

critical area for its conservation, conforming an ecological unit with Ría Celestun and the State Reserve of El Palmar, Yucatán.

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The Dawesville Channel: social impacts and community education

The Dawesville Channel was opened as a component of a three part management strategy to reduce eutrophication of the Peel-Harvey Estuary. The other components being Catchment Management: aimed at reducing the input of phosphorus from point and nonpoint sources, and Weed Harvesting: ongoing until management measures reduce macroalgae abundance and distribution. Construction of the Channel increased flushing and tidal variations which raised a number of community concerns, therefore a Social Impact/Community Education Program was established. After community input had been invited to identify key issues, a core group of community members, representing those most likely to be directly affected by the Channel, and relevant Government Agencies were selected for a Community Reference Group (CRG). The CRG was formed to enable all issues and recommendations to be examined in an integrated manner by encouraging informed local views as well as government expertise. Key players were able to meet face to face, thereby lessening potential conflict areas. A number of possible social impacts and their effects on community groups were raised and have subsequently been addressed through the publication of over ten related Dawesville Topic Sheets, a range of reports and information papers and an educational video. Key issues raised by the community included silting, flooding, erosion, adverse changes to the fishery, mosquitoes, compensation and insurance. It is essential that residents of the region have a good understanding of the possible beneficial and adverse impacts of the Channel. As a means of providing informed and up to date information a Dawesville Channel Hotline has been established to answer enquiries, regular community education talks are being given, and initiation of regular estuary and river health media releases undertaken.

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An education program to support a created wetlands environment

This paper describes the development the RGC Wetlands Education Centre in the South-west of Western Australia by RGC Mineral Sands in consultation with the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia. The purpose of the Centre is to facilitate an educational program for primary and secondary school students. The three key components of the program are the school visits program, professional development of teachers, and the development of a resource package specifically designed to assist students and their teachers learn about the Wetlands. The program offers students the opportunity to study and monitor the wetlands, thus creating an awareness of

conservation and land management issues. To date, more than 1000 students have benefited from the program and the material developed has been successfully trialed. Components of the program, including the resource package, will be displayed and described and suggestions made for how key facets of the program may be transferred for use with students in other countries, educational settings and wetlands areas.

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Interim recovery plan for a threatened coastal wetland, plant community

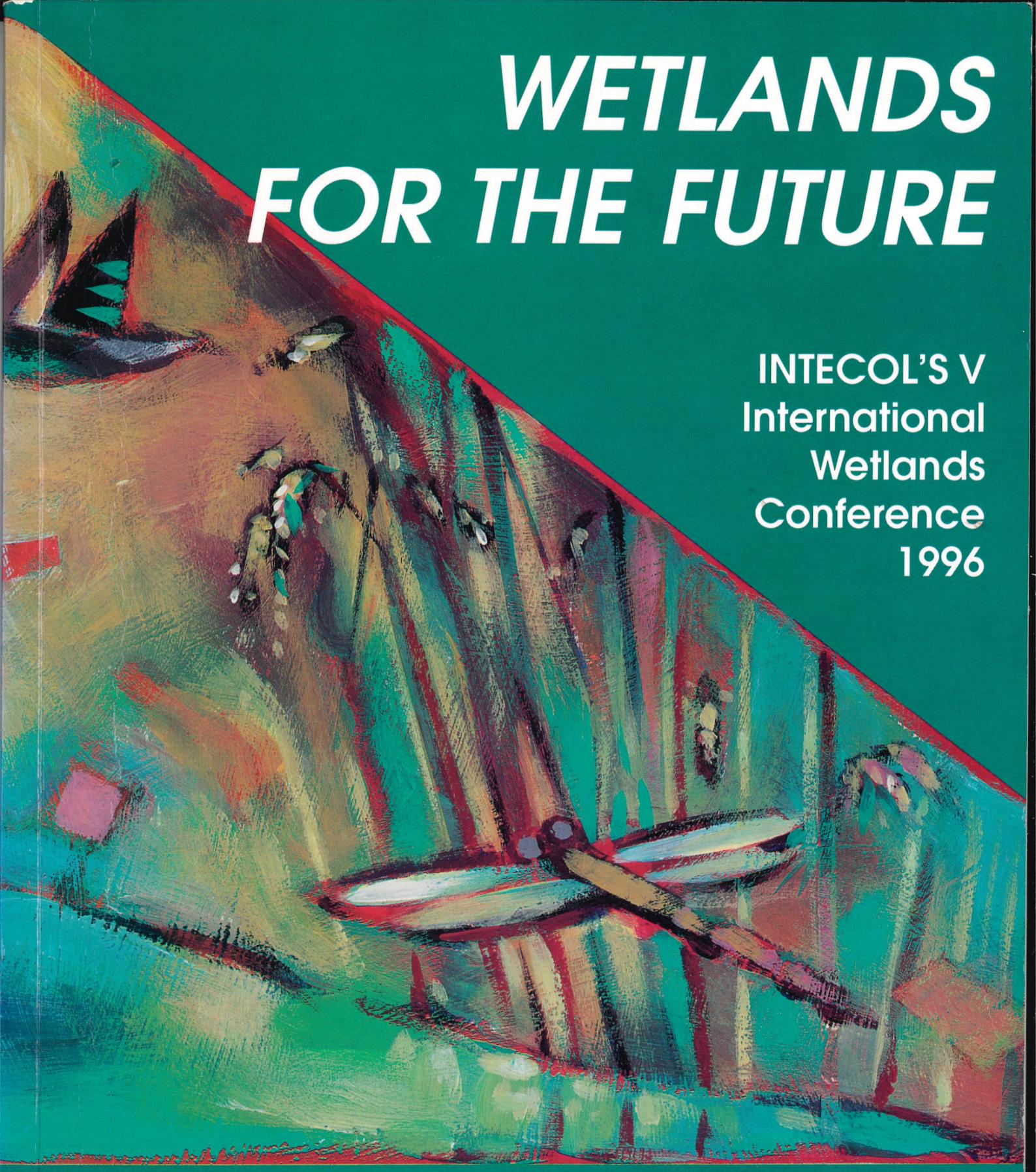
The department of Conservation and Land Management with financial assistance from The Australian Nature Conservation Agency is currently undertaking a project to identify and conserve threatened ecological communities in the South West Botanical province. Many communities which have been identified as rare and threatened are wetlands. The community "Sedgelands in Holocene dune swales" is a wetland type which is restricted to a geographic distribution of approximately 14 square kilometres within an area where urban development is taking place. It is under threat from clearing, hydrological changes, nutrient contamination, recreation, too frequent fire, weed invasion and rabbits and is critically endangered. An Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) is being written to address the most immediate threats to the community. A multi-disciplinary Recovery Team will be responsible for implementing the IRP and the achievement of its objectives. Immediate recovery actions will include reservation of a large proportion of the community; developing an annual monitoring and reporting schedule; research into the ecology of the wetland suite - especially investigation of hydrological issues and integration of research findings into management rehabilitation of degraded areas; and an ongoing program of education, management, maintenance and reporting.

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Conceptual design of 118 ha wetland system, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Putrajaya is currently being developed as the new Federal Government Administrative Centre for Malaysia and will be based around a 655 ha lake to be constructed on the Chuau River. The Chuau River presently carries elevated levels of pollutants derived from upstream sources including suspended solids, nutrients, bacteria, heavy metals and organics. Future urban and commercial development of the catchment will result in increased stormwater runoff with the potential to further increase pollutant loads to the lake. A system of 118 ha of wetlands has been designed to control pollutants entering the lake via upstream inflows (representing 61% of the total inflow to the lake). Individual lake perimeter wetlands and detention lakes have

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