



Stewardship Payments

July 2006

Background summary

The Australian Rainforest Foundation wishes to engage with and support landowners and the local community living in the Daintree and enter into partnerships to undertake agreed works that improve the environment.

Financial support through Stewardship Payments can be made directly by ARF to individual landowners or community groups who apply for and satisfy the funding criteria as assessed by the ARF Stewardship Payment Panel. (This panel will be made up of ARF Board Members and two external professionals; a scientist and a probity lawyer.)

Applications can be made at any time and are subject to available funding. Decisions will be made and applicants notified quickly.

Capital works on private land will involve a conservation covenant/agreement on title to protect the works through future ownership/tenure.

Support under this program may involve the following:-

- ◆ A cash payment in return for landowners undertaking defined conservation works or the delivery of materials for the landowner to use.
- ◆ Expenditure to secure and support community conservation organisation(s), focusing on a range of conservation works.

Criteria for approval of Stewardship Payments

Payments in respect of making a Stewardship Payment must first meet a basic test of applicability, based on providing good conservation outcomes.

ARF will use the Criteria for Stewardship Payments – see over page - to make an assessment of stewardship support. Landowners and community groups must complete the Stewardship Payment Application Form and submit it to ARF with supporting information addressing the criteria.

Monitoring Stewardship Payments

The following table indicates the process for monitoring and evaluating Stewardship Payments.

Activity	Timing
1. Stewardship Payment approved	<i>On completion/approval of application, on-site visit and covenant agreement</i>
2. Registration of Covenant	<i>Lodged prior to payment if applicable</i>
3. Works start	<i>Liaison visit</i>
4. 50% completion	<i>Site visit</i>
5. 100% completion or at 12 months	<i>Site visit</i>
6. Precinct meeting of landholders	<i>Annually</i>
7. Post works contact	<i>6 -12 monthly telephone</i>
8. Issues management	<i>Site visit as required</i>

Criteria for Stewardship Payments

In providing stewardship support the proposal **must** meet the **first criterion** in the following table and **at least two** other criteria.

Criterion for assessment	Evidence required
<p>1. Long term protection There is sufficient long term protection, either through covenant on title, future sale agreement and/or other approved means, to protect the conservation outcome in perpetuity, funded under this arrangement.</p>	<p>For individual landowners An agreement to enter into a Nature Refuge or covenant or other approved means.</p> <p>For Community Groups Evidence that the works demonstrate good conservation for the long-term benefits of the environment.</p>
<p>2. Priority Land Land on which the work(s) is proposed is identified as a priority on ARF Maps</p>	<p>Most land in the Daintree is identified as priority. The 'lot on plan' should be provided in the application.</p>
<p>3. Strategically located Land on which the work(s) is proposed is considered strategically located in light of a review of 'total to date' acquisitions by ARF/EPA.</p>	<p>An assessment by an appropriate expert i.e. ARF, WTMA, EPA, DEH, DSC environmental officer or independent consultant that the land is strategically located.</p>
<p>4. Enhancement of the area Works proposed enhance the conservation of the precinct and area generally.</p>	<p>This is to be measured for example, by the number of trees to be planted, area of weeds sprayed, meters of fencing undertaken, number of feral animals estimated to be targeted or destroyed. (A supporting letter from a relevant expert is to be attached). *</p>
<p>5. Importance to fauna or flora Conservation works are considered important in terms of cassowary (or other rare, threatened or endangered fauna or flora) conservation.</p>	<p>E.g. One or more of the following - a letter of reference from a knowledgeable expert(s) supporting the proposal, a reference to a scientific study recommendation, a desired outcome of a Queensland or Commonwealth recovery plan or conservation outcome. *</p>
<p>6. Long term benefit There is a reasonable possibility for a demonstrated long term benefit to conservation of the area.</p>	<p>E.g. One or more of the following - a letter of reference from a knowledgeable expert(s) supporting the proposal, a reference to a scientific study recommendation, a desired outcome of a Queensland or Commonwealth recovery plan or conservation outcome. *</p>
<p>7. Overall enhancement of the Daintree Works or activities proposed enhance the sense of Daintree community and positively engage and encourage community conservation activities.</p>	<p>E.g. The proposal may be supported by correspondence from community groups, individuals, WTMA, QPWS or the DSC.</p>

*** ARF can assist applicants with this evidence.**