

Moresby Range National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	616ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cassowary Coast Regional
State electorate:	Hinchinbrook



Photo: Southern cassowaries (Mike Trenerry EHP)

Legislative framework

✓	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>
✓	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)</i>
✓	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
✓	<i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i>
✓	<i>Wet Tropics Protection and Management Act 1993</i>

Plans and agreements

✓	National recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> 2007
✓	National recovery plan for the spectacled flying fox <i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
✓	National Siam Weed Management Strategy
✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 fire strategy
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Vision

Moresby Range National Park continues to provide important cassowary habitat and a rugged scenic mountain landscape.

Conservation purpose

Moresby Range National Park was originally gazetted in 1973 containing over 244 hectares (ha). Multiple tenure acquisitions in the 1990s, and more recently in 2005, have resulted in the current park size.

The park provides important cassowary and spectacled flying-fox habitat and protects endangered tussock grassland.

Part of the park is in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Moresby Range National Park has very high scenic amenity. The park presents a natural landscape amongst surrounding developed residential and agricultural areas, and remains in a natural, unfragmented state.

The park is located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and also adjoins Moresby Range Resources Reserve.

Moresby Range National Park is within the Johnstone River catchment and part of the park is within the Innisfail Area wetland, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia (Ref: QLD149). The park's western boundary follows Ninds Creek for most of its length.

Moresby Range is comprised of Barnard Metamorphics, while the coastal plain is comprised of extensive Quaternary alluvial plains. The alluvial plains of Ninds Creek and the North and South Johnstone rivers are extensively used for agricultural production.

Regional ecosystems

Fourteen regional ecosystems are conserved on the park. Eleven are known to be of conservation significance (Table 1). The dominant regional ecosystem is vine forest on wet lowlands, foothills and uplands covers almost 75% of the park.

Wetland mapping indicates estuarine, riverine and palustrine regional ecosystems within the park.

Native plants and animals

The Atlas of Living Australia has over 1,000 records for the park and its immediate surroundings (Table 2).

Endangered southern cassowaries *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* have been observed in the park. The park includes large areas of primary cassowary habitat. Maintaining the quality and integrity of this habitat is important. The park's vegetation is predominantly mesophyll vine forest, however, it also contains a range of North Queensland timber trees such as Johnstone River hardwood *Backhousia bancroftii*, northern silky oak *Cardwellia sublimis* and white beech *Gmelina dalrympleana*, as well as attractive fan palm *Licuala ramsayi* stands and mangrove areas.

The park's native plants and animals are threatened by pest plants and animals such as pond apple *Annona glabra* and pigs *Sus scrofa*.

Aboriginal culture

A registered native title claim which includes the park is currently active (Mamu People, QC01/015).

There is currently limited information available within Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) on the Aboriginal cultural significance of the park.

Shared-history culture

Moresby Range National Park (1978 boundary) was registered on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980 as one of the few areas along the coast with rainforest at or close to the shoreline.

The area was harvested for high quality furniture timbers until the late 1970s.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

No tourism or visitor opportunities are currently available in the park, other than remote bushwalking where people must be self-reliant.

Camping opportunities are available outside the park at nearby Etty Bay, Coquette Point and Innisfail.

Partnerships

QPWS is responsible for the day-to-day management of the national park. 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.

Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Currently there is no approved pest management strategy for the park.

Pond apple *Annona glabra*, a class 2 pest plant and a Weed of National Significance, has been found on the park.

The endangered tussock grassland (7.11.39) is threatened by pest plant invasion.

Miconia *Miconia calvescens*, a class 1 pest plant, occurs in about 30ha of the park.

Other pests species known to occur in the park include pigs *Sus scrofa*.

Fire management

The *Corymbia intermedia* and *Eucalyptus* open-forest and woodlands are an of concern regional ecosystem (7.11.18) dependent on appropriate fire management regimes.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>The Innisfail Wetland area is protected from disturbance.</p>	<p>A1. Investigate the health of that part of the Innisfail Wetland area that is in the park and identify any rehabilitation or special protection necessary.</p>
<p>Regional ecosystems</p> <p>Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are maintained.</p>	<p>A2. Protect the endangered tussock grasslands and of concern <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i> open-forest and woodlands through appropriate pest and fire management.</p>
<p>Plants and animals</p> <p>Endangered southern cassowaries and their habitat are protected from disturbance.</p>	<p>A3. Concentrate pest plant and animal control on species that threaten cassowaries or their habitat.</p>

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management</p>	A4. Support the Traditional Owners involvement in park management.
<p>Pest management</p> <p>The impact of pest plants and animals on species diversity and integrity is reduced.</p>	A5. Develop and implement a pest management strategy in consultation with adjoining landholders and other relevant stakeholders.

Tables - Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem	Description	Biodiversity status
7.2.3	<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> and/or <i>Acacia crassicaarpa</i> and/or <i>C. intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. clarksoniana</i> woodland to closed-forest on beach ridges (predominantly Holocene).	Of concern
7.2.5	Mesophyll to notophyll vine forest of <i>Syzygium forte</i> subsp. <i>forte</i> on sands of beach origin.	Of concern
7.2.8	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> open-forest to woodland on sands of beach origin.	Endangered
7.3.3	Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> , on poorly drained alluvial plains.	Endangered
7.3.5	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> and/or <i>Melaleuca cajuputi</i> closed-forest to shrubland on poorly drained alluvial plains.	Endangered
7.3.10	Simple-complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest, on moderately to poorly-drained alluvial plains, of moderate fertility.	Endangered
7.3.19	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open-forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on well-drained alluvium.	Of concern
7.3.25	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open-forest to closed-forest, on alluvium fringing streams.	Of concern
7.11.18	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and/or <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open-forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents) on coastal metamorphic headlands and foothills.	Of concern
7.11.24	Closed vineland of wind-disturbed vine forest of metamorphic slopes, often steep and exposed.	Of concern
7.11.39	<i>Themeda triandra</i> , or <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> , <i>Sorghum nitidum</i> and <i>Mnesithea rottboellioides</i> closed tussock grassland of metamorphic headlands and near-coastal hills.	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Species list derived from the WildNet and CSIRO - Atlas of Living Australia

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
Animals				
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i>	southern cassowary	Endangered	Endangered	Medium
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	black-necked stork	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	cotton pygmy-goose	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	little tern	Endangered	-	High
Plants				
<i>Elaeocarpus stellaris</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Species list derived from the WildNet and CSIRO - Atlas of Living Australia

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	cattle egret	-	✓	-	✓

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<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 canutus</i>	red knot	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius leschenaultia</i>	greater sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	✓	-	-	-
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	eastern reef egret	-	-	-	✓
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	lesser frigatebird	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's snipe	✓	✓	✓	✓
<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 limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
<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>Pandion cristatus</i>	eastern osprey	✓	-	-	-
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	✓	-	-	✓

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	rufous fantail	✓	-	-	-
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	pomarine jaeger	-	✓	-	✓
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	common tern	-	✓	✓	✓
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>	spectacled monarch	✓	-	-	-
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	wood sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	✓	✓	✓	✓
<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