



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS

THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Newsletter No. 2 2018



WCPA Chair Kathy MacKinnon with Steering Committee colleagues plants a cedar for IUCN WCPA in the Shouf Cedars Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon in April

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1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

From the Vice Chair

I have recently returned from the Steering Committee meeting in Lebanon (see summary). It was a very constructive meeting and inspiring to hear of advances being made in many parts of the world. The South Americans seem to be the current stars with major advances for marine and freshwater conservation in Brazil and large new declarations of protected areas in Colombia and a share of their new emissions tax in recognition of the importance of protected areas in holding carbon sinks like forests, peat wetlands, mangroves and seagrasses.

The next meeting will be to join colleagues from all over the Pacific who are working to build capacity across this vast region for land and sea managers, very often traditional communities. I hope this will advance the agenda we pursued with ACIUCN and Pacific colleagues in Hawai'i to development of more useful platforms for sharing expertise and enhancing exchange to achieve conservation and sustainability outcomes through protected and other conserved areas across the vast region of Oceania.

IUCN and the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition recently signed an agreement to jointly organise the next IUCN World Conservation Congress. The event will take place in Marseille from 11 to 19 June 2020.

Thank you to Louise O'Flynn and Keith Twyford for their contributions to this edition of the WCPA newsletter.

Member Opportunities

WCPA Membership Meeting, Wednesday 17th October, 2.00 - 5.00pm. Please save the date -.

The meeting will be held during the World Urban Parks Congress at the City Of Melbourne Bowls Club function room in the Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne Wednesday 17th October, 2- 4.30pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet IUCN WCPA Deputy Chair and inspiring global protected areas leader Julia Miranda Londono, Director of Parques Colombia and the head of WCPA's work on People and Parks Karen Keeleysides from Parks Canada and her colleagues Sean South to discuss WCPA directions in the all-important lead up to 2020.



Recruit great WCPA Members

Members are requested to encourage membership to any enthusiastic, contributing conservationist who is interested in international exchange and best practice. We do not need CV collectors or those who are passively 'interested'. We want those people with real passion

for the natural world and all its values. However we are particularly seeking the following categories:

- Natural (or mixed) World Heritage site managers who after becoming members can join the IUCN WCPA World Heritage Network members.
- Indigenous land and sea managers from Australia, New Zealand or the Pacific

Be a Panorama global Reviewer

WCPA Members have an opportunity to be part of the PANORAMA initiative that promotes inspiring, impactful and replicable examples of conservation and sustainable development, enabling sharing and learning from all corners of the globe.

The [PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#) partners (GIZ, IUCN, UN Environment, GRID-Arendal, Rare) are recruiting for volunteer expert reviewers – we need you! We are seeking conservation professionals with expertise in a range of thematic and regional areas to be part of the review process for our knowledge platform of case studies, helping us to ensure a consistently high level of quality across the PANORAMA case study portfolio. If you can commit anything from two/three hours once per year we invite you to complete a short (less than two minutes) survey to indicate your areas of expertise and availability. This will be followed by further information and training materials relating to solution reviewers. [Respond to the survey here](#), by 27 May.

Assist in Marine Conservation Survey. This project is led by Dr. Josephine Iacarella and Dr. Anya Dunham at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Professor Natalie Ban at the University of Victoria. We are conducting a research project to evaluate the global prevalence, impact, and management of non-native species in marine protected areas through questionnaires, targeting individuals who research and/or work in MPAs.

Do you have two or more years of experience working in, or doing research in, one or more marine protected areas (MPAs)? We want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to fill in this short (~5-10 min), anonymous survey about MPAs, available in English, Spanish, and French at the following link <https://mpasurvey.ca/>

New PALRC Course. The Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration is offering a new training course on adaptive management for protected areas in Australia in November 2018. Details here: <https://www.bmwhi.org/education-training/>.

Representations

Leaving Kosciuszko's future to the horses

WCPA Members have been prominent in expressing alarm at the NSW government proposal to protect the large herds of wild horses in the Kosciuszko. Proposed legislation to recognise their 'heritage status' is in direct contradiction of the recommendation of the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee which has recommended the horses to be listed as a Threatening Process under the Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016). The Committee's recommendation is based on solid science over many years.

Outsourcing World Heritage – the puzzling case of \$440million gift

WCPA has also been monitoring the deeply unusual step of the federal government granting \$\$ million dollars to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation rather than to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. It also comes as

News of members

WCPA is building its country focal points and I am delighted to announce that Kay Booth, the



Deputy Director General of Partnerships for the New Zealand Department of Conservation has accepted the role. WCPA takes the opportunity to thank marine scientist Kathy Walls for her many years as WCPA representative in New Zealand.



Dr Judy Fisher has been very active in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) process in recent years. She has now been appointed to the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to represent the Western Europe and other Governments Grouping of Countries (This grouping includes European countries, the European Union, UK, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada and others



Jane Hutchinson is stepping down after seven years as CEO of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. WCPA congratulates Jane as she has, as previous President and CEO made the Tasmanian Land Conservancy a leader in the private conservation field. She has also been prominent in the formation of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) the principle organisation for private land conservation in Australia.

It is a great pleasure to hear that TLC's new CEO is James Hattam, WCPA Oceania's lead for Young

Professionals. James has over 10 years' experience in the environment sector, spanning government and not-for-profit organisations across Australia. Many of you may already be familiar with James, as he has been an integral part of the TLC for over five years – commencing as an ecologist establishing conservation covenants with private landholders around the state before becoming the Philanthropy and Engagement Manager in 2015.

Photo: Matthew Newton



Warmest congratulations go to Louse O'Flynn. Louise has been honorary editor of the Newsletter for many years and saves me a huge amount of time by gathering many stories and setting up the template which I can then add to and polish hopefully for your interest and enjoyment. She and her husband Jon have just welcomed baby Emmeline to join Juliette.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WCPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN LEBANON

The 2018 Steering Committee Meeting was held in the beautiful Al Shouf Biosphere reserve in the Shouf Mountains of Lebanon. Our hosts, the Biosphere Reserve and the IUCN Office in West



Asia and our regional Vice Chair Imen Meliane all put in a large amount of work to make it a very enjoyable and productive meeting.

We were very impressed by the way in which the reserve worked with local people. They give priority to recruiting staff from local villages and providing training. They allow use of the park for local products such as bee keeping and park outlets sell local crafts and food products. Forest thinning are combined with farmers excess biomass and animal

manures to provide high quality compost for local farmers to enhance their productivity. The reserve also helps restore the traditional terraced walls which control hydrological flow, prevent erosion and enhance biodiversity. A marvellous restoration process is underway using the profound Lebanese love of their national symbol, the famous cedar. Substantial areas are being replanted with individual trees to honour guests to the park like our Steering Committee (see photo as we planted our tree), marriages, memorials, births or any other reason.

Members can find the agenda here.

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/steering-committee-meeting>

Key discussions and outcomes.

- All Vice Chairs, Specialist Group Leaders and Task Forces are responsible for compiling reports on the implementation of strategic directions taken from the IUCN World Parks Congress (the Promise of Sydney) and World Conservation Congress. These reports are available at
- The presentations of both the Chair and the Director of the IUCN Global Protected Areas Program should be available soon on website.
- We had updates on key program areas such as the:
 - The roll out of the Green List,
 - BIOPAMA II a major capacity building effort in Africa , the Caribbean and Oceania
 - Nature for all and the health and Parks agenda
 - The production of guidance to the CBD on the meaning of “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) now in draft

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/guidelines_for_recognising_and_reporting_oecms_-_january_2018.pdf
- A major theme was the need for all elements of WCPA to work more closely and not ‘silo’ into discrete groups. The need for much closer liaison between Regional Vice Chairs and their counterparts in themes and SG and TF leaders was underscored to ensure that all our out puts are truly inclusive of global experience and knowledge. For example all RVCs should be notified when any publication is in preparation so that they can inform members and seek regional experts to increase the global representation of all our work.

BRAVO BRAZIL!



In a massive leap for marine conservation the government of Brazil has designated two new marine protected areas around the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Archipelago and around the Islands of Trindade and of Martim Vaz.

The designation increases the Brazilian marine protected areas from the current 1.5 percent to 24.5% percent, and surpasses the target set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which recommends the

protection of 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020. The GEF helped finance the work leading to the declaration of the new marine protected areas.

President Temer announced this at the opening of the World Water Forum in Brasilia in March together with the recognition by the Ramsar Convention of two new huge Ramsar sites in the Brazilian Amazon – The Rio Negro Ramsar site and the Amazon Estuary Mangroves Ramsar Site. We are all very happy with these accomplishments! Best regards, Braulio

NEW PAPER ON HUMAN PRESSURE IN PROTECTED AREAS

This new paper, published last week in Science highlights human pressure in protected areas. The main findings are:

One third of protected land worldwide (we analysed over 50,000 National Parks and Reserves) is under intense human pressure (roads, farms, housing estates etc.), highlighting how little space is actually left for wildlife.

-111 countries claim to have met their CBD target of conserving 17% of their land, but if we exclude damaged land from the calculations then 74 of these would fail the test. Governments are clearly over claiming how much land they have set aside for Nature.

Link: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6390/788>



[Jones 2018 SCIENCE One third of protected land is under intense human pressure.pdf](http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6390/788)

PROTECTION OF CONGO BASIN PEATLANDS



Commitments to conserve peatlands in the Congo basin were announced in March this year as the Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia signed the Brazzaville Declaration at the third meeting of the Global Peatland Initiative. The Declaration promotes better management and conservation of the peatlands, one of the biggest carbon stores on the planet, for climate mitigation and other benefits.

Photo: Ramsar

The Cuvette Centrale peatland complex extends across The Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is estimated to hold about 30 billion tonnes of carbon and cover over 145,500 square kilometres. These relatively undisturbed peatland forests are home to unique species of plants and animals.

Such steps to save peatlands are vital. They are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store, containing more carbon than any other vegetation type, including the world's forests. Peatlands provide safe drinking water, minimise the risk of flood and drought, and are critical for preserving

global biodiversity. However, a lack of awareness about the value of peatlands has led to their drainage and conversion to other uses. Damaged peatlands currently contribute almost 6% of global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. In the UK alone, damaged peatlands release almost 3.7 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year. For further information, visit: <https://www.iucn.org/news/climate-change/201803/ministers-commit-protecting-world%E2%80%99s-largest-tropical-peatland>

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS SETS UP SECRETARIAT

The KBA Partnership has announced the appointment of Andrew Plumptre as the Head of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Secretariat. Andrew took up his new position this week and is based in the David Attenborough Building in Cambridge.

The Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs sets out globally agreed criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide. The KBA Standard establishes a consultative, science-based process for KBA identification, founded on the consistent application of global criteria with quantitative thresholds that have been developed through an extensive consultation exercise spanning several years.

The KBA Secretariat, co-hosted by BirdLife International and IUCN, is the new central coordinating body of the KBA Partnership and KBA Programme. The Head of the KBA Secretariat will lead and support the KBA Partnership to implement a visionary and ambitious Programme to mobilize resources and expertise to further identify and map Key Biodiversity Areas worldwide, as a vital tool to assist in the conservation of global biodiversity. For more information on KBAs <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home>; and [KBA Standard](#)

ICCAs WEBINARS ONLINE



There is a wealth of great material on the ICCA Consortium website. What is an ICCA it sounds like an acronym, but it is not. It is an abbreviation for "territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities" or "territories of life". The ICCA Consortium is pleased to inform you that its webinars, in three languages, are now available online:

Photo: Kiribati. Quentin Hanich

<https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/category/publications-en/webinar-en/>

U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM UNESCO

Jessica Colley Clarke has written an interesting opinion piece for the New York Times considering whether the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO will affect heritage sites. The withdrawal is scheduled to come into effect at the end of 2018. The U.S. alone has 23 World Heritage sites including the Grand Canyon National Park and Yellowstone National Park. The article is worth reading. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/12/travel/withdrawal-unesco-heritage-sites.html?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWXPka01UWXIaR0UwT1RjNCIsInQiOiJrSmJZZDZlSkUrVUN6RE4zUXRoK0hoUkhLNkkyMTBuRThiRUVCOGp5ZmhFTVozYmRxdXdLeEtRUE8rOGVNNUFxOVNRMG51NVZNTmxiQEsZ3ITRGRStmpMK3hWMFpCaGNSSFpXNlFDZTNMREixRkQ3MkKJ3dTdBTjhsYTRGZWN2byJ9

WORLD HERITAGE REPORTS AVAILABLE

The latest State of Conservation reports for many natural and mixed World Heritage sites, including in the ACP regions, are now available online from the UNESCO website: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/42COM/documents/#state_of_conservation_reports

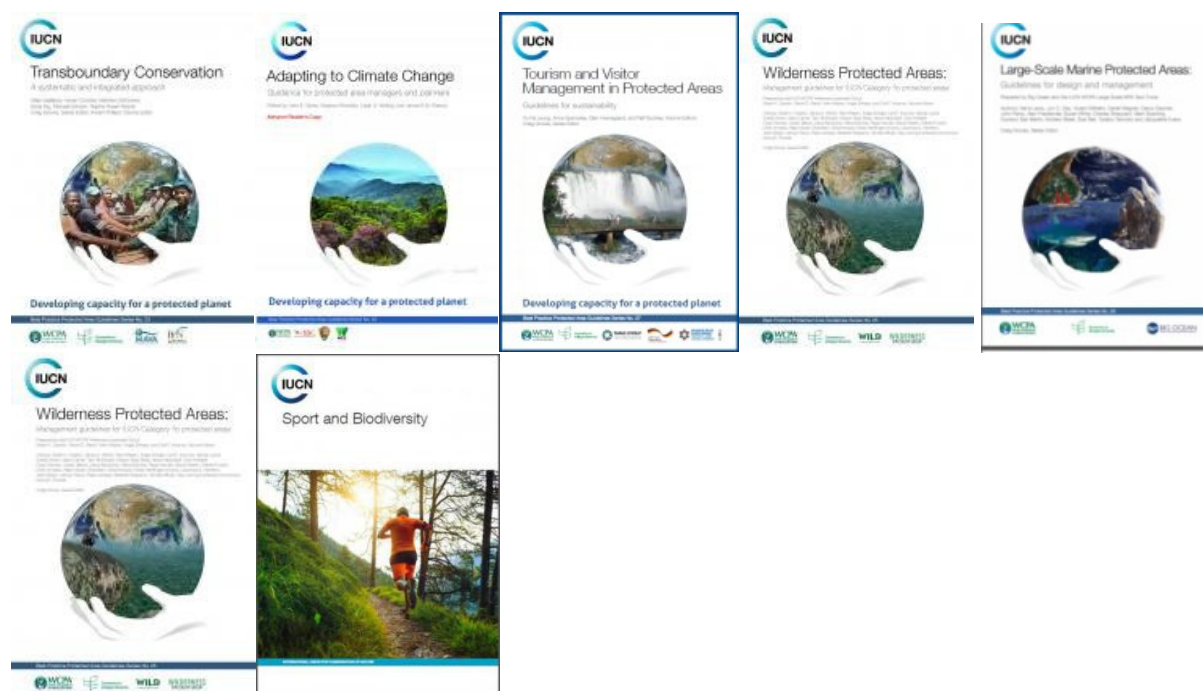
NEW IUCN PUBLICATIONS

Members – a cornucopia of good information awaits!! Please check the link below for downloads of recent publications. Do note that the Tourism Best Practice Guideline has been temporarily withdrawn while a problem is resolved.

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/publications/best-practice-guidelines>

Also keep up with the excellent WCPA journal PARKS

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/publications/parks-journal>



PROTECTED AREA ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

A 6-day training course will be held in the World Heritage-listed Katoomba, Blue Mountains, just inland of Sydney from November 5-10, 2018

This training program aims to strengthen capacities in the management of natural resources, particularly in the context of protected areas in the Asia-Pacific region. The programme is offered through the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute as part of the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration and in partnership with the Wildlife Institute of India (a UNESCO Category 2 training centre).

This intensive live-in course will give participants a good understanding of adaptive management tools including the internationally recognised Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and monitoring techniques critical for making decisions about complex issues
INQUIRIES & REGISTRATION Dr Rosalie Chapple, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute
r.chapple@bmwhi.org.au

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIVES LARGE FUNDS TO REEF FOUNDATION

When our community heard nearly \$450M was to be allocated to the Reef we were all delighted, given the overall long drought for environmental funding in our national budgets. However, the fact that this money will not go to the reef managers the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, but to a small \$8m Foundation has many people scratching our heads.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/corporate-figures-to-help-decide-great-barrier-reef-priorities-under-444m-grant-20180521-p4zgkb.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-22/great-barrier-reef-funding-labor-accuse-due-diligence/9785782>

WCPA has joined others in exploring the meaning and consequences of this unusual step. The Australian government is the World Heritage state party responsible for the Reef, so why is the government 'outsourcing' a substantial role to a small structure rather than the Authority? What does this mean in the long term, will we see more of this outsourcing model for World Heritage? Does the high level largely corporate board have adequate expertise and conservation advice? Should it also involve high level well known conservation and science figures?

PROPOSED CAPE YORK CLEARING COULD IMPACT ON GREAT BARRIER REEF CATCHMENT

It is ironic that at the same time as large funds are being allocated to 'save' the Reef – much of which will go into land restoration and efforts to reduce land based pollution that both Queensland and federal governments are likely to approve a proposal to clear almost two thousand hectares of native forest in a key Great Barrier Reef. This area of forest is three times the size of the CBDs of Sydney and Melbourne.

If given final approval, the trees will be cleared at the Kingvale Station on Cape York, despite the action being identified as potentially harmful to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site and endangered species.

The Wilderness Society's Queensland Campaign Manager, Gemma Plesman, said bulldozing this forest could accelerate runoff of sedimentation and nutrients into the Great Barrier Reef's waters. Sedimentation and nutrient runoff harms the reef by promoting algae growth and reducing light for coral and seagrass. For further information, visit:

https://www.acf.org.au/massive_cape_york_land_clearing_approval_would_undercut_turnbull_s_reef_rescue_plan

'HERITAGE' BILL PROPOSED FOR KOSCIUSZKO HORSES



Currently the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee is recommending the wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park be listed as a Threatening Process under the Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016). This photo shows an exclusion plot where grasses grow tall and healthy and beyond the fence the trampled mud and damage cause by the hard hooved escaped stock horses who have bred into thousands.

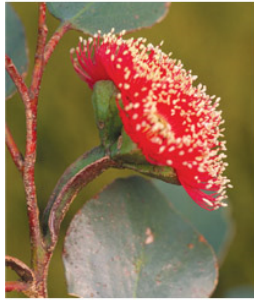
It also recommended that the numbers, thought to be in the thousands, be dramatically reduced by 90%. These

recommendations are based on solid science over many years. IUCN strongly supports policy based on science. Therefore many WCPA members with a long history of association with Kosciuszko were shocked by the proposal of the NSW government to protect the 'heritage value' of the horses and cease culling. Experts believe this will maintain thousands of feral horses in this important nationally heritage listed park and continue the serious damage and impacts on wildlife.

The legislation would continue the damage from the large numbers of wild horses which, combined with the detrimental impacts from other invasives such as deer and pigs, is seriously

impacting on the values of this iconic park. However there are other issues of concern such as the basic fact that this legislation conflicts with and overturns a plan of management and the proposal to put horse management under a Community Advisory Council will take management away from parks managers. WCPA shall take the position that the best policy is evidence based on good science which firmly supports the dramatic reduction of horses in Australia's high country.

FIELD STATION AT RED MOORT RESERVE



Construction of the Michael Tichbon Field Station on Bush Heritage's Red Moort Reserve has commenced. Bush Heritage owns and manages over 10,000 hectares of bushland across six reserves between the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River national parks in south-west Western Australia, on Noongar country but there is currently limited shelter, accommodation and basic infrastructure. Red Moort Reserve has retained about 70 percent of its native vegetation, including one of the largest known stands of its namesake: the rare, red-flowered Red Moort (*Eucalyptus vesiculosa*).

The field station on Red Moort Reserve, supported by a donation from private philanthropist Michael Tichbon and a grant from LotteryWest. The minimum-impact building will feature laboratories, meeting places, sleeping quarters, and displays explaining the region's natural values. <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/blog/construction-begins-on-field-station>

ANIMAL OVERPASS PROPOSED TO LINK TWO OF SYDNEY'S MAJOR NATIONAL PARKS

Sydney's first bridge just for animals will be built on the northern beaches. The 40-metre wide animal overpass will link Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Garigal National Park. Fencing along the sides of the road will be used to funnel the animals onto the bridge. The animal bridge is being proposed as a wildlife mitigation measure as part of a major overhaul of Mona Vale Road on Sydney's northern beaches. For further information, visit: <https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/03/19/21/01/sydney-animal-bridge-to-be-built-on-northern-beaches>

REINTRODUCTION OF EASTERN QUOLLS INTO BOODEREE NATIONAL PARK



20 eastern quolls were released into Booderee National Park on the south coast of NSW in March 2018. The reintroduction of the quolls follows the release of long-nosed potoroos in 2014 and southern brown bandicoots in 2016.

Despite once being abundant along the east coast, the eastern quoll largely disappeared half-a-century ago. For several years the team from Rewilding Australia has been partnering with Australian National University researchers, Booderee National Park staff and traditional owners working toward the return of this native species to the region.

The Wreck Bay Community, the traditional owners of Booderee, has endorsed this project, while the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program has provided research and monitoring support.

KAMAY BOTANY NATIONAL PARK RECOGNISED WITH FUNDING FROM AUSTRALIAN AND NSW GOVERNMENTS



Kamay Botany Bay National Park
Image: OEH

The Australian and NSW Governments have announced a funding grant of \$50 million to commemorate the site of first contact in 1770 between Aboriginal Australians and the crew of Lieutenant James Cook's Endeavour. This significant site, which is located in Kamay Botany Bay National Park, represents the meeting of two cultures.

The Australian and NSW Governments will each commit \$25 million to upgrade visitor transport, interpretive, educational and commemorative infrastructure at Kurnell.

The 250th anniversary provides a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at this nationally significant place as one that respects and interprets many layers of history. The public are invited to comment on the draft Kurnell Precinct Master Plan and the draft Plan of Management for the national park which have been developed in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and other targeted stakeholders. [Find out more about the draft plans and consultation process: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/kamay-botany-bay-national-park-kurnell-draft-master-plan](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/kamay-botany-bay-national-park-kurnell-draft-master-plan)

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

BUDGET BOOST FOR NEW ZEALAND'S CONSERVATION EFFORT

After a decade the Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage budget (inflation adjusted) has increased beyond 08/09 baseline levels. The budget increase represents a 33% boost in the Natural Heritage budget over four years. Highlights include:

- Significant increase in regular predator control - an \$81 million increase over four years for sustained, baseline pest control that will lead to 1.8 million hectares of the conservation estate. This is nearly a 10 times increase on the previous baseline area that received regular predator control.
- Department of Conservation capacity building DOC will focus on rebuilding core staff expertise and function. Forest and Bird CEO Kevin Hague said in response "We're relieved to see the investment in restoring DOC's vital advocacy function. DOC employs many of the country's preeminent ecologists and scientists, and we welcome the return of their voice in the places where decisions are made on nature's fate."
- The Mackenzie Basin. Hague welcomed the investment in a Mackenzie Basin strategy. "The Mackenzie Basin is a national ecological treasure, and we look forward to working with DOC staff to protect this outstanding, threatened environment from inappropriate development and irrigation," says Mr Hague.
- A new unit will be established to oversee compliance with the Resource Management Act (RMA) and to improve consistency across councils.
- A new Climate Commission will help set a long term direction in our response to climate change. As in every country cutting emissions and strengthening the health of natural ecosystems is vital for our communities and all species to become more resilient.

NEW ONLINE BLOG PROMOTING AWARENESS OF MARINE ESTATE



Image: DOC/Tom MacTavish).

The New Zealand Department of Conservation has launched an online blog following the work of Tom MacTavish, a Marine Ranger, undertaking monitoring at Banks Peninsula's marine reserves and his work with baited remote underwater video (BRUV).

The aim of the video is to increase awareness for New Zealand's marine conservation estate. To view the blog, visit: <https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2018/05/11/akaroabuv/>

Preparing to trial DOC Mahaanui's new BRUV units.

NEW FUNDING FOR PREDATOR CONTROL

The New Zealand Government has announced \$81.3 million over four years in new funding for predator control. WWF-New Zealand CEO Livia Esterhazy said, "This new, dedicated funding for the Department of Conservation's predator control work is great news for our native animals and plants, and especially for beautiful endangered native birds like kākā and kea." For further information, visit: <https://www.wwf.org.nz/?15761/welcomeboostfunding>

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

BIOPAMA MEETING IN SAMOA

IUCN, SPREP and the BIOPAMA program will hold a major regional workshop on Improving information and capacity for more effective protected area management and governance in the Pacific 11-15 June 2018, Apia, Samoa. The VC will represent WCPA at the meeting.

REPORT IN TO MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF PROTECTED AREAS IN PNG



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) has prepared a report for submission to the United Nations Development Programme and the Papua New Guinea Conservation and Environment Protection Authority in relation to the 2016/17 assessment of the management effectiveness of PNG's protected areas. All 57 gazetted protected areas in PNG are covered in the report, along with one proposed protected area that is in the process of gazettal. To view the report, visit:

<https://www.sprep.org/publications/assessment-of-management-effectiveness-for-papua-new-guineas-protected-areas-2017>

VANUATU BANS NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC AS PART OF OCEAN POLICY

Single-use non-biodegradable plastic, including bags and polystyrene takeaway containers were banned in Vanuatu from 31st January 2018. The Government led initiative is an attempt to control a growing plastic waste problem.

Toney Tevi, the head of Maritime and Ocean Affairs within Vanuatu's Foreign Ministry, said the ban would be part of a wider ocean policy. "We all agreed after national consultation that Vanuatu's ocean has to be clean for generations to come [and] to keep the ocean clean of plastic was one of the major concerns," Mr Tevi said. For further information visit: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-04/vanuatu-bans-non-biodegradable-plastic/9303348>

6. UPCOMING

WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS FORUM, 21-28 JUNE 2018

The Kingdom of Bahrain will host the World Heritage Site Managers Forum in June 2018. For details visit: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1435>

CULTURE-NATURE JOURNEY TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING WORLD SYMPOSIUM, 13 – 14 NOVEMBER 2018

The Symposium will be held in San Francisco, California and convened by US/ICOMOS in partnership with the IUCN, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the U.S. National Park Service. For information, visit:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1445>

