Mongarlowe mallee

Eucalyptus recurva

Critically endangered

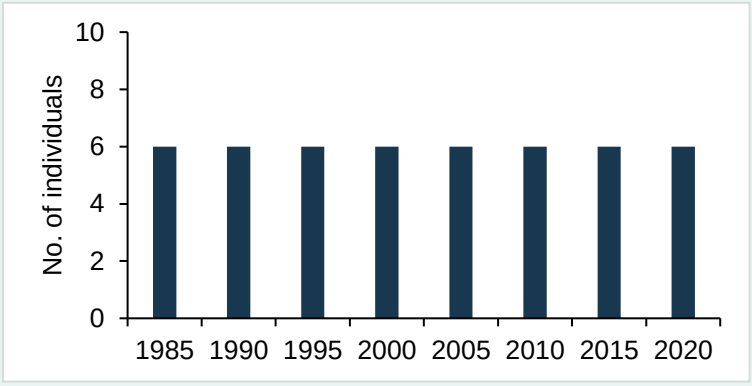
Target: maintain and increase population through landholder engagement and research

Since 1985, only six Mongarlowe mallee (*Eucalyptus recurva*) individuals have been discovered and all are found on private properties near Mongarlowe and Windellama. This species faces anthropogenic disturbances like trampling from plant enthusiasts and soil compaction by vehicles. Habitat degradation and potential hydrological changes threaten the Windellama site due to a nearby clay mine. This *Saving our Species* (SoS) project focuses on maintaining existing trees by strengthening relationships with landholders to inform and encourage them to protect one of the rarest plants on Earth. Private landholders are now appreciative of the rarity of this species and the need to protect it by allowing actions such as the installation of fences and signs to prevent unauthorised access.

The six known mallee trees are separated by large distances, and no viable pure seeds have been produced, so no recruitment has occurred. Successful hand cross-pollination was undertaken in 2002 and 2003, but unfortunately the seeds are no longer viable. Since then, there have been very limited chances for hand cross-pollination as most of the mallees' stems have died. However, hand cross-pollination will occur when plants are flowering again. If successful, this would be used to establish a new in situ population. The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is also researching propagation of the species using grafting techniques. This Mongarlowe mallee project is led by the SoS program in partnership with South East Local Land Services, Australian Botanic Garden and private landholders who have assisted with propagation trials, maintenance, and protection of this species.

Trajectory: stable

As there are only six of these rare plants found only on private properties, it was essential to strengthen relationship with landholders as the core threat management action. This action has prevented any loss of individuals since its discovery in 1985.



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