



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Pygmy Cypress Pine

2020-2021 annual report card

Overall status*



Populations at all sites are known to be on track.



Threat management is known to be on track at all sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Threat management is known to be off track at one or more sites, and population status is unknown at one or more sites.



Populations at one or more sites are known to be off track.

* For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Summary

Management sites	Corang River; Hastings River; Sandy Creek; Sara River
Action implementation	4 (of 4) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$73,885 (\$42,312 cash; \$31,573 in-kind)
Partners	Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program; Environment, Energy and Science



Scientific name:
Callitris oblonga

NSW status:
Vulnerable

Commonwealth status:
Vulnerable

Management stream:
Site-managed species

Photo: Lachlan Copeland

Priority management site: Corang River





Local government area:

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional

Partners:

Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program;
Environment, Energy and Science

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Most of the population had been burnt, and so most plants are seedlings - population counts are impractical at this stage.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program	\$15,455	\$0
Environment, Energy and Science	\$0	\$1,600

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Clearing and fragmentation of habitat for agriculture.	Liaise with landholders, where possible, to assess recovery and opportunities for future investment.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Clearing and fragmentation of habitat for agriculture.	Not required this year - will depend on the outcome of the post-fire project.	Not assessed
Frequent fire.	Not required this year - preliminary assessment in progress.	Not assessed
Weed invasion, particularly by blackberry and potentially from <i>Pinus radiata</i> and broom.	Not required this year - almost all habitat was burnt in 2019–20.	Not assessed
Risk of local extinction due to small, scattered populations.	Not required this year; it will depend on how much recruitment occurs following the 2019–20 bushfires.	Not assessed

Site summary





More than 80% of the population was burnt in the 2019–20 bushfires. Plants are killed by fire, and all regeneration will be from seed. An assessment of post-fire regeneration and opportunities for investment (e.g. enhancement planting, weed control) commenced in May 2020, supported by the Commonwealth fire recovery fund, with Queanbeyan–Palerang Shire Council contracted to do the work. Most landholders contacted about the project were very supportive, and a large proportion of the habitat was searched. Regeneration of the pygmy pine was patchy in places, but seedling recruitment has generally been good. Minor enhancement planting may be required. The fire effectively removed the pine wildling threat, although this may re-emerge in the future. No major infestations of blackberry were identified. A final report is due for the project at the end of June 2021.

Priority management site: Hastings River

Local government area:
Walcha

Partners:
Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program;
Environment, Energy and Science

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Population monitoring is being undertaken as part of annual post-fire monitoring.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program	\$9,041	\$0
Environment, Energy and Science	\$8,775	\$16,532

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Grazing by domestic stock, rabbits and feral goats.	Undertake integrated pest animal control across the reserve.	Yes
Risk of local extinction due to small, scattered populations.	Fire Response. Undertake surveys downstream to assess the extent of occurrence of the population.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
The species is potentially susceptible to infection by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> .	Not required until 2021–22.	Not assessed
Frequent fire.	Minimal change in the number of adult plants (<5% decline) and recruitment of new plants increasing by 10% annually.	Not assessed
Grazing by domestic stock, rabbits and feral goats.	Assess browsing presence/absence across the site.	On track
Risk of local extinction due to small, scattered populations.	Minimal decline in population <5% annually.	Not assessed

Site summary

Site surveys found populations to be recovering from the 2019–20 bushfires. A large number of seedlings (several hundred) were located and appeared to be doing well. An integrated feral animal control program was undertaken across the site, with a large number of pigs removed. Ongoing follow-up monitoring of seedling success will be the focus for this site next year.

Priority management site: Sandy Creek

<p>Local government area: Armidale Regional</p> <p>Partners: Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program; Environment, Energy and Science</p>	<p>Population outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On track ● On track (inferred) ● Not on track (inferred) ● Not on track <p>The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.</p>
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Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Population monitoring is being undertaken as part of post-fire monitoring.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program	\$9,041	\$0
Environment, Energy and Science	\$0	\$1,600

Management actions

No management actions were planned at this site for the financial year.

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Frequent fire.	Minimal change in the number of adult plants (<5% decline) and recruitment of new plants increasing by 10% annually.	Baseline data collection
Weed invasion, particularly by blackberry and potentially from <i>Pinus radiata</i> and broom.	Assess weed presence/absence across site.	On track

Site summary





Monitoring the site, 12 to 18 months post-fire, found the populations slowly recovering from the 2019–20 bushfires. Additional unburnt plants were found in parts of the Bullock Creek and Serpentine River catchments. This was a great outcome and improved the chance of recovery for these sub-populations. However, no seedlings were located within any of the burnt sub-populations, and seed predation by birds (cockatoos) appeared to be high. Supplementation of the population along Sandy Creek within Cathedral Rock National Park is being considered to boost the population and improve recovery. Ongoing follow-up monitoring for seedling recruitment will be the focus for this site next year.

Priority management site: Sara River

Local government area:
Armidale Regional; Glen Innes
Severn

Partners:
Australian Government Bushfire
Recovery Program;
Environment, Energy and
Science

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - Population monitoring is being undertaken as part of annual post-fire monitoring.

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program	\$0	\$9,041
Environment, Energy and Science	\$0	\$2,800

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2020-2021 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Risk of local extinction due to small, scattered populations.	Undertake one additional survey outside the known population annually.	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Frequent fire.	Minimal change in the number of adult plants (<5% decline) and recruitment of new plants increasing by 10% annually.	On track
Risk of local extinction due to small, scattered populations.	Minimal decline in population (<5%) annually.	Not assessed
Weed invasion, particularly by blackberry and potentially from <i>Pinus radiata</i> and broom.	Assess weed presence/absence across site.	On track

Site summary

Monitoring the site, 12 to 18 months post-fire, found the populations slowly recovering from the 2019–20 bushfires. No seedlings were detected at this stage. Follow-up monitoring of the population to assess recovery will continue to be the focus over the coming 12 months.

Saving our Species 2020-2021 annual report card for Pygmy Cypress Pine (*Callitris oblonga*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.