

# **Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)**

**Management Statement**

2013

Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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The Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size:	53,160ha
Bioregion:	Cape York Peninsula
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cook Shire Council Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
State electorate:	Cook

### Legislative framework

✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i>
✓	<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>

### Plans and agreements

✓	Iron Range, Portland Roads and Islands Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Mrs Lucy May Hobson, Ms Jasmine Ray Accoom, Ms Ivy Hobson and Ms Greta Accoom and the State of Queensland
✓	Indigenous Management Agreement for KutiniPayamu (Iron Range), Piper Islands, Wuthara Island, Mitirinchi Island and Ma'alpiku Island national parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)
✓	Bonn Convention
✓	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	1999 Burra Charter
✓	Action Plan for Australian Bats 1999
✓	Action Plan for Australian Birds 2010
✓	Action Plan for Australian Butterflies 2002
✓	1996 Action Plan for Australian Marsupials and Monotremes
✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007

The underlying tenure of this park is Aboriginal freehold land, owned by the Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation Land Trust. Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation Land Trust and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service jointly manage this park.

Collectively the Kungkay people and Kanthanampu people are known as the Kuuku Ya'u people and are represented by the Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation Land Trust in respect to the joint management of this park. The Kuuku Ya'u people welcome to country those people who will respect and take care of their land and waters, as well as the native plants and animals. They hope visitors enjoy their visit and return home safely to their families to share the knowledge they gained during their visit.

## Vision

The Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation Land Trust and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will work together as joint management partners to provide best practice joint management of the Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) so our lands and culture stay healthy for our children and for the benefit of all the people of Queensland.

## Conservation purpose

QPWS and the land trust jointly manage and protect the high diversity of species and habitats lowland rainforest, heathlands, eucalypt woodlands, grasslands and coastal fringe communities within Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). Together, they protect species of evolutionary or biogeographical significance, such as the green python *Morelia viridis*, and species of cultural significance including the southern cassowary *Casuaris casuaris johnsonii*.

On 11 January 1981, the original national park area of 33,000ha was gazetted as Iron Range National Park to protect significant natural values centred in and around the rainforest, the rich fauna assemblages which reflect both an Australian and Papuan composition, and the area's significant heritage values.

The park was expanded to 47,100ha on 15 December 2000. Ten hectares of park was subsequently excised on 3 December 2004 for road purposes, with the Old Coen Road being gazetted into national park as a trade off in 2008.

On 5 August 2011, Iron Range National Park together with the five areas of resources reserve that adjoined the national park, were transferred as Aboriginal freehold land to the land trust. This tenure change acknowledges the major Aboriginal cultural significance of the area and the strong cultural association that the Kuuku Ya'u people have with their traditional country. Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) [NP (CYPAL)] was then dedicated over the land.

Direction and guidance on the management of cultural sites and places within the park is provided by the Kuuku Ya'u people. The historic mining, military and pastoral history of the park is appropriately protected and interpreted.

The park has a high regional profile within Cape York Peninsula's tourism market.

## Protecting and presenting the park's values

### Landscape

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) is situated to the north of the Lockhart River township. To the west, the park lies between the rugged Janet and Tozer ranges and, to the east, the coastline forms the park's boundary.

A number of rock types, such as greenstone, and soils within the park are either limited in their extent across Cape York Peninsula, or create conditions conducive to promoting the floristic patterns and are poorly represented elsewhere, for example organically-rich alluvium and coastal sands.

Irregular, steep sided ranges rising to 643m occur in the area from Stanley Hill, just north of the Pascoe River, south to the Great Dividing Range. These ranges separate the Claudie and Lockhart River catchments from those of the Wenlock and Pascoe rivers, and strongly influence the local rainfall patterns. The Mt Tozer Range and Janet Range area appears relatively undisturbed, with the exception of the road and a viewing platform.

Low hills, a system of intricate creeks and streams, well-developed alluvial beds and coastal systems dominate the remainder of the landscape from the mouth of the Lockhart River to the Pascoe River.

Lowland rainforest areas are largely undisturbed. They contain crystal-clear streams and creeks, and many rare and threatened wildlife species. Human impacts are evident around campgrounds, especially in those areas without toilet facilities.

The park's palm-fringed coastline, rocky headlands and mangrove filled bays are highly scenic. These scenic values are impacted by the amount of rubbish and marine debris that floats up onto the beaches as a result of the strong south-easterly trade winds. This rubbish tends to choke up the mouths and outlets of watercourses and gets

into the dune system, preventing regeneration and increasing erosion. An annual community clean-up of Chilli Beach is undertaken to remove the rubbish, however the rubbish accumulates again very rapidly. In the Chilli Beach area, coconut palms *Cocos nucifera* are outcompeting other plant species.

Prior to being dedicated as a protected area, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) was used for traditional use, military activities, timber harvesting, mining, fossicking and grazing. A number of areas were cleared for grazing. Some of these areas now support regrowth rainforest, while other areas remain as alluvial flats dominated by pasture grass and pest plants. Scrub cattle are affecting fuel loads in these areas, and spreading pest plants.

The NP (CYPAL) is surrounded by Aboriginal land, Lockhart Aboriginal Council lands and private freehold and leasehold. Land management practices on some of these adjoining areas present challenges for the joint managers primarily in relation to the movement of fire, pest animals and pest plants onto the park.

## Regional ecosystems

Fifty-three regional ecosystems are mapped within Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL). Almost half of these are unique variants on the more widespread regional ecosystem types. One community is endangered and seven are of concern (Table 2). The remaining 45 are not of concern at present.

The variety of vegetation communities reflects the underlying geology, the topography and the unique microclimates that exist. In general, vegetation communities encompass internationally significant lowland rainforest, heathlands, open forest and woodland, and coastal communities. The diversity of habitats is very high due to the many ecotones between these vegetation communities.

Overall, vegetation communities within the park are in good condition. General threats to the regional ecosystems include inappropriate fire regimes, pest animals, pest plants and human impacts.

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) contains the only easily accessible, intact lowland rainforest on Cape York Peninsula. It is fragmented by one major road and a couple of old, unused vehicle tracks. Some areas are still recovering from the impact of Cyclone Monica in 2006. Small-scale mining and prospecting historically occurred in the rainforest. Visitor impacts are minimal and localised to campgrounds.

Gallery forests support various rare and threatened species. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* have heavily impacted creek lines and pest plants are common in disturbed areas. No significant human impacts, other than past fossicking for tin and gold along some creek lines, are evident.

Coastal dune systems show minor impacts from inappropriate vehicle use. Traditional Owners are progressively removing the old huts that were once used for fishing in these areas. The coastal rocky headlands are largely inaccessible to vehicles and, as such, are not heavily impacted by human intervention. Some evidence of pig activity exists in the vine thickets which grow in the sheltered sections behind the headlands.

While not species rich, the open forests and woodlands within the park provide an extensive length of ecotones that benefit a suite of fauna species, including the palm cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*. Fire is required to maintain the open structure of the woodland and the pockets of native grassland, which are considered significant due to their very limited extent. Feral cattle are however significantly reducing available fuels, and impacting fire regimes. Pest plants appear to be largely limited to roadsides in these areas.

A large number of significant sites and story places on the park are of cultural significance to the Kuuku Ya'u people. Any activities being undertaken in these areas are considered significant activities and need approval from the land trust before they can occur. The land trust will inform QPWS staff of these places when appropriate.

## Native plants and animals

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) has a rich fauna that reflects both an Australian and Papuan composition. Few areas in Australia of this size hold such a wealth of species. The park is currently known to protect 69 native plant and 30 native animal species of state or national conservation significance (Table 3). The estuarine crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* and 42 bird species recorded from the park are listed in international agreements (Table 4).

Numerous species also have specific management actions identified through the following national action plans:

- Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000 – red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*, little tern *Sternula albifrons*, beach stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*, masked owl (northern subspecies) *Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*, eclectus parrot *Eclectus roratus macgillivrayi*, Marshall's fig-parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma marshalli*, black-necked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, rufous owl (Cape York subspecies) *Ninox rufa meesi* and palm cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*
- Action Plan for Australian Bats 1999 – greater large-eared horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus philippinensis*, Semon's leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros semoni*, fawn leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros cervinus*, tube-nosed

insectivorous bat *Murina florium*, Papuan sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus mixtus*, diadem leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros diadema reginae*, spectacled flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus* and bare-backed fruit bat *Dobsonia magna*

- Action Plan for Australian Butterflies 2002 – Apollo jewel (Torres Strait subspecies) *Hypochrysops apollo apollo* and green-banded jewel (north) *Hypochrysops theon medocus*; and
- 1996 Action Plan for Australian Marsupials and Monotremes – chestnut dunnart *Sminthopsis archeri*, common spotted cuscus *Spilocuscus maculatus*, Cape York rock-wallaby *Petrogale coenensis*, cinnamon antechinus *Antechinus leo* and southern common cuscus *Phalanger mimicus*.

The 'beach scrubs' between Cape Griffith and Cape Weymouth are an important seasonal feeding resource for many bird species, such as the palm cockatoo with the population between the Lockhart River and the Pascoe River possibly the most significant in Queensland. The ecotone between rainforests and woodlands and open forests represents the most significant area for the palm cockatoo within the park. Palm cockatoos breed in the eucalypt woodland areas adjacent to rainforest which is starting to invade the woodlands and this may impact on populations. Appropriate fire management is required to maintain suitable nesting habitat, such as tree hollows, in these ecotone areas.

Rainforest on alluvial soils of the Claudie River, Gordon Creek, Scrubby Creek and Cassowary Creek support the highest densities of the Papuan 'relics' such as the eclectus parrot, green python and common spotted cuscus. These forests are also the primary habitat for the cinnamon antechinus.

Populations of the red-cheeked parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* appear to be in decline. This species has a very limited distribution on Cape York Peninsula, only occurring in the McIlwraith Range and Iron Range area. Loss of nest trees due to inappropriate fire regimes presents a minor threat to this species.

The area is amongst the most diverse habitats in Australia for ants, butterflies, fruit-flies, ferns, orchids and palms, and provides major habitat, in a national context, for rare insect, plant and vertebrate species. Mangrove systems between Cape Weymouth and the Pascoe River are particularly rich in butterfly species. The green-banded jewel butterfly has a very limited distribution and only occurs where the host plant, the epiphytic or terrestrial fern *Drynaria quercifolia*, occurs. No known threats are identified for this species. The Apollo jewel butterfly is dependent on plant communities supporting the bulbous epiphyte, ant plant *Myrmecodia beccarii*, as a food plant for its larvae, and possibly presence of the ant *Philidris cordatus*, which occupies cavities in the bulbs. Threats include an inadequate fire management and possibly invasion of the epiphytes by the exotic ant *P. megacephala*, which displaces the native ant.

The park supports a high level of plant, insect and vertebrate species endemic to Cape York Peninsula including the green-backed honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax claudi*.

Green pythons, cassowary and canopy monitor *Varanus keithhornei* are subject to car-strike on the roads within the lowland rainforest. The rate of car-strike could increase for juvenile green python when the road is widened and sealed, as the edge effect will be more pronounced. Numerous iconic species, such as cassowary and common spotted cuscus that attract tourists and species including green python which potentially attract poachers occur within Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) and require compliance action. While poaching impacted some populations in the past, such as the eclectus parrot, it is no longer considered a significant management issue.

Traditional totem species for the Kuuku Ya'u people are listed in Table 5. These species are of cultural significance to the Kuuku Ya'u people. Any activity involving these species is considered a significant activity and needs approval from the land trust. Two totem species, the crocodile and southern cassowary, are also dangerous animals.

## Aboriginal culture

The Kuuku Ya'u people have maintained strong cultural links to this area for thousands of years. They have connection to landscapes within the park and the surrounding areas that signify customary lore, and they continue to practice customary lore today.

Cultural practices, such as collecting materials for traditional costumes, collecting bush medicines and undertaking traditional hunting and gathering, is carried out by the Kuuku Ya'u people within the park.

A plaque and tomb site of a respected Kuuku Ya'u person exists in the table drain at the Three-ways intersection. The site is regularly flooded and at risk of being eroded away. Items left by the Traditional Owners as a sign of respect are also often removed by tourists. The Kuuku Ya'u people would like to investigate management options for this site with QPWS and the Department of Transport and Main Roads that will ensure the integrity and security of the site.

Sites of material Aboriginal culture and places of cultural significance exist on the park. A number of these sites and places are currently open to public visitation. Some sites of cultural significance have not been visited for a long time.

As per the Indigenous management agreement, the land trust is responsible for protecting and maintaining the Aboriginal cultural resources and places on this park. The land trust also determines what Aboriginal cultural information should be presented to the public and advises QPWS about matters concerning Aboriginal tradition.

## Shared-history culture

During the 1930s, gold and tin was mined in the area. Mining and fossicking relics can be found in the previous resources reserve areas and the Gordon Creek, Packers Creek and Scrubby Creek areas in the form of a crushing plant, mine shafts, mining troughs, discarded equipment and machinery, concrete slabs and left over rubbish. Most timber structures have deteriorated, and many artefacts have been overgrown by vegetation. Some mine shafts are now used by bat species. Gates have been installed to prevent human access to these mine shafts and to protect the bats.

The area has a significant war history. In 1942, a large airbase was constructed near Lockhart River as the launching pad for American aerial bombing raids in the Pacific. Several military aircraft crashed in the area. A number of war relics including gun placements, buildings and vehicles, can still be found in the park, but these are slowly deteriorating over time. The public can access some of these sites, but potential safety risks prohibit the provision of public access to all sites.

Cook's Hut camping area represents the site where Mr Cook, a miner, lived before World War II. Post-war, a road ganger lived in the miner's hut until the 1960s. The site is now used as a campsite. While the hut is no longer intact, the concrete slab and old baking oven remain.

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) is comprised of two former grazing properties, King Park to the south and Weymouth Station further to the north. The barracks at the ranger base is the old King Park station house, and the old school house was a kitchen house for the King Park stockmen. Only about four posts of the Weymouth Station homestead still remain. Other pastoral relics include stockyards, a stockman's grave dated 1957, dams and the stumps of old buildings such as the old post office. Portland roads were the major port for the region during this period.

The area was briefly used for timber harvesting in the 1970s.

In the 1980s, when King Park station was managed by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, local traditional peoples used to go to the old school house at the ranger base for cultural lessons.

## Tourism and visitor opportunities

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) is a high profile visitor destination on Cape York Peninsula. It is one of Australia's iconic destinations. Visitor patterns vary from year to year, and are largely dependent on when the park is accessible by road. In general, the peak visitor period occurs between June and October.

Most visitors access the park by four-wheel drive and, to a lesser degree, motorcycles. Motorcyclists generally travel in large groups, and have a support vehicle. Camper trailers, rooftop or quick-pitch tents and the occasional caravan are used for camping. Infrequently, special interest groups (e.g. birdwatchers) fly to Lockhart River and hire a car to access the park. Very few people access the park by vessel.

While seasons currently dictate the type of access available, road standards are progressively improving. This makes the park less 'remote'.

The main recreational activities undertaken at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) include camping, birdwatching, fishing, walking along the beach and wildlife observation.

Approximately 80 per cent of park visitors are campers. A number of commercial groups access the park primarily for birdwatching, safari, tag-along and motorcycle tours. A separate commercial operator's site has been developed at Chillli Beach. Cook's Hut camping area is shared by independent travellers and commercial operators. Schools occasionally use the park as an outdoor classroom and for team building exercises.

Day visitors are largely confined to local residents due to the remote nature of the park, being approximately three to four hours from Coen.

Chilli Beach is the most popular camping area within the park, for both independent travellers and commercial operators, with approximately 90 per cent of visitors camping at this site. Few campers stay at Chilli Beach campsite for longer than one or two nights due to the site's windy conditions. Visitors camping at the rainforest sites tend to be more focussed on nature appreciation and, on average, stay for three to five days.

During peak visitor periods, such as school holiday periods, the Chilli Beach and Cook's Hut camping areas are regularly over-capacity. Toilet facilities have been recently upgraded to improve services and minimise environmental damage. The joint managers have installed visitor counters on the toilet doors to estimate site use

and visitor patterns.

Three short and two medium-length walking tracks are located within the park at Chilli Beach, within the lowland rainforest and at Tozer's Gap. They are only used by a small number of people and it is assumed that this is due to their current condition and alignment.

The Old Coen Road is currently promoted as a walking track, and is favoured by birdwatchers. However, the old Smuggler's Tree, which was the focal point of the track and important breeding habitat for many bird species, including eclectus parrot and palm cockatoo, has now fallen down.

Walkers regularly use the gazetted road through the rainforest for wildlife observation and photography. This highlights the need to revise existing visitor opportunities on the park and identify new ones.

Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) is internationally renowned for its unique and diverse wildlife and natural values. With increasing visitor use, it will be important to ensure management needs are balanced.

## **Cultural tourism**

Opportunities exist for the land trust to invest or participate in businesses which offer cultural experiences within the NP (CYPAL), or on their surrounding freehold lands. These may include tours aimed at improving understanding and appreciation of traditional cultural practices and protocols or the provision of alternative accommodation options.

Information relating to the language names and traditional meanings is not currently provided to the public. Traditional Owners would like to interpret this to park visitors, and have identified that there may be economic opportunities attached to the provision of this information.

## **Education and science**

Knowledge gained from research and monitoring programs is an integral part of adaptive park management. Research projects should conform to park management objectives and only be undertaken if they cannot be performed satisfactorily off-park.

The unique and iconic wildlife species at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) are attractive for research. For example, the breeding behaviour and ecology of the eclectus parrot is currently being undertaken, and a project which used voice tags to identify individual palm cockatoos has recently been completed. Identification of the fire requirements for palm cockatoo nesting habitat would better inform our management decisions and actions.

Research projects involving totem species, or accessing places of cultural significance, need the approval of the Kuuku Ya'u people.

## **Partnerships**

Together with QPWS, the land trust manages Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) in accordance with the Indigenous management agreement for the park and relevant legislation.

QPWS and the land trust are working together to train land trust members and rangers so they can jointly deliver day-to-day management activities, including fire and pest management.

Coordinated activities, such as the annual Chilli Beach clean-up and cooperative emergency responses are very important for building and maintaining community relationships, and can involve many local organisations and groups.

The joint managers maintain working relationships with neighbouring landholders, state and local government agencies, local catchment groups and other stakeholders to ensure the values of the NP (CYPAL) are managed appropriately.

Where possible, fire and pest management activities are coordinated with park neighbours.

## **Other key issues and responses**

### **Fire management**

Fire regimes at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) are difficult to manage due to the complexity of the vegetation communities and the very short window of opportunity to conduct planned burns. Therefore it is essential that park staff have a good understanding of the function of fire in that landscape.

In the absence of appropriate fire management, it is likely that palm cockatoo nesting habitat and patches of native grassland will be lost due to woody thickening and rainforest encroachment. Alternately, burning in the wrong season and at the wrong intensity has potential to simplify vegetation communities, destroy fire sensitive species

and burn whole landscapes.

Planned burns are conducted to reduce fuel loads, to minimise risk to adjacent properties, and to prevent large-scale, bare earth burns.

The Kuuku Ya'u people undertake cool burns in areas containing traditional use trees to prevent these trees being burnt down. Traditional use trees are used for many purposes, including making shields and costumes. Local park employees know where these trees exist so they can avoid impacting them during burning activities. The Kuuku Ya'u people are also keen to monitor the recovery of the trees following fire, particularly in riparian areas where pest plants may out-compete seedlings and prevent recruitment of traditional use trees.

## Pest management

### Pest plants

Overall, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) has few pest plants of significance. Pest plants are mostly confined to roadsides, on side tracks and in campgrounds. Vehicles, swags, trailers and clothing can potentially spread pest plants throughout the park. Therefore it is clear that the small number of active roads has minimised both the number of weed species present and their distribution. QPWS does not currently have washdown facilities on the park.

Sicklepod *Senna obtusifolia*, grader grass *Themeda quadrivalvis* and giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis* are the only declared pest plants known to exist in the park. Pond apple *Annona glabra* is historically known to occur behind Chilli Beach.

Lands surrounding the park have significant infestations of sicklepod. Park staff actively control the species on-park and in adjacent off-park areas, such as the Three-ways, to reduce the likelihood of sicklepod being spread throughout the park. Seeds are introduced to the park when it floods each wet season.

Park staff regularly treat roadside and campground pest plants. Grader grass is starting to emerge as a management issue, especially since roadworks have increased on Portland Roads road. As the volume of tourists and visitors coming into the park from weed-infested environments increases, so too will the abundance and distribution of pest plants within the park.

### Pest animals

Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* have the biggest impact in rainforest areas, gallery forests and wetland areas. They dig up large areas of the rainforest floor, river banks and the edges of wetlands. Their activity is retarding rainforest regeneration, creating disturbed environments where pest plants flourish, and they are directly competing with cassowaries for food. Traditional Owners hunt feral pigs for food. Baiting and trapping methods have been trialled, and permanent traps have been established in areas adjacent to camping areas.

Feral cattle enter the park from surrounding lands. They occur throughout most of the park, including the rainforest. Their grazing pressure impacts fuel loads. This affects fire intensity in areas where they concentrate, especially within the endangered blady grass *Imperata cylindrica* grasslands in the north of the park. An exclusion fence has been constructed so staff can measure the success of their control efforts.

Horses occasionally enter the park from adjacent lands. There is potential for their numbers to increase and threaten the park's natural values.

## Other management issues

### Infrastructure

The NP (CYPAL) ranger base is being redeveloped to meet the current and growing staffing needs for day to day park management, given joint management responsibilities and the park's increasing visitor activity.

### Safety

The natural environment at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) presents many safety hazards, including crocodiles, cassowaries and falling coconuts. While cassowaries are rarely seen, crocodiles are regularly observed. Coconuts have fallen on visitors and damaged their vehicles in the Chilli Beach camping area. Risk assessments have been undertaken at some campsites and day-use areas.

Warnings and information about these animal hazards are highlighted on information boards and signs within the park. Information brochures highlight general hazards presented by the natural environment.

The number of vehicle accidents on roads which traverse or pass through the park is currently low. However, vehicle speed is increasing as the standard of road improves. It is likely that the number of vehicle incidents will increase as the amount of vehicle traffic increases.

### **Access roads**

Cook Shire Council is progressively upgrading Portland Roads road, with large sections of the road now sealed or widened. While new visitors to the park tend to be pleased with the road standard, return visitors are generally unhappy with the change in character created by the extra road footprint.

Each year, sections of the road wash out during the wet season, and need to be re-laid. Eroded materials wash into creeks.

### **References**

Stanton, J.P. 1988. Iron Range National Park and Adjacent Areas Resource Information and Some Management Implications. (unpublished report for the Queensland Department of Environment, September, 1998).

## Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p><b>Landscape</b> Landscape and catchment values are largely undisturbed. The health, diversity and integrity of regional ecosystems are protected and maintained.</p>	<p>Maintain the diversity and complexity of native vegetation communities, including important ecotone areas, through appropriate fire and pest management.</p> <p>Maintain the open structure of the eucalypt woodlands and the pockets of native grassland through a combination of feral cattle management and implementation of appropriate fire regimes.</p> <p>In locations where coconut palms have become invasive or pose a safety risk, remove seedlings and young plants or thin out dense, mature thickets.</p>
<p><b>Native plants and animals</b> Species of conservation significance and ecosystems with a significant biodiversity status are protected through direct and active management activities.</p>	<p>Implement fire regimes that maintain suitable roosting, foraging and nesting habitat in the woodland-rainforest ecotone areas for rare and threatened species, including the palm cockatoo and Marshall's fig parrot <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma marshalli</i>.</p> <p>Focus management on species and ecosystems that have a limited distribution and are currently threatened by human impacts, fire, pest plants or pest animals such as northern quoll <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>.</p> <p>Conserve critical habitats for rare and threatened species, including host species for the Apollo jewel butterfly and the green-banded jewel butterfly, and manage threatening processes.</p> <p>Collate existing information and conduct ongoing monitoring and survey work to improve knowledge of the joint managers and use the information gained to guide future park management.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal culture</b> Sites, places and species of cultural significance are appropriately protected and presented.</p>	<p>Manage the NP (CYPAL) to ensure the responsibilities, interests and aspirations of the Kuuku Ya'u people are acknowledged and respected.</p>
<p><b>Shared-history culture</b> Sites of heritage significance are appropriately protected and presented or allowed to decay where appropriate.</p>	<p>Identify and record shared-history cultural heritage places within departmental databases, including documentation of their significance (if known).</p> <p>Investigate whether any action is required to help preserve the Cook's Hut heritage site.</p> <p>Allow all other sites and places of shared-heritage significance, with no feasible management use or other significance, to age naturally.</p> <p>Encourage visitor use of old mining and military sites where safety and environmental risk assessments deem visitor access to be suitable.</p> <p>Due to the associated safety risks, do not encourage visitation to Packer's Creek gold mine, the old post office or the old army fuel supply depot.</p>
<p><b>Tourism and visitor opportunities</b> Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL) offers a range of sustainable recreational opportunities which are consistent with the character of the park and protect and promote its natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>Develop a visitor management strategy for the NP (CYPAL) in cooperation with the Kuuku Ya'u people, the local community, park neighbours, relevant government organisations and other interest groups that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cater for future increases in visitor use</li> <li>• revise existing visitor facilities and explore potential new recreational opportunities (e.g. new walking tracks and panoramic viewing outlooks) within the park</li> <li>• revise existing interpretive materials, and identify future needs in relation to signage, brochures and public contact activities (e.g. planned ranger talks during periods of high visitation)</li> <li>• ensure camping and day use of the park by independent and commercial users is setting-appropriate, and managed at a sustainable level</li> <li>• nurture partnerships with local government and the tourism industry to ensure managed development of access and marketing for the area as a remote experience; and</li> <li>• provide for the monitoring and assessment of visitor impacts—and identify management strategies to ensure high-quality recreational opportunities can be sustained.</li> </ul> <p>Maintain or improve visitor services and facilities in accordance with the visitor management strategy.</p> <p>Support the land trust exploring and developing cultural tourism opportunities within the park and on their surrounding lands.</p> <p>Work with the Kuuku Ya'u people to protect places of particular cultural</p>

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
	<p>significance.</p> <p>Highlight safety risks and hazards, and emphasise the level of preparation and self-sufficiency required to safely visit the area, in written materials relating to the park.</p> <p>Support the Kuuku Ya'u people's aspirations to have a cultural centre (possibly based at the 'Three-ways').</p>
<p><b>Education and science</b></p> <p>Research and monitoring programs increase understanding of park values and provide information to improve management decisions.</p>	<p>Identify information gaps and natural and cultural research opportunities for the park.</p> <p>Assist, facilitate and support research activities and partnership opportunities where there are demonstrated benefits to the management of the NP (CYPAL), and no off-park alternative exists.</p>
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <p>The land trust and QPWS have a strong and positive collaborative working relationship, built on trust and respect for each other's knowledge and responsibilities.</p> <p>Relationships with neighbours are maintained and collaborative management occurs across the landscape.</p>	<p>Manage the NP (CYPAL) jointly in accordance with the Indigenous Management Agreement for the park and relevant legislation.</p> <p>Further strengthen joint management relationships with the land trust by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working with the Kuuku Ya'u people to inform QPWS on culturally appropriate management and decision making on the NP (CYPAL)</li> <li>• cooperatively developing protocols for various park management activities in accordance with the Indigenous management agreement for the park</li> <li>• supporting the investigation of possible commercial tourism, employment and business opportunities for the Kuuku Ya'u people</li> <li>• supporting the recording of cultural values in a form agreeable to the Kuuku Ya'u people; and</li> <li>• providing opportunities for cultural interpretation on and off park.</li> </ul> <p>Maintain good working relations with neighbouring landholders and, where possible, cooperatively undertake fire and pest management programs.</p>
<p><b>Pest management</b></p> <p>The integrity of native plant and animal communities is maintained through strategic, sustained pest management.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Level 2 Pest Management Strategy that encourages coordinated management of species across the landscape.</p> <p>Focus vertebrate pest control activities on essential habitat areas and threatened ecosystems, such as native grassland pockets.</p> <p>Focus pest plant management around visitor nodes, such as campgrounds and transport corridors, and target new pest plant infestations in time to eradicate or contain them.</p> <p>Encourage the joint managers and park users to implement pest plant hygiene measures.</p> <p>Liaise with local authorities and catchment groups to manage pest plants and erosion along the roads adjacent to the NP (CYPAL), especially where there are known threats to the NP (CYPAL).</p>
<p><b>Fire management</b></p> <p>The integrity of native plant and animal communities is maintained through strategic, sustained fire management.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Level 2 Fire Strategy for Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP (CYPAL), placing particular emphasis on the adoption of appropriate fire regimes within the eucalypt-rainforest ecotone areas and pockets of native grassland.</p> <p>Where possible, coordinate fire management activities with park neighbours, Traditional Owners and local or community groups.</p>

## Tables – Conservation values management

**Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems**

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
3.3.57	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> ± <i>Mnesithea rottboellioides</i> closed tussock grassland on coastal plains	Endangered
3.12.28	<i>Leptospermum purpurascens</i> tall shrubland on acid volcanic hills in the Iron Range area	Of concern
3.12.31x1	<i>Themeda triandra</i> tussock grassland on headlands and islands on acid volcanic rocks	Of concern
3.2.1a	Evergreen notophyll vine forest in coastal dunefield systems	Of concern
3.2.27a	Ephemeral and perennial lakes in coastal dunefields	Of concern
3.2.33	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> open to closed heath. Drainage swamps in east coast dunefields	Of concern
3.2.4b	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> ± <i>M. dealbata</i> open forest. In dune swales, and swampy areas	Of concern
3.5.13	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> , <i>Asteromyrtus brassii</i> woodland on flat sand plains	Of concern

**Table 2: Species of conservation significance**

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<b>Plants</b>				
<i>Acacia albizioides</i>	climbing wattle	Near threatened		Low
<i>Acmena mackinnoniana</i>	Rocky River satinash	Near threatened		Low
<i>Aglaia argentea</i>	silver boodyarra	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Albizia retusa</i>		Near threatened		
<i>Albizia retusa</i> subsp. <i>retusa</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Anacolosa papuana</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Aponogeton elongatus</i>		Near threatened		
<i>Archidendron hirsutum</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Bulbophyllum gracillimum</i>	graceful orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Cadetia collinsii</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Calamus aruensis</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Calamus warburgii</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Carex cruciata</i> var. <i>rafflesiana</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Centotheca philippinensis</i>	creek grass	Near threatened	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Chrysophyllum roxburghii</i>	star apple	Near threatened		Low
<i>Croton brachypus</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Croton caudatus</i>		Endangered		
<i>Cryptocarya claudiana</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Cryptocarya glaucocarpa</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Dactylophora novae-guineae</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Dendromyza reinwardtiana</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Diospyros</i> sp. (Bamaga B.P.Hyland 2517)		Vulnerable		Data deficient
<i>Dipodium pictum</i>	brittle climbing orchid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Eulophia pelorica</i>		Near threatened		
<i>Freycinetia marginata</i>		Vulnerable		Low
<i>Gardenia psidioides</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Garnotia stricta</i> var. <i>longiseta</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Gossia bamagensis</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Gossia lucida</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Grastidium tozerense</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Harpullia ramiflora</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Hodgkinsonia frutescens</i>		Least concern	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Hoya anulata</i>		Near threatened		Low

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<i>Hoya macgillivrayi</i>	red hoyo	Near threatened		Low
<i>Huperzia phlegmaria</i>	coarse tassel fern	Near threatened		High
<i>Huperzia phlegmarioides</i>	layered tassel fern	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Hydnophytum ferrugineum</i>		Vulnerable		Low
<i>Hypserpa polyandra</i> var. <i>polyandra</i>		Vulnerable		
<i>Lasia claudiensis</i>		Vulnerable	Endangered	Low
<i>Lepisanthes senegalensis</i>		Endangered		Low
<i>Liparis condylobulbon</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Litsea macrophylla</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Margaritaria indica</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Marsdenia paludicola</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Momordica cochinchinensis</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Neololeba atra</i>		Near threatened		Data Deficient
<i>Nervilia crociformis</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Oberonia camosa</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Pandanus zea</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Philotheca acrolopha</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Phylacium bracteosum</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Phyllanthera grayi</i>		Vulnerable		Medium
<i>Planchonella xylocarpa</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Pomatocalpa marsupiale</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Prostanthera</i> sp. (Mt Tozer L.J.Brass 19478)		Vulnerable		Low
<i>Rhinerrhizopsis moorei</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Robiquetia wassellii</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Ryticaryum longifolium</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Sannantha tozerensis</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Schefflera bractescens</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Scrotochloa tararaensis</i>		Vulnerable		Low
<i>Sterculia shillinglawii</i> subsp. <i>shillinglawii</i>		Near threatened		Low
<i>Syzygium aqueum</i>	water apple	Near threatened		Low
<i>Syzygium butterine</i>	New Guinea satinash	Near threatened		Low
<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	Malay apple	Near threatened		Low
<i>Trichoglottis australiensis</i>		Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Tristiropsis acutangula</i>		Vulnerable		Low
<i>Vanda hindsii</i>	Cape York vanda	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Xanthostemon youngii</i>		Least concern	Vulnerable	Low

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
<b>Animals</b>				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened		Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened		Low
<i>Antechinus leo</i>	cinnamon antechinus	Near threatened		Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (northern population)	southern cassowary (northern population)	Vulnerable	Endangered	Medium
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	green turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma marshalli</i>	Marshall's fig-parrot	Near threatened		Low
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	Least concern	Endangered	Medium
<i>Dobsonia magna</i>	bare-backed fruit bat	Near threatened		Data deficient
<i>Eclectus roratus macgillivrayi</i>	eclectus parrot	Vulnerable		Low
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	black-necked stork	Near threatened		Low
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable		High
<i>Hipposideros cervinus</i>	fawn leaf-nosed bat	Vulnerable		High
<i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i>	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened		Low
<i>Hipposideros semoni</i>	Semon's leaf-nosed bat	Endangered	Endangered	Medium
<i>Hypochrysops apollo apollo</i>	Apollo jewel (Wet Tropics subspecies)	Vulnerable		High
<i>Morelia viridis</i>	green python	Near threatened		Low
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable		High
<i>Ninox rufa meesi</i>	rufous owl (Cape York subspecies)	Near threatened		Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened		Low
<i>Phalanger mimicus</i>	southern common cuscus	Near threatened		Low
<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>	palm cockatoo	Near threatened		Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
<i>Saccolaimus mixtus</i>	Papuan sheath-tail bat	Near threatened		Medium
<i>Sminthopsis archeri</i>	chestnut dunnart	Near threatened		Low
<i>Spilocuscus maculatus</i>	common spotted cuscus	Near threatened		Low
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	Endangered		High
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli</i>	masked owl (northern subspecies)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low

**Table 3: Species listed in international agreements**

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Anous stolidus</i>	common noddy		✓	✓	
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift		✓	✓	✓
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	eastern great egret		✓	✓	
<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>	short-tailed shearwater			✓	✓
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris alba</i>	sanderling	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird			✓	
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	✓			
<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	oriental cuckoo		✓	✓	✓
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	eastern reef egret		✓		
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	lesser frigatebird		✓	✓	✓
<i>Fregata minor</i>	great frigatebird		✓	✓	
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle		✓		
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail		✓	✓	✓
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern		✓	✓	
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	broad-billed sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater			✓	
<i>Monarcha frater</i>	black-winged monarch	✓			
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓			
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	satin flycatcher	✓			
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius minutus</i>	little curlew	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	bridled tern		✓	✓	
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓			
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓			
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	roseate tern			✓	
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	common tern		✓	✓	✓
<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	black-naped tern		✓	✓	
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓			
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	lesser crested tern		✓		
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa incana</i>	wandering tattler	✓	✓	✓	

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	CAMBA	JAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	terek sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

**Table 4: Key totem and story species currently known for the Kuuku Ya'u people**

Common name	Scientific name	Traditional name	Pronunciation
brown tree snake	<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	uku	u-kuu (kuu pronounced as per Kuuku Ya'u)
cassowary	<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (northern population)	kutini	kuu-ta-nee (kuu pronounced as per Kuuku Ya'u)
crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	iiwayi	ee-why-ee
dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>	ngakanu	nar-ka-muu
firefly	<i>Lampyridae sp</i>		mar-in-gul
Freshwater eel	<i>Anguilla sp</i>	Kyan	Ky-an
Orange footed scrub fowl	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>	Tutu	Too-too
Scrub turkey	<i>Alectura lathami</i>	Nycha	Nar-cha
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Nhampi	Num-pee
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	tukulu	Took-oo-loo
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>	muntapa	Mun-ta-pa
green python	<i>Morelia viridis</i>		
green tree snake	<i>Dendrelaphis punctulata</i>	uku	u-kuu (kuu pronounced as per Kuuku Ya'u)
paradise kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera sylvia</i>		
pheasant coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>	pulhuu	pull-who
Spotted cuscus	<i>Spilocuscus maculatus</i>	ampuyu	um-pie-you
scrub python (aka amethystine python)	<i>Morelia kinghorni</i>	yungkii	young-key

Source: Traditional names supplied by the Kuuku Ya'u people (Kuuku Ya'u and Umpila word list – book 10)