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Australian Government

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SALINITY AND WATER QUALITY (NAP)
NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST (NHT)
NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME (NLP)**

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SUBMITTED TO SOUTH COAST NRM INC

1 July to 30 September 2007

Project ID	033146a
Project Title	State-Wide seed conservation strategy for threatened species, threatened communities and biodiversity hotspots
Contact	Ms Anne Cochrane
Delivery Organisation	Department of Environment and Conservation
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PART A

Summary of Funding

ALL FIGURES ARE GST EXCLUSIVE

Total Funding Approved (GST Excl)	A	259,500.00	
Funding paid to 30 Jun 2007	B	169,750.00	
Funding paid 1 Jul to 30 Sep 2007	C	30000	
Funding paid to date	D	199,750.00	B+C
Funds yet to be distributed	E	59,750.00	A-D

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROPONENT

Acquittal of Funding

Amount on hand as at 30 Jun 2007 (Pls refer to previous report)	F	6,201.62	
Amount received from South Coast NRM 1 Jul to 30 Sep 07	G	30000	
Amount received from other sources 1 Jul to 30 Sep 07	H	408.36	
Expenditure Amt for 1 Jul to 30 Sep 07	I	26,954.58	
Funds on Hand as at 30 Sep 2007	J	9,655.40	F+G+H-I

Figure (H) to include interest accrued.

Funds Required

Estimated Expenditure 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2007	K	30,000.00	
Estimated Funds from other sources 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2007	L		
Funds on Hand as at 30 Sep 2007 (same as above)	J	9,655.40	
Net Funds Required	M	27,250.00	K-L-J
Scheduled funding as per Payment Schedule (Quarter Commencing 1 Oct 2007)	N	27,250.00	*

Figure (M) may be negative.

* Please note that a variation must be applied for if Net Funds Required (M) is greater than the Scheduled payment (N) by more than 5%. If Funds Required is a negative or less than the Scheduled payment, then a formal variation is not required. Only invoice for the required amount (rounded to nearest thousand is acceptable). If the amount is very close the scheduled payment, you may invoice for the scheduled amount.

PART B

1 July to 30 September 2007

Project summary (copied by South Coast NRM Inc from the current Project Schedule)

Project description:

The activity outcomes will improve the status of threatened ecological communities, biodiversity hotspots and flora throughout the State, providing material for in situ recovery actions and further seed research. The work undertaken will be consistent with completed, draft or proposed Interim Recovery Plans and Recovery Plans that describe management actions. The work will be undertaken by skilled staff from the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Threatened Flora Seed Centre with assistance from Departmental Conservation Officers and community members. This activity offers a multi-regional, multi-year approach to delivering a major biodiversity conservation outcome. The results will be communicated to all NRM Regional Groups and can provide the template for a national seed conservation approach.

Key Investment Areas:

Increase the level of protection of native flora by obtaining seed for long term conservation of 100 species per annum across the identified target areas.

The implementation of fundamental recovery processes for threatened flora, ecological communities and biodiversity hotspots by providing seed-based genetic resources for future in situ restocking.

Provide important data for recovery plans and interim recovery plans for threatened flora, ecological communities and biodiversity hotspots through seed acquisition.

Gain understanding of biological process underpinning recovery and rehabilitation of plant species through seed investigation studies.

Improve the skill-base of community members and stakeholders in seed conservation.

Improve public awareness of seed conservation.

Implement an integrated and consistent approach to collecting seed, taking into account seasonal influences across the regions.

Use existing data and resources to more effectively collect and conserve seed material.

Instigate regular monitoring of material to understand the biology of native species from threatened communities and biodiversity hotspots.

Provide training to community members in correct methods for seed collection.

Foster an appreciation and awareness of ex situ conservation and its role in the recovery of threatened species and communities.

Develop work plan and seed collection strategy building on existing data and resources.

Field collection of 100 species per annum across the identified target areas.

Gather data on seed biology and ecology.

Process and store seed under safe seed bank conditions.

Implement seed investigation studies in the laboratory.

Involve community members from all regions in seed collection activities.

Instigate public and community awareness for seed conservation activities through development of promotional material and media releases.

Milestone for quarter ending 30 September 2007

Monitoring and evaluation of collections.

Milestone for next quarter ending 31 December 2007

Collection of seed (50 species)

Subprogram Leader/South Coast NRM Inc Project Liaison Contact

Deon Utber

deon.utber@dec.wa.gov.au

9842 4546

Section 1: Progress for the quarter

1a: Summary

Provide a brief summary of activity for the quarter in relation to the Project's deliverables - including the Project's Objectives, Outputs and Key Investment Areas as listed above. Provide up to 1/2 of a page. Do not use acronyms.

Overall project summary: To date 378 collections of rare, threatened and poorly known flora and flora associated with Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and Biodiversity Hotspots have been made since the commencement of the project. These collections represent 296 taxa (51 DRF; 86 Priority Flora and the remainder more widespread species from TECs

and Biodiversity Hotspots). A duplicate sample for each of 112 collections has now been sent to the Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSB) in the UK for safe keeping. A total of 7 kilograms of clean seed is stored across two long term seed conservation facilities – DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre in Perth and the MSB facility in the UK.

Summary for quarter: Eleven new seed collections were made during the period July 1 to September 30. These collections represented eight Declared Rare and two Priority Flora species and came from the Avon, Northern Agricultural and South Coast Regions. Most effort over the past quarter was directed towards the cleaning, processing and storage of existing collections and ensuring that all information pertinent to these collections and their processing and storage data have been adequately captured in DEC's seed conservation database WASeed. A number of germination tests were conducted and the majority of seedlings resulting from these tests have been incorporated into ongoing trials into the susceptibility of the flora to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Over the past quarter two new consignments of seeds, many collected as part of this South Coast NRM project, were sent to the MSB for safe keeping.

A number of studies utilised seeds collected under this current South Coast NRM funded seed conservation project. This included research into temperature thresholds for germination in 10 species from the South Coast Region which was carried out earlier this year (April-June) at the MSB in the UK and in mid September was presented at the international *Seed Ecology 2007: Seeds and the Environment* conference in Perth. Research conducted at the University of Western Australia tested temperature for germination across a climatic gradient in the genus *Eucalyptus* and included four species from the South Coast Region.

A further 29 State government stakeholders were trained in issues related to seed conservation and in seed collection protocols during the 2nd Albany Flora Management Course held in September 2007. As reported previously, this course is now nationally recognised by becoming aligned to the TAFE Unit of Competency 'Monitor Biodiversity' and contributes to a Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management. The new Project Officer, Todd Erickson, attended the 2007 Flora Management Course and assisted with the field component of the Seed Conservation portion of the course.

1b: Milestone for quarter

State if the milestone has been achieved or to what extent it has not been achieved. Also briefly describe the progress against the milestone and any outcomes.

Milestones for the past quarter have been achieved. Processing and storage of collections has been ongoing with an additional two consignments of seed sent for safe keeping to the Millennium Seed Bank in the UK. These consist of duplicate collections of seed that are also held in long term storage in Perth at DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre. Monitoring and evaluation of collections is ongoing. Preparatory planning work has been done for the forthcoming field seed collecting season over the past quarter with work plans for the coming collecting season now finalised. Some early reconnaissance field work has been carried out. Research aimed at gaining an understanding of species response to temperature during germination was conducted and disseminated during the past quarter increasing the awareness of the importance of seed conservation and the use of seeds in research. This data can now be incorporated into the recovery planning process.

Section 2: Lessons learned to date

Briefly describe the lessons that have been learned to date - if not reported previously. (Up to 1/4 of a page).

As previously reported.

Section 3: Promotional opportunities and highlights

Briefly describe any promotional opportunities and highlights - including good news stories.

Please send any promotional documents (e.g. Media releases sent to the paper, Brochures etc.) as a separate file (MS Word or compressed PDF is preferred).

Dissemination of research results at an international conference.

Section 4: Impact on the community to date

Briefly describe the impact that this project has had on the community to date – only include impacts that have not been reported previously under this section. (Up to 1/4 of a page).

Greater awareness of seed conservation issues has been achieved, along with training in seed collection, for 29 government stakeholders who came from throughout all NRM Regions (South Coast, South West, Avon, Rangelands, Northern Agricultural Catchment and Swan). These government employees will in turn be able to pass on their knowledge and skills to community members in their own Regions throughout the state.

Section 5: Unresolved project issues or risks that need mitigating

Briefly list any unresolved project issues that require attention or risks that need mitigating (by either the Delivery Organisation, South Coast NRM Inc or other partners/stakeholders)

No unresolved issues to report.

Section 6: Performance checklist (black or white reporting)

Deliverable/Service	YES / NO only	Action required if "NO"	Notes: (Notes are required only if the answer is "NO." Briefly explain reasons why and planned actions following discussions with Subprogram Leader/Project Liaison Officer to rectify situation)
Is the project on track for the successful completion of its objectives by the project end date - as per the contract?	YES	Discuss with Subprogram Leader/Project Liaison Officer	
Is the project on track for the successful delivery of its Key Investment Areas by the project end date - as per the contract?	YES	Discuss with Subprogram Leader/Project Liaison Officer	
Have all contracted Outputs been fully achieved to date - as per the contract's Output Table?	YES	Variation	
Have the Milestones for the quarter been fully achieved?	YES	Variation	
Based on current knowledge, will the next quarter's Milestones be fully achieved?	YES	Discuss with Subprogram Leader/Project Liaison Officer	
Are all planned M&E arrangements established?	YES	Discuss with Subprogram Leader/Project Liaison Officer	

Section 7: Project Personnel

Please provide information on the personnel for which this project provides funding.

How many FTE did this project originally intend to engage or employ?

For those currently employed staff or currently engaged consultants/contractors, please list full time equivalency (FTE), full name and contact details. Please list the key (primary) project contact in the first row.

FTE	Full Name	Phone / Mobile	Email
0.2	Anne Cochrane	98424526	anne.cochrane@dec.wa.gov.au
1.0	Todd Erickson	93340502	todd.erickson@dec.wa.gov.au
0.5	Niall Sheehy	93340502	niall.sheehy@dec.wa.gov.au

If applicable, please describe the arrangements to fill, and/or the timeframe for filling, any vacant positions or consultancies?

Section 8: Is a variation to the current Project Schedule, Outputs Table or Budget required?

~~YES~~ NO

If the project has not fully achieved the Milestones or Outputs for the reporting period then a request to vary the Project Schedule or Outputs table **MUST** be submitted with this report. NB: Any reduction or change to these deliverables is likely to affect the Budget also (refer below).

- If the project wants to move funds between budget line items and the total of the budget line will increase by 5% or \$1000 or more (whichever is greater) then a request to vary the approved Budget **MUST** be submitted with this report.
- Any proposed change to planned expenditure on Capital costs (Assets and Equipment) must include a request to vary the Budget and an Asset purchase approval must be submitted if over \$5000. This **MUST** be submitted with this report.
- It is recommended that any forecasted variation to the contract be discussed with Subprogram Leader or Project Liaison Officer.

Please contact the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc office to obtain a variation form and an electronic copy of your contract documents so that you can amend the documents (in track changes mode) to reflect this new information. Please prepare these required documents in consultation with South Coast NRM's Subprogram Leader or Project Liaison Officer.

IMPORTANT:

- It is a contractual requirement to notify South Coast NRM's at the earliest opportunity if the project is not on track. This requirement is not necessarily tied to the quarterly reporting process; processing these variations in advance of the quarterly reporting period is preferred.
- Variations will NOT be considered unless adequate information is provided and the prescribed process is followed. We have had

many instances in the past where inadequate information has been provided which significantly delay decisions.

- Failure to report factually on project performance, including the need for variations, will be deemed as a serious breach of contract conditions and appropriate action will be taken.

Section 9: Have you purchased any approved assets with Funding during the last quarter? **~~YES~~/ NO**

If **YES**, please list here individual items that cost \$500 or more and the date the item was purchased. Do not list items under leasing arrangements.

Section 10: In your opinion, has any intellectual property been created that has the potential for exploitation and/or commercialisation, and for which the Intellectual Property Rights should be legally protected under Statutory and/or Common Law? **~~YES~~/ NO**

If **YES**, please describe here.

DECLARATION BY DELIVERY ORGANISATION

In my opinion the amounts shown on this financial report were spent in accordance with the terms of the Contract Agreement.

Anne Cochrane

Senior Research Scientist

28 Oct 2007

Signature of Authorised
Representative

Name

Position

Date

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please ensure that both an e-copy of your Final version is sent to reports@southcoastnrm.com.au and a signed hard-copy of this report is submitted by mail or fax to the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc Office
444 Albany Hwy, ALBANY WA 6330
Fax: 9841 2707 Attn: Reports
(accompanied by a tax invoice if appropriate)
by the due date stated in the covering letter