

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)

Management Statement

2013

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

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The Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) Management Statement 2013 has been extended in 2024 in line with the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (s120G). Minor amendments have been made. There has been no change to the statement's original management intent and direction.

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Park size:	170,000ha
Bioregion:	Cape York Peninsula
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Cook Shire Council
State electorate:	Cook

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✓	Action Plan for Australian Bats
✓	Action Plan for Australian Birds
✓	Bonn Convention
✓	Burra Charter 1999
✓	China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
✓	Recovery plan (National) for the golden-shouldered parrot <i>Psephotus chrysopterygius</i> 2003–2007
✓	Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia
✓	Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Thematic Strategies

✓	Draft Level 2 Pest Strategy
✓	Draft Level 2 Fire Strategy

Vision

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is managed to protect the diversity and complexity of its native wildlife habitats, and rare, threatened and endemic species including the foxtail palm *Wodyetia bifurcata*, Cape Melville boulderfrog *Cophixalus zweifeli* and Melville Range treefrog *Litoria andiirrmalin*.

Sites of cultural importance are protected from inappropriate visitor activity. Stories depicting the historical significance of the park, such as the Cyclone Mahina disaster, have been recorded and interpreted.

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is one of Queensland's most remote visitor destinations and is being managed as a self-reliant visitor destination. Visitors to the park are provided a rare opportunity to experience a relatively untouched and spectacular landscape.

The outstanding scenic qualities of the park, such as the impressive granite boulders of Melville Range and the panoramic coastal views, are presented in the absence of formalised visitor facilities.

Adjoining marine environments are cooperatively managed with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to ensure that commercial and recreational use is complementary with the conservation of the park's natural and cultural values.

Conservation purpose

An initial area of 16 500ha was dedicated as Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) in 1973, to protect Melville Range. Altanmoui Range section was added in 1977. These areas were consolidated in 1995, with a further extension west in 2005.

Some of the most rugged and least disturbed country on Cape York Peninsula is conserved within Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) (Abrahams *et. al*, 1995).

Many rare, threatened and endemic animal and plant species are protected within the park, including some with exceptional range extensions.

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is rich with Aboriginal history, stories, significant sites and traditional identity. Negotiations have commenced with Traditional Owners to dedicate the national park as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).

Protecting and presenting the area's values

Landscape

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) features unique landforms including the massive tumbled granite boulders of Melville Range, the sandstone-capped escarpments of the Altanmoui Range, inland dune-fields, extensive wetlands and a diverse and picturesque coastline. The park's spectacular boulder mountains are nationally uncommon, and are the largest representation of this landscape in Australia (Abrahams *et. al*, 1995).

Numerous rivers and creeks flow seaward from the ranges. The main watercourses within the park include the Jeannie and Howick rivers, and Dead Dog, Wakooka, Rocky, Saltwater, Eumangin and Temple creeks. Tributaries of the Muck River flow from Melville Range into Bathurst Bay.

Scattered coastal dunes extend from the Jeannie River at the southern end of park to the northern most point of the park and through to Bathurst Bay. Freshwater lagoons and springs conserved within the park may have cultural significance to the Traditional Owners.

With the exception of the main access roads to Bathurst Bay and Ninian Bay, the park remains in a natural, unfragmented state.

Jack River National Park abuts the park's southern boundary and marine park borders the coastline. Aboriginal lands, primarily used for cattle grazing or as outstations, adjoin the park to the south and west.

Regional ecosystems

There are 107 regional ecosystems mapped within Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land), including numerous unique variants on the more widespread regional ecosystem types. One endangered and 39 of concern vegetation communities are listed under their biodiversity status for the park (Table 1). The remaining regional ecosystems are listed as not of concern at present. Vegetation communities within the park are some of the best examples of their vegetation class on the peninsula (Abrahams *et. al*, 1995). They generally

reflect the underlying geology, topography and unique microclimates that exist.

In general, vegetation communities are dominated by eucalypt woodlands, coastal communities, extensive wetlands and inland dune-fields. Coastal dune communities are showing signs of deterioration from firewood collection, compaction and erosion.

General threats to the regional ecosystems include inappropriate fire regimes, pest animals and plants, and visitor impacts.

Plants and animals

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is currently known to protect 58 species, comprising 28 plant species and 30 animal species, which are of state or national conservation significance (Table 2). One reptile species and 55 bird species recorded from the park are listed in international agreements (Table 3).

Several species known from the park have specific management actions identified through the following national action plans:

- Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000—golden-shouldered parrot *Psephotus chrysopterygius*, red goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiates*, red-tailed tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*, cotton pygmy goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*, rufous owl (Cape York subspecies) *Ninox rufa meesi*, palm cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*, little tern *Sternula albifrons*, radjah shelduck *Tadorna radjah*, black-necked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, beach stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* square-tailed kite *Lophoictinia isura*, sooty oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*, sarus crane *Grus antigone*, Latham's snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*, Wilson's storm petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* and masked booby *Sula dactylatra*.
- Action Plan for Australian Bats—bare-rumped sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatum*, eastern long-eared bat *Nyctophilus corbeni*, coastal sheath-tail bat *Taphozous australis*, diadem leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros diadema reginae* and greater large-eared horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus philippinensis*.

The national Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia provides management guidance for the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* and hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Granite boulders of the Melville Range are the only known natural habitat of the foxtail palm *Wodyetia bifurcata* and other endemic plant species. The foxtail palm is the only representative of its genus. Seeds of this species were illegally harvested before it became a common garden species.

Talus (rubble) slopes at the base of the Altanmoui Range escarpments provide habitat for several endemic plant species and stands of hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*.

While Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) has an extensive species list, additional species are being identified through incidental surveys and as rangers and researchers go about their other duties. This indicates that the species list for the park is not yet comprehensive, and that survey work and field collections need to be continued.

Aboriginal culture

Currently no formalised management arrangements have been established with the relevant Traditional Owners for Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).

Two Indigenous Land Use Agreements overlap the western portion of the park – Agreement Areas QI2005/028 and QC97/048. Local Traditional Owners use the park for traditional harvesting.

Subject to successful negotiation with Traditional Owners, the park is identified for future transfer to Aboriginal ownership under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*. A joint management regime will be established under the framework provided by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the Cape York Peninsula Region.

Sites of material Indigenous culture, such as rock art sites and shell middens, have been recorded on Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). Reports by Traditional Owners indicate that people are driving over the shell middens.

Park staff currently have a limited knowledge of the park's cultural sites and places. Given the size and ruggedness of the park, and known significance to Aboriginal people, other unrecorded sites are likely to exist.

Shared-history culture

A monument to over 300 people who lost their lives in the infamous 1899 Mahina Cyclone stands at the foot of Cape Melville. The pearling fleet anchored near Cape Melville and associated pearling settlements were completely destroyed by the cyclone's storm surge that passed almost five kilometres inland.

Much of the park was managed as Starcke Pastoral Holding from the early 1900s. Remnants of this pastoral

heritage, including old fence lines with joggled timber rails, remain today.

World War II plane wrecks are located in Bathurst Bay below Cape Melville. A plaque stands at Hummock Beach in memory of the Australian pilot who died trying to save his American ally from the Dakota United States of America air force C-47 plane wreck.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

Visits to Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) occur primarily during the holiday periods of Australia's eastern states, once the road is opened in the dry season. Most visitors are families or groups comprising of at least two vehicles and tend to camp for between five and 14 days.

The main recreational activities undertaken at Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) include four-wheel driving, fishing, crabbing, bush camping, boating and other low-key nature appreciation activities.

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is an iconic four-wheel drive destination within Australia. The very rough access conditions at Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) ensure opportunities for the very keen, self-sufficient and dedicated four-wheel drive enthusiasts and motorcyclists. In order to protect these values and retain an appropriate standard of access, track maintenance needs to be limited to ensuring no environmental harm, rather than ease of access.

Visitor impacts are evident in camping areas where visitors are removing trees for firewood, clearing vegetation to gain access to or create new campsites and reducing aesthetic and ecological values due to inappropriate human waste management. In some places campers have pushed through the coastal communities into the adjacent scrub. Inter-related impacts on endemic and conservation-significant species are unknown.

Rubbish is often left along the Cape Melville beach, and the Wakooka and Ninian Bay campsites. Increased staff effort and improved visitor education is reaping rewards as the amount of rubbish is gradually reducing.

Staff do not currently actively manage the access roads. Creek crossings are eroding and, in areas where vehicles are skirting washouts, bulldust is forming. This is especially evident north of Ninian Bay and in the Wakooka section. Signs advise tourists to stay on designated tracks due to the risk of dispersing weeds.

Education and science

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) protects numerous rare, restricted or biogeographically important species that are of educational and research interest.

A cattle exclusion fence is being constructed in the Wakooka Creek section. Once completed this site could be used for research into the recovery of natural systems following the removal of stock.

Partnerships

Park staff maintain working relationships with neighbouring Aboriginal Land Trusts, state and local government agencies, local catchment groups and other stakeholders to ensure the values of Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) are managed appropriately. Nearby Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) management units occasionally assist with park projects.

Where possible, fire and pest management activities are coordinated with park neighbours and combined compliance activities are undertaken with Marine Parks staff and GBRMPA.

Burning undertaken by the Wakooka Land Trust assists mustering efforts by drawing cattle to the park boundary, reduces fuel loads and protects property infrastructure. The resultant impact on the park's vegetation communities from these frequent fires is undetermined. It is important for QPWS staff to continue to establish and maintain working relationships with the neighbouring Land Trusts to cooperatively manage fire.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

Pest plants

A dense infestation of sicklepod *Senna obtusifolia* and grader grass *Themeda quadrivalvis* occurs along several kilometres of the Howick River. A buffer zone is being established along roads in this area to reduce further intrusion. Small infestations of sicklepod along the arterial road which joins the Howick River and Wakooka Creek are currently being suppressed. Active management is required to ensure satellite populations are contained.

An infestation of pond apple *Annona glabra* occurs in the mouth of the Jeannie River. Staff are yet to survey the extent of this infestation.

Grader grass extends out 50m from the road edge in the Howick River area, forming dense patches. Smaller patches of grader grass are found from the Howick River through Wakooka to Cape Melville, at Ninian Bay and the Ninian Bay turn-off. It is anticipated that grader grass will spread rapidly, cover vast areas and outcompete other species.

Hyptis suaveolens occurs from Wakooka Creek up the road to Bathurst Bay and small patches around Bathurst Bay. It is concentrated along creek lines and highly used visitor sites and, in places, is preventing the regeneration of native species in disturbed areas.

Caltrop *Tribulus terrestris*, Mossman River grass *Cenchrus echinatus* and snake weed *Stachytarpheta sp.* occur in camping and high use visitor areas. They are most evident along the beach at Cape Melville and Ninian Bay.

Pest animals

Pigs *Sus scrofa* and cattle *Bos sp.* occur in large numbers throughout the park, and are commonly observed during park patrols and aerial surveys. They are most active near lagoons and waterways. An annual pest management program is being undertaken to control pigs and cattle. Additionally, two springs on the park have been fenced to prevent access by cattle. Pigs continue to impact the spring in the Cape Bowen spring area.

Low numbers of feral horses *Equus callabus* occur around watercourses and lagoons. Their impact is minimal compared to impacts caused by pigs and cattle.

Fire management

Evidence of high intensity, late season fires with a scorch height greater than three metres exists within Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). In places, such as the range country, this has resulted in the death of mature trees and inappropriate thickening by regenerating wattles *Acacia spp.*

Remote management and accessibility are a challenge for fire operations. Annual aerial fuel reduction burns are now conducted to reduce the extent and severity of late season wildfires, lower fuel loads along roadsides and minimise the risk of visitor-induced wildfires.

A thorough draft Level 2 Fire Strategy exists for the park and should be utilised to guide future fire regimes until this strategy is finalised.

Other management issues

Unauthorised activities

Unauthorised activities undertaken in Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) include pig hunting with firearms and dogs, accessing the park prior to it being officially opened, camping in unauthorised areas and camping without permits. Staff plan to enhance compliance activity by undertaking some patrols with the Queensland Police Service in the future.

Unauthorised pig hunting and camping occurs throughout the park between the Jeannie River and Cape Melville. This is particularly the case in the southern sections of the park during the wet season before the park and access road officially opens.

Seeds of the foxtail palm *Wodyetia bifurcata* were illegally harvested before it became a common garden species. This species is now domestically common and no recent poaching incidents are known to have occurred.

Remote management

Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) is remotely managed from Cooktown which, depending on road conditions, is approximately four to five hours from the park.

QPWS staff need to visit Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) more regularly to adequately manage visitor activities and improve their knowledge and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values.

Visitor safety

The natural environment at Cape Melville National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) presents many safety hazards, including crocodiles, stingers and snakes. Warnings and information about these natural hazards are highlighted on information boards and signs within the park, and in pre-visit on the web.

Many people seek access to wild and remote areas, but some are not adequately prepared. Off-road vehicle recovery equipment is required, and visitors need to be self-reliant with water, cooking and toilet facilities.

References

Abrahams H Mulvaney M Glasco D. and Bugg A 1995, *An assessment of the Conservation and Natural Heritage Significance of Cape York Peninsula*. Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy, Office of the Co-ordinator General of Queensland, Brisbane, Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Canberra, and Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, Brisbane.

Garnett ST and Crowley G M 2000, *The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000*. Environment Australia, Canberra.

Garnett S T and Crowley G M 2002, *Recovery Plan for the golden-shouldered parrot *Psephotus chrysopterygius* 2003–2007*. Report to Environment Australia, Canberra. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
<p>Aboriginal culture</p> <p>Traditional Owners are involved in park management.</p>	<p>Establish and implement a formal joint management regime with Traditional Owners under the statutory framework provided by the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> and the <i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i> for the Cape York Peninsula Region.</p>
<p>Shared-history cultural</p> <p>Sites of cultural and historical significance are appropriately protected and presented.</p>	<p>In consultation with relevant Traditional Owner groups, develop guidelines for the protection and management of cultural materials on the park.</p> <p>Allow relics of pastoral history to deteriorate naturally, where they have no feasible management use or other significance.</p> <p>Continue to present stories, such as the Cyclone Mahina disaster, which depict the historical significance of the park.</p>
<p>Tourism and visitor opportunities</p> <p>The park's reputation as a remote and wild destination in Queensland is protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>Restrict track maintenance activity to ensure the park's iconic four-wheel drive, self-reliant status is maintained.</p> <p>Ensure that all written materials encourage visitors to take personal responsibility for their safety, emphasise the hazards and risks presented by the natural environment, and the level of preparation and self-sufficiency required to safely visit the park.</p> <p>In partnership with the Land Trust, undertake a review of the appropriateness of terrestrial commercial access once joint management arrangements have been established for the park.</p>
<p>Education and science</p> <p>Monitoring and research that benefit natural and cultural heritage management and decision making is supported.</p>	<p>Continue monitoring and recording of baseline natural resource data.</p> <p>Encourage and support where possible, research that improves management of the park and the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Ensure research activities are appropriate to the park's remote and natural setting and conform to management objectives.</p>
<p>Fire and pest management</p> <p>The natural biological diversity and integrity of native species and ecosystems is conserved.</p>	<p>Finalise the Level 2 Fire Strategy for the park.</p> <p>Minimise impacts from late season, large-scale and high intensity fires by implementing suitable fire regimes with relation to the frequency, intensity and timing of burns for natural communities and populations within the park.</p> <p>Focus vertebrate pest control activities on essential habitat areas such as lagoons, springs and waterways.</p> <p>Focus weed management around visitor sites such as campgrounds, and transport corridors; ensuring all new pest plant infestations are targeted in time to eradicate or contain them.</p> <p>Where possible, coordinate planned burns with neighbouring Aboriginal Land Trusts.</p>
<p>Management establishment</p> <p>Park use is appropriate.</p>	<p>Establish a roster to increase patrols and on ground management presence.</p> <p>Consider the re-establishment of a dedicated Ranger in Charge position for the park when opportunities in the Sub Regional establishment arise.</p>

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
3.3.57	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> ± <i>Mnesithea rottboellioides</i> closed tussock grassland on coastal plains	Endangered
3.1.2a	<i>Avicennia marina</i> ± <i>Ceriops tagal</i> low open forest landward side of mangroves	Of concern
3.1.4	<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> ± <i>Aegiceras corniculata</i> closed scrub. Upper tidal reaches of rivers	Of concern
3.10.14	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> ± <i>Acacia crassicaarpa</i> low woodland on sandstone plateaus	Of concern
3.10.5a	Deciduous notophyll/microphyll vine thicket ± <i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i> on sandstone hills	Of concern
3.10.7b	<i>Eucalyptus phoenicea</i> ± <i>Corymbia nesophila</i> woodland on wetter sandstone	Of concern
3.11.19 (a,b)	<i>Themeda triandra</i> tall grassland or <i>Asteromyrtus lysicephala</i> , <i>Neofabricia myrtifolia</i> , <i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i> dwarf open heathlands on headlands and islands	Of concern
3.11.2 (a,b)	Semi-deciduous mesophyll vine forest on metamorphic ranges in the south	Of concern
3.11.6c	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i> ± <i>E. leptophleba</i> ± <i>Corymbia nesophila</i> open forest to woodland on hill slopes	Of concern
3.12.1b	Semi-deciduous mesophyll/notophyll vine forest on granite slopes, in the central bioregion	Of concern
3.12.2	<i>Araucarian notophyll</i> vine forest with <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> on granitic ridges and mountains	Of concern
3.12.22	Deciduous vine thicket ± <i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> on granite boulders on Melville and Altanmoui Range	Of concern
3.12.24	<i>Corymbia stockeri</i> ± <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> low open forest on Melville Range and headlands	Of concern
3.12.25	<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> , <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> low open forest. Occurs on Altanmoui Range	Of concern
3.12.31	<i>Themeda triandra</i> tussock grassland on headlands and islands on acid volcanic rocks	Of concern
3.12.33a	Granite boulders covered with blue-green algae. Occurs on Black Mountain and Cape Melville	Of concern
3.12.34a	Rock pavements associated with mountains and river beds in Iron and Altanmoui Ranges	Of concern
3.12.5	Simple evergreen notophyll vine forest. Upper slopes of mountains and ranges in the south	Of concern
3.12.6	Simple evergreen notophyll vine forest ± <i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> on the Melville Range	Of concern
3.12.7	<i>Eucalyptus brassiana</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> open forest on Mcllwraith and Melville Ranges	Of concern
3.2.10 (a,b)	<i>Eucalyptus tetradonta</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> ± <i>E. brassiana</i> or <i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i> woodland on stabilised dunes	Of concern
3.2.13	Evergreen notophyll vine forest on beach ridges on the east coast	Of concern
3.2.14	<i>Melaleuca arcana</i> low open forest. Associated with dune swamps	Of concern
3.2.16	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> ± <i>Terminalia muelleri</i> low woodland on old beach ridges	Of concern
3.2.1 (a,b)	Evergreen notophyll vine forest in coastal dunefield systems	Of concern
3.2.22	<i>Acacia humifusa</i> ± <i>Lithomyrtus obtusa</i> dwarf open heath on dunes and headland	Of concern
3.2.25	Sparse herbland of mixed herbaceous species on foredunes and beach ridges	Of concern
3.2.27a	Ephemeral and perennial lakes in coastal dunefields	Of concern
3.2.3	<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> ± <i>Acacia crassicaarpa</i> open forest. Occurs in dune swales on the west coast	Of concern
3.2.4 (a,b)	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> ± <i>M. dealbata</i> open forest. In dune swales, and swampy areas	Of concern
3.3.12	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> open forest. Associated with scattered coastal swamps	Of concern
3.3.13	<i>Melaleuca saligna</i> ± <i>Hakea pedunculata</i> open forest. Occurs on edges of salt pans	Of concern
3.3.15	<i>Eucalyptus brassiana</i> woodland. Occurs around Bathurst Head on alluvial plains	Of concern

3.3.51	<i>Melaleuca acacioides</i> ± <i>Hakea pedunculata</i> tall shrubland on marine plains	Of concern
3.3.6	Evergreen notophyll vine forest with <i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> on swamps	Of concern
3.3.67	<i>Melaleuca arcana</i> low open forest in swamps	Of concern
3.5.17b	<i>Melaleuca stenostachya</i> ± <i>M. viridiflora</i> low open woodland on flat plains	Of concern
3.5.21	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> ± <i>C. tessellaris</i> open forest on coastal ranges and lowlands	Of concern
3.5.30	<i>Themeda arguens</i> , <i>Dichanthium sericeum</i> closed tussock grassland on low undulating rises	Of concern
3.7.2	<i>Acacia shirleyi</i> open forest. Occurs on lateritic knolls in the south	Of concern

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> status	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> status	Back on Track status
Plants				
<i>Astonia australiensis</i>	-	Endangered	-	Medium
<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	Cooktown orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High
<i>Dendrobium johannis</i>	brown antelope orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Vanda hindsii</i>	Cape York vanda	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	foxtail palm	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Rhaphidospora cavernarum</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Stylidium longissimum</i>	-	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Centotheca philippinensis</i>	creek grass	Near threatened	Vulnerable	Low
<i>Acacia albizioides</i>	climbing wattle	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Acacia armitii</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Acacia fleckeri</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Acmenosperma pringlei</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Albizia retusa</i>	-	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Albizia retusa subsp. retusa</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Argophyllum verae</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Caesalpinia hymenocarpa</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Cucumis costatus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Dianella incollata</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Goodenia heteroptera</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Data Deficient
<i>Gossia lucida</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Graptophyllum excelsum</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Homoranthus tropicus</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	-	Near threatened	-	-
<i>Melaleuca flavovirens</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Operculina brownii</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Paspalidium scabrifolium</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Remusatia vivipara</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	Malay apple	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatius</i>	bare-rumped sheath-tail bat	Endangered	Critically endangered	High
<i>Psephotus chrysopterygius</i>	golden-shouldered parrot	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	red goshawk	Endangered	Vulnerable	High
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	Endangered	-	High
<i>Thalassarche chrystostoma</i>	grey-headed albatross	Vulnerable	Endangered	Medium
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	green turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical

<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	hawksbill turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Critical
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	eastern long-eared bat	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Medium
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Taphozous australis</i>	coastal sheath-tail bat	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Cophixalus zweifeli</i>	Cape Melville boulderfrog	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	estuarine crocodile	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Litoria andiirrmalin</i>	Melville Range treefrog	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	red-tailed tropicbird	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Cryptoblepharus fuhni</i>	Fuhn's snake-eyed skink	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	black-necked stork	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	blue-faced parrot-finch	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	sooty oystercatcher	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hipposideros diadema reginae</i>	diadem leaf-nosed bat	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	square-tailed kite	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	black-chinned honeyeater	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Morelia viridis</i>	green python	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	cotton pygmy-goose	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Ninox rufa meesi</i>	rufous owl (Cape York subspecies)	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>	palm cockatoo	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Tadorna radjah</i>	radjah shelduck	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	CMS	JAMBA	CAMBA	ROKAMBA
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	grey plover	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	little tern	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	✓	✓	✓	✓

BONN (CMS) – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement