

Threatened Ecological Communities: Tasmania



Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens:

These high-altitude wetlands in Tasmania are primarily characterized by dense mats of sphagnum mosses, creating a cushiony surface. This community supports a myriad of flora such as sedges, grasses, and various herbaceous plants. The boggy grounds are habitats for unique fauna, including the burrowing crayfish. These ecosystems play a crucial role in water storage, slowly releasing pure water into streams and rivers, acting as natural filters.

Eucalyptus ovata - Callitris oblonga Forest:

This ecological community is predominantly made up of the black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) and the South Esk pine (*Callitris oblonga*). Together, these species form a unique forest system, providing habitat for various wildlife. The understorey is rich in shrubs, grasses, and ferns, attracting birds, marsupials, and invertebrates specific to this environment. Their canopies offer refuge for threatened bird species, making conservation efforts vital.

Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia:

These underwater forests, dominated by the giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), are found off the Tasmanian coastline. The kelp provides shelter and sustenance for marine life, including fish, crustaceans, and various invertebrates. Beyond being biodiversity hotspots, these kelp forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration and coastline protection.

Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania:

These are one of Tasmania's most threatened ecosystems, often existing as open landscapes dominated by native tussock grasses, herbs, and scattered shrubs. Supporting a range of fauna, from ground-dwelling birds to marsupials and insects, these grasslands are essential breeding grounds and food sources.

