



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS

**THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Newsletter No. 3 2018**



At the BIOPAMA II Inception Meeting in Samoa in June colleagues from IUCN Oceania Office and SPREP celebrate dual anniversaries - 25 years for SPREP and 70 years for IUCN

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

From the Vice Chair

Dear colleagues,

A cold winter in Sydney was pleasantly relieved by a week in Samoa for the important Inception



meeting for BIOPAMA II. The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas and surrounding communities. A short report is in the Pacific section but my hope is that the opening

up of communications across our vast region and the development of the Pacific Islands Protected area Portal provides opportunities for Members to be involved with sharing their

expertise across the region. Thank you to Louise Flynn and Keith Twyford for their contributions to this edition of the WPCA newsletter.



I am delighted that the BIOPAMA meeting gave rise to two new appointments of country focal points. It's my pleasure to introduce **Kate Davey** as focal point for Fiji. Kate is based out of the IUCN Oceania office in Fiji. She works within the growing marine program providing technical support to countries in the Pacific to improve the management of their oceans. Kate works as part of the marine team supporting marine spatial planning and establishing networks of protected areas offshore and inshore. As a previous Director of the Australian Marine Conservation Society, Kate has a long history in ocean management and spent over 15 years in Australia working on Oceans Policy, Regional Marine Planning and protected areas. Kate is also a member of the Protected Area Committee of the Pacific Island Round Table (PIRT).



WCPA focal point for the Cook Islands is Liam Kokaua
Kia orana! My name is **Liam Kokaua** and I live in the Cook Islands. After spending most of my life in New Zealand I finally moved back to my mother's homeland of Rarotonga 4 years ago. I soon became employed by our local environmental NGO, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS). Te Ipukarea means our heritage, and our organisation works towards better environmental outcomes for our land and marine resources so that the next generation of Cook Islanders will enjoy their inheritance just as we do. At TIS we have five main focal areas – Biodiversity, Climate Change, Ecologically Sustainable Development, Waste Management, and Youth. Protected areas support our work with all five of these areas. Particularly as useful sites for biodiversity conservation, building climate change resilience, and zoning to prohibit commercial

or residential development. Through my work I provide support to our Takitumu Conservation Area on Rarotonga, taking school groups and guided tours to see the protected area and the animals it protects. I also sit on the Marae Moana (Cook Islands Marine Park) Technical Advisory Group, which is one of the worlds biggest marine protected areas at two million square kilometres of ocean. I have been a member of the WCPA and the Young Professionals network since 2016.

I look forward to serving as the WCPA focal point for the Cook Islands
Kia manuia, Liam

Member Opportunities

Research Volunteers wanted!

There are several topics which would be very useful for WCPA to produce: Send a personal email to penelope.figgis@outlook.com if you are interested.

1. Capacity Development in PA Management Opportunities in Australia and New Zealand.

As part of our wish to assist young professionals in Oceania and to assist to build capacity in the Pacific it would be very useful to collate the range of capacity possibilities in protected area agencies and in other institutions. This is not aimed at just courses, but exchanges, secondments, aid based funding for meeting attendance etc. I am looking to someone to lead this for WCPA. However all contributions are welcome and If you have some relevant knowledge or are aware of good existing sources please let me know.

2. Oceania Park Agency work on human connection to parks and nature

The second topic is a similar collation exercise. In October #Natureforall, an IUCN endorsed program will be launched in Australia. It would be excellent to get an idea of how many park agencies and other bodies are running specific programs aimed at human connections with the natural world

Meet one of the world's great conservation leaders, Julia Miranda Londono of Columbia

A WCPA Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday 17th October, 2.00 - 5.00pm. **Please save the date – an Eventbrite registration will be set up soon. .**

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. The Meeting will also hear from the head of WCPA's work on People and Parks Karen Keeleysides from Parks Canada on the #NatureforAll global initiative and Jo Hopkins who leads on Health and Protected areas. Members will have a chance to discuss WCPA directions in lead up to 2020 and have a collegiate drink.

Julia (left) with IUCN Protected Areas Director Trevor Sandwith, IUCN and Kathy MacKinnon WCPA Chair

Representations

Wild Horse Legislation

In June this year IUCN WCPA was faced with a major challenge when faced with a proposal to pass legislation to protect feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park. WCPA Members, especially Kosciuszko expert and historian, Dr Graeme Worboys, were prominent in expressing serious concern at the NSW government proposal. Their concerns led to a representation to the government from IUCN Director General Inger Andersen and WCPA Chair Kathleen MacKinnon. This is an unusual intervention driven by two main factors. By prioritizing the status of an introduced and harmful species the legislation undermines the primary purpose of a protected area - to protect native wildlife and to safeguard important ecosystem functions. The legislation also challenged IUCN's commitment to science based decisions as it contradicted the scientific evidence as reflected in the recommendations of the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee to list the horses as a Threatening Process under the Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016). The fact IUCN and the Academy of Sciences had felt it serious enough to intervene was widely covered in speeches and media but the legislation passed on the numbers.

WCPA in the Pacific

The Vice Chair gave a presentation to the large meeting of Pacific Protected area specialists on the WCPA its work and its opportunities. It stimulated a good level of interest in membership which I am still following up.

News of Members

Two WCPA members who are leading figures in private land conservation in Australia are moving on. Atticus Fleming who has led the Australian Wildlife Conservancy for many years to a point where it has become one of the largest land managers in Australia has stepped down from AWC. At the same time Gerard O'Neill, CEO of Bush Heritage Australia has announced that he will step down. Both are acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to building private land conservation into the highly important component of the national conservation effort.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE TO HOLD 2020 IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held in 2020 in Marseille, France. The Congress will be held from 11 – 19 June at Marseille's Parc Chanot. For more details visit: <https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201805/france-host-iucn-world-conservation-congress-2020>

THE BIG GLOBAL DEBATE. NATURE NEEDS....?

There is a great deal stirring in the conservation world with perhaps the most important being the lead up to the 2020 CBD meeting when the world's governments will be reporting their performance against the CBD Aichi targets. Then the Meeting of the Parties will determine the global conservation goals for the next decade. The content of these goals has already been the subject of several major meetings and will no doubt be a matter of hot debate. A few links give you a taste of the debate.

<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/6/534/3102935>

https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parks_19_2_locke.pdf

https://thinkinglikeahuman.com/2018/08/09/a-tale-of-he-she-we-and-me/amp/?_twitter_impression=true

QUICK, HIGH-IMPACT VIDEOS TO HELP CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS

A great communication tool is recommended to members. This [website](#) provides access to a series of dramatic, quick videos of real relevance to those working for nature conservation.

The different videos focus on the environmental impacts of roads, infrastructure and ill-planned development. A few also underscore economic repercussions. Yet others highlight the conservation of iconic ecosystems—such as Sumatran and Amazon rainforests.

Most videos are available in English as well as seven other languages (Indonesian, Malaysian, Chinese, PNG Pidgin, Spanish, Portuguese, and French). They're formatted both for computers and for portable devices such as Smartphones. All can be freely viewed and shared.

The snappy videos are produced by James Cook University's [Global-Roadmap](#) Initiative and [ALERT](#) — the Alliance of Leading Environmental Researchers & Thinkers. It's well worth a few minutes to watch them!

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR LARGE-SCALE NATURE CONSERVATION IN CANADA

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the University of Northern British Columbia have run the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) Space for Nature Survey for Canada. The results confirm enormous public support for large-scale nature conservation in Canada. Results are consistent with the ZSL findings from other countries. The survey of more than 2,000 Canadians across the country found:

- 93% of Canadians strongly agree/agree that protected areas are necessary. This overwhelming level of support is consistent across regions, gender, education level, household income and household composition. It is also true regardless of whether or how often they visit protected areas.
- Canadians think that approximately half of Canada's land and sea should be protected. They also support protecting half of the world's land and sea at a global scale.
- Canadians view protecting wildlife and areas of scenic or natural beauty as the most important reasons for having protected areas. These ranked higher than using them as space to enjoy leisure time or for the goods and services they provide like fresh water and economic benefits.

- The biggest challenges to increasing Canada's current targets for protected areas were seen to be a lack of understanding of the value of protected areas, insufficient funding for protected areas, and the low priority governments place on protected areas. Only 17% of Canadians felt that protected areas cost too much.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/06/20/coral-reefs-prevent-4-3-billion-in-flood-damage-annually>

RECOGNISING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN LAND MANAGEMENT

Indigenous people own or manage at least one-quarter of the world's land surface, according to a new study published in July 2018, in the *Journal Nature Sustainability*.

Professor Stephen Garnett, of Charles Darwin University, who led the international consortium that developed maps, said that understanding the extent of lands over which indigenous peoples retained traditional connection was critical for several conservation and climate agreements.

One key finding was the extent of lands with strong indigenous connections that were little changed by development. The study found that about two-thirds of indigenous lands were essentially natural which more than double the proportion for other lands is. The 38 million square kilometres owned or managed by Indigenous peoples were spread across 87 countries or politically distinct areas and overlapped with about 40 percent of all terrestrial protected areas.

The study findings demonstrate that in many countries indigenous people were taking an active role in conservation and shows that there is huge potential for further collaborative partnerships between indigenous peoples, conservation practitioners and governments which could yield major benefits for conservation. For further information, visit: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/newsroom/indigenous-conservation>

VAST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TERRITORIES BECOME WORLD HERITAGE LISTED



In June two Indigenous peoples' territories in Canada and Colombia were recognised and given World Heritage listing. According to IUCN both places highlight the important role of indigenous peoples living in and caring for the sites' intact nature and ecological processes. They are both among the planet's largest World Heritage sites.

Chiribiquete National Park, is Colombia's largest national park spanning close to 2.8 million hectares. It is considered one of the most irreplaceable protected areas in the world for the conservation of mammals, birds and amphibians. Indigenous communities, some of whom have no contact with the outside world, consider Chiribiquete to be an ancestral long house for jaguars and the species' survival is critical for their cultural beliefs. Chiribiquete was previously nominated in 2004, however, security concerns made its evaluation unfeasible. Colombia's current peace process has led to the cessation of armed conflict, enhancing the park's protection.

In Canada, Pimachiowin Aki includes covers three protected areas spanning 2.9 million hectares and demonstrates remarkable leadership and commitment by the indigenous peoples to protecting their territories.

WORLD HERITAGE, TIKAL THREATENED BY DRUG BATTLES



The ancient Maya city of Tikal nestles in Central America's largest expanse of intact rainforest. This lowland forest is the heart of the Maya Biosphere Reserve of northern Guatemala, a 2.1 million-hectare (5.2 million-acre) sanctuary that covers 19 percent of the country and contains roughly 60 percent of its protected area. The UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve sustains a wide array of biodiversity, most notably the last remaining population of a key subspecies of scarlet macaw.

The areas rich wildlife of jaguars, pumas, Guatemalan black howler monkeys, Baird's tapirs — are being pressured not just by the standard threats common to tropical regions, such as illegal logging, fires, and commercial hunting. Even more virulent forces are gnawing away at the Maya Biosphere Reserve, including Mexican drug cartels that cut into the forest to build airstrips to transport drugs, Salvadoran gangs that carve out huge cattle ranches to launder drug money, and Chinese organized crime groups moving their illegal logging network toward the reserve to supply Asian markets with prime tropical hardwoods.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/oct/08/guatemala-maya-nature-reserve-drug-gangs>

EVIDENCE OF NATURE'S IMPORTANCE

An information note is available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-22>, on "Evidence supporting enhanced action on connecting people with nature as a key strategy for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020".

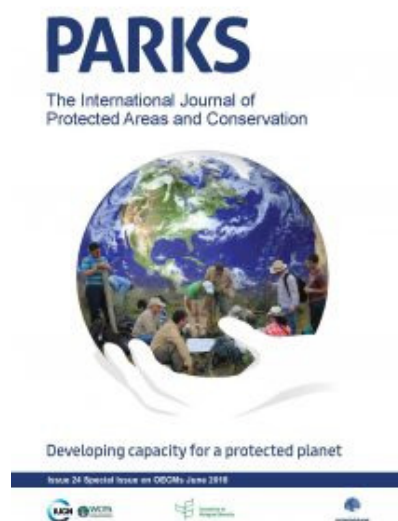
This note was prepared by #NatureForAll partner the Children and Nature Network (under the leadership of Dr. Cheryl Charles), in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and others. It outlines the important role nature connectedness plays in positively influencing human behaviours towards biodiversity. As it provides food for thought on how nature connectedness might be incorporated into the post-2020 agenda, it is also highly relevant to discussions regarding the shaping of a revised Strategic Plan and Targets. A more complete evidence synthesis report will be available for extensive peer review with a view to having a published report available for CBD COP 14 in November.

CALL FOR BETTER STRATEGIC PLANNING OF MARINE PARKS

The University of Queensland was part of recent international research which found that many marine protected areas are often unnecessarily expensive and missed many unique ecosystems. The research assessed the efficiency of marine protected areas and the University of Queensland's Professor Hugh Possingham said international marine preservation targets are falling short.

"International conservation targets such as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals call for protection of at least 10 per cent of all the world's oceans and all marine ecosystems," he said. "Despite a tenfold increase in marine protected areas since 2000 - a growth of 21 million square kilometres - half of all marine ecosystems still fall short of the target, with 10 ecosystems entirely unprotected." It is clearly in the interests of nations to start strategic planning as early as possible to avoid costly imbalanced reserve systems." For further information, visit: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-06/uoq-mpa062718.php

IUCN GUIDANCE ON WHAT IS MEANT BY 'OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MECHANISMS' (OECMS).



As all members are aware Target 11 of the CBD Aichi Targets has a huge importance for protected area policy worldwide. One of its phrases caused concern that ineffective or destructive activities might be claimed as part of a country's conservation effort. Hence a great deal of work has been undertaken largely by WCPA members to clarify the term and what should be eligible for a country to include in its reporting. . A special issue of the IUCN journal PARKS has just been published, focusing on 'Other effective area-based conservation mechanisms' (OECMs). Along with protected areas, OECMs were specified as contributing towards area-based conservation targets in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Target 11. Until recently, OECMs haven't been well defined and this special issue contributes to our understanding of this suite of mechanisms. An article comparing Privately Protected Areas with OECMs on private land may be of particular interest to this group. The full special issue is available at <http://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PARKS-24-SI-HiResWeb.pdf>

<<http://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PARKS-24-SI-HiResWeb.pdf>>

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ASSESSMENT GUIDE



IUCN has just issued new guidance to help practitioners assess ecosystem services within important sites for biodiversity and nature conservation. The report reviews nine assessment tools, focusing on their application in Key Biodiversity Areas, natural World Heritage sites and protected areas. It includes a set of "decision trees" to save time on the complex process of selecting the most appropriate tool for one's specific needs. The report, "Tools for measuring, modelling, and valuing ecosystem services: Guidance for Key Biodiversity Areas, natural World Heritage sites, and protected areas", is part of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas' Best Practice Guidelines series. It can be downloaded at: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47778>

NEW STUDY: HUMAN PRESSURE ON PROTECTED AREAS

A study published in *Science Magazine* in May 2018, shows that roughly one-third of the global protected area estate, is under intense human pressure. Roads, mines, industrial logging, farms and townships and cities all threaten protected areas.

Although it is well established that these types of human activities are causing the decline and extinction of species throughout the world, the new research shows how widespread these activities are within protected areas.

The study assessed the extent and intensity of human pressure inside the global protected area estate and found that almost three-quarters of countries have at least 50 percent of their protected land under intense human pressure. The problem was found to be most acute in

Western Europe and Southern Asia. Only 42 percent of protected land was found to be free of measurable human pressure. To read more, visit:

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

LAKE TURKANA NATIONAL PARKS PLACED ON WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER LIST

Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya have been placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, due to impacts from the Gibe III dam. Water levels have rapidly declined downstream of the dam, located in Ethiopia due to the filling of the reservoir, which commenced in January 2015 and is not yet completed. The filling of the reservoir has disrupted the seasonal changes to water flows into Lake Turkana, which is the world's largest desert lake and it is likely that the changed water flows have knock-on effects for wildlife and fish stocks on which local communities depend.

Composed of three protected areas, Lake Turkana National Parks were inscribed as a natural World Heritage site in 1997. However, the World Heritage Committee has repeatedly requested an assessment of the dam's environmental impacts on the site's outstanding values, yet, such an assessment has not been undertaken. The Gibe III dam is the second largest hydroelectric plan in Africa and filling the reservoir is expected to take three years.

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

THE ROLE OF FENCED WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

As the battle for Australia's extraordinary and unique species intensifies, the issue of the role of fenced sanctuaries has become a much discussed topic. Many regard it as an utterly essential tool to 'buy time' for species as we continue to attack the extreme problem we have with introduced species. Others are concerned it disrupts natural processes and could also create an approach to nature conservation which leads to weaker programs 'outside the fence'. Here is an interesting article on the approach of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy which has 17 fenced sanctuaries including 100,000 ha Newhaven in central Australia.

<http://www.australianwildlife.org/media/275675/1-the-weekend-australian-magazine.pdf>

Fenced Sanctuaries

FUNDING FOR TOURISM IN NSW NATIONAL PARKS

The NSW government announced \$630 million in June 2018 to "grow tourism and recreational opportunities by improving the State's national park estate and available green space". However of this funding only \$74 million over 4 years is allocated for Environment and Heritage. While additional funding is always welcome the statement that the goal of the government is to "power the economy"..."by improving our unique environmental and heritage assets" raises questions over how our parks will be 'improved'.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/environment-and-heritage-tourism-boost>

PROPOSED NATURE-BASED TOURISM STRATEGY FOR NSW

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) has welcomed the NSW Government's recent announcement to develop a nature-based tourism strategy to 'unlock NSW's multi-billion-dollar backyard'. However, the NPA has also urged the government to compliment the proposed strategy with its 'Forests For All Strategy' to exit native forest logging on public land and use the forests to promote nature conservation to underpin nature-based tourism.

Destination NSW research shows that nature-based visitors spent \$18.3 billion in 2016, with visitor numbers growing consistently. For further information, visit:

<https://npansw.org/2018/06/26/npa-welcomes-governments-recognition-of-the-importance-of-nature-to-regional-nsw-and-calls-for-forests-to-be-protected-as-a-key-pillar/>

NEW BUSH HERITAGE BOARD MEMBER

Wulgurukaba woman, Melissa George, the CEO of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance has joined the Bush Heritage Board. Melissa has traditional connections to Magnetic Island and the Townsville region in Far North Queensland. Melissa currently serves on the Board of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and has been part of Bush Heritage's Aboriginal Engagement Committee since November 2017. She also serves on the Board of the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia.

Melissa has a background in Cultural Heritage and Protected Area Management which Bush Heritage Australia believes will be integral in shaping the future of its Aboriginal Partnerships Program, which began in 2005. The program encompasses 24 active partnerships around Australia, representing almost five million hectares of jointly protected land.

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

CONTROVERSIAL FIORDLAND TOURISM PROPOSAL



There is a profound irony that as humans have systematically reduced the natural world to remnants in our pursuit of living standards we demand contact with nature but more and more we seem to want to do so with all the comforts of 'civilisation'. . . Tourism development pressures in parks is becoming a big issue as more and more people want to enjoy 'nature' but with comfort.

A proposal to build \$300-a-night accommodation in the iconic World

Heritage Fiordland National Park is causing major concern with concerns if the concession goes ahead it may open the floodgates to more buildings in this and other parks.

In June, the Department of conservation sought public input after publicly notifying a concession application seeking a lease and licence for a term of 30 years to build and operate accommodation near Knobs Flat in the Fiordland National Park, about halfway between Te Anau and Milford Sound. The application, made by Path New Zealand Ltd, has drawn 153 submissions from the public, of which 142 submissions were against granting the application and 11 supported it.

A consistent theme was that the proposal went against national park policy and the Fiordland National Park Management Plan and the approval of the concession would set a precedent. Others feel it contradicts the fundamental purpose of the national parks, which was to conserve them in their natural state for public use.

Those in favour highlight limited accommodation in the area and argue that allowing the proposal could go some way towards alleviating pressure.

<https://www.wildernessmag.co.nz/private-luxury-lodge-proposed-fiordland-national-park/>

VISITOR FEE STRUCTURE TRIAL FOR GREAT WALKS

International visitors who make up around 60 percent of all New Zealand walkers will pay more than New Zealand locals for huts and campsites on the Country's four most popular Great Walks as part of a trial for the 2018/19 season. In a seven-month trial from October 2018 to April 2019, the Department of Conservation (DPC) will determine the effectiveness of pricing as a tool to manage visitor pressure on New Zealand's nine Great Walks. These include the iconic Milford, Routeburn, Kepler and Abel Tasman Coast walks.

DOC investment in maintaining the Great Walks exceeds the revenue from users' hut fees by up to \$3.8 million each year. DOC expects to recover up to an additional \$2.9 million during the trial period, without significantly reducing bookings and visitor demand. The increased accommodation fees may also encourage overseas visitors to use less visited Great Walks where prices remain the same.

HAWKE'S BAY HELPING NEW ZEALAND BECOME PREDATOR FREE

Hawke's Bay is the latest region to help New Zealand achieve its goal to become predator free by 2050. The first phase of the \$4.86 million project will focus on removing possums from 14,500 hectares of land on Mahia Peninsula within four years, as an initial step towards ridding the region of predators.

5. PACIFIC ISLAND & PNG NEWS

BIOPAMA II MEETING GATHERS THE PROTECTED AREA COMMUNITY OF THE PACIFIC

BIPAMA is an initiative of the ACP Group of States financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). BIPAMA's second phase aims to provide tools for data and information improve knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and fund opportunities for specific site-based actions.

The Meeting include over 100 people from the Oceania region together with key figures from the CBD (Sarat Gidda), WCMC (Heather Bingham) and the EU Joint Research Centre (Steve Peedell). As BIPAMA II partners IUCN Oceania Regional Office and SPREP were well represented. IUCN WCPA's presence was strongly welcomed

The meeting was very productive, **it** was impressive how much progress has been made in recent years and that the vast majority of countries were presenting both their progress on Target 11, their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The support of CBD, World Bank, Global Environment Fund and NGOs and aid programmes from around the world have been critical to this progress.

As well as their area progress towards Aichi Target 11 countries addressed management effectiveness, connectivity and governance. Generally most countries have made quite good progress in the marine realm but much less so in the terrestrial. They are also moving to address all the qualifiers in Target 11 with the most complete being some form of Management effectiveness assessment. Countries identified the gaps in their systems and analysed specific challenges.

Understandably there is primary interest in protected areas not just for biodiversity but for subsistence livelihoods and as part of the Pacific culture and way of life. The statement of the Solomon Islands' marine vision reflected many nations. Their vision is "*A healthy, secure, clean and productive ocean that promotes sustainable and responsible use and development for the benefit of the people of the Solomon Islands now and in the future.*"

If you are interested in the meeting email (penelope.figgis@outlook.com) and I can send a longer report of the meeting

MARAE MOANA, COOK ISLANDS

In July 2017, the Cook Islands legally declared its entire Exclusive Economic Zone, which is close to two million square kilometres of water, as a Cook Islands Multi-Use Marine Park. The marine park known as Marae Moana, includes a 50 nautical mile exclusion zone around each of the 15 islands which are no-take fishing zones protected under Marae Moana, leaving this for island communities to use.

The Marae Moana policy recognises the connectivity between terrestrial and marine environments and supports conservation action on the land which may adversely impact the marine environment.

https://www.iucn.org/news/oceania/201806/journey-cook-islands-marae-moana?utm_campaign=2068495_Protecting%20the%20Planet%20%20JUNE%202018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=IUCN&dm_i=2GI3,18C27,48BPQZ,3WRMT,1

CARING FOR VANUATU'S OCEAN

The Government of Vanuatu has released the Vanuatu Special & Unique Marine Areas Report and Vanuatu Marine Bioregions Report. The report aims to help in decisions about licensing, coastal development, Environmental Impact Assessments and in national marine planning.

Following the release of the Report, Vanuatu will soon commence national discussions with all sectors and levels of government, traditional owners and the community, about what a marine spatial plan for the country should look like.

Vanuatu is also the first country in the region to have an integrated, holistic Ocean Policy, which is particularly important given 98 percent of the nation is ocean. The policy allows for cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration to maintain and enhance the cultural, social and economic values of the people of Vanuatu associated with the ocean.

NEW CALEDONIAN AIMS HIGH FOR PRISTINE REEFS



Photo: J M Bore

WWF has welcomed this decision. It believes this announcement must be seen in the context of the setting up of an ambitious management plan for the Natural Park of the Coral Sea. The Park, an enormous conservation zone of 1.3 million km² (about 380,000 square nautical miles), was created in 2014. It is an important place for nesting of sea birds and green turtles, and a breeding ground for humpback whales around Chesterfield and Bellona reefs. WWF actively supports the Natural Park of the Coral Sea, in particular on efforts dedicated toward the protection of its emblematic species.

http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?332972/New-hope-for-some-of-worlds-last-near-pristine-coral-reefs

AUSTRALIA MAY ASSIST NAN MADOL



In June 2018, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop led a bipartisan delegation to the Federated States of Micronesia and two other North Pacific island countries.

She visited Nan Madol which has been dubbed by some as the "eighth wonder of the world" and others as the "Venice of the Pacific".

Photo: ruins of Nan Madol in Micronesia.
Source: DEFAT

The reference to Venice comes from the canals that connect 92 man-made islets spread over 200 acres built with basalt and coral boulders. Most of Nan Madol built between the 13th and 17th centuries by the Saudeleurs, the descendants of two mysterious brothers who founded a religious community in the sixth century. Even today scientists do not know how the rocks, some weighing 50 tonnes, were transported to the site from elsewhere on Pohnpei.

Nan Madol was included on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2016, however, now sits on the world heritage in danger list due to a range of threats including the build-up of silt in the canals, allowing mangroves to flourish and undermine the stone edifices. Another potential threat is increased tourist numbers as Nan Madol doesn't have the infrastructure necessary to accommodate large tourist numbers.

The aim of Ms Bishop's trip was to strengthen Australia's relationship with the region's small island states and Ms Bishop said Australia would be happy to help prepare a management plan for Nan Madol. For further information, visit: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-17/race-to-save-micronesian-ruins-of-nan-madol/9875064>

6. UPCOMING

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) 2018 Annual Conference held at the Sydney Hilton Hotel from Thursday 1 November to Friday 2 November 2018. The theme is imagine! environment, people, future.

<https://www.eianz.org/conference-information/2018-eianz-annual-conference>