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# Changemakers

A portfolio of Ambition, Collaboration, and Commitment

In April 2004 representatives from seven Asia Pacific EAP teams came together in Cairns, Australia to explore how they could optimize the visionary and convening power of ecoregion conservation to deliver significant conservation achievements over the short-term. They became known as the Asia Pacific "Changemakers". Working together with representatives from the global thematic programmes, Asia Pacific regional programme, NOs and POs, the seven EAP teams charted a course of collaboration, campaigning and action that promised to see more than 25 million hectares of forest, marine, freshwater and alpine biodiversity protected, connected and effectively managed across Asia and the Pacific by December 2005. In doing so they embraced a model of planning

and action (Changemakers) that would enable them to aggressively pursue and track progress towards achievement of their 20 month goal, and then use that tangible progress to motivate and leverage others to embrace an ambitious conservation agenda at the ecoregion scale.

By January 2005 tangible progress has been made towards achievement of the seven individual Big Win Outcomes, and an eighth marine magnification Big Win. Already new hectares of protection and management have been secured. More importantly, exciting processes and relationships have been put in place - with governments and partners - to secure the 25 million ha goal by December 2005. Leveraged by the ambition, passion,

discipline and commitment of the EAP Big Win teams, early 2005 has been marked by the announcement of some remarkable conservation commitments by key partners – announcements that mark significant progress towards achievement of these Big Wins and magnification of those Big Wins to even more ambitious heights.

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## Fiji island marine

**vision** — A region blessed with a diversity of marine life - blooming corals amongst richly coloured lipped clams, poaching sharks, ancient turtles surfacing to breathe and giant but graceful bumphead parrotfish and humphead wrasses gliding by in defence of their patch of home reef. A place where people are inspired by the breathtaking beauty of nature to express their dreams in poetry, chants and dance. Where people value nature as a mystical spring of spirituality and respect the living creations that abound in its waters and on its land. A vanua (region) defined by the relationship between the land, the sea, and the people.

**big win outcome** — A joint declaration of commitment by the Great Council of Chiefs and the Fiji Government to a comprehensive network of permanent tabu areas (25,000 km<sup>2</sup>) across Fiji Island Marine ecoregion by December 2005.

### progress updates January 2005

- The Fiji Government announced at the SIDS meeting in January 2005 that, by 2020 at least 30% of Fijis inshore and offshore marine areas will be under a comprehensive, ecologically, representative network of MPAs which are effectively managed and financed
- The first biological survey of the Great Sea Reef was carried out in December 2005
- WWF is reigniting the Fiji NBSAP process, with plans to integrate the Big Win goal and ecoregion vision into national biodiversity goals and commitments (under the CBD)
- The Provincial Council of Macuata Province (influential in the Great Sea Reef region) has given its full support to the establishment of a network of MPAs
- \$500,000 secured from the Packard Foundation (with potential matching grant from the Moore Foundation) for WWF, WCS and partners to pursue marine conservation and sustainable development goals across the Fiji Island Marine ecoregion



## Bismarck Solomon seas

**vision** — Seas and coasts that still teem with life in all its present richness. Seas and coasts that fill peoples bellies, support their wealth, fill their eyes with beauty and provide the foundations of their communities. Seas and coasts that still live strong in all the many dreams, stories and languages and songs of its peoples.

**big win outcome** — *A network of globally important leatherback turtle nesting sites and related inter-nesting habitats protected in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands as part of a wider Bismarck Solomon Marine Protected Areas network.*

### progress updates January 2005

- ▶ A Melanesian Turtle technical working group has been established, led by SPREP, with WWF, TNC and Government of Papua
- ▶ Community based turtle monitoring programmes have been confirmed for 4 nesting sites
- ▶ More than 40 km of priority beaches have been identified for inclusion in MPA network and communities consultations initiated
- ▶ Euro 1.8 million grant secured for BSSE MPA initiatives



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## New Zealand marine

**vision** — A region where people understand that they are custodians of a globally significant portion of the world's marine biodiversity. Where people connect with the marine species and environments that support their wellbeing and define the region: the whales and giant squid that haunt coral thickets of the deep, fishes that dart through coastal kelp and mangrove forests, dolphins that surf the tides, and albatross that wander the skies. A region where care for the sea is based on customary practice and management processes that use scientific knowledge and long time horizons. Where people have the understanding and capacity to work together to manage the health of the oceans and the special species within for generations to come. A marine environment that will be celebrated for the life it sustains.

**big win outcome** — *By December 2005 the New Zealand government commits to protect at least 50% of New Zealand's most important areas for marine biodiversity, as identified through scientific processes.*

### progress updates January 2005

- ▶ Ecoregion workshop report published
- ▶ Ecoregion/ Big Win launch planned for 18 February
- ▶ Submission made on NZ Government's MPA Strategy

## TransFly savannas

**vision** — The ecoregion visions and targets will be completed by September 2004

**big win outcome** — *By December 2005, a 2 million hectare trans-boundary protected area complex is established for effective management by the governments and communities of the TransFly to ensure the sustainable management of shared water resources across the region.*

### progress updates January 2005

- ▶ PHKA have agreed to send a recommendation letter for Wasur National Park to become a Ramsar Site
- ▶ Gazettal notices have been drafted for two new protected areas within the Big Win Trans-boundary Protected Area Complex
- ▶ Work is ongoing on biodiversity classifications across the ecoregion



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# Lower Mekong dry forests

**vision** — To restore to its natural state an area of the Lower Mekong Dry Forests ecoregion, to protect and support representative and viable populations of the indigenous wildlife, and through its sustainable use provide a widely recognised contribution to the economy of Monduliri Province and the well-being of communities in the region.

**big win outcome** — *Protection and effective management of 15% of the Lower Mekong Dry Forests ecoregion so as to ensure that viable populations of the three iconic species (Tiger, Asian elephant and Wild water buffalo) are maintained.*

## progress updates January 2005

- ▶ On June 15, 2005, Prime Minister Hun Sen and Claude Martin to attend a celebration of conservation leadership and effective PA management in Cambodia
- ▶ Ministry of Environment have expressed strong support for the June 15 celebration and are committed to working with WWF to use the June 15 event to showcase and promote the 15% target
- ▶ The Dry Forest Coalition has expressed its support for the Big Win goal
- ▶ The rationale for an inter-ministerial MOU in the Green Triangle (clarifying roles and responsibilities) developed and submitted to relevant officials by the Ministry of Tourism



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# Yangtze basin

**vision** — A region where a living river links the Tibetan Plateau and the Pacific; where people thrive in harmony with nature, pandas play in the forests, children swim with dolphins and fish in the clear water, pheasants dance among the rhododendron, and cranes sing at sunrise. A region where natural cycles sustain a rich and ancient culture.

**big win outcome** — *20 million hectares of priority Yangtze basin ecosystems protected and connected using an integrated ecosystem approach by December 2005.*

## progress updates January 2005

- ▶ Yangtze Forum to be launch 22 April 2005 – as part of UN Water Decade celebrations in China
- ▶ Key donors (DIFD, EU, WB, ADB, CIDA and Dutch Embassy to China) have expressed interest in the Forum
- ▶ IEM being demonstrated over 3.5 mill ha of the Minshan landscape
- ▶ EU Forest project to invest 4.2 mill in Yangtze region over next 3 years (E 600,000 to WWF)
- ▶ Concept not for protection of estuary ecosystem (50,000 ha) developed



# Eastern Himalayas

**vision** — A special space where the endangered snow leopard roam the high mountains stalking large herds of blue sheep; where red pandas bask in the warm sunlight that seeps through tall fir trees; where musk deer scramble for young ferns in the underbrush of larch forest; where tigers raise their cubs unhindered by human encroachment; where rhinoceros wander in the tall savanna; where local communities nurture and manage the forest that provide them food, fodder, fuelwood, income and medicine; where birds make their seasonal migrations over rich forest which absorb the force of the monsoon torrents and reduce erosion and landslides; where forest watersheds will forever replenish the streams and rivers that sustain millions of lives downstream.

**big win outcome** — By December 2005, a tri-National Himalayan agreement signed for linking 15 existing protected areas across sacred forests of India, Nepal and Bhutan and covering 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shared watersheds.

## progress updates January 2005

- ▶ Landscape concept updated with input from various stakeholders. To be finalized by February 2005
- ▶ Biological and socioeconomic database compiled
- ▶ Funding for work in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (Nepal) secured for the next three years



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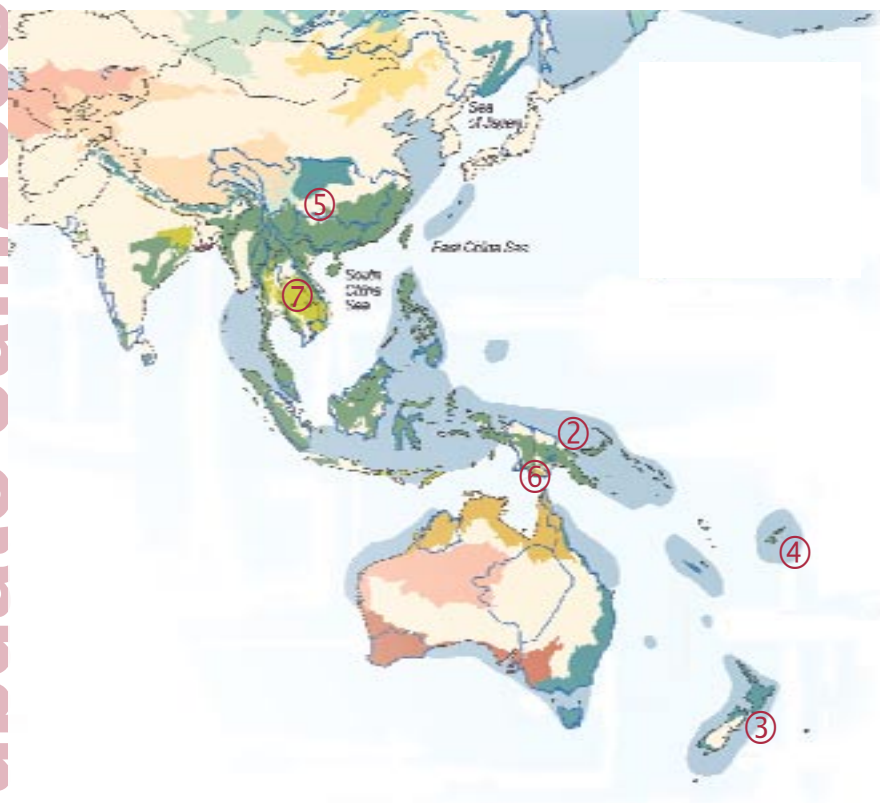
# Big Win Magnification Outcomes



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**Marine** — A regional network of protection is in place for marine and coastal biodiversity across the Pacific that meets the Convention on Biological Diversity goal of 10 per cent protection by 2010 and which ensures the survival of migratory species and fisheries.

**Transregional** — Effective integrated biome/multi-ecoregion protection and management models in place in Yangtze/Yellow Sea; TransFly/Arafura; East Australia/ Great Barrier Reef; and; Lower Mekong Dry Forests/Mekong and that are contributing to CBD, WCPA and WSSD commitments.



- ① Eastern Himalayas
- ② Bismark Solomon Seas
- ③ New Zealand Marine
- ④ Fiji Islands Marine
- ⑤ Yangtze Basin
- ⑥ Transfly Savannas
- ⑦ Lower Mekong Dry Forests