



Patrick O'Callaghan, Executive Director

Patrick is a conservation strategist and community engagement specialist with over 20 years experience in a variety of government, NGO, education and business settings. Prior to establishing Conservation Enterprises Unlimited as a privately held company in 2007, he served as statewide Manager of Conservation Programs for Parks Victoria. This followed his return to Australia from Canada, where he had held the post of Vice President Conservation Education & Research at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre. Prior to this, Patrick had previously enjoyed success in many roles in education, ecotourism, and environmental impact assessment work at Australia's Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute, the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences, and as a high-school teacher.

Patrick has been a member of Canada's Pacific Leatherback Turtle Recovery Team, Victoria's Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team and was the species lead for the North American Conservation Action Plan for Pacific Leatherback Turtles, developed by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation as a tri-national initiative.

Patrick's recent work in Australia includes the development of planning tools to assist with biodiversity management within Victoria's National Parks system and across the broader landscape; working with the Australian Conservation Foundation to introduce a sustainable seafood initiative to Melbourne restaurants; helping to re-work the business model for the Little Desert Flora & Fauna Foundation's tourism & accommodation operations; developing a multi-stakeholder conservation initiative for the Corner Inlet catchment at Wilson's Promontory; and developing and directing the "Wild Futures" endangered species program for Conservation Volunteers Australia, among a range of other consulting and pro-bono projects.

In his spare time, Patrick is an Advisor to The Ocean Project, a member of the World Conservation Union's Commission on Education and Communication, the Chair of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's Biodiversity committee, a Trustee of the Friends of the Marine Discovery Centre Public Fund and the author of several children's books, one of which has been now published in 3 countries.

He thoroughly enjoys the company of his dogs, kids, chooks and a supportive partner who actively encourages him to leave the office and go kayaking alone whenever possible.