

Mount Mackay National Park Management Statement 2013

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Park size: | 3,680ha |
| Bioregion: | Wet Tropics |
| QPWS region: | Northern |
| Local government estate/area: | Cassowary Coast Regional |
| State electorate: | Hinchinbrook |



Ant-plant *Myrmecodia beccarii*. Photo: NPRSR

Legislative framework

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> |
| ✓ | <i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1998</i> |

Plans and agreements

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Far North Queensland (FNQ) regional plan |
| ✓ | National recovery plan for the Mahogany Glider <i>Petaurus gracilis</i> |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for the southern cassowary <i>Casuarus casuarium johnsonii</i> 2001–2005 |
| ✓ | Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeographic region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004 |
| ✓ | Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005 |

Thematic strategies

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|---|--|
| ✓ | Draft Level 2 Pest Management Strategy |
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Vision

Mount Mackay National Park provides a secure habitat for species of significance particularly for the mahogany glider and southern cassowary.

Conservation purpose

Mount Mackay National Park transferred from State forest in 2005. It protects numerous species of conservation significance and associated habitat for those species.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Mount Mackay (724m) dominates the landscape on the park. The mountain is located on the western section of the park, facing Tully and the Tully Gorge National Park. Mount Douglas (339m) is on the eastern boundary of the park adjacent to Djiru National Park.

The Tully Mission Beach Road (Cassowary Drive) passes through the park. Vehicles have been attributed to the death of many native animals, including the endangered southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*.

Regional ecosystems

Twenty-three regional ecosystems are mapped within Mount Mackay National Park. Of the 23 regional ecosystems mapped within the protected area, 11 are considered to have an endangered biodiversity status and eight are of concern (Table 1). These are generally those regional ecosystems from the coastal plain that have been extensively cleared for agricultural purposes.

Native plants and animals

The vulnerable ant plant *Myrmecodia beccarii* is a vulnerable species. It is primarily threatened by illegal collection and by exotic ants. The lifecycle of the apollo jewel butterfly *Hypochrysops apollo apollo* is linked with the ant plant and thus they suffer from the same threats.

Plants and animals of conservation significance are recorded in Table 2.

Birds listed under international agreements are listed in Table 3.

Aboriginal culture

The Djiru People are the Traditional Owners of this area and their native title claim (QC03/003) covers about half the park on the eastern section.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (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

Mount Mackay National Park is within the Innisfail Level 2 Pest Management Strategy.

Fire management

There is currently no fire management strategy for Mount Mackay National Park.

Other management issues

There is a radio tower located on the top of Mount Mackay. Access is only possible by helicopter as there is no dedicated road access.

Management directions

| Desired outcomes | Actions and guidelines |
|---|---|
| Plants and animals Mount Mackay National Park is managed to protect the species of conservation significance. | A1. Continue to protect significant species and habitats. |
| Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management. | A2. Support the involvement of Traditional Owners in park management. |
| Fire management Fire management protects the species diversity of the park. | A3. Create a fire management strategy for Mount Mackay National Park. |

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| Regional ecosystem | Description | Biodiversity status |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.3.3 | Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.4 | Mesophyll vine forest with <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> on poorly drained alluvial plains and alluvial areas of uplands | Endangered |
| 7.3.5 | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> and/or <i>Melaleuca cajuputi</i> closed forest to shrubland on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.7 | <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> and <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest to woodland (or vine forest with emergent <i>E. pellita</i> and <i>C. intermedia</i>), on poorly drained alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.8 | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. +/- <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest to open woodland on alluvial plains | Endangered |
| 7.3.10 | Simple to complex mesophyll to notophyll vine forest on moderate to poorly drained alluvial plains of moderate fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.17 | Complex mesophyll vine forest on well drained alluvium of high fertility | Endangered |
| 7.3.20 | <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , or <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> , or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forests (or vine forests with these species as emergents), on alluvial fans at the base of ranges | Of concern |
| 7.3.25 | <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> +/- vine forest species, open to closed forest, on alluvium fringing streams | Of concern |
| 7.3.40 | <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> medium to tall open forest on well drained alluvial plains of lowlands | Endangered |
| 7.11.24 | Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on metamorphics | Of concern |

| Regional ecosystem | Description | Biodiversity status |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7.12.2 | Notophyll or mesophyll vine forest with <i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> or <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> , on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.5 | <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> +/- <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> open forest, or <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> open forest (or vine forest with these species as emergents), on granites and rhyolites | Endangered |
| 7.12.9 | <i>Acacia celsa</i> open to closed forest on granites and rhyolites | 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 |
| 7.12.40 | Closed vineland of wind disturbed vine forest, on granites and rhyolites | Of concern |
| 7.12.48 | Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes | Of concern |
| 7.12.60 | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> +/- <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> woodland to open forest, on granite and rhyolite | 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 |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Animals | | | | |
| <i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i> | Australian swiftlet | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Casuaris casuaris johnsonii</i> (southern population) | southern cassowary (southern population) | Endangered | Endangered | Critical |
| <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i> | sooty oystercatcher | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Hypochrypsops apollo apollo</i> | Apollo jewel (Wet Tropics subspecies) | Vulnerable | Least concern | High |
| <i>Litoria rheocola</i> | common mistfrog | Endangered | Endangered | Low |
| Plants | | | | |
| <i>Cheilocostus potierae</i> | - | Endangered | - | Medium |
| <i>Cleistanthus discolor</i> | - | Near threatened | - | Low |
| <i>Hedyotis novoguineensis</i> | - | Endangered | - | Low |
| <i>Myrmecodia beccarii</i> | ant plant | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | High |

Table 3: Bird species listed in international agreements

| Scientific name | Common name | BONN | JAMBA | ROKAMBA | CAMBA |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------|---------|-------|
| <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> | white-bellied sea-eagle | - | - | - | ✓ |
| <i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i> | spectacled monarch | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i> | satin flycatcher | ✓ | - | - | - |
| <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