



CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CRAC) 14th Meeting 12 and 13 August 2004 – Townsville SUMMARY DOCUMENT

NEW GBRMPA ZONING PLAN

The Committee was briefed on the updated electronic navigational products released to coincide with the new Zoning Plan requirements.

Members also heard that new monitoring programs may be developed contingent on a review of existing monitoring programs and outcomes of interactions with community members. The Committee strongly supported the concept of community-based monitoring, and made the following recommendations in relation to the development of a community based monitoring program (CBMP). It was recommended that:

1. A CBMP should be a component of a wider monitoring program linked to key performance indicators (KPIs) for evaluating performance of management;
2. A CBMP should have very clear objectives and expected outcomes negotiated with the community feedback to the community;
3. Community based monitoring data should not be collected without a clear mutually understood purpose and a clear understanding of the processes, timelines and responsibilities for analysis and feedback;
4. A CBMP should be carefully designed and scientifically peer reviewed to ensure that the data that are collected are usable for the agreed purpose, whether for baseline information or to monitor trends;
5. The strengths and limitations of data should be provided to design and manage the program;
6. Dedicated specialised resources should be provided to design and manage the program; and
7. Communities should be involved in the decision making arising from any management changes derived from the community monitoring data.

QUEENSLAND MARINE PARK ZONING

The Committee was briefed on Queensland's proposed Great Barrier Reef Zoning, and heard that all

of the Commonwealth zoning adjacent to the state marine park would be continued and complemented in the state marine park, to the high water mark but across creeks and estuaries and excluding certain areas. The consultation period was due to conclude on 26 August 2004, and it was hoped that the state marine park would be in place shortly afterwards.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

Members heard that the GBRMPA was keen to continue the current positive relationships with communities on a range of levels, to ensure that with any future engagement, the communities have the knowledge that the discussions will be transparent and that the GBRMPA will value their input.

The Committee commended the substantial community engagement undertaken in the development and launch of the new Zoning Plan, and recommended that the GBRMPA build on the learning generated in the Authority and in the community, by:

1. Building a more complete community engagement model through a survey of Local Marine Advisory Committees to identify strengths of engagement to date and areas for improvement for future engagement.
2. Developing a clear and measurable set of objectives and outcomes that express the intentions of the community engagement program and identify what might change because of the program.
3. Developing a set of community engagement principles that could address such matters as -
 - (a) recognition of values and rights (legal or customary);
 - (b) building relationships, sharing responsibilities;
 - (c) negotiating mutually advantageous outcomes;
 - (d) developing a sense of stewardship in local communities;
 - (e) building capacity and resilience both in communities and in the GBRMPA;
 - (f) providing resources for capacity building;
 - (g) maintaining ongoing contact; and

- (h) ensuring that any 'social wounds' from past interactions are resolved; with priority given to the least resilient communities.
- 4. Seeking independent advice to understand the barriers to change and ways to overcome those barriers.

INDIGENOUS ISSUES UPDATE

The Committee recognised the difficulty in and long-term nature of the development of effective agreements with Indigenous communities on the management of traditional hunting. The Committee supported the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRA) process, commended the effort to date and acknowledged the importance of this process:

- (a) For building capacity and effective relationships with Indigenous communities as a basis for long-term change;
- (b) As a component of wider efforts at effective engagement with Indigenous communities on the range of issues that affects their rights and aspirations; and
- (c) For involving other agencies (particularly Queensland state agencies) in the development of TUMRAs.

The Committee recommended that:

- 1. There should be strong links between the development of TUMRAs and the programs that monitor take of dugong and turtle.
- 2. There be close involvement of the scientific community in the development of TUMRAs to inform discussions about sustainability of take, noting that some of the scientific information required to estimate sustainable take was not yet available.
- 3. The GBRMPA maintain a watching brief on issues concerning animal rights and animal cruelty in relation to the take of dugong and turtle, because of their potential to affect the development of TUMRAs.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AREAS PROGRAM (RAP)

The Committee acknowledged that:

- (a) The expansion of 'green zones' through the RAP process was only one of the management tools available to protect the biodiversity of the GBRMP; and
- (b) The development of performance indicators to determine the effectiveness of the RAP for the protection of biodiversity and other objectives was a lengthy and difficult process.

The Committee commended the GBRMPA on progress to date and urged that the development of performance indicators to determine the effectiveness of RAP and related monitoring be pursued.

The Committee recommended that the GBRMPA, as a matter of priority:

- 1. Confirms and prioritises the objectives for RAP derived from published material and summarised in CRAC 12 meeting papers;
- 2. Identifies specific outcomes derived from these objectives and expected by management, stakeholders and other interest groups; these outcomes should include socio-economic as well as ecological outcomes of RAP;
- 3. Undertakes an expertise-based process to develop KPIs for RAP effectiveness that will demonstrate the outcomes from 1 and 2 above, and that meet the principles for good KPIs, noting that this was a complex exercise which will involve an investment in dedicated staff time as well as expert advice; and
- 4. Develops performance evaluation measures for RAP that -
 - (a) draw upon data derived from monitoring programs,
 - (b) address stakeholder expectations,
 - (c) demonstrate effectiveness to groups who have not accepted the new plan,
 - (d) ensure that the high level of protection now afforded through the new zoning plan was not challenged because of a lack of data and information that demonstrates the effectiveness of the plan in meeting its biodiversity protection and other objectives, and
 - (e) benchmark the condition of the GBRMP against other coral reef ecosystems in the world.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, CRAC 15, is proposed for 25 and 26 November 2004.

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
tba	Non-government organisation, Conservation