

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 11

Seed Collecting in the World Heritage Area

What is the Wet Tropics Management Plan about?

The Plan commenced on 1 September 1998 and was designed to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan regulates only those activities within the World Heritage Area that have the potential to adversely affect the natural or cultural values of the Area¹. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses.

Unregulated seed collection could seriously impact on the dynamics of forest systems. Some plants, for example, only set seed irregularly and seed collection could significantly reduce such plants patterns of natural recruitment. Similarly, the collecting of seed from a rare or endangered plant population could jeopardise its long-term survival in the wild.

Do I need a Wet Tropics Permit to collect seed inside the WHA?

In short the answer is YES.

You may also need a permit from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services or Environment Australia.

In what situations will a permit to collect seed be required?

Generally seed collection will be permitted, subject to existing laws, where the applicant can show that there are no prudent and feasible sources of seed outside the Area. Collectors will be required to submit detailed returns which must include accurate descriptions of collecting locations, species and amount collected.

Seed collecting is not permitted in National Parks but may be permitted in State Forest. For further information on this you should contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.

Commercial seed collection in the WHA is prohibited under Commonwealth regulations unless a permit has been obtained from Environment Australia.

Seed collecting by Aboriginal people for traditional purposes is permitted provided access for this purpose is allowed by the owners and such use is allowable under another relevant law.

¹ The natural values for which the Wet Tropics Area was listed as of World Heritage significance include evidence of major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, superlative natural phenomena or areas of natural beauty, and important habitats for conserving biodiversity. The Area's cultural values are also considered in determining appropriate management.

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