

**Revegetating Mayi Budan - working with aboriginal ranger groups to restore endangered Monsoon Vine Thickets (mayi budan) of the Dampier peninsula, Kimberley.**

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Bardi Jawi, Nyul Nyul and Yawuru Aboriginal Women Rangers have worked with Environs Kimberley and Partners to restore degraded areas of the Monsoon Vine Thickets of the Dampier Peninsula, a culturally significant and nationally Endangered Ecosystem. The Dampier Peninsula is located in the south west corner of the Kimberley, where this rainforest-allied ecosystem occurs as a network of 86 patches nestled in the coastal dune system. Monsoon Vine Thickets (MVT's) are culturally important, containing valuable bush-tucker, medicines, important water places and other cultural sites; and ecologically important making up less than 0.01% of the Peninsular yet containing 25% of the plant species. Known threats include fire, weed invasion, clearing, tourism and recreation. Environs Kimberley worked with the relevant aboriginal ranger group and community to conduct ecological restoration at 5 MVT patches, including community consultation, site preparation and planning, direct seeding, community tree planting, establishment of reticulation system and ongoing site maintenance. Where possible, seedling stock was bought from the rangers to support business development, with seedlings grown through previous project support in seed collection, storage and propagation.

Revegetation projects in the Kimberley climate confront many challenges, with seedlings requiring the establishment of reticulated watering systems to avoid dying during the dry season, and one site becoming totally inundated during a record wet season. Despite these challenges the project has been incredibly successful in initiating the ecological restoration process, building community collaboration, providing opportunities for traditional knowledge transfer between rangers and school kids and educating the community on MVT importance and threats. This project is one of many collaborative conservation projects run by Environs Kimberley with aboriginal ranger partners, linking the best science and traditional knowledge to help protect the nature of the Kimberley.