

Threatened Ecological Communities: ACT



Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens:

These unique high-altitude wetlands are predominantly found in the montane and sub-alpine regions of the ACT. Characterized by deep layers of sphagnum mosses, they act as natural water storage systems, releasing water slowly and ensuring stream flow during drier periods. The rich, moist conditions support a diverse range of flora, from cushion plants to alpine herbs. Birds like the alpine robin and various invertebrates thrive in this moist environment.

Lowland Rainforests of Subtropical Australia:

While more commonly associated with coastal regions, pockets of these lush forests can be seen in the ACT. Renowned for their dense canopies and diverse range of flora, they house species such as the lilly-pilly, native ginger, and various ferns. This dense vegetation provides a haven for birds and small mammals.

Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands:

Once widespread, these grasslands in the ACT are now fragmented remnants of a broader landscape. Dominated by native grass species, they serve as habitats for a range of animals, particularly ground-dwelling birds like the hooded robin, and various insect species.

Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains:

These plains, which are more typical further north, are vital ecological sites, home to diverse native grasses, sedges, and small flowering plants. This community provides essential habitats for ground-dwelling birds and reptiles.



Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains:

These ephemeral wetlands in the ACT are crucial biodiversity hotspots. When filled, they provide habitats for diverse aquatic plants and become a hub for waterbirds, many of which migrate from afar.

Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt:

Although restricted to small pockets in the ACT, in regions where they occur, they provide a dense habitat of twisted vines and broad-leaved shrubs. A range of birds and small mammals seek refuge in their thick canopies.

Upland Basalt Eucalypt Forests of the Sydney Basin Bioregion:

These forests, with tall eucalypts, provide a multi-layered habitat, from high canopies to rich understoreys. Their diversity ensures a home for a plethora of fauna, from possums and gliders to a range of bird species.

Weeping Myall Woodlands:

These woodlands are distinctive due to the presence of the weeping myall tree. The woodlands' gentle canopy rustle is a backdrop for various bird songs, creating a harmonious environment.

White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland:

Characterized by specific eucalypt species, these woodlands are teeming with life. The ground layer, abundant with native grasses, provides food and shelter for various fauna. Birds like the diamond firetail and small mammals traverse this terrain, seeking nourishment and refuge.



The community of native species dependent on natural discharge of groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin:

Beyond its importance as a water source, this groundwater system, particularly at spring outlets, supports a unique ecological community. These oasis-like spots in otherwise arid environments harbor various small aquatic invertebrates and provide crucial water sources for larger fauna.

