



Partnerships to protect and conserve the

World Heritage values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia



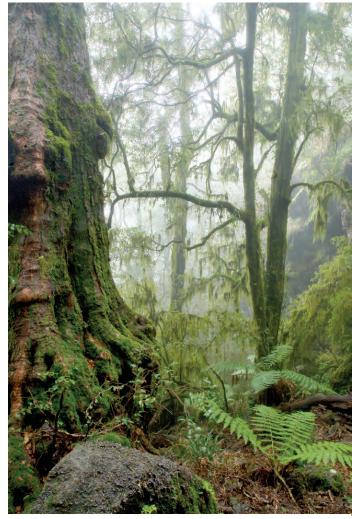
Photo: Justin Mallee, NPWS

Presentation outline

- **1. What** is World Heritage?
- **2. Where** is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia?
- **3.** Why is it World Heritage?
- **4. Partnerships** to deliver management?
- **5. When** are there opportunities examples







Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest, New England National Park Photo: Shane Ruming, DPIE

What is World Heritage?





Places on earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity

Initiated due to concern for the protection of heritage

World Heritage Convention

- International agreement to cooperate in the protection of heritage adopted in 1972
- Australia was one of the first countries to sign in 1974

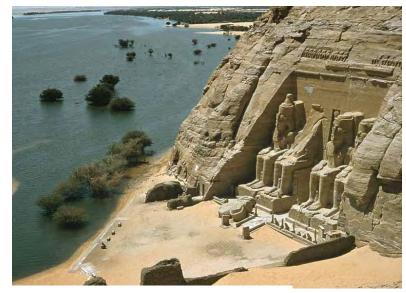
World Heritage Committee

- Countries take it in turns to be on the committee
- Operational guidelines guide the work
- Decisions include inscriptions and state of conservation

Outstanding Universal Value – comparative

- World Heritage criteria (10 must meet threshold for at least one)
- Integrity and authenticity
- Protection and management requirements



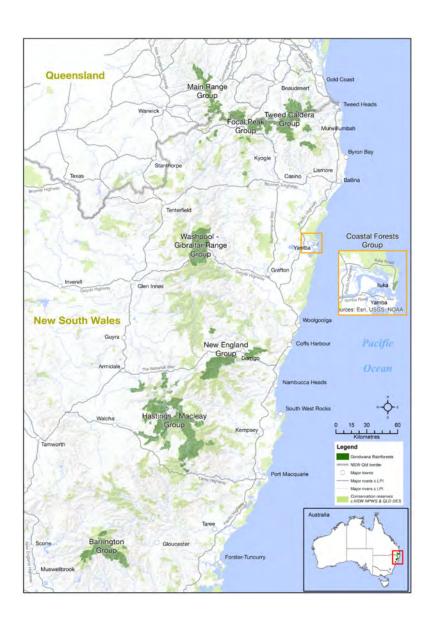


Abu Simbel temple, Egypt

Where is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia?







- A series of reserves in southeast Qld and northeast NSW
- Eight groups
- 366,502 hectares
- 40 parcels/reserves/parts of reserves
- Includes parts of 28 national parks and nature reserves in NSW

Why is it World Heritage?





Community concern and collaboration

1982 Rainforest decision - NSW

1983 NSW election commitment

2002 Queensland commitment



Terania Creek Protests

Photo: David Kemp

Len Webb talking with protestors Photo: David Kemp

Wran visit to Macleay Gorges c1985





Gondwanan Rainforests

Rainforests across the continent when it split from Gondwana

Increasing aridity and poorer soils

Evolution of drier vegetation types

Rainforests contract to areas of moisture and protection from fire

Series of volcanoes - mountaintops, rich soils

... remnant rainforests persisting in refuges





Superb Lyrebird Photo: NPWS



World Heritage criteria





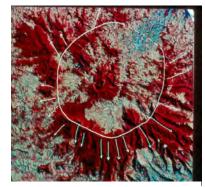
Criteria viii ... major stages of earth's history including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic and physiographic features

Criterion ix ... outstanding examples representing significant ecological and biological processes in **evolution and development of ... ecosystems and communities** of plants and animals

Criterion x ... containing the **most important and significant habitats for in-situ conservatio**n of biological diversity including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation



Nightcap Oak Photo: Justin Mallee



Tweed Caldera Image: Landsat

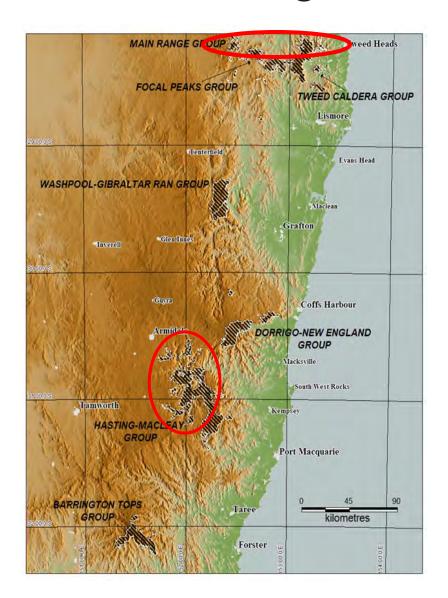


Assa darlingtonia Photo: Stephen Mahony

World Heritage inscription







1986 Australian East Coast Temperate and Subtropical Rainforest Parks

1994 Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia

extension including Qld reserves

2007 Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

- name change

World Heritage and partnerships





Matter of National Environmental Significance under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999

Australian World Heritage management principles (Schedule 5 of the EPBC regs)

Grants from the Commonwealth with requirements for collaborative partnerships – examples

- World Heritage Grants
- Australian Heritage Grants
- First Nations Grants
- Regional Land Partnerships
- Bushfire recovery grants



Goorgana Walking track, Nightcap National Park, Kerrie Metzler, DPE

Partnerships - World Heritage reporting





Periodic reporting - Routine 7 years, last report 2021

State of Conservation reporting

IUCN Outlook reporting

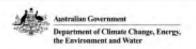
- independent assessor, next due in 2025











State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia)

Property ID 368bis In response to the World Heritage Committee decision 44 COM 7B.89 1 December 2022



Photo: Andrew Marshall NPWS

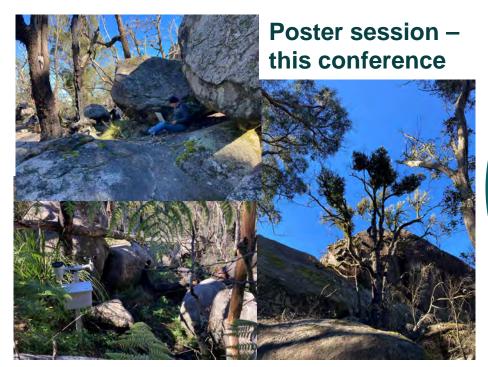
Partnerships - Antarctic beech monitoring





Citizen science projects

Cathedral Rocks National Park – post fire recovery Dr Colin Bale and other volunteers





Werrikimbe National Park – long-term monitoring Dr Ross Peacock and numerous volunteers



Photos: Dr Ross Peacock

Cathedral Rock National; Park – post-fire rainforest monitoring project Photos: Trish Waters

Partnerships - Climate change adaptation





Assisted migration project - Justin Mallee presentation this conference

Assisted colonisation of Ancient Rainforests trees (Small-leaved Tamarind and Crystal Creek Walnut)

Partners: NPWS, ADCCEEW, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research Centre

Funding: NSW Environmental Trust Grant

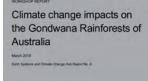
NPWS refugia mapping

- Nightcap NP fine-scale mapping to identify refugia and manage threats
 Commonwealth Bushfire recovery grants (Matt Wiseman, NPWS)
- Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (Commonwealth Australian Heritage Grant)
- Northern Forests of the Great Divide Ecohealth node (Melbourne University)













Partnerships - Mountain frog working group

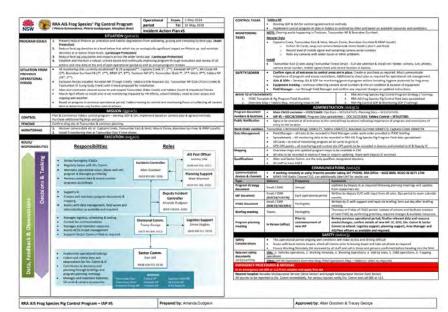




NPWS, QPWS, Qld DESI, NSW DEH, Southern Cross University



[David Newell's presentation – this conference]





Philoria knowlesi Photo: Stephen Mahony

Partnerships with Aboriginal peoples





NPWS joint management arrangements, consultation and partnerships that include parts of the Gondwana Rainforests

3 x Indigenous Land Use agreements (ILUAS)

2 x Memoranda of Understanding

18 x Local Aboriginal Land Councils

First Nations Grant:

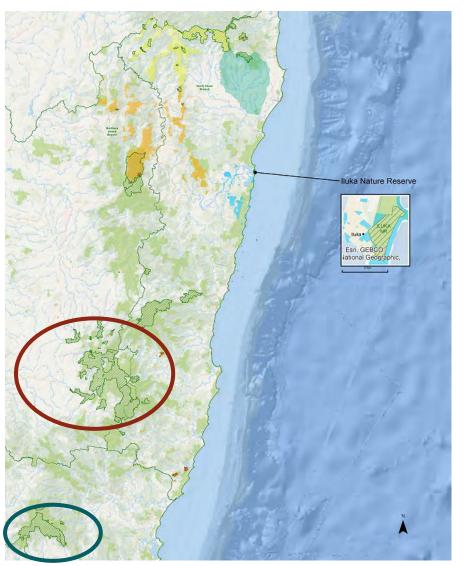
Hastings Macleay group

Grow, Harvest, Heal: How new conservation programs harness ancient wisdom | AdaptNSW

Barrington Tops



Bulgarr-Gulga Watuun orchid







In summary

- World Heritage is about cooperation to keep what we value
- Multi-disciplinary teams and cooperative partnerships are invaluable
- Passionate people create partnerships
- It's our World Heritage and everyone here is contributing

For more information:

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia | NSW National Parks

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