

## POSSINGHAM, HUGH, PROFESSOR, FAA (DPHIL, OXON 1987)

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**PROPOSED ROLE:** DIRECTOR, RESEARCH LEADERSHIP  
**CURRENT POSITION:** ARC Professorial Fellow  
Director, The Ecology Centre, Univ. of Queensland

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### **Examples of direct impact of recent research**

- We have developed a **systematic conservation planning tool – MARXAN** – that is now used by over 1300 users in over 80 countries worldwide. The software underpinned the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Nature Conservancy, the world's biggest conservation NGO, uses MARXAN for most of its ecoregional planning.
- Our most recent research on allocating funds between biodiversity hotspots (*Nature* 2006) is of global significance. Two of the biggest conservation NGOs are partially funding our research in this area to deliver global prioritisation schemes that will **provide decision support for the allocation of hundreds of millions of dollars.**

### **Examples of advice to government and industry**

- Chair of two federal government committees – the selection advisory panel for the **market-based instruments committee** <http://www.napswg.gov.au/mbi/panel.html> and the Ministerial advisory committee on **biodiversity hotspots**. He was, until, January 2006, chair of the **Biological Diversity Advisory Committee** (BDAC) for over five years and has been a member of the **NHT advisory committee**.
- Direct advice to numerous other agencies including: WWF (Int and Aust.), Birds Australia, state governments (SA, WA, VIC, NSW, QLD), TNC (USA), Conservation International ...
- Currently Possingham is a member of “**The Wentworth Group**” which has played a national leadership role on environmental issues by through the publication of three documents – including “A blueprint for a living planet”.

### **Most significant recent publication**

Wilson, K.A., McBride, M., Bode, M., and Possingham, H.P. 2006. Prioritising the allocation of conservation resources between biodiversity hotspots. *Nature*

### **Publication summary 2001 to present**

Number of books:	1 sole-authored
Number of peer-reviewed papers in ISI Web of science (verifiable):	64
Number of book chapters:	7
Other publications:	23

### **Research Training**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Past</b>
Postdoc	5	19
PhD	16	18
Honours	0	46

### **Major awards and prizes**

- 1984 **Rhodes Scholarship**, Australia-at-large
- 1989 **QEII Fellowship**
- 1999 **POL Eureka Prize** for Environmental Research (with Dr David Lindenmayer)
- 2000 Inaugural **Fenner Medal** for Plant and Animal Science (Australian Academy of Science)
- 2001 Australian **Mathematics Society Medal** <http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/medal.html>
- 2002 Australian Research Council **Professorial Fellowship** (5 year research chair)
- 2003 Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand, General Systems Medal
- 2005 Elected a **Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science**
- 2005 Award for **Excellence in Research Higher degree Supervision**, UQ

### **Other recent evidence of impact and standing**

- In 2005, 307 different papers in the Science and Social Sciences citations databases cited at least one paper on which Possingham is co-author.
- Plenary speaker at US-Landscape Ecology meeting, San Diego, March 2006.
- Editorial board of Ecology Letters, the highest impact non-review ecology journal