



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2024 #04 --- April 2024

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Welcome to the April edition of the newsletter! This edition focuses on conservation and explores what Land For Wildlife is; restoring habitat for birds on farms, the value of national parks, the fascinating world of camelids and Bunyas to Borders program.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2024 Environmental Observances

April

22 [International Mother Earth Day](#)

May

11 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)

12 [International Day of Plant Health, 12 May | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)

20 [World Bee Day | United Nations](#)

22 [International Day for Biological Diversity | United Nations](#)

June

5 [World Environment Day | United Nations](#)

7 [World Food Safety Day | United Nations](#)

8 [World Oceans Day | United Nations](#)

8 HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting (in person and via ZOOM)

17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | United Nations](#)

29 [International Day of the Tropics | United Nations](#)

Annual Pledge/Donation

<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Feature Articles



- <https://www.lfwseq.org.au>

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi - HOPE researcher ACT

Land For Wildlife began over 40 years ago in Victoria to address the declining numbers of birds on farms. It is a result of collaboration between farmers and conservationists to build a program to restore habitat for birds on farms and to give landowners the skills to look after wildlife habitat.

Main Aims

Land For Wildlife SEQ encourages and assists landholders to manage the wildlife habitat on their properties. It is a voluntary program consisting of over 7000 members. Land For Wildlife provides the opportunity to learn about the native plants, animals and ecosystems existing on a landholder's property. The program also provides advice on managing weeds and pests that pose a threat and recognises the importance and benefits of conservation.

Part of the program are personalised property visits. These visits are conducted by a local Land For Wildlife Officer who will assist landowners to develop personalised plans for their properties and integrate nature conservation with activities such as residential use and grazing.

Land For Wildlife offers advice, encouragement, and practical support to help meet your property's conservation goals. For instance, Land For Wildlife enables members to access property maps, technical information about land management and ecology. Members also have access to newsletters, workshops, and field days.

For more information about the objectives of Land For Wildlife SEQ and about how to become a member, please visit the website at <https://www.lfwseq.org.au/about/> and <https://www.lfwseq.org.au/become-a-member/>.

Achievements

The Land for Wildlife SEQ program is fastest growing network of landholders involved in private land conservation in Australia.

Additionally, they have many other achievements including:

- 73493 Hectares of wildlife habitat
- 8076 hectares of habitat under restoration
- 5214 Land For Wildlife properties in SEQ
- 392 new Land for Wildlife properties join last year.
- Over 4,000 hectares of weeds controlled.
- Over 2 million trees planted.
- 13 Local Governments working together across SEQ.
- 5000th Land for Wildlife property joined in December 2021. [Read their story here](#)
- Over 16,745 observations on the LfWSEQ iNaturalist project
- Over 145 nest boxes provided to members last year.

To read more about their achievements please visit the website at <https://www.lfwseq.org.au/achievements/>

Campaigns/Projects

Threats across various habitats continue to intensify. These threats together with the impacts of climate change and land clearing have resulted in a shortage of availability of suitable habitats. Greater Gliders require suitable mature, eucalypt, hollow bearing trees for shelter and breeding.

A sharp decline in the availability of large hollow bearing trees, have resulted in loss of habitat. Considering this, The Greater Glider Recovery project has been developed to restore habitat and provide supplementary hollows for Great Gliders.



The Greater Gliders Recovery Project is a pilot project to install 18 Habitech nest boxes across several Land For Wildlife properties on the Sunshine Coast. As part of this project, all nest boxes were installed within four identified habitat patches known as suitable habitat for greater gliders. All identified habitat patches have hollow bearing trees suitable for dwelling.

The objective of this project is to identify hollow-dependent fauna by investigating and using these nest boxes in the hope of providing suitable habitat for Greater Gliders.

Between October and November 2023 nest boxes were installed. These nest boxes will be monitored using techniques such as fixed fauna cameras to view real time fauna movement and spotlighting. Part of this process will involve undertaking surveys and stag watching.

In addition, solar powered fauna cameras have been installed on the four nest boxes by members of the Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland's, Matt Cecil and Maaiké Hofman. As shown in the image

below.

For more information on Land For Wildlife SEQ and to get involved, please visit their website at <https://www.lfwseq.org.au/>

The value of national parks, state reserves and other conservation areas such as 'land for wildlife' properties AND the benefits of Eco-tourism

By Jason Dingley, HOPE Media Officer (Vic)

Introduction

The preservation of plants in their natural habitats is often regarded as a mainstay of plant species conservation, but it requires more than placing a fence around a few fragments of vegetation (Given, 1994, p.85). Indeed, this comment is equally applicable to any organism that is being considered for protection and conservation.

Increasingly, the interdependence of organisms on one another is being realised such that programmes aiming to conserve a particular species will have to account for the impacts and dependencies that exist with other organisms.

There are a number of questions that continue to be asked about protected areas and their role in conservation (Given, 1994, p.85):

- should all reserves be selected based on strict biogeographic criteria?
- are several small reserves better than one large one?
- can protected areas be representative and, if so, of what?
- how is protection integrated with traditional use of plants and animals, and is tourism compatible with protection?
- how are a mosaic of habitat types protected?
- should priority be given to protection of species richness, unique vegetation types, and high endemism?
- what approaches best protect genetic diversity within populations?
- if one protects ecosystems, are all species adequately protected along with them?
- why not take rare species out of the wild and cultivate them in botanic gardens?
- which is more important – the survival of all plant and animal species, or people?
- what about cultural artefacts conservation?
- unique or important geological / geomorphological feature and systems preservation?

Protected areas sometimes 'fail' in their intended purpose if they are too small because the number of species is too small to fully continue the natural biotic and abiotic processes. In addition, to ensure adequate breeding stock with sufficient genetic diversity, larger areas are preferred; some large vertebrates need extremely large areas. For example, tropical rainforests are very species-rich, but often the number of each species in a particular area is very low; therefore, very large areas are needed to ensure large numbers of any population exist for a species.

Some species may require disturbed edge habitats and relying on a shifting mosaic of disturbance for their continued existence (Given, 1994, p. 88-89).

Whilst the above seems somewhat academic, it does demonstrate that for species conservation, many competing requirements exist that need planning for, especially when considering the complex interactions and interdependencies that occur between the different species and their environment.

Ecotourism

Increasingly, people are seeking 'wild' and 'un-spoilt' areas to visit, yet there is no part of the planet (certainly, the terrestrial and shallow to medium depth aquatic environments) that is unaffected by human impacts. Thus, there is a trade-off between maintaining wild areas in as natural a state as possible, whilst also providing tourism experiences.

A major concern of ecotourism is that of transportation to, through and from the parks. With the exception of a relatively small number of parks, the vast majority require (and are dependent upon) people travelling by private vehicles or, for more remote places (and overseas trips - e.g. Antarctica) either by planes or via ship. Not only that, but tourists can – and do – leave litter; cause damage to the fragile landscape and, potentially introduce invasive species and infectious diseases to often vulnerable populations, or, bring pests and disease from these areas to the 'outside' community. Further details on these and related issues can be found in the volume edited by Fennell (2022).

(Buckley, 2014, p.175-182) provides the following areas where tourism and conservation intersect:

- i. use the financial and political power of tourism to support conservation;
- ii. recognise and reward conservation contributions to tourism;
- iii. analyse tourist behaviour in conservation context;
- iv. take advantage of tourism opportunities in public forests;
- v. promote opportunities for marine conservation tourism;
- vi. separate large-scale tourism infrastructure from areas of high conservation value;
- vii. manage tourism from highly populous, newly wealthy nations;
- viii. understand interactions with climate change impact;
- ix. keep up-to-date with new technology;
- x. stay alert to geopolitical games.

The UN Sustainability Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/) that set-out a series of actions that span interrelated human and environmental issues. Ecotourism can help meet these goals by encouraging the redistribution of wealth, encouraging food production; stimulating investment in infrastructure to improve water and sanitation systems; using protected areas as health improvement strategies (for example, through the encouragement of walking and other activities) as well as using them as sources of medicinal products; empowering women and girls through opportunities for work and education; broader work and education opportunities together with sustainable energy production and industrial innovation (see Spenceley and Rylance, 2022. p. 9-22).

However, tourists need managing and their behaviours and interactions - especially with large, 'showpiece' fauna, such as gorillas and whales – controlled. Whilst ecotourism to view mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) has had a number of positive impacts (increased gorilla numbers; revenue for park management; local community employment opportunities; and trickle-down effects on other organisms sharing the gorillas' environment), some recent research (Costa, *et al* 2023) shows that tourist interactions with mountain gorilla in Uganda, caused adverse impacts on the gorillas. These include:

- transmission of pathogens and infections to gorillas
- increased stress levels in gorillas
- negative impacts on gorillas' behaviour

It should be noted that the recommended viewing distance for gorillas is a minimum of 7m, with a maximal group number of visitors of 8, staying for one hour, and not visiting when sick.

Unfortunately, too many groups violate these rules.

To help protect such magnificent and important creatures, people-management is needed. That way, the species will be around for future generations to enjoy.

Many ecotourism operators do respect the environment in which they operate: they do not want to 'kill the goose that lays the golden egg.' However, the very success of ecotourism can - and does – encourage unscrupulous imitators and competitors, who end up "killing that goose." Proper regulation of operators is essential, along with managing expectations of the tourists and ensuring they are aware of what they can and cannot do.

References

- Buckley, Ralf. 2014. Tourism. p. 175-182 in *Ten Commitments Revisited: Securing Australia's Future Environment*. Edited by Lindenmayer, David, Dovers, Stephen and Morton, Steve. CSIRO Publishing: Collingwood, VIC.
- Costa, Raquel, Takeshita, Rafaela S.C., Tomonaga, Masaki, Huffman, Michael A., Kalema-Zikusoka, Gladys, Bercovitch, Fred and Hayashi, Misato. 2023. The impact of tourist visits on mountain gorillas' behaviour in Uganda, *Journal of Ecotourism*. DOI: 10.1080/14724049.2023.2176507
- Fennell, David A. Ed. 2022. *Routledge Handbook of Ecotourism*. Routledge: Abingdon, Oxon.
- Given, David R. 1994. *Principles and Practice of Plant Conservation*. Chapman & Hall: London.
- Spenceley, Anna and Rylance, Andrew. 2022. Ecotourism and the Sustainable Development Goals. p, 9-22 in *Routledge Handbook of Ecotourism*. Edited by Fennell, David A. Routledge: Abingdon, Oxon.

"Exploring the Fascinating World of Camelids in the International Year of Camelids 2024"

Written by Gabriel Malandu- HOPE researcher Qld



Throughout the extensive annals of our planet's history, there is an unspoken melody performed by underappreciated heroes – camelids, creatures that have elegantly roamed the Earth long before our human expedition commenced. These stories take place in diverse environments and reflect the rich tapestry of cultures and ways of life. They capture the spirit of resilience, friendship, and environmental responsibility. As we explore the International Year of Camelids 2024 (IYC 2024), we embark on a journey to understand the fascinating stories of these incredible creatures. We will discover their cultural importance, their ability to adapt, and their crucial

role in promoting global sustainability goals.

In a forward-thinking move, the United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024), acknowledging the significant influence of these animals on communities and ecosystems. This project, led in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and other key allies, is more than just a celebration. It is a strong message to highlight the vital importance of these creatures in enhancing resilience to climate change. Their contribution in the challenging terrains of mountains and arid and semi-arid lands is especially noteworthy. The interplay between these remarkable beings and the environment creates a delicate balance that supports life.

Exploring the World of Camelids:

Deserts and highlands are home to a diverse range of remarkable creatures. Take, for instance, the majestic Bactrian camels, known for their unique two humps that allow them to thrive in even the most extreme climates. Then there are the graceful dromedaries, skillfully traversing vast plains and enduring long periods without water. These remarkable desert creatures not only possess the physical endurance to withstand challenging conditions, but also symbolise the enduring strength that supports nomadic and dryland communities for generations.



While exploring the captivating landscapes of South America, we come across a fascinating array of llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicuñas. Llamas and alpacas are an integral part of South American communities, with their tall, horse-shaped stature and social, communicative nature. They serve as working companions, weaving themselves into the fabric of these communities. In addition to their primary functions of providing fibre and meat, domesticated camelids have become deeply ingrained in the lives and cultures of many people. They offer not only companionship

and sustenance, but also a strong link to tradition.

The incredible beauty of the guanacos and vicuñas adds even more depth to this story. Guanacos dash across the vast landscapes of South America, their sleek bodies and prominent ears adding to their wild allure. These magnificent creatures not only provide valuable fibre but also evoke a deep connection to the untamed wilderness. Vicuñas are the national animal of Peru. They have a woolly brown coat and a unique heat-trapping mechanism, which makes their fibres highly sought after worldwide. The New World camelids, including llamas and alpacas, hold significant spiritual and cultural meaning for Indigenous Peoples, strengthening the bond between humanity and the natural world.

The Importance of Camelids on a Global Scale:

The year 2024 marks a significant event for camelids worldwide. It goes beyond being a simple celebration and serves as a powerful message resonating across the Andean highlands, the arid lands of Africa and Asia, and even further. Communities worldwide rely on camelid products and services for their livelihoods, making it essential for the FAO to stress the importance of global recognition and support. By spreading knowledge about the unexplored capabilities of camelids, we can participate in a meaningful story that goes beyond borders, supporting long-lasting employment, advocating for fairness, and cultivating an understanding of the intricate relationship between humans and the environment.



An Appreciation for the Unsung Heroes:



So, to sum it up, as we journey through the International Year of Camelids, let's not only appreciate these often-overlooked heroes but also honour their lasting impact. We recognise and support their invaluable contributions to our world, which go beyond their physical presence and are essential for sustainable coexistence. The fascinating tales of the brave individuals who inhabit deserts and highlands call upon us to acknowledge, value, and protect the intricate balance between mankind and the natural world. This is a celebration of the heroes whose stories have influenced cultures, supported livelihoods, and shown remarkable resilience in challenging times.

Final Notes:

By embracing this tribute, we embark on a journey of shared responsibility, ensuring the ongoing balance between the heroes of deserts and highlands and the world they have quietly influenced for countless years. As we come together to honour the International Year of Camelids, it's important to recognise the significance of preserving their rich heritage, sustainable practices, and the deep bond they share with the diverse communities they have served for generations. By doing this, we not only pay tribute to the past but also lay the foundation for a future where the stories of camelids remain relevant in the worldwide pursuit of sustainability and harmony.

Bunyas to Border (B2B) is a significant initiative within the Great Eastern Ranges (GER)



Bunyas to Border (B2B) is a significant initiative within the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare's (IFAW) Koala Climate Corridors project. Led by Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc. (LUCI), the project aims to collaborate with local partners to enhance the vital koala habitat corridor in the western 'horn' of the Greater Border Ranges. Encompassing the landscape from Main Range-Helidon Hills to the Bunyas, this corridor serves as a crucial movement pathway for wildlife and is rich in diverse, unique, and threatened native animals and plants.

Seed funding is available for the first 12-month of the project that will involve strategic tree planting, supplementary habitat activities such as nest box and watering station installations, citizen science initiatives, riparian area enhancements, and community education. The flagship species chosen by IFAW is the Koala, acting as an umbrella species for other key inhabitants including the Greater Glider, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Bush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Glossy-black Cockatoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Speckled Warbler, and Painted Button Quail.

A stakeholder workshop held in July 2023 brought together community groups from across the corridor to identify key goals and priorities. Planning for activities commenced in August, and on-ground works are scheduled to commence in January 2024. The project has already secured forty-five WIRES TREE TROFF® wildlife drinkers which are set to be collected and installed by local landholders early this year, supporting a range of arboreal wildlife susceptible to heat stress. Further on the supplementary habitat front, Greater Glider-specific nest boxes, innovatively designed by Habitech, will be installed at priority Greater Glider locations across the corridor by April.

Tree planting plans are underway for five Lockyer Valley properties, with an expected 1,600 trees to be planted in March to enhance corridor connectivity and increase Koala feed tree availability. Corridor

enhancement and increased feed tree availability will also support and benefit a range of other species. Four additional locations across the corridor are also slated to commence planting throughout March, April and May.

April will also feature Koalafest, a koala-ty day of industry speakers, stalls, and more, dedicated to celebrating koalas. Exciting community workshops will be presented by Wildlife Queensland in May and will focus on Greater Glider and Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby conservation with demonstrations on nest box installation, survey techniques and monitoring. In June or July, a Bird Day will take place, featuring speakers, stalls, and activities centred around bird conservation. But this is not all. The project will also collaborate with local groups and universities on several other assessments and activities to ensure planning and action is backed by science and data. Keep an eye out for updates on event dates and activities, along with calls for volunteers on the LUCI Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/LockyerUplandsCatchmentsInc>

Justine Rice, Project Coordinator - Koala Climate Corridors, Bird Diversity Project
 Mob: 0450 636 696 | Email Justine@lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au
www.lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au | [LUCI Facebook page](#)

Resources



Code	Name	Common Use	Recycle Rate	Recommendation
	PET Polyethylene Terephthalate	Plastic bottles (soft drink, single-use water bottles, sport drinks), food jars, cosmetic containers.	23%	Be careful with products labeled No. 1. Designed for single use only. Extended use increases risk of leaching and bacterial growth.
	HDPE High density polyethylene	Grocery Bags, detergent bottles, milk and juice jugs.	27%	Appears to be Safe
	PVC Polyvinyl chloride	Garden hose, cable sheathing, window frames, blister packs, blood bags, meat wrap.	< 1%	Avoid Nicknamed the Poison Plastic, contains many dangerous toxins.
	LDPE Low density Polyethylene	Heavy duty bags, drycleaning bags, bread bags, squeezable bottles, plastic food wrap.	< 1%	Appears to be Safe
	PP Polypropylene	Medicine bottles, cereal liners, packing tape, straws, potato chip bags.	3 %	Appears to be Safe
	PS Polystyrene	CD and video cases, plastic cutlery, foam packaging, egg cartons.	< 1%	Avoid May leach styrene, a possible human carcinogen. May be a hormone disruptor.
	Other PC Polycarbonate	Baby bottles, water cooler bottles, car parts	< 1%	Caution Concern with leaching of Bisphenol A which appears to cause chromosomal damage.

Useful Tips:

- Store food and water in glass or stainless steel containers whenever possible
- Minimize or eliminate exposure to plastics with code 1, 3, 6, or 7
- Do not use products (especially Baby Bottles) identified with No. 7

www.PlasticFreeBottles.com
 Your source for alternatives to plastic bottles