

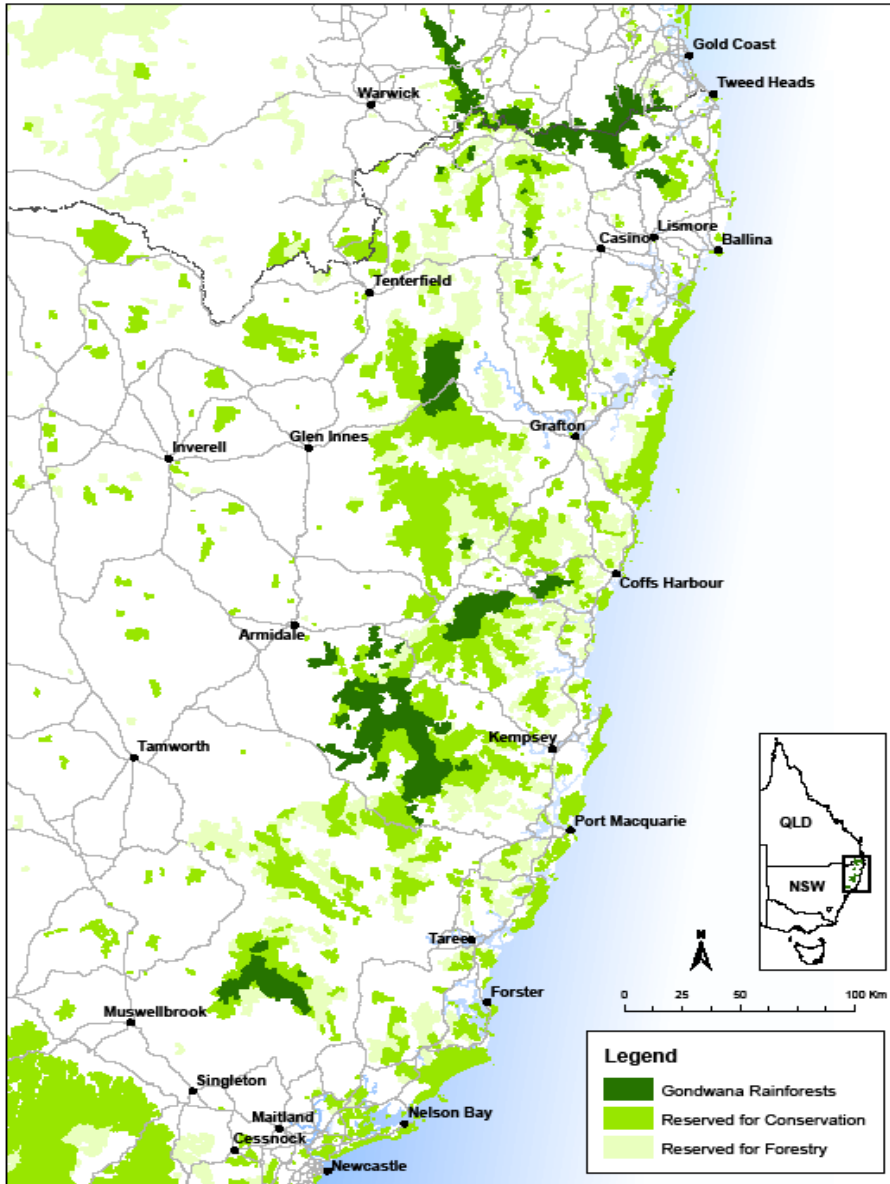
# **EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE SYSTEMS OF PROTECTED AREAS**

## **GONDWANA RAINFORESTS OF AUSTRALIA WORLD HERITAGE AREA**



# The reserves of the Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area

- 42 parcels across 2 states
- Totals over 366,000 hectares
- 20 local government areas
- Multiple Aboriginal language groups



# Outstanding Universal Value of Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area

## **A Record of the Past**

An outstanding example representing major stages of earth's history

## **A Window to the Future**

Outstanding example representing significant ecological and biological processes in evolution.

## **Hotspots of Biodiversity**

Contains the most important and significant habitats for conservation of biological diversity including threatened species. An outstanding record of flowering plants, true songbirds and other rare or threatened animals of the most ancient lineages show that these reserves have played a significant role in providing refuge to species for millions of years.

## **Record of Life**

Rainforests containing many primitive plant and animal families and relict species, many which are similar to those in the fossil record.

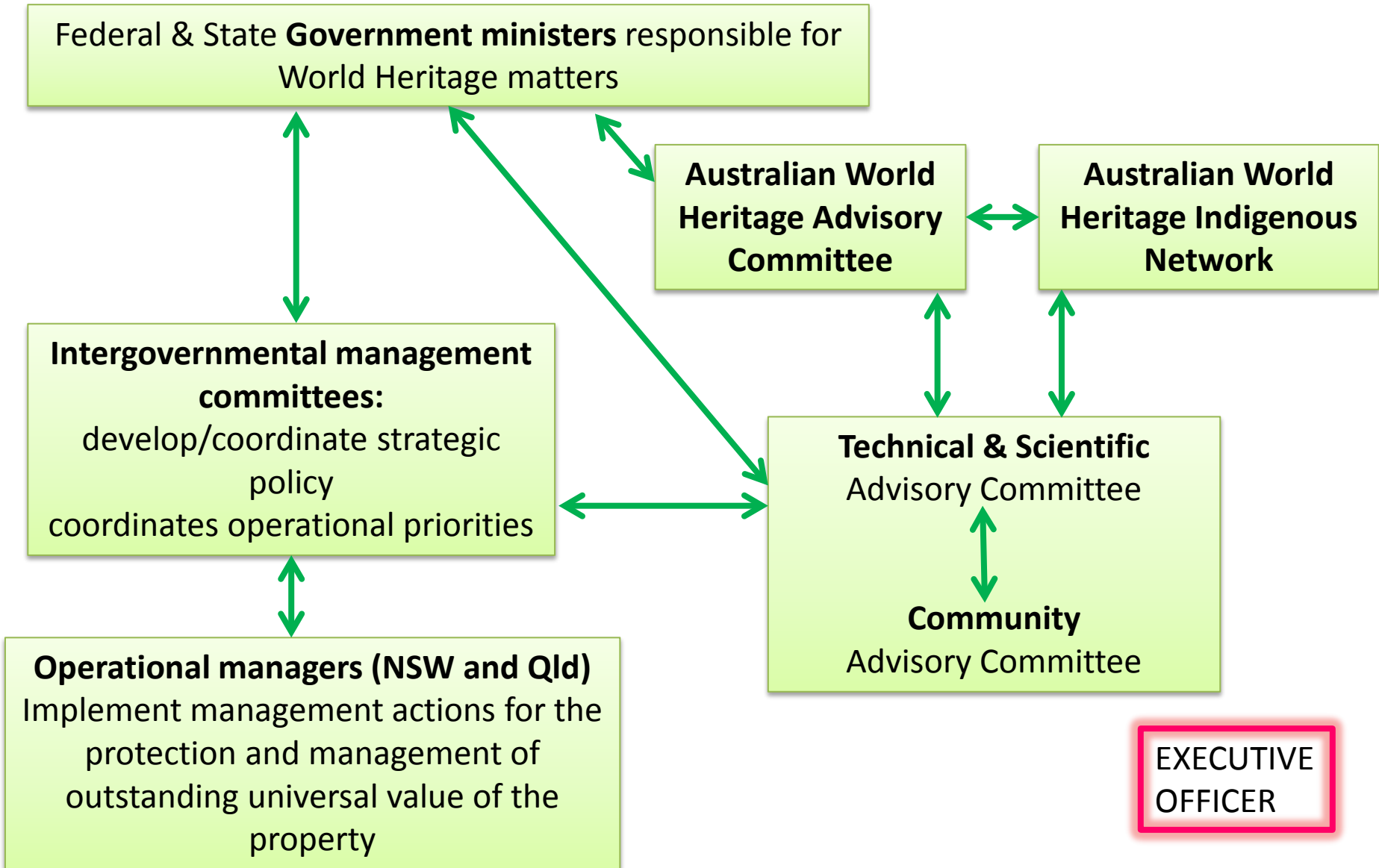
## **Geological Processes**

Significant geological processes in the development of landforms – the Great Escarpment and its waterfalls and erosion calderas from a volcanic past.

## **Birthplace of dry-adapted flora**

Outstanding range of ecosystems and taxa which demonstrate the origins and rise to dominance of dry adapted flora.

# Gondwana Rainforests governance: administrative and consultation



# Community management:

Strategic restoration of the hyper-wet zone of the World Heritage Area (Springbrook NP) and long-term monitoring using one of the world's largest wireless sensor networks

+ > 200  
volunteers  
working  
onground to  
date





# Community Engagement

buffer zone protection, connecting  
landscape landholders and communities

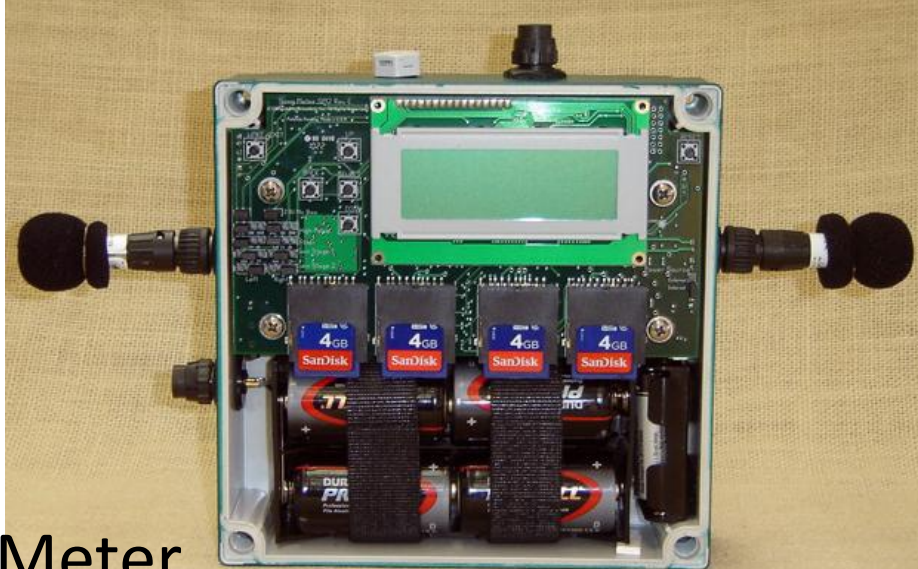
- towards regional ownership of  
management outcomes for the Gondwana  
Rainforests WHA





## Research based

- Impacts of global climate change:
  - Mountain mist frogs with specialised life history strategies adapted to cool montane environments
  - Increased threats of fire impacts on cool-temperate rainforests.
- Pathogen management programs:
  - Amphibian chytrid fungus
  - *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
- Weed control programs
- Bell miner associated dieback treatment and monitoring
- Threatened species monitoring & management (Spotted Tailed quoll, Hastings River mouse).
- Review of ongoing status of key flora and fauna species by TSAC



Song Meter



# **The greatest challenge for the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area is..**

... addressing the complexities associated with multiple levels of governance amid the political background of changing governments, shifting political priorities and short-term project-based funding of the environment.

# Systems planning, cross-tenure partners, Traditional owner involvement

- **Effective cross-jurisdictional governance** = prioritise methods to maximise conservation outcomes.
- **Systems planning:** needs to be respected, reflected in other relevant planning processes and tools. Protected areas authorities need to be involved in consultations and provide input to other relevant planning and development processes.
- **LONGTERM DEDICATED RESEARCH FUNDING**
- **Traditional owner engagement** - flexible approaches and strategies: Commonwealth funding support for Government initiatives to determine effective Aboriginal engagement on World Heritage country.
- **Community cooperation** - in the nomination and listing, and now the management of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

