities and the economy
- strategies to enhance climate change adaptation, including promoting resilience in ecosystems and human communities
- mechanisms to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services in a changing climate
- an assessment of whether current governance arrangements are well placed to deal with the challenges of conserving biodiversity in a changing climate
- mechanisms to enhance community engagement.

The scope of the committee's inquiry shall include some case studies of 'nationally important ecosystems', as defined by submissions to the inquiry. For further information visit: <http://www.gph.gov.au/house/committee/ccea/ccbio/index.htm>

### **WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR AUSTRALIA'S NINGALOO COAST**



Green turtle Tony Howard

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2011/mr20110624b.html>

Western Australia's stunning Ningaloo Coast has been added to the World Heritage List. It is the 19th place in Australia to be recognised on the World Heritage List. The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area offers a stunning contrast between rich coral reefs and arid landscapes. The annual coral spawning at Ningaloo Reef attracts the largest number of the world's largest fish - the whale shark - anywhere in the world. The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area is on the easternmost point of the West Australian coast and covers more than 600,000 hectares and stretches for more than 200 kilometres.

## KOONGARRA ADDED TO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



World heritage expansion: Kakadu wetlands  
(Image supplied to ABC News by Justin McCaul)

After more than 30 years, a uranium-rich piece of Aboriginal land near Kakadu National Park has been added to the World Heritage List. The 1,228 hectare site, known as Koongarra, was added to the register during a meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris. Koongarra is important Aboriginal land but was originally excluded from Kakadu National Park in 1979 because of its potential uranium resources. Australian Conservation Foundation CEO Don Henry says it is the end of a long fight to protect it from uranium mining. "Kakadu is beloved by many Australians."

Koongarra is situated right beside the famous Nourlangie Rock area and the inclusion is seen as a great tribute to Jeffrey Lee, the traditional owner who called for its protection to look after his own country, but also as a gift for all Australians. Environment Minister Tony Burke welcomed the decision, saying it will help protect Koongarra for generations to come. There are some legal steps the Government will need to finalise before Koongarra is officially included as part of Kakadu National Park, however once these are taken, the area will be fully protected under law and mining will be prohibited. For further information, visit:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/28/3255045.htm?section=justin>

## AUSTRALIA'S OWN DOLPHIN COULD BE EXTINCT WITHIN THREE GENERATIONS

Australia's only endemic dolphin needs legal protection or could become extinct within three generations, a new report by WWF warns. One calculation suggests the number of snubfin dolphins may be fewer than 1000 today and of the sub-populations that still exist many may not be viable in the long-term. With funding assistance from bank ING DIRECT, WWF has collected enough information on the snubfin dolphin to support its listing as a Threatened Species. "Other than in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, there is virtually no protection of snubfin dolphins. Even inside the marine park snubfins are killed by nets and displaced by coastal developments," said Lydia Gibson, WWF's Tropical Marine Species Manager. "Although snubfin dolphins have managed to survive massive environmental changes over the past 20,000 years, they may not last another three generations unless we take the necessary steps to protect them." For more information, visit:

<http://www.wwf.org.au/news/australias-own-dolphin-could-be-extinct-within-three-generations/>

## MACQUARIE ISLAND ERADICATION PROGRAM



Rabbit damage along a gully, Macquarie Is

Eradication of rabbits, rats and mice from the World Heritage listed Macquarie Island is underway. In recent years rabbit damage to vegetation on Macquarie Island has increased significantly, resulting in serious vegetation changes and impacting on burrowing seabirds that require vegetation cover around their breeding habitat. Rodents are also having a significant impact on the island, with ship rats in particular eating the eggs and chicks of burrow-nesting petrels.

Consequently, the unique natural values of this remote sub-Antarctic island which led to its World Heritage listing are being threatened. The eradication of pest animals is now the highest conservation priority for the reserve. According to Parks Tasmania, the project is the largest island eradication program for rabbits, rats or mice ever attempted, and one of the largest conservation projects in Tasmania. Eradication requires 100% removal of a pest species from the target area, otherwise it cannot be deemed successful.

Due to adverse weather conditions in winter 2010, the first attempt at aerial baiting was unsuccessful. The baiting team left Hobart in April this year for a second attempt and recently reported that as of 26 May 2011, 100% bait coverage of Macquarie Island had been achieved. Over the next three years, the project will focus on eradicating surviving rabbits and rodents using specially trained dogs. Once the last known rabbit has been removed, a monitoring period of two years will commence to check thoroughly for any indications of rodents or rabbits surviving. For more information, visit: <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/?base=12997> or checkout the program blog: <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/?base=15267>

### **TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS INITIATIVE**

Queensland's national parks and forests attract more than 16 million visits each year. To ensure a balance between conservation of the State's iconic national parks and tourism, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Tourism Queensland and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation has developed the Tourism in Protected Areas (TIPA) framework in partnership with the tourism sector. TIPA provides a management framework for commercial operations in high visitation protected areas to help ensure a sustainable future for both Queensland's environment and its essential tourism industry. TIPA will first apply to commercial tours at Natural Bridge in Springbrook National Park, Fraser Island Recreation Area in Great Sandy National Park and the Whitsundays islands. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will work with operators to have commercial activity agreements in place by early 2012.

Under TIPA operators will transition from three-year permits to 15-year agreements with allocations that allow for existing use plus a margin for growth. Commercial tour operators will maintain eco-accreditation for the life of their agreement which will contribute to the development of best practice nature-based tourism experiences, more effective protected area management and will strengthen the competitive advantage of Queensland's nature-based tourism sector. For more information, visit:

[http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/parks\\_and\\_forest\\_management/commercial\\_activities/tourism\\_tools\\_handbook/tourism\\_in\\_protected\\_areas\\_initiative\\_tipa.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/parks_and_forest_management/commercial_activities/tourism_tools_handbook/tourism_in_protected_areas_initiative_tipa.html)



Photo: ABC News

hardyhead and Murray-Darling rainbowfish – have been captured from floodplain and wetland habitats of the Katfish Reach during the recent flood event. The recent high river is an essential process of the river floodplain ecosystem and has been beneficial for native fish species.

The 9000 hectare Katfish Reach rehabilitation project has been identified as a priority floodplain project for environmental flows and broad-scale rehabilitation for native fish. Native fish populations in the Basin's rivers have declined, with experts estimating that current levels have dropped to about 10% compared to pre-European settlement. Removal of barriers to fish movement and increasing waterway spring flows, promotion of environmental flows to improve floodplain health and securing nationally threatened Murray hardyhead fish populations are some of the initiatives being undertaken as part of the Katfish Reach project. For more information, visit: <http://www.katfish.org.au/>

### **INUNDATED MURRAY RIVER WETLANDS TEEMING WITH WILDLIFE**

Wetland experts have been heartened by the injection of life which followed the heavy rain events and flooding of the summer months.

Recent ecological monitoring by the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has found inundated wetlands and floodplains within the Murray River National Park to be teeming with native fish species. Nine native fish species – including freshwater catfish, dwarf-flatheaded gudgeon, unspotted

## **REEF GUARDIAN FARMERS PILOT KICKS OFF IN CAIRNS REGION**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is leading the way with inclusive conservation which endeavours to engage many components of the community to share in the task of safeguarding our great natural assets. The Reef Guardian Farmers pilot has kicked off in the Cairns region with local cane growers signing on to the cane pilot program. The program aims to promote farmers' good land practices that in turn help to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Farmers are using minimal amounts fertilisers and chemicals together with cutting-edge technology to ensure that what goes on the farm stays on the farm. A number of cane growers along the Great Barrier Reef Coastline are offering their time and insight into sustainable farming practices to help the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority build a program that suits growers' needs and aspirations and to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

Reef Guardian Farmers is part of a broader Reef Guardian Program which involves a Reef Guardian Fishers program within the commercial fishing sector together with 13 Councils and over 230 schools taking part in on-ground environmental projects that benefit the Reef. For more information, visit:

[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/media/media\\_archive/2011/2011\\_05\\_30](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/media/media_archive/2011/2011_05_30)

## **4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS**

### **ABEL TASMAN FORESHORE SCENIC RESERVE – DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN OPEN FOR SUBMISSION**

Abel Tasman coast has a diverse range of coastal landforms, including estuaries, sandy beaches, rocky headlands, rock stacks, and islets and islands. Indigenous vegetation within Abel Tasman National Park forms the backdrop for most of the foreshore. The coastal scenery, beaches and coastal bays attract thousands of visitors each year. The reserve comprises 774 ha of foreshore, predominantly a narrow strip of land that lies between the Mean High Water Mark and Mean Low Water Springs, along the Abel Tasman coastline in the northwest of the South Island. The Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve was gazetted in January 2007.

A Draft Management Plan for the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve has been prepared and submissions are now sought. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. 8 August 2011. To view the consultation process and discussion document visit: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/draft-abel-tasman-foreshore-scenic-reserve-management-plan/#background>

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAW FOR OCEANS ANNOUNCED**

At the Environment Defence Society's "Coastlines" conference in Auckland in June, the Minister for the Environment, Dr Nick Smith, announced new laws to manage the environmental effects of activities like petroleum exploration and mining within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and extended Continental Shelf (ECS). The Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill will fill the current gap beyond the 12-mile limit of the *Resource Management Act*. Dr Smith says "The policy is carefully balanced to recognise the economic opportunities while providing effective environmental protection. It has been designed to avoid duplication with other legislation such as the Maritime Transport, Fishing and Crown Minerals Acts, and to minimise compliance costs." The Bill is currently being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel and will likely be introduced to Parliament in July. It is intended to come into effect on 1 July 2012.

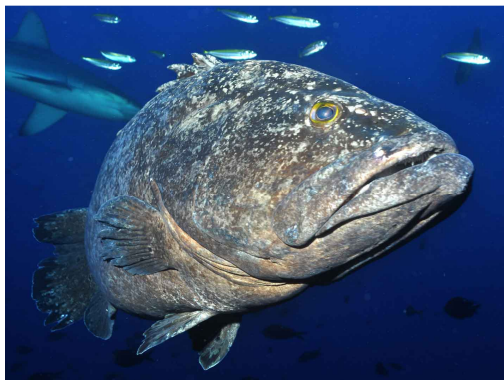
### **RAOUL AND CAMPBELL ISLANDS REUNION**

Over 100 ex-Raoul and ex-Campbell Islanders gathered at a reunion held in Wellington over the Queen's birthday weekend in June. Raoul Island is part of the Kermadec Island group, located over 1000km north of New Zealand and about half way to Tonga. New Zealand's only subtropical islands, they are protected by Nature Reserve designation and have a large marine reserve around them extending out to 12nm. Campbell Island is part of the Sub Antarctic islands group, located to the south of New Zealand.

The Kermadec islands narrowly escaped becoming a testing ground for nuclear explosions in the 1950's and a restoration program commenced in the 1970s to eradicate the islands goats, rats and cats. Today the program's focus is on the eradication of weed species. The marine reserve is

the largest no-take marine reserve in New Zealand and was established in 1990. There are now suggestions that this reserve should be extended into a massive globally significant reserve out as far as the 200km exclusive economic zone. Pew Environment Group's New Zealand Director, Bronwen Golder, was one of the speakers at the reunion, and is spearheading this campaign with partners Forest & Bird and WWF-NZ. Other speakers included marine biologist and WCPA Deputy Vice Chair NZ, Kathy Walls who talked about marine protection around the Sub Antarctic islands of New Zealand.

## MARINE BIODISCOVERY EXPEDITION TO THE KERMADEC ISLANDS



Spotted black grouper at the Kermadec Islands

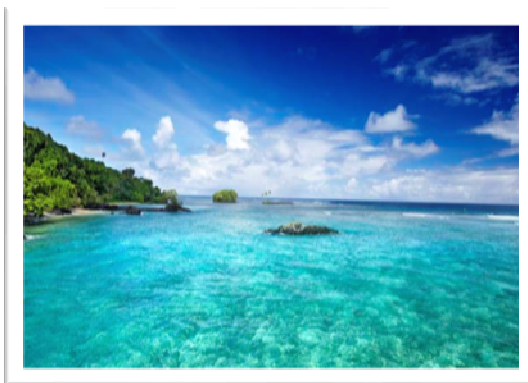
During May, the Auckland Museum led a biodiscovery expedition to the Kermadec Islands, New Zealand's largest no-take marine reserve (7,450 square km). Other collaborators in the expedition were Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Australian Museum and the NZ Department of Conservation. Find out about the expedition and what the researchers found at: [www.aucklandmuseum.com](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com) . Follow the link under "Collections and Research".

## 5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

### NEW AGREEMENT GIVES HOPE FOR PACIFIC BIRDLIFE

BirdLife International Pacific Partnership and the Secretariat of SPREP have signed a revised MoU which will strengthen the two organisations' efforts to work on joint conservation objectives across the region. "This is an important document for our future collaboration", said David Sheppard - Director of SPREP. By focusing on specific area of cooperation, the MoU will make more effective use of the respective capacities and strengths of both our organisations. The MoU acknowledges that the Pacific region has more threatened bird species per unit of land area or per person than any other region in the world, and the most extinctions. For more information, visit: [http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=943](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=943)

### SAMOA JOINS IUCN



There is good news from the Pacific this month, with Samoa officially announcing its decision to join IUCN by endorsing the IUCN Statutes. In doing so, Samoa becomes the 87th State Member of the world's largest and oldest environmental network, joining Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific island countries of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Tonga, as State Members in Oceania.

### CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND CONFERENCE

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) held a mid-term review conference to highlight efforts to conserve species and sites in the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot, which is rich in plant and animal life. CEPF is a joint programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the French Development Agency, the MacArthur Foundation, Conservation International, and the Government of Japan. The US\$27 million CEPF fund is managed by Conservation

International's Pacific Islands programme and based in Apia, Samoa. The conference held in June in Lami, Fiji, brought together representatives from 27 organisations that benefit from the fund.

The goal of CEPF investment is to conserve the region's threatened terrestrial species. According to Mike Donoghue, Executive Director for Conservation International Pacific, "Through this investment we are helping to stem the tide of habitat degradation and loss of native biodiversity. Since invasive species are a particular scourge in this region, much of the fund is being directed towards managing or eradicating invasive species." For more information, visit: [http://sids.iisd.org/news/ecosystem-meeting-focuses-on-polynesia-micronesia-hotspot/?referrer=small-island-developing-states-update&utm\\_source=lists.iisd.ca&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Small+Island+Developing+States+Update+-+15+June+2011+-+SIDS+Policy+%26+Practice](http://sids.iisd.org/news/ecosystem-meeting-focuses-on-polynesia-micronesia-hotspot/?referrer=small-island-developing-states-update&utm_source=lists.iisd.ca&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Small+Island+Developing+States+Update+-+15+June+2011+-+SIDS+Policy+%26+Practice)

## 6. UPCOMING

### **IUCN OCEANIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM: 23 – 25 AUGUST 2011**

This is a reminder that the Oceania regional conservation forum will be held on 23-25 August 2011 at the University of Queensland. The Forum will provide an opportunity for IUCN Members, Commission Members, partners and the wider conservation community to prepare for an effective regional participation at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress in South Korea. The Regional Forum will commence with a day (23rd August) for participants to come together to network and share experiences in conservation. The business of the meeting will take place over the next 2 days and will include discussions on the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012, and IUCN's global and regional programme of work for 2013-2016.

### **2011 ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLAND ROUND TABLE MEETING**

The Pacific Island Round Table meeting will be held on 25-29 July at the Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbour, which is a 30 minute drive from Suva, Fiji. Registration, the agenda and accommodation options and a booking guide are available online at: <http://www.pbif.org/RT/>. If you plan to attend the meeting, you should aim to arrive in Suva on Sunday 24 July, as a bus transfer will be organised from Suva to Pearl Resort on the Monday.

### **NEW ZEALAND MARINE SCIENCES SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 5 – 8 JULY 2011**

The conference theme is "understanding, managing, and conserving our marine environment". Registration is still open however the deadline for submitting abstracts has closed. Registration is restricted to 250 participants because the venue is Oban, Stewart Island and accommodation is limited. There are lots of opportunities for sightseeing before and after the conference. For further information, visit: [www.nzms.org](http://www.nzms.org)

### **NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 28 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The 2011 conference will be held in Rotorua and celebrates 60 years of the Society's existence. The theme is "ecology in the heartland". Details of the conference programme will be posted on the website from July. Find out more at: [www.nzecologyconference2011.com](http://www.nzecologyconference2011.com)

### **OCEANZ 2011, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2011**

This diving conference and exhibition will be held in Tauranga. Guest speakers include Dr Roger Grace, marine conservationist and MPA advocate. Find out more at: [www.oceanzdiveconference.com](http://www.oceanzdiveconference.com)