



# Daintree Rainforest Observatory

## Research Application Form

### SECTION 1: OUTLINE OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

#### The General Information Package

This application form should be accompanied by a document called the "General Information Package" (also available [online](#)). This document contains essential information for research applicants concerning the operation of the Daintree Rainforest Observatory (DRO). To avoid any confusion regarding the operation of the research facility and its suitability for a particular research project, this application should not be completed unless the applicant has read the General Information Package.

#### What is this Application Form?

The DRO provides access to 20 hectares of forested land, including access to one hectare of the rainforest canopy using a tower crane. An additional one hectare plot has been established for ground-based research and an on-site air-conditioned laboratory and accommodation are also available for visitor use. Researchers wishing to use the crane, the laboratory, accommodation or access the rainforest for research purposes must first apply to the DRO using this application form. The site is adjacent to a unique and special area of rainforest which has been protected through designation as a World Heritage Area. This requires us to be especially vigilant in protecting the integrity of the plant and animal communities surrounding the facility. The site will also serve as an area of reference for the study of succession and long-term ecological change, so the managers of the facility need to ensure that the activities on site will have minimal impact on the fauna and flora, the site and any other ongoing research. This is why we have this application form and a process of review.

#### Who Completes this Application Form?

This form should be completed by the Principal Investigator of the research project; the person managing the work in the field. This person completes the application on behalf of all people who intend to use the facilities in connection with the same project. The Principal Investigator will sign this application form and take responsibility for the information provided to the DRO. The Principal Investigator is the person we will correspond with in relation to this project. If the Principal Investigator is a postgraduate student, we will require the name of this person's principal academic supervisor. If the Principal Investigator wishes to use the site for more than one research project, a separate form should be completed for each project.

## How to Obtain More Information Related to Your Specific Needs

A list of plants on the site has been completed and is available to researchers on request. In addition, all trees within the radius of the crane and within the one hectare ground plot have been identified, marked and mapped. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their requirements with the Chair of the Research Committee of the DRO and the Site Manager. They will be able to advise applicants about:

- international protocols which apply to particular research;
- the characteristics of the site and possibilities for collaboration;
- any permits which may be necessary.

They can also put you in touch with researchers who are already using the crane and the site.

We welcome any feedback you can provide us with about your dealings with the DRO or the information we provide.

## DRO Contact Details

**Telephone:** (07) 4098 0005

**Fax:** (07) 4098 0177

**Email:** [dro@jcu.edu.au](mailto:dro@jcu.edu.au)

(Intl) + 61 7 4098 0005

(Intl) +61 7 4098 0177

**Web Page:** [www.jcu.edu.au/daintree](http://www.jcu.edu.au/daintree)

## Additional Onsite Facilities

The DRO includes a research building complex with air-conditioned laboratory, shared and dormitory accommodation, satellite internet, telephone, cooking facilities, hot showers, laundry and first aid room. In addition, there are two sheds (with 240V electricity) located in the forest near the crane which are available for field based work or equipment storage during field trips. Researchers wishing to hire these facilities should fill out the appropriate part of this application form. A [schedule of fees](#) for both the canopy crane and on-site facilities is available from the DRO web site.

## Review Process for Applications

All applications are reviewed and checked. The managers of the DRO need to be satisfied that:

- the research proposed is scientifically rigorous;
- the methods proposed meet ethical standards in Australia;
- the methods proposed will not impact adversely on the site or other researchers' work;
- the research proposed is not unnecessarily duplicating work already being done;
- the applications are supported by bona fide institutions and scientists of repute.

Reviewers include scientists in the same or similar field as well as administrators with the appropriate expertise.

## When to Send Applications, Notification of Approval, Payment and Bookings

Applications can be sent at any time during the year (there are no official closing dates). Applications should be received in Australia at least six (6) weeks before the applicant expects to use the facility. Once applications are received a temporary booking will be made. If any information is missing the applicant will be asked to provide it before the application is sent to the reviewers, who will aim to make a decision within 2 to 3 weeks of being sent the application. The Principal Investigator will be notified as soon as possible after the application is reviewed. If the application is approved, then the booking is confirmed.

Payment can be made using credit card, by filling in the appropriate form, or an invoice can be issued by James Cook University upon request. Payment is taken after completion of the visit so any changes to the original arrangements can be accounted for (eg. additional crane hours/days, extra night's accommodation).

## SECTION 2: YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH

### 1. Details of all Applicants

*In this section of the application we are asking for details about the following people:*

*a. The Principal Investigator who will sign the application and take responsibility for the information provided. This person will be the one we correspond with in relation to this project.*

*b. All people who expect to be using the crane tower or other facilities on site in connection with this project.*

#### 1a. Principal Investigator's Details

Full Name & Title

Institution Name

Affiliation with Above Institution	Employee Other	Student	Visitor
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Postal Address

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Which is the quickest way to contact you?	Post	Phone	E-mail
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Will you personally be using the facilities onsite?	Yes	No
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*Please attach a recent resume which includes refereed publications and contact details of at least two referees.*

#### 1b. Details of All Other People Proposing to Use DRO Facilities

Please note that the maximum number of research personnel allowed inside the gondola at the same time is 3, plus the crane driver giving a total of 4 people. Each person using the crane will be required to:

- participate in safety instruction before using the crane;
- abide by the rules and guidelines ;
- use a harness and other safety equipment;
- sign an indemnity form and provide details of who to contact in the case of an emergency.

The crane operator has the final say about whether the crane is safe to use.

PERSON 1

Name

Institution Name

Affiliation with Above Institution	Employee Other	Student	Visitor
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PERSON 2

Name

Institution Name

Affiliation with Above Institution	Employee	Student	Visitor
	Other		

PERSON 3

Name

Institution Name

Affiliation with Above Institution	Employee	Student	Visitor
	Other		

PERSON 4

Name

Institution Name

Affiliation with Above Institution	Employee	Student	Visitor
	Other		

**How many people  
should we expect  
on site during the  
first visit?**

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## 2. Description of Your Project

*Applicants may attach answers separately to items 2 (a), (b), (c), and (d) if preferred. As well as assisting reviewers this information may be used in reports and publicity.*

### 2a. Project Title

### 2b. Project Description

## 2c. Scientific Objectives

## 2d. Methodology

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### 3. Impacts of Your Research

*The Daintree Rainforest Observatory is situated in lowland tropical rainforest adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, a special rainforest with a high number of rare and/or threatened species of plants and animals. The environmental integrity of the site is extremely important and some people will want to use the facilities for long-term work. The reviewers of your application will need to assess the likely impact of the work you propose, as well as whether it has the capacity to affect other researchers' work or results.*

#### 3a. Will your work involve destructive sampling of vegetation?

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

#### 3b. Will you be capturing animals?

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

#### 3c. Will you be marking individuals?

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

#### 3d. Will you be collecting and removing organisms?

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**3e. Will you be killing animals?**

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**3f. Will you be manipulating any aspect of the canopy?**

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**3g. Will you be placing platforms or equipment in the canopy?**

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**3h. Will you be using chemicals?**

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**3i. Will you be producing loud or persistent noise?**

No            Yes

If yes, please provide details:

**If you answered YES to any of questions 3a - 3e, you may need a permit from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.**

The Commonwealth of Australia and the state of Queensland have special legislation to protect wildlife. All users of natural and protected resources (including researchers) must work within this legislation. Some of the activities you are proposing may require you to obtain a permit from the appropriate government authority. The following paragraph provides a guide.

*A 'Scientific Purposes Permit' is required for all activities where researchers will take (for example, capture, trap/net); use (for example, mark & release, experiment with, or extract a sample of); or keep protected species. Protected species include all species of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibia, and any plants, which are on the protected species list.*

There is an application form for researchers who require a 'Scientific Purposes Permit'. To obtain an application form, or make an inquiry, please contact:

Coordinator, Scientific Research Permits,  
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service  
PO Box 2066  
Cairns Qld 4870  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: (07) 4046 6717  
(Intl) +61 7 4046 6717

The Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service advises that most permit applications are straightforward and take 4 weeks to process, but some can take up to 60 days. In your application you will have to specify the scientific names of the organisms being taken, used or kept, and the number of individuals involved. If you don't include this information, the permit will take longer to process. There is no fee for this permit. Permits can be granted for research activities up to 5 years duration.

**Removal of Specimens from Australia.**

Australia is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Researchers wishing to take any native fauna or flora (whole or part, living or dead) outside Australia for scientific purposes must apply for a permit to export or import wildlife. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/wildlife-trade-permits-and-forms>

**Does this proposal require ethics committee approval from your institution?**

- No
- Yes

If yes, please attach the committees report.

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**4. Funding**

*This is for our own records, so we can better advise potential DRO researchers of appropriate funding sources.*

**Has funding for this project been obtained through a grant?**

- No
- Yes

If yes, what is the name of the granting body?

What type of grant is it?

## 5. Proposed Dates for Project

Please provide dates for which you would like this application to be in effect:

Start Date

End Date

If you wish to use the canopy crane, please provide dates and times (if known) that you propose to use the crane and we will try and accommodate your request:

Fees for use of the canopy crane can be found on the [DRO website](#).

**Total proposed  
crane days/hours**

**Other than the canopy crane, do you wish to book other onsite facilities?**

No

Accommodation

Laboratory

Other

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## 6. Supporting Information

**Is there anything extra you would like the reviewers to know in support of your application?**

No

Yes

If yes, please attach supporting statements, publications or any other documentation that would be helpful in the assessment of this application.



## 7. Declaration

*We need the Principal Investigator to take responsibility for the information provided in this application. The Principal Investigator should read through all the information and sign this declaration.*

I,

declare that:

(i) the details supplied in this application are true;

(ii) all the users named in this application will use the facilities of the Daintree Rainforest Observatory in a manner consistent with the rules and guidelines;

(iii) I will include the following citation in any publication arising from work using the facility and provide the Daintree Rainforest Observatory with two copies (or a digital copy) of the publication: "Research was carried out at the Daintree Rainforest Observatory, James Cook University".

Signature

Date

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## Checklist

**Before sending this application, please check that you have done the following:**

Have you supplied details in all sections requiring a written response?

Have you attached a resume? (section 1a)

Have you signed the declaration on this page?

Have you taken a copy of Section 2 of this application for your future reference?

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## Where to Send This Application Form

Please keep Section 1 for your reference. Send Section 2 to:

Attention: Peter Byrnes  
Daintree Rainforest Observatory  
James Cook University  
PO Box 6811  
CAIRNS QLD 4870, AUSTRALIA

Or

[dro@jcu.edu.au](mailto:dro@jcu.edu.au)

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this form or would like more information please contact the DRO site manager:

Telephone: (07) 4098 0135  
(Intl) + 61 7 4098 0135

E-mail: [dro@jcu.edu.au](mailto:dro@jcu.edu.au)