

## **Biography - (Mr) Jamie Pittock, BSc(Hons)**

### **Position & employer:**

Director, Global Freshwater Programme, WWF International

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/freshwater/](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/freshwater/)

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### **Experience:**

Jamie trained as a palynologist before environmental advocacy diverted him to work for a number of Australian NGOs in Victoria & the Northern Territory, including advocacy for conservation of rivers through Victoria's 1989 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

In 1994 he joined WWF Australia, and undertook a wide range of roles that included: leading its Murray – Darling River basin program; managing its threatened species and ecological communities program; and national advocacy for better water and wetland management. Some successes include the negotiation of Australia's first private land nominations of wetlands for conservation under the Ramsar Convention in Australia, and giving force to the Ramsar Convention in Australian law. Jamie led WWF's advocacy that secured the passage of new national environmental laws, the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which incorporates key (but under utilised) freshwater habitat conservation measures.

Jamie has led WWF's delegations to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 1999.

### **WWF Global Freshwater Programme:**

Jamie currently directs WWF's Global Freshwater Programme, that has targets for the conservation of river systems, reduction of threats from dams and thirsty crops, putting national water and development policies on a sustainable footing, and instigating the protection of 100 M ha of freshwater habitat.

There have been some exciting results, including the designation of over 70 million hectares of freshwater protected areas, mainly as Ramsar sites, and establishment of four major regional wetland conservation initiatives. A number of freshwater ecoregion programmes are now making good progress and many bad dam developments have been cancelled. Recently new freshwater conservation measures were adopted by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Convention on Biological Diversity, based in part on WWF advocacy.

Current priorities include bringing into force UN conventions for conservation of the 263 shared rivers and also aquifers shared by two or more countries, and also finalising market based measures to reduce the impacts of irrigated agriculture.

### **Publications:**

Most recent publications are republished at:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/freshwater/publications/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/freshwater/publications/index.cfm)

