

Herberton Range National Park Management Statement 2013

Park size:	
Herberton Range National Park	6,350ha
Herberton Range National Park (Recovery)	197ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional Council
State electorate:	Dalrymple



Carrington Falls. Photo: NPRSR.

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>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 Mabi Forest
✓	Bonn – Bonn Convention
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000-2004
✓	Draft recovery plan for the spotted-tail quoll (northern sub-species) <i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i> 2011
✓	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>
✓	Recovery Plan for the endangered cave-dwelling bats, <i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i> , <i>Hipposideros semoni</i> and <i>Taphozous troughtoni</i> 2001–2005

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Strategy
✓	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy

Vision

Herberton Range National Park is managed to maintain and enhance its significant natural, cultural and scenic values while providing a location for low key nature based visitor activities.

Conservation purpose

The lands included in this park transferred from Herberton Range Forest Reserve into Herberton Range National Park and Herberton Range Conservation Park on 28 November 2008. This transfer was part of the Wet Tropics Forest Transfer program.

The primary conservation goal of this national park is the protection of the diverse range of animals and regional ecosystems, many of which are of conservation significance.

Herberton Range National Park (Recovery) is located along the roads that traverse Herberton Range National Park. This area is anticipated to be amalgamated with Herberton Range National Park.

Protection and presentation the park's values

Landscape

Herberton Range National Park lies along the Herberton Range and the Hugh Nelson Range. It contains steep ridges of dry sclerophyll forest leading into stands of tall open forest with rainforest areas on the mountain peaks and in valleys. The park is adjacent to the historic Atherton to Herberton railway which includes tunnels and cuttings. The park is bisected by the Kennedy Highway, and is separated into two sections by the Herberton Range Conservation Park. Mount Hypipamee National Park adjoins Herberton Range National Park.

Features of the park include the break in the Hugh Nelson Range that creates Longland's Gap. The rainforest-lined roadsides of the Kennedy Highway and the dry and wet sclerophyll forest views that are apparent from the Atherton to Herberton Road. Longland's Gap and Carrington Falls are important landscape features within the park.

Erosion of historic logging and mining tracks pose the primary threat to landscape values within Herberton Range National Park. These tracks are often utilised by bushwalkers and other park users and may require an assessment of their condition to ensure appropriate promotion of these activities.

Regional ecosystems

Thirty-three regional ecosystems occur within the Herberton Range National Park, of which 11 are endangered and 12 are of concern in terms of their biodiversity status (Table 1).

The communities of greatest conservation significance are the tall open forests in the western areas of the park. A small fragment of regional ecosystem 7.8.3, locally known as Mabi forest, enters the park from neighbouring tenures (Hemmings Lane). This regional ecosystem is critically endangered under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Native plants and animals

Herberton Range National Park has a high diversity of plant and animal species. Thirty-seven species of conservation significance have been recorded from the park, including one endangered, four vulnerable and 13 near-threatened plant species and six endangered, two vulnerable and 11 near-threatened animal species and are listed in Table 2. Species of international significance are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

The lands of the Jirrbal people and the lands of the Bar Barrum people meet at Herberton Range National Park. Initial investigations suggest that the Jirrbal people, the Ngadjon and Tableland Yidinji have interests in Herberton Range National Park. No native title claims have been lodged for the park.

Places of Aboriginal significance have been recorded from the park. It is important to recognise the confidentiality of some cultural information and manage sites in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners for place.

Shared-history culture

The area was on the periphery of the Herberton tin mining boom of the late 19th century. Thus there are numerous trial scrapes and costeans across the park. Five mine sites previously operated in the area which is now protected. These include areas mined for antimony and molybdenum. There is a stone cairn marking a miner's grave as well as an old inn site on the park.

The park was logged extensively prior to the declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Queensland maple *Flindersia* spp. was taken from this area for airscrews on military aircraft and for rifle stocks. During World War II, sections of the park (then timber reserve) were used for jungle warfare training and the remnants of trenches, gun pits and other military earthworks remain apparent in some park sections. The Australian Defence Force have listed areas of the park as having possible unexploded ordinances.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Herberton Range National Park has the potential to provide a nature-based walking opportunities to visitors. Key visitor sites for this park include Carrington Falls, Stewart Head and the Old Herberton Coach Road (gazetted road).

A well-known golden bower bird bower at Longland's Gap is regularly visited by commercial tourism operations. Longland's Gap has in the past been used as a venue for observing Lumholtz's tree-kangaroos which are locally abundant in the forests of this area.

Education and science

A high diversity of mammals endemic to the Wet Tropics known to occur in the park, and the diverse vegetation mosaic that spans a rainfall gradient, makes Herberton Range National Park an ideal site for biological investigation. This is enhanced by the proximity of the park to the towns of Atherton, Herberton, Malanda and Ravenshoe, which can provide services and accommodation for researchers.

Research that has been undertaken in the past includes studies in possum and bat ecology as well as vegetation succession. The highland locality of this park, places it in an area of interest for research into the impacts of climate change.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (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.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The pest plant species of greatest concern is lantana *Lantana camara*, a declared Class 3 plant and management strategies are in place. Wild dogs *Canis familiaris*, feral cats *Felis catus* and cane toads *Rhinella marina* are present on the park. Feral pigs *Sus scrofa* and rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* occur with the park. This protected area is included in the Wet Tropics Pest Strategy and in the Tablelands Pest Strategy.

Managing pests is significantly enhanced with the cooperation of park neighbours.

Fire management

The boundary between rainforest and tall open forest is mediated by fire and climate. Fire regimes have been identified as a primary factor in the management of these tall open forest regional ecosystems and careful consideration is required to ensure the maintenance of this habitat. Mesic species are a naturally occurring component of tall open forest understoreys and thrive or suffer under varying climatic conditions over lengthy periods. This leads to structural and spatial changes in tall open forests over time. The dynamic nature of this zone is important to maintain. The maintenance of representative forest types and regional ecosystems within the park is a goal of the management of this park.

Fire management is significantly enhanced with the cooperation of park neighbours and local rural fire brigades.

Other management issues

There is a telecommunication site and access road lease on park at Longland's Gap.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Landscape and natural values including water quality, are maintained and enhanced.</p>	<p>A1. Assess all old mining and forestry tracks within the park for erosion risk and mitigate threats and degradation where possible.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>Safe and culturally appropriate tourism and recreation opportunities are available in the park.</p>	<p>A2. Investigate and assess the potential to formalise tracks use for mountain bikes and walking circuits.</p>
<p>Other management issues</p> <p>The risk of unexploded ordnance is clarified and managed.</p>	<p>A3. Investigate the possibility of unexploded ordnance on the park, in particular around the Longland's Gap Jungle Warfare Training area and take appropriate remedial actions.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.12.21	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland, or <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , and <i>E. grandis</i> , open forest to woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites	Endangered
7.12.22	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> +/- <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> tall open forest to tall woodland (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on moist to wet granite and rhyolite uplands and highlands	Endangered
7.12.25	<i>Eucalyptus cloeziana</i> woodland to open forest on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.37	Rock pavements and see areas of wet lowlands, uplands and highlands of the eastern escarpment and central range (excluding high granite areas of Hinchinbrook Island and Bishops Peak) on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. shrublands and/or sedgeland	Of concern
7.12.50	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest on granite and rhyolite, of wet highlands	Of concern
7.12.52	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> , <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , <i>E. drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>E. reducta</i> woodland, of dry to moist hills on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.57	Shrubland and low woodland mosaic with <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , <i>Corymbia abergiana</i> , <i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> , <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> , and <i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i> , on moist and dry uplands and highlands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.61	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> +/- <i>E. granitica</i> woodland to open forest of moist and dry foothills and uplands on granite and rhyolite	Of concern
7.12.65	Rock pavements or areas of skeletal soil, on granite and rhyolite, mostly of dry western or southern areas, often with shrublands to closed forests of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and/or <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> and/or <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> and/or <i>Eucalyptus lockyeri</i> subsp. <i>exuta</i>	Of concern
7.12.66	Exposed rocky slopes on granite and rhyolite, with <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> low shrubland or low to medium closed forest	Of concern
7.12.9	<i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites	Of concern
7.3.26	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> woodland to open forest on alluvium fringing streams	Endangered
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
7.3.42	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with emergent <i>E. grandis</i>), on alluvium	Endangered
7.3.43	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland, on uplands on well drained alluvium	Endangered

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.45	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> +/- <i>C. tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> open forest to open woodland on alluvial plains	Of concern
7.3.48	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i> and <i>E. drepanophylla</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> , +/- <i>C. citriodora</i> open woodland to open forest, on dry uplands on alluvium	Endangered
7.3.49	Notophyll vine forest on rubble terraces of streams	Of concern
7.5.4	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> or <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> woodland to open forest of uplands, on weathered soils of a remnant surface	Of concern
7.8.14	Complex notophyll vine forest with emergent <i>Agathis robusta</i> , on basalt	Endangered
7.8.19	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> open forest to woodland on basalt	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>Acianthus sublestus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Acrotriche baileyana</i>	-	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Calochlaena villosa</i>	-	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Corsia dispar</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Corybas abellianus</i>	nodding helmet orchid	Near threatened	-	Data deficient
<i>Cyanthea baileyana</i>	wig tree fern	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Cycas platyphylla</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Endiandra sideroxylon</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Endressia wardellii</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hypserpa smilacifolia</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Lastreopsis walleri</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Macropteranthes montana</i>	-	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Peripentadenia mearsii</i>	buff quandong	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>Plectranthus amoenus</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Solanum hamulosum</i>	-	Endangered	Least concern	Medium
<i>Solanum sporadotrichum</i>	-	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Steghanthera australiana</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Thaleropia queenslandica</i>	pink myrtle	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
Animals				
<i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i>	spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
<i>Hemibelideus lemuroides</i>	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened	Near threatened	Low
<i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i>	Herbert River ringtail Possum	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>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden tipped bat	Near threatened	Near threatened	Medium
<i>Litoria nannotis</i>	waterfall frog	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Nyctimystes dayi</i>	Australian laceid	Endangered	Endangered	Low
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	square-tailed kite	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	Least concern	Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	Least concern	Low
<i>Tadorna radjah</i>	radjah shelduck	Near threatened	Least concern	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	Bonn	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-
<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