



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

HAVE YOUR SAY



Nesting red-footed booby

Pulu Keeling National Park Management Plan 2011 - 2021

The Director of National Parks would like to hear your views about how Pulu Keeling National Park should be managed for the next 10 years

A new management plan for Pulu Keeling National Park

The second management plan for Pulu Keeling National Park (North Keeling Island) is in operation until March 2011. A new plan is being prepared to guide the management of the park for the following 10 years. You are invited to contribute to the new management plan by having your say on issues you would like to see considered.

Pulu Keeling National Park lies on a relatively undisturbed remote oceanic island. A major focus of the new management plan will be the continued protection of the park's natural and cultural values from potential threats such as invasive species. The park provides opportunities for research and limited but high quality nature-based visitor experiences. It is essential that these activities are well managed so that they do not threaten the park's values. The plan's management priorities will need to be adaptive so that there is the capacity to respond to changes and new threats.

The views of the Cocos community and other stakeholders are vital to help us prepare the plan and manage the park in accordance with the management plan from 2011 to 2021.



▲ ***Pulu Keeling National Park viewed from the north-east. The island is an ideal nesting habitat for seabirds.***

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requires the Director of National Parks to prepare a management plan for Pulu Keeling National Park.

The third management plan 2011-2021 will take into account views in response to this invitation to comment and also views on the draft plan when it is released for public comment.

The EPBC Act requires that a management plan must, amongst other things:

- state how the park is to be managed
- state how the natural and cultural features of the park are to be protected and conserved
- specify limitations or prohibitions on what the Director may do in relation to the park
- specify any operations that may be carried out in the park
- indicate generally the activities to be regulated or prohibited and how this will be done
- indicate how the plan takes account of relevant international agreements.

Steps for preparing the management plan

The following steps the Director of National Parks needs to take in preparing the management plan are set out in the EPBC Act:

- invite the public to provide comment on the proposal to draft the new plan. This public comment or 'have your say' process is the first major step in preparing the plan
- prepare a draft plan, taking all comments into account
- publish the draft plan and invite comment on it (comments will be invited in 2010)
- consider any comments received and alter the draft plan where necessary
- submit the plan to the Minister for the Environment for approval and tabling in both Houses of Parliament.

About Pulu Keeling National Park

Pulu Keeling National Park covers the entire area of North Keeling Island, which is an uninhabited low lying oceanic coral atoll, formed on top of an old volcano rising from a depth of 5000 metres. The park includes a land area of 1.2 square kilometres, a lagoon wetland and the surrounding marine waters extending 1.5 kilometres from shore. Although small in size, the park has important conservation values as it protects habitat for significant fauna (particularly seabirds) and is listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Intact natural areas in the tropics are becoming scarce on a global scale, so their ongoing conservation is critical.

The park represents the last intact remnant of the original Cocos (Keeling) Islands flora and at least 61 plant species have been recorded. At least 60 bird species have been recorded, including approximately 30,000 breeding pairs of red-footed boobies and the endangered Cocos buff-banded rail which is now only found in the park. Land crabs are also conspicuous on the forest floor.

Broadly the park contains three major marine habitat types : outer reef slopes, reef flats (including sandy and rocky shores) and a lagoon wetland. The park's marine habitats and species are similar to those found in other parts of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, but are not subject to the same pressures from development and use. Internationally significant and threatened marine turtles, including nesting green turtles, inhabit the park. There are also several hybrid fish species, as a result of the convergence of the western Pacific and eastern Indian Oceans.



▲ Tracks of green turtles on North Keeling Island.

How to 'Have Your Say'

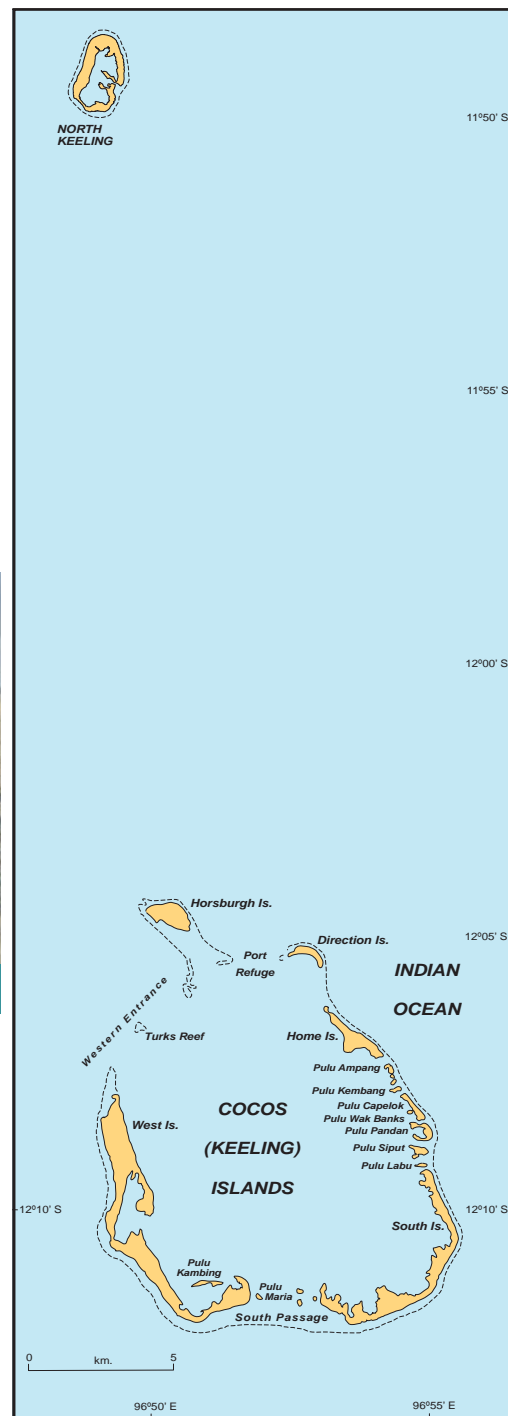
The current management plan may be a useful starting point when you are considering what comments and suggestions to make.

It is available at: environment.gov.au/parks/publications/cocos/management-plan.html or by mail from the address below. Copies can also be collected from the Cocos Islands Parks Australia offices on West and Home Island.

Some of the issues you may wish to comment on may include:

- *environment and wildlife protection*
- *research and education*
- *marine management*

Location of North Keeling Island



Where to send your comments

Comments are requested in writing by Friday 5 February 2010 and may be emailed to: pulukeelingplan@environment.gov.au or posted to:

The Chief Ranger
Pulu Keeling National Park
PO Box 43
Cocos Keeling Islands
Indian Ocean 6798

OR

The Project Manager
Christmas Island National Park
PO Box 867
Christmas Island
Indian Ocean 6798

Fax 08 9162 6680

Fax 08 9164 8755

Comments received after 5 February 2010 may not be considered in preparing the draft plan.

Further information about Pulu Keeling National Park may be found on the web site: environment.gov.au/parks/cocos or by phoning the national park on 08 9164 6678

