

**CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE  
REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
Combined with  
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL STEERING  
COMMITTEE  
10 and 11 August 2000 – Townsville  
SUMMARY DOCUMENT**

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 documents form 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 Authority's Secretariat, or to the appropriate member.

At the first meeting of the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage Reef Advisory Committee (CRAC), it was realised that there were overlaps in the perceived roles of both the CRAC and Social, Economic and Cultural Steering Committee (SECSC). In order to clarify the roles of both committees and to provide an opportunity for CRAC and SECSC to jointly understand the updated Representative Areas Program (RAP), a combined meeting of both committees was held.

***Session 1 – CRAC Meeting***

**SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

The Committee discussed the revised report for the Species Conservation Program. The Committee commented that the document should be completed and published as it would provide a very useful reference document.

The Committee endorsed the Basis for the Species Conservation Program as a prioritised work program for the Critical Issue Group.

**LATEST OUTPUTS FROM SPECIES CONSERVATION**

The Committee was advised of the latest outputs from the Species Conservation Program:

- Eros, C., Marsh, H., Bonde, R., O'Shea, T., Beck, C. & Dobbs, K. 2000, *Procedures for the Salvage and Necropsy of the Dugong (Dugong dugon)*, Research Publication 64, GBRMPA, Townsville.
- Marine Turtles Information Kit – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, June 2000, GBRMPA.

- Limpus, Colin J., Haines, Jennifer A. & Flakus, Samantha. 1999, *Marine Wildlife Stranding Mortality Database Annual Report 1999*, QPWS.
- Limpus, Colin J., Haines, Jennifer A. & Flakus, Samantha. 1999, *Marine Wildlife Stranding & Mortality Database Annual Report 1999, II Cetaceans & Pinnipeds*, QPWS.

The Final Whale and Dolphin Conservation Strategy is now also available. The Committee was also advised that further individual policy documents were being drafted in a more abbreviated format. The Committee recommended that the Authority develop a policy on the conduct of research in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

***Session 2 – Combined Meeting***

**REPRESENTATIVE AREAS PROGRAM**

The Committees discussed the issue of structural adjustment including:

- The importance of appropriate criteria being developed;
- The need to determine the impacts;
- The necessity of obtaining good data; and
- Addressing the issue of structural adjustment early in the RAP process.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA**

The Representative Areas Program provided a number of briefs on various communication and data collection projects.

- 'Rap Contact': Communication Plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Representative Areas Program;
- Communications Project;
- Data Collection via Communications Project;
- Recreational Fishing Key Informant Interviews; and
- Process for Indigenous Involvement.

After hearing the presentations both Committees then broke into groups and conducted two workshops. The objectives of the workshops were:

- Workshop 1 – Provide generic comments on the RAP approach to communicating with Stakeholders and resultant data collection; and
- Workshop 2 – How can the communication strategy be tailored to meet the needs of your Stakeholder group?

Comments were forwarded to the RAP.

### ***Session 3 – Combined Meeting***

#### **RAP Timetable**

The Committee was advised that the original timelines have been extended with the approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment Senator Hill to accommodate additional time for public input on the classification and increased collection of SEC data for the planning process.

#### **OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

##### **Recap of Biophysical Operational Principles**

The Committees endorsed the biophysical operational principles for the identification of candidate areas. The draft social, economic and cultural operational principles were also presented to both Committees. The Committees were asked to provide input on issues that should be considered in the refinement of the social, economic and cultural principles that will be used to guide the RAP process. They also suggested that it would be useful if the GBRMPA could provide some examples of how they would like the principles to be framed, as this would enable the SECSC to see where they can 'tighten up' the principles and produce the information in a useful format.

A presentation on the development of performance indicators for the management of the Great Barrier Reef was given to both Committees. The GBRMPA will further discuss social and economic objectives and principles with the SECSC who will assist in developing performance indicators for the RAP process. Once the draft indicators have been agreed upon, the CRAC will be asked to review them.

#### **Inventory of Social, Economic and Cultural Data**

The Committees received a presentation on the preliminary results of the CRC Reef task on social assessment and profiling of Queensland commercial fisheries. The Committees recommended that additional social and economic profiling data be collected for tourism and recreational fishing groups to assist in the RAP process.

#### **ANALYTICAL PROCESS**

A presentation to the Committees discussed the progress that has been made on the development and testing of Marxan. Marxan is the software that will be used to help identify candidate areas for the RAP. The Committees noted the presentation and discussed the following issues:

- Need to consider how the information is going to be conveyed to the Stakeholder groups, perhaps utilise different presentation methods;
- Consider testing various options for presentation with small focus groups of individual people, in order to test the effectiveness of the messages; and
- Ensure that the presentation outputs are tailored to individual groups.

The Committees recommended that the Authority, in presenting information to stakeholders about candidate areas:

- Carefully tailor the information to be relevant and comprehensible to the particular stakeholder group;
- Use terminology understood by the group; and
- Informally 'road test' the messages prior to the presentation to the groups.

#### **Analytical Workshop**

The Committee was advised that an analytical workshop would occur late January 2001 to explain the Marxan software and decision-making processes. Invitations would be sent to stakeholder representatives to attend, along with their expert advisers.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Tentative dates for future CRAC meetings have been agreed on:

- Tuesday 12 (or Wednesday 13) December 2000 (proposed teleconference/video conference); and
- Thursday 15 and Friday 16 February 2001 (Meeting in Townsville).