



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Little Mountain Palm

2020-2021 annual report card

Overall status*



Populations at all sites are known to be on track.



Threat management is known to be on track at all sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Threat management is known to be off track at one or more sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Populations at one or more sites are known to be off track.

* For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)



Scientific name:

Lepidorrhachis mooreana

NSW status:

Critically Endangered

Commonwealth status:

Critically Endangered

Management stream:

Site-managed species

Summary

Management sites	Southern Mountains
Action implementation	3 (of 3) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$116,992 (\$15,992 cash; \$101,000 in-kind)
Partners	Environment, Energy and Science; Lord Howe Island Board

Photo: Craig Stehn

Priority management site: Southern Mountains

Local government area:

Lord Howe Island -
Unincorporated Area

Partners:

Environment, Energy and
Science; Lord Howe Island
Board

Population outcome



On track



On track (inferred)



Not on track (inferred)



Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Monitoring undertaken biennially. Next monitoring in 2021-22.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Environment, Energy and Science	\$15,992	\$1,000
Lord Howe Island Board	\$0	\$100,000

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Black rat predation of fruit can destroy the annual seed crop, which prevents the establishment of juvenile palms and leads to a lack of long-term recruitment. Rats can also consume leaves of seedlings, juveniles and adult palms.	The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to provide support to the Lord Howe Island Board to help implement the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project when appropriate.	Yes
Risk of extinction due to small population size.	Collect seed opportunistically when undertaking weed control and species surveys.	Yes
Weed invasion, particularly by crofton weed and tiger lily.	Undertake aerial weed monitoring and control within the Gower and Lidgbird Remote landscape units. Annual target is 13 ha.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Weed invasion, particularly by crofton weed and tiger lily.	Number of weeds controlled per hectare searched reduced by 10% from 2019–20 levels.	On track
Black rat predation of fruit can destroy the annual seed crop, which prevents the establishment of juvenile palms and leads to a lack of long-term recruitment. Rats can also consume leaves of seedlings, juveniles and adult palms.	Review project delivery.	On track
Risk of extinction due to small population size.	Document all seed collections undertaken for the species.	On track

Site summary

Species monitoring for little mountain palm is undertaken biennially and is next scheduled for 2021–22. General observations of the species on the summit of Mount Gower would suggest that recruitment has increased in the absence of rodent predation.

In 2020–21, a total of 1,591 hrs of search effort across 76 ha within the Gower landscape unit resulted in controlling 475 target weeds. Out of the 475 weeds controlled, only 34 were recorded as mature (0.07% of all weeds controlled). In the Gower landscape unit, 85 of all weeds controlled were cherry guava (*Psidium cattleianum* var. *cattleianum*).

The Lord Howe Island (LHI) rodent eradication baiting phase was completed in late 2019. There are now 330 permanent monitoring devices established to monitor for signs of rodents across key locations on LHI. Between October 2019 and April 2021, there were nil detections of rodents on LHI, giving a high level of confidence that the original rodent eradication project eradicated rodents from LHI. Recent detections in April and May 2021 are likely to result from a new incursion onto the island. They are being treated as a biosecurity issue with an incursion response plan currently being implemented.

Saving our Species 2020-2021 annual report card for Little Mountain Palm (*Lepidorrhachis mooreana*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.