

Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project



Helping to Save the
Endangered Southern Cassowary

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Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and internationally since 1998 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our projects re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity.

Our mission is to inspire, engage and build community for the protection, preservation and restoration of rainforests through fundraising and education.

Rainforest Rescue is an Australian registered not-for-profit organisation with deductible gift recipient status (US 501 (c) 3 equivalent status).

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Introduction

Through our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project, Rainforest Rescue identifies and purchases precious rainforest at risk of development and establishes Nature Refuge status which protects it forever under covenants ratified by the Queensland Parliament in Australia.

The Daintree Rainforest is of international conservation importance as one of the most significant regional ecosystems in the world.

Rainforest Rescue prioritises the purchase and protection of the most important properties – those that protect threatened species – and creates wildlife corridors for wildlife where none exist. This often involves purchasing properties adjacent to the Daintree National Park or State Reserves effectively extending their boundaries.



Many people assumed the creation of the Daintree National Park and subsequent World Heritage Listing in 1988 would secure the unique environment of the Daintree. At the same time, the State Government of the day approved a large rural residential subdivision in the heart of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

The developer divided the larger properties into smaller lots and sold them as freehold properties. Some purchasers intend to one day build on the property or may have secured property as a future investment.

A Threat to Global Diversity



The rare Idiospermum is one of the most private plants known to scientists

The Daintree Rainforest is the world's oldest rainforest having been in existence continuously for over 135 million years.

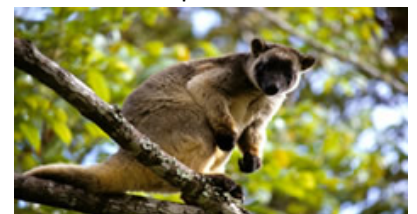
Located in Far North Queensland Australia, the Daintree Rainforest has one of the greatest concentrations of primitive flowering plants in the world. The forest is home to 12 of the world's 19 primitive plant families, said to be more than the entire Amazon jungle. The *Idiospermum*, which is found in the Daintree Rainforest, is one of the rarest and most primitive flowering plants known and scientists believe, is a vital link for the search

into the origins of flowering plants.

Over 100 threatened species rely on the Daintree Rainforest for survival, which is critical habitat for the Endangered Cassowary, the primitive Musky Rat-Kangaroo, the rare Bennett's Tree Kangaroo, the Endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, and the Endangered Blue Tassel Fern.

Only 1,000 Southern Cassowaries remain in all of Australia and now face the threat of extinction through rural residential and commercial development in the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest.

The rare Bennett's Tree-Kangaroo is in need of a continuous tree canopy for survival and only lives in the rainforests of Far North Queensland. This nocturnal marsupial is rarely seen and is found on our seventh and eighth Daintree properties.



The rare Bennett's Tree-Kangaroo is only found in the rainforests of Far North Queensland Australia



It is estimated that only 1,000 Southern Cassowaries remain in the wild in Australia

Conservation Value of the Daintree



The area known as the Daintree is a narrow, 23km strip of tropical coastal lowland rainforest between the mountains of the Great Dividing Range, the Daintree River Estuary and Cape Tribulation in Far North Queensland Australia. It is located two hour's drive north of the city of Cairns.

In many parts of this narrow strip the hilly slopes of the Great Dividing Range fall quite steeply into the Coral Sea leaving only about 70 square kilometres of lowland including mangroves.

Approximately half of the rainforest in these lowlands has been cleared and much of the rainforest that remains has been selectively logged. The remaining rainforest is of very limited extent and, as explained below, very precious.

Widely acknowledged by scientists as the oldest tropical rainforest in the world (over 135 million years old) the Daintree Lowland Rainforest is of exceptionally high biodiversity and conservation value. The Daintree Rainforest contains an almost complete record of the evolution of plant life on Earth, and has more ancient families of flowering plants than anywhere else in the world, including the entire Amazon jungle.

The Daintree Rainforest is home to an amazing variety of plants and animals including many rare and endangered species. Many species are 'endemic' to the region meaning that are found nowhere else on the planet.

As the Daintree Rainforest is the oldest rainforest in the world it has exceptionally high levels of endemism. At least 66 animal species and more than 700 plant species are only found in the Daintree Rainforest.

The Daintree Rainforest is also home to:

- 30% of Australia's marsupial species
- 20% of Australia's reptile species
- 29% of Australia's frog species
- 58% of Australia's Bat & Butterfly species
- 65% of Australia's Fern species



The Daintree Lowlands Rainforest contains over 122 rare and threatened plant and animal species



Among the Daintree Lowland's huge diversity of plant and animals are at least 122 endangered, vulnerable or rare species, many of which are endemic to the Daintree Lowlands.

Endangered plant species include the Blue Tassel Fern, Russell River Lime and Copper's Creek Walnut. Endangered animal species include the rare Bennett's Tree-kangaroo, the Spotted-Tail Quoll and the Southern Cassowary.

Summary of Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare and presumed Extinct Plants and Animals found in the Daintree Lowlands Area (Status allocated by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*)

Category	Presumed Extinct*	Endangered (E)	Vulnerable (V)	Rare (R)	Regionally Significant	Total E, V, R
Ferns	0	4	2	4	Unknown	10
Flowering	3	10	11	58	Unknown	79
Mammals	0	3	2	3	8	8
Birds	0	2	3	4	9	9
Reptiles	0	0	1	4	5	5
Frogs	0	7	0	3	10	10
Fish	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butterflies	0	0	1	0	1	1
Total:	3*	26	20	76	33+	122

- Data on plants is extracted from a checklist of Daintree Lowland Plants compiled and provided by Bob Jago, well-known local authority on plants of the Wet Tropics. Data extracted and sorted by Rainforest Rescue. Lowlands is taken in this instance (for plants at least) as less than 100m above sea level.

Threats to the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has identified a number of direct and indirect threats to the biodiversity and conservation values of the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest. These include:

Rural residential development: Clearing of the rainforest for residential development remains the greatest threat to the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest leading to fragmentation, displacement of wildlife and susceptibility to invasive weeds all which threaten the biodiversity values which makes the Daintree Rainforest so unique.

Fragmentation: Habitat fragmentation caused by rural residential development and clearing for farming makes it difficult for plants and animals to move from one rainforest patch to another. It can also limit breeding populations and make species more vulnerable to extinction, particularly in small, isolated pockets.

Climate Change: Climate change is becoming a major concern to the biodiversity of the Daintree Rainforest. Global warming could decrease the habitat of many endemic vertebrate species which live in the cooler upland and montane rainforests, leaving only isolated pockets of rainforest for them to live in. It is predicted that seven frog species, five mammal species, three bird species and three skink species would lose over half their present habitat with only a 1°C temperature increase.

Weeds: Clearing of rainforest habitat for residential development has lead to an alarming increase in the number of known weed species in the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest, with over 500 species identified over the past 50 years. Weeds disrupt ecosystems, compete with and replace native plants, reduce food and shelter for native species, change fire regimes and create soil erosion.

Feral animals: Feral animals impact on the values of the Daintree Rainforest through predation on native species, competition for food and habitat, degradation of habitat, soil erosion, disease and weed transmission, and changes in fire regimes.



Clearing of the rainforest remains the number one threat to the Daintree



Fragmented pockets of rainforest habitat patchwork the landscape



Lantana is a particularly invasive weed commonly sighted in the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest



Development of the Daintree

A Brief History

Visitors to the Daintree Rainforest are often surprised to find that area of the Daintree Lowlands have been cleared for rural housing developed and farming.

In 1983 the Douglas Shire Council pushed ahead with a controversial plan to construct a permanent 4WD road from Cairns to Cooktown which was supported by the Bjelke-Peterson State Government. The publicity generated by the 1983-84 community blockade provided a turning point in the campaign to protect Queensland's tropical rainforests.

In 1988, the Hawke Federal Government listed the Wet Tropics Rainforests as a World Heritage Area. Due to its constitutional powers relating to international agreements, the Federal Government was able to overrule the Queensland State Government.

While the World Heritage Area included the majority of the Daintree Rainforest uplands, it excluded most of the hill faces and coastal lowlands, which were mainly privately owned. Ten years prior to the World Heritage listing, large sections of the lowland rainforest were subdivided for residential development by a Cairns property developer.

Originally there were 1,100 subdivided blocks of land on the Daintree Coast. Many were not been built on because there is no bridge over the Daintree River (access is by ferry) and no mains electricity. However, developers have left a legacy of freehold properties in the heart of the Daintree lowlands surrounded by the National Park and World Heritage Area and these properties are now being steadily developed.

Various attempts by governments have failed to solve the problems created by the residential subdivision. In 1994 the Australian and State Governments funded the \$23 million Daintree Rescue Program to be implemented over four years. This was successful in purchasing a number of significant blocks of land for inclusion in the Daintree National Park, as well as developing eco-tourism infrastructure. However large amounts of critical conservation land was still not protected.

Prior to the 2004 election the Australian Government committed \$5m to the Daintree; however, this was largely diverted to landholder education rather than the much-needed buy back.

In June 2004 the Douglas Shire Council implemented a 12-month moratorium on approval for development in the Daintree while it prepared a Douglas Shire Draft Planning Scheme for the area. Fortunately the Queensland State Government (again immediately prior to the 2005 State election) also committed \$5m and following adoption of the Douglas Shire Council Planning Scheme in 2006 committed another \$5m.

The Douglas Shire Council Planning Scheme protects 350 properties north of the Alexander Range, which have been acquired with Queensland Government funds. The Planning Scheme also created "Rainforest Residential and Rainforest Tourism Precincts" where development is allowed and will be concentrated. Properties with building permits obtained before the adoption of the Planning Scheme also retained these rights. Therefore development can still proceed north of the Alexander Range including properties at Cow Bay, Diwan and Cape Tribulation.

Land south of the Alexander Range remains unprotected by the Planning Scheme and development proceeds unchecked. There are currently 180 properties with development rights in this area.



Cleared Daintree Lowlands Rainforest



180 properties in the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest still remain unprotected and at risk of development

Rainforest Rescue – Protecting the Daintree Forever

By purchasing properties that would otherwise be developed, the Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project helps reduce the amount of fragmentation of the Daintree Rainforest and increases the amount of habitat for native species. Over 180 properties are still undeveloped, maintain their development rights or are not targeted by any government buy back scheme. These properties have significant biodiversity and conservation value. The mission of Rainforest Rescue is to raise the necessary funds to buy back and protect forever as many as possible of those properties having high conservation value.

To date 15 properties have been purchased and protected, nine of which are already protected by law as nature refuges.

Property 15 – settlement due January 2012	
Property 14 – Protected May 2011	Property 7 Protected July 2005
Property 13 Protected August 2010	Property 6 Protected November 2003
Property 12 Protected May 2010	Property 5 Protected September 2003
Property 11 Protected May 2009	Property 4 Protected February 2003
Property 10 Protected May 2008	Property 3 Protected May 2002
Property 9 Protected April 2007	Property 2 Protected October 2001
Property 8 Protected January 2006	Property 1 Protected July 2001

Cow Bay properties

Rainforest Rescue owns six properties in the Cow Bay area which form the Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge. These properties form a link between two isolated areas of the Daintree National Park (World Heritage Area). The properties form a valuable wildlife corridor for the Endangered Cassowary as well as three vulnerable and 11 rare plants including the only known location of a previously thought extinct species of fern.



Forest Creek properties

Two properties are now protected within the Forest Creek precinct. Renamed the Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge these properties and the surrounding environment are habitat for a variety of filmy ferns, palms and other rare species and regional ecosystems. The reserve is also known habitat for the Bennett's Tree-kangaroo and provides a valuable corridor from the National Park to the Forest Creek wetland.

Cape Tribulation Properties

Rainforest Rescue purchased its ninth property in Cape Tribulation in May 2007. Known as kulki anga Nature Reserve, which means 'Cape Tribulation home for wildlife', this property includes 24 species of ferns and an amazing 185 species of flowering plants (trees & shrubs).

Cape Kimberley Properties

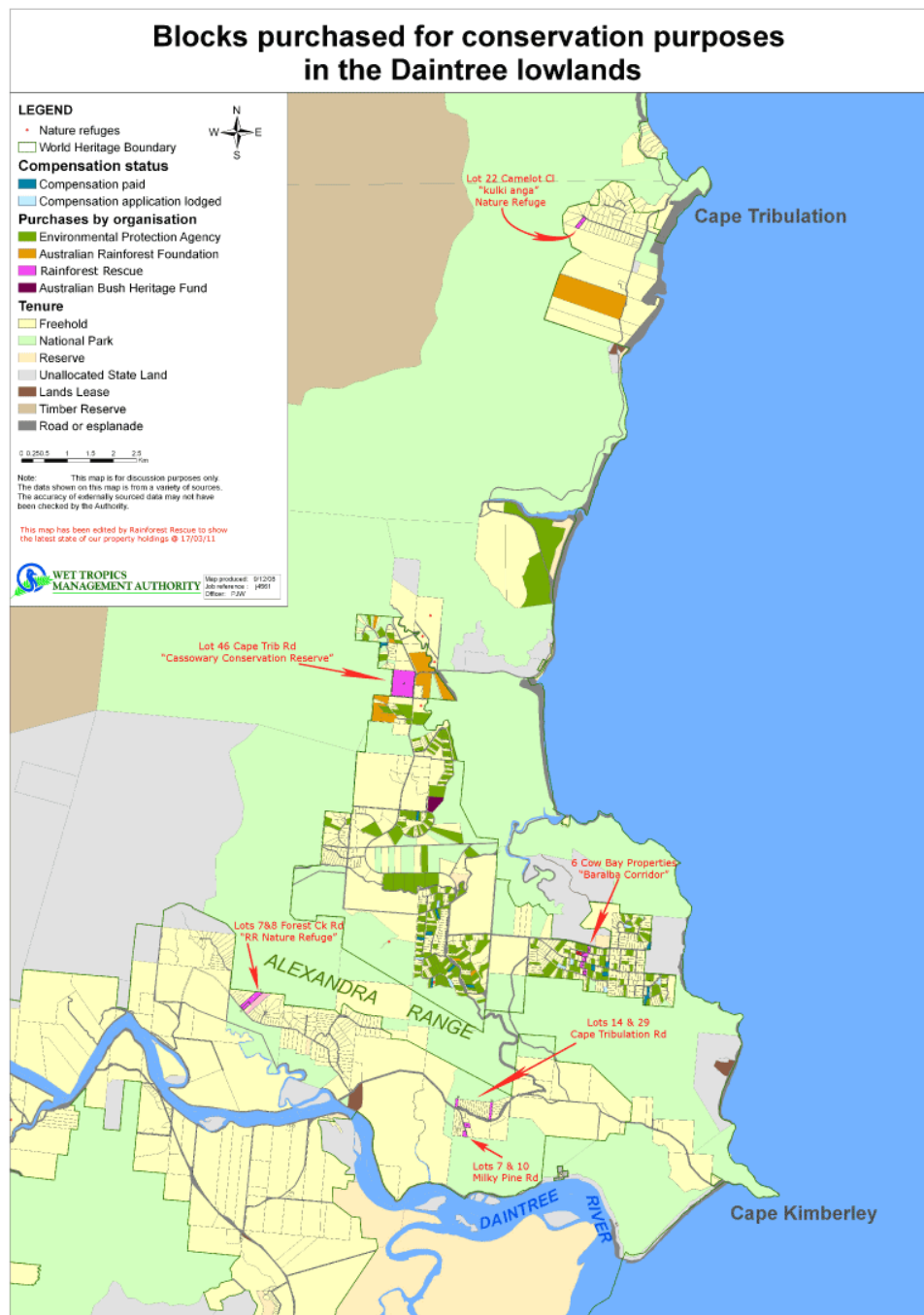
Three properties are already protected by Rainforest Rescue in the Cape Kimberley region. A fourth, our 13th purchase, is due for settlement in August 2010. These properties and the immediate area have been classified as essential habitat for the endangered Cassowary by the Queensland Government under the Vegetation Management Act of 1999. These properties also contain six threatened plant species including Noah's Walnut and the Black Palm.



To date Rainforest Rescue has purchased and protected 15 high conservation value properties within the Daintree Rainforest Lowlands. Areas shaded in yellow are those properties which have freehold tenure status with approved development rights. It is these properties to which Rainforest Rescue is targeting through our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project.

In buying properties that would otherwise be developed, Rainforest Rescue aims to reduce the amount of fragmentation of the Daintree Rainforest and protect forever its significant biodiversity and conservation values. Rainforest Rescue has identified 180 properties that are still undeveloped but which maintain their development rights or are not targeted by any government buy back scheme.

Our mission is to raise the necessary funds to buy back and protect forever as many properties as possible that have high conservation value.



Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever

Frequently Asked Questions

How has this situation come to be?

Prior to the creation of the Daintree National Park a developer purchased a large area of the Daintree Rainforest from farmers and landholders. They also were able to convert some leasehold land to freehold. This occurred in the 1980s when Joh Bjelke-Petersen's pro development government was in power in Queensland.

How is Rainforest Rescue saving the Daintree?

Thanks to our many supporters, Rainforest Rescue is buying back the land in the Daintree Rainforest that is threatened by development and is ensuring it's then protected forever.

What are the current threats to the Daintree?

Rural residential development is the greatest threat to the Daintree Rainforest and there are 180 properties that remain at risk. Increased settlement leads to clearing and fragmentation of the rainforest, more wildlife killed on roads, an increase in invasive weeds displacing native plants and the further loss of wildlife through domestic dog attacks.

But isn't the Daintree Rainforest protected in a National Park?

The Daintree National Park/World Heritage Area was declared in 1988 however two-thirds of the Lowland Daintree Rainforest was excluded from the listing.

Who now owns the properties that Rainforest Rescue buys?

In the 1980s the developer divided the larger properties into 1,100 smaller lots and sold them as freehold properties to individual people all over Australia. These people may have had intentions to one day build on the property or they may have been property investors speculating on an increase in value. Many are now willing to sell to Rainforest Rescue.

How does Rainforest Rescue choose which properties to buy?

Rainforest Rescue prioritises the purchase and protection of the most important properties – those that protect endangered, threatened or rare plant and animal species such as the Southern Cassowary and the Bennett's Tree-kangaroo. We also prioritise the purchase of properties that create wildlife corridors for wildlife where none exist. This often involves purchasing properties adjacent to the Daintree National Park or State Reserves effectively

extending their boundaries. Prior to purchase we survey flora and fauna on the properties to document the values of each property.

Do the properties purchased have rainforest on them?

Yes, we preference the purchase of properties that have fully functional rainforest rather than buying cleared or partially cleared blocks. We aim to save what's left before rehabilitating any damaged properties.



Rural residential development remains the greatest threat to the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest



Rainforest Rescue CEO, Kelvin Davies, surveying the damage caused by rural residential development



Within the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest there are still 180 properties that remain at risk of development

Does each \$5 really buy and protect one square metre?

Yes, on average the price is less than \$5 per square metre, however the price of each property varies. For example we were able to save two properties in Forest Creek Road for \$1.79 per square metre. Some properties have cost a little more than \$5 per square metre to save. So when you donate, your gift has the power to buy back and protect your own special part of the Daintree Rainforest forever.

How is the rainforest protected forever?

Rainforest Rescue owns and manages the land. Rainforest Rescue and its constitution are registered with the Australian Securities and

Investment Commission to which it submits its audited annual reports. The constitution details its specific and restricted purpose and activities as a rainforest conservation organisation. It cannot develop the land. The constitution also stipulates that in the event of Rainforest Rescue winding up, all assets must be transferred to an organisation with the same conservation objectives and legal standing. Rainforest Rescue ensures the properties are protected forever by having them gazetted as a Nature Refuge through an act of the Queensland Parliament or through Voluntary Declarations under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999.

What about weeds?

Invasive weeds threaten the integrity of natural landscapes right across Australia, so weed control needs to be considered. Due to the excellent condition of the rainforest purchased there is minimal occurrence of weeds; however Rainforest Rescue employs a manager to look after the land.

What else is being done to help the Daintree Rainforest?

We are also helping the Daintree through regenerating the rainforest. We are planting 10,000 rainforest trees each year, restoring degraded areas and expanding upon existing wildlife corridors. The trees are planted on Rainforest Rescue properties and we also help National Park staff and private landowners. All of the trees are propagated and grown in our own nursery.

Does Rainforest Rescue receive any government funding?

No, we do not receive any government funding. We are fortunate to have the support of many individuals and philanthropists. We also receive contributions from supportive businesses and foundation grants.

Can I visit the properties?

Yes. For further information see our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever self-drive tour please visit our website. If you are planning a trip to the area please contact us, and where possible, we can help facilitate a personal tour. We would love to share with you our work to protect the Daintree forever.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes, any donation over \$2 is tax deductible and Rainforest Rescue will issue receipts. Donors in the United States can make a donation via Global Giving who will issue a tax-deductible receipt on our behalf.



The Fan Palm is one of the most distinctive palms in the Daintree Rainforest.



Impressive and ancient Liana Vines twist their way through the rainforest landscape



Rainforest Rescue Daintree Land Manager, Joe Reichel, inspects trees planted under our Plant a Rainforest Project

The Endangered Southern Cassowary



The Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*) is one of the world's most prehistoric birds, and the third largest. It is only found in the dense tropical rainforests of Far North Queensland.

The Cassowary is a 'keystone' species, crucial for rainforest ecology and habitats for diverse species because of the role it plays as a major seed disperser for up to 150 rainforest plant species, some too large, others too poisonous to be dispersed by other animals. It is estimated that 70 to 100 plant species depend entirely on the Cassowary to disperse their seeds in order for them to grow. The unique digestive tract of the Cassowary has evolved over 16 million years to allow seeds to be dispersed unharmed. Research has shown that typically Cassowaries transport 4% of the seeds they consume an average distance of 1.5km.

Cassowaries are large, solitary animals that require a large home area of up to 75 hectares in which to forage for food and to

reproduce. Being able to move freely across such large distances ensures that Cassowary populations remain genetically diverse. They are also slow to reproduce with a lengthy parental period of up to two years. The male incubates the eggs over a 50 day period. Following hatching he spends anywhere up to 18 months protecting his young and teaching them how to survive in the wild. The female Cassowary only spends a short time with the father of her offspring for a month of courting before leaving him to look after the eggs.

Habitat destruction through the clearing and fragmentation of rainforest for residential development, which in turn has led to an increased mortality rate from collisions with cars and domestic dog attacks, has severely reduced Cassowary numbers. In 1998 the Wet Tropics population was estimated at between 2500-4000 adults. By 2001, it was estimated at less than 1500. Scientists now estimate that only 1000 adult birds remain in Australia.

The Southern Cassowary is listed as 'Endangered' under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as well as the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992*. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.



Male Cassowary with chick



Habitat clearing for residential development is threatening the survival of the Cassowary



Fragmentation of the rainforest makes it less resilient to the effects of cyclonic events



Development has led to increased mortality from traffic collisions and domestic dog attacks

Threats to Cassowary populations

Numerous reports and studies have been compiled over the years identifying the key threats to Cassowary populations within Far North Queensland Australia. These include:

- **Habitat loss from clearing:** more than 80% of lowland rainforest habitat has gone. Remaining habitat is highly fragmented, isolating populations and disrupting movements. Of the remaining Cassowary habitat, 40% remains unprotected and therefore at risk of development.
- **Habitat fragmentation:** causes isolation of groups and disrupts movements. Cassowaries are solitary animals that require large areas in which to forage for food and to reproduce. Isolation of Cassowary populations caused by fragmentation leads to a reduction in genetic diversity.
- **Habitat degradation:** through invasion of weeds and changed fire regimes
- **Roads and traffic:** Cassowaries continue to be killed by vehicles on roads. There have been 67 recorded Cassowary deaths from collisions with vehicles in the last 15 years. With unrecorded deaths from road accident injuries and the orphaning of chicks adding to the toll, road deaths are a major reason for the rapid decline of Cassowary populations.
- **Dog attacks:** urban development brings more domestic dogs. Dog attacks are the second most recorded source of Cassowary mortality. The presence of dogs also affects Cassowaries through disrupting feeding patterns and movements.
- **Hand feeding:** makes Cassowaries human dependent and makes them more vulnerable to dog attacks and road mortality. Cassowaries can also become aggressive during the breeding season and in times of stress.
- **Diseases:** aspergillosis, avian tuberculosis and parasites have found to be the cause of a number of Cassowary deaths over the past number of years.
- **Natural catastrophic events:** cyclones cause further fragmentation to the rainforest. Although cyclones are part of the ecosystem dynamics of tropical rainforests, fragmentation of the coastal rainforests of Far North Queensland makes them much more vulnerable to cyclones' energy.

In 2006 Cyclone Larry devastated much of the lowland rainforest areas around Innisfail. Thirty-five percent of Cassowary populations were killed directly during Cyclone Larry. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) reported a further 23 Cassowaries died in the months following Cyclone Larry, most of them hit by cars.

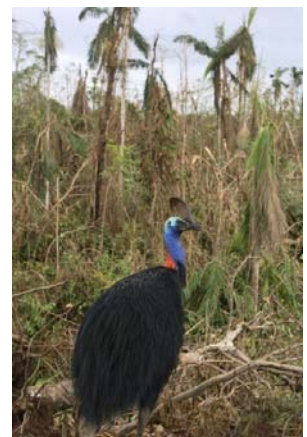
Since Cyclone Yasi struck the Mission Beach area in February 2011, a total of 10 Cassowary deaths have been confirmed by QPWS, most of them hit by cars as they left their rainforest habitat in search of food and shelter.



This Cassowary had its leg severed and was killed in a road accident in the Mission Beach area. There have been 67 recorded deaths from collisions with vehicles in the last 15 years.



This Cassowary died after being mauled by a dog. Residential development in Cassowary habitat brings dogs and fencing. Dogs attack Cassowaries and fences disorientate and disrupt their movement.



Approximately 10% of prime Cassowary habitat at Mission Beach was destroyed by Cyclone Yasi.

Protecting Cassowary Habitat

Rainforest Rescue is working to improve the ecological vitality of habitat with the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest to support Cassowary populations into the long-term future, along with other endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

This is being achieved by:

1. Purchasing high conservation value rainforest properties within the Daintree Lowlands area that are classified as essential habitat for the Endangered Southern Cassowary.
2. Restoring and expanding existing Cassowary habitat, as well as creating new wildlife corridors, in the Daintree Lowlands Rainforest area through the planting and maintenance of rainforest plant species.
3. Restoring and expanding Cassowary habitat that will contribute to an increase in population numbers ensuring the future survival of this important rainforest species.
4. To establish habitat network linkages between coastal areas of lowland rainforest habitat and World Heritage Areas.
5. Engaging the local community, including landowners, schools, community groups, and Rainforest Rescue supporters, in the recovery and conservation effort to restore vital Cassowary habitat.
6. Strengthening our relationship with local community and conservation groups to achieve our conservation outcomes.
7. Funding vital research into Cassowary populations, movements, and behaviours which will lead to better strategies and improved outcomes for Cassowary conservation.

Conservation Outcomes

The importance of our work will have a profound impact at the following conservation levels.

Species: Scientists estimate that as few as 1,000 Cassowaries remain in the wild in Australia. The survival of this species is critically dependent on the protection of important habitat refuges and the rehabilitation of previously cleared and fragmented rainforest areas.

Habitat: More than 80% of lowland rainforest habitat has been cleared for development with 40% of remaining habitat still unprotected. Cassowaries are particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and degradation as they are slow to reproduce and have low rates of juvenile survival. Protection and restoration of habitat is critical to increase survival rates and population vitality.

Ecosystem: The Daintree Rainforest is of national and international biodiversity significance. The protection and restoration of Cassowary habitat will ensure the protection of other significant flora and fauna that are co-dependent on the rainforest.

Global: The Southern Cassowary is only found in the lowland rainforest of Australia. The loss of this important rainforest species would not only be catastrophic to the future viability of Australia's rainforests but would have a profound impact on a global scale.

What you can do to help

Your decision to support our projects means that together we can achieve significant outcomes for rainforest conservation. Each year we are able to protect more and more rainforest through people like you who really want to make a difference.

Rainforest Rescue was founded in 1998 to create opportunities for people to make saving rainforests a part of their lives, and to provide a more direct means of realising their desires to protect rainforests.

That's why we work in partnership with people like you who have made a conscious choice to take direct action in protecting our precious rainforests.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Rainforest Rescue is supported by generous donations from individuals, philanthropists, business sponsors and philanthropic foundations. We do not receive any government funding.

You can support our work to Protect Rainforests Forever by making a donation online at www.rainforestrescue.org.au. If you a US citizen you can donate through Global Giving who will issue you a tax-deductible receipts on our behalf. www.globalgiving.org/projects/protect-rainforest-save-the-cassowary-australia.

How your donation will be used

Donations from people like you have helped us to achieve some amazing conservation outcomes, both in Australia and internationally. Your support means we can continue to Protect Rainforests Forever into the future through purchase and protect high-conservation value rainforest; re-establishing rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs; and educating future generations on the importance of rainforests and their biodiversity.

Ways to donate

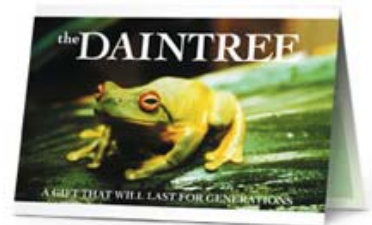
Rainforest Rescue provides the opportunity for you to support our projects in a variety of ways including by:

- making a one-off donation
- becoming a Rainforest Rescuer by making a regular monthly donation
- leaving a bequest in your will
- donating via your payroll through Workplace Giving
- buying a Rainforest Rescue gift card
- getting your business involved through our Business Partnerships Program
- holding your own fundraising event with friends and family

For further information please visit our website at www.rainforestrescue.org.au.

Keeping informed

To stay informed about our projects you can sign up to our online newsletter and blog by visiting our website. By supplying us with your postal address we can also send you our annual supporters newsletter, which details our conservation achievements. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



More about us

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and internationally since 1998 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our projects re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity.

Our mission is to inspire, engage and build community for the protection, preservation and restoration of rainforests through fundraising and education.

Rainforest Rescue is an Australian Company Limited by Guarantee, managed by a Board of Directors who contribute their service on a voluntary basis.

Rainforest Rescue is supported by donations from individuals, philanthropists, business sponsorship and foundation grants. We do not receive government funding.

We aim to keep management expenses as low as possible thus ensuring that donations result in the maximum benefit for rainforest conservation.

Our objectives:

The objectives of Rainforest Rescue are:

- The protection and enhancement of the natural environment;
- The conservation of rainforests and the preservation of the biodiversity of rainforest ecosystems;
- The restoration, rehabilitation, enhancement and management of remnant and regrowth rainforest
- The revegetation of ex-rainforest lands, including without limitation the establishment and ongoing management of rainforest plantings of significant ecological value.

Our strategies:

The strategies that we employ to achieve these objectives include

- Seeking funding in the form of donations and sponsorships from individuals, families, philanthropists and philanthropic trusts, business and corporations;
- Purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity;
- Financing projects that re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs.

Monitoring and Reporting Framework:

Rainforest Rescue measures its performance of these objectives and strategies through ongoing governance, financial management and corporate compliance, therefore achieving the environmental objectives of the organisation's constitution being the protection and preservation of rainforests.

As an Australian registered company limited by guarantee and a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status, Rainforest Rescue is obliged by law to lodge annual financial reports to certain organisations & departments. These include the:

- Australian Securities Investment Commission (ASIC)
- Queensland Government, Office of Fair Trading
- Australian Register of Environmental Organisations

Board of Directors

Madeleine Faught MSocSc – Chair/Director

Madeleine is a consultant social ecologist. She has a long history of securing enhanced outcomes in community, cultural, and environmental spheres. Her focus is on building resilience in the link between social and ecological systems as a means toward greater sustainability and improved environmental outcomes.



Kelvin Davies - Director/Executive Officer

Kelvin is a co-founder of Rainforest Rescue and has been actively involved in rainforest conservation organisations since 1990. He has previously been employed with not-for-profit organisations involved in nature conservation including Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greening Australia, Wetland Care Australia and The Wilderness Society.



Sue Higginson - Director

Sue is a Senior Solicitor at the Environmental Defender's Office NSW, currently working out of the Northern Rivers branch office. Before joining the Environmental Defender's Office, Sue worked as a solicitor in private practice and taught Environmental Law at university. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Sue worked in the environment movement for a number of years, particularly in relation to forest conservation in north-east New South Wales, and was an active campaigner and spokesperson for the North East Forest Alliance. Her main area of environmental interest is biodiversity and threatened species conservation.



Tony Gilding - Director

Tony spent 15 years as General Manager and later CEO of Skansen Holdings Ltd, Australia's largest gift company which listed on the ASX in 1993. Since then he has campaigned actively on social issues including an active involvement in the Palm Oil Action Group. He was Vice President of the Australian Orangutan Project for 8 years and is a founding member of the UN sponsored Great Ape Survival Project. He was for 10 years a non-executive director of Ecos Corporation a highly regarded consultancy that advises global corporations on sustainability strategy.



Frank Volckmar - Director

Frank started his working career as a consulting engineer and has since spent 20 years in various software sales, development, and marketing roles in Canada, US, UK and Australia. He is currently the Managing Director of ReadSoft Australia and is responsible for leading and managing the growth of ReadSoft in Oceania. Frank has a long-held commitment to preserving the environment, and is particularly interested in protecting the rainforest around the Daintree.



Our projects

Full details on all our projects are available on our website rainforestrescue.org.au. The following is a short description of our projects outlining our objectives and achievements to date.



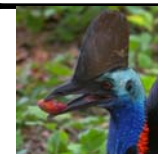
Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project

Through our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project, Rainforest Rescue identifies and purchases precious rainforest at risk of development and establishes Nature Refuge status which protects it forever. To date Rainforest Rescue has purchased and protected 15 properties in the Daintree Rainforest.



Plant a Rainforest Project

Our Plant a Rainforest Project restores previously cleared areas of rainforests thereby protecting their precious biodiversity. Since 1999 Rainforest Rescue has planted over 148,000 trees within the Daintree Rainforest in Far North Queensland and the Big Scrub Rainforest in northern New South Wales in Australia..



Cassowary Corridor Restoration Project

Rainforest Rescue is working to protect and restore vital Cassowary habitat in the Mission Beach area. This involves the planting of rainforest plant species that will provide habitat, food and a safe passage for generations of Cassowaries to come, not to mention other threatened and endangered species.



Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Habitat for Recovery Project

Rainforest Rescue is working to restore vital habitat for the threatened Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, one of Australia's largest and most beautiful native butterflies. Our project is looking to establish a series of rainforest corridors that will allow for the natural migration of the butterfly between isolated pockets of rainforest.



Big Scrub Restoration Project

Rainforest Rescue has been supporting the Big Scrub Restoration Project since 1999 with over \$100,000 contributed towards rainforest restoration. Funds are used to engage professional rainforest regenerators who work in the remnants to remove weeds and facilitate natural regeneration of the rainforest.



Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project – Gunung Leuser National Park

In partnership with the Orangutan Information Centre in North Sumatra, Rainforest Rescue is working to protect and restore 60 hectares of Orangutan habitat in the Gunung Leuser National Park. This is being achieved through the planting of rainforest plant species, the removal of illegally planted Oil Palms, and the prevention of further clearing of the rainforest.



Plant a Rainforest Project Sri Lanka - Sinharaha Forest Reserve

Rainforest Rescue aims to protect Sri Lanka's last remaining rainforests by reducing pressures on rainforest resources through community education programs, property purchase and rainforest regeneration. Through our project partner Rainforest Rescue International we have assisted in the planting of over 15,000 trees through our Sri Lanka Plant a Rainforest Project.



Ecuador "Save a Hectare" Project - Choco-Andean Cloud Forest Corridor

Our support for project partner Rainforest Concern is enabling the ongoing purchase and protection of land in the Choco-Andean Rainforest Corridor which provides a vital link between the Andean Cloud Forests and the lowland forests of the Awa Ethnic Reserve, ensuring continuity of the three largest reserves in Ecuador.