

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Forêts humides Gondwana de l'Australie

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• Australie

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

368bis

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1986, 1994

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

| Name | Coordinates | Property (ha) | Buffer zone (ha) | Total (ha) | Inscription year |
|---|-------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | 0 / 0 | ? | ? | ? | |
| | 0 / 0 | ? | ? | ? | |
| | 0 / 0 | ? | ? | ? | |
| | 0 / 0 | ? | ? | ? | |
| Border Ranges National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -28.346 / 152.888 | 31229 | 0 | 31229 | 1986 |
| Limpinwood Nature Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -28.298 / 153.181 | 2646 | 0 | 2646 | 1986 |
| Numinbah Nature Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -28.244 / 153.287 | 858 | 0 | 858 | 1986 |
| Mount Nothofagus Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -28.292 / 152.61 | 650 | 0 | 650 | 1986 |
| Mount Warning National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -28.394 / 153.271 | 2380 | 0 | 2380 | 1986 |
| Nightcap National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -28.54 / 153.282 | 4945 | 0 | 4945 | 1986 |
| Washpool National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -29.373 / 152.335 | 27715 | 0 | 27715 | 1986 |
| Gibraltar Ranger National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -29.459 / 152.357 | 17273 | 0 | 17273 | 1986 |
| Iluka Nature Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -29.404 / 153.362 | 136 | 0 | 136 | 1986 |
| New England National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -30.472 / 152.482 | 29985 | 0 | 29985 | 1986 |
| Dorrigo National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -30.353 / 152.807 | 7885 | 0 | 7885 | 1986 |
| Mt Hyland Nature Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -30.164 / 152.441 | 1636 | 0 | 1636 | 1986 |


| | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------|---|--------|------|
| Werrikimbe National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -31.167 / 152.253 | 35178 | 0 | 35178 | 1986 |
| Mt Seaview Nature Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | -31.335 / 152.184 | 1703 | 0 | 1703 | 1986 |
| Willi Willi NP (formerly Banda Banda Flora Reserve), New South Wales , Australia | -31.147 / 152.425 | 1610 | 0 | 1610 | 1986 |
| Barrington Tops National Park, New South Wales , Australia | -31.937 / 151.487 | 39120 | 0 | 39120 | 1986 |
| Springbrook National Park (part), Queensland , Australia | -28.207 / 153.296 | 2480 | 0 | 2480 | 1994 |
| Lamington National Park, Queensland , Australia | -28.146 / 153.114 | 20500 | 0 | 20500 | 1994 |
| Mount Chinghee National Park, Queensland , Australia | -28.301 / 152.948 | 1110 | 0 | 1110 | 1994 |
| Mount Barney National Park (part), Queensland , Australia | -28.28 / 152.66 | 9710 | 0 | 9710 | 1994 |
| Main Range National Park, Queensland , Australia | -27.902 / 152.319 | 11500 | 0 | 11500 | 1994 |
| Mount Mistake National Park (part), Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 5500 | 0 | 5500 | 1994 |
| Turtle Rock Environmental Park, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 68.816 | 0 | 68.816 | 1994 |
| Telemon Environmental Park, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 146.6 | 0 | 146.6 | 1994 |
| Goomburra State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 2067 | 0 | 2067 | 1994 |
| Spicers Gap State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 257 | 0 | 257 | 1994 |
| Gilbert State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 84 | 0 | 84 | 1994 |
| Emu Vale State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 1994 |
| Gambubal State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 2260 | 0 | 2260 | 1994 |
| Teviot State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 390 | 0 | 390 | 1994 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|------|
| Killarney State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 493.7 | 0 | 493.7 | 1994 |
| Burnett Creek State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 1076 | 0 | 1076 | 1994 |
| Cronan Creek State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 795 | 0 | 795 | 1994 |
| 'Palen Creek' State Forest, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 326 | 0 | 326 | 1994 |
| Rabbitt Board Paddock Reserves, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 143.112 | 0 | 143.112 | 1994 |
| Prison Purposes Land, Queensland , Australia | 0 / 0 | 48.125 | 0 | 48.125 | 1994 |
| Wilsons Peak Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | 0 / 0 | 185 | 0 | 185 | 1994 |
| Mount Clunie Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | 0 / 0 | 485 | 0 | 485 | 1994 |
| Amaroo Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | 0 / 0 | 36 | 0 | 36 | 1994 |
| Fenwicks Scrub Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | 0 / 0 | 110 | 0 | 110 | 1994 |
| Kerripit Beech Flora Reserve, New South Wales , Australia | 0 / 0 | 243 | 0 | 243 | 1994 |
| Total (ha) | | 265231.353 | 0 | 265231.353 | |

Comment

There have been tenure changes and a number of updates are required however there is not enough space to provide the updated list. It is understood that a process is to be initiated by the World Heritage Centre to obtain updated geographic and cartographic information over the next few months and updated and accurate maps will be provided at this time.

1.4 - Map(s)

| Title | Date | Link to source |
|---|------------|---|
| Maps showing the components of the inscribed property | 29/09/1992 |  |

Comment

The current maps are not accurate. It is understood that a process is to be initiated by the World Heritage Centre to obtain updated geographic and cartographic information over the next few months and updated and accurate maps will be provided at this time.

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Mr Peter Burnett First Assistant Secretary Heritage and Wildlife Division Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities GPO Box 787 ACT 2601

Ph: +61 2 6274 1111 Fax: +61 2 6274 2095 Email: Peter.Burnett@environment.gov.au

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Tricia Waters
Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area
Executive Officer
Department of Environment and Climate Change

Comment

Remove Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water from title Amend address to: 24 Moonee Street PO Box 1236 Coffs Harbour 2450 Australia

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Le site officiel de Tourism Australia pour le tourisme en Australie](#)
2. [Central Eastern Rainforests \(Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service\) \(en anglais seulement\)](#)
3. [Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia \(Big Volcano Visitor Guide\)\(en anglais seulement\)](#)
4. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC \(en anglais seulement\)](#)
5. [Gondwana Rainforests of Australia \(Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts\)](#)

Comment

Please remove the first four listings and just retain the one website:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/gondwana/index.html> Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2011 for World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(viii)(ix)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Please refer to <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/gondwana/values.html>

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value supplied has been prepared retrospectively by the relevant national and state governments in accordance with the guidelines provided by the World Heritage Centre and in consultation with

Advisory Bodies which include community representatives and people with technical and scientific expertise.

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

| Name | Impact | | | | | | Origin |
|---|---|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| 3.1 | Buildings and Development | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 Housing | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | Services Infrastructures | | | | | | |
| 3.3.4 Localised utilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | | |
| 3.5.4 Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.10 Forestry /wood production | | | | | | | |
| 3.6 | Physical resource extraction | | | | | | |
| 3.6.2 Quarrying | | | | | | | |
| 3.8 | Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | | |
| 3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.3 Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation | | | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 Illegal activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | |
| 3.10.3 Drought | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 Temperature change | | | | | | | |
| 3.11 | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition | | | | | | | |
| 3.11.6 Fire (wildfires) | | | | | | | |
| 3.12 | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | | |
| 3.12.1 Translocated species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.3 Invasive / alien freshwater species | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species | | | | | | | |
| 3.13 | Management and institutional factors | | | | | | |
| 3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.13.3 Management activities | | | | | | | |
| Legend | Current | Potential | Negative | Positive | Inside | Outside | |

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

| | Spatial scale | Temporal scale | Impact | Management response | Trend |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 3.1 Buildings and Development | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 Housing | restricted | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.2 Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | |
| 3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.3 Services Infrastructures | | | | | |

| | | Spatial scale | Temporal scale | Impact | Management response | Trend |
|--------|---|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 3.3.4 | Localised utilities | restricted | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | |
| 3.5.4 | Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals | localised | intermittent or sporadic | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.5.10 | Forestry /wood production | restricted | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.6 | Physical resource extraction | | | | | |
| 3.6.2 | Quarrying | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.8 | Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | |
| 3.8.6 | Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation | restricted | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 | Illegal activities | restricted | on-going | minor | medium capacity | static |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | |
| 3.10.3 | Drought | localised | intermittent or sporadic | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | low capacity | static |
| 3.11 | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 | Erosion and siltation/ deposition | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.11.6 | Fire (wildfires) | localised | on-going | significant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.12 | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | |
| 3.12.1 | Translocated species | localised | on-going | minor | medium capacity | increasing |
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species | localised | on-going | significant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.12.3 | Invasive / alien freshwater species | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.12.5 | Hyper-abundant species | localised | on-going | significant | medium capacity | increasing |

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is **no buffer zone**, and it is not needed

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of its inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The Extensions to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area has recently been added to Australia's Tentative List. These extensions will improve connectivity and simplify the boundaries of the World Heritage Area contributing to the integrity of the Property.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Australia has enacted legislation to implement its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. This is provided for under new Commonwealth legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). This legislation came into effect on 16 July 2000. The EPBC Act ensures the protection of World Heritage by providing a direct link to Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention. The provisions of the EPBC Act replaced indirect triggers for Commonwealth environmental impact assessment with direct triggers that focus the Commonwealth's

involvement on matters of national environmental significance - including World Heritage properties.

Under the EPBC Act, an action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if the action is approved by the Commonwealth Environment Minister or is taken in accordance with a management plan accredited by the Commonwealth Environment Minister. In order to obtain an approval, the proposal must be referred to the Commonwealth for environmental impact assessment through either a Commonwealth impact assessment process or an accredited State regime. Under the Act, the onus is on the person who takes or is considering taking an action to ensure that it will not have a significant impact on World Heritage. Substantial civil and criminal penalties can apply for breaches of the Act.

Comment

All World Heritage properties in Australia are 'matters of national environmental significance' protected and managed under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. By law, any action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property must be referred to the responsible Minister for consideration. This includes impacts originating from outside the property boundary.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Comment

As the State Party to the World Heritage Convention, the Australian Government works in cooperation with the state governments in accordance with the Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement. The Gondwana Rainforests includes reserves in both New South Wales and Queensland, and inter-governmental cooperation includes both a Coordinating and Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the agencies of the Australian, New South Wales and Queensland Governments.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Management is coordinated through the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area - Strategic Overview for Management, 2000 (revisions in preparation). All parks are also covered by publicly available planning documents including management plans, fire management strategies and pest management plans.

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system/plan is only **partially adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Local communities / residents | Good |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Good |
| Indigenous peoples | Good |
| Landowners | Good |
| Visitors | Good |
| Researchers | Good |
| Tourism industry | Good |
| Industry | Good |

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

All necessary elements for effective management are in place with regards to the management system for the WHA property. An overall Strategic Plan is in place for the property and parks have suitable plans to manage key threats. Management plans are developed for most parks within the property and annual operational plans target specific actions. Every three years condition and management effectiveness is assessed through State of the Parks programs allowing for ongoing adaptive management.

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

In 2007 the Federal Court of Australia made a consent determination recognising the Githabul People's native title rights and interests over 1120 square kilometres including the following reserves within the Gondwana Rainforests: Tooloom, Koreelah, Border Ranges, Richmond Range, Mount Clunie, Toonumbar and Mount Nothofagus National Parks and Captains Creek Nature Reserve. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the NSW Government and the Githabul People is in operation.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

| | |
|---|------|
| Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc) | 0% |
| International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | 0% |
| Governmental (National / Federal) | 3 % |
| Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State) | 93 % |
| Governmental (Local / Municipal) | 1% |
| In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | 1% |

| | |
|---|----|
| Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.) | 1% |
| Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.) | 1% |
| Other grants | 0% |

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Nil

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Most infrastructure is maintained in accordance with an Asset Management System and the majority of assets are in good condition with little sign of deterioration and requiring only minor maintenance or repair. Some moderate to major repairs are required in some of the parks. The 2010 State of the Parks program was used to answer some of these questions. This is a three yearly assessment that examines management effectiveness for individual parks.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Full-time | 70% |
| Part-time | 30% |

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Permanent | 90% |
| Seasonal | 10% |

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|------|-----|
| Paid | 95% |
|------|-----|

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Volunteer | 5% |
|-----------|----|

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Research and monitoring | Good |
| Promotion | Good |
| Community outreach | Good |
| Interpretation | Good |
| Education | Good |
| Visitor management | Good |
| Conservation | Good |
| Administration | Good |
| Risk preparedness | Good |
| Tourism | Good |
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | Fair |

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Research and monitoring | High |
| Promotion | High |
| Community outreach | High |
| Interpretation | High |
| Education | High |
| Visitor management | High |
| Conservation | High |
| Administration | High |
| Risk preparedness | High |
| Tourism | High |
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | High |

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management

needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Implications of Climate Change for Australia's World Heritage Properties (<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/climatechange>) Economic activity of Australia's World Heritage Areas DEWHA, 2008 (<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/report/index.html>) Remnants of Gondwana: a natural and social history Kitching, Braithwaite and Cavanaugh, Surrey Beatty & Sons, 2010

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

The NSW State of the Parks program was used to answer some of these questions. This is a three yearly assessment that examines management effectiveness for each of the parks in the system separately - including the Gondwana WHA properties. The data used here was collected in August/September 2010 and includes Queensland parks.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **many locations, but not easily visible** to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

| | |
|--|---------|
| Local communities / residents | Average |
| Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property | Average |
| Local Indigenous peoples | Average |
| Local landowners | Average |
| Visitors | Average |
| Tourism industry | Average |
| Local businesses and industries | Average |

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Visitor centre | Excellent |
| Site museum | Not needed |
| Information booths | Adequate |
| Guided tours | Adequate |
| Trails / routes | Adequate |
| Information materials | Adequate |
| Transportation facilities | Not needed |
| Other | Not needed |

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

The serial nature of the Property presents challenges for consistent and strategic presentation. In addition the name of the Property has been changed twice since inscription. There is a need for strategic planning in the presentation of the Property and an updating of signage and promotional materials to both better interpret the outstanding universal value and to update the correct name.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Last year | Minor Increase |
| Two years ago | Decreasing |
| Three years ago | Static |
| Four years ago | Minor Increase |
| Five years ago | Minor Increase |

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

| |
|------------------------------|
| Entry tickets and registries |
| Accommodation establishments |
| Tourism industry |
| Visitor surveys |
| Other |

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

These include sections within individual management plans for reserves; individual visitor management strategies and interpretation plans for key visitor nodes including Springbook, Lamington and Dorrigo National Parks; and more broad

interpretation strategies and visitor management strategies for regional administrative areas.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

Both NSW and Queensland are working to improve planning and management of visitation to the parks of the Gondwana Rainforests. Aims of these plans include to enhance visitor experiences, improve collection of visitor data and improve the management of visitor impacts.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **small amount** of monitoring, but it is not planned

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient to define key indicators, **but this has not been done**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

| | |
|--|----------------|
| World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff | Average |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Not applicable |
| Local communities | Average |
| Researchers | Average |
| NGOs | Average |
| Industry | Average |
| Local indigenous peoples | Average |

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **underway**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee identified the need for coordinated monitoring and research across the property including the development of systems for storage and distribution of research data. This has been addressed and implemented in sections of the Property, coordination is improving and systems for improved storage and distribution of data are being investigated.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Queensland has prepared and implemented a monitoring strategy for both management effectiveness and condition evaluation. New South Wales monitors management effectiveness using a State of the Parks database system.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

| | World Heritage criteria and attributes affected | Actions | Monitoring | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------|
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | |
| 3.5.10 | Forestry /wood production | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 | Illegal activities | | | | | |
| 3.11 | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | | |
| 3.11.6 | Fire (wildfires) Criteria: (viii) (x) x) Attributes: Vegetation communities including rainforests with high levels of endemism, threatened species, primitive and relict species | Ensure biodiversity conservation objectives are adequately considered in the preparation of fire management plans. Institute appropriate fire regimes for vegetation communities including ensuring known fire thresholds are not exceeded. | Monitor fire thresholds for vegetation communities. Monitor the impact of fire on key elements including rainforest communities and threatened species. | Ongoing adaptive management | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management | |
| 3.12 | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | |
| 3.12.1 | Translocated species Criteria: (viii) (x) x) Attributes: Vegetation communities including rainforests with high levels of endemism, threatened species, primitive and relict species | Undertake sampling, prepare and implement management plans for <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> across the Gondwana Rainforests. Undertake appropriate action to rapidly respond to emerging threats from pathogens in collaboration with other relevant agencies. | Establish long-term monitoring sites for the <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> to determine incremental spread, movement and appearance in new areas. Monitoring of key species and communities will be undertaken to assess impacts of other pathogens as indicated. | Phytophthora management plan to be developed in 2011 and implementation with be ongoing with appropriate evaluation, reporting and improvement as indicated. Newly identified pathogens will be managed in consideration of risk and effective control. | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Communities and Population | |
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species Criteria: (viii) (x) x) Attributes: Vegetation communities including rainforests with high levels of endemism, threatened species, primitive and relict species | Implement strategic priority weed and feral animal control management programmes | Undertake weed mapping, monitoring of weed control activities Monitor feral animal numbers and the effectiveness of control programmes | Ongoing: 2010-2017 | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Communities and Population | |
| 3.12.5 | Hyper-abundant species Criteria: (viii) (x) x) Attributes: Forests with high levels of endemism, threatened species, primitive and relict species | Undertake mapping to define areas for the strategic control of Bell-Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) Implement control measures including application of fire and undertaking weed control in key locations | Monitor the effects of BMAD control treatments on ecosystems including monitoring weeds, Bell miner abundance and attributes of vegetation communities | 2011-2013 and ongoing | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Communities and Population | |

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

| 4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Actions | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment |
| | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|------------------|---|--|
| 4.1.2 | Boundaries could be improved | Prepare the nomination document for Extensions to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area (on Australia's Tentative List). These extensions will assist in improving the connectivity of the Property and simplifying its boundary. | Six years - 2016 | The Australian Government will initiate and coordinate the preparation of the nomination document in cooperation with New South Wales and Queensland Governments. | |
| 4.8 Monitoring | | | | | |
| 4.8.1 | Some monitoring, but it is not planned | Prepare and implement a Gondwana Rainforests Monitoring Plan with appropriate indicators selected to monitor the functioning of key attributes which contribute to the outstanding universal value of the Property. | 2015 | The Australian Government in cooperation with the NSW and Queensland Governments | This work to be managed by the Gondwana Rainforests Coordinating Committee with input and advice from the Gondwana Rainforests Technical and Scientific and Community Advisory Committees. |
| 4.8.2 | Key indicators have not been defined | Define key indicators to monitor the condition and trend of key values | 2013 | The Australian Government in cooperation with the NSW and Queensland Governments | This work to be managed by the Gondwana Rainforests Coordinating Committee with input and advice from the Gondwana Rainforests Technical and Scientific and Community Advisory Committees. |

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

The State of Conservation of the Property has been maintained through the provision of significant resources by national and state governments to mitigate threats to the property including weeds, pathogens and inappropriate visitor use. Further work to address the threats posed by pathogens (chytrid and phytophthora), overabundant species (Bell Miners) and climate change is in progress.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Conservation | Positive |
| Research and monitoring | Positive |
| Management effectiveness | Positive |
| Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples | Positive |
| Recognition | Positive |
| Education | Positive |
| Infrastructure development | Positive |
| Funding for the property | Positive |
| International cooperation | Positive |
| Political support for conservation | Positive |
| Legal / Policy framework | Positive |
| Lobbying | Positive |
| Institutional coordination | Positive |
| Security | Positive |
| Other (please specify) | Not applicable |

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

| |
|--|
| Governmental institution responsible for the property |
| Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff |
| Staff from other World Heritage properties |
| Advisory bodies |

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| UNESCO | Good |
| State Party Representative | Good |
| Advisory Body | Good |

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

| |
|---|
| The World Heritage Convention |
| The concept of Outstanding Universal Value |
| The property's Outstanding Universal Value |
| The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value |
| Monitoring and reporting |
| Management effectiveness |

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| UNESCO | Satisfactory |
| State Party | Satisfactory |
| Site Managers | Satisfactory |
| Advisory Bodies | Satisfactory |

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2011 for World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: There have been tenure changes and a number of updates are required however there is not enough space to provide the updated list. It is understood that a process is to be initiated by the World

Heritage Centre to obtain updated geographic and cartographic information over the next few months and updated and accurate maps will be provided at this time.

• **Map(s)**

Reason for update: The current maps are not accurate. It is understood that a process is to be initiated by the World Heritage Centre to obtain updated geographic and cartographic information over the next few months and updated and accurate maps will be provided at this time.

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

The range of available categories in the Section 4 (Protection, Management and Monitoring) was inadequate for the purposes of providing accurate responses for the Property. In addition the options often included two components to the statement, one of which may have been correct but the second may not have been correct. The limited options available may result in misleading responses being provided. Further definition of terms would be helpful eg. definition of adequacy for question 4.6.6.