Project Plan CF 2023-016

Threatened ecological community conservation and recovery

BCS Species and Communities

Project Core Team

X X **Supervising Scientist** Ruth Harvey
Data Custodian Kathryn Schell

Project status as of Sept. 20, 2023, 1:31 p.m.

X X Approved and active

Document endorsements and approvals as of Sept. 20, 2023, 1:31 p.m.

X X
Project Team granted
Program Leader granted
Directorate granted
Biometrician granted
Herbarium Curator not required
Animal Ethics Committee not required

Threatened ecological community conservation and recovery

Program

BCS Species and Communities

Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

Project Staff

X X X	Role	Person	Time allocation (FTE)
	Supervising Scientist	Val English	1.0
	Supervising Scientist	Ruth Harvey	0.0
	Supervising Scientist	Robyn Luu	1.0
	Supervising Scientist	Kathryn Schell	0.0
	Technical Officer	Anna Wisolith	1.0

Related Science Projects

2023-019 Flora Conservation and Recovery
2023-018 Fauna Conservation and Recovery
2023-041 Threatened Species and Communities Biodiversity Knowledge
2023-014 Species and Communities Assessment

Proposed period of the project

May 25, 2023 – June 30, 2025

Relevance and Outcomes

Background

An ecological community is a naturally occurring assemblage of organisms that occurs in a particular habitat. Ecological communities may comprise various life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, and provide an important level of biological diversity including genetic and species diversity.

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) provides for the statutory listing of threatened ecological communities (TECs) by the Minister as threatened. The legislation also describes statutory processes for preparing recovery plans for TECs, the registration of their critical habitat, and penalties for unauthorised modification of TECs. Because ecosystems and the links between their community members are so complex, it is important to identify, maintain and manage whole ecosystems, their processes and communities (including the many thousands of species of invertebrates, non-flowering plants like fungi and seaweeds, and micro-organisms), rather than just on a species-by-species basis. Ecological communities with insufficient information available to be considered a TEC, or which are rare but not currently threatened have been placed on the Priority list and referred to as priority ecological communities (PECs).

DBCA manages the parks and reserves under its care in accordance with the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. TECs and PECs are given priority consideration when planning and carrying out activities including the management of weeds, pests, diseases, fire, hydrology and visitor access, with the aim of protecting them, restoring their values and decreasing their vulnerability to threatening processes.

Aims

Develop, test and review TEC identification and monitoring techniques to ensure guideline is kept up to date with current scientific knowledge and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are based on correct identification of TECs.

- Promote the development and implementation of monitoring techniques and provide guidance for monitoring activities.
- Coordinate the preparation of and prepare recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities. Contribute to combined listing and conservation advice led by the Commonwealth government.
- Provide scientific knowledge to guide development of effective mitigation strategies for management of threats acting on terrestrial, aquatic, estuarine and marine ecosystems and contribute to regional conservation planning with scientific knowledge.
- Recovery planning and teams leverage opportunities for stakeholder involvement.
- Provide advice to land managers on appropriate fire management strategies.

Expected outcome

- Best-practice TEC identification and monitoring techniques are available to members of the environmental community.
- Strategic planning and guidance documents to guide conservation and restoration proposals.
- Information and advice to minimise impacts of precribed burns on threatened ecological communities is available for planning.
- Ecosystem management and planning to mitigate threats to ecosystems and associated values is evidence-based and effective.
- Recovery plans and teams are in place to inform and collaborate on the implementation of effective recovery actions.

Knowledge transfer

- Corporate Filing up to date and publishing of relevant information on the website and in databases.
- Engagement with workshops and corporate processes as required.
- Maintenance of records in Boranga

Tasks and Milestones

- Priority Ecological Communities are adequately described to enable survey and consideration for listing as threatened.
- Methods for Survey and Identification of TECs document is updated to reflect the most recent listings and knowledge.
- Knowledge gaps and management actions are identified to inform recovery planning.

References

Study design

Methodology

Biometrician's Endorsement

granted

Data management

No. specimens

Herbarium Curator's Endorsement

not required

Animal Ethics Committee's Endorsement

not required

Data management

Budget

Consolidated Funds

to | X | X | X |

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
FTE Scientist			
FTE Technical			
Equipment			
Vehicle			
Travel			
Other			
Total			

External Funds

to | X | X | X |

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Salaries, Wages, Overtime			
Overheads			
Equipment			
Vehicle			
Travel			
Other			
Total			