



IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Newsletter No. 1 2020



Australia's horrific summer of fire was unprecedented. It brought massive impacts on individuals and communities, but also to the protected areas and other bushland of Australia, particularly in the three eastern states. The damage to the biodiversity of plants and wildlife they contain is still being assessed, but scientists agree it is a large scale catastrophe for conservation. Photo: Parks Victoria

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

From the Vice Chair

Dear colleagues,

My apologies that it has taken a while to bring out the first newsletter of 2020. It has been a challenging period for us all. Australia suffered a climate change driven unprecedented, scorching, summer which combined with a prolonged drought into catastrophic fires ravaging eastern Australia, taking many homes and properties and killing 34 people and vast numbers of wild and domestic animals. The severe summer heat is still taking its toll in a major bleaching event of the Great Barrier Reef.

I am sure many of you are feeling intensely the impacts on unique and marvellous plants and valued landscapes and particular grief for the death and suffering of wildlife populations. Many may also struggle with the large scale damage to protected areas as gaining conservation management of these areas has been the lifework of us all. It is unquestionably a major setback for conservation initiatives when we need the opposite - massive steps forward. This need to advance is strongly supported by a recent article in the Conversation called *Major scorecard gives the health of Australia's environment in 2019 less than 1 out of 10*.

We have, to some degree, been expecting climate change disasters, but COVID 19 is an unanticipated and globally disruptive event which will have many impacts across our region and on conservation. We are all reeling coming to term with simple facts like many of the national parks of the world are currently closed. COVID 19 has supplanted the major national discussion we need to have following the fire event on every aspect of preventing such

catastrophes, addressing climate change and recovering our damaged wildlife and ecosystems. Many of us also fear that responses to COVID may facilitate negative impacts by encouraging a scramble for any development which achieves short term economic gains at the expense of long term ecological sustainability. I am passing this link to a Google Drive with a global list of very useful reports on the impacts of Covid-19 on protected areas and conservation. It was compiled by Mariana Napolitano Ferreira from WWF and thanks to Nigel Dudley for passing this on:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aTAyoNr-4fp1G_xC1VNKEPdxuGat6r/view

One of the casualties has been the cancellation or postponement of many meetings. We had all hoped that 2020 was going to be a major, hopefully transformative, year for the environment. We saw IUCN and WCPA playing a major part in shaping those transformations through the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille and the all-important Convention on Biological Diversity Cop 15 in China. Both have been postponed. In our region another important event, the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in New Caledonia has also been postponed.

Further information on the cancellation of IUCN World Conservation Congress until January 2021 is available here.

<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>

However despair is not a useful emotion and we are trying to find a path through. My own hope is that COVID will underscore an obvious, but often discarded truth, that global problems must be addressed globally and that every nation has to go beyond simple 'national interest' if efforts are to be successful – this is as true for addressing climate change and the ecological health of the planet as it is for COVID19. Let's hope we learn from this profound challenge.

My thanks to those who offered items and best wishes to all Members and to your families – stay safe. Penny

Opportunities for Members

Members to assist writing WCPA Submission to NSW Fire Inquiry

As the protected areas of Australia were severely impacted by the catastrophic fire event of last summer WCPA has a clear interest in the outcome of any inquiry. We also have a profound interest in ensuring that the outcome is determined by science and not by politics or 'received wisdoms' than are extremely unwise and would actually result in additional destruction and degradation of our already severely compromised ecosystems and species. I believe we need a reasonably succinct and science based response to the key areas they are examining. Anything too lengthy or complex will be sidelined. Given my ongoing constraints I would very much appreciate some members to volunteer their expertise to put together a draft. Please notify me personally at penelope.figgis@outlook.com

The submission deadline has been extended to Friday 22 May 2020 to align with the period of online community consultation.

EU study on COVID-19 and protected area tourism

In the framework of the study financed by the EU "Wildlife economy: sustainable tourism in protected areas", we want to understand the impact of COVID-19 on wildlife tourism in protected areas, considering the impact on protected areas, businesses and local communities.

To do so, we have a set of 40 questions for those offering accommodation, tours, services and activities in protected areas to visitors. The study will allow us to compare the period before the crisis with now, and estimates for the foreseeable future. We also ask about what kind of support might help (relating to the local value chains, and during different phases; conservation; business operations, policy interventions etc.) and on what terms these might work.

Individual responses will be held in confidence, and the results will be collated to motivate EU policy interventions. We estimate that the questionnaire should take 20-25 minutes to

complete.

Kindly complete this form by Friday 24 April 2020 (the site is still accepting submissions) using [this link](#) or past the site into your internet browser: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID19_Tourism

Update your membership information in 2020!

For years I have passed any changes to Members contact details to IUCN when informed, but Members it is now your responsibility! It is crucial you go into portal and check your details are up to date otherwise when renewal occurs you may not receive notice and your membership will be cancelled. Here is the information.

Commission members may update their personal profile information in the IUCN Commission System <https://portals.iucn.org/commissions> at any time. You need to log in, check your profile details and update as required.

If you need support using the system, you may use the contact form <https://portals.iucn.org/commissions/contact>

Representations

WCPA has recently added its voice to those who are seriously concerned about the impacts of Snowy 2.0 on Kosciuszko National Park and is preparing a late submission to the EPBC review. See item and link for details.

News of Members

We congratulate **Dr Graeme Worboys AM** whose massive effort as chief editor in corralling WCPA's global expertise created Protected Areas Governance and Management. Since its publication in 2015 the book has recently passed its 100,000th download. Due recognition for this outstanding achievement also goes to the other WCPA editors Dr. Michael Lockwood, Ashish Kotari, Sue Feary and Ian Pulsford. Also keep your eye out for the release of Graeme's new publication a major homage to the complex and contested story of the creation and management of his beloved Kosciuszko National Park.

Long term WCPA member and newsletter contributor **Keith Twyford** is currently working as Chief Technical Adviser for the Cook Islands Ridge to Reef Project (a Global Environment Facility funded project). His role is focused on providing advice and technical inputs to government agencies in the final year of the project. Priority tasks are marine spatial planning for Marae Moana (Cook Islands Marine Park), development of a national protected areas management policy, and completion of the Marae Moana Outlook Report ready for government approval. Keith is also working with the Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency on institutional strengthening (NZ MFAT funded). Contactable on keith.twyford@gmail.com.

WCPA Member and SSC Lead on Marsupial Mammals **Professor John Woinarski** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) Professor Woinarski is a renowned conservation biologist and has served as a member of AWC's Science Advisory Network. John has been involved in the research and management of Australian biodiversity for more than 40 years. While his research interests are diverse, much of his work has focused on the ecology and conservation of birds and mammals in northern Australia. He has published extensively, including more than 300 scientific research articles and book chapters, and 10 books. He is a leading authority on biodiversity in Australia, having also co-authored the *2012 Action Plan for Australian Mammals* which has been described as the seminal work on the status and distribution of mammals in this country.

As renowned conservationist **Keith Muir** steps down as Director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness two long term members of WCPA step up to the governing board. The new Chair is **The Hon. Bob Debus AM**. Bob was the Member for the Blue Mountains in the NSW Parliament Australia's longest serving environment Minister in NSW and has also been a Minister in the

Australian government. Post politics Bob has been a major contributor to conservation particularly in support of connectivity conservation and in defense of World Heritage.

His Vice Chair is **Dr. Haydn Washington**. Haydn is an adjunct lecturer at UNSW. He has a forty year history as an environmental scientist, writer and activist. In the late 70s and 80s he led the campaign for the dedication of the vast Wollemi Wilderness in the northern section of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. He has continued his advocacy for the mountains by supporting Colong's long campaign for the iconic 'Gardens of Stone', the pagoda rock formations of the western Blue Mountains. Haydn has written books 6 major on environmental issues, the most recent being 'Demystifying Sustainability' (2015)

Congratulations to them both. Colong which has an outstanding record of championing the wild areas and wildlife of NSW under Keith's stewardship is very fortunate in having such distinguished leadership.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HEALTH AND NATURE RISES TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA

Last year well ahead of the current crisis, WCPA identified the relationship between the health and protection of nature and human health as of such importance that we allocated our major plenary session at the IUCN World Congress to this topic. This topic has been rising on the agenda for some years and Australia or more specifically Parks Victoria have been centrally important in raising this fundamental understanding.

It is now as a result of COVID19 a massive area of interest.

There are many articles currently being generated from the crisis, here are a couple of links:

<https://www.conservation.org/blog/what-does-covid-19-have-to-do-with-nature-these-5-articles-explain>

<https://time.com/5817363/wildlife-habitats-disease-pandemics/>

Also here is an excellent webinar which comes for the IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management Task Force on Human Health and Ecosystem Management.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2719&v=pnRgwsePcbw&feature=emb_title

THE PRIORITY OF PROTECTING PRIMARY FORESTS



Photo: The lush cloud forests of Ecuador P. Figgis

<https://www.iucn.org/crossroads-blog/202003/primary-forests-a-priority-nature-based-solution>

"Primary forests sequester more carbon more safely than planted forests and offer far greater biodiversity benefits. We cannot resolve the climate or biodiversity crises without prioritising the protection of primary forests," argue members of the Primary Forests Task Force. Long term Australian WCPA Members Prof Brendan Mackey and Virginia Young are members of the Task Force and join other senior IUCN figures to publish an important blog making the case.

Also note this blog is posted on IUCN Crossroads which is an open forum for posting 'letters' to the IUCN membership.

NEW PROTECTED AREA JOURNAL

The UC Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity and the George Wright Society have announced that they have joined forces to create a new interdisciplinary open-access journal, *Parks Stewardship Forum*, to serve the global stewards of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites—the people at the forefront of conserving the special places most crucial to safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Interested in publishing with them? There is an option for contributors to have their papers peer reviewed. Contact: <https://www.georgewright society.org/psfsubmissions>

30% by 2030 THIS IS THE YEAR FOR THE OCEANS



UK Environment Minister Rebecca Pow has called for governments around the world to join [the UK-led 30by30 initiative](#) to protect at least 30% of the planet's ocean by 2030.

2020 is a critical year for ocean protection, with the UK Government pressing for higher marine protection targets, to be agreed as part of a new global biodiversity framework at the next CBD COP.

Photo: P.Figgis

Speaking in January "Climate change is

ocean change. The blue lungs that cover our planet underpin all health and wealth worldwide – yet we're on track to lose the coral reefs that support over a quarter of marine species.

"In my lifetime we've lost a shocking half the population of our marine species, half our coastal wetlands, and half our Arctic ice, imperiling hundreds of millions of people living less than 10 meters above current sea levels. "So those of us who can help, must step up to support the ocean to adapt to climate change." At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, the UK Prime Minister [announced a Global Ocean Alliance of countries](#) in initial support of the 30by30 target. They include: Belgium, Belize, Costa Rica, Finland, Gabon, Kenya, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, Vanuatu and Nigeria.

STING ADDS HIS VOICE FOR THE OCEANS

Supporting the Minister to raise awareness of the vital importance of increased global marine protection is Sting. The musician and ocean campaigner is the narrator of a [new video](#) on the pressing need for global action on ocean protection, created in partnership with the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#). The Defra video on the 30by30 Global Ocean Alliance, narrated by Sting is available on [YouTube](#), or [downloadable at this link](#) (Chrome compatible).

INNOVATIVE ECONOMICS TO SAVE BIODIVERSITY

In the first deal of its kind, the East African nation swapped 5% of its national debt for a cash injection to fight the effects of climate change on the ocean. In return, it promised to protect 30% of its national waters, which is an area twice the size of the UK - by the end of next year. It's a huge undertaking for this tiny nation.

The Seychelles government agreed the debt swap with the Nature Conservancy, a US charity, and a number of investors in 2016. Under the terms of the \$21m deal, the charity and the investors - who include the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation - bought a portion of the Seychelles' national debt from European nations, such as the UK and France.

The debt is now held by a trust, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), which offers the country lower interest rates on its repayments. The savings - over \$8 million - are ring-fenced for projects designed to protect marine life and handle the effects of climate change.

UN DECADE OF RESTORATION

As previously advised the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2021 – 2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. WCPA is currently developing an article by Nigel Dudley and colleagues on "The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030): What can protected areas contribute". It will be published in issue 26.1 of PARKS (due out by end of May) - People can find all the papers in PARKS at:

www.parksjournal.com<<http://www.parksjournal.com>>

Also WCPA Member Ram Pandit has offered her Ecosystem Restoration related article Pandit, R., Parrotta, J. A., Chaudhary, A. K., Karlen, D. L., Vieira, D. L. M., Anker, Y. Ntshotsho, P. (2020). A framework to evaluate land degradation and restoration responses for improved planning and decision-making. *Ecosystems and People*, 16(1), 1-18. doi:10.1080/26395916.2019.1697756

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

THE 2019/20 AUSTRALIAN FIRE DISASTER



So much has been written and said about this dramatic climate change fuelled event which caused so much damage across Australia it is impossible to summarise. I also know most members would have followed the events closely and read a great deal. Hence I can only add some of the articles I have found particularly useful in their analysis.

Also I wanted to recognise the immense efforts of so many people both during the fires and in the species rescue efforts which followed. Many WCPA members were, and still are, very involved. Just one example to represent our stalwart defenders was WCPA Member **Evan Quartermain** of Humane Society International who was part of the immediate effort to rescue injured and starving wildlife on Kangaroo Island. Photo: Time Magazine

Our main tasks now are to ensure that the post fire analysis is as rational and science based as possible and doesn't generate perverse outcomes for the environment. We also need to support good policy for the application of funding to both emergency efforts and long term restoration. Here are the links:

<https://johnmenadue.com/bob-debus-our-land-and-our-way-of-life/>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/fire/park-recovery-and-rehabilitation/recovering-from-2019-20-fires/understanding-the-impact-of-the-2019-20-fires>

<https://theconversation.com/to-fight-the-catastrophic-fires-of-the-future-we-need-to-look-beyond-prescribed-burning-89167>

CRITICAL REFUGE FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Kangaroo Island Dunnart is now one of Australia's most endangered mammals in the wake of extensive wildfires in late 2019, and again in early 2020 which burnt 95 per cent of the remaining habitat of the small marsupial.

In response Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has joined local landholders and conservation organisation, Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife, to build a 13.8 hectare predator-proof enclosure in the Western River area of Kangaroo Island.



Seven cats have been removed from the site, and AWC are now intensively monitoring the area to ensure no cats remain. With the Stage 1 critical refuge completed, preparatory work has also commenced on Stage 2 - creating a full-scale refuge of at least 370 hectares. This refuge will protect other threatened Kangaroo Island wildlife impacted by the fires, including Southern Brown Bandicoot and Heath Goanna, and the local subspecies of Echidna, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Bassian Thrush and

Southern Emu-wren. <https://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife/kanagaroo-island-dunnart/>

SNOWY 2.0 - "A MASSIVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN A NATIONAL PARK"



"When the Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro storage project was announced in March 2017, energy industry experts were sceptical about its merits. That scepticism has consolidated as information has emerged. It is now evident that Snowy 2.0 will cost many times its initial estimate, not deliver its claimed benefits and permanently damage Kosciuszko National Park to an unprecedented extent"

This extract is from an open letter submitted by 30 senior figures in energy efficiency, economics, engineering, and the environment

to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian in March. I was a signatory of the letter on behalf of WCPA with the Chair's agreement calling for an independent public review. Our willingness to join those raising concerns was based on the principal concern that the proposal is a very large scale industrial development in a category 2 National Park which by IUCN standards of best practice precludes such development.

It would also be another blow to a unique alpine area which many of us believe could be a World Heritage Area. The Park suffered a great deal of damage during the construction of the original Snowy Mountains Scheme (Graeme Worboys' new book captures the ecological disregard and carelessness of the time which left a huge legacy of damage). It has also suffered from major fires, weeds and feral animals and in particular from the failure to remove the large population of feral horses. In the recent fires of 19/20 over 130,000 hectares burnt. Snowy 2.0's construction 'project area' of 250,000 hectares encompasses one-third of Kosciuszko National Park much of which has been razed by the recent fires.

According to extensive work done by the National Parks Association of NSW the potential threats to the National Parks derive from Snowy 2.0 requiring 14,000,000 cubic metres of excavated spoil, with over half to be dumped in Snowy reservoirs; four high voltage transmission circuits on side-by-side towers with a 120 metre-wide easement for 10 kms; over 100 kms of new or widened roads and tracks; destruction of 1,000 ha of habitat for 14 threatened species; the likely spread of pest fish throughout the Snowy Scheme and downstream rivers; and the visual blight of infrastructure and scars across the alpine landscape. A copy of the letter and other documents can be accessed here <https://npansw.org.au/npa/snowy-2-0/>

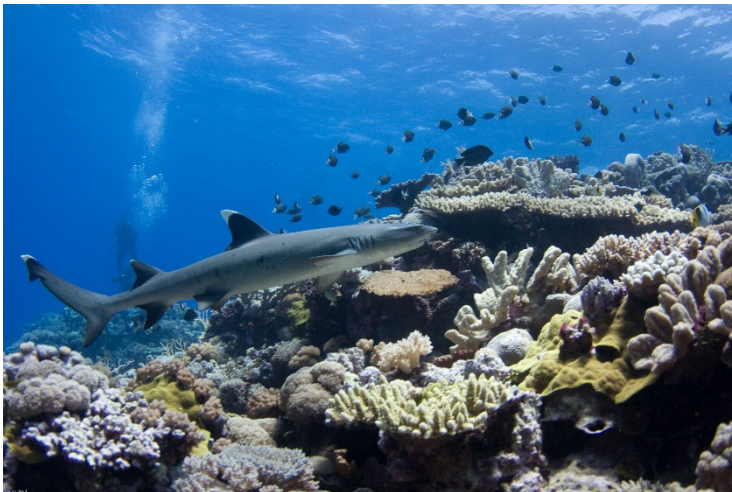
MAJOR FUNDING FOR RESTORATION

The Global EverGreening Alliance has announced a landmark restoration program in response to the protracted drought and catastrophic bushfires. The 'Restore Australia' program is a coordinated effort to restore the health and productivity of degraded farm, range and forest lands across Australia. Ark2030, an international foundation, has formally announced a commitment to fund \$250 million over the next 5 years

The program aims to scale-up protection and the restoration of Australia's most important eco systems, creating landscapes that are resilient to increasingly unreliable seasons and frequent climate extremes being experienced by rural communities in Australia.

The Global EverGreening Alliance is an international NGO which coordinates the development and implementation of environmental restoration and sustainable agricultural projects globally. The program is working to empower land users and organisations to capture greenhouse gases on the land, equivalent to 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, by the year 2050. The Alliance is comprised of over twenty-five member organisations, including the world's largest development and conservation NGOs, and top research institutions. The alliance includes World Vision, Conservation International, Care International, Oxfam, World Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy and the World Agroforestry Centre. Further details are available on our website: <http://www.evergreening.org/>

SHARK SUMMIT REPORT



As Australian waters contain a quarter of the world's shark and ray diversity, with at least 164 of these species only found in Australian waters, shark conservation is a major issue for Australian marine conservationists and marine protected area managers.

Photo: Xanthe Rivett

A major meeting, the Shark Conservation Summit was held in February, 2019 that brought together shark researchers, government and conservation NGOs. Organised by the Humane

Society International (HSI) and the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), the summit sought to address challenges and seek opportunities for shark and ray conservation in Australia. Experts from across Australia were invited with attendees from all states and territories. The overall aim of the summit was to provide key recommendations to assist policy makers, researchers and conservation organisations to make informed decisions on the management and conservation of Australia's sharks and rays. Their recommendations are available in:

https://hsi.org.au/uploads/publication_documents/Shark_Conservation_Summit_Report_2019.pdf

EDIACRAN FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED FOR PROTECTION OF WORLD'S OLDEST FOSSILS IN SA

The Flinders Ranges are one of Australia's great landscapes. They are a window into deepest, almost unfathomable time. The stories at Wilpena Pound, Brachina Gorge and Arkaroola of hot rocks, inland seas, and mountain uplifts are intertwined with the timeless culture of the Adnyamathanha people. Perhaps less known is the story they tell of the first animal life on Earth. This story recorded in stone, of the evolution of life from microbes to marine animals, is nowhere as well preserved as in the Flinders Ranges. They are internationally renowned; Sir David Attenborough visited their fossils for a documentary to explain the origins of life.

Minister David Speirs MP and SA Premier, Steven Marshall have committed \$3 million for the development of facilities for research and presentation at Nilpena Project.

A Foundation has been established to raise funds to ensure the Nilpena fossil beds will become the most important site in the world for the study of the Ediacaran era, with learnings to be shared around the world via real and digital platforms. This requires the site to be cared for and protected on a daily basis for guided visitor access, and continue to support globally significant research. Those with strong geodiversity interest may wish to support. <https://www.ediacarafoundation.org/>

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

THE NATIONAL NEED TO RESTORE FRESH WATER



modified by agriculture (43 percent), plantation forestry (5 percent), or urban settlement (1 percent). Many impacts on fresh water, the report states, are slow to reverse while others are irreversible. The report warns that, under business as usual, increasing droughts will cause food shortages. Photo: Forest and Bird

The Ministry for the Environment's (MFE) latest report on fresh water has warned that New Zealand's identity, wellbeing, cultural values, and economy are at risk without rapid change to the treatment of the environment.

The report says land use continues to degrade and destroy the natural ecosystems that we depend on. About 49 percent of New Zealand's total length of rivers and streams lie in catchments that have been

"We should be promoting low irrigation farming models that reduce the need for water and create sustainable and restorative agriculture in New Zealand. A future-focused economy would encourage more diversified crops and fewer animals on the land."

"We need nature to protect us. Restoring our lost wetlands and protecting native forests from development and pests will absorb greenhouse gases, increase water retention, reduce evaporation, and minimise flood and erosion damage."

<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/wellbeing-and-more-risk-if-water-quality-not-fixed-fast>

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/our-freshwater-2020>

NZ NGOS URGE A GREEN COVID-19 RECOVERY

Environmental groups from across New Zealand have [written to the Prime Minister](#) urging the Government to restore Aotearoa in the economic recovery after lockdown.

Forest & Bird, Greenpeace, WWF-New Zealand, Generation Zero, EDS and Ecologic sent the letter to Jacinda Ardern calling on the Government to transform the New Zealand economy to tackle climate change, save native species, improve freshwater quality, and restore the oceans.

The letter urges Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to invest in projects and new jobs that build resilience against future shocks and transform the economy into one that looks after both people and nature. Proposals from the non-government organisations aim to transform the energy and transport sectors, improve water quality, protect biodiversity, transform fisheries, and undertake large scale protection and restoration of natural ecosystems.

Much of this work is job-rich, practical, able to be rolled out in the regions, and is suitable for redeploying many of the workers whose jobs are at risk, including tradespeople and workers in the tourism, fisheries and forestry sectors.

Kevin Hague, Chief Executive of Forest & Bird said:

"We need nature; our incredible wild places and native animals are what makes us who we are as New Zealanders, and what our economy and wellbeing depends on. Right now, nature needs us to plan a recovery that takes better care of what matters most. We need a healthy, cared for environment to have healthy and cared for people."

NATIONAL PARKS IN CATEGORY 4 COVID LOCKDOWN

The National Parks of our region have generally been in full lock down. The Dept. of Conservation (DOC) in New Zealand have the following rules:

- we have closed all DOC huts, campsites, lodges and carparks
- you must not visit tracks and national parks unless they are right by your home
- you must not go hunting, fishing, tramping or swimming, or do any water-based or other activities that expose you to danger or may require search and rescue services
- no fires are permitted on public conservation land
- you must not self-isolate at a hut, lodge or campsite
- you must not light fires on public conservation land.

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

CYCLONE HAROLD DEEPENS PACIFIC STRUGGLES



The Pacific's beautiful island nations have had a very difficult year. Although COVID has not reached all Pacific countries and numbers are comparatively low, the almost complete absence of tourists in these tourism-dependent nations is causing major economic hardship. So the arrival of Cyclone Harold, the world's strongest cyclone this year has been a very unwelcome additional blow particularly to Vanuatu and parts of Fiji, with Tonga also being impacted and 27 lives tragically lost in the

Solomons. While detail is not at hand the marine environment and island environments are likely to have suffered considerable damage. Photo: trtworld.com

<https://www.traveller.com.au/tropical-cyclone-harold-leaves-pacific-islands-devastated-after-covid19-keeps-tourists-away-h1nhbj>

PIPA WEEKLY IS YOUR BEST SOURCE OF PACIFIC PA INFORMATION

As notified several times before I recommend any Members specifically interested in protected area information in the Pacific to go on to the SPREP website and join up to the excellent Newsletter PIPA Weekly. Contact Vainuupo Jungblut vainuupoj@sprep.org who puts together these bulletins which I shamelessly plagiarise.

THE CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS

A very useful article on the important factors in community based conservation from Kiribati. By Turang Teueaa and Naohiro Nakamura, of the University of the South Pacific.

Their succinct abstract is worth quoting.

"Local communities' support for resource conservation projects are essential for their success. Nevertheless, in the Pacific Island countries, many community-based conservation (CBC) projects remain ineffective due to the lack of community members' engagement. To better understand the motivations of local community members to support resource conservation

projects; this research looks at the four community-based conservation sites in North Tarawa, Kiribati. We conducted semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to investigate why community members support (or do not support) CBC. The findings reveal that while local community members are overall aware of the significance of resource conservation, they do not always support or participate in conservation projects. Indeed, the local community members' motivation to participate in such projects are influenced by various factors, including their status in a household or community, village practices, the quality of community leadership, and their past experiences with similar projects. Our research also finds that community members become unsupportive with conservation projects when their daily livelihood activities are restricted by the projects. This research suggests that project organisers need to understand such factors and be strategic to retain community members' support for the success of conservation project."

[Download free from <http://www.conservationandsociety.org>