Assemblages of Theda Soak rainforest swamp

TEC Description

The known occurrence of the community comprises a patch of rainforest around a spring-fed soak (Theda Soak) on a floodplain in the east Kimberley. Trees grow to 20 m high and include Albizia lebbeck (lebbek tree), Antidesma ghaesembilla (yangu), Bombax ceiba (kapok-tree), Garuga floribunda, Glochidion disparipes (cheese tree), Ficus aculeata (sandpaper fig), Ficus racemosa var. racemosa (cluster fig tree), Litsea glutinosa, Melaleuca leucadendra (weeping paperbark), Sesbania formosa (white dragon tree), Sterculia quadrifida (fruit kurrajong), Syzygium nervosum (Daly River satinash) and Terminalia microcarpa (damson plum). The camaenid land snail assemblage distinguishes this community. The community was originally described in McKenzie N.L., Johnston R.B. and Kendrick P.G. (eds) (1991) “Kimberley rainforests of Australia” (Surrey Beatty & Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW, in association with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment, Canberra).

Distribution

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA Region): Kimberley
DBCA Districts: East Kimberley
Local Government Authority: Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Habitat Requirements

The community occurs 0.5 km from a tributary of the Morgan River on a moderate slope. The lithology is alluvium (soils left by flowing water) deposited in the Quaternary (from 2.588 million years ago to the present) and the subsurface soil is a very dark grey sandy loam.

The community is a spring-fed soak and is dependent on a constant supply of fresh groundwater.

Indigenous Interests

There are no known registered sites listed in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register that occur in close proximity to the community. The Traditional Owners are the Wunggurr.

For more information see the department’s website www.dbca.wa.gov.au
Conservation Status
Listed as vulnerable under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.

Threatening Processes
Historically, decline was observed from the impact of cattle. The boundary fence was upgraded in 2019, and the threat from cattle damage is currently minimal. Potential threats include damage by feral pigs, late season fire, weed invasion and inferred future changes to the hydrologic regime associated with groundwater abstraction.

Recovery Plan
A recovery plan is recommended for the community. Recommended actions include developing and implementing a monitoring plan and using results to guide management, and surveys for other occurrences. Fences and cattle impacts also require consistent monitoring and management.

Citation

Key References


Disclaimer
The State of Western Australia and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.