

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub Project Factsheet

Monitoring of key vertebrate species

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Project summary

Monitoring of cassowaries and spectacled flying foxes provides valuable information on population sizes and trends, the distribution of their populations, their habitat requirements, and threats to their survival.

The project will:

- Improve monitoring methods for endangered species;
- Update data on cassowary abundance and distribution;
- Determine the size of and distribution of the flying fox population; and
- Inform decision makers in agriculture, urban planning and biosecurity

Why this research is needed

Up-to-date information on population size and distribution of the vulnerable spectacled flying fox and the endangered cassowary is vital to managing and conserving these unique species. These species are considered indicators of rainforest health.

Research-user focus

This project will assist local, state and Australian government bodies, particularly the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Cairns Regional Council, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC), and Terrain NRM in assessing the need for management action and the efficacy of their management actions.

Outcomes

- Estimates of cassowary population size, distribution and structure will provide a baseline for cassowary conservation efforts;
- Estimates of the abundance of cassowaries in different vegetation types which will enable the assessment of the value of different habitats and the potential impacts of proposed projects, natural disturbances and climate change; and
- Reports on the size and distribution of flying-fox populations, locally and regionally to aid management decisions.

The project will assist in assessing the need for management action and the efficacy of their management.



Photo: Dr David Westcott

Cassowary



Photo: Adam McKeown

Spectacled Flying Fox

Research Provider



Find this project at nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 1: Assessing Ecosystem Condition and Trend
Program 3: Condition and trends of NQ rainforests
Project: 3.4

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