



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS

THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Newsletter No. 2 2019



Yampi Sound Military Training Base in the Kimberley may well be an 'OECM' – do you know what that means? – You should! Photo: ABC

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

From the Vice Chair

From the Vice Chair

Dear colleagues,

I write a week ahead of leaving for the Steering Committee in Amboseli NP in Kenya. I am following this with 7 weeks of personal time in France and the UK so apologies if emails are slow to be answered. A rather large newsletter but keen to keep members up to date.

My thanks as always to the great assistance of Louise O'Flynn and contributors Colin Ingrim, Jason Irving, Blathnaid Byrne and the stalwart contributor Keith Tywford.

The agenda of the SC will cover the big meetings for 2019/20 - the African and South American Parks Congresses, though the date of the African Congress is under discussion. We shall also be focused on the two vital meetings of 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress in June in Marseilles, France and the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Beijing in October. It is not an exaggeration to say the latter is one of the most important meetings in world history given the dramatic issues of nature loss and the massive implications of climate change for life on earth.

Critical issues for all meetings will be the global effort in the remaining 18 months to achieve the 2020 Aichi Targets of the CBD. Target 11 is of particular importance to WCPA and indeed we would argue it is the fundamental goal to achieve biodiversity and underpins many other goals.

The next most vital issue is developing ambitious global targets for the decade to 2030. WCPA is particularly keen to see:

- Nature conservation understood as fundamental to any nation's economy and society
- Greater emphasis on addressing fragmentation and taking ecosystem approaches – what we call in shorthand 'connectivity' as both essential to biodiversity and climate change adaptation.
- Innovative and inclusive partnerships and governance models across the landscape and new frameworks across the marine environment.
- The fostering of the cultural, emotional, spiritual and aesthetic connections that people feel towards nature which drives a conservation ethic.

Recent regional meetings:

Green List Meeting on Thresholds Feb 31-1 March

Marc Hockings, WCPA VC for Science and Management, Stephen Woodley VC for Science and Biodiversity and Dr Carly Cook from Monash University held a technical workshop in Brisbane to discuss best practice in identifying critical threshold for assessing conservation outcomes of protected areas. The workshop discussions were structured around the indicators for the IUCN Green List relating to establishing evidence for the successful conservation of protected area values. The workshop arose out of discussions at a meeting of the Australian Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) and was developed to assist the three Australian State Agencies participating in the Green List program (NSW, Queensland and Victoria) in developing the evidence to support the applications of protected areas in those states for inclusion on the List. The discussions at the workshop are also being used to develop global guidance on this aspect of the Green List criteria and indicators. The Queensland Department of Environment and Science provided financial and logistic support for the meeting.

Meeting with Queensland Minister for Environment



Marc and I took the opportunity to meet with Leeanne Enoch, the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science, and Minister for the Arts. Ms Enoch is a proud Quandamooka woman originally from North Stradbroke Island, and on winning the seat of Algester at the 2015 state election became the first Aboriginal woman ever elected to the Queensland Parliament.

We had a very pleasant meeting and found the Minister very receptive. We outlined WCPA and its work and areas of expertise and commended WCPA membership to people in the department interested in global best practice. .

WCPA Members Meetings Brisbane 1st March

We also took the opportunity of having Stephen Woodley in Australia to gather about 30 Queensland members to hear from myself with an overview of key areas of WCPA's global and regional work and Stephen with an update on Key Biodiversity Areas, OECMs (see item) And the Post Aichi discussion and Marc with the latest on the Green List. We finished with a pleasant social get together.

Post Aichi Targets 13th March

In 2020, the Aichi Targets will expire and be replaced by a new biodiversity framework. As biodiversity continues to decline rapidly around the globe, the Post-2020 Biodiversity

Framework presents a rare opportunity for the world's conservation community to come together to learn from the current strategic plan and goals, and to establish new long-term conservation commitments and actions.

As part of the national CBD consultation process, WCPA joined the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) convened a high-level, one-day workshop to foster discussions between some of the country's conservation experts on the key elements and priorities for the post-2020 framework in the context of Australia's unique wildlife and landscapes.

A summary of the outcomes http://aciucn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Post-2020-Biodiversity-Framework-workshop-synthesis_FINAL.pdf

The WCPA Chair in Tasmania



Following the World Protected Areas Leaders Forum (see item) in Melbourne WCPA Chair Kathy MacKinnon and myself spent a very pleasant few days in the company of Jason Jacobi, Director of Parks Tasmania, Malcolm Wells, Chair of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and James Hattam, CEO of Tasmanian Land Trust as well as colleagues from the Israeli Parks service. It was a wonderful opportunity to informally discuss many of the pressing issues which came up the previous week about tourism management in parks and also to hear about

really constructive cooperation between the private and public land sectors. We were very impressed by the professionalism of all our colleagues while tourism undoubtedly throws up some challenging issues

Photo: Jason, Kathy James and Penny in Mt Field NP Tasmania

Tasmania Members Meetup

The Chair and I also took the opportunity to meet up with Tasmanian members. It was a great opportunity to meet old friends and hear from members about how they would like to engage.

Member Opportunities

New WCPA members now possible!

Your first opportunity is to encourage new members! Finally IUCN has completed a complex IT process which caused a suspension of taking new membership applications. It is now lifted and new applications can be made.

What is missing from the NRS? What could be achieved with 18 months of activity?

I am hoping on my return in early July to work with members and gather expertise to compile a dossier of what are the absolutely critical lands and marine areas that are missing from our current NRS system. As we all know targets are only part of the story and there are many other aspects of Target 11 which are far less complete. How are we really going on whether we have areas of "particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services", are our PAs "effectively and equitably managed", are they "ecologically representative" or part of "well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures", and are they "integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes".

If you are interested in contributing your expertise to this endeavour which would be used to urge government to truly fulfill their commitment under the CBD please let me know on my personal email penelope.figgis@outlook.com. And I will contact you on y return.

ACIUCN conference on Social, Health and Cultural Values of Nature

ACIUCN will be holding the next in its excellent Science informing Policy Symposium series. The two day Symposium, *Healthy People in a Healthy Environment: valuing the social and cultural benefits of nature* is taking place at Queensland Museum in Brisbane on 17-18 September 2019. ACIUCN and partners including WCPA are currently lining up a great range of speakers for what should be an exciting and productive couple of days. The save the date should go out shortly. Please keep an eye out for updates or contact the Director of ACIUCN Tandi Spencer-Smith at tspencer-smith@aciucn.org.au

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS PROPOSALS WILL OPEN SOON



The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place from 11 to 19 June 2020, in Marseille, France. With 2020 a pivotal year for framing the next decade, and with participants from some of the most influential governments and organisations in the world, the IUCN Congress is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, share your views, reactivate your networks, and inspire action for conservation.

Hosting an event during the Forum (12-15 June 2020) is an excellent way to seize this opportunity. The Call for Proposals opens 2 May and will be open until 17 July 2019. All proposals must be submitted before 17 July. Visit the [IUCN Congress website](#) for more information.

OECS': IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE, YOU SHOULD FIND OUT!

In 2010, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10/CBD) adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Target 11 in part calls for "at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas" to be conserved by way of "well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs).

WCPA rapidly convened a Task Force which has over 100 members and honorary members from over 30 countries to define what this (somewhat clunky) phrase meant. It was vital to explicitly ensure that countries only identified OECMs which genuinely achieve conservation. This advice has been keenly sought by the CBD. It is a concept which is likely to have great future importance as we seek to address fragmentation and develop whole of landscape climate resilient ecosystem networks.

A number of workshops have been held and the final report to the CBD is imminent but overall OECMs (possibly known in future by a more elegant name) will be a crucial part of 2020 reporting and the post 2020 conservation agenda. A Parks special and earlier drafts can be sourced at:

<https://www.iucn.org/news/protected-areas/201808/updates-%E2%80%98other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures%E2%80%99>

The most critical difference between a PA and an OECM is currently stated as

"A geographically defined space, not recognised as a protected area, which is governed and managed over the long-term in ways that deliver the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services and cultural and spiritual values.

Up to now, parks and protected areas have been the primary tools to protect and conserve biological diversity. However OECMs achieve the conservation of biological diversity, regardless of the primary objective of the area. This issue of purpose is the main difference

between a protected area and an OECM. Protected areas should have conservation as their primary objective. On the other hand, an OECM often has similar conservation and biodiversity results, while meeting other primary objectives.

One example is from Canada which has recently announced the designation of a large military base, the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo, as an area providing important benefits for nature and biodiversity conservation or OECM.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/03/the-governments-of-canada-and-manitoba-work-together-to-protect-nature-at-canadian-forces-base-shilo.html>

REPORT: THE MISSING LINK CONNECTING INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS WITH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE INVESTMENTS

A report published by Enclude, titled 'Report: The Missing Link connecting international capital markets with sustainable landscape investments', may be of interest to members interested in new and innovative approaches to financing protected areas. The report outlines the findings of a study which investigated 'the missing link' between institutional capital and landscape projects in emerging markets.

The objective of the study was to build the business case for institutional investors to allocate more funding to benefit the landscape in emerging markets. The study also outlined roles that the government and non-profits can play to stimulate these types of investments and provides practical examples of investment vehicles that adhere to the landscape approach for new investment managers and investors. The 'landscape approach' considers all the different ecological functions, human values and needs in a landscape and integrates them to achieve multiple objectives simultaneously. To read the full report, visit:

<http://encludesolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/The-Missing-Link-Report-2016-Enclude.pdf>

IUCN ISSUES BRIEFS



The IUCN has produced an excellent product you may not be aware of - short, two-page **Issues Briefs** on key conservation topics.

<https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs>

They cover many issues including Blue Carbon, Biodiversity Offsets, Coral Reefs and Climate Change, Ecosystem based Adaptation and Natural World Heritage.

Members are encouraged to explore the IUCN website as many of the publications are outstanding and there are many lists to join on specific topics.

THE MAGNIFICENT FORESTS OF ECUADOR AT RISK FROM MINING



For members with a particular interest in forest loss I draw your attention to the Rainforest Information Centre run by long term forest defender John Seed. The centre puts out excellent newsletters on forest issues. To subscribe contact: johnseed1@ozemail.com.au

A very important and imminent situation exists in Ecuador for serious forest loss and deserves international support. In 2017, the Ecuadorian government announced concessions to over 2.4 million hectares (6.15 million acres) of land

for mining exploration. Many of these exploratory concessions are in previously protected

forests and indigenous territories, as well in headwater ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots of global importance. Additionally, many of these concessions appear to be in violation of Ecuadorian law and international treaties.

Signing our petition. To make any impact, we really need hundreds of thousands of signatures - so Ecuador's government notices that the world is watching.

Contributing to our crowdfund. Money is sent to Ecuador to help local organisations.

IUCN DG GOES TO HEAD UNEP



IUCN Director General, Inger Andersen has been appointed to the post of Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

IUCN welcomed the appointment saying Inger is a very qualified candidate whose leadership and talent have made a valuable contribution to IUCN during her tenure. This nomination is demonstrative of her dedication to the natural conservation of our planet but also of IUCN's importance as the world's most influential conservation Union – and it is very good news for UNEP.

IUCN PARKS JOURNAL

The most recent IUCN Parks Journal contains several papers that may be of interest to BIOPAMA. Visit: <https://parksjournal.com/parks-24-2-nov-2018/>.

IUCN NL'S SMALL GRANTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NATURE (SPN) PROGRAM

1 May 2019 is the deadline for the IUCN NL's Small grants for the Purchase of Nature (SPN) program. The SPN program provides funds for local conservation NGOs to acquire, through purchase or lease, threatened patches of wilderness to create or expand reserves and connect wildlife habitats. Visit: https://www.iucn.nl/en/solutions/land-acquisition?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=spncall&utm_term=solution_landacquisition

UNEP FRONTIERS 2018/19 REPORT

UNEP has released the Frontiers 2018/19 Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern report which includes a section on ecological connectivity that may be of interest to members. To download the report, visit:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27538/Frontiers1819.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

LAUNCH OF NEW PANORAMA HOMEPAGE

PANORAMA has launched a new webpage with additional search options including the ability to search curated case studies by region or thematic area, directly from the landing page. PANORAMA has also published its 500th 'solution' on the web platform and to celebrate this achievement, it is running a contest throughout April: Top five best new solutions submitted during this time will receive a PANORAMA "Solutions in Focus" publication. For more information, visit the PANORAMA webpage.

UPDATE: #NatureForAll

WCPA is a strong advocate for #NatureForAll. This is now a global movement. It is based on the fact that the experiences in nature, whether in cities or National Parks, makes us happier and healthier. A growing body of international research demonstrates that personal contact with nature has significant personal and societal health and well-being benefits. #NatureForAll has recently published "Connecting with Nature to Care for Ourselves and the Earth", a summary documents to the full report "Home to Us All".

<http://natureforall.global/why>

PROTECTED AREA SHORT COURSES

In March 2019 the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration (PALRC) launched a report on Protected Area Short Courses in Australia, Asia and the Pacific: training issues, needs and recommendations prepared by Rosalie Chapple. A shorter form Consultation Brief was also released seeking engagement of target audiences with new short courses being proposed as outcomes of the review.

The report focuses on identifying priority needs for tailored short courses that can complement formal education and training offered through universities and technical and further education (TAFE) colleges. To that end, training issues and needs are identified along with current courses and providers, and proposes how PALRC can help meet the defined capacity challenge.

We commend the Review and the Consultation Brief, which carries an invitation for comment. And, we encourage reading and commentary on the report, as well as using your social media networks to publicise its availability

<http://www.palrc.com/research/publications/>

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL CONSERVATION EVENT HOSTED BY PARKS VICTORIA



Parks Victoria successfully hosted the 11th World Protected Areas Leaders Forum from 25 – 29 March in Melbourne and Wilsons Promontory National Park. In attendance were 36 delegates representing 11 countries and 10 international organisations as well as most Australian states and territories. IUCN WCPA was represented by Chair Dr Kathleen MacKinnon and Oceania Vice Chair Penelope Figgis AO. This is an annual event that gathers leaders of park and protected area agencies for knowledge sharing and networking, in a different country each year.

The theme of this year's Forum was the "Strategic Value of Tourism for Parks and Protected Areas – Management Responses to Planning Cycles and Growing Demands." Each agency presented a case study example on the issues, challenges and opportunities they face when managing over-tourism at a particular park or site. The most common issues discussed in congestion and overcrowding

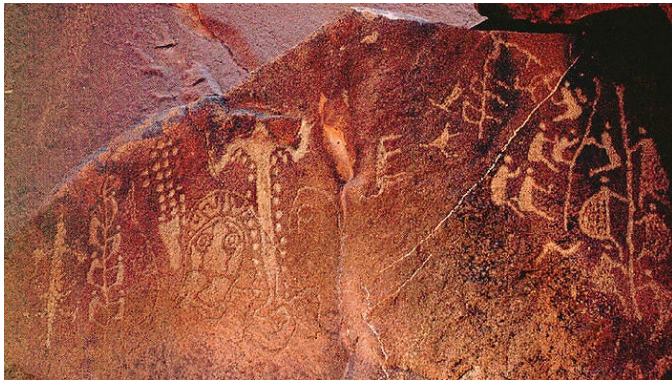
- visitor experience and expectations
- using increased revenue to secure stable funding sources for conservation
- rubbish management and education strategies
- engaging with local Traditional Owners to deliver tourism services on Country
- anticipating the growing demand and implications for the park.

Congratulations to CEO Mathew Jackson, Jo Hopkins and Angela Gardiner and many other Parks Victoria staff had work produced an excellent event.

QUEENSLAND'S LEGISLATES IMPORTANT PROTECTION OF PRIVATE RESERVES

In a highly significant move Queensland has legislated for 'Special wildlife reserves'. Queensland is the first jurisdiction in Australia to create this level of protection on private land. A special wildlife reserve is a voluntary, binding and perpetual class of protected area, for application on privately managed land in QLD. The special wildlife reserve class of protected area provides a national park level of protection to private land that contains exceptional natural and/or cultural values and that is managed in a way that focuses on conserving those values. Land declared as a special wildlife reserve receives statutory protection in perpetuity from incompatible land uses. For further information, visit: <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/special-wildlife-reserves/>

PROGRESSION OF WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION FOR THE BURRUP PENINSULA



Work is underway to progress the UNESCO World Heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula and surrounds in Western Australia's Pilbara region, following formal support from traditional owners. The Dampier Archipelago, the Burrup Peninsula and Murujuga National Park are home to the world's highest concentration of rock art engravings, or petroglyphs.

Photo: SBS.com

SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY ON AUSTRALIA'S FAUNAL EXTINCTION CRISIS

The Australian National University reports that David Lindenmayer and colleagues made a submission to the Senate Inquiry on Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis with a focus on substantial inadequacies in Commonwealth environmental laws to conserve threatened forest fauna because Regional Forest Agreements preclude adequate species protection.

To read the submission visit the following link and refer to submission number 28.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Faunalexinction/Submissions

FIRST SPATIAL ANALYSIS: TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION ACROSS ALL US NATIONAL PARKS

A fascinating article was published in 2018 by IOP Science on the findings of the first spatial analysis of historical and projected temperature and precipitation across all 417 US national parks. The research findings show that climate change exposes the national park area more than the US as a whole. This occurs because extensive parts of the national park area are in the Arctic, at high elevations, or in the arid southwestern US. Between 1985 and 2010, the increase in mean annual temperature of the national park estate was double that of the US rate. Temperature increased the most in Alaska and its national parks.

Annual precipitation of the national park estate declined significantly on 12% of national park area, compared to 3% of the us. To read the full article, visit:

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aade09/meta>

SHARK BAY AT RISK

A 2018 workshop convened by the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee classified Shark Bay as being in the highest category of vulnerability to future climate change.

Shark Bay, in Western Australia's Gascoyne region, is one of 49 marine World Heritage Sites globally and the marine ecosystem also supports the local economy through tourism and fisheries benefits. Around 1000,000 tourists visit Shark Bay each year. However, Shark Bay is particularly vulnerable to future climate change due to the temperate seagrass that underpins the entire ecosystem is already living at the upper edge of its tolerable temperature range.

These seagrasses provide vital habitat for fish and marine mammals and help the stromatolites survive by regulating the water salinity.

Shark Bay received the highest rating of vulnerability using the Climate Change Vulnerability Index, created to provide a method for assessing climate change impacts across all World Heritage Sites. Extreme marine heat events were classified as very likely and predicted to have catastrophic consequences. The region is also threatened by increasingly frequent and intense storms and warming air temperatures.

The World Heritage Committee has recognised that local efforts alone are no longer enough to save coral reefs. Safeguarding Shark Bay from climate change requires a coordinated research and management effort from government, local industry, academic institutions, not-for-profits and local Indigenous groups.

IF THE LAND US SICK

Interesting article on Indigenous understanding of the healthy land healthy people connection

<https://scroll.in/pulse/921558/if-the-land-is-sick-you-are-sick-an-aboriginal-approach-to-mental-health-in-times-of-drought>

FLINDERS RANGES MAJOR FOSSIL SITE SECURED



On 28 March 2019, the South Australian Government made an historic commitment to conserving the world's single greatest record of Ediacaran fossils at Nilpena Station in the Flinders Ranges.

In Nilpena's historic woolshed, Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs and the owners of Nilpena, Ross and Jane Fargher, signed a Deed of Agreement for the surrender of 60,000 hectares of their pastoral lease to add the fossil field (which is on the National Heritage List) and other

land to the existing Ediacara Conservation Park. Photo: J.Irving

A Funding Agreement was signed between Minister Speirs and the Flinders Ranges Ediacara Foundation, which has been created as a non-government entity to support the protection, research and management of Ediacaran fossils throughout the Flinders Ranges.

The foundation's first priority has been fundraising to support the acquisition of Nilpena Station and their second priority will be the restoration of the property's Blacksmith's Shop to create an immersive interpretive experience for visitors.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Premier Steven Marshall, Minister Speirs and the Foundation to mark the intent to create a partnership for the future protection and good management of the Nilpena fossils. The MOU confirms the Foundation's intent to have an ongoing presence to support investment in the site, facilitate research and enhance tourism through creating a visitor precinct.

The Nilpena fossils are a core component of the government's nomination for the Flinders Ranges to be included in the World Heritage List. The fossils' protection is also one of the core strategies in the [Ediacaran Fossil Action Plan](#).

For more information contact the Department's Manager Protected Areas, Jason Irving at jason.irving@sa.gov.au or 0401 120 880.

Also great article in Science <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/03/australian-farmer-saving-fossils-some-planet-s-weirdest-most-ancient-creatures>

SURVEY: KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS – PROTECTED AREA FINANCE

Conservation Finance Alliance has developed a survey to better understand the knowledge and capacity development needs of the broad conservation community with regards to protected area finance. The results will help to inform the work of the Conservation Finance Alliance Working Group on Protected Areas Finance and it will be used to inform the wider community of protected area finance practitioners. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and the information provided will be held in confidences with only aggregate results shared. Available at: <https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/needs-assessment>

VALUE OF INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Research led by Professor Natalie Stoeckl from James Cook university has found that Indigenous land and sea management programs are important to Indigenous communities and can deliver a variety of socio-economic benefits in addition to their better-known environmental outcomes, at local to national scales. The research also highlights the need for better methods to measure and value goods and services which deliver benefits beyond face value, and which benefit communities rather than individuals, the research results and recommendations can be viewed at: <https://www.nespnorthern.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Multiple-benefits-of-ILSMPs-wrap-up.pdf>

ANTARCTICA RESERVE IN DOUBT



Antarctic's future in doubt after plan for world's biggest marine reserve is blocked. Late 2018 a plan to turn a huge tract of pristine Antarctic Ocean into the world's biggest sanctuary was rejected, throwing the future of one of the Earth's most important ecosystems into doubt.

Environmental groups said Russia, China and Norway had played a part in blocking the proposal, with the other 22 members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the organisation set up

to protect Antarctic waters, backing the proposal. Experts said the proposed marine reserve would have played a key role in tackling climate change, as the seas around the Antarctic soak up huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. But following days of talks in Hobart in Tasmania, the CCAMLR rejected the plan, which needed unanimous agreement to pass.

The reserve of 1.8 m square km – five times the size of Germany – would have prohibited all fishing in a vast area of the Weddell Sea and parts of the Antarctic Peninsula, while preserving species such as penguins, killer whales, leopards and blue whales.

Experts said it would also have played an important role in the fight against climate change, because the seas around Antarctica absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. But after days of talks in Hobart in Tasmania, the CCAMLR rejected the plan, which had to be approved by unanimity.

<https://www.archynetys.com/world/antarcticas-future-is-in-doubt-after-plan-for-the-worlds-largest-marine-reserve-is-being-blocked/>

ENSURING CO-BENEFITS FOR BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A paper recently published states that significant investments are required by Parties to the three Rio Conventions as well as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to meet the ambitious goals that countries have agreed to. The paper describes the major inter-linkages between global commitments for conservation and development and demonstrates the importance of enhancing synergies among global agreements and avoiding unintended and negative consequences, by providing examples of best practices and some of the pitfalls that occur when implementation of one agreement does not explicitly seek to enhance co-

benefits with other agreements. The paper presents the case for the central role of nature-based solutions in simultaneously attaining global commitments for biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development. To read the paper, visit: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-3-319-98681-4_9

IUCN CEC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD – NOMINATIONS INVITED

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) has launched a new Regional Environmental Award to reward and recognise CEC members' commitment and achievements in engaging people with nature conservation and achieving the goals of IUCN. ACIUCN is leading the award process in the Oceania Region, with the winner to be announced at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Suva, Fiji 30 July – 2 August. If you know or have worked with a standout CEC member in the Oceania region who you think deserves to be acknowledged for their contribution to the environment, we encourage you to nominate them for the award. Online nominations are open until COB 21 June 2019. For more information, or to nominate someone, visit <https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-education-and-communication/201904/cec-regional-award>.

FERAL ANIMAL ERADICATION IN DIRK HARTOG ISLAND NATIONAL PARK



Dirk Hartog Island National Park, off Western Australia's Midwest coast is now the world's largest island to have successfully eradicated goats, sheep and cats, paving the way for extensive threatened animal re-introductions over the next 12 years.

At 63,300 hectares, Dirk Hartog Island is the State's largest island and is now a national park.

Since the introduction of grazing animals, cats and weeds, 10 native mammal species have been lost from the island.

Photo: Parks and Wildlife WA

More than 5000 sheep and 11,000 goats have been removed, resulting in improved vegetation and habitat for native species. Stage 2 will see the reintroduction of 10 native mammal species and one bird species that were known to exist on the island. The \$44.4 million project is funded by the Gorgon Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefits Fund and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

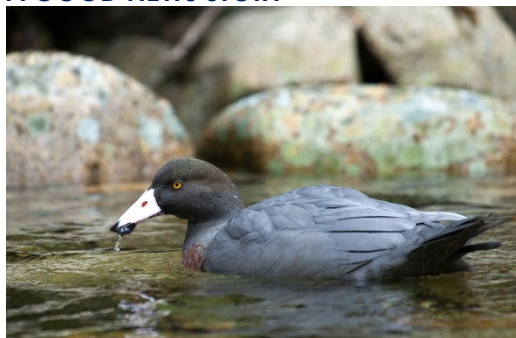
SCIENTISTS' DECLARATION: STRONG LEGISLATION NEEDED TO CURB AUSTRALIA'S ACCELERATING RATE OF LAND CLEARING

The Ecological Society of Australia has joined more than 300 scientists and practitioners to sign a declaration calling for governments to restore or strengthen regulations to protect native vegetation in Australia. The signatories are concerned that Australia's high rates of forest loss and weakening land clearing laws are increasing bushfire risk, undermining Australia's ability to meet national targets aimed at curbing climate change. For further information, visit:

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/scientists-declaration-strong-legislation-needed-curb-australias-accelerating-rate-land-clearing>

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

A GOOD NEWS STORY



Following a record breeding season in 2017/18 which saw 107 whio ducklings added to the population, 64 breeding pairs were found when the security site was surveyed in March and April this year. Photo: Doc NZ

Department of Conservation Senior Ranger, Andrew (Max) Smart says this means the northern Fiordland site is the first in the South Island to exceed the target of 50 breeding pairs. Whio have come a long way since

"Extended trapping efforts and landscape scale predator control have enabled the whio here, and at key sites around New Zealand to make a strong comeback. This encouraging work is a good example of the important role corporate sponsorship and promotion can play in conservation. The Whio Forever programme is principally supported by New Zealand Energy company Genesis with notable support from Air New Zealand and other community partners such as the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and Real Journeys at the Northern Fiordland Whio Security Site."

MŌKIHINUI RIVER CATCHMENT ADDED TO KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK

A civil campaign led by Forest & Bird has culminated into an important gain for conservation in NZ. In 2008, Meridian Energy proposed an 80-metre-high hydroelectric dam which would have drowned a stretch of river and forest within a 14-kilometre-long reservoir.

Forest & Bird appealed against Meridian's resource consents and campaigned hard to stop the dam until Meridian cancelled the project in 2012. New Zealanders across the country supported the campaign, including public meetings attended by hundreds and a 120 strong rafting and kayak trip down the river hosting politicians and media.

North of Westport on the West Coast of the South Island, the Mōkihinui has been ranked as one of the most important river catchments in New Zealand.

Because nothing prevented another company for applying for new consents, Forest & Bird immediately approached the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board for support in reclassifying the Mōkihinui River conservation land as part of Kahurangi National Park. Today that has finally become a reality.

<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/national-park-addition-hard-fought-win-nzs-environment>

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The release of the Environment Aotearoa 2019 produced by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand report has highlighted serious concerns about New Zealand's biodiversity according to NGO Forest and Bird. "New Zealand is losing species and ecosystems faster than nearly any other country. Ninety percent of our seabirds are heading for extinction and altogether nearly 4000 of our native species are in trouble."

"The report pointed to a lack of information in many areas," says Mr Hague. "While we acknowledge monitoring needs more funding, the fact is we know enough to take action. As a nation, we need to make a bold plan to protect and restore nature now."

[Forest & Bird's key findings from report are available here.](#)

NZ CBD REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY SUPPORTS MORE INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION.

NZ Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage says the latest report on how New Zealand is tracking against national and global biodiversity targets demonstrates the importance of increased investment in conservation.

“Earlier this year I announced details of how DOC is spending an additional \$76 million in Government funding to address New Zealand's biodiversity crisis. The 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity shows how desperately needed that investment is.

“This report finds progress in some important areas including improved planning, more indigenous nature on private land under active protection and more people enjoying conservation experiences.

“However, land use changes and introduced predators and pests continue to threaten our most precious ecosystems, native plants and wildlife. More than 4,000 of New Zealand's native plant and wildlife species are threatened or at risk of extinction and more needs to be done.

“This national report under the Convention on Biological Diversity is more transparent about the way New Zealand's marine protected areas are categorised than previous reports. The report says that 0.4 per cent of New Zealand's marine and coastal area is covered by the strictest international definition of 100 per cent “no-take” marine reserves.

[New Zealand's Sixth National Report \(PDF, 2099K\) \(opens in new window\).](#)

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2019/international-report-card-on-new-zealands-indigenous-nature/>

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

GREAT INFORMATION ON PACIFIC -THE PIPAP NEWSLETTER!

If you need to keep in touch with conservation information across the Pacific – this is the best newsletter for you. Sign up by contacting Vai Vainuupo Jungblut vainuupoj@sprep.org

WARNING OVER IMPACT OF NEW HIGHWAY ON LORENTZ NATIONAL PARK, PAPUA

The not-for-profit advocacy group, GRAIN has expressed concern over the construction of a highway in Indonesia's Papua province and its serious environmental and cultural impacts.

The Trans Papua Highway is part of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's plan to develop the impoverished eastern province and open access to natural resources. GRAIN warns that the 4,000 km highway will encroach on Indigenous land and destroy tropical rainforests including those currently protected by Lorentz National Park, a World Heritage site.

For further details, visit: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190204094644-yya6l/>

NEW CALEDONIA COMMITMENT: PROTECTION OF MARINE WATERS

At the ‘Our Ocean Conference’ in Bali in October, President Philippe Germain of New Caledonia committed to protecting 200,000 to 400,000 square km of marine waters within the Coral Sea Natural Park. This commitment will build upon the designation of 28,000 square km of its waters within four marine protected areas in August of this year. These MPAs hold some of the world's healthiest and most isolated reefs: Astrolabe, Pétrie, Chesterfield, Bellona, and Entrecasteaux, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage. Visit:

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/press-releases-and-statements/2018/10/29/new-caledonia-commits-to-protecting-more-of-its-coral-sea-natural-park>

EAST RENNELL, OIL SPILL FURTHER ENDANGERS WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN THE PACIFIC



In February 2019, an oil spill occurred near East Rennell, the only natural World Heritage site in the Pacific that is on the Danger List. Experts from Australia provided immediate assistance to the national authorities to ascertain the status of the situation and advice on possible mitigation measures to be taken. The bulk carrier MV Solomon Trader ran aground in Kangava Bay, Rennell Island, while loading bauxite ore. While the grounding and consecutive oil spill occurred just outside the

World Heritage property and no oil has been reported inside the property to date, there remains concern for a possible impact on the World Heritage site and the livelihoods of the local communities.

While priority lies now in assessing and mitigating the impacts of the oil spill near East Rennell, in the long run the development of sustainable livelihoods for and by the local communities is key. Logging and bauxite mining are currently one of the few sources of revenue for local communities. Development of ecotourism and small businesses that derive benefits from the conservation of the World Heritage site, the traditional knowledge of the Polynesian community and their cultural values is key for the future. In 2018, the World Heritage Committee called upon the international community to support Solomon Islands with the development of sustainable livelihoods for the local communities. Visit:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1948>

6. UPCOMING

2019 AUSTRALIAN BIOSECURITY SYMPOSIUM, 12-13 JUNE 2019, GOLD COAST

Call for abstracts and registration now open

Visit: www.biosym.com.au

ALCA PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE (PLC19) IN ADELAIDE 8-10 OCTOBER 2019

Held by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) it is probably the best current conference in Australian conservation. Despite its focus on private land conservation the conference covers a lot of conservation territory as so many private trusts work closely with multiple partners – government, private land owners, Indigenous organisations and others. It is rich in examples of much needed innovative approaches to conservation outcomes. PLC19 will be held 8-10 October 2019 at the [National Wine Centre](#) in Adelaide – registrations opening soon.

ALCA is currently finalising an exciting program addressing the 2019 theme 'Rising to the Challenge'. Registrations opening soon – stay tuned for further details and [keep an eye on the website](#) for the latest information. To be added to the conference mailing list please [click here](#) or email PLC19@nfsa.org.au