

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS (GPO)
BLUE RIBBON PANEL

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



John Tanzer
Great Barrier Reef Park (Australia)

John Tanzer is Director of WWF's Global Marine Programme. John originally trained in the disciplines of geography and economics, completing an honours degree at James Cook University in 1980. Since that time he has worked in a number of areas of natural resource management and policy. He also holds a masters degree in Environmental Law from the Australian National University.

During his career he has worked in both terrestrial and marine areas of environmental management and has gained experience in research, field management, strategic policy and organisational

management. Since the mid-nineties he has focussed on the marine and coastal environments, most particularly in the areas of fisheries management and marine protected area management.

John was appointed as the inaugural Chair and Chief Executive of Queensland's Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) when it was first established in 1994. In 1998 he was appointed as Executive Director of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) based in Townsville.

Most notably from 2001 onwards he was the Executive responsible for the oversight of the spatial rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park based on the Representative Areas Program. Between July 2008 and December 2011 he has been employed by various NGOs as Advisor to The Coral Triangle Initiative. Since early 2011, John Tanzer leads WWF's Global Marine Programme, and has helped reshape its global strategy to focus on sustainable development and a blue economy, where marine conservation is key to providing ecosystem services for people.

He has also been working with an alliance of Australia's leading marine and coastal teaching and research institutions to develop a proposal whereby they will provide training and knowledge transfer requested by the countries of the Asia Pacific region to develop their capacity.

John Tanzer's background and experience is somewhat unique in that he has high level experience in both fisheries and marine protected area management and policy. The combination of the two provides a useful basis for working on more integrated approaches to marine conservation.