



Media Release

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Working Together for Regional Coastal Management and Development

Regional cooperation for healthy coastal ecosystems, coastal development and climate change, better management tools and improved water quality will be key topics of discussion tomorrow, Thursday 21 August, at the national biennial **Coast to Coast 2008** Conference being held in Darwin this week.

According to experts speaking at the conference Australia's vast tropical northern coastline can only be successfully managed through collaborative partnerships with our close regional neighbours, Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea.

Conference Convenor and Northern Territory Government marine scientist Professor Edyvane said this year's conference has a strong regional focus and the Northern Territory is leading the way in establishing coastal partnerships with regional neighbours such as Timor Leste.

"An update on current and future coastal-marine projects in Indonesia and Timor Leste will be discussed during a full-day symposium exploring coastal research and management of the Arafura Timor seas that will commence at 11am," Professor Edyvane said.

"The importance of healthy coastal ecosystems in our region will be highlighted with a talk on regional cooperation in the Arafura-Timor Seas by Dr Tonny Wagey from Indonesia.

"Dr Narciso de Carvalho from Timor Leste, along with other speakers will then discuss marine conservation and sustainable development in Timor Leste, and traditional fishing and the latest research on sharks will also be discussed."

Professor Edyvane said the conference will also hear how coastal development and climate change together posed very significant challenges for planning and management of coastal areas in Australia that require a broad scale approach to managing impacts.

"Plenary speaker Dr Bob Pressey of James Cook University will outline a new integrated planning approach that recognises the link between coastal catchments and marine waters at 9am.

"Keynote speaker Dr Ray Masini of the West Australian Department of Environment and Conservation will talk about the planning and environmental assessment of large-scale coastal and marine infrastructure developments at 9.40am.

"Other issues to be covered tomorrow include water quality and biological impacts of pollution, whilst all day sessions will include talks on coastal climate change planning and adaptation to change."

Coast to Coast is a biennial national coastal conference that focuses debate, discussion and learning across a range of coastal and marine issues.

Coast to Coast Collaboration: Crossing Boundaries is being held at the Darwin Convention Centre from 18-22 August 2008. For more information go to www.coast2coast.org.au.

Media enquiries: Dr Barry Russell on 0401 119 804

Media are welcome to attend

Attachment: *Coast to Coast 2008* Program