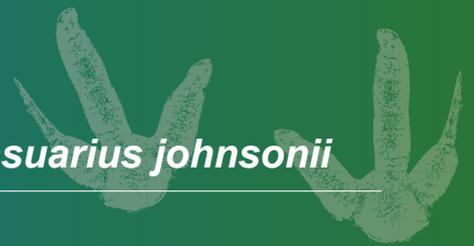


Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*

SPECIES PROFILE



CONSERVATION STATUS

Commonwealth: Endangered
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (EPBC Act)

Queensland (Wet Tropics/Southern population): Endangered
Nature Conservation Act, 1992

Queensland (Cape York Peninsula/Northern population): Vulnerable
Nature Conservation Act, 1992



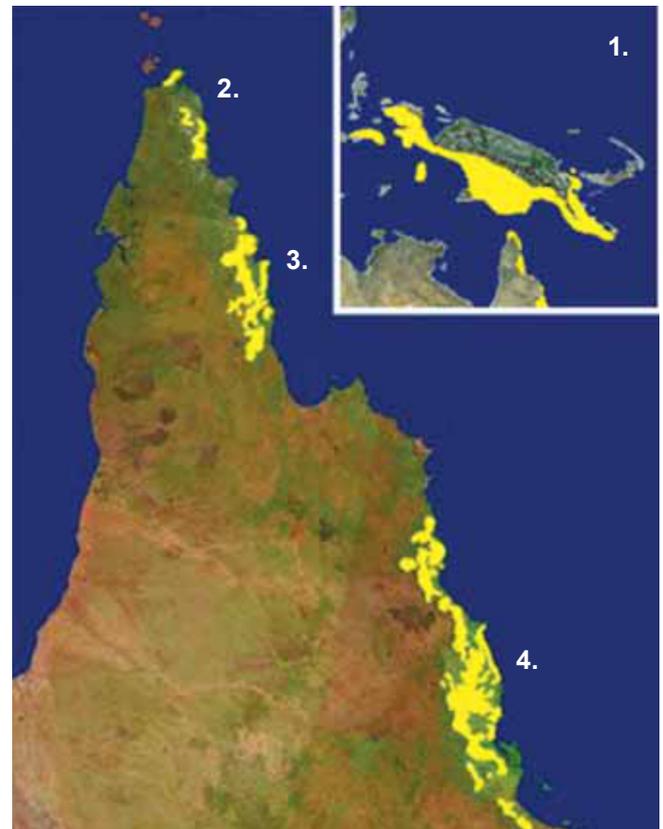
Photo: Helen Penrose

WHERE ARE CASSOWARIES FOUND?

The Southern Cassowary occurs in four broad geographical areas:

- 1 Papua New Guinea and the Seram and Aru Islands
- 2 'Far North' Cape York Peninsula (Lockerbie & McHenry Uplands) – thought to be extinct, no population estimate (data lacking)
- 3 'North' Cape York Peninsula (McIlwraith Range & Iron Range) – no population estimate (data lacking)
- 4 Wet Tropics (north of Townsville to south of Cooktown) – current population estimate: 4381 individual adults.

Cassowaries are found across the landscape from the coastal littoral rainforest and lowland gallery rainforest to the inland highland rainforest. Other habitats such as beaches, mangroves, *Melaleuca* swamps and savannah woodlands are also visited and are considered important corridors that link rainforest patches. Their food preference is rainforest fruits.



Source: Cassowary Recovery Team



Photo: Wren McLean



Photo: Helen Penrose

WHY IS THE CASSOWARY UNDER THREAT?

- **Habitat loss** (vegetation clearing)
- **Habitat fragmentation** (isolates groups and disrupts movement)
- **Habitat degradation** (invasive weeds, cattle grazing and altered fire regimes)
- **Vehicle strikes**
- **Dog attacks** (domestic dogs in urban settings and pig hunting dogs in non-urban settings)
- **Hand feeding** (increases vulnerability to car strike, dog attack & food dependency issues)
- **Pigs** (habitat destruction or modification, consumption of cassowary eggs and food)

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT

To enable an informed assessment of the conservation status of the Southern Cassowary on Cape York Peninsula we urgently need a more precise assessment of its distribution, abundance, ecological requirements, and the relative impacts of threats.

This is particularly important for the Cape York population where information is lacking.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Report your cassowary sightings and signs (e.g. scats, footprints) at: www.capeyorknrm.com.au/citizen-science/record-sighting



The Cape York NRM database mirrors the Queensland Government's WildNet Wildlife data base so that information is transferable to the Government's centralized data repository.

- For injured cassowaries or roadside sightings (i.e. where there is danger of vehicle strike), call the emergency 24-hour hotline: 1300 130 372
- Drive slowly and carefully in known cassowary locations
- Protect cassowary habitat from wildfire, cattle and pigs
- Avoid taking pig hunting or domestic dogs into rainforest habitats