

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL™



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Protecting Wildlife from International Trade at CITES

Thanks to your generous response to our recent appeal HSI will be able to send a strong team to Bangkok to fight for endangered wildlife at this year's CITES meeting in October. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), held every two years, will again be judging the fate of hundreds of species caught up in what is a rapacious international trade in animals and their body parts.

HSI will be lobbying governments at CITES to agree to shut down a thriving trade in Great White Shark jaws, teeth and fins, as proposed by the Australian Government following a HSI recommendation. Jaws from Great White Sharks can fetch upwards of US\$10,000 when auctioned to trophy collectors, a practice on the increase with the rise of the internet. As a result of HSI's nomination program the great white shark is already protected in Australian waters as a threatened species, but not all countries treat it so well. International protection through CITES will be very important for global recovery efforts.

Kenya is proposing to transfer the lion to Appendix I of CITES which will increase its protection by preventing international trade in the species. Currently, African lions are listed under Appendix II of CITES, which permits trophy hunting with quotas set by each Range State.



Image courtesy of Neville Gibbs

Africa without lions is unthinkable and yet in parts of Africa the lion is going the same way as the tiger. With only 10,000 left in the wild (compared to an estimated 200,000 in the early 1980s), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) believes that the African lion is at high risk of extinction. Unsustainable trophy hunting quotas are a major reason for their decline. While trade in this species includes skins, skulls and live animals, hunting trophies is the main type of specimen in trade. A lion with a majestic mane has long been a trophy coveted by big game hunters in Africa.

In Bangkok HSI will also be campaigning for protection for species of whale, dolphin, tropical birds, snakes, crocodiles, freshwater turtles, the African elephant and

tropical fish. We will be there to counter the arguments from wildlife traders and the hunting industry, who will also be out in force. It will come as no surprise to HSI supporters that the Japanese government, for instance, is proposing the trade ban in Minke whales be relaxed. HSI will work with our colleagues at the Species Survival Network to make sure this preposterous proposal is once again roundly defeated. Ahead of the meeting, we are already hard at work lobbying the Australian Government to take strong pro-conservation positions on all the proposals and for that we need your help.

ACTION REQUIRED

Write to Minister for Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell and ask that he ensure the Australian delegation supports Kenya's proposal for an Appendix I listing for the African lion. Tell the Minister you support the Species Survival Network's position on all the CITES proposals. Congratulate him for his efforts to protect the Great White Shark. To view Species Survival Network positions go to www.specieessurvivalnetwork.org Please send copies of replies to us. ■

CITES Postcard Campaign

A huge thank you to all HSI supporters who have sent CITES postcards to the Minister. We understand that his office has been inundated!

Message from the Directors

Dear HSI Supporter

We thought the election might have been over by the time this newsletter reached you, but the pain has been prolonged! HSI has been working long and hard for 18 months, trying to convince all the parties of the policy needs for protecting animals and the environment in preparation for the election. In these last weeks leading up to the election, we will be making our last ditch efforts on behalf of the animals.

Thank you for your tremendous response to our CITES appeal, and also for sending so many postcards to the Minister's office. They have been left in no doubt how you feel! It will be a very testing time in Bangkok for our CITES team, but we fully intend to come back with victories under our belt for the elephants, lions, whales, Great White Shark and many other species under threat from international trade! See page 1 if you would like to help more with this important campaign.

On page 10 you can read about the outcomes of the recent International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Italy, where HSI staffer, Nicola Beynon was an adviser to the Australian Government Delegation, helping save the day from the worst of Japanese excesses. HSI will now have to work very hard indeed in the coming year,

with our colleague NGOs, the Australian and other conservation minded governments, to defeat the Japanese Government's final push to recommence commercial whaling in South Korean waters in 2005.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that Nicola, our Wildlife and Habitats Program Manager, was listed by YEN Magazine as one of the World's 50 most influential women, along with many world famous faces.

You will also see in this newsletter edition a good news story from Bali, where the authorities, helped by Profauna, a group whom we have worked with and funded before, have confiscated a large number of animals from an illegal trader. The battle against wildlife traders is never ending, and remains one of HSI's main focus areas. HSI has helped Profauna work on marine turtle conservation issues before, and we hope to do further work with them in the future. See page 5.

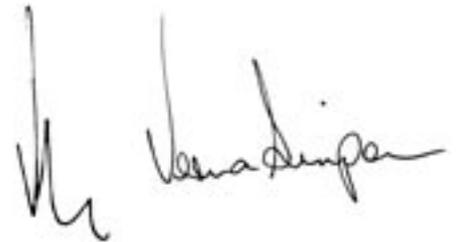
Further good news is that the Commonwealth Customs Regulations putting into place the ban on the import/export of cat and dog fur items are now operating. The Prime Minister had also written to the Premiers and Chief Ministers of all the States and Territories, asking them to prohibit such trade within their political borders.

We have also found ourselves back on the anti-1080 poisoning trail recently, with NSW Government plans to aerial bait 1080 throughout Kosciuszko National Park. HSI is seeking Commonwealth Government intervention to stop this atrocity, and will be undertaking further campaigning activities in the coming months.

Last but not least, a reminder of the details of our Annual Art Show in Sydney on October 12th can be found on page 3 and we hope that you will like our new HSI Christmas cards for purchase on page 11.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the protection of all animals, and your support for HSI. We will be redoubling our efforts as soon as we know who the new Government is in Canberra.

Best wishes



Michael Kennedy & Verna Simpson

P.S. We hope that we may meet many of you at the Art Show in October. ■

Ban on Cat and Dog Fur Passes Parliament

Marking the end of a long and successful campaign, laws banning the import of cat and dog fur have been passed by the Australian Parliament.

The Howard Government fulfilled its commitment and ensured the laws were introduced to Parliament before the election was called and they received the support of all parties.

After receiving letters from the Prime Minister, state and territory governments are falling into line and passing complimentary laws to ban the sale of the items in shops. HSI is confident that with effective enforcement no more cat

and dog fur will enter Australia.

We are very pleased to have done our bit for the 2 million cats and dogs that we estimate are killed every year in Asia for the fur trade and hope that the message sent from Australia will help reduce the killing.

Our campaigners in Europe are keeping up the pressure for a ban right across the European Union. ■



Image courtesy of David Lourie

2004 Extinction Denied Fundraising Art Exhibition

RSVP your attendance today!

Please come along and help us celebrate the opening our Extinction Denied fundraising art exhibition on Tuesday 12th October from 6pm-8pm, at the fabulous ArtHouse Hotel (275 Pitt Street, Sydney).



Nicholas Harding's "Little Kingfisher"

With the proceeds of all sales going towards our animal protection campaigns, we'd love to see the place bustling with supporters and buyers!

Thank you so much to the talented, award-winning and dedicated artists that have generously donated art for the event, including: Adam Cullen, Euan Macleod, Nicholas Harding, Reg Mombassa, Margaret Woodward, Stuart Rex, Xavier Ghazi, Darren Pryce, Michael McIntyre, Mark Sofilas, Mary Shackman, Nafisa Naomi, David Jesse Skehan, Mark Rhodes, Michael Herford, Gav Barbey, Carla Priivald, Keely Fielding donated by Brenda May, Philpa Veitch, Ash Hemsall, Louise Saunders, David Egan, RS Levy, Joanne Mulcahy, Stephen Coburn, Kim Bolitho, Shaun Clark, Bruce Goold, Mike Golding, Diablo, Marguerite Derricourt, Fergus Donald, Deb Faint, Hugh Whittaker, Abbey McCulloch, Terezka Beck, and Grant Whiteley.



Adam Cullen's "Grape Ape"

Complimentary drink on arrival courtesy of Crozer and beautiful finger food donated by the Dome Restaurant. To RSVP - space is limited, but entry is free - please telephone Melanie at our office on (02) 9973 1728. Hope to see you there! ■

HSI on Campaign Trail for Animals and Wildlife at the Federal Election

All year HSI has been marching the corridors of Parliament House pushing important policy ideas for adoption by the major parties at this Federal election, now set for October 9th. In our last edition we asked HSI supporters to write to Mr Howard and Mr Latham calling for six major policy announcements:

1. The introduction of a new National Conservation Action Program for Australia's biodiversity, given equal resources and priority as existing national programs for water and salinity.
2. Maintain the new Regional Natural Heritage Program for biodiversity hotspots in Asia Pacific and extend its funds.

3. Ensuring all Australia's biodiversity hotspots are protected on the National Heritage List.
4. Ensure the final listing of all threatened ecological communities under the EPBC Act.
5. The introduction of a new National Animal Welfare Act.
6. To institute a ban on the live sheep and cattle trade.

Your letters have greatly boosted our own efforts in lobbying the politicians. However, as we go to print, both major parties have yet to release their final environment and animal welfare policies. HSI will attempt to seek answers from all parties on our policy asks, and put them up on our website as

soon as we can before the election date. Before casting your vote you might want to check their websites.

Australian Progressive Alliance (Meg Lees):

<http://www.progressivealliance.org.au/>

The Greens:

<http://www.greens.org.au/>

Australian Democrats:

<http://campaign.democrats.org.au>

Australian Labor Party ALP:

<http://www.alp.org.au>

The Coalition:

Liberal Party <http://www.liberal.org.au/>

and The National Party

<http://www.nationals.org.au/>

Please do not hesitate to contact HSI if you would like an explanation of any of the parties' environment policies and how they match HSI recommendations. ■

Disaster Response in Florida

Disaster response experts from our US office responded to the State of Florida's request to establish emergency temporary shelters for domestic and wild animals lost or injured in the wake of Hurricane Charley. We also organised the distribution of pet food and staged animal rescue efforts where required.

When advance warning of Hurricane Charley was announced, our US office issued alerts urging evacuees to make arrangements for their pets, but the unanticipated strength and speed of the storm left many residents unprepared.

A special Report from our Disaster Response Team (DART)

"The devastation of Hurricane Charley is awesome. We are working round the clock to save as many animals as we can. Fresh Humane Society Rescue Teams are coming from all over the country, conducting damage assessments and coordinating animal rescues daily.

Thankfully there have been some heart-warming successes amid the tragedy all around us. There was a lab mix pinned under a collapsed house, who is expected to make a full recovery after his injured leg was treated at our centre ... a bear found wandering the street miles from the nearest forest who was tranquillised and transported safely to a wildlife preserve ... and the desperate man, searching for his two beloved dogs, who found them alive and well at our centre. The ecstatic reunion that followed brightened our sad day.

We have been inundated with terrified pets, many whom have been in hiding and are now roaming in search of food, and we have taken in goats, raccoons and a variety of wildlife. We have also been working with



local and national media to alert citizens to what they can do for animals in the disaster zone.

I believe the recovery period for this storm will be long and difficult but we will be on the scene as long as we are needed."

We are fortunate in Australia not to suffer natural disasters with the regularity of some countries but it is good to know we have the experts we can call on when the need arises, not only for advice but, in extreme cases, for hands on help. ■

Become a HSI regular supporter and spread your donations evenly across the year!

Although our campaigners have many specific targets each year there is also a great need to plan long term strategies for many of the major environmental and animal welfare issues we face. By supporting us with a regular monthly pledge, you empower us to budget with confidence for these projects.

As a regular supporter of HSI, your tax-deductible donations will be deducted from either your credit card (Amex, Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard) or a nominated bank account once per month, and can start with any amount that suits your budget! To receive further information please feel free to contact our office on free call **1800 333 737** or simply complete the coupon below to receive our regular pledge authorisation forms.

Thank you also to all our existing regular supporters – without your help our work for the animals would be greatly diminished.

Yes, please send me information on becoming a regular supporter of HSI.

Title:..... First Name: Last Name:

Postal Address:

State: Postcode: Contact Phone: ().....

164 Protected Animals Seized from Man in Bali

Wahyoe Boediwardhana, BKSDA, Denpasar

The Bali Natural Resources Conservation Body (BKSDA) raided, this August four separate houses and a meat processing factory in Sanur and Denpasar, and seizing 164 rare species in what is believed to be the single largest seizure of rare animals in Bali to date.

All the rare species - including lions, tigers and crocodiles - belonged to one person, Kuskamto, a well-known processed meat businessman in Bali. The high-powered BKSDA team - with 40 personnel and six trucks and led by veterinarian Wita Widiadani - seized the rare and protected animals from Sukamto's four houses in the Sanur area and downtown Denpasar. The rest were taken from Kuskamto's meat factory on Jl. Diponegoro. Following the confiscation, the BKSDA took the animals to its 30-hectare Animal Rehabilitation Centre in Tabanan, Bali.

"At the centre, the rare animals will have proper medical treatment," said Wayan Wirayatna, the coordinator of the non-government organisation Pro Fauna in Bali, who took part in the raid.

Separately, Kuskamto claimed that he was not guilty. He insisted that he had proper licenses from the BKSDA to raise the protected animals. He admitted, though, that some of the licenses had expired, but he intended to renew them soon. Wayan said that if the businessman were proven guilty, he could be sentenced to five years in jail or fined Rp 100 million (US\$ 10,526) for violating Law No.5/1990 on the Conservation of Natural Resources and its Ecosystem.

Before the raid, the BKSDA had only seized between two to five protected animals, on average, per month from various groups and individuals in Bali.

Some of the rare animals seized from Kuskamto were:

- Lions • Tigers • Ligers • Honey Bears
- Orangutans • Saltwater Crocodiles
- Nias • Myna Birds • Flores Myna Birds
- Pythons • Deer • Sea Hawks.

ACTION REQUIRED

Please write to:
 Ir. Istanto Dwi Martoyo (Chairman)
 BKSDA Bali
 Jl. Suwung Batan Kendal
 Denpasar Balia
 Indonesia

Congratulate him for taking such action. Please send your replies to us.

Note: HSI has provided Profauna with project resources in the past to help fight wildlife trade. We are now providing further support for Profauna, when Wayan Wirayatna travels to Australia later this year to be trained in marine turtle biology by Dr Col Limpus, Australia's foremost authority on turtle conservation. ■

How can I help animals even when I no longer share their world?



Through your bequest for animal protection to Humane Society International, you can provide for animals after you've gone. Naming HSI in your Will demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal protection and

strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal protection programs and material that will assist you in planning a Will.

Yes, please send more information on leaving a bequest to HSI.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Postcode: _____

Please post to HSI, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107

NSW Government Sentences Quoll and Dingo to **Extinction** in Kosciuszko National Park



Tiger Quoll. Image courtesy of Trevor Prescott

HSI asks Federal Environment Minister to Intervene

The mainland population of the tiger quoll is listed as Endangered under the Federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). All that remains is a few remnant populations, and experts fear that a 1080 baiting program could tip the species over the edge. Also at risk is Kosciuszko's rare native dingo population.

Under no circumstances does HSI condone the use of 1080 baiting as a method of pest control in Kosciuszko National Park. Death by 1080 poison is one of the most cruel and inhumane ways in which an animal can die. Consumption through ingestion results in a painfully slow death over several hours from convulsions, cardiac arrest, failure of the central nervous system and respiratory arrest. We believe that this program does not provide any long-term solutions to the problem of wild dogs in Kosciuszko and will only serve to devastate or possibly wipe out the last few tiger quolls and purebred dingos.

While HSI is one of Australia's leading conservation organisations campaigning

In August this year, the NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus announced plans for a large scale 1080 aerial baiting program in the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park. This program, which is intended to rid the Adaminaby and Yaouk Valley areas of wild dogs, could very well lead to the extinction of resident populations of tiger quoll and dingoes in the park.

for stronger biodiversity protection, we also promote the humane treatment of all animals. There does not need to be a conflict between the two objectives. HSI hopes our campaign for tighter controls and prohibitions on 1080 will spur on the development and adoption of solutions that are humane and safer for native wildlife, and that in the end will be more lasting and effective in controlling feral animals.

ACTION REQUIRED

Write to:

The Hon. Senator Ian Campbell
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2601
Email: senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au
Fax: (02) 6273 6101

The Hon Bob Debus
Minister for Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: bob.debus@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Fax: (02) 9228 3166

Make the Ministers aware that this large-scale baiting program is likely to have a significant impact on threatened species such as the tiger quoll, which are a protected under Commonwealth and NSW law. Highlight that this method of pest control is inhumane and indiscriminate in the species it kills.

Please send us copies of any replies you receive. ■

First \$700,000 Given to Aid Wildlife Conservation in SE Asia and The Pacific

In the last Newsletter, we brought you news of a new Commonwealth Government Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP) to help protect wildlife and habitats in South East Asia and the Pacific. The then Federal Minister for the Environment, Dr David Kemp, and Senator Meg Lees, launched the first round of funding under the RNHP (biodiversity hotspots program) in Adelaide in June. HSI's Nicola Beynon was the MC for the event. HSI had originally hatched the idea, and worked closely with Senator Meg Lees and the PM's office through a long process with a close-knit team of colleagues. HSI is also a member of the Taskforce set up to advise the Minister on program expenditure.

The programs funded in the first round were as follows:

- Mondulkiri Elephant Conservation Project, Cambodia - Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
- Conserving Vietnam's Critically Endangered Primates - Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
- Developing Local Partnerships in Environmental Education and Training at Tam Dao National Park, Vietnam – To reduce wildlife trade in the park and surrounds - Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV)
- Community conservation of the Gau Highlands and the Critically Endangered Fiji Petrel, Gau Island, Fiji. - National Trust for Fiji Islands



From left - HSI's Nicola Beynon, then Environment Minister Dr David Kemp and Senator Meg Lees at the launch.

- Delivering conservation results and strengthening policy at three marine priority sites in the Sulu Sulawesi Seas (Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Conservation of Coral Reef Hotspots in the Bismarck Sea, Papua New Guinea - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Securing Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia - Conservation of tigers, elephant and plant diversity in the lowland forest of Sumatra - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)/Conservation International (CI)
- Protecting Rhinos, Tigers and Elephants in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)/Conservation International (CI)
- Support anti-poaching Rhino Patrol Units (RPUs) to help conserve rhino and tigers in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, South Sumatra. The project will help to detect, prosecute and convict poachers, potentially deterring future poachers, protecting endangered species, including Sumatran tiger, tapir, sun bear - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)/Conservation International (CI)
- Support for the Establishment of Effectively Managed Marine Protected Areas as Foundations for Resilient Networks of Functionally Connected Marine Protected Areas, Wakatobi National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Integrated human and conservation development at Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan, Indonesia – Orangutan Rehabilitation - Friends of the National Parks Foundation (FNPF). ■

Trade Regulations for 'Elephants of the Sea'

Trade regulations for one of the largest reef fishes in the world, the humphead wrasse, will be discussed at this year's conference of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This spectacular and rare species, often referred to as the 'elephant of the sea', grows up to 2 metres long and can weigh up

to 190 kg. Sadly the humphead wrasse is at threat from the Live Reef Food Fish Trade. It is commonly captured and shipped off live to luxury restaurants in Asia, commanding some of the highest prices. Following an HSI recommendation, Fiji, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America are proposing to list this species

on Appendix II of CITES, which would assist global conservation efforts by applying strict quotas and plans to manage fish stocks. HSI hopes that Australia and the rest of the world will support the conservation of this fish.

ACTION REQUIRED

See page 1 ■

Turtle Conservation in North East Arnhem Land



Turtle caught in nets. Image courtesy of Dhimurru

By the Dhimurru Rangers

The onset of the Dhimurru (south east) wind marks the season known as midawarr to Yolŋu. For thousands of years, this time has been recognised to be a food gathering time, when yams are plentiful, and guya (fish), miyapunu (turtles) and galangami (dugong) are fat.

When the strong winds arrive, it is also a time when the Dhimurru Rangers are busy patrolling the coastline looking out for a major threat to marine life – ghost nets. These are nets that have been discarded either deliberately or accidentally by fishing vessels. Ghost nets drift in the sea, collecting any wildlife that stray in their path, before finally washing up on shore. They are known to travel very long distances and most appear to come from places like Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and other parts of SE Asia. Some originate in Australian waters.

In the last few weeks, Rangers have been patrolling the area from Wunyinyarra (Mt Alexander), south of Port Bradshaw, to the top of Cape Arnhem, using Laynhapuy Aviation's helicopter.

When any nets are found, Rangers check

them for miyapunu and if possible drag them far up the beach. The nets are marked with flagging tape to show that they have been checked. Any miyapunu found tangled in the nets are released. Many are still alive and can be returned to the sea after being measured and tagged. Some of the miyapunu die in the nets, and these are also measured, and DNA samples collected to assist researchers to determine their origin. Samples of the nets are also collected, and identified to determine their country of manufacture using an identification kit developed by the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF).

Dhimurru has run the miyapunu recovery project since 1996. In that time over 199 miyapunu of 4 species have been recovered from nets and of those, over 114 have survived the ordeal and have been released back into the ocean. Dhimurru commenced surveys in mid April this year and by mid May we had already found 13 miyapunu of which 7 were released. These included Green Turtles, Olive Ridley Turtles, and Hawksbill Turtles

It is extremely satisfying work for all involved when miyapunu can be released back into the wild. Djawa Yunupɩu, Dhimurru's Senior Cultural Adviser, said the program

is made possible with the assistance of Dhimurru's partners and sponsors. Key partners in the miyapunu recovery program are WWF, Humane Society International, the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Account and the Northern Land Council, Alcan Gove, Laynhapuy Aviation, Gumatj Association, the Department of Environment and Heritage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services and the Miwatj Regional Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service NT.

Dhimurru calls on people in the Gove region to help with this program by reporting any stranded wildlife they come across to Dhimurru and releasing live animals caught in nets. A sample of the net can also be collected, preferably as much as a square metre in size to assist with identification. When reporting stranded wildlife Dhimurru will need to know as accurately as possible where the stranding occurred and as much detail as possible about the animals caught in the net.

To register your details for participating in the program, or to report stranded wildlife:

Email: dhimurru@dhimurru.com.au

Phone: (08) 8987 3992

Fax: (08) 8987 3224 ■

Animals in Iraq Update

Thank you, once again, to all those who generously supported our fundraising campaign to assist the animals in Iraq in June last year. Your donations have supported The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA) in alleviating the suffering of many animals within the war torn region, including those in the Baghdad Zoo.

After returning from a recent visit Jeremy Hulme, Director of SPANA, filed this report:

"We had arranged to meet with Dr Alani, the vet we have been supplying from Syria since

the end of the war. It was good to see him again and hear at first hand the accounts of the animals he has been able to treat with the veterinary medicines and equipment we previously sent him. He has dealt with over 100,000 animals so far and SPANA supporters should feel proud that due to their generosity, animals are being cared for amidst all the chaos.

"We also met with a young Iraqi vet, Farah Murani, who was trying to look after the animals at the Zoo, most of whom had been rescued from private collections of the old regime. There had been serious fighting

throughout the Zoo and bullet holes and shell splinters pock-marked the building and enclosures. Nonetheless Farah and her team had done a wonderful job of rebuilding the Zoo. Although I am not normally the biggest enthusiast of zoos, I had to admit the animals were in first class condition - the whole place looked better than any other zoo I have visited in Africa or the Middle East, and probably many in Great Britain!"

So thanks to all our supporters who gave so generously to this appeal. \$20,000 was provided by HSI supporters. ■

Commonwealth Wildlife Habitats get Increased Protection

Last year, HSI was one of the key NGOs who worked with the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees and the Government to pass important “heritage” amendments to the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999.

In July, the then Minister for the Environment, Dr David Kemp, announced the listing of 336 places on the new Commonwealth Heritage List, giving them strong and increased national protection. Forty of these places are important natural areas, which collectively cover millions of hectares of terrestrial and marine environments. Some of these areas include Christmas Island, Ningaloo Reef in WA,

Jervis Bay in NSW, Yampi Defence Area in the Kimberley, WA, and the Tully Training Area in the Wet Tropics of Queensland. Many of these areas will also be assessed for national listing in the coming months and years.

Subsequently, the new Commonwealth Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, listed the first three places on the National Heritage list, including the first nationally listed Indigenous Heritage Place, Lake Condah, in Victoria’s south west. Nominated by the Gunditjmarra People, the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape shows how indigenous communities built a highly sophisticated system of weirs, channels, water races and fish traps so that they



HSI Director Michael Kennedy on far right, next to Ken Saunders, Gunditjmarra Elder, from the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape (Lake Condah) and Australian Heritage Councillors (left to right), Tom Harley (Chair) Jonathon Mills, Roger Beale and Denis Saunders.

could grow and harvest fish, particularly eels. It also remains a spectacular natural area. ■

List of Conservation & Animal Welfare Ministers

Federal:

- The Honourable John Howard, MP Prime Minister (Fax 02 6273 4100)
- Minister for the Environment and Heritage (conservation issues) Senator, The Honourable Ian Campbell (Fax 02 6273 6101)
- Minister for Forestry & Conservation Senator, The Honourable Ian MacDonald (Fax 02 6273 7096)
- Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry* The Honourable Warren Truss (Fax 02 6273 4120)

Victoria:

- Victorian Premier The Honourable Steve Bracks (Fax 03 9651 5054)
- Minister for Agriculture*The Honourable Bob Cameron (Fax 03 9637 8930)
- Minister for Environment and Conservation The Honourable John Thwaites (Fax 03 9651 1188)

New South Wales:

- Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries* Senator, The Honourable Ian MacDonald (Fax 02 9228 3452)
- Minister for the Environment The Honourable Bob Debus (Fax 02 9228 3166)

- NSW Premier The Honourable Bob Carr (Fax 02 9228 3933)

Queensland:

- Minister for Primary Industries & Rural Communities* The Honourable Desley Boyle MP (Fax 07 3221 9954)
- Minister for Environment The Honourable Dean Palaszuk (Fax 07 3229 8541)
- QLD Premier The Honourable Peter Beattie (Fax 07 3221 3631)

Western Australia:

- Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries The Honourable Kim Chance (Fax 08 9213 6701)
- Minister for Environment The Honourable Dr Judy Edwards (Fax 08 9221 4665)
- Minister for Local Government & Regional Development* The Honourable Tom G Stephens (Fax 08 9213 6501)

South Australia:

- Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries* The Honourable Rory McEwen MP (Fax 08 8226 0316)
- Minister for Environment and Conservation The Honourable John Hill MP (Fax 08 8463 5681)

- SA Premier The Honourable Mike Rann (Fax 08 8463 3168)

Northern Territory:

- Minister for Primary Industries & Fisheries* The Honourable Kon Vatskalis (Fax 08 8901 4134)
- Minister for Environment & Heritage The Honourable Marion Scrymgour (Fax 08 8901 4110)
- Minister for Parks and Wildlife The Honourable Dr Chris Burns (Fax 08 8901 4165)

Tasmania:

- Minister for Environment and Planning* The Honourable Judy Jackson (Fax 03 6233 2671)

ACT:

- Chief Minister for the Environment* The Honourable John Stanhope (Fax 02 6205 0433)

All letters to Federal Ministers should be addressed

C/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

All letters to State Ministers should be addressed

C/- Parliament House, in your capital city

* Animal Welfare Minister

Push for Commercial Whaling Continues

HSI has just returned from this year's International Whaling Commission meeting in Italy and the news is not good. Governments at the 2004 International Whaling Commission moved another step closer to finalising a dangerous new 'Revised Management Scheme' to regulate commercial whaling and lift the whaling moratorium that has only been in place since 1986 – a short length of time in the life span and recovery of whale species. While HSI praises governments such as Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom for maintaining a strong anti-whaling stance, others such as Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and the United States appear all too anxious to reach a compromise with pro-whaling countries. These countries joined pro-whalers Denmark, Iceland, Japan and Korea, to sponsor a resolution that sets out a path for adoption of the dangerous and flawed management scheme, possibly at next year's meeting in Ulsan, Korea.

It was not all gloom at the meeting. Pro-conservation countries were also able to defeat an attempt by Japan to abolish the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and work began in a new Conservation Committee established by the Commission in 2003. We also managed to defeat some of Japan's more outrageous proposals to establish quotas to kill 3000 Minke whales a year. We also secured a



Image courtesy of Tracey Shelton

resolution committing the Commission to do more to address animal welfare issues when considering the killing of whales.

Successfully dispelling the myth that whales are eating too many fish, HSI released a report at the meeting by renowned international fisheries experts Daniel Paul and Kristin Kaschner. That whales destroy fish stocks is a ludicrous

furphy spread by Japan to small island countries to give them an excuse to vote in favour of whaling at the IWC and CITES – when the real reason they do so is out of fear that Japan will reduce their fisheries aid. The report, which HSI helped fund, uses the best available science to demolish the theory and has subsequently been published in *Nature Magazine*. ■

Good News at Last for the Southern Bluefin Tuna

HSI has had a major win in it's controversial campaign to save the southern bluefin tuna from extinction. Last year we nominated this species to be listed as endangered under NSW and Commonwealth legislation. We are delighted to announce that the NSW Fisheries Scientific committee (FSC) has made a final recommendation to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, The Hon. Ian MacDonald, to go ahead and list it. It has long been recognized by

scientists around the world that southern bluefin tuna stocks are on the verge of collapse due to intense fishing pressure. Scientific data suggests that less than 5% of the original population remains. HSI hopes that this news will encourage a Commonwealth listing, which is our ultimate goal. As the southern bluefin tuna fishery is controlled under the Commonwealth jurisdiction, this listing would yield the greatest protection for the species.

ACTION REQUIRED

Please write to Senator Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment & Heritage, urging that he list the Southern Bluefin Tuna as a threatened species under the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999

Send your replies to us. ■

HSI CARDS FOR SALE

HSI is proud to offer a beautiful selection of Christmas cards depicting some of the animals we strive to protect.

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Thanks so much to Chris Searle for designing the sticker.

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Update: Fight Importation of Endangered Elephants



ACTION REQUIRED

Write to: Senator, The Hon. Ian Campbell
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Email: senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au
Fax: (02) 6273 6101

Urge the Minister to reject the permit for Australian Zoos to import Asian elephants from Thailand, as The Plan and The Guidelines do not satisfy EPBC and CITES requirements.

Please send us copies of any replies you receive. ■

HSI continues the fight against plans for a group of Australian Zoos (including Taronga Zoo, Melbourne Zoo, Australia Zoo, Monarto Zoo, Perth Zoo and Dubbo Zoo) to import endangered Asian elephants from Thailand for a life in captivity. We have obtained copies of the zoos' Captive Management Plan for Asian Elephants and Guidelines for Management of Elephants in Australasian Zoos.

Under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) and the Convention on

International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the Minister for Environment is required to reject the imports if the participating zoos are not equipped to provide for the behavioural and biological needs of the animal; and if the imports are primarily for commercial purposes. After reviewing the Zoo plans, HSI has found that they fail miserably to meet EPBC and CITES requirements on animal welfare and conservation grounds.

For details on why their plans fail to meet EPBC and CITES requirements, visit: www.hsi.org.au.



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