

Nour Nour National Park Management Statement 2013

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Park size: | 5,054ha |
| Bioregion | South Eastern Queensland |
| QPWS region: | Sunshine and Fraser Coast |
| Local government estate/area: | North Burnett Regional Council |
| State electorate | Callide |

Legislative framework

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|---|--|
| ✓ | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> |

Plans and agreements

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|---|--|
| ✓ | Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement |
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Thematic strategies

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ✓ | Level 2 Fire Management Strategy |
| ✓ | Level 2 Pest Management Strategy |

Vision

Nour Nour National Park will be managed to maintain its natural state and high biodiversity values. Recreational opportunities will remain low key for self-reliant visitors, and cultural heritage values will be protected.

Conservation purpose

Nour Nour National Park is conserved for its high biodiversity values including a wide range of eucalypt communities and numerous regional ecosystems that are either naturally restricted and not represented, or have low levels of representation in other protected areas.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscapes

The landscape contains hills and lowlands on granite rocks, hills and lowlands on metamorphic rocks, river and creek flats, and old loamy and sandy plains. The park consists of two sections separated by Mungy State Forest—the northern section is an extension of the Bania plateau, with scarp-like sides on the north and east grading down to the Mt Perry–Monto Road, and Bilboolan Creek drains the area. This section contains several small dry vine forests and a range of dry grassy forests along with one access route running north–south. Part of the road reserve is steep and soil erosion can be an issue. Rocky, undulating hills are a feature of the southern section. Two grazing authorities exist over part of the park along with several apiary sites. The land surrounding the park and State forest is mainly partly developed grazing holdings.

Regional ecosystems

The endangered regional ecosystem 12.3.3 occurs in small pockets in the southern section of the park. Nine of concern regional ecosystems are also listed in Table 1. Two of these (12.7.2 and 12.11.13) are naturally restricted community types which were not represented in national parks or protected areas until this park was created. Several others have only low levels of representation elsewhere. The semi-evergreen vine thicket 12.11.13 requires further mapping.

Native plants and animals

In 1989, an area of 120ha, in what was then Nour Nour State Forest, containing the vulnerable ironbark species *Eucalyptus virens* was designated as a Scientific Area (SA55) under the *Forestry Act 1959*. While the scientific area designation no longer applies, protection of this species along with the semi-evergreen vine thicket and other species of conservation significance in this section of the park is very important. The plants of conservation significance on the park are listed in Table 2. Animal surveys for the park have recorded 89 birds and two frog species. Further surveys are required to update species lists and provide information for better species management.

Aboriginal culture

The park is covered by a native title claim (QC2012/003) on behalf of the Wakka Wakka people #4. An Aboriginal pathway has been found on the park but little is known about other potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Shared-history culture

Indications of past occupation and use include a cobbled stagecoach road, a cemetery, an inn and grave sites. Historically, grazing and timber harvesting have been the primary uses of the land in the area.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Numbers of visitors to the park are very low although four-wheel driving, trail bike riding and bushwalking does take place on a small scale. Horse riding occurs through the park on gazetted roads. The park has a limited road network and there are currently no plans to provide visitor facilities.

Partnerships

Informal but regular communication is maintained with neighbours, local council and grazing authority holders.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The main pest plant threats are lantana *Lantana camara* and creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis*, the latter entering the park from adjoining cleared areas. Chemical controls and fire are used to manage infestations where appropriate. Pigs *Sus scrofa* are the main pest animal on the park. A level 2 pest management strategy has been developed.

Fire management

The semi-evergreen vine thicket is fire intolerant but little is known about the fire ecology, particularly suitable fire frequencies, of other threatened regional ecosystems and plant species. The open eucalyptus forest is usually burnt every 3–6 years depending on prevailing circumstances. Grazing leaseholders are permitted to conduct hazard reduction burns following approval by the regional fire management group. A level 2 fire management strategy that covers this park has been developed.

Other management issues

Perimeter fencing is poor in some areas. The majority of the park is still grazed and therefore subject to adverse impacts from cattle.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|--|
| <p>Landscape</p> <p>Water quality in Bilboolan Creek is maintained and erosion on roads and verges is managed.</p> | <p>A1. Undertake ecologically sensitive control measures to manage pest plant infestations, especially along the creek line and verges and sites of high conservation value as well as those that have the potential to impact off-park areas.</p> <p>A2. Monitor and manage erosion on park roads with particular attention to steep sections.</p> <p>A3. Monitor and manage impacts from approved grazing activities on the park in accordance with the conditions stated in the relevant grazing authority.</p> |
| <p>Native plants and animals</p> <p>Information on plant, animal and ecosystems is comprehensive and current.</p> | <p>A4. Review currency of species records and conduct surveys where needed.</p> <p>A5. Review mapping of regional ecosystems and facilitate improvements to mapping refinements where needed.</p> |
| <p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Cultural heritage values are adequately protected.</p> | <p>A6. Identify and record the Aboriginal and shared history cultural heritage values of the park in partnership with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.</p> |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem number | Description | Biodiversity status |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 12.3.3 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open-forest to woodland. | Endangered |
| 12.7.2 | <i>Eucalyptus rhombica</i> , <i>Corymbia trachyphloia</i> , <i>E. virens</i> , <i>E. apothalassica</i> shrubby woodland. | Of concern |
| 12.9-10.3 | <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest. | Of concern |
| 12.11.8 | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> usually with <i>E. crebra</i> grassy woodland. | Of concern |
| 12.11.13 | Low microphyll vine forest ± <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> and semi-evergreen vine thicket. | Of concern |
| 12.12.3 | Open-forest complex in which spotted gum is a relatively common species. | Of concern |
| 12.12.8 | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> , usually with <i>E. crebra</i> ± <i>Corymbia erythrophloia</i> grassy woodland. | Of concern |
| 12.12.12 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. crebra</i> (sometimes <i>E. siderophloia</i>) open-forest to woodland. | Of concern |
| 12.12.25 | <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>fibrosa</i> open-forest to woodland. | Of concern |
| 12.12.28 | <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> ± <i>E. crebra</i> , <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> open-forest or woodland. | 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 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Plants | | | | |
| <i>Apatophyllum teretifolium</i> | | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus virens</i> | shiny-leaved ironbark | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Low |
| <i>Melaleuca groveana</i> | | Near threatened | - | Medium |

Table 3: Bird species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | Bonn | JAMBA | CAMBA | ROKAMBA |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> | cicadabird | - | ✓ | - | - |
| <i>Merops ornatus</i> | rainbow bee-eater | - | ✓ | - | |

Bonn – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement