



**WCPA**  
WORLD COMMISSION  
ON PROTECTED AREAS

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

**Newsletter No. 4 2019**

**1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE**



*15-year-old NSW Student striker Jean Hinchliffe addresses the crowd in Sydney. Photo: Marcus Coblyn*

**From the Vice Chair**

Dear colleagues,

Australia is currently enveloped in a massive fire event, Sydney has been choking on a thick blanket of smoke. Six lives and 577 homes have been lost in NSW this bushfire season and 49 are currently burning including in the iconic World Heritage wilderness of the Wollemi. Some 70 fires are threatening Queensland which is normally not a major bushfire state and WA has also had serious fires. Yet it is the early days of summer. Despite the shocking continuation of denial at a high level, scientists and fire experts agree this is a climate change exacerbated event and an ominous warning of what faces this nation.

Despite the shocking and inexcusable continuation of denial at a high level scientists and fire experts agree this is a climate change exacerbated event and an ominous warning of what faces this nation. A powerful statement was made by Carol Sparks, Mayor Glen Innes NSW where several people died and multiple homes were destroyed -

*But for the sake of the future, for the sake of our community and the rising generation who will inherit this scorched Earth, one can only hope there will be enough people remaining who retain the common decency to listen, to heed the cries of those in harm's way, who will now together take decisive and collective action to save our ecosystem and our civilisation from collapse.*

I felt our photograph should pay homage to the courageous and justifiably outraged young people of the world who are demanding that their future not continue to be compromised and turned into a 'scorched earth' by those who cannot cope with the inconvenient truth.

My thanks to WCPA Members Louise O'Flynn, Rosalie Chapple, Jon Day, Dermot Smyth and Kirstie Knowles for contributions to this newsletter.

### News from IUCN

The IUCN WCPA air is buzzing with debates over the next IUCN World Congress in June in Marseille and its vital role in preparing the directions we hope to secure for the world at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 Meeting in China in October. This is where the world will decide the biodiversity goals for the next decade. Against the background of the extinction and climate change crises many see CBD 15 as one of the most important meetings in history. If you are keen to keep up to date with some of these debates I attach a few links  
This is document on IUCN's current thinking post 2020

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/beyond-aichi-targets>

Also read Harvey Locke, Erle C. Ellis, Oscar Venter, Richard Schuster, Keping Ma, Xiaoli Shen, Stephen Woodley, Naomi Kingston, Nina Bhola, Bernardo B. N. Strassburg, Axel Paulsch, Brooke Williams, James E. M. Watson. **Three Global Conditions for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use: an implementation framework.** *National Science Review* 2019 6(6). DOI:10.1093/nsr/nwz136.

Check out the website [Naturebeyond2020.com](http://Naturebeyond2020.com) to learn more about the Three Global Conditions, view the interactive map, and download your country or region map.

### Registration for IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 in Marseille is open



All IUCN Congresses are amazing events. They are the primary gathering of the world's conservation community and an extremely rich opportunity for showcasing, discovery, networking and learning. This particular Congress will be the major lead in event to the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 at the end of the year which will determine the world's conservation goals for the next decade. The Congress will therefore be a huge preparatory workshop on those outcomes and an

extremely exhilarating event so if you can be there. Your WCPA membership reduces your costs. <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/registration/register-now>

### Accepted motions for IUCN WCC

Following the closing of the motions submission process for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, all motions were reviewed for their scientific and technical characteristics. The Motions Working Group assessed motions against the admissibility requirements set out in the IUCN Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress.

All accepted motions can now be consulted [online](#) and have been posted in the language in which they were originally submitted. Translations into the other official IUCN languages are currently being undertaken and will be available online in early December 2019.

The [first Motions Working Group update](#) provides details on the process to date.

Proponents of motions that were either rejected or merged have been informed, and in accordance with Rule 62ter, they may formally appeal the decision. Appeals need to be brought to the Congress Preparatory Committee (CPC), who is acting as appeals body. They

must be made jointly by the proponent and co-sponsors of the motion and should be sent by e-mail to [motions@iucn.org](mailto:motions@iucn.org) by **13:00 GMT/UTC on 20 November 2019** at the latest.

The CPC's decisions on appeals will be communicated to the proponents before the start of the **online discussion on motions**, which will **begin on 11 December 2019 and will close on 11 March 2020**. More information and guidance on the online discussion process will follow soon.

## Opportunities for Members

### First - Don't lose your membership in 2020!

As I hope all WCPA members know, the membership of IUCN Commissions run for the quadrennial of IUCN from one IUCN World Conservation Congress to the next. The quadrennial will finish in June 2020 at the Marseille Congress. After the Congress where the new Chairs of the Commissions will be elected, the Chair chooses their Steering Committee who are endorsed by the newly elected Council. In the following months all members are asked to reaffirm their membership on line.

**If IUCN has the wrong contact email for you this is where you can lose your membership.**

Please ensure you have communicated any recent changes to myself.

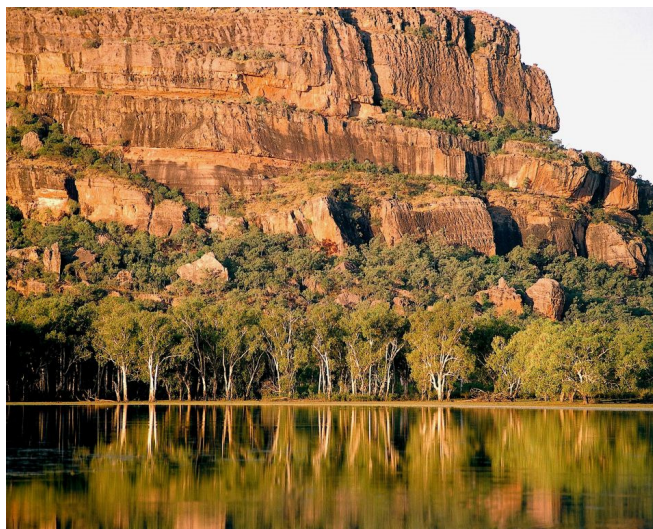
### Suggest Membership to others now or it will be a long wait.

If you are considering suggesting a colleague to become a member encourage them to do so soon. New membership closes off several months before the Congress. We do not have an exact date yet but aspiring new members are encouraged to act now.

### Are you a younger member of WCPA?

As IUCN gets ready for its quadrennial World Conservation Congress there will be efforts made to get some promising younger leaders to Marseille. Ensure that you have registered that you are under 35 to the Oceania focal point, James Hattam, [jhattam@tasland.org.au](mailto:jhattam@tasland.org.au)

## World Heritage Outlook needs Oceania Experts



The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3, an update of two previous IUCN Outlook reports issued in 2014 and 2017, will assess changes in the conservation prospects of all natural World Heritage sites. The coming months will see hundreds of World Heritage experts take part in a consultation and review process. World Heritage practitioners and knowledgeable WCPA members can support the 2020 update by contributing knowledge of a particular site.

The [IUCN World Heritage Outlook](#) consists of "Conservation Outlook Assessments" – in-depth, independent assessments for each natural World Heritage site based on

best available data from a wide range of sources. These assess the threats affecting a site, the effectiveness of its protection and management, and the state and trends of its World Heritage values – the unique features for which it is World Heritage-listed. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook's global report draws on these assessments to compile analyses of key trends and issues for natural heritage.

Experts interested in taking part in the 2020 update of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook can contact IUCN's World Heritage Programme at [worldheritageoutlook@iucn.org](mailto:worldheritageoutlook@iucn.org), or contact [penelope.figgis@outlook.com](mailto:penelope.figgis@outlook.com)



## 2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1100 SCIENTISTS CALL THE WORLD TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

More than 11,000 scientists around the world have signed a scientific paper declaring a climate emergency. They say that scientists have a moral obligation to clearly warn humanity of any catastrophic threat. The paper, published in the journal *BioScience*, declares the climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expect.

And urgent global action is needed the paper said.

The UK, Scotland and Ireland are among the countries that have declared a "climate change emergency", along with more than 1,000 subnational jurisdictions, including many in Australia, such as the ACT, the City of Sydney and the City of Melbourne.

More than 400,000 Australians have signed a petition, now presented to Parliament, urging the government to make the call. However the Federal Government voted down an attempt to declare a climate emergency across the country, with the Morrison Government's Emissions Reduction Minister, Angus Taylor, labelling it a "symbolic" gesture.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-06/climate-change-emergency-11000-scientists-sign-petition/11672776>

### HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY GOING ON AICHI TARGET 11?

The new Aichi Target 11 Dashboard is now featured on Protected Planet. The Aichi Target 11 Dashboard provides a summary of global, regional and national progress on key elements of Target 11. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/target-11-dashboard>

### FAILURE TO DECLARE ANTARCTICA MARINE PARKS AGAIN



The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has been unable to agree on plan backed by Australia, France and EU Conservationists have to create a marine park across 1 million sq km on the continent's east.

Photograph: Reuters

This is the eight time the proposal has been rejected. The Commission has struggled to make decisions on marine

parks due to its rules that require all members to agree. Russia and China have previously been blamed for blocking the east Antarctic plan, but the meetings are behind closed doors (see story below).

Andrea Kavanagh, director of the Pew Charitable Trusts, said the failure was "disheartening". "Over this time, we have seen multiple breeding failures for Adélie penguin colonies, habitat loss, a concentrated krill fishing effort, and the warmest Southern Ocean temperatures on record. Marine parks are needed to make a warming and acidifying ocean more resilient. He regretted that government leaders "failed to heed the UN's call to action ecosystems and its role as a carbon sink.

Agreements were made at the meeting to adopt a new plan to monitor krill, a critical food source for many Antarctic species, while a major krill fishing industry group agreed to extend self-imposed restriction on fishing in some areas during key nesting and breeding times for penguins. The Commission also banned fishing vessels from dumping plastics and any oil or fuel products across the vast 35.7 million sq km area covered by its convention – an area covering about 10% of the world's oceans.

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/02/antarctic-marine-park-conservationists-frustrated-after-protection-bid-fails-for-eight-time?utm\\_campaign=2019-11-05+Latest&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Pew](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/02/antarctic-marine-park-conservationists-frustrated-after-protection-bid-fails-for-eight-time?utm_campaign=2019-11-05+Latest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew)

### **HUNGRY EYES ON ANTARTICA**

The Australian Antarctic Territory covers a vast 5.9 million square km the largest Antarctic claim of any country. Australia has three year-round research stations on Antarctica, as well as one on Macquarie Island, and conducts dozens of scientific research programs.

However in recent years experts have questioned our commitment to the continent, claiming that Australia's standing is becoming more tenuous due to underinvestment. This is more serious as it coincides with increasing interest of powerful and resource-driven players like China and Russia.

China has positioned itself strategically as a significant polar power in the past decade investing more than other countries. One more surprising fact cited by the article is that China's activity is taking place inside the Australian Antarctic Territory with China building three Antarctic bases, two field camps, and three airfields which the article says is with Australia's knowledge.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-28/china-and-russia-are-eyeing-up-antarctica/10433024>

### **TRUMP MOVES TO ALLOW MINING AND DRILLING ON LANDS EXCISED FROM UTAH NATIONAL MONUMENT**

The colorful hoodoos, slot canyons, cliffs, and plateaus of southern Utah's panoramic canyon country attract visitors and researchers from across the globe. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, designated in 1996, is known as the "Science Monument" because of the extensive research opportunities it affords. Scientists and others have found fossils of more than 20 previously undiscovered dinosaur species and many other never-before-seen prehistoric plants and animals here.

However despite its importance a new US government plan has cleared the way for coal mining and oil and gas drilling on land stripped from Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante monument by the Trump administration two years ago. The plan would also open more lands to cattle grazing and recreation and acknowledges there could be "adverse effects" on land and resources in the monument. Trump drastically shrank the southern Utah monument in 2017, as well as the nearby Bears Ears national monument, in what represented the largest elimination of public lands protections in US history. Some 800,000 acres were removed from the Grand Staircase.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/23/grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument-management-plan-blm-oil-gas-drilling-trump>

### **GOOD RESOURCES ON CURRENT TOPICS**

Here are two brief videos Bill Lawrence and his team produced on the embattled Amazon rainforest. They're literally just a minute each.

#### **How are Roads in the Amazon Spreading Fires?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0pyKsujHqA>

#### **Why is Green Energy Destroying the Amazon?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9bDrLhNBfk&feature=youtu.be>

We have various other short, snappy videos available here (<https://www.global-roadmap.org/videos/>). These are good resources for students and anyone interested in highly topical conservation issues.

### 3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

#### RESPECTING TRADITIONAL OWNERS - THE ULURU CLIMB IS CLOSED



On October 25th, 34 years after Uluru was handed back to traditional owners, the climb up the face of the desert monolith which they had long wished to close for safety and cultural reasons is closed permanently. However the preceding months saw thousands of people defy the request not to climb.

#### ADAPTIVE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN BLUE MOUNTAINS



The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, in partnership with the Protected Areas Learning & Research Collaboration (PALRC), convened a 5-day training in September on tools for adaptive management based on the internationally recognised Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.

Participants worked in small teams to progress through an adaptive planning, monitoring and management loop,

guided by facilitators Stuart Cowell and Philippa Walsh. This learning framework enables management issues to be explored in a way that can help to reveal underlying problems and to find ways of working with complex issues.

There were 25 participants including from Tribal Councils, Aboriginal Corporations, NGOs and park agencies across Australia, and international participants came from Hong Kong, Myanmar, Palau, Nepal and PNG. The rich diversity of participants provided valuable learning and social interaction.

The training is widely applicable to people working in protected areas and any area of conservation, including natural and cultural heritage. The training is valuable for professional development and tertiary study. This is an annual course that will be offered again in September 2020 <https://www.bmwhi.org/adaptive-management-training-course>.

Scholarships are available through PALRC (the current round of scholarship applications closed Oct 31 <http://www.palrc.com/our-courses-2/scholarships/>).



## PRIVATE /PUBLIC PARENERSHIP FOR SPECIES



The Bilby is the first of 10 regionally-extinct mammals to be restored to Mallee Cliffs National Park NSW as part of an innovative partnership between AWC and NPWS, with funding for the construction of the fence, feral eradication and species reintroduction provided by the State Government's *Saving our Species* program. AWC is funding the construction of an operations base to support the delivery of world class science and practical land management.

Photo: Wayne Lawler

The other nine species to be reintroduced are the Western Quoll, Red-tailed Phascogale, Numbat, Western Barred Bandicoot, Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, Burrowing Bettong, Brush-tailed Bettong, Greater Stick-nest Rat and Mitchell's Hopping-mouse.

<https://www.australianwildlife.org/awc-brings-bilbies-back-to-the-mallee/>

## GREAT BARRIER REEF PAPER ON PLANNING

A recent paper published in the journal 'Aquatic Conservation' titled '*Marine zoning revisited: How decades of zoning the Great Barrier Reef has evolved as an effective spatial planning approach for marine ecosystem-based management*' will be of interest.

The paper is freely available on the web and summarises the lessons learned in the Great Barrier Reef following the use of zoning as a key management tool for nearly 40 years. It provides many lessons relevant for MPAs elsewhere. Some of the lessons include:

The realization that while zoning is an important spatial management tool, that effective MPA management requires a range of complementary tools (spatial and temporal) applied at a range of scales. The effective combination of these management tools provides for the integrated approach considered necessary for managing a large marine protected area.

The zoning approached that was developed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has evolved and today continues to be adapted by different marine jurisdictions globally.

Zoning is the foundation on which all current and future restoration and adaptation activities have been, and will be, built upon to support the resilience of the Marine Park.

If you have any queries about the paper contact the lead author [jonday@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:jonday@my.jcu.edu.au)

## NEW INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS WILL CREATE LARGEST PROTECTED AREA ON EARTH

New Indigenous Protected Areas will create largest protected area on earth

Seven new Indigenous Protected Areas will recognise conservation led by Aboriginal and Torres Islander people is central to the protection of nature in Australia.

Once complete, these Indigenous Protected Areas will mean Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people manage more than half of Australia's protected area network on land, the National Reserve System.

Traditional owners around the country have worked hard to develop the partnership with the federal government to look after their land and sea.

IPAs are a plan of management led by traditional owners in partnership with the Federal Government. The seven new proposed Indigenous Protected Areas are: Arafura Swamp, NT; Maralinga Tjarutja, SA; Mimal, NT; Tiwi Islands, NT; Mamu, Qld; Haasts Bluff, NT and Wuthathi Shelburne Bay, Qld

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6462124/new-indigenous-protected-areas-will-create-largest-protected-area-on-earth/?cs=1423>

## SEA COUNTRY INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS



Any WCPA members interested in learning more about the growing contribution of Sea Country Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) to Australia's marine protected area estate can download a paper written in collaboration with Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation and Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, which has just been published on-line and is available at

<https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3052><<https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3052>>

The paper appears in the Journal of Aquatic Conservation, Volume 29, Issue S2, which is a collection of papers from contributors to the 4th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC 4) held in Chile in September 2017 - attended by all but two of the co-authors of the paper. The complete issue of the journal, including the Sea Country IPA paper, is available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10990755/2019/29/S2>

## PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE 2019, ADELAIDE



The Australian Land Conservation Alliance held another excellent conference in Adelaide in October. The vibrancy of the sector has been one of the few 'hope spots' of conservation. The significant direction was the innovative partnership models being developed between private land trusts, government agencies and Indigenous land and sea managers. This diversity is not only excellent in itself but provides a stimulus for others both in Australia and in other countries to be creative in forging alliances.

## 4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

### WAIROA GORGE GIFTED TO THE NATION

Land in Wairoa Gorge in Nelson Tasman that contains forest of high ecological value and an internationally renowned mountain bike park has been gifted to the people of New Zealand. The land is mostly surrounded by Mt Richmond Forest Park. About 560 hectares of the land is covered in native forest with almost 390 hectares of that assessed as having high regional ecological significance.





The 860 hectares has been gifted by RHL NZ Ltd, a company owned by international investor Ken Dart, who established it as a major destination for mountain biking. The track has transferred over to the Department of Conservation.

The Nelson Mountain Bike Club will continue to operate the mountain bike park as it has done for the past three years under a 40-year lease that has transferred with the land.

A Wairoa Charitable Trust is being appointed to control and manage the land which has become a recreation reserve. The trust

together with the Nelson Mountain Bike Club will manage the reserve.

### **MĀORI OWNERS PROTECT FOREST JEWEL**

Māori land owners in western Southland, have worked with the Nature Heritage Fund to permanently protect 741 hectares of native rainforest.

A conservation covenant, permanently protecting the rainforest in perpetuity, was signed in October by Rowallan Alton Māori Incorporation Chair Harold Thomas and DOC Director-General Lou Sanson.

"We're protecting this rainforest in perpetuity so our mokopuna can enjoy the sounds of tūī, kākā, kiwi and other taonga species living in this ngahere," says Harold Thomas.

"The rainforest also soaks up carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere, helping mitigate the effect of climate change. This enables the Incorporation to claim carbon credits through a project run by Ekos, an international non-profit enterprise we've partnered with."

WCPA Member DOC Director Lou Sanson said "I'm delighted to be signing this conservation covenant with Harold and the other Incorporation representatives, ensuring this rainforest is protected for future generations. This forest is a jewel worth protecting. It has a silver beech canopy, intermixed with miro and tōtara and sits right next to the 235 hectare Waikoau Forest Conservation Area".

The forest hugs the shore at Te Waewae Bay and the first two km of the 61 km Hump Ridge Track pass through the forest near Fiordland National Park. The Track will become New Zealand's next Great Walk, once a \$5 million upgrade is completed and local people benefit by changing it from a two-night walk to a three-night experience.

## **5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS**

### **ALARMING PLANS FOR ROAD EXPANSION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

JCU's Professor Bill Laurance is a long term WCPA member and a major commentator of global threats to nature particularly roads and other very intrusive infrastructure.

He warns that a huge roadbuilding scheme in Papua New Guinea could imperil some of the largest, biologically richest and culturally most diverse forests on the planet.

Speaking to an international research team article led by James Cook University in Australia Dr Lawrence said the PNG government plans to dramatically increase its road network, from 8700 to 15,000 km over the next three years. "PNG isn't even maintaining its current roads, and now the government wants to double its road network, often in wet, steep and remote terrain? The new roads will be tremendously expensive to build and maintain.

Dr Mohammed Alamgir, lead author of the study notes many will cut through critical habitats of endangered wildlife, including that of rare tree-kangaroos and birds of paradise.

Altogether, 54 critical biodiversity areas will be threatened and there will be a great deal of forest fragmentation.

Many companies cut and run," said Dr Laurance. "They bribe government officials to get what they want, and then bail out once the profits are gone. There's little long-term interest in developing PNG socially and economically. "China is the biggest and riskiest investor for PNG, says the research team. "Chinese firms and financiers operate more aggressively, with a more predatory attitude, than do firms from most other countries," said Dr Alamgir.

Dr Laurance warns China's Belt and Road is promoting many projects that are saddling developing nations with foreign debt. A few politicians and land developers are getting very rich, but the rest of the country suffers—with traditional communities potentially losing their forests, fisheries, and clean water.

Mohammed Alamgir, Sean Sloan, Mason Campbell, Jayden Engert, Regina Kiele, Gabriel Porolak, Thomas Mutton, Ambroise Brenier, Pierre Ibisch, and **William F. Laurance**(2019) "Infrastructure expansion challenges sustainable development in Papua New Guinea." *PLOS ONE*, <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0219408>

### **NEW ZEALAND ASSISTING PACIFIC WITH SEA BED MINING.**

In a controversial move the New Zealand Government will help Pacific countries carry out seabed mining within their marine territories if asked, despite calls for a 10-year moratorium on the controversial practice. Advocates of the extraction activity have argued it can provide a sustainable and replenishing supply of minerals. However environmental groups are generally very concerned about the impact of mining on aquatic habitats and the destruction of the ocean floor and call instead for protection of the Pacific marine environment.

In a May briefing to Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade set out New Zealand's approach to any requests for support from Pacific nations planning to mine the seabed in their exclusive economic zones (EEZs).

With early indications that the technology and investment from seabed mining in the Pacific would come from "external actors" - a potential reference to China, which has developed a growing interest in seabed mining - officials said countries would need robust legal frameworks, governance structures and environmental protections in place before entering into any agreements.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/10/08/848216/nz-support-for-seabed-mining-on-offer-in-pacific#>

### **PALAU EXPANSION OF PA NETWORK**



In Palau Sonsorol state has become the 16th state to join the Protected Areas Network (PAN). Their nominated site, *Merir* Protected Area, has a rich ecosystem that supports a variety of habitats that includes diverse mariner and terrestrial organisms such as birds, green turtles, coconut crabs, fish, and other marine species. The *Merir* Island is a critical area to include into the Network of Protected Areas in Palau as it bears the largest nesting site for *melob* (green sea turtles)

Photo: vacationstogo.com

<http://islandtimes.us/sonsorol-becomes-16th-state-to-join-pan/>

### **MINE WASTE IN PNG DAMAGES MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

The Ramu nickel mine in Papua New Guinea's Madang province has been found to have mismanaged toxic waste it dumps into the sea. The provincial government engaged an oil spill response consultant from Sweden to investigate recent discolouring of local waters and deaths of fish species. Local media is reporting Alex Mojon saying he was shocked by the catastrophic impact of mine waste on the marine environment.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/400752/png-s-ramu-nickel-mine-mismanaged-waste-probe>

### **NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS CONFERENCE 2020**



There have been nine Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conferences in the Pacific since 1975 with the last conference being held in Fiji in November 2013. The 10th Conference is to be held 20- 24th April 2020, prior to the end of the United Nations

Decade for Biodiversity (2011-2020) giving the Pacific an important opportunity to review progress on the achievement of global conservation targets (Aichi targets) and to influence the global vision for conservation beyond 2020.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2nd Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA). The PIELA commemorates the outstanding contribution of individuals, communities, NGOs, private enterprise and countries towards achieving an environmentally sustainable Pacific in the following key thematic areas - Biodiversity and ecosystem protection, environmental governance, climate change adaptation and resilience, and waste management and pollution control. Link below for further details. .

<https://www.icriforum.org/meeting/10th-pacific-islands-conference-nature-conservation-and-protected-areas>

### **AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE FOR IUCN (ACIUCN) STATEMENT ON NATURE AND HEALTH**

The ACIUCN will shortly publish a key directions document which will summarise the major findings, insights and recommendations that arose out of discussions leading up to and out of the Australian Committee for IUCN's Healthy People in a Healthy Environment symposium held in Brisbane on the 17th to 18th of September 2019.

This excellent forum was two-day, high-level event was held in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES), NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), WWF-Australia, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and Bush Heritage Australia. It was particularly note worth y for the high level of attendance by Indigenous people who have always understood this vital connection.