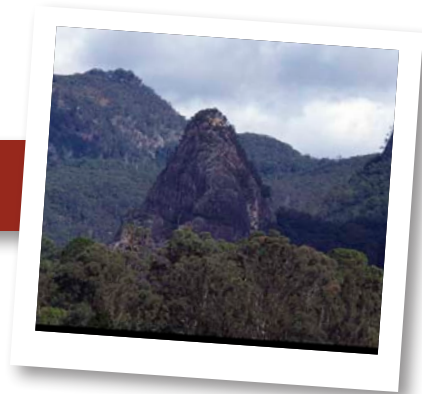


AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

GONDWANA RAINFORESTS OF AUSTRALIA INFORMATION SHEET



Quick Facts

- The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia are made up of more than 40 separate rainforest reserves in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland.
- Millions of years ago when it was connected with other continents (including India, Antarctica and South America), Australia was covered with rainforest that made up the supercontinent called Gondwana.
- The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia contain important fragments of these once great rainforests
- Each of Australia's 17 World Heritage Places are also on Australia's National Heritage List.

Why are the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia of World Heritage value?

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 for their natural values.

- **It helps us understand the major steps in how the earth's vegetation has developed over time**
The Gondwana Rainforests' flora contains outstanding examples representing at least three major stages in the Earth's evolutionary history: the era of ferns, the era of conifers and the era of flowering plants.
- **It helps us understand how the earth and living things continue to develop over time**
The Gondwana Rainforests' spectacular landforms are outstanding examples of ongoing geological processes. Australia is unique in the world in having rainforests that are living models of fossil vegetation, providing an unparalleled opportunity to study the ongoing evolution of plant communities as distinct from plant species.
- **It is an important place for endangered species**
The Gondwana Rainforests contain some of the most important habitats for the conservation of biological diversity in the world. In particular, it provides habitat for many threatened species, with more than 200 rare and threatened species of plants and animals recorded in these reserves.

Challenges and Management

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia are managed by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (a division of the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (part of the Department of Environment and Resource Management).

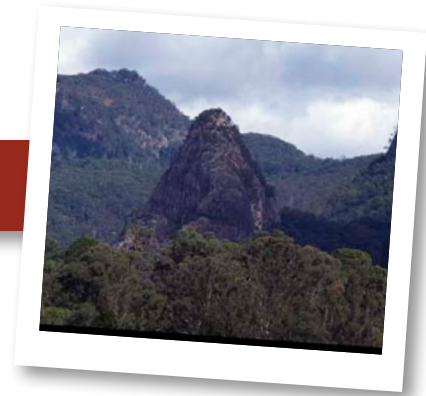


Australian Government
**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**



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Challenges	Management
Tourism	Up to 2 million tourists visit the area each year. Even simple activities like bushwalking can lead to vegetation damage and soil erosion at campsites and along tracks, especially in steep or wet areas. Tourists are informed how to enjoy the area in an environmentally responsible way and tour operators are encouraged to take training courses and follow a code of conduct.
Introduced plant species	Most reserves are affected by weeds. Weeds of major concern are mistflower, lantana, camphor laurel and Madeira vine. Biological control options are being investigated but weeding is currently the only option for control.
Introduced animals	Pest animals include pigs, foxes, cats, goats and wild dogs. Some of these have the potential to become major threats in the future and both weeds and pest animals can move and spread. Where possible, efforts are coordinated between local government and neighbours to maximise pest management.
Climate change	Climate change will impact on relic species in restricted habitats at higher altitudes, where particular microclimatic conditions have enabled these species to survive. Management responses are aimed at improving the resilience of the property through addressing other threats, including those posed by inappropriate fire regimes and invasion by pest species, and by increasing the connectivity between rainforest areas and other native vegetation in the landscape.

Read more

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/gondwana/index.html



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