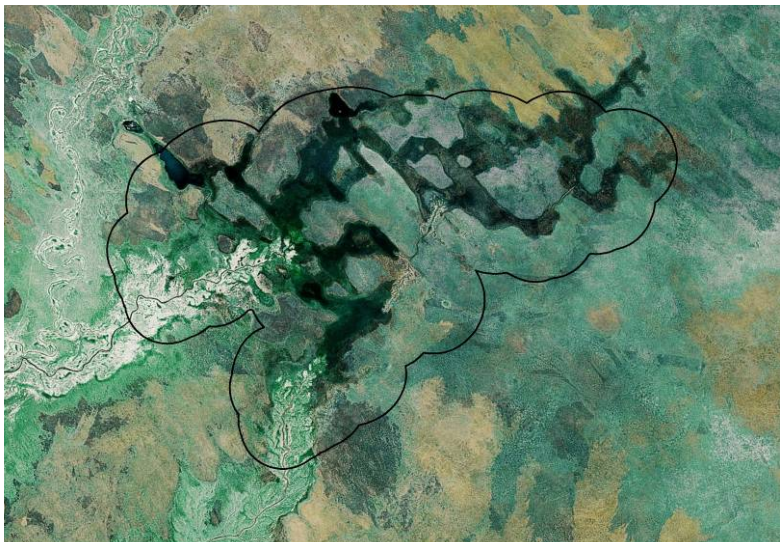
Frew River floodout swamps

Location and Description

The Frew River floodout swamps are located 420 km north-east of Alice Springs and 160 km south-east of Tennant Creek. The Site encompasses the large wooded swamps associated with the Frew River and Teatree Creek, and the surrounding alluvial plains. The swamps retain water for many months after inundation and support a diversity of wetland plants, fish and birds. The dominant vegetation community is coolabah woodland with a grassy understorey.



Tenure and Land Use

The floodout swamps are situated on pastoral leasehold land within one pastoral lease (Epenarra Station), and vacant Crown land. The main land use within the site is pastoralism.

Significance Rating

National Significance

Ecological Values

The series of large wooded swamps on the Frew River Floodplain provide habitat for many wetland species in an otherwise largely arid landscape. The Site is significant for wetland values, but is poorly surveyed and its importance for other environmental values is unknown.

Management Issues

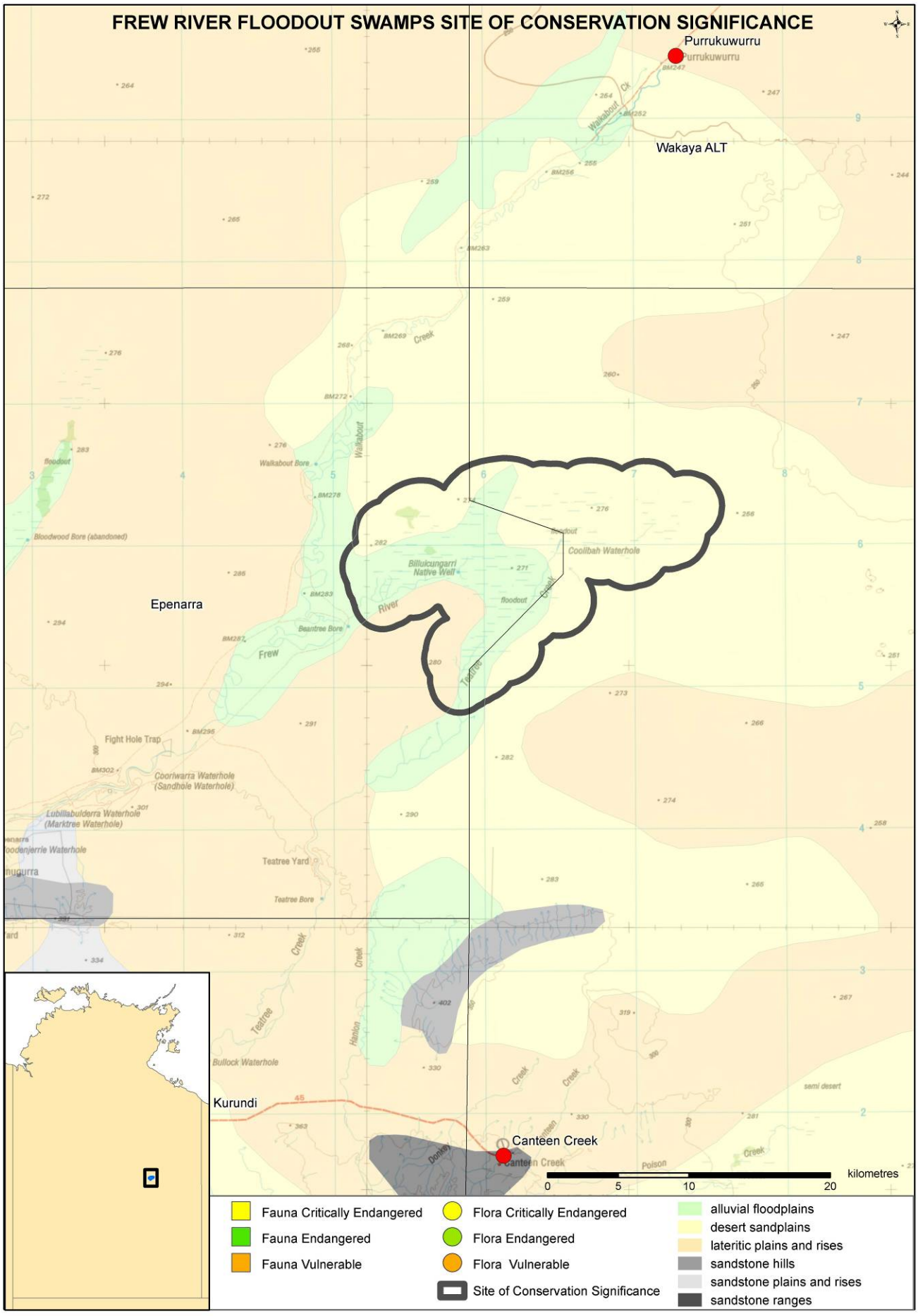
This site is poorly surveyed and little information is available on the processes affecting the conservation values of the floodout swamps.

Condition

No information located.

Current Conservation Initiatives

No information located.


FREW RIVER FLOODOUT SWAMPS SITE OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE
Purrukuwurru
Wakaya ALT
Epenarra
Kurundi
Canteen Creek
Coolibah Waterhole
Billuicungarri Native Well
Bloodwood Bore (abandoned)
Walkabout Bore
Beantree Bore
Fight Hole Trap
Coorlwarra Waterhole (Sandhole Waterhole)
Lubillabulderra Waterhole (Marktree Waterhole)
Teatree Yard
Teatree Bore
Bullock Waterhole
Frew River
Walkabout Creek
Teatree Creek
Hanlon Creek
Donkey Creek
Poison Creek
semi desert
kilometres
0
5
10
20
Fauna Critically Endangered
Fauna Endangered
Fauna Vulnerable
Flora Critically Endangered
Flora Endangered
Flora Vulnerable
Site of Conservation Significance
alluvial floodplains
desert sandplains
lateritic plains and rises
sandstone hills
sandstone plains and rises
sandstone ranges

LOCATION	**SOCS Number**	49 (NT Parks and Conservation Masterplan Map Number 64)
	Latitude/Longitude	20º 16´ South, 135º 36´ East (at centre)
	Bioregion	Davenport Murchison Ranges (100%)
	Description	The boundary of this site is delineated based on the wetland area identified by Duguid *et al.* (2005), with the addition of a 2 km buffer. It encompasses an area of 268 km². Major vegetation communities within the site include coolabah *Eucalyptus microtheca* low open-woodland (White *et al.* 2000) and areas of floodplain with an overstorey of melaleuca and acacia species (Duguid 2005). The Davenport and Murchison Ranges lie to the south of the site and are also identified as a site of high conservation significance in the NT.
THREATENED SPECIES	**Significance Rating**	**Not Significant**
	Threatened plants and animals (Listings at National/NT level **CR** - Critically Endangered, **EN** - Endangered, **VU** - Vulnerable, **NT** - Near Threatened, **LC** - Least Concern, **DD** - Data Deficient)	No threatened species are reported from this site.
ENDEMIC SPECIES	**Significance Rating**	**Not Significant**
	Notes	**Endemic to the NT:** Two plant species reported from the site are endemic to the NT (*Cullen walkingtonii* and *Stemodia* sp. *Manners Creek*).
WILDLIFE AGGREGATIONS	**Significance Rating**	**Not Significant**
	Marine turtles	Not applicable
	Seabirds	None known
	Waterbirds	None known
	Shorebirds	None known
	Other aggregations	None known
WETLANDS	**Significance Rating**	**National Significance**
	Ramsar criteria met	The Frew River floodout forest has been assessed against the criteria for listing as a wetland of International significance under the Ramsar convention, but it does not meet the criteria (Duguid 2005).
	DIWA criteria met	The Frew floodout is not listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands, but assessments by Duguid *et al.* (2005) found that it meets DIWA Criteria 1 and 2, and possibly Criterion 3.
	Notes	The Frew floodout consists of several large wooded swamps that retain water for many months after inundation and support a diversity of wetland plants, fish and birds. These swamps are next to a vast floodplain swamp which is not as long-lasting and has an overstorey dominated by melaleuca and acacia species (Duguid 2005).
	Rivers	The Frew River is one of several large but relatively short rivers that drain the northern side of the Davenport Range. Teatree Creek also feeds into the floodout swamps.
FLORA	**Significance Rating**	**Not Significant**
	Notes	No restricted range or relictual species are recorded from the site.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES		The Frew River floodout swamps are identified as being significant for biodiversity conservation by Duguid *et al.* (2005). The lower Frew River and floodout is identified as a Site of Botanical Significance in White *et al.* (2000). 17 waterbird species are reported from a single rapid survey of the floodout swamps, and further surveys are needed to better understand waterbird usage of the site (A. Duguid, NRETAS pers. comm.).
MANAGEMENT ISSUES		**Fire:** In the period 1997-2005, most parts of the site (69%) were burnt fewer than two times and no parts were burnt more than four times. The change from a small-scale mosaic fire regime to one of large wildfires has potential to affect the biodiversity values of this site (NRETA 2005). **Feral animals:** No information located **Weeds & invasive exotic plants:** No priority weeds are recorded from this site, but the exotic invasive couch grass *Cynodon dactylon* is likely to be present. **Other:** Grazing pressure may be affecting the conservation values of the site (NRETA 2005). The extent and nature of all threats to the conservation values of the site cannot be defined because there has been insufficient biological survey in the area.
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION	**NRM groups**	No information located.
	Protected areas	The site is not included within the NT system of protected areas.
	Current management plans	**Site-specific plans:** No information located. **Other management plans:** Australian Weeds Strategy (NRMMC 2007).
	Monitoring programs and research projects	Across the NT, fire is mapped continuously under the North Australia Fire Information Project http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi/app/init.jsp
	Management recommendations	In conjunction with landholders, develop conservation management programs, and with agreement of landholders, nominate an area of the site for inclusion in Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (NRETA 2005). Provide extension services to assist landholders in implementing agreed conservation management programs (NRETA 2005). Conduct a detailed biological survey of the area.
KEY REFERENCES	**Papers and reports**	Duguid, A., Barnetson, J., Clifford, B., Pavey, C., Albrecht, D., Risler, J. and McNellie, M. (2005). Wetlands in the arid Northern Territory. *A report to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage on the inventory and significance of wetlands in the arid NT.* Northern Territory Government Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. Alice Springs. http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/nature/aridwetlands.html
	Contributors	