

Ocean Conservation: why aren't we getting there? A perspective from Hong Kong as a major Chinese city and global hub for trade, finance and investment

Date	1st April (Fri.)
Time	16:00 (UTC+8)
Venue	Zoom only



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Abstract

The harsh truth is that, despite exciting innovations and increases in activity, ocean conservation is not succeeding, at least not fast enough. This is my conclusion from the last decade or two, including work in the Australian government, national and regional community work in Indonesia, collaborations on Chinese coral reefs and MPAs, and leading the WWF oceans work in Hong Kong. In this talk, I'll share some of my perspectives on some of the conventional wisdoms of conservation, suggesting that we need to engage much more substantively with economics, and with policy and law, at all levels. Environmental damage, in oceans and on land, results from human activity, and the vast majority of human activity is undertaken by, or mediated by, business, yet conservation effort has largely focused on individual action and government-led policy. The business and finance sectors are moving toward more engagement with conservation, but the moves are far too limited in scope, scale and rate.

All are welcome!



Laurence McCook works in science-based management and conservation of marine ecosystems and is currently Director of Oceans Conservation for WWF Hong Kong. He has a Ph.D. from Dalhousie University, in Canada, and around 35 years' experience, especially working on coral reefs in Australia, Indonesia and the "Coral Triangle", and about 75 peer-reviewed, scientific publications. Laurence's previous roles include a President's International Visiting Professorial Fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and roles at Conservation International in Indonesia, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science. In 2005, Laurence was awarded a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation.