

SELECTION CRITERIA

Wet Tropics Scientific Advisory Committee membership

Role of the Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee supports the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) Board by providing advice on:

- scientific research and monitoring priorities which will contribute to the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (the Area)
- new information or developments in science relevant to protection, conservation or presentation of the Area
- the scientific basis for management policies and practices
- appropriateness of research proposed for approval by WTMA in terms of scope, quality and relevance to management of the Area
- maintenance of World Heritage values and integrity of the Area
- impacts of proposed developments on the World Heritage values of the Area
- new ways of engendering innovative, applied research for the Area
- reviewing research and the evidence base underpinning management activities conducted by WTMA.

Composition

Priority will be given to gender balance and consideration will be given to other equity and diversity issues within the committee.

Members should be involved in or have sound scientific knowledge or expertise and/or Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' knowledge or expertise in one of more of the following:

- biophysical sciences and ecology, especially in relation to the Area
- natural heritage planning and/or conservation, including threatened species conservation
- bio-cultural expertise, knowledge and understanding—especially Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' cultural heritage knowledge or expertise—including traditional ecological knowledge and policy or issues pertaining to intellectual property and ownership rights of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples
- heritage presentation and/or nature-based tourism
- socio-economic disciplines including governance, social impact assessment, nature-based recreation and environmental economics
- disciplines related to climate change, forest restoration, carbon markets, restoration investment, biosecurity or fire ecology.

Knowledge and attributes of members

In relation to the committee members' specific scientific disciplines, specialised knowledge or expertise, the Board will be seeking to include committee members who have one or more of the following skills, attributes or interests:

- familiarity with working in an inter/transdisciplinary context
- scientific knowledge and experience relevant to the Area and its natural values and/or Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples cultural values

- broad knowledge or experience in a range of scientific disciplines pertaining to the protection, conservation and presentation of the attributes of the Area
- proven scientific excellence in one or more fields relating to the Area
- experience in providing scientific advice in fields related to the protection, conservation and/or presentation of the attributes of the Area
- active engagement in research in tropical landscapes
- experience and understanding of collaborative governance arrangements and partnership development with the view to enhance and support genuine self-determination as expressed by Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples in the Area
- ability to communicate the values of the Area, including the research and information needs required to provide a sound scientific basis for the development and application of management policies and practices
- experience of putting research into practice
- familiarity with the concepts of evidence-based adaptive management.