

A summary document is prepared after each meeting of the Reef Advisory Committee to inform other advisory committees serving the Authority, and persons generally (including the public), of business of the RAC. The document forms part of the records of the meeting and so its content is limited to matters raised in the meeting, and, where necessary, background details given to the meeting. Any inquiries should be referred to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (GBRMPA) Secretariat, or to the appropriate Member.



CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CRAC) 12th Meeting 9 and 10 December 2003 – Townsville SUMMARY DOCUMENT

REPORT ON GBRMPA ACTIVITIES

The Committee was briefed on the recent activities of the GBRMPA, including the following issues:

- Members were thanked for their valuable contribution to the Representative Areas Program (RAP). Such a program could not have been achieved without the assistance of groups like the CRAC and the various community and stakeholder groups working closely with the GBRMPA.
- The Chairpersons of the GBRMPA's various committees (Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee; the Reef Advisory Committees; and the Local Marine Advisory Committees) were briefed on the revised Zoning Plan that was submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. The presentation drew very positive comment, for the most part, particularly in relation to the process of engagement and consultation between communities/stakeholders and the GBRMPA. With the goodwill achieved during the RAP consultation process, the GBRMPA is keen to build on this level of community consultation.
- Further consultation is needed with those on whom the RAP would negatively impact.
- There is a degree of scepticism from a variety of groups including tourism operators, Indigenous communities and commercial fishers regarding monitoring. The GBRMPA will develop a monitoring and reporting program, building on some processes already in place, and with the involvement of local communities.
- The GBRMPA's Communication and Education Group has continued with their educational programs through ReefHQ and directly to schools and community groups. The Reef Guardians program has been an amazing success, with scores of schools already signed up to be involved, and many more intending to do so in 2004. Local councils have also expressed interest in the program.

REPRESENTATIVE AREAS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Committee was briefed on the status of the RAP, including the following issues:

- The Zoning Plan is currently before the Australian Parliament for consideration.
- Plans of Management (PoMs) come under a separate part of the Act to the Zoning Plan, and will remain in place.
- Members were advised that a set of principles and guidelines will be developed for a process of structural adjustment, taking into account the sustainability of the fisheries. Currently, almost all fisheries involved are subject to investment warnings. Commonwealth and Queensland authorities will liaise to minimise impacts on individuals. This process will involve a wide range of parties; individuals, communities and industry sectors; as well as the management agencies.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ZONING PLAN

The Committee was advised that there are a variety of programs currently underway that will work together to protect and manage the GBR. It was suggested that a difficult part of the process would be the implementation of the RAP, and members were asked to consider how to maintain the momentum once the program began. During discussion, the following comments were noted:

- As many of the regulations associated with the implementation of the RAP will be new, staff of the various management agencies will need to be briefed (including police and the legal fraternity). The two Acts currently in place – the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) – will continue to complement each other.

- Additional funding will probably be required for compliance and enforcement. The GBRMPA is building on available resources, including community relationships, sharing information and identifying potential hotspots.
- It may be possible to use technology as a tool for enforcement as well as education. For example, global positioning systems (GPS) could be programmed to alarm when a vessel enters a restricted zone. Alternatively, as it is not a requirement that vessels be equipped with a GPS, zoning maps should be made widely available through marine chandleries, tackle shops, etc.

In concluding discussion, the Committee recommended that the GBRMPA develop a plan for the comprehensive documentation of the lessons of experience arising from the RAP/rezoning process.

INDIGENOUS ISSUES UPDATE

The Committee was updated on Indigenous issues currently being considered by the Species Conservation Unit and the Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit. During discussion, the following comments were noted:

- Staff from the GBRMPA are undertaking specific liaison work with Indigenous communities. This is a team effort involving traditional owners and management agencies to ensure appropriate enforcement of a community's sea country. It is hoped that a good working relationship can be built over the next few years.
- It was agreed that monitoring is a critical part of the process, and may prove to be very challenging. There needs to be discussion with the traditional owners in terms of data collection. It is hoped that a very simple, practical, culturally acceptable way of monitoring can be determined.
- As a result of recent amendments to the EPBC Act providing for listing of national heritage, there is the potential for the use of additional administrative tools in these amendments for management of the traditional use of marine resources.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) FOR EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RAP

The purpose of the discussion during this item was to provide advice, based on the expertise of members, to the GBRMPA on a simple framework for evaluation of the effectiveness of the RAP, which would also assist in the further development of a monitoring program.

The Committee was asked to consider this issue from the perspective of representatives of stakeholder groups; which may help to identify other problems and solutions. Members were encouraged to offer

suggestions on what they see may be outcomes from the RAP; and principles that they consider to be important in determining KPIs.

In considering KPIs, the importance of developing meaningful criteria was noted, to ensure clear results were achieved. It was also important to consider indicators that were not biophysical. In considering KPIs, it was agreed that they must:

- Represent the objective/outcome of interest;
- Have a low chance of indicating either a false negative (i.e., shows no change where there is some); or a false positive (i.e., shows some change where there is none);
- Be sensitive to direction of change; rate of change; long-, medium- and short-term trends; spatial differences;
- Be unbiased;
- Be feasible with respect to data collection (cost; repeatable with available expertise; use performance indicators that indicate for more than one objective/outcome); reference values;
- Be easy to interpret and be meaningful to relevant groups (e.g., public, politicians);
- Be proactive to deliver implications for policy/management in timely manner; and
- Have no negative unintended consequences.

The Committee will discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

During the meeting, members were also updated on the following issues:

- World Heritage issues;
- Species Conservation issues; and
- Australian National Audit Office's recent audit of the GBRMPA.

NEXT MEETING

The 13th CRAC meeting will be held on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 March 2004 in Townsville.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr Doug Baird	Tourism and Recreation
Ms Kate Davey	Non-government organisation, Conservation
Mr Jon Day	GBRMPA
Dr Pat Hutchings	Non-government organisation, Ecologist
Mr Bruce Leaver	Dept of the Environment and Heritage
Prof Helene Marsh	Scientific Community
Ms Melissa Nursey-Bray	Non-government organisation, Conservation
Mr Peter Ogilvie	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Assoc Prof Stephan Schnierer	Indigenous Issues
Mr Tim Smith	Water Quality, Coastal Issues
Mr Duncan Souter	Queensland Seafood Industry Association
Mr Peter Valentine	World Heritage, Protected Area Management
Mr Simon Woodley	Independent Chair
Ms Imogen Zethoven	Non-government organisation, Conservation