

The Ningaloo World Heritage Area – an introduction

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An introduction to the Ningaloo World Heritage area and the Cape Range National Park.

The slides for this presentation are provided in Appendix A.



Appendix A -The Ningaloo World Heritage Area – an introduction

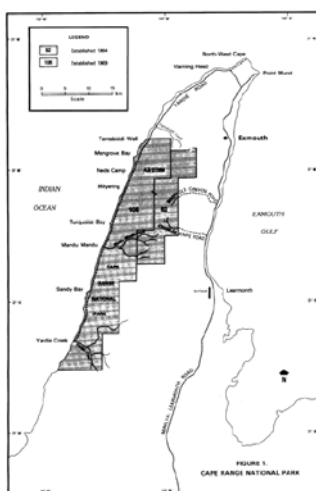





NINGALOO COAST
WORLD HERITAGE

By Heather Barnes

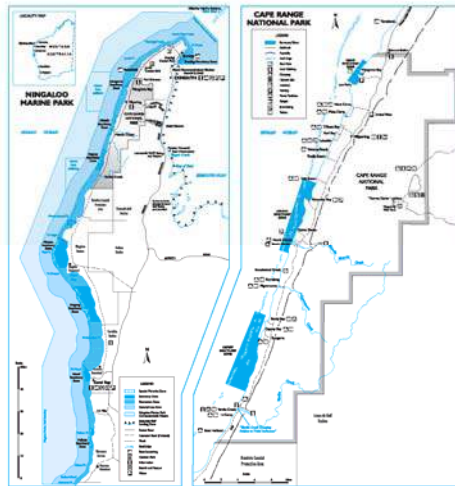
Conservation Estate History



- Conservation significance of the area both marine and terrestrial recognised in the early 60's
- Original proposal by shire of Exmouth in 1964 for 13424 ha as a C class reserve
- Shire then proposed an addition in 1968, south to Yardie Creek and up to Tantabiddi well – up to 50 000 ha
- Status changed to NP in 1974
- At this point the EPA through a Conservation through reserves committee recommended further extensions to the NP, the declaration of a “marine” national Park (Ningaloo), and the declaration of a series of island reserve in the gulf.
- Things quietened down for a little while with the islands being declared but no uptake of the Marine Park or NP extensions.



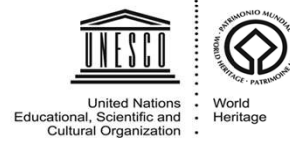
Marine Park History



- Change of legislation in 1984 allowed the declaration of marine parks
- In 1987 the Ningaloo Marine Park was declared (both state and Federal waters) from Bundegi to Amherst Point.
- In 2005 and into 2006 the extension to the Ningaloo Marine Park to the south was undertaken and the inclusion of the waters around the Muirons was incorporated.
- Sanctuary increase from 10-33%



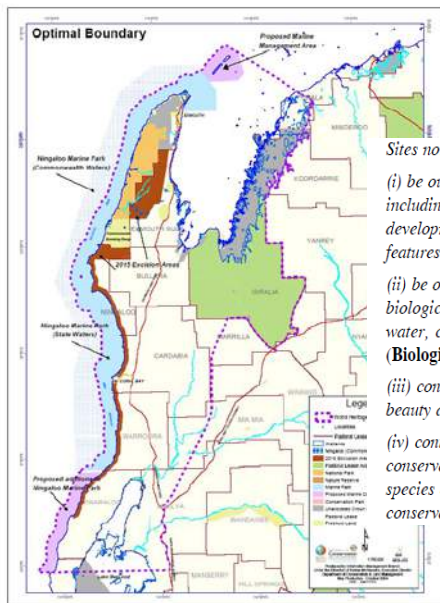
World Heritage



- World Heritage began in 1972 by **UNESCO** developing the "World Heritage Convention"
- High Political and public interest in the areas as a result of the proposed Maud's landing development
- State labour government ecotourism strategy released in 2001 identified an action to seek to have the area listed.
- Cabinet endorsed and agreed to this in 2003 and this was endorsed by the federal government
- WH consultative committee was formed (03/04) and liaised with key stakeholders and began researching the proposal and the WH listing process



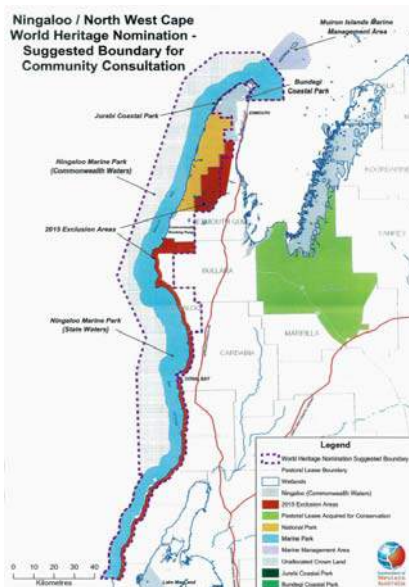
Figure 24. Map showing Optimal Boundary for the proposed World Heritage nomination.



- World Heritage Consultative committee came up with a series of preferred options (12 in fact). Preference was 2.5 million Ha in 2004

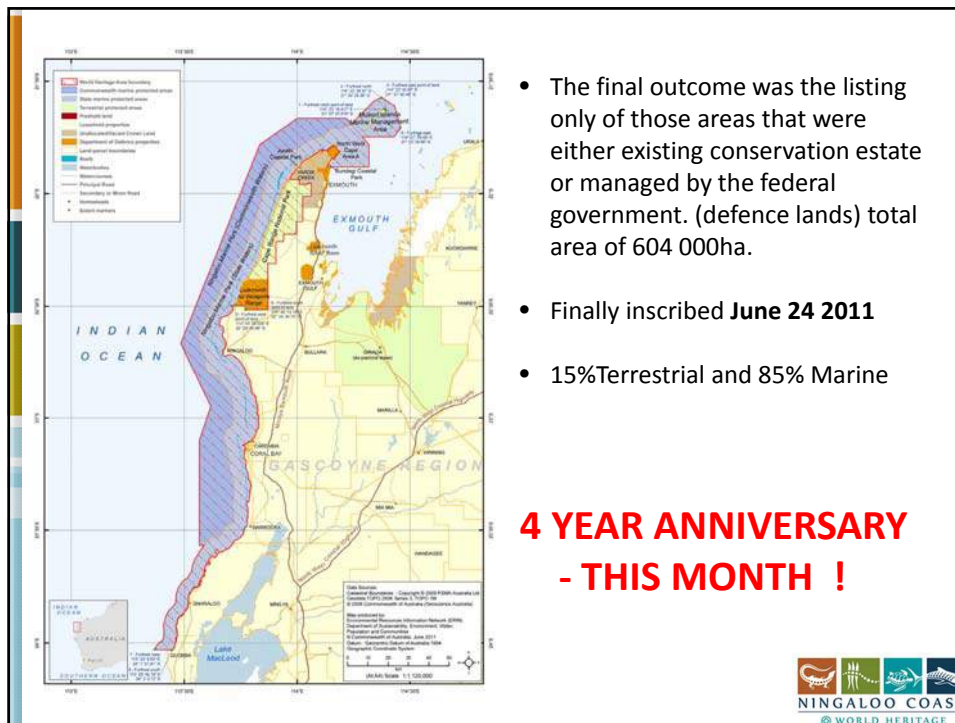
Sites nominated should therefore:

- (i) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of land forms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features (**Geoevolutionary history**); or
- (ii) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals (**Biological evolution**); or
- (iii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance (**Superlative beauty**); or
- (iv) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation (**Biological diversity**).



- Eventual proposal put forward in 2010 of 708 000 hectares based on ongoing consultation
- Eventually considered and inscribed by the international World Heritage Committee in **June 2011**.





World Heritage Natural Criteria

- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; ✓
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history ✗
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals ✗
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. ✓



What is World Heritage?

World Heritage listing is the highest global recognition of the importance of a site.

World Heritage listing:

- recognises the significance of the Ningaloo Coast at an international level as one of the world's best examples of natural heritage
- creates an obligation to ensure the World Heritage values of the area are conserved
- creates the requirement for development proposals that are likely to significantly affect World Heritage values to be referred to the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.



The Landscape

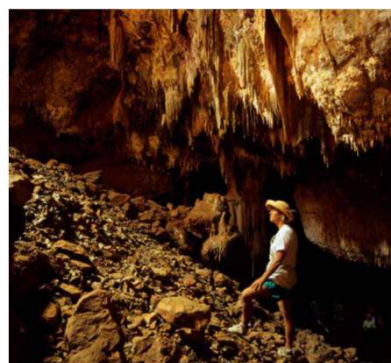




Turtle nesting

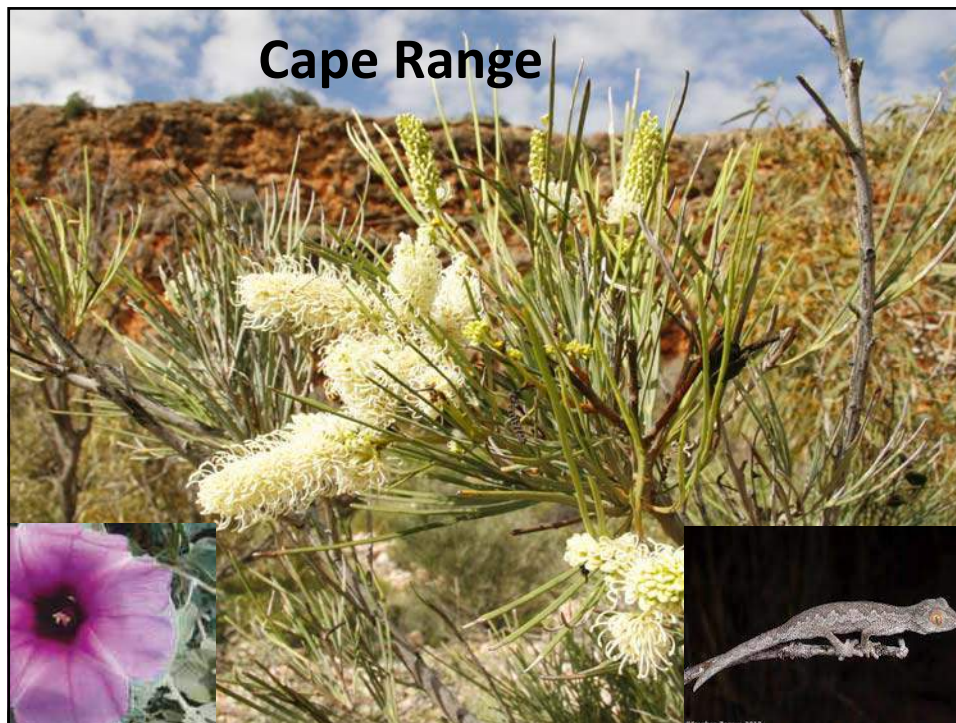


Cape Range Karst System



Cave Gudgeon, *Milyeringa variegata*, Cape Range, West





Benefits of being placed on the World Heritage List



- World Heritage listing acknowledges the significance of a place at the international level. With this comes a commitment at the local, state and national levels to manage the property for present and future generations.
- With World Heritage listing, the EPBC Act applies to new developments that are likely to significantly affect World Heritage values.
- In Australia, World Heritage places are strongly promoted and many have received increased tourism investment.



Managing the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

- Existing management programs (DPaW, Exmouth Shire, Defence) continue
- Development of a NCWHA Committee
- Potential funding for special projects
 - Feral Animal Control
 - World Heritage Officer



Questions?

