

Maalan National Park

Management Statement

2013



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science and Innovation**

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The Maalan National Park 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:	2,473ha
Bioregion:	Wet Tropics
QPWS region:	Northern
Local government estate/area:	Tablelands Regional
State electorate:	Dalrymple

Legislative framework

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

Plans and agreements

✓	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
✓	Recovery plan for the stream-dwelling rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics biogeography region of north-east Queensland 2000–2004
✓	Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement 2005

Thematic strategies

✓	Level 2 Fire Management Strategy
✓	Level 2 Pest Management Strategy
✓	QPWS Wet Tropics Pest Strategy 2010

Vision

Maalan National Park continues to maintain and enhance the natural values and to protect significant animal and plant communities on a large reserve within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Conservation purpose

Previously known as Dirran State Forest, Maalan National Park was gazetted in 2005.

Management focuses on species and habitat protection primarily by pest management programs and encouraging habitat corridor development by linking the park to adjacent protected areas.

Management of Maalan National Park encourages recovery of its ecological values.

Protecting and presenting the park's values

Landscape

Maalan National Park is located between Ravenshoe and Millaa Millaa on the Evelyn Tablelands in north Queensland and is entirely within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Mount Fisher Forest Reserve adjoins Maalan National Park and is included in this management statement.

Mount Fisher in the heart of Maalan National Park is the most elevated volcano in northern Australia and the third highest peak in Queensland. The sides of this mountain have a large number of waterfalls. Landslides and slips are common when heavy rains follow dry spells.

The park contributes to the vista of rainforest covered mountains within cleared farm lands as it is mainly viewed from vantage points on the Palmerston Highway or from the Millaa Millaa lookout on McHugh Road. The scenic route from Millaa Millaa to Ravenshoe passes through the national park.

Regional ecosystems

All of the regional ecosystems recorded for the park are dependent on regular rainfall and restricted to upland areas.

There are five mapped regional ecosystems in Maalan National Park. Those considered to be of significance are listed in Table 1.

Native plants and animals

Four plant and 19 animal species of conservation significance are known from Maalan National Park (Table 2). Bird species of international significance are listed in Table 3.

The endangered spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies) *Dasyurus maculatus gracilis*, greater large-eared horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus philippinensis* and the vulnerable tube-nosed insectivorous bat *Murina florium* are found in this endangered simple to complex notophyll vine forest of cloudy wet highlands on basalt.

Aboriginal culture

The Jirrbal people have registered a native title claim application (QC04/004) over part of this protected area.

Shared-history culture

This area was surveyed for agricultural purposes at the turn of the century when it was recognised as extremely productive area for dairying. However, agricultural subdivision lots failed in the area because it was deemed to be too steep. The last of the Maalan settlement blocks on the adjacent SF1245 were forfeited in the 1950s.

The 'Beachview' residence, at the eastern end of the old Beatrice Track, is where the world famous chiropractor Ernst Kjellberg held his clinic. The facility was developed from the 1930s and at its peak in the 1950s had nearly 500 staff and patients. He also offered a tourist opportunity to view the impressive terraces built at 'Beachview' at this time, before it closed in 1955.

In the 1900s a black walnut tree *Endiandra globosa* cut in the then State forest and processed at the Millaa Millaa sawmills was used as a primary veneer in the British House of Parliament. Maple was used for aeroplane propellers as well as the Speaker's Chair in the Lower House of Commons in London. During World War II considerable quantities of timber were sent by rail to Stratford near Cairns to make landing barges. Large quantities of plywood were produced for prefabricated sheds, and pepperwood ply was used to make the light Mosquito bombers.

Military camps were established in the rainforest of the Millaa Millaa area for the purpose of training troops in jungle warfare and to provide rest and recreation to those returning from the front line.

Tourism and visitor opportunities

The Beatrice Track was once an old logging road. It is now overgrown, but proposed as the Mount Fisher walking track under the Wet Tropics Management Authority Walking Strategy. This would provide the opportunity to view tree kangaroos and tree ferns *Cyathea celebica* which occur only in rainforests at higher altitudes.

The beginning of the walk is opposite the site of 'Beachview' and provides an opportunity to view the impressive terraces built at this site.

Education and science

The park's significant forests with elevation, basalt soils and moisture provide high educational and scientific potential.

Partnerships

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is 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. Traditional Owners are involved in cooperative park management.

Other key issues and responses

Pest management

The pest plant species of greatest concern on Maalan National Park is lantana *Lantana camara*, a declared Class 3 plant and Weed of National Significance. Management strategies are in place to manage this pest plant. Other pest plants include wild tobacco *Solanum mauritianum* and gooseberry *Physalis* spp.

Feral cats *Felis catus*, pigs *Sus scrofa*, rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, wild dogs *Canis familiaris*, common myna birds *Sturnus tristis* and cane toads *Rhinella marina* are present on the park.

Maalan National Park is included in the Wet Tropics Pest Strategy and in the Tablelands Pest Strategy.

Management directions

Desired outcomes	Actions and guidelines
Aboriginal culture Traditional Owners are engaged in cooperative park management.	Support the involvement of the Traditional Owners in park management.

Tables – Conservation values management

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.8.4	Simple to complex notophyll vine forest of cloudy wet highlands on basalt	Endangered
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
7.12.48	Wind-sheared notophyll vine forest of exposed granite and rhyolite ridge-crests and steep slopes	Of concern
7.12.50	Simple microphyll vine-fern forest on granite and rhyolite, of wet highlands	Of concern

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>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	grey goshawk	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	Australian swiftlet	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Casuarius casuarius johnsonii</i> (southern population)	southern cassowary (southern population)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	Macleay's fig-parrot	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Dasyurus maculatus gracilis</i>	spotted-tailed quoll (northern subspecies)	Endangered	Endangered	Critical
<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	blue-faced parrot-finch	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hemibelideus lemuroides</i>	lemuroid ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	diadem leafnosed bat	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	golden tipped bat	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Lampropholis robertsi</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Litoria serrata</i>	tapping green eyed frog	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Murina florium</i>	tube-nosed insectivorous bat	Vulnerable	-	High
<i>Ninox rufa queenslandica</i>	rufous owl (southern subspecies)	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>	green ringtail possum	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i>	Herbert River ringtail Possum	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	spectacled flying-fox	Least concern	Vulnerable	High
<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>	greater large-eared horseshoe bat	Endangered	Endangered	High
<i>Taudactylus acutirostris</i>	sharp snouted dayfrog	Endangered	Extinct	Low
Plants				
<i>Cyathea celebica</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Medium
<i>Diploglottis pedleyi</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Endiandra dichrophylla</i>	coach walnut	Near threatened	-	Low
<i>Helicia lamingtoniana</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low

Table 3: Species listed in international agreements

Scientific name	Common name	BONN	JAMBA	ROKAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	cicadabird	-	✓	-	-
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	white-bellied sea-eagle	-	-	-	✓
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	rainbow bee-eater	-	✓	-	-
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	black-faced monarch	✓	-	-	-

BONN – Bonn Convention

CAMBA – China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

JAMBA – Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

ROKAMBA – Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement