

# RESTRUCTURE OF THE WCPA

## and Change of Name for the Caves and Karst Taskforce

– Jay Anderson

Earlier this year, the IUCN – World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Steering Committee met in Ecuador and decided to revise the structure of working groups within the Commission. In the past, Task Forces have been used to undertake project work for the Commission and were formed when there was a specific piece of work to be undertaken – commonly the preparation of a Best Practice Guidelines or similar publication. (Recall that the Caves and Karst Taskforce developed the IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection 1997 and continued to operate). The WCPA had noted that the number of Task Forces had grown substantially over recent years and there were more than 20 Task Forces, with varying levels of activity.

The WCPA felt that it was evident that some groups represent a long standing interest of members of the Commission rather than short term groups aimed to produce a set of specific products in the near term. After consultation within the WCPA, and over a period of several months, a decision has now been made. So the WCPA has formed ‘Specialist Groups’ in addition to Task Forces. It was determined that these groups would have a longer life than Task Forces and would continue while there remained an interested group of members who were undertaking work on the relevant topic. As such Specialist Groups might produce Best Practices Guidelines and other products in the same

manner as a task Force and they could continue to exist after the products were completed.

In summary, around 12 Taskforce’s recently became ‘Specialist Groups’ – this included the Caves and Karst Taskforce – which is now referred to as the ‘Caves and Karst Specialist Group’. A lot has been happening in the last few months. As Chair of the Group, I have been required to undertake regular reporting - In May, I provided a report to the WCPA Steering Committee Meeting and then in October I provided a report to the IUCN Council. There have been a number of requests for information and advice from Protected Area Professionals around the World – in places such as Yucatan, China, Germany, Hungary and the USA. In Europe, one person has been fasting to raise the profile of threats to karst in their area, while others are busy writing policy to protect karst and take it to Parliament. Another colleague has sent thru examples of posters aimed to stop the speleothem trade. Whilst in attendance at the International Congress of Speleology (Texas, August), I was able to meet with karst professionals and Group members. Since then, further liaison with ISCA around the Management Guidelines for Show Caves has also occurred.

Please feel free to contact me for further information on any of these issues – <caveskarst.iucn@gmail.com>

## COMING EVENTS

This list will simply list events of special interest to cave managers and cavers. If you are interested in any listed events, contact Prof. Elery Hamilton-Smith for further details at <elery@alphalink.com.au>.

2010: Jan 23–29	Qeshm Geopark, Iran. Opening & Inspection.
2010: Feb 2–4	ANZALS Conference, Brisbane
2010: Feb 8–11	CAUTHE Conference, Hobart
2010: Feb 15–17	New Biogeographies: Invasive, Transgenic & Hybrid Landscapes, Uni. Wollongong
2010: Mar 9–12	Indigenous Earth, Penticton, British Columbia, Canada
2010: March/April	Official Opening – New Glowworm Cave Visitors Centre, Waitomo, New Zealand.
2010: April 12–16	4th UNESCO International Conference on Geoparks, Langkawi, Malaysia
2010: April 11–16	Healthy Parks, Healthy People, Melbourne
2010: April 16–19	2nd Global Geotourism conference, Kuching, Sarawak
<b>2010: April 21–29</b>	<b>ACKMA Annual General Meeting ‘Week’, Gunung Mulu WHA, Sarawak.</b>
2010: April 27–30	Karst Hydrology, protection and landscapes, Malaga, Spain
2010: Apr 14–18	Assoc of American Geographers Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Amherst, Mass.
2010: May 8–16	Speleohungary Centennial Conference
2010: 12–14 July	14th Australasian Bat Society Conference, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT.
2010: 25–28 July	<b>13th Cave Guides Gathering, Wellington, New South Wales.</b>
2010: Aug 2–6	NSS Convention, Essex Junction, Vermont
2010: Aug 4–8	Cuba Speleo Society 70th Anniversary Conference.
2010: Aug 7–10	Pre-conference excursion to Lava fields of Western Victoria
2010: Aug 12–17	<b>14th International Vulcanospeleology Conference, Undara, Queensland</b>
2010: Aug 24–25	Parks Forum Conference, Sydney, New South Wales.
2010: October 20–24	International Show Caves Congress, Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia.
2011: Easter	Australian Speleological Federation Conference, Chillagoe, Queensland
<b>2011: May 8–13</b>	<b>19th ACKMA Conference, Ulverstone, Tasmania</b>
<b>2012: May</b>	<b>ACKMA Annual General Meeting ‘Week’, Cango Caves, South Africa</b>
<b>2013: May</b>	<b>20th ACKMA Conference, Waitomo Caves, New Zealand</b>

