

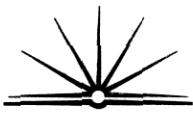


Minnamurra Rainforest (MRF) is an ecosystem of numerous biophysical interactions that promote uniqueness and diversity.

Situated in the 5700ha Budderoo National Park, MRF is 15km west of Kiama, on the NSW South Coast, and 130km south of Sydney, Australia. At latitude $34^{\circ}30'S$, MRF is a temperate rainforest.

Over the past 200 years, MRF has undergone many changes due to biophysical interactions, although many have been due to human intervention.

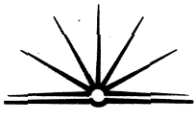
With the settlement of Europeans in the early 1700's, Minnamurra was sought for its beauty and value. At the time, there were abundant amounts of Red Cedar trees growing in the rainforest. This proved



to be a good source of income to the township of Kiama, as red cedar is an expensive timber. Unfortunately, malpractice of the industry lead to a total wiping out of cedars by the early 1900's.

However, with the disappearance of the Red Cedar, other plant and tree species now have the ability to grow and spread through the park. The opening up of areas in the canopy also lead to the burning of shade dwelling plants that killed native plants.

Another human induced interaction is the introduction of new fauna. Feral cats, pigs and dogs all impact the ecosystems functioning. Cats and Dogs kill native wildlife while pigs damage trees and trample ground dwelling plants.



The functions of the ecosystems in MRF have been utilised by man to promote ecological sustainability in the past 50 years. A caretaker was employed to minimise the effects of negative human interaction on the ecosystem.

Biophysical Interactions by humans can help or hinder a diverse ecosystem, although mostly humans hinder ecosystems. Professor Norman Myers of the World Resources Institute states that humans have accounted for the disappearance of half the world's rainforests. At current rates, only one-fifth will remain in the year 2030. Another fact is that the world loses 50-100 species of plants + animals each day, according to David Suzuki. By 2000, almost 10% of all creatures had become extinct and by 2020, 33% of all creature will have become extinct due to human interactions.



with the environment.