

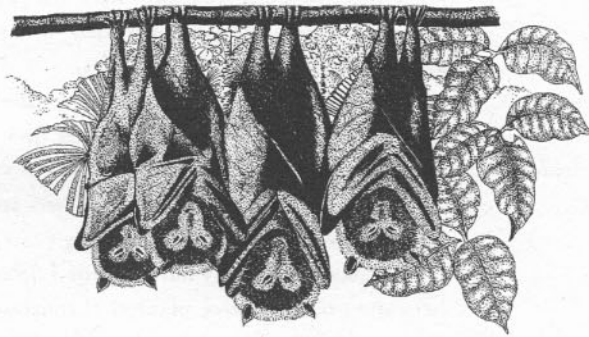
Repairing the Rainforest



THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RAINFOREST RE-ESTABLISHMENT
IN NORTH QUEENSLAND'S WET TROPICS

By Dr Steve Goosem & Nigel I.J. Tucker

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Thanks to the many hundreds of TREAT members and volunteer tree planters throughout north Queensland whose experiences are embodied in this book.

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CONTENTS

THE AUTHORS	IV
FOREWORD	V
USING THIS BOOK	VI

PART 1

WET TROPICS OVERVIEW

<i>World Heritage Values</i>	2
<i>Rainforest Types</i>	5

THEORY

<i>Vegetation</i>	9
<i>Plant Succession</i>	9
<i>Rainforest Fruit</i>	10
<i>Dispersal of Seed</i>	12
<i>Natural Regeneration</i>	13
<i>Recruitment of Seedlings</i>	14
<i>Ecological Restoration</i>	14
<i>Landscape Restoration</i>	16
<i>Ecological/Habitat Principles</i>	18
<i>Weeds</i>	20

PART 2

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

<i>Why Doesn't It Just Grow Back?</i>	22
<i>Trees for Farms</i>	24

METHODS

<i>Framework Species Method</i>	25
<i>Maximum Diversity Method</i>	29
<i>Site preparation</i>	29
<i>Planting</i>	30
<i>Maintenance</i>	31

<i>Natural Regeneration Method</i>	32
<i>Riparian Revegetation</i>	33
<i>Site preparation</i>	33
<i>Planting</i>	33
<i>Maintenance</i>	34

GROWING YOUR OWN TREES

<i>Seed Collection</i>	37
<i>Seed Treatment</i>	37
<i>Where to from here</i>	41

PART 3

MAPS/SPECIES LISTS 42

<i>Group 1</i>	46
<i>Group 2</i>	47
<i>Group 3</i>	48
<i>Group 4</i>	50
<i>Group 5</i>	52
<i>Group 6</i>	53
<i>Group 7</i>	55
<i>Group 8</i>	57
<i>Group 9</i>	59
<i>Group 10</i>	61
<i>Group 11</i>	63
<i>Group 12</i>	65

REFERENCES 67

FURTHER READING 69

GLOSSARY 70



THE AUTHORS

Dr Steve Goosem
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Growing up in Brisbane, Steve's first botanical studies were of south-east Queensland's subtropical forests. He received post-graduate honours in Botany and went on to complete a PhD and post-graduate studies on rainforest ecology, nutrition and succession, spending time in Papua New Guinea and Fraser Island.

By the mid-1980s, his interest in tropical rainforest 'had become a passion'. He moved to north Queensland as a researcher for the National Parks and Wildlife Service and met Nigel Tucker. They collaborated on a number of projects which led to talk about writing this book. 'We both felt this region has already lost much of its natural heritage ... we thought it was important to do something positive, to offer people some advice about how we can save what is left and re-establish the rainforests.'

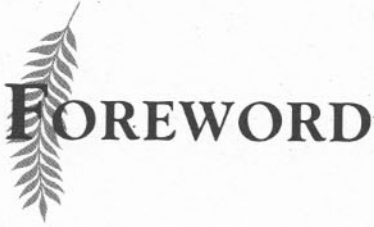
Nigel Tucker
Lake Eacham Nursery Manager
Department of Environment and Heritage

Born, raised and educated on the Atherton Tablelands, Nigel roamed the wet sclerophyll and closed forests around his family's Herberton Road farm from a young age, discovering his first new species (a legless lizard) at the age of 15.

He was appointed manager of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage's Lake Eacham nursery in the mid 1980s. Since this time he has been involved in the rehabilitation of vegetation communities throughout north Queensland and its offshore islands.



Passionate about the desperate need for human communities world wide to repair their local natural communities, Nigel says the book is "part payment for the enjoyment the forests gave me as a boy".



FOREWORD

When an area of special beauty and significance is perceived to be disturbed and degraded, an impetus is felt by many people to 'do something about it'.

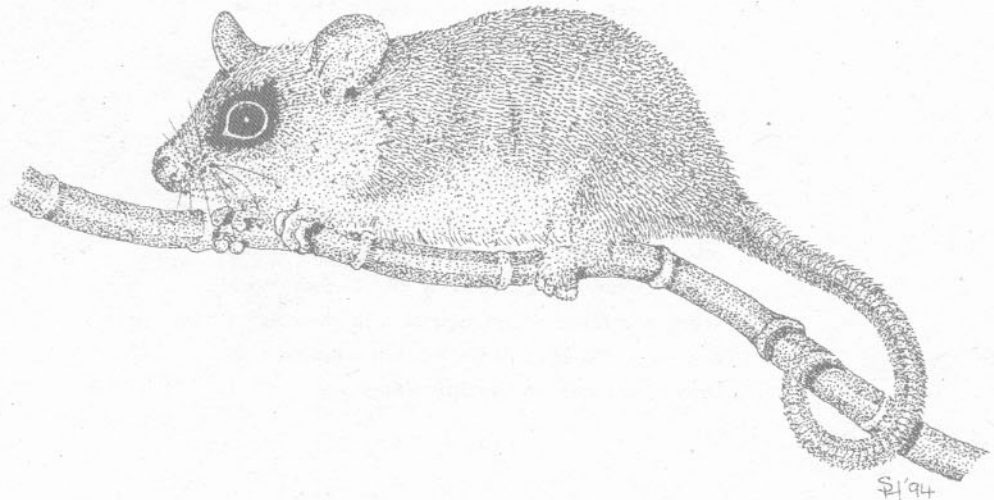
Far North Queensland possesses tropical rainforest, large parts of which are now appropriately conserved in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Both in the actual World Heritage Area and beyond it, restoration of rainforest is needed. After more than ten years' work by the authors of this book and many others, a body of knowledge of rainforest rehabilitation has been built up. This is based on ecological science and practical experience.

As members of the group which has been working to increase the area of rainforest on the Atherton Tableland for nature conservation purposes, we welcome the production of this book. It will help to stimulate and inform all those hundreds of people who plant native trees, clean and germinate seeds, plan wildlife corridors and creek bank plantings and improve their properties with rainforest trees.

It is an unfortunate fact that tropical rainforest is still being cleared in Far North Queensland as it is all over the tropical world. This book explains the urgent need for rainforest preservation and restoration as an integral part of land management, particularly in Queensland's Wet Tropics. It also provides guidance to individuals and public interest groups who want to be part of the action of rebuilding our degraded forest landscapes.

Joan Wright and Geoff Tracey
Trees for the Evelyn and
Atherton Tablelands (TREAT)





USING THIS BOOK

The destruction of rainforest has sparked an unprecedented response in many people to both save what remains and if possible rebuild what we can. The aim of this book is to present the basic theories and practices of rainforest re-establishment. While the main aim is to re-establish wildlife habitat, people who are replanting for timber production, landcare or aesthetics may also find it a helpful resource.

This region's diversity of conditions such as soil, slope and available moisture, demands specific planning for each site - and that level of analysis is beyond the scope of this book. However, the ideas presented here will help prospective tree planters to get started and to ask the right questions such as: What does the surrounding landscape look like? Which planting strategy will work best here? and What is the best species mix for this block?

Repairing the Rainforest is set out in three distinct sections:

Part 1 is a brief overview of the wet tropical region of Queensland and describes a number of the theoretical concepts relating to rainforest ecology and re-establishment.

Part 2 covers some of the practical aspects of re-establishing rainforest communities.

Part 3 consists of lists of species for different areas within the Wet Tropics to help you select what species to plant where. These species lists rely heavily on the long-term studies of Geoff Tracey who, along with Len Webb, pioneered vegetation research in Queensland's wet tropics region. At the back of the book is a map which shows the extent of the different groups.

After reading about the theory and practical aspects of tree planting, turn to the map at the back of the book and locate your property on the map. The colour codes will tell you which group to plant from the species lists.

Go to the species lists at the back of the book and begin planning your selection. But before you embark on the immensely rewarding pursuit of planting rainforest, you must study the revegetation methods to establish which best suits your situation. Then begin planning your preparation and maintenance strategy.

We hope you enjoy the book's contents as much as we enjoyed putting it together and that it will help stimulate an interest in rehabilitating our natural heritage.