

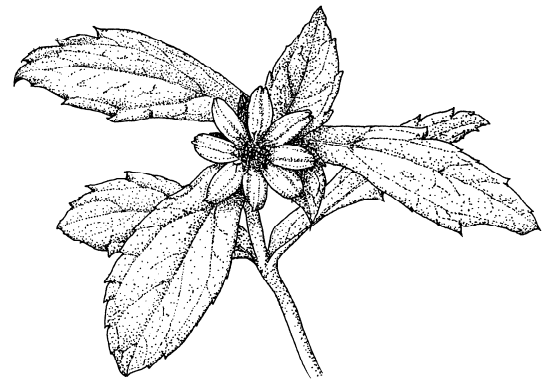
Tropical Factsheets

Threats to the Rainforest

- Just because the rainforest is listed as a World Heritage Area doesn't mean it's completely protected. There are a lot of pressures that threaten the rainforest's survival.
- First of all, **wildlife** don't know about World Heritage boundaries and lines on maps. They wander wherever they like, crossing roads and even living in people's gardens.
- In the same way, our **dogs, cats, weeds and diseases** don't know they shouldn't be going into a World Heritage Area. They can't read the signs!
- There are other pressures that come from outside the World Heritage Area – and that's **us**. Many people are coming to north Queensland to visit and to live.
- About **two million visitors** come to the region each year. (Researchers forecast this number will double by 2016.) Another **350,000 residents** live within 50km of the World Heritage boundary.
- More people means more houses, more cars, more roads, more dams, more powerlines ... and that can mean more trouble for the rainforest.
- People create **direct threats** – like clearing land for houses – which has an obvious and immediate impact on the environment.
- Other threats are less obvious, such as more cars leading to more cassowary deaths on roads.
- Other **indirect threats** include **more pollution and more weeds, feral animals and diseases** being introduced.
- **More visitors** can also put pressure on facilities and may even force local residents out of their favorite picnic areas and swimming holes.



Dead cassowary chick



Singapore Daisy escaped from gardens



What can we do?

- We have to think of smarter ways to live without impacting on the environment.
- We can encourage **politicians and developers** to plan carefully so they don't isolate patches of forest and impact on wildlife.
- One way is to plant new trees and create **wildlife corridors** between fragments of rainforest.
- **Tunnels and bridges** can be used to help wildlife cross over roads.
- More residents and visitors means greater demand for water and that means flooding areas for dams. An alternative is for people to learn to **use water wisely**.
- ***The rainforest, its plants and animals need our help to survive.***