



## INTRODUCTION

ROBERT HILL, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the first Asia-Pacific Focal Point Newsletter.

In 1996, Australia hosted the first meeting of World Heritage managers from the Asia-Pacific region, where the need for a network was identified. By the time Thailand hosted the second meeting in 1998 it was clear that the conservation of World Heritage properties in the region, and the promotion of the Convention, would benefit from a more effective, ongoing network of heritage managers.

Wallaman Falls, Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage site. (WTMA collection)



Following endorsement from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, I was pleased to establish the Asia-Pacific Focal Point for World Heritage managers (APFP) in the Department of the Environment and Heritage in late 1999. Since then, the APFP has set up a website for World Heritage managers and has undertaken a number of other initiatives with our partners in the region, focusing on practical assistance and facilitating dialogue and networking opportunities in the field of World Heritage management. We have already been able to assist with on-ground projects in Thailand, Samoa, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam as well, as representing regional State Party interests in the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

The basis of a Focal Point for the regional World Heritage network is collaboration and partnership. A Strategy and Work Program has been distributed for comment and input by APFP partners. At the end of the day, the success of the Focal Point will depend on the extent of interaction between the various stakeholders in the region in maintaining and supporting the

network. Part of this process will be the production of this biannual newsletter to update partners on activities in the region. For those who have access to the internet, the APFP website will be regularly updated and will provide more detailed information on regional World Heritage issues.

I am pleased that the release of this first issue follows the recent convening of the Third Regional World Heritage Site Managers' Workshop in New Zealand and coincides with the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Cairns. The Asia-Pacific region covers a vast area of the world and contains unsurpassed natural and cultural diversity — yet it remains significantly under-represented within the framework of the World Heritage Convention in terms of membership and listing of properties. By continuing to work together, through mechanisms such as the APFP, I am sure that we can redress this imbalance.

# NEWSLETTER

## NEW ZEALAND HOSTS THIRD REGIONAL WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' WORKSHOP AT TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE AREA

New Zealand's Department of Conservation hosted the meeting for our region at Tongariro National Park, between 26–30 October 2000. Tongariro National Park, in the volcanic, mountainous centre of New Zealand's North Island, was the first national park to be established in New Zealand and the fourth in the world. In 1887, Horonuku Te Heuheu Tukino, the paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa, gifted to the nation the sacred mountains that would form the central portion of the Park. To these people, the mountains remain a vital part of their history and whakapapa (genealogy), and so are venerated accordingly. The continued involvement of Ngati Tuwharetoa and the neighbouring peoples of Ngati Rangi in the management of this World Heritage area made Tongariro National Park a topical and fitting location for this workshop.

The aim of this series of workshops is to provide opportunities for managers of World Heritage sites to share their experiences in addressing problems associated with the management of these prestigious properties. To be most effective, they need to be able to relate to issues that arise under a wide range of social, environmental and legislative situations.

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

The geographical spread of representation needed to achieve this rich mix of opportunities was made possible by generous financial assistance from the World Heritage



(Photo: S. Chape)

**The people of Ngati Tuwharetoa welcome workshop participants to their tribal marae.**

Fund, the Environment Agency of Japan, and Australia. This assistance enabled representation from Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam, Australia and New Zealand.

### WORKSHOP CONTENT

The workshop was based on a series of keynote speeches, case studies and informal discussion, covering such issues as performance monitoring and evaluation, the involvement of Indigenous peoples, balancing tourism pressures with conservation requirements and the availability and dispersal of information about the sites. Despite the greatly varying political, social and economic circumstances in the countries represented, the workshop revealed a wealth of relevant common experience.

Two topics that generated much interest and enthusiastic discussion related to the often conflicting demands of tourism and conservation and to the challenges of finding better ways of involving Indigenous peoples in the management of World Heritage sites and in meeting the aspirations of these communities.

The presentation regarding Indigenous peoples' involvement in management focused on innovative relationship mechanisms that have been developing between the Tongariro-Taupo Conservancy (DoC), and the Indigenous people of the conservancy. The Indigenous people, or tangata whenua as they are better known, belong to three iwi or tribes: Ngati Tahu, Ngati Tuwharetoa and Ngati Rangi.

The resolution of a Treaty of Waitangi claim by Ngati Tuwharetoa against the draft Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Management Strategy has resulted in a framework agreement entitled *He Kaupapa Rangitira*. Amongst other

things, the agreement provides for direct tangata whenua participation in matters as diverse as the development of conservancy business plans, the management of waahi tapu (sacred sites), the allocation of cultural materials, visitor services and interpretation.

While still at an early stage, the He Kaupapa Rangatira approach to World Heritage sites management in particular, and conservation management in general, holds significant potential for dynamic and effective partnerships between the tangata whenua and DoC.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for feedback on the Asia-Pacific Focal Point for World Heritage Managers (APFP) established by Environment Australia. The need for a focal point had been agreed at previous meetings and Environment Australia's offer to operate it was appreciated. Discussion of APFP draft strategy raised a number of points for clarification and these will be addressed in the final strategy.

### PROCEEDINGS TO BE PUBLISHED

Proceedings of the meeting are now being prepared and, with financial assistance from the Environment Agency of Japan, the Department of Conservation intends to publish them early in the New Year. It is anticipated that the proceedings will also be made available through the APFP website at [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/awhg/apfp](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/awhg/apfp)

(Contributors: Brian Sheppard,  
Paul Green and Hemi Kingi, NZ DoC)



Portion of satellite image of the Angkor WH Site complex taken from Space Shuttle Endeavour.

### New radar imagery contributes to better understanding of Angkor World Heritage property, Cambodia

In September 2000 NASA/JPL, as part of PACRIM 2, carried out a comprehensive, detailed aerial radar survey of the environment and cultural landscape of the World Heritage site of Angkor in Cambodia. The survey was for a joint research project of the University of Sydney with APSARA (Royal Cambodian Government agency responsible for Angkor) and the École Française d'Extrême Orient in association with World Monuments Fund and the Mekong River Commission. This is the first comprehensive, consistent and detailed record of the whole of Angkor and its surrounding region. The project is investigating the relationship between the vast extent of Angkor in the 12th to 16th centuries AD, land clearance for rice production and regional ecological damage both then and now. The study has implications for the past and the future health of the regional ecosystem, sustainable development and the management of Angkor as a national and an international cultural resource.

The radar survey of Angkor was completed in order to obtain more detail on the former extent of the complex and to acquire modern environmental data. The radar provides a multi-frequency and multi-polarity record of the landscape and the data will include

a topographic record that allows the preparation of a 1 m contour interval map of the entire region. Current estimates indicate that the Angkor complex covered more than 1000 km<sup>2</sup> and was associated with extensive forest clearance for rice agriculture. The implications for an understanding of the failure of Angkor are considerable. The evidence today of severe flooding and reduced fish supplies, as the same process begins again, is of some significance.

To study the ecology and assist effective management of Angkor, comprehensive maps of the cultural landscape of Angkor and its current environment are essential. They are also essential for developing effective policy decisions about what to do in order to conserve the natural resources and promote sustainable use of the assets available to Cambodia in the region. Concurrent with the efforts to mitigate ecological problems, the policies must also be consistent with managing the cultural heritage of Angkor so that the record of the past is conserved and the World Heritage site is secured as a sustainable asset of the national economy.

(Associate Professor Roland Fletcher,  
Department of Archaeology,  
University of Sydney)

## WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AND BUREAU 2000 MEETINGS IN CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Australia will host the meetings of the World Heritage Committee, and its Bureau, and other associated events in Cairns from 23 November to 2 December 2000. From 23–24 November 2000 the seven members of the World Heritage Bureau are meeting at the Cairns Convention Centre, followed by the meeting of 21 members of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) from 27 November to 2 December 2000. Australia is chairing and hosting the meeting.

This year the WHC will be assessing 12 Natural, four Mixed, and 55 Cultural nominations to the World Heritage List, as well as extensions and renominations for three natural properties and three cultural properties. Within the Asia-Pacific Region the Natural Property nominations include: Mount Kinabalu and Gunung Mulu in Malaysia; the Greater Blue Mountains Area in Australia; and renomination of Halong Bay in Viet Nam under additional criteria. The mixed property nominations are: Mount Qincheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System in China; and Shey Phoksundo National Park in Nepal. The nominated Cultural Properties are: Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui, Longman Grottoes and Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, China (as well as proposed extensions to the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple Monastery, Classical Gardens of Suzhou); Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, Japan; Kyongju Historic Areas and Koch'ang, Hwasun and Kanghwa Dolmen Sites, Republic of Korea.

Other events associated with these meetings will be:

### WORLD HERITAGE INDIGENOUS FORUM

On 24 November Bama Wabu will host a forum concerning the representation of Indigenous traditions on the World Heritage List. The forum will be chaired by Mr Gatjil Djerrkura and co-chaired by Bama Wabu. The forum should help facilitate the Global Strategy to develop a more balanced and representative World Heritage List, and will make recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.

### PACIFIC WORLD HERITAGE YOUTH FORUM

Between 23–28 November a World Heritage Youth Forum, involving young people from the Asia-Pacific region, will focus on the environment and World Heritage and ways that young people can contribute to conserving places of outstanding universal value.

### OFFICIAL FIELD VISITS BY STATE PARTY DELEGATES

On Saturday 25 November and Sunday 26 November field trips will showcase the outer Great Barrier Reef where delegates will be able to see at close hand the spectacular beauty of the coral reef ecosystems, the world's largest World Heritage area. Alternatively, delegates will view the spectacular lowland rainforest and mountainous areas of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area.



**Mt Kinabalu, one of Malaysia's first World Heritage site nominations.** (Photo: S. Chape)

## WORLD HERITAGE IN THE PACIFIC — UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE, APIA

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kuk archaeological site in the Western Highlands has been identified as a priority for nomination as a World Heritage site. A site visit to Kuk was made in May 2000. The Western Highlands Provincial Government has established a management committee to work with all stakeholders to develop the best management system for the site. A workshop, *The Nomination Process*, was held with staff from the National Museum and Art Gallery. A time line with the steps needed for preparation of the nomination document was prepared and this was discussed with an archaeologist and sociologist from the University of PNG currently working on Kuk. To make the best possible case for Kuk as a World Heritage site, a team approach has been needed involving staff from the National Museum and Art Gallery, University of PNG and Ministry of Environment. An application for preparatory assistance has been approved by the World Heritage Committee and the next step will be to decide which organisation will take responsibility for parts of the nomination document so that the Preparatory Assistance funds can be divided accordingly. These issues will be discussed and further developed during a second visit by UNESCO in November.

Bobongara is another high priority site that Papua New Guinea is keen to pursue for World Heritage listing. At this stage, the management structure for the site is being developed at Provincial level. Preparatory Assistance has also been approved for the site from the World Heritage

Committee. Again, there will be more than one organisation involved in the preparation of the nomination document. The roles of the different organisations and their responsibilities have yet to be worked through.

### EAST RENNELL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY, SOLOMON ISLANDS

East Rennell was listed as a World Heritage Natural Site in December 1998. It is on customary land, which makes every landowner a site manager. Although, when it was listed there were resource management guidelines for the area, a resource management plan had not been worked out or agreed to by the East Rennell people. The New Zealand Government, under its bilateral aid program has been working in East Rennell and Marovo Lagoon since 1989. World Heritage staff from the Solomon Islands and New Zealand have been working with the people of East Rennell to develop a resource management plan that is based on their traditional management systems and this is still in progress.

Unfortunately, with the civil unrest the site has not been visited by New Zealand or Solomon Island World Heritage staff since May 2000. There appears to have been no damage to the site but there is increased pressure on natural resources as family members have fled Honiara and returned to their home villages. This has increased pressure on gardens particularly. Communication with the World Heritage Field Coordinators has been maintained by radio link to Honiara. The Paramount Chief of East



**The cultures, islands and marine environments of the Pacific are significantly under-represented in the World Heritage List.**  
(Photo: S. Chape)

Rennell and World Heritage Manager for the Solomon Islands attended the Third Regional World Heritage Site Managers' Workshop at Tongariro.

Funding has been approved, through the Japanese Funds in Trust administered by the World Heritage Centre, to examine the possibility of East Rennell also being listed as a cultural site. Cultural conservation workshops were carried out at East Rennell in 1999 as part of the World Heritage Programme. The people realised that their culture was unique and that they produced some of the best craft items in the Pacific, especially their fine *Pandanus* weaving. Their renewed interest in their culture, and their desire to preserve it, fits in well with re-examining cultural criteria for World Heritage and whether they would apply to Rennell. A partnership to explore this is being developed through the Solomon Islands National Museum, the Solomon Islands World Heritage Manager, the World Heritage Programme (bilateral) and UNESCO Regional Office, Apia. →



Levuka, old capital of Fiji. (Photo: S. Chape)

## FIJI

The historic former capital of Levuka has been identified as a priority for World Heritage listing and the steps involved in preparing the nomination need to be listed and worked through. UNESCO planned a visit to Fiji but it did not eventuate because of the civil unrest in late May and it has been difficult to achieve continuity in assistance for Levuka. Unfortunately, one building was destroyed by fire but it was felt that this had not significantly altered the special value of the site. Another visit to Fiji is planned in early 2001.

## KIRIBATI

Kiribati signed the World Heritage Convention in May 2000. This brings the number of Pacific countries that are signatories to six: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati,

New Zealand, Australia. A visit was made to Kiribati in late July, early August to explain the Convention and how sites are listed, preparation of a nomination document and so on. The next step for Kiribati is the preparation of tentative lists for natural and cultural sites. A staff member from the Ministry of Environment and Social Development attended the Third Regional World Heritage Site Managers' Workshop at Tongariro. He will have a better understanding of World Heritage from this and will also benefit from the networking that is developing from these interactions.

## NIUE

Niue is presenting a Cabinet Paper on World Heritage to their Parliament for consideration. There is considerable interest in becoming a State Party to the Convention and many Government officers are already familiar with World Heritage. The World Heritage Education Programme has been enthusiastically adopted by the schools on Niue.

## TONGA

During a visit to Tonga, a Cabinet Briefing Paper on World Heritage was prepared and it has been submitted to and approved by Parliament. The next step will be for the King of Tonga or the Minister of Foreign Affairs to write to the World Heritage Centre and request to become a State Party.

*(Dr Elspeth J. Wingham, World Heritage Officer for the Pacific, UNESCO Regional Office, Apia, Samoa)*

## World Heritage cooperation between Republic of Korea and Australia

At the invitation of the World Megalithic Association, Kevin Keffe, Assistant Secretary for World Heritage in Environment Australia, visited sites in the Republic of Korea scheduled for inscription on the World Heritage List at the WH Committee Meeting in Cairns 27 November – 2 December. Of particular interest was the effort being made by provincial and national Governments in Korea to bring the Convention to life in the community and improve management regimes, especially for the Hwasun and Kanghwa Dolmen Sites. These sites could eventually form part of a serial nomination with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). A representative of DPRK has been invited to attend the Cairns meeting.

**Koch'ang Dolmen nominated WH site, Korea.** (Photo: K. Keffe)



## WORLD HERITAGE ASSISTANCE THROUGH AUSAID'S AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (AYAD)

**SAMOA —  
ROBERTA THORBURN,  
ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA**

In 1998, the Government of Samoa approved becoming a State Party to the Convention, but is yet to implement this decision by ratifying the Convention. In anticipation of ratification, during my AYAD placement to the UNESCO Apia office, I have been working on a report to assist in the preparation of a tentative list of properties to nominate for inscription to the World Heritage List during the next 5 to 10 years. The report, which was compiled following site visits to the Samoan islands of Savai'i, Apolima and Manono, focuses primarily on documenting the natural and cultural heritage of Savai'i.

Savai'i has a range of sites of natural and cultural heritage that may be of World Heritage value, including the largest ancient stone mound in Polynesia, some of the best blowholes in the region, recent lava fields with associated successional vegetation, and a relatively large proportion of endemic species of flora and avifauna. Samoa also has a very rich living culture known as *Fa'a Samoa* (the Samoan way of life) that is manifested through traditional social structures, ceremonies, architecture, handicrafts, dance, language, legends and customs.

While there was not sufficient time during the project period to assess sites on the island of Upolu, several areas may be of interest as potential World Heritage properties. These include the Uafato Conservation Area, the Aleipata Islands, and the Sa'anapu-Sataoa mangroves area.



**Manono, Apolima and Savai'i Islands,  
Western Samoa.** (Photo: S. Chape)

**VIET NAM — JAMES HALL,  
ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA**

Through AusAid's AYAD Program, the APFP arranged for my secondment from the Australian & World Heritage Division of Environment Australia to the IUCN-The World Conservation Union-Viet Nam Office as Program Coordinator of the IUCN Viet Nam Marine Program.

IUCN is assisting the Government of Viet Nam with the management of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area, which is located in the North Tonkin Archipelago in Quang Ninh Province, northern Viet Nam. Ha Long Bay was inscribed in the World Heritage List for the beauty of its natural values in 1994 and is internationally renowned for its 1500 spectacular limestone islets. Ha Long Bay is being renominated to the World Heritage List this year for the geological heritage of its natural values. IUCN is also providing assistance to the Ha Long Bay Management Department and is

a member of the Project Management Committee of the UNESCO Ha Long Bay Eco-museum Feasibility Study.

The IUCN Viet Nam Marine Program also provides a range of technical and policy assistance to Viet Nam. For example, through the establishment of a GEF/Danida-funded pilot marine protected area in Khan Hoa Province, IUCN Viet Nam is providing assistance to the Viet Nam Government in the implementation of the National System of Marine Protected Areas. The program also contributes to the development of national projects and legislation on coastal resource management such as the development of national guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for aquaculture projects. I hope that the experience gained through the AYAD can be used to strengthen connections between institutions in Australia and Viet Nam on conservation and heritage issues.

**THAILAND —  
ANDREW CLELAND,  
ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA**

National Parks in Thailand are managed by the Royal Forestry Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, while responsibility for World Heritage rests with the Office of Environmental Policy and Planning (OEPP) in the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. I have been working with staff of OEPP and RFD to try to develop an integrated management plan for a proposed World Heritage nomination of marine national parks in the Andaman Sea. The precise boundary has not yet been defined. However, →

there are seven marine national parks being considered. They are spread over 400–500 km from north to south and fall into three quite distinct sets of values. They also have quite different management regimes. For example, the Similan and Surin island groups are remote outer islands on the edge of the continental shelf with very high coral diversity. They are the last two in a series of granite islands that come down from Myanmar to the north. Phang Nga Bay by contrast is coastal drowned karst with extensive mangroves and a

major town immediately adjacent to the park. It has considerable pressures from aquaculture and people living illegally in the park. All of the parks are subject to a range of pressures, including industries that rely on the integrity of the natural systems for their economic viability, such as nature-based tourism (especially diving and snorkelling) and commercial and recreational (mainly charter) fishing. At this early stage, I have been gathering information from staff of both departments as well as speaking to a number of marine

scientists who study the areas under consideration. My role is to identify measures that can be taken to address these issues, and how best to define the WH boundary so that relevant values are included and the resulting area can be efficiently managed. The next step will be to prepare some options for senior officials setting out a range of recommendations on how to proceed. I am also discussing the workings of the Operational Guidelines and the presentation of information on values and management arrangements required by them.

## Memorandum of Understanding on cultural heritage with China

The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) and the Department of the Environment and Heritage signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cultural heritage cooperation with the Chinese State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH) in Beijing in November 1999. The MoU developed out of a collaborative project between the AHC, SACH and the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), USA, to develop conservation principles for cultural heritage sites in China. The *China Principles* and an accompanying commentary are being finalised and will be published in Chinese and English. An illustrated *China Principles* is also being developed. Building on the success of the collaborative

partnership, the AHC, GCI and SACH will participate in an implementation phase to develop conservation management plans at the World Heritage listed sites, Mogao and Chengde commencing in 2001.

Other projects in line with the MoU that are being developed include: assistance with database development for cultural heritage sites in China; facilitating links between Australia ICOMOS and ICOMOS China; seeking assistance for Chinese site managers to train in cultural heritage management in Australia; and research on cultural heritage management in China.

(Kirsty Altenburg, AHC)



Chengde WH site, China. (Photo: K. Altenburg)

## CONTACTING THE APFP

The APFP has been established at the request of World Heritage managers and management agencies in the Asia-Pacific Region, to provide a mechanism for exchange of information and ideas that supplements other fora, such as the biennial Regional World Heritage Managers' Meeting. For further information on the Asia-Pacific Focal Point, or any other communications, please refer to the APFP website at [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/awhg/apfp](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/awhg/apfp), or contact the World Heritage Branch, Environment Australia: David Walker, Director (+61.2.6274.2051); Stuart Chape, Assistant Director (+61.2.6274.2717); Tim Wong, Project Officer (+61.2.6274.2059); email: [apfp@ea.gov.au](mailto:apfp@ea.gov.au); post: GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.