

## REBUTTAL

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WE appreciate the thoughtful commentary of Graham Baines on our essay on ecocolonialism and indigenous controlled reserves in Samoa. We largely agree with his points, and hope that our experiences in Samoa may prove informative to others. While our discussion of the historical and philosophical roots of ecocolonialism may prove tedious to some readers, such as Dr Baines, we felt it important to attempt to provide some explanatory framework for the course of recent events concerning the Samoan preserves. The supremacy of Western culture to all indigenous cultures is so deeply assumed by some, that there is conservation efforts, let alone tender them control of conservation efforts as we have sought to do so in Samoa.

Certainly NGOs have an important role in the process of increasing conservation efforts. We earnestly believe that the purpose of conservation can be best served by *respecting* indigenous cultures and village leaders, rather than by trying to erode their traditional cultures. This is particularly true in many islands of the South Pacific, where communal land tenure systems result in crucial resources being controlled by indigenous peoples. We respectfully ask that the scientific and conservation community communicate an increased respect and care for indigenous peoples and traditional leaders in the establishment of new nature reserves.

## Frontiers of Population Ecology

The Nicholson Centenary Meeting

April 18–22, 1995, Canberra, Australia

A. J. Nicholson (1895–1969) was one of the leading animal ecologists of this century. His work on density dependence and the balance of animal populations, host-parasitoid interactions and scramble and contest competition continues to inform and shape many of the current debates in population ecology.

This symposium celebrates the centenary of Nicholson's birth by stimulating debate in the contemporary frontiers of population ecology. Invited speakers from Australia and overseas will discuss a broad range of issues across various plant and animal taxa. Major themes will be theoretical and experimental population ecology, conservation of endangered populations, management of pests and sustainable management of resources.

The meeting will be of interest to postgraduate and honours students, researchers and professionals in population ecology. A reduced registration fee and some low-cost accommodation will be available for students. The meeting follows the Easter weekend and is in the common University week.

Invited papers will cover theoretical, experimental and applied aspects of modern population ecology. Other participants may present posters on these topics in extended poster sessions. A limited number of contributed papers will be selected from interested participants by an editorial panel. Contributed papers and abstracts from posters will be available at the conference. Invited papers will be published as a special symposium volume. The cost of this volume will be included in the conference registration fee.

*Further information from:*

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