



Media Release

22.08.08

Partnerships Vital for Managing Australia's Northern Coasts

Exploring tropical coastal marine biodiversity and current and future partnerships with Indigenous communities will be the main topics discussed today, Friday 22 August, the final day of the **Coast to Coast 2008** Conference being held in Darwin this week.

Today's program will discuss coastal-marine projects and partnerships with indigenous communities and also, explore the historical connections between Indonesia and Australia - following on from discussions yesterday about partnerships with regional neighbours.

Conference Convenor and Northern Territory Government marine scientist, Professor Karen Edyvane, said community engagement and partnerships was the way forward for coastal management in northern Australia.

"The Northern Territory is at the forefront nationally with a range of community-based projects and coastal partnerships with indigenous communities and also with close regional neighbours such as Timor Leste," Professor Edyvane said.

"The final day of the conference features a diverse range of speakers, discussions and workshops.

"At 9am an invited plenary, Professor James Fox from the Australian National University, will examine the centuries of inter-connections between the coasts of Indonesia and Australia.

"Keynote speaker Professor Helene Marsh from James Cook University will present the results of recent work that highlights the critical importance of northern Australia for the global conservation of tropical coastal marine biodiversity during her speech at 9.40am.

"Following that at 10.05am Joe Morrison of the North Australia Land and Sea Management Alliance will discuss opportunities for Indigenous partnerships in the management of Australia's northern coasts."

"Other highlights in today's program include talks on indigenous partnerships in research, monitoring and management of marine debris, turtles and dugongs and other wildlife, and community engagement and successful collaborative partnerships in coastal and marine surveys, monitoring, habitat mapping and management."

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