



**THE WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

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Newsletter No. 1 Feb/March 2007

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1. WCPA UPDATE

Dear colleagues,

Happy 2007 to all members both professionally and personally! I apologise for this greeting coming a little late but a virtually complete newsletter was lost in a serious computer crash in early February.

Certainly every indicator suggests that our role in encouraging conservation and a healthy, just planet has never been more vital. We have a particularly urgent task of communicating that in the current vigorous discussion over climate change and water that all the attention does not go on greener energy and water saving devices. We need

to ensure the discussion of how we can best buffer and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity and ecosystem health of our nations and how in water policy we can both acknowledge the role of protected areas as headwaters and catchments vital to both quality and quantity of water and protect our freshwater ecosystems.

WCPA will be trying to communicate that protected areas are vital refuges for our plants and animals and often critical protectors of our catchments, their extension and good management has never been more important. We will also be actively championing the whole concept of connectivity conservation as an important policy framework for adding resilience into the landscape through connectivity (see Item 3).

And some reminders...WCPA is only as strong as its members, you can initiate a meeting publication or new issue network and seek endorsement of it as a WCPA activity. The key proviso is that it contributes to the IUCN strategic plan and the WCPA plans priorities which are both available on the web.

Also you can share and disseminate knowledge with colleagues by posting items of interest to the list server. I would particularly welcome this from New Zealand members as it is more difficult for me to stay in touch. If you receive this newsletter you can post directly to: wcpa-anz@erin.gov.au

And lastly send me any change of address please – particularly your email!

Best wishes Penny

Representations on WCPA's behalf

- Letter to Minister Campbell re protecting Burrup Peninsula Rock art and biodiversity values.
- Letter congratulating Environment Minister Turnbull on his appointment
- Letter congratulating Shadow Minister Peter Garrett on his appointment
- Participation in CSIRO workshop on Implications of Climate Change for the National Reserve System
- Successful advocacy for a Symposium on Climate Change and Protected Areas
- Participation in a Meeting of the National Reserve System Task Force and key NGO partners.
- WCPA joined with WWF Australia to issue a call for enhanced partnerships in the National Reserve System through an attractive brochure. The brochure highlights the increasingly important role of conservancies, rural landholders and indigenous communities as partners in the great challenge ahead. Pdf attached.

Key Plans for 2007

We have many 'irons in the fire' but here are some key WCPA activities for the year.

Canberra Senate Report Briefing April 2nd 2007

WCPA with the kind assistance of member Hanna Jairath and Mick Gentleman of the ACT Parliament will hold a briefing and reception for members following the tabling of the Senate Report into Australia's protected areas which was delayed last month but is now to be tabled on the 29th March. A priority will be to compose an analysis to members

Protected Areas and Climate Change Symposium June 2007 WCPA and WWF Australia have succeeded in a bid to hold a scientific symposium on the topic of the NRS and Climate Change entitled "Buffering Nature against Climate Change". It will be held at the Academy of Sciences in Canberra 18th – 19th June. Due to the limitations of funding and the wish to have a high level output the numbers will be limited to acknowledged experts in this field. Hopefully however the report envisaged will be of use to all members. The

seminar will discuss the future of the NRS in the light of the major challenge posed to Australia's protected areas and biodiversity by climate change.

ANZ Membership Meeting in July

David Sheppard, Head of the IUCN Protected Areas Programme will visit Australia 3-4th July. WCPA will organise a meeting around David's presence for all WCPA. Please reserve those dates in July and you will be informed of the details. The meeting is likely to be in Sydney.

The Values/Benefits Project

Your assistance as members is still vital in compiling this important document. As you are aware from previous bulletins the project – a partnership of WCPA and the Parks Forum, aims to produce a high quality, visually beautiful communication document highlighting the wide range of benefits from parks and protected areas in Australia and New Zealand. We are hoping to launch this important publication at the Western Australian Protected Areas Conference in September.

If you can help please contact John Senior jsenior@parks.vic.gov.au for a full outline. Information is sought under the following broad headings.

1. Economic values
2. Environmental values
 - BIODIVERSITY
 - SUSTAINABILITY
 - ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
3. Personal or Individual values
4. Community or Socio-cultural Values
5. Cultural /Ethical Values

Send short dot points + references or abstracts of reports plus pdf address to jsenior@parks.vic.gov.au. John would like material as soon as possible please.

Western Australian Conference on Values of Protected Areas

23-25th September, Fremantle WA

Members are reminded of an important conference in WA on the Values of Protected Areas- expressions of interest are called for.

The Forum, **Parks and Protected Areas; A Sense of Place, For All People, For All Time**, will raise public awareness and support for a secure, publicly owned and publicly managed network of protected areas, of which national parks and marine parks are the cornerstone. This forum will emphasize the value of the protected area network for biodiversity conservation, public recreation and tourism and hence its economic and social value for the community.

Bob Carr has accepted an invitation to speak at the forum. The organising committee has also invited Australia's celebrated novelist, Tim Winton and Penny Figgis, Vice-Chair, Australia and New Zealand, IUCN World Commission to participate. Equally importantly we are seeking your stories, knowledge and experience in shaping an agenda that will champion the importance of parks and protected areas in providing a sense of place, for all people for all time.

<http://www.promaco.com.au/2007/parks/>

2. NEW YEAR - NEW MINISTER AND SHADOW MINISTER

The environment will move to the top of the political agenda in Australia with the appointment in late 2006 and early 2007 of two very prominent and articulate Members of Parliament to the Ministry and Shadow Ministry of the Environment. In December Peter Garrett, well known environmental and anti nuclear activist and former President of the Australian Conservation Foundation was elevated to the Shadow Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change.

In January Malcolm Turnbull was promoted to Cabinet as Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and stated the country's water crisis would be a top priority. With water and climate change all pervasive concerns both are likely to become even more prominent figures in the important debates and policies of the future. WCPA has written to both figures congratulating them on their appointments and urging them to recognise the critical role of protecting extant healthy ecosystems as the most cost effective action towards biodiversity conservation and the huge role such ecosystem networks have in mitigating the worst impacts of climate change.

NOTE: The Cabinet reshuffle also brought with it a change in the name of the Department. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) now becomes the Department of the Environment and Water resources (DEWR). This also means all emails of departmental staff will change - all previous @deh.gov.au email addresses have now changed to @environment.gov.au. Parks Australia has also moved out of the John Gorton Building.

3. 'ALPS to ATHERTON' CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

WCPA members were centrally involved in an exiting continental scale conservation initiative which aims at achieving a 2800 kilometre wildlife corridor made up of many land jurisdictions complimenting formal reserves.

For many years Dr. Ian Pulsford (member) and Graeme Worboys (WCPA Vice Chair Mountains Biome) have championed the concept of a great connectivity conservation initiative along the Great Eastern Ranges of Australia. The political commitment to what has been dubbed 'A to A' for Alps to Atherton in far North Queensland was announced by NSW outgoing Minister for the Environment (and WCPA member) and has the support of both federal and affected state governments.

Graeme writes "It is an outstanding response to the many threats of climate change. The Great Eastern Ranges are our best watered lands, the best of our eastern forests, the richest areas for our wildlife, and the source of water supplies for towns all along the east coast of Australia. Climate change will change these forests and our rainfall patterns, but keeping the corridor conserved gives the best chance for our future water supplies, the health of most Australians and importantly, the conservation of our wildlife. This is smart thinking and great leadership. In fact it is a leadership step which will seize the attention of the world, for there are no other continents on earth where multiple governments have championed a 'whole of continent response' to the impacts of climate change. I take my hat off to all concerned".

The first property to be bought for the Escarpment Conservation Corridor is "Scottsdale" by Bush Heritage Australia. "Scottsdale" is also part of a regional connectivity project called 'Kosciuszko to the Coast' which is a collaborative effort between local, regional, state and national non-government and government organisations. CEO Doug Humann (and WCPA Member) enthuses the property is "a cracker". "Scottsdale" covers 1328 hectares of the Murrumbidgee River valley twelve kilometres north of Bredbo in New South Wales, a 45-minute drive south of Canberra. It rises up from a large fertile grassy valley with rich alluvial soils, through dry sclerophyll woodlands and onto a grassy woodland plateau, which drops steeply into the Murrumbidgee River itself.

http://www1.bushheritage.asn.au/newsletters/2006summer/scottsdale_fr.html

WCPA is writing to the both the federal and state Ministers to congratulate them for this far sighted plan.

4. ALP POLICY DOCUMENT

Members should also note that in November the ALP release a draft policy paper on the environment. The discussion paper, *Protecting and Restoring Our Precious Natural Environment and Water Supplies*, has some references to the importance of protected areas and the National Reserve System. Where appropriate, WCPA will encourage good policy and strong recognition of the importance of bilateral commitment to protected areas. Members might respond to such documents urging all parties to fully recognise the importance of protected areas and their centrality in the issues of climate change and water.

The paper can be accessed at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1206/msenh070.php>

5. INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS PRAISED AND FUNDING DOUBLED

An independent evaluation has hailed the Australian Government's Indigenous Protected Area Programme as the nation's 'most successful innovation' in Indigenous conservation. The review was conducted by the former Director General of the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, Brian Gilligan. Brian is also a WCPA member.

The Gilligan review found that:

- 95% of IPA communities report economic participation and development benefits from involvement with the Programme;
- 85% report that IPA activities improve early school engagement;
- 74% report that their IPA management activities make a positive contribution to the reduction of substance abuse;
- 74% of IPA communities report that their participation in IPA work contributes to more functional families by restoring relationships and reinforcing family and community structures; and
- 60% of communities report positive outcomes for early childhood development from their IPA activities.

The review also finds that the IPA Programme has 'a very significant potential to promote Indigenous welfare' and that it has been 'very cost effective in contributing to the conservation aims of the National Reserve System Program'. For the full report, *The Indigenous Protected Areas Programme – 2006 Evaluation* by Brian Gilligan, visit www.deh.gov.au/indigenous/publications/ipa-evaluation.html

WCPA was delighted that the release was followed by the doubling of funding for the Indigenous Protected Area Program from \$3 to 6million. These are very substantial and welcome additional funds. WCPA and other groups had strongly advocated increased funding for this important area and while it still falls considerably short of the funding needed to really establish this program it is an important improvement.

6. \$20 MILLION ENVIROFUND OPEN FOR APPLICATION

Members involved in off reserve projects around Australia should note the latest round of the Australian Government Envirofund which grants of up to \$50,000 for local environmental projects. Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull MP, said Envirofund is for local on-ground projects across Australia addressing all aspects of the environment, but this year it will include special arrangements for projects in drought-affected and coastal areas.

"For this year, Envirofund will allow proponents in Exceptional Circumstances (drought) declared areas on private land to apply for weed and feral animal control as the primary activity, as long as there is a clear natural resource management benefit."

Eligible projects include native vegetation planting, fencing to protect remnant vegetation, and monitoring water quality, species, habitats or other natural resources.

Indigenous projects that pass on caring for country techniques and traditional knowledge are also eligible.

Applications open at 9.00am on Monday 5 February and close at 5.00pm on Friday 27 April 2007. For application form visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or telephone 1800 065 823.

7. MORE MONEY FOR WETLANDS

On World Wetlands Day Friday, 2 February 2007 the Commonwealth government announced \$91 million into reviving and protecting Australia's wetlands as part of the Australian Government Water Fund package.

The Australian Government will contribute \$7.7 million to restoring water to wetlands in the upper south east of South Australia through the Water Smart Australia Programme and a further \$80 million in funding for four wetlands projects in New South Wales. \$72 million is allocated to support the planned acquisition of environmental water through the purchase of entitlements from willing sellers. When the water is not required for the environment it will be able to be traded back to irrigators on the temporary market.

The remaining funds are allocated to various on ground and research projects. Further information on these projects is available from the National Water Commission website at www.nwc.gov.au

8. IUCN CATEGORIES SUMMIT

Many members are showing intense interest in the upcoming Summit on IUCN's Protected Areas Categories in May this year. The IUCN categories are probably the best known 'product' in the world of protected areas and much rests on a category assigned and any changes to management prescriptions for categories. The IUCN Programme on Protected Areas/WCPA and IUCN MED are organizing the Summit in May 7 -11 2007 in Almeria, Spain as a first step towards the revision of the Protected Areas (PA) Management Categories System. A member has volunteered to follow the web debates and hopefully some material may be posted in the near future.

The web site to provide information on the Summit is <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/theme/categories/summit/summit.html>. IUCN will shortly be launching an IUCN-wide online consultation process.

A website has been created on "Industry Involvement in the IUCN PA Categories" (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/business/PAs/industryinpascategories.htm>).

Australian member Dr. Geoff Mosley and nominated member Haydn Washington are leading a debate on the implications of the summit for the wilderness category. Please contact them directly for more information
haywash@bigpond.com
mosenett@optusnet.com.au

9. TNC VISITS NEW ZEALAND

Representatives from around the world met in New Zealand in January to discuss and experience conservation practice. Thirty scientists, politicians, community leaders and conservation agencies met in Te Anau to discuss strategies on protected areas, citing New Zealand as 'setting the example for the world'.

The meeting headed by 'The Nature Conservancy' brought together its Asia-Pacific team members and partners from WWF, IUCN and Landcare NZ.

Delegates from China, Indonesia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Mongolia, the Pacific Islands and the USA listened with interest as Department of Conservation staff

described some of the work undertaken in the Fiordland area to protect and conserve New Zealand's natural heritage.

"In terms of land percentage New Zealand is one of the most conserved countries in the world" said Ian Dutton of The Nature Conservancy. "People living here are aware of the country's conservation issues. The national parks and other conservation land are part of New Zealand's national identity. We have come here to learn from New Zealand's methods for managing issues such as tourism, invasive species and hydro-power development as we develop conservation programmes elsewhere in the world".

The Nature Conservancy has set a goal to have 10% of the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth protected by 2015.

For further information please contact Ian Dutton at The Nature Conservancy, Email: [Ian Dutton](mailto:Ian.Dutton@nature.org) or visit www.nature.org

10. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND JOIN FORCES TO DEFEND WHALES

New Zealand and Australia joined forces with other nations to lead the largest single diplomatic protest yet against Japan's lethal scientific whaling programme in the Antarctic, late last year.

Representatives of a total of 27 countries took part in the formal protest at the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on December 15, 2006. NZ Environment Minister Chris Clark explained that "New Zealand wanted to send a very strong message to the Japanese government before the start of its scientific whaling programme. I'm delighted that a record number of countries agreed to participate in this protest, signalling once again that significant world opinion is firmly opposed to Japan's methods."

Although the International Whaling Commission adopted a global moratorium on commercial whaling from 1985, Japan awards itself quotas under Article VIII of the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling to carry out "scientific" whaling.

The following countries supported the diplomatic protest: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As members will know the subsequent season has been marked by high drama with protests by the *Sea Shepherd* and then the fire aboard the whaling ship. Our governments deserve strong support for their efforts to stop this totally unnecessary and inhumane industry.

11. NZ SUBANTARCTIC MARINE PROTECTION PROJECT ANNOUNCED

A process to protect the marine environment around New Zealand's subantarctic islands was announced in November 2006. New Zealand's subantarctic islands lie scattered across the Campbell Plateau, a submerged portion of the New Zealand continental landmass off the south and eastern coasts of New Zealand. The islands comprise one of New Zealand's three World Heritage sites, recognised for outstanding natural heritage and as of global significance.

The Department of Conservation, jointly with the Ministry of Fisheries, has produced a resource document 'Marine protection for the New Zealand subantarctic islands - a background resource document' and interactive CD-Rom showcasing the marine habitats surrounding the Campbell/Motu Ihupuku, Antipodes and the Bounty islands'.

The publication is intended to support the Subantarctic Marine Protection Project planning process. Following the release of this document a National Subantarctic Islands Marine Protected Area Planning Forum will be established to identify sites and potential tools for the protection of the marine biodiversity. The stakeholders represented on the forum will include national representatives from tangata whenua, fishing industry interests, tourism interests and environmental NGOs. The forum will draw on scientific expertise in making its

recommendations. At the conclusion of the planning process the Forum will provide a report of recommended marine protected area proposals to the Minister of Conservation and Minister of Fisheries for their consideration. For more information or copies of the publication and CD-Rom contact Simon Banks, Manager Marine Sites and Species, Department of Conservation (sbanks@doc.govt.nz)

12. CONCERN GROWS OVER MACQUARIE ISLAND

Major concerns are being voiced over the fate of World Heritage Macquarie Island. A rabbit plague is devastating the island's vegetation causing erosion and land slips, and in turn causing the death of countless penguins on the island.

The island's rabbit population has exploded for several reasons. Rabbits are breeding faster because of long dry spells, a direct result of climate change. Myxomatosis is no longer as effective as it was and the chief predator, cats, has been eradicated.

Senator Christine Milne, who is also a WCPA member and Deputy President of IUCN, has been prominent in calling attention to the issues. Senator Milne has called on the Tasmanian and federal governments to fund the \$10 million plan to eradicate rabbits from Macquarie Island to halt the devastating impact they are having.

<http://www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/international/macquarie>

13. BARROW ISLAND GAS PLANT THREATENS NATURE RESERVE

WWF is raising alarm over new plans for a liquefied natural gas plant on Barrow Island in WA. The proposal represents a very different proposition from existing operations on the island nature reserve which have been generally considered as one of the better examples of the coexistence of development and environment.

The problem according to WWF is that the Gorgon (Chevron, Shell, and ExxonMobil) project would be orders of magnitude bigger than the existing operation, by the measure of the workforce alone. It is also a very different type of operation which will require the building of much larger and more complex infrastructure with the attendant quarantine risk to what is the last major refuge for many threatened species, including numerous marsupials. Also new would be a port in a pristine area previously earmarked for inclusion in the surrounding marine park. It has coral reefs and myriad habitats for crucial stages in the life cycles of many species, including the flatback turtle.

WWF believes that a review of other potential sites in the region - particularly on the mainland - is necessary to consider all feasible sites, with a better understanding of environmental, social and economic imperatives.

For more information contact Paul Gamblin

Senior Policy Advisor, Oceans and Coasts WWF Australia pgamblin@wwf.org.au

14. BURRUP CAMPAIGN GROWS

The campaign to protect the massive ancient art sites of Western Australia's Burrup Peninsula is growing. Scientist and Heritage experts fear many of these globally significant rock engravings or petroglyphs could be destroyed if the construction of a giant gas processing plant on the Burrup Peninsula by Woodside, the Perth based oil and gas exploration and production company goes ahead.

The region was identified as a potential World Heritage Area in the 1988 publication Figgis, Penelope and Mosley, J.G., 1988, *Australia's Wilderness Heritage: World Heritage Areas*, Kevin Weldon, 1988, 1989, 1992, P. 393.

An assessment by the Australian Heritage Council found Burrup Peninsula meets 5 of the 9 criteria for National Heritage Listing. However attempts to obtain emergency heritage listing have to date been Unsuccessful. Minister Turnbull has expressed a desire for "a long term heritage solution" and a willingness to consult all stakeholders but has delayed National Heritage listing and said that listing should 'not come at the expense of Australia's economic prosperity - the two can co-exist to the advantage of all Australians.'

Woodside believe there can be both protection of the rock art and industry development. However rock art experts, conservationists and Indigenous groups believe a compromise option is not appropriate at such a sensitive site and want Woodside to find an alternative site, which they believe is available.

For more information see: <http://www.dampierrockart.net/>
<http://www.burrup.org.au/>
<http://www.ntwa.com.au>

15. TIWI ISLANDS –LANDCLEARING THREATENS FORESTS

Concerns are growing over a potentially huge land clearing project on the unique tall forests of the Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin. The Great Southern Plantations (GSP) (formerly Sylvatech) forestry project on the Tiwi Islands (Melville Island), north of Darwin has cleared up to 26,000 hectares of old growth forest on Melville Island and replace it with an exotic acacia species, *acacia mangium* with approval from the Territory and Commonwealth Governments. The acacia plantations will be used for a new large scale woodchip export industry supplying Japan and other Asian countries.

The Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) is concerned over what Sylvatech referred to its "aggressive expansion plans" which would, if approved by Government and Tiwi Islanders result in the clearing of a massive 100,000 hectares of Tiwi Island forests. The forests being cleared are unique and magnificent and contain several endangered species. Importantly they were identified in the NT Conservation Masterplan as having international importance and therefore a priority for negotiated conservation.

ECNT points to the fact that there have been many failed plantation forestry projects in the NT and this one could well fail too, leaving the local Indigenous people in a very serious situation. The price received by the company, and hence any income for the Tiwi Indigenous community, may turn out to be far less than expected given the worldwide glut of pulp plantations and the general decline in commodity prices.

ECNT is calling on the Territory Government to undertake, in co-operation with the Tiwi Islanders, a full, independent, expert audit of the existing project to ensure that all environmental and community protection conditions are being fully complied with and that no significant environmental or community problems are emerging.

16. 'GREAT EXTINCTION' CONFERENCE, UNSW JULY

A conference to be held at the University of New South Wales 10-12th July 2007 will spotlight the crisis facing Australia and the Pacific's biodiversity. The world faces its sixth great extinction event, driven mainly by humans. Our region faces special challenges including: island ecology, rising sea levels, changing rainfall and land and water degradation. These issues are overlaid by the general problems of habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, pollution and over harvesting.

This Conference, convened by the Society for Conservation Biology (Australasia Section) identifies the major problems for biodiversity conservation in our region, existing and potential solutions and links to the global biodiversity initiatives. Real opportunities can be

found in the nexus between conservation science and policy-makers, managers and the community.

There are five major themes:

- Regional Challenges (particular issues for the world)
- Managing threatening process of universal importance
- Case studies of conservation in action, including biodiversity monitoring and assessment
- Conservation science and policy
- Conservation science and the community (non-government organisations, indigenous people)

A diverse and balanced program is being organised, with international and regional Keynote presenters presenting a range of topics. Abstracts for proffered oral presentations and poster presentations will be requested.

The Conference is aimed at scientists, managers and policy makers in our fields.

More information <http://www.biodiversity2007.com/>

17. MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE WA 2007

The 11th INTERNATIONAL MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS CONFERENCE - MEDECOS XI will be held in Perth, Western Australia, Australia in 2007 (2nd - 5th September). The scientific program will feature oral and poster presentations covering important contemporary topics of global interest (e.g. global change, conservation of threatened species and ecosystems, restoration ecology). The accompanying pre- and post- conference field trips will showcase some of Western Australia's unique flora and fauna, ancient landscapes and striking coastline.

For detailed conference information, please visit <http://www.medecosxi2007.com.au>
For additional information, the organising committee can be contacted via medecosxi2007@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

18. BIOSPHERE CONFERENCE – MADRID 2008

Spain will host the 3rd World Biosphere Reserves Congress entitled "Biosphere Futures, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development"

Ms. Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Minister for Environment of the Kingdom of Spain, announced on 24 October 2006, at the 19th session of the MAB-ICC that Spain offered to host the 3rd World Biosphere Reserves Congress entitled "Biosphere Futures, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development" in Madrid from 4 - 8 February 2008. In addition, Spain would also host the 20th Session of the MAB-ICC

http://www.unesco.org/mab/news/icc_spain.shtml

29. IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS – BARCELONA 2008

Members are alerted to start thinking about the next World Conservation Congress. The Congress is the world's largest and most diverse conservation event. Held every four years, the Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The previous Congress, held in Bangkok in November 2004, brought together 5,000 people from all corners of the world, to discuss, debate and decide on environmental and development issues.

The next Congress will be held in Barcelona from 5 to 14 October 2008.

The Congress has two parts: the Forum and the Members' Assembly. Over 8,000 delegates are expected to attend.

More information http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008/docs/congress_low.pdf

21. 2007 CALENDAR

From DEWR's website a useful calendar of major days

<http://www.environment.gov.au/events/index.html>

March

[Schools Clean Up Day](#) - 2nd

[Sydney Harbour Week](#) - 2nd and 11th

[Clean up Australia Day](#) - 4th

[Outlook 2007 conference](#) - 6th and 7th

[Seaweeek](#) - 4th to 10th

[2007 Fenner Conference on the Environment: Water, population and Australia's urban future](#) - 15th and 16th

[World Forestry Day](#) - 21st

[World Day for Water](#) - 22nd

[World Meteorological Day](#) - 23rd

April

[Earth Day](#) - 22nd

May

[International Biodiversity Day](#) - 22nd

June

[World Environment Day Awards Presentation Dinner](#) - 1st

[World Environment Day](#) - 5th

[World Oceans Day](#) - 8th

July

[NAIDOC 2007](#) - 2nd to 8th

[The Biodiversity Extinction Crisis-A Pacific Response](#) - 10th to 12th

[Schools Tree day](#) - 27th

[National Tree Day](#) - 29th

August

[International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#) - 9th

[National Science Week](#) - 18th to 26th

[Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#) - 27th August to 2nd September

[2007 Queensland Landcare Conference, Mackay](#) - 22nd to 25th

[Keep It Real Conference - Agriculture/Farm Food Safety and Quality Assurance Conferences, Hobart](#) - 6th to 10th

September

[Biodiversity month](#) - all September

[Wattle Day](#) - 1st

[Landcare week](#) - 3rd to 9th

[National Threatened Species Day](#) - 7th

[Clean Up the World Weekend](#) - 14th to 16th

[National Bilby Day](#) - 9th

[Sustainable House Day](#) - 9th

October

[World Habitat Day](#) - 1st

[Walk to Work Day](#) - 5th

[National Ride to Work Day](#) - 17th

[National Water Week](#) - 21st to 27th

November

[National Recycling week](#) - 12th to 18th

[Asia-Pacific Eco-Health Conference, Melbourne](#) - 30th to 3rd December

December

[Coastcare week](#) - 3rd to 9th

[International Volunteer Day](#) - 5th

[International Mountain Day](#) - 11th