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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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SYSTEM 6

The Place Where We Live

One hundred and fifty years ago the first European settlers faced a tough environment which had great challenge, but offered little choice. They had to clear the land to support the Swan River Colony.

We live in the area they pioneered, and now we face a challenge of a different sort. We must preserve parts of the original, natural landscape which still remain: the landscape seen by earliest explorers and settlers. This is the challenge of the SYSTEM 6 STUDY.

YOUR VIEWS ARE NEEDED

The System 6 Study Report directly affects each and every one of our lives, because it will set guide lines for our outdoor recreational needs and activities. As a consequence the EPA is concerned that no views are left unconsidered.

To help the Department of Conservation and Environment in its work we would like you to fill in the questionnaire, and return it to us. From this certain priorities can be established.

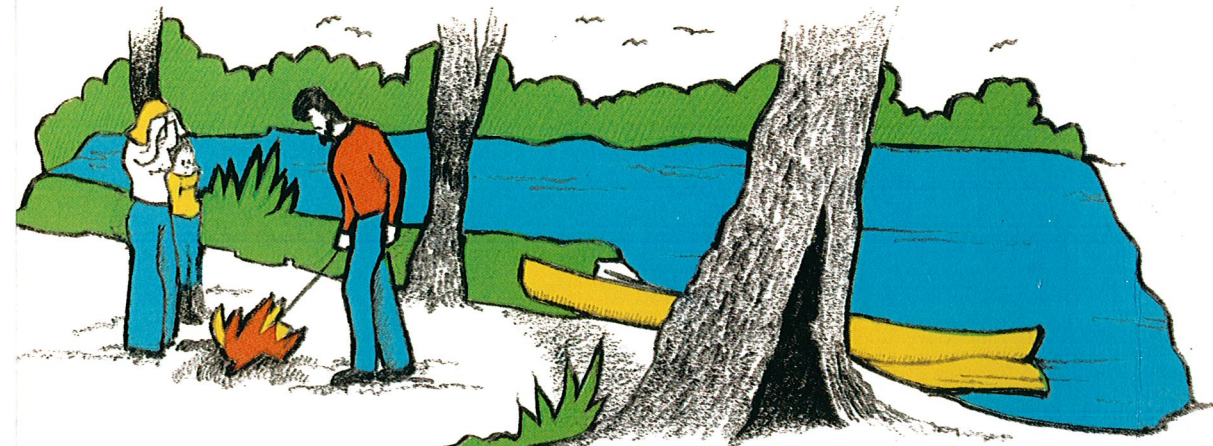
That is the theme of System 6 — a matter of priorities.



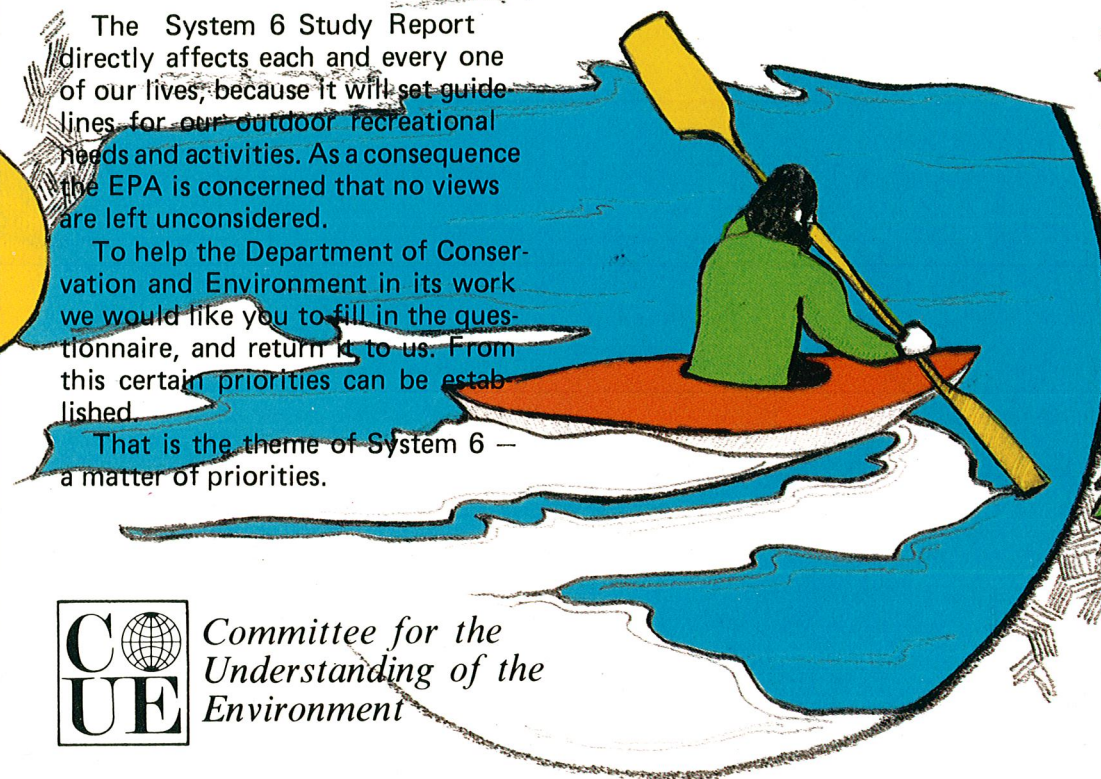
Committee for the Understanding of the Environment

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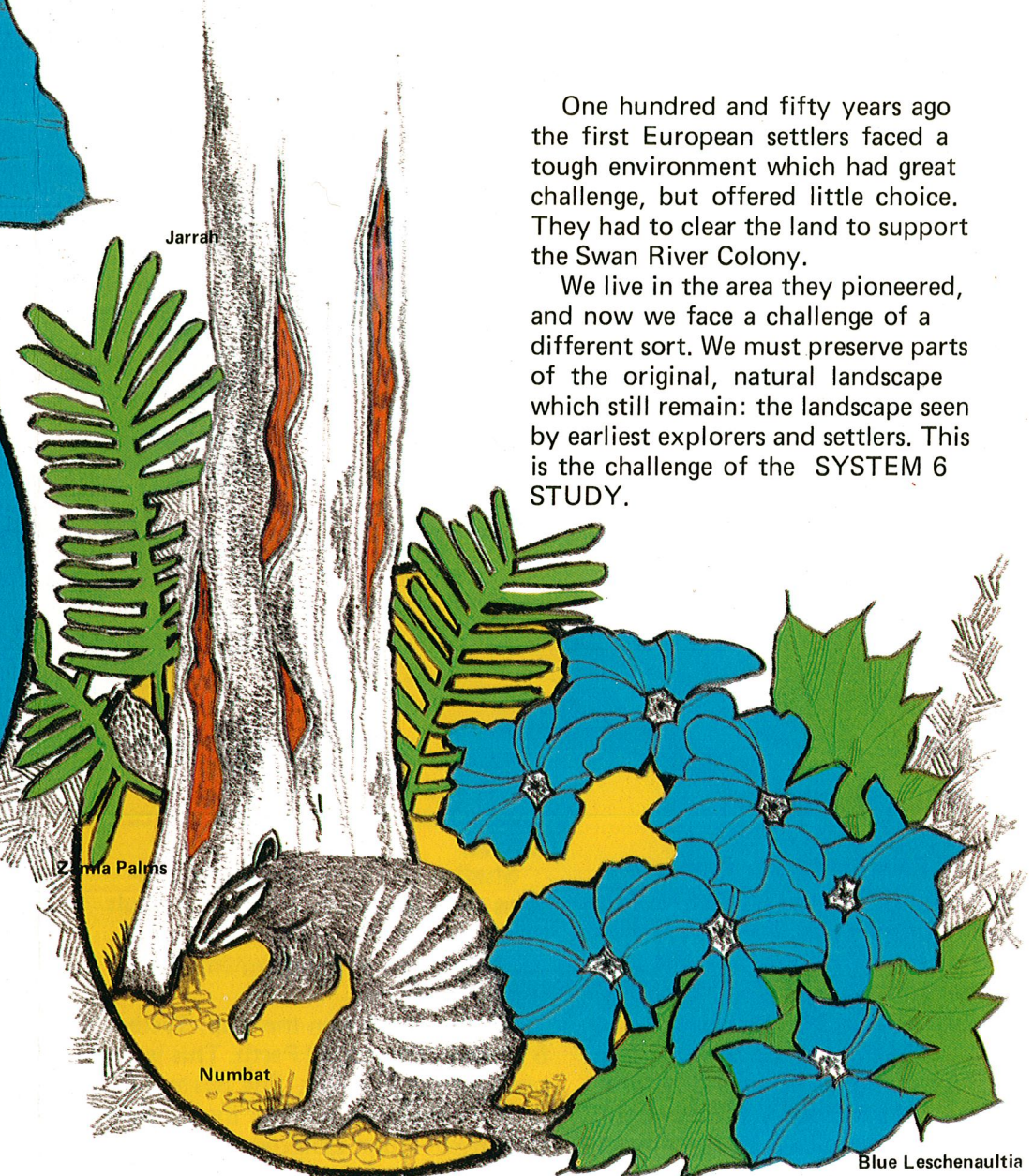


Jarrah



Zamia Palms

Numbat



Blue Leschenaultia



Blue-Breasted Wren

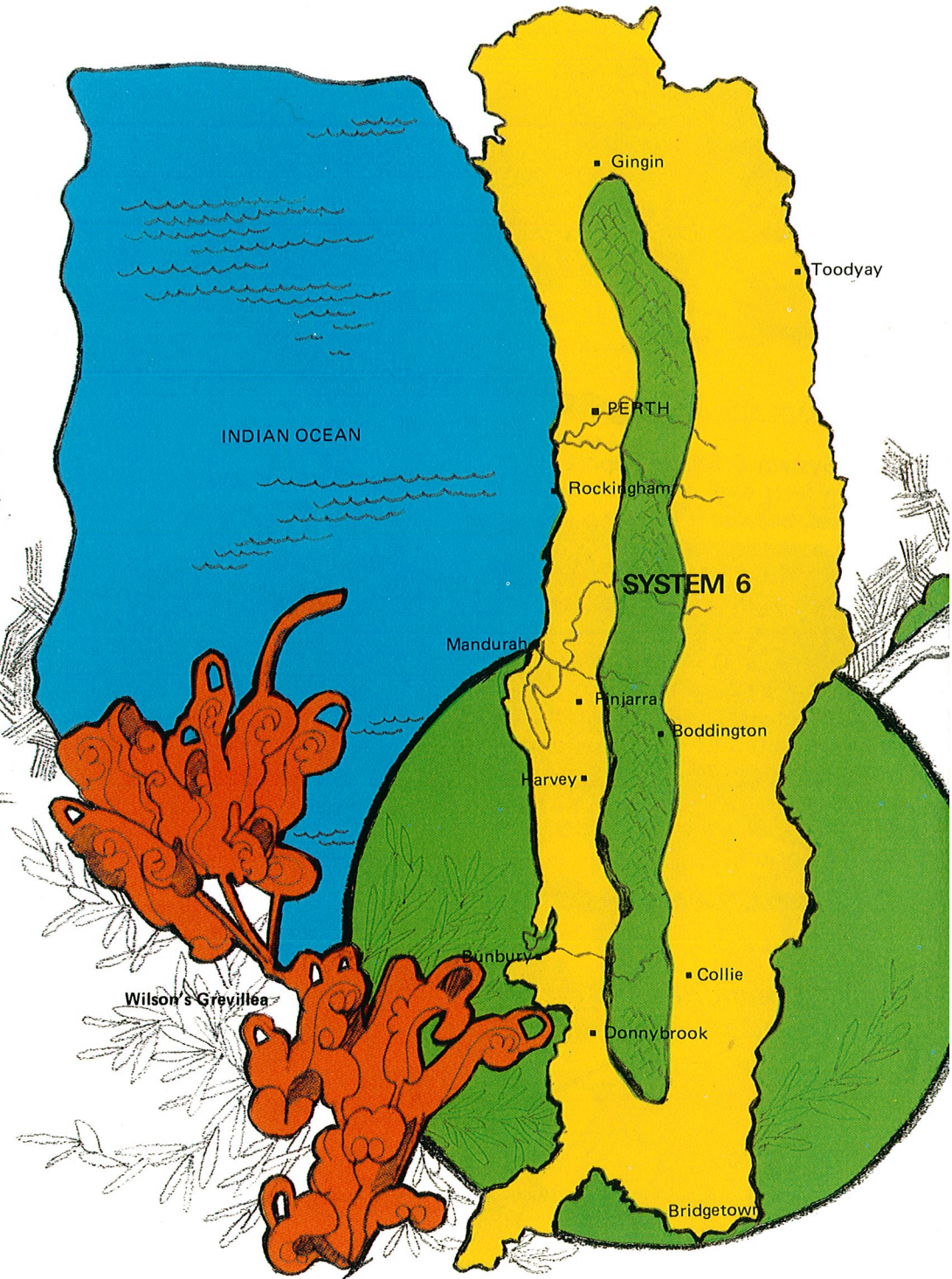
A MATTER OF PRIORITY

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was created in 1971. At its first meeting, the EPA took a decisive step. Western Australia was divided into 12 regions, or "Systems". The Department of Conservation and Environment was asked to study the need for National Parks and nature reserves in each System: places where people can hike, picnic, swim, or make that essential escape from the city.

They are also places where native plants and animals, different from those anywhere else in the world, can survive.

Studies on all but one of the Systems are now complete and as a result many new areas have been set aside for public use and enjoyment. This leaves System 6.

As you can see on the map, System 6 is the region round Perth. This is the place where you live. The System 6 Study—the EPA's plan for the future—will affect your children and your children's children.



Wilson's Grevillea

IMPORTANT AREAS IN SYSTEM 6

THE DARLING RANGE

This ancient land dominates System 6. We go to the hills for a drive, to picnic, walk, buy fruit or simply relax. Places like Lake Leschenaultia, Araluen, Lesmurdie Falls and John Forrest National Park are popular, especially in winter and spring, when the streams are flowing and the wildflowers blooming.

The Darling Range is important because of the unique forest of jarrah, marri and wandoo, magnificent carpet of wildflowers, and breathtaking river valleys. The forest is the only one of its kind in the world. Much of it is still unspoilt, providing pockets of refuge

for many native animals — Quokkas, Possums, Wallabies and the most beautifully-coloured marsupials of all, the Numbats. Their survival depends on a forest refuge which is undisturbed by urban perils. Even the rocks of the Darling Range are special; some of them are among the oldest in the world, dating back more than 2 billion years.



Western Ring-Tailed Possum

THE SYSTEM 6 STUDY

WHY?

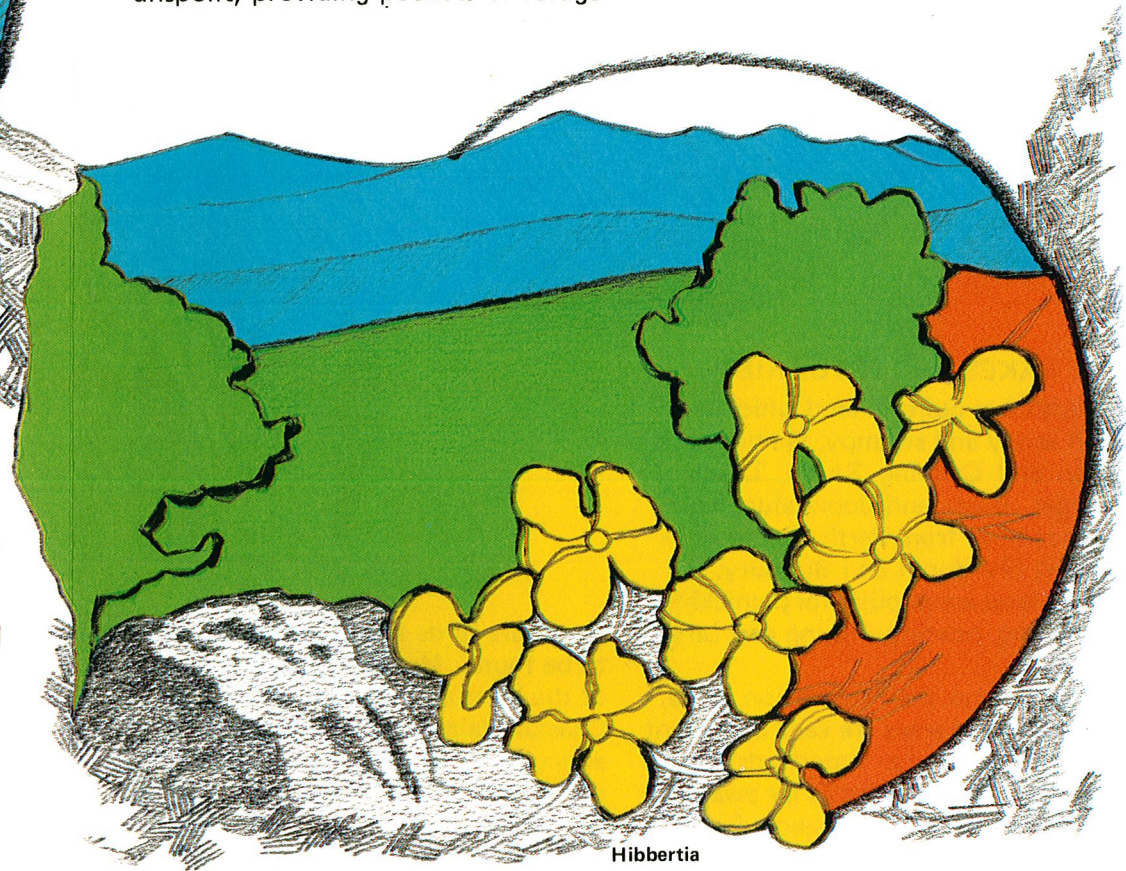
Although System 6 covers only 1 per cent of the State, three-quarters of the State's total population of 1.2 million live here. If nature reserves and recreation areas are not set aside now, other land uses such as mining, agriculture, industry, housing, water supply, roads and power lines will destroy much of the remaining bush, swamps and wildlife.

The challenge of the System 6 Study is to identify these areas and ensure adequate protection for them.

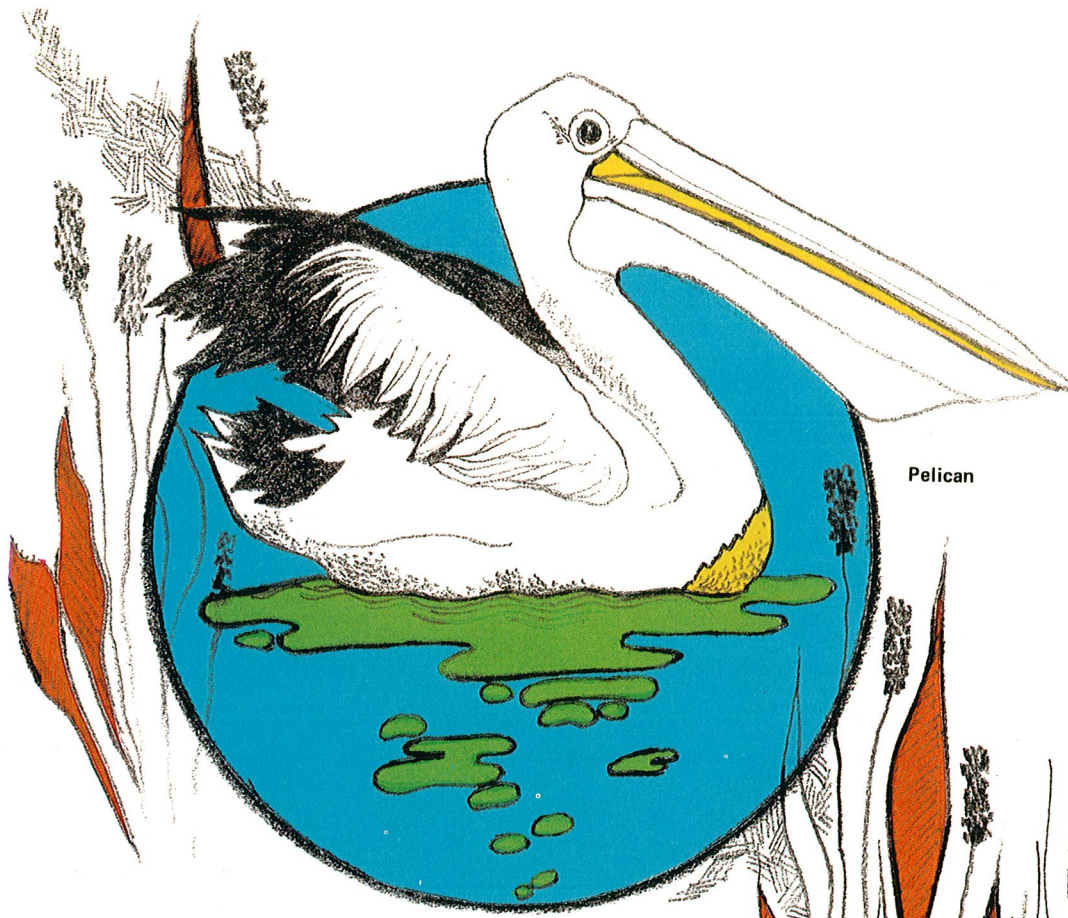
HOW?

The people who have worked on the study include biologists, geologists, planners, architects, engineers, representatives from private industry, local government councillors and the general public.

The EPA will soon make the System 6 Study Report (the "Green Book"), public. You will be asked to comment on the recommendations before they are presented to the Government.



Hibbertia



Pelican

THE LAKES AND ESTUARIES

Perth was built on land which was both sandy and swampy. We have the Swan and Canning Rivers, Lakes Monger, Bibra and Joondalup, and further away from Perth are the estuaries at Mandurah and Bunbury. All these places are popular for picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and bird-watching.

Apart from their recreation value, these wetland areas are very important for wildlife. Some waterbirds, for example, migrate from as far away as Siberia to spend the summer in System 6. Many species have disappeared, but

some rare birds and mammals are still to be found. More than three-quarters of the lakes and swamps on the Swan Coastal Plain have been drained for agriculture, filled and covered with roads, factories and homes, or used as rubbish tips. This means that those which remain are extremely important.

THE COAST AND ISLANDS

The most popular summer recreation spots in System 6 are the beaches and Rottnest Island. The beaches are the setting for a whole range of activities — swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, diving as well as picnicking. The coastal strip along System 6 has long been the envy of other Australian states and visitors from the rest of the world. The perfect combination of a sunny climate for much of the year and clean, sandy beaches makes for ideal recreation.

Reefs, such as those at Triggs and off Rockingham, are very popular with divers. We simply do not know how much we affect the local marine life, so we must ensure that the present marine environment is protected from the effects of development, pollution and over-fishing.

The System 6 coast and its islands are natural assets that cannot be allowed to deteriorate or be damaged beyond repair. Protection of these areas is urgent so that future enjoyment is ensured. We need to protect these areas.



Old Wives

Blue Manna Crab