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The Australian Rangeland Society

RECOVERY OF THREATENED FLORA IN THE RANGELANDS

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INTRODUCTION

The South Australian Rangelands Region has a total of 38 vascular plants which are considered to be nationally threatened, 3 nationally threatened ecological communities and 19 state provisionally listed threatened ecological communities. The following processes have been identified as greatly influencing the very existence of these species and communities: changes in habitat through excessive historic and current total grazing pressure, weed invasion and changed burning regimes. Climate Change is also likely to influence the longevity of these species. For most of the threatened species and ecological communities within the rangelands region, there is an urgent need to gain a better understanding of their ecology, biology, and the threats impacting on their survival in order to target unground recovery actions to ensure their conservation.

PROJECT AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The *Recovery Of Threatened Flora & Threatened Ecological Communities/Biodiversity Support In The Rangelands* project will enable the prioritisation of species and ecological communities and recommend the targeting of on ground recovery efforts and investment to those species and communities that are:

- Most at risk
- Where populations in SA represent a significant part of the national population or ecological community
- Where investment in threat mitigation is most likely to result in successful recovery of the species or community
- Where synergies with other integrated NRM projects can be achieved

Dr. Frank Badman, who has long association working and living in the rangelands, has been contracted by the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage to review all the flora records held in the Adelaide Herbarium Database, the South Australian Biosurvey Database and the Pastoral Database to identify the top 50 species (Table 1) which fit into the above mentioned category. Threatened Plant Species Information Sheets (SPRATS) have been created for these top 50 species and now a full time project officer has been assigned to undertake the fieldwork necessary to complete SPRAT information and to deliver the community capacity component of the project.

Table 1: Rangelands Top 50 threatened flora species as identified by Dr. Frank Badman

Acacia araneosa	Embadium johnstonii	Melaleuca oxyphylla
Acacia barattensis	Embadium stagnense	Muehlenbeckia coccoloboides
Acacia confluens	Eremophila pentaptera	Nicotiana burbridgei
Acacia gracilifolia	Eucalyptus goniocalyx ssp. exposa	Nicotiana truncata
Acacia menzeli	Eucalyptus percostata	Ozothamnus scaber
Acacia quornensis	Frankenia plicata	Ptilotus "Cordillo Downs"(B.Lay 1487)
Acacia spooneri	Frankenia subteres	Ptilotus barkeri
Acacia toondulya	Goodenia lobata	Senecio gypsicola
Althaea australis	Gratwickia monochaeta	Swainsona dictyocarpa
Anthocercis angustifolia	Gunniopsis kochii	Swainsona fuscoviridis
Asperula syrticola	Haeckeria cassiniiformis	Swainsona tephrotricha
Atriplex eichleri	Haeckeria punctulata	Swainsona vestita
Brachyscome muelleri	Hibbertia crispula	Teucrium grandiusculum ssp. pilosum
Calandrinia sphaerophylla	Lepidosperma avium	Veronica parnkalliana*
Daviesia stricta	Leptorhynchos melanocarpus	Wurmbea stellata
Derwentia decorosa	Logania saxatilis	Zygophyllum hybridum
Dodonaea subglandulifera	Malacocera gracilis	

Whilst the scientific research is integral to the success of this project, the vast landscape of the rangelands ensures that effective communication between all stakeholders is also fundamental to the long term management and survival of individual species and communities. Some of the activities conducted to promote effective stakeholder participation included plant identification workshops and a plant vouchering workshop whereby attendees were enthusiastically encouraged to collect and process flora specimens according to the Adelaide Herbarium plant vouchering protocols. Also property visits have been well received with many questions asked about species decline and invasive species.

OUTPUTS AND PRODUCTS

The *Recovery Of Threatened Flora & Threatened Ecological Communities/Biodiversity Support In The Rangelands* project isn't just another recovery project! This project is vital to the conservation of biodiversity in the rangelands of South Australia. This project will encourage continued land manager support to ensure the longevity of threatened species management in the rangelands through the provision of property specific information sheets that will be collated and distributed to pastoral lessees. Information will include paddock plans with records of Threatened Flora and Fauna, photos, habitat description, monitoring requirements (eg flowering, seeding, threats etc), risks and threatening processes. Rangelands flora Keep An Eye Out!