

Yungaburra and Curtain Fig national parks Management Statement 2013

Park size:	
Curtain Fig National Park	195ha
Yungaburra National Park	5.5ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional
State electorate:	Dalrymple



Curtain Fig tree. Photo: NPRSR

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005
✓	Recovery Plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> , <i>Hipposideros semoni</i> and <i>Taphozous troughtoni</i> 2001–2005
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying-fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	Recovery Plan for Mabi Forest (2008)

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Strategy

Vision

Yungaburra National Park will continue to protect the valuable Mabi forest and those special species housed there. Visitors will continue to enjoy the spectacular strangler fig tree and the sounds of the forest from the boardwalk.

Conservation purpose

Yungaburra National Park of 5.4 hectares (ha) was gazetted on 12 September 1953. It was re-gazetted on 16 December 1994.

The adjacent Curtain Fig Tree National Park of 195ha was gazetted on 28 November 2008.

It is intended that these small parks will be amalgamated to become the Yungaburra National Park in the future. The most significant features are the Mabi forest type on basalt soils and the huge strangler fig tree that amazes thousands of visitors per year and houses the most interesting Lumholtz tree-kangaroos.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

These parks lie on an area of recent volcanism associated with the surrounding volcanic cinder cones known as the Seven Sisters and the Mount Quinkan volcano. An eruption of basalt from the Seven Sisters is responsible for the large basalt boulders and soil present within the area today. These features are believed to have formed within the last 100,000 years and possibly within the last 40,000 years, however the site has not been officially dated to confirm this.

The parks are within the Barron River catchment and represent a fragment of what was once a common forest type in the area that has been cleared for agriculture.

The Curtain Fig Tree Road traverses the park and, although it is narrow and has a closed canopy, it does have a landscape impact on the park. There are no other threats to the landscape values of these national parks.

Regional ecosystems

Yungaburra National Park has only one regional ecosystem but has endangered biodiversity status: 7.8.3 complex semi-evergreen notophyll vine forest of uplands on basalt.

Curtain Fig National Park is made up of this endangered Mabi forest interspersed with two other endangered systems:

- 7.3.39 open woodland to open forest and associated sedge lands and grasslands
- 7.8.7 open forest and associated grasslands (Table 1).

Native plants and animals

Both parks are recognised as bio-regionally significant habitat corridors of State interest.

The parks are known to protect plant and animal species of conservation significance listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Table 2). The Back on Track rating is also listed in Table 2. Five bird species are listed under international agreements (Table 3).

Striped possums *Dactylopsila trivirgata* and long-tailed pygmy-possums *Cercartetus caudatus* may be seen with the aid of a spotlight, along with sugar gliders *Petaurus breviceps* and insectivorous bats, foraging for food at night. Australia's largest gecko, the northern leaf-tailed gecko *Saltuarius cornutus*, can often be seen hunting, lying face down on the side of a tree trunk, near the boardwalk.

Aboriginal culture

The Ngadjon-Jii are the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the area and their people used to camp at Chumbarumba Pocket on the headwaters of Peterson Creek, just south of the Curtain Fig National Park. The near threatened Lumholtz tree kangaroo *Dendrolagus lumhotzi* known as 'mabi' or 'mapi' by the Ngadjon-Jii is what gave the forest located within this reserve its name.

No native title claim applications exist on these parks.

Shared-history culture

The Queensland Cultural Heritage Information Management System (CHIMS) database recognises that a Chinese market garden was located on park close to the current location of the Curtain Fig board walk. This database identifies a camping area on Yungaburra National Park but does not identify the camps users or the time frame. The now dismantled Yungaburra to Malanda Railway passed along the eastern boundary of what is now the park.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Each year approximately 100,000 people visit the easily accessed Curtain Fig Tree site on either commercial tours or as independent visitors.

The Curtain Fig Tree has long been a fascinating sight to visitors to the park. Some 89 commercial operator permits are registered on the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) database. QPWS permit assessment teams have allocated times to operators to help minimise crowding and car-parking issues.

Education and science

Large student groups have requested access to the research site near the boardwalk. Doctoral research into tree kangaroos and possums has been conducted in this park, as well as honours research projects.

A 36 metre (m) high 'canopy tower' located on Curtain Fig State Forest and administered by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) was used as a research tool for many years. This facility has been dismantled and removed from the site.

The Curtain Fig feature protection area is gazetted under the *Forestry Act 1959*.

Partnerships

QPWS is legislatively responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park and the Wet Tropics Management Authority regulates activity in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The goal of both agencies is to present the area's values while protecting its natural and cultural values. Appropriate presentation means providing safe and sustainable infrastructure to protect those values.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Few pest species have been recorded from the park, with the environmental weed *Turbina comymbosa* and lantana *Lantana camara* being the only pest plants recorded. The spotted dove *Streptopelia chinensis* is the only pest animal that has been noted.

Fire management

The area is managed within the Crater Lakes Aggregation Level 2 Fire Management Strategy.

Other management issues

- These two national parks are adjacent and should be amalgamated.
- Administrative arrangements are in place to allow access to the landowner on the western boundary to move his dairy herd along the boundary.
- The Yungaburra sewerage line runs along the northern boundary.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Management issues The Yungaburra and Curtain Fig national parks are amalgamated.	A1. Amalgamate the Yungaburra and Curtain Fig national parks.

Tables - Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.39	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. platyphylla</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open woodland to open forest, and associated sedgeland and grasslands, on broad drainage depressions of uplands	Endangered
7.8.3	Complex semi-evergreen notophyll vine forest of uplands on basalt	Endangered
7.8.7	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest, and associated grasslands, predominantly on basalt uplands	Endangered

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
Plants				
<i>Alloxylon flammeum</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Argyrodendron</i> sp. (Boonjie B.P. Hyland RFK2139)	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Haplostichanthus submontanus</i> subsp. <i>sessiliflorus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hodgkinsonia frutescens</i>	-	Least concern	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Sauropus macranthus</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
Animals				
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<i>macleayana</i>				
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terrareginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	diadem leafnosed bat	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable	Near threatened	High
<i>Eulamprus tigrinus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
Ardeidae	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	eastern great egret	-	✓	-	✓
Campephagidae	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
Gruidae	<i>Grus antigone</i>	sarus crane	-	-	-	✓
Meropidae	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	✓	-	-	-
Monarchidae	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
Monarchidae	<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-

Bonn: Bonn Convention

CAMBA: China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA: Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement