Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program

Progress Report

Reporting Period

☒ **Start of Activity Period - 31 December 2011**
☐ **1 January 2012 - 30 June 2012**
☐ **1 July 2012 - 31 December 2012**
☐ **Other (from to)**

Note: In order to meet our reporting requirements, we would like copies of publications generated as part of research projects. This includes not only Progress and Final Reports, but also any factsheets, draft or final journal papers, conference abstracts, workshop agendas, workshop reports, Power Point presentations and any other relevant material. **This should include evidence that deliverables due in the reporting period have been completed properly and in a timely manner.** Please ensure that electronic copies of such outputs are provided to NCCARF with this Progress Report.

SECTION 1 - Project details (as per Agreement)			
Project Number:	TB11 03		
Project Title:	Climate -resilient vegetation of multi-use landscapes: exploiting genetic variability in widespread species		
Principal Investigator(s):	Margaret Byrne, Suzanne Prober, Will Stock, Brad Potts, Rene Vaillancourt		
Lead Organisation:	Department of Environment and Conservation		
Project Start Date:	1 October 2011	Project End Date:	28 March 2013

SECTION 2 - Financial reporting
Is the Project proceeding to Financial Year budget ?* ☒ Yes ☐ No If not, provide reasons. *Note that this question relates to both cash and in-kind contributions as set out in the contract.*

SECTION 3 - Attachments	
Please list any attachments that form part of this progress report. Please use the same attachment title and file name.	
In relation to Section	Attachment title / file name

SECTION 4 - Progress reporting *[Section 4 of the Progress Report should not exceed 4 pages]*

4.1 SUMMARY information

List the Milestone(s) due in this period:	Milestone 1
Milestone(s) due in this period successfully delivered?	☒ Yes ☐ No

4.2 WORK UNDERTAKEN and its EFFECTIVENESS

Provide a summary of the work undertaken in this reporting period and discuss the effectiveness of this work. For example, this may include a discussion on whether your approach and methodology yielded data of sufficient quality and quantity or an evaluation of the usefulness and relevance to end users of results from your data analysis.

The ecophysiologist research scientist position was advertised and has been filled. The appointee, Elizabeth McLean commenced in the position on 10 January 2012.
The Project Reference Group has been established.
Information contributing to species selection has been sought from key stakeholders, particularly species for which there are existing trial plots for comparision with natural stands. Distributions and climate data for potential species have been collated.

4.3 Extent to which the MILESTONE(S) for the reporting period have been met

Please outline progress toward the milestones. If any milestones have not been met provide an explanation.

The end-user engagement and communication plan was submitted to NCCARF on 23 December 2011

4.4 OVERALL PROGRESS of the Project

Is the project on target to meet the agreed objectives? Have deliverables due in the reporting period been completed properly and in a timely manner? Please explain any delays experienced in this reporting period, reasons for delay, action proposed and any effects on subsequent milestones and completion of the Project

The project is on target to meet agreed objectives although some adjustment to the project activities is required due to delays in project contracting. Initially, field collections were to undertaken of the first species in November and the second in May, as these collections cannot be undertaken during summer when trees are stressed. Field collections were not able to be undertaken in November due to delays in project commencement and appointment of the ecophysiologist. To accomodate this, preliminary field work to locate suitable sites and collect site data and genetic samples for both species will be undertaken from February to April. Later collections of season-critical ecophysiological data will be made from May to July. This change in plan will not have any implications for delivery of project outcomes but will require minor revision of Milestones 2, 3 and 4 as follows:
Milestone 2 Field design and preliminary sampling - species 1 and 2 30 April 2012
Milestone 3 Sampling of ecophysiological data - species 1 and 2 30 July 2012
Milestone 4 Ecophysiology and genetic analysis - species 1 and 2 30 October 2012.

4.5 END-USER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION activities undertaken in this reporting period in line with your End-user Engagement Plan

Outline your End-user Engagement activities in this period (i.e. workshops, interviews, meetings etc.) and attach copies of any material generated for or in this engagement.

The Project Reference Group was established. Discussions were held with stakeholders to guage their interest in potential membership of the reference group. Invitations to potential members were sent in December and all invitees have accepted. The refreence Group includes
David Freudenberger, Greening Australia
Gary Howling, Great Easter Ranges Initiative
Neil Riches, WA State NRM representative
Richard Mazenec, Natural Resources Branch, DEC WA.
A meeting of the reference group has being arranged for 8 February 2012. Information on species for selection will be distributed prior to the meeting.
Extensive discussion on the project has been held with David Freudenberger during a visit to Perth to get imput and advice on project design and potential implementation of project results in Greening Australia's revegetation strategies. Discussions have also been had with Anne Smith (Greening Australia, WA), Bindi Vanzella (Greening Australia, Canberra), Peter White (DEC WA), Richard Mazanec (DEC WA), Wayne O'Sullivan (The Wilderness Society, WA), Bruce Maslin (DEC WA), David Bush (Australian Low Rainfall Tree Improvement Group, SA), Chris Harwood (CSIRO, Hobart), Linda Broadhurst (CSIRO, Canberra).

Documentation attached ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, list attachments in **Section 3**

Outline your communication activities for this period (i.e. journal articles, presentations, conferences, newspaper articles and media appearances and attach copies (Including drafts where available).

No communication activities for this period

Documentation attached ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, list attachments in **Section 3**

Summarise progress (and discuss delays) against the End-user Engagement and Communication Plan.

Progress against End-user Engagement and Communication Plan is as planned. The Reference Group has been established.

Documentation attached ☐ Yes ☒ No	If yes, list attachments in **Section 3**

4.6 Brief NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY of the Project progress

Provide a brief non-technical summary (about 250 words) of the progress against the objectives (as stated in the Project Agreement) since the Project commenced. Here, you are writing for a reader with limited knowledge in the area.

Multi-million dollar investments in maintenance of ecosystem function through restoration of Australia's degraded and fragmented multi-use landscapes currently take little account of climate change. Until recently there has been a strong focus on maintaining local genetic patterns for optimal restoration. In a changing climate this paradigm will no longer be relevant. This project will undertake pioneering research and development at the interface between molecular genetics, plant physiology and climate adaptation, targeting the question "What new genetic frameworks can facilitate adaptive restoration in changing environments?" Addressing this question will ensure optimal outcomes for Australia-wide investment in ecological restoration and provide solutions to ecosystem adaptation in changing environments. The project has established a reference group of key stakholders to ensure direct engagement of end-users in the project. The project has collated information on potential species distribution and climatic conditions, and commenced design of the sampling strategy.

SECTION 5 - Certification

It is anticipated that the Principal Investigator will sign here in most circumstances, but note that the signatory should be a permanent employee of the institution.

I certify that:

1) this report is a truthful account of the project activities during the relevant reporting period;
2) all ARGP funds reported in this period were spent for the purpose of the Project and in accordance with the Funding Agreement;
3) if applicable, all cash contributions reported in this period, were received and spent for the purpose of the Project and in accordance with the Funding Agreement; and
4) if applicable, all in-kind contributions reported in this period, have been received and spent for the purpose of the Project and in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

Signature:	
Date:	
Name:	
Position:	
Organisation:	
Telephone:	
Email:	