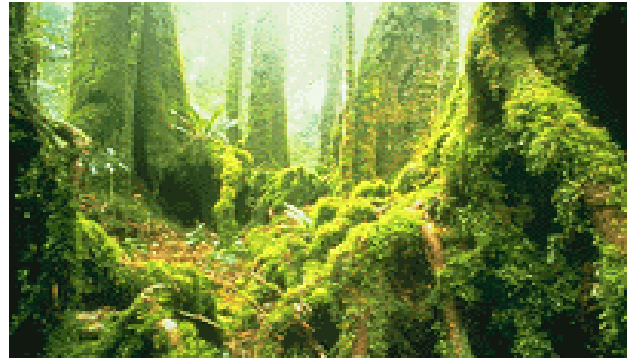


AUSTRALIA

Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA)



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1986, 1994

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Environment Australia
New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
Australia

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N i, ii, iv

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
The area includes one of the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest, and nearly all of the Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest. It contains the most ancient type of vegetation in Australia, and provides an interesting living link with the evolutionary record of the continent.
There is a concentration of primitive plant families which are directly related to the birth and spread of flowering plants over 100 million years ago. The changing forest mosaic represents an ongoing process that has been occurring for millions of years, and provides a habitat for more than 200 rare or threatened plant and animal species.

“Major tenure changes in the surrounding landscape have enhanced the protection of the site.”

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.
- The area was inscribed on the WH List in 1994 with an extension to the original area listed in 1986.
- CERRA comprises nearly 50 reserves. The boundaries of some of the reserves have been extended.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- WH value is considered to have been maintained.
- Major tenure changes in the surrounding landscape have enhanced the protection of the site.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- At the state level, the national parks are administered by the Queensland and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (part of the Environment Protection Agency).
- The respective NPWS authorities administer the National Parks & Wildlife Act (1974, amended in 2001), and the Wilderness Act (1987).
- Other relevant laws include the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999); Nature Conservation Act (1992); Rural Lands Protection Act (1985); and Forestry Act (1959).
 - 0.4 % of the CERRA land is administered by trustees under the Provisions of Land Act (1994).
- A strategic overview for the management of CERRA was prepared in November 2000.

Present State of Conservation

- The main conservation issues include: (i) uncontrolled or inappropriate use of fire; (ii) inappropriate recreation & tourism activities; (iii) invasion by pest species; and (iv) loss of biodiversity.

Staffing and Training Needs

- Staff are employed under the NSW Public Sector Employment & Management Act (2002), and the Queensland Public Service Act (1996).
- Staff and training needs have not been identified.

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Map of the Central Eastern Rainforests Reserves of Australia showing WH Area (in green)

Financial Situation

- Funds are provided by both State and Commonwealth agencies.
- Funding is considered inadequate to address certain issues like weed and pest control, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and systematic monitoring.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT

- IT arrangements are considered adequate.

Visitor Management

- Queensland and NSW receive approx. 1.4 million and 0.6 million visitors per year respectively.
- Inappropriate recreation activities persist, and there is a need to further develop tourism infrastructure.
- The NSW authorities are introducing a 'Visitor Data System' (VDS).

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Incompatible land use on adjoining properties,
- Global/human-induced climate change,
- Properties adjoining CERRA are under pressure for residential and tourist development,
- Diversity in local government zoning policies creates a potential for inconsistent planning,
- Urbanization and increasing population.

Counteractive Plans

- Issues are being addressed through funding and management priorities.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- The site Technical & Scientific Advisory Committee has identified a research and monitoring strategy.
- Monitoring objectives in the CERRA Strategic Overview include: (i) to review and update WH value in each reserve as necessary; (ii) baseline studies; (iii) regular reporting; and (iv) to undertake and support research into patterns of visitor use and its impacts.

Monitoring Indicators

- Each year approx. 200-300 scientific and technical studies are undertaken with a number of new discoveries taking place.
- Each of the relevant park agencies report on various indices such as vegetation mapping; visitation indicators; bush campsites; species-specific and flora/fauna communities projects.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The WH value of the property is well maintained.
- Changes in tenure, particularly of adjacent properties, have enhanced the protection of WH areas.
- There is need for appropriate management tools and enforcement capability to manage key threatening processes.
- Ongoing, co-ordinated monitoring and research efforts are of high importance.
- To implement the Strategic Overview involving both the Community and Technical & Scientific Advisory Committees.
- To continue consultation and involvement of indigenous people to enhance & protect cultural value.

* State of Conservation Reports

2000 Bureau WHC-CONF.202/5 IUCN informed WHC that the company Naturelink had plans for a 22km cableway capable of carrying 900 people per hour from Mudgeeraba to the famous 'Purlingbrook Falls' through 3km of primary wet sclerophyll forest. Conservationists expressed concerns that the decision was driven by commercial considerations and that the cableway would be clearly visible & acoustically obvious from several "wilderness" lookouts as it cuts across the WH area. IUCN believed that the cableway represented an important threat to the integrity of the WH property. The Bureau invited the State Party to consider the issues raised by IUCN and provide an up-to-date report on the proposed project.

2000 Committee WHC-CONF.204/10 A draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Naturelink Cableway project was released in June 2000 for public comments, and an assessment report on the EIS was to be submitted to the Queensland Co-ordinator General to take a final decision. IUCN drew attention to a similar proposal at Morne Trois Piton National Park where Dominica decided to relocate a cable car outside the WH property. The Committee invited the State Party to submit to WHC an up-date on the findings of the EIS and any decisions made regarding the project proposal.