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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

Quarter 1 October to 31 December 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 Sep 2007	B	199750	
Funding paid 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2007	C	27250	
Funding paid to date	D	227000	B+C
Funds yet to be distributed	E	32500	A-D

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROPONENT

Acquittal of Funding

Amount on hand as at 30 Sep 2007 (refer to previous report)	F	9,655.40	
Amount received from South Coast NRM 1 Oct to 31 Dec 07	G	27,250	
Amount received from other sources 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2007	H	290.77	
Expenditure Amt for 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2007	I	33,220.24	
Funds on Hand as at 31 Dec 2007	J	3,975.93	F+G+H-I

Figure (H) to include interest accrued and other income for the project.

Funds Required

Estimated Expenditure 1 Jan to 31 Mar 2008	K	28,975.93	
Estimated Funds from other sources 1 Jan to 31 Mar 2008	L		
Funds on Hand as at 31 Dec 2007 (same as J above)	J	3,975.93	
Net Funds Required	M	25,000.00	K-L-J
Scheduled funding as per Payment Schedule (Quarter Commencing 1 Jan 2008)	N	25,000.00	*

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

Quarter 1 October to 31 December 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 quarter ending 31 December 2007

Collection of seed (50 species)

Milestone for next quarter ending 31 March 2008

Collection of seed (50 species). Two community members trained in remaining 3 regions. Development of awareness of seed conservation activities. Monitoring and evaluation of collections.

South Coast NRM Inc Project Liaison Contact

Deon Utber

9842 4546

deon.utber@dec.wa.gov.au

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.

Between October 1 and 30 December

One hundred and fifteen collections representing 91 taxa were collected over the past quarter bringing the total amount of collections and taxa made for the entire project to 493 and 384 respectively. This well exceeds the total expected collection outputs for the entire project. Collections were made across 4 NRM Regions (South Coast, Rangelands, Avon-Wheatbelt and Swan) during this past quarter.

During the last quarter new locations for several priority taxa were identified (eg. 1 new locality for *Gyrostemon prostratus* (P3), located in Tarin Rock NR and 1 new locality for *Ptilotus halophilus* (P4), located in Kondinin Salt Marsh NR). It is also likely that a new species of *Wurmbea* has been discovered during the last quarter. Confirmation of this will occur when further flowering material is obtained in spring 2008.

Over 100 hours volunteer hours were donated to the seed conservation project and a community member from the South Coast Region was trained in seed collection over a period of 7 days. In addition, an indigenous cadet from the Pilbara (Rangelands NRM Region) is now working with the Threatened Flora Seed Centre in Perth and is being trained in seed conservation activities for 2 months over the summer. He has been involved in seed collection work since November with Todd Erickson, the Project Officer for this project 033146a, and is currently being trained in seed processing techniques.

Progress in communication with the mining industry is yielding considerable awareness and support for seed conservation activities in a number of regions. For example, environmental staff from the Forrestania Nickel Project, Western Areas NL were enthusiastic about seed collection in the area and were very helpful in regards to fieldtrip safety, providing accommodation/food, and ensuring sufficient fuel supplies for the project officer whilst collecting seed of conservation flora in the area.

Processing of seed for storage is ongoing and to date the project has now conserved more than 7.6kg of seed. To ensure that seed is safe a duplicate seed collection from 22 species collected during this project was dispatched to the Millennium Seed Bank in November. A brief outline of seed conservation activities for the DEC Albany District was presented to the recovery team at the Rare Flora Recovery Team meeting in November. The recovery team consists of community members and local and state government representatives.

1b: Milestones

State if the milestone for the quarter has been achieved or to what extent it has not been achieved. Also briefly describe the progress against the milestone and any outcomes. Please also comment on progress in relation to the next quarter's milestone. If you have outstanding obligations in relation to last quarter's milestones please also provide comments here.

The milestones for the quarter have been exceeded: 115 collections of seed from rare, threatened and poorly known flora and flora from Threatened Ecological Communities and Biodiversity Hotspots have been made in the last 3 months. This represents 91 taxa from 28 families and 51 genera. The majority of these collections were conservation-listed and consisted of 33 Declared Rare Flora, 19 Priority One, 22 Priority Two, 14 Priority Three and 9 Priority Four taxa. A further 18 collections were from species more common to the landscape. Of the Declared Rare Flora collections 13 were from critically endangered plants, 5 from endangered plants and 15 from vulnerable plants. Two of these DRF species will be used in recovery; 3 collections were made specifically to provide sufficient seeds for research into climate change and 2 species from the rangelands have the potential to be highly threatened by future mining activities hence were a priority for collection. Thirty-one collections were made in the South Coast Region, 11 from the Rangelands, 72 from the Avon wheatbelt and 1 from the Swan Region.

Progress towards milestones for the next quarter are represented in the seed collection outcomes from the previous quarter and also from the training of community members in seed conservation activities as described under the summary above.

1c: Outputs for period (1 Jul – 31 Dec 2007)

State if the Outputs have been achieved or to what extent they have not been achieved. Also briefly describe the progress against the total Outputs. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE YOU COMPLETE THE OUTPUTS REPORTING TEMPLATE.

One seed bank for conservation continue to be maintained and added to through ongoing collections of seed from Rare, Threatened and Priority flora and from flora from Threatened Ecological Communities and Biodiversity Hotspots. Community members and other stakeholders continue to be trained, informally as volunteers or else through more formal course such as the Flora Management Course, offered to Department of Environment and Conservation staff. In these ways, the public becomes more aware of seed conservation issues and fosters an appreciation of the role that seed collection and storage plays in the conservation and recovery of threatened flora and communities. Publicity material has also been created (eg. brochures and a poster) and presentations made at conferences and Rare Flora Recovery meetings that inform the public and other stakeholders.

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)

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).

An article has been drafted by the project Manager (Anne Cochrane) and forwarded to the Department of Environment and Conservation for publication in *Landscape* magazine. This article details the good news that seed conservation in Western Australia is helping to achieve global targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and specifically mentions the role that the South Coast NRM plays in supporting seed conservation in WA. The article will be published in autumn 2008 and will be forwarded to the SCNRM office when available.

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).

The Western Australia Chief Scientist, Prof. Lyn Beasley, made a visit to the Department of Environment and Conservation Science staff in Albany in early December. During this visit a presentation was made on seed conservation so as to inform the Chief Scientist of the progress being made in this area within the State. A site visit was made to a 'seed orchard' site for threatened flora – a number of critically endangered plant species have been planted at this site using seed collected and conserved through the seed conservation project. It is hoped that through the Chief Scientist and some potential media related to this visit, the wider community will also become more aware of seed conservation activities.

As per most quarters, community members have been involved in seed collection activities from time to time and employees of several mining companies have been made aware of seed conservation issues.

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)

N/A

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 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 Project Liaison Officer	
Have all contracted Outputs been fully achieved to date - as per the contract's Output Table?	YES	Variation Discuss with Project Liaison Contact	
Have the Milestones for the quarter been fully achieved?	YES	Variation Discuss with Project Liaison Contact	
Based on current knowledge, will the next quarter's Milestones be fully achieved?	YES	Discuss with Project Liaison Contact	
Are all planned M&E arrangements established?	YES	Discuss with Project Liaison Contact	

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? (This must include in-kind personnel as detailed in the Budget or Project Schedule)

1

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 /	Email
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		Mobile	
0.2	Anne Cochrane	98424526	anne.cochrane@dec.wa.gov.au
1.0	Todd Erickson	93340502	todd.erickson@dec.wa.gov.au

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

Section 9: Is a variation to the current Project Schedule, Outputs Table or Budget required? 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).

The Delivery Organisation is to keep within the budget line items in the approved budget. A variance from the approved budget of 5% between line items (Employment costs, Direct inputs, Other projects costs, and Monitoring and Evaluation) is allowed. Capital costs, Assets and Equipment cannot be moved between items and the total cannot be changed without the written permission of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.

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 Project Liaison Contact.

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.
- 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 may be taken.

Section 10: Have you purchased any approved assets with Funding during the last quarter? 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 11: 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? NO

If **YES**, please describe here.

If **YES**, please also contact Deon Utber at deon.utber@dec.wa.gov.au to discuss this further.

Section 12: Special reporting requirements

Please provide the following details:

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	29/12/2007
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

