AUSTRALIA
The Lord Howe Island Group

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1982

Organisation Responsible for the Report
- Environment Australia
- New South Wales (NSW) Government through the Lord Howe Island Board
- Australia

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N iii, iv

Statement of Significance
- Proposed as follows:
  The islands are the eroded remnant of a large shield volcano which erupted from the sea floor intermittently for about 500,000 years in the late Miocene (6.5-7 million years ago). They are a major breeding hotspot for extensive colonies of nesting seabirds, including the only known breeding locality for the Providence Petrel, and the largest breeding concentration in the world of the Red-tailed Tropic bird.
  There is a transition between algal and coral reefs at their ecological limits (235 species of marine algae), endemism is high, and a unique assemblage of temperate and tropical forms cohabit.
  There are also 500 marine fish species and numerous species of indigenous pteriodphytes, angiosperms, and spiders.

Status of Site Boundaries
- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.
- The Island Board and the local Community have sought to extend the marine park from 12 to 30 nautical miles.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity
- The WH value is considered to have been maintained.
- No changes are foreseen.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements
- The WH property is managed directly by the Lord Howe Island Board (consists of 3 elected local residents) responsible for the care, control and management of the Island.

Present State of Conservation
- The island is considered secure from outside environmental influences.

Staffing and Training Needs
- 53 staff including temporary positions.
- Training needs have not been identified.

Financial Situation
- The Island’s Board expenditure on environmental management was US$615,000 in 2001-2002.
- The NSW Marine Park Authority’s expenditure was US$335,400 in 2001-2002.
- It is considered that a proportion of State funding and almost all Commonwealth funding is project-specific and generally short term.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT
- No information supplied.

Visitor Management
- There is a limit of 400 visitors at any one time according to the Regional Environment Plan (REP).
Map of the Lord Howe Island showing WH Area (in darker blue)
II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks
- Many threatened species of animals,
- Invasive plants & animals,
- Global warming,
- Visitor & Tourism pressures,
- Fishing.

Counteractive Plans
- A ‘Threatened Species Recovery Plan’ (with a special ‘recovery team’) and a ‘Strategic Plan for Weed Management’ were prepared by the Board in 2002.
- The new Regional Environment Plan (REP) will address development and visitor pressure by mid-2003.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring Indicators
- Indicator categories include: (i) ongoing; (ii) biannual; (iii) annual; and (iv) 5-yearly research projects.
- Inventories have also been developed.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions
- Significant progress has been made since the inscription of the Property.
- Several operational projects on the island relate to monitoring of key species which are fundamental to the maintenance of WH value.
- There is a need to establish reliable, on-going streams of funds in order to sustain these projects through to their logical conclusion.

* No State of Conservation Reports