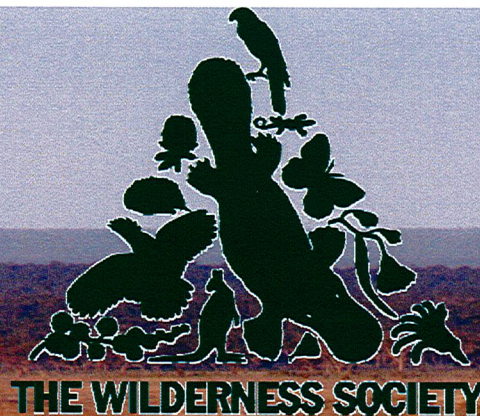


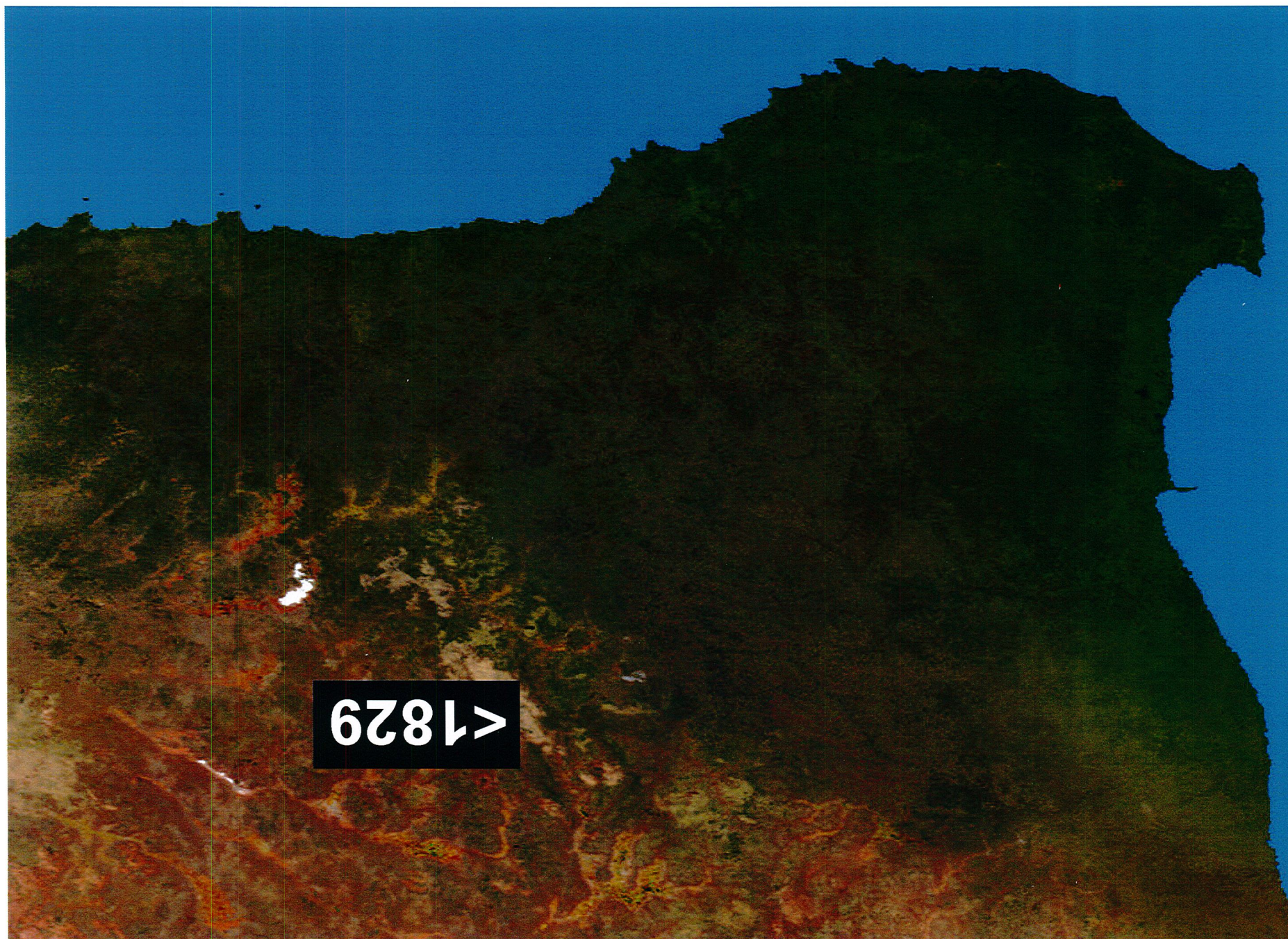


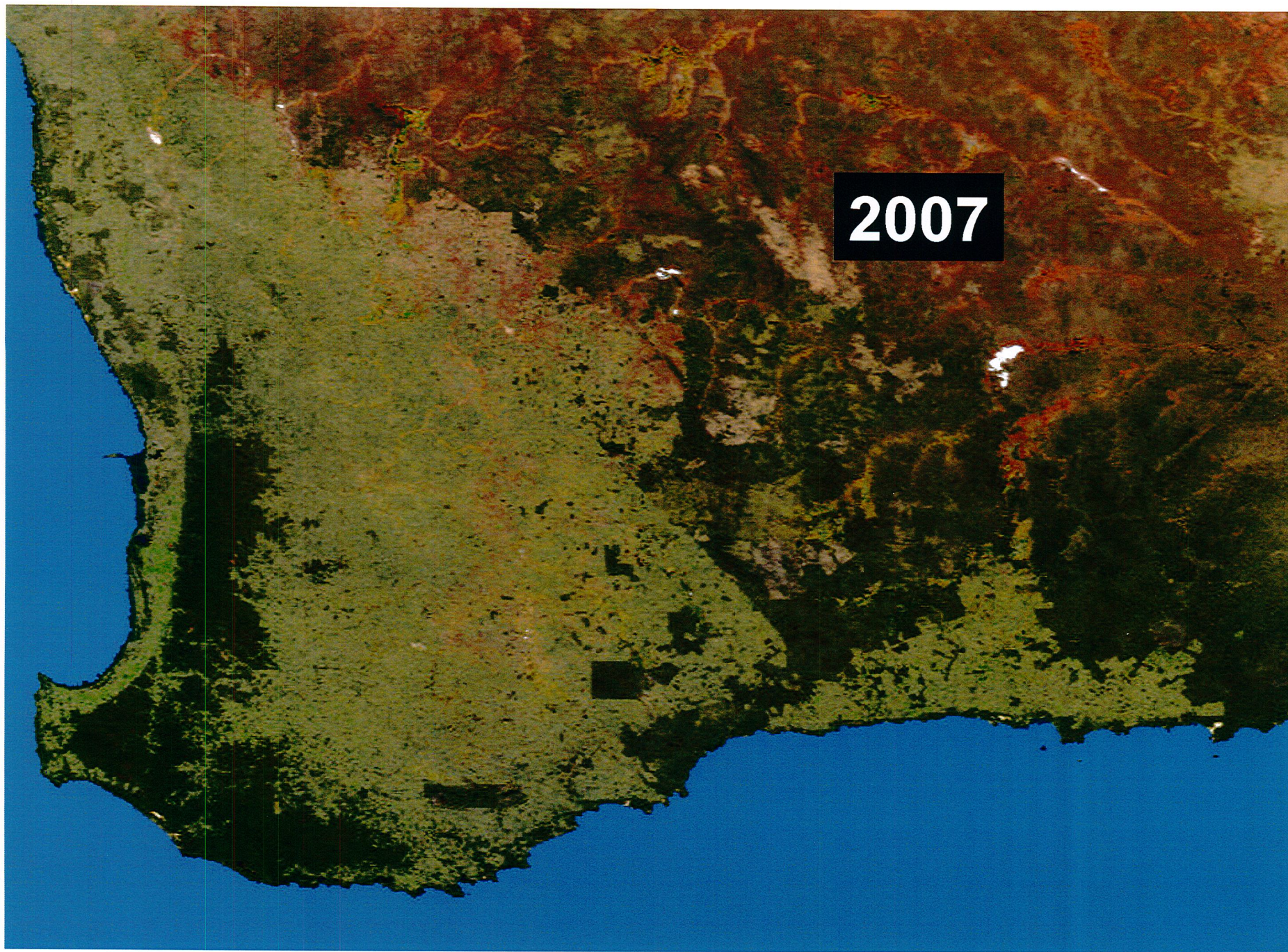
Conserving a global treasure: WA's Great Western Woodlands

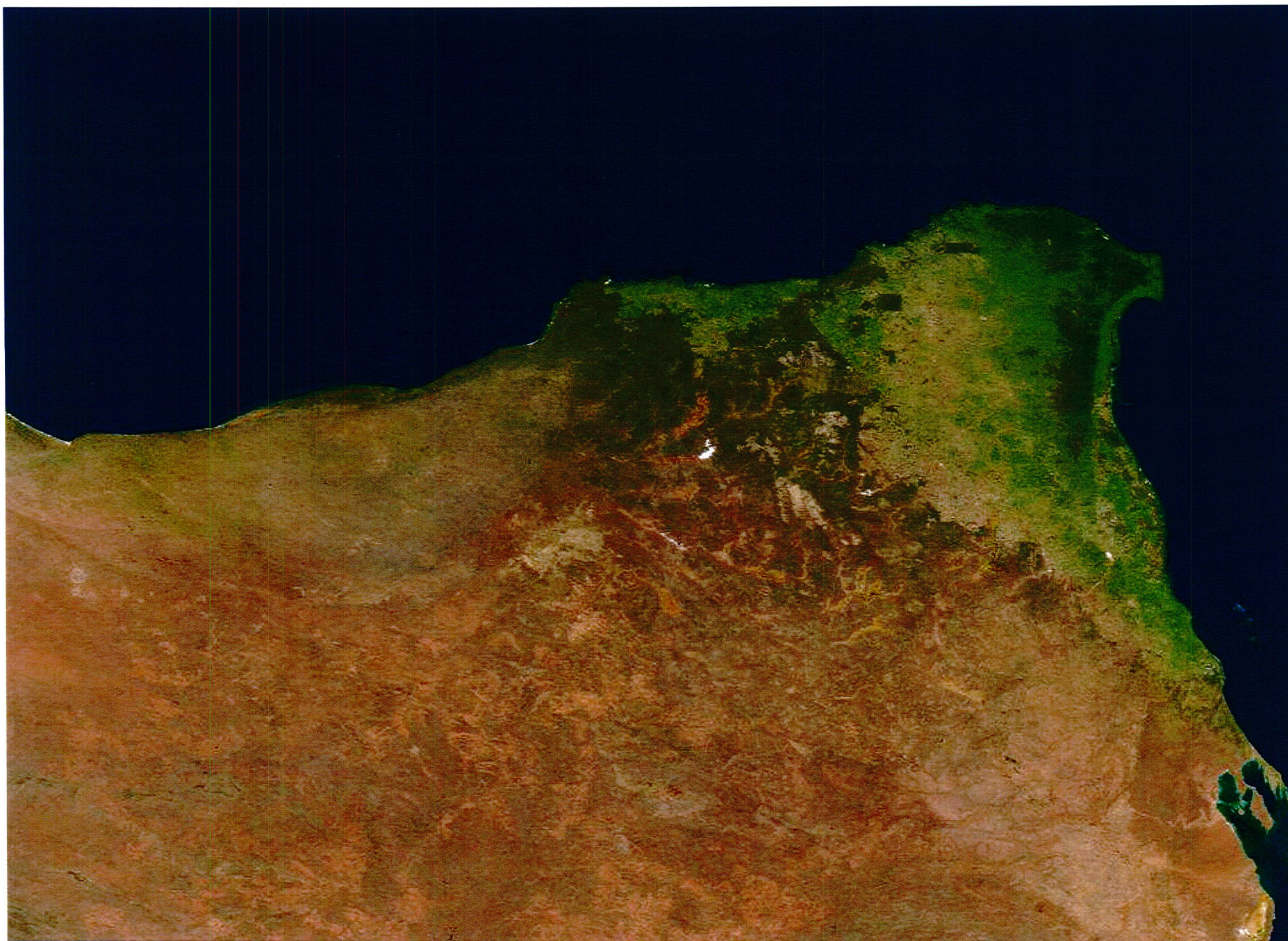
Dr Alexander Watson
Outback Conservation Manager
The Wilderness Society WA Inc

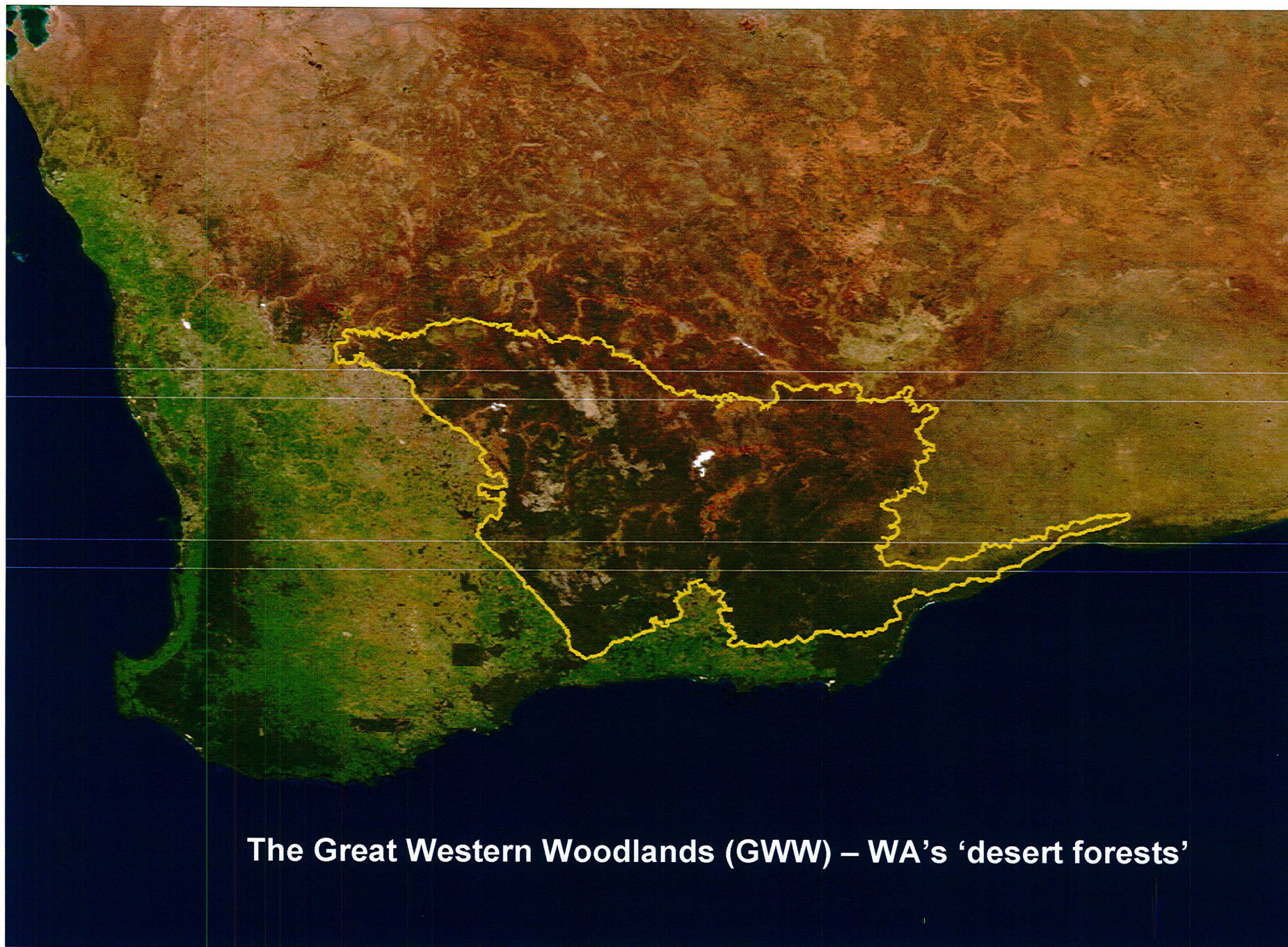
Copyright: The Wilderness Society WA Inc; Jan 2008

Photographer - Barbara Madden









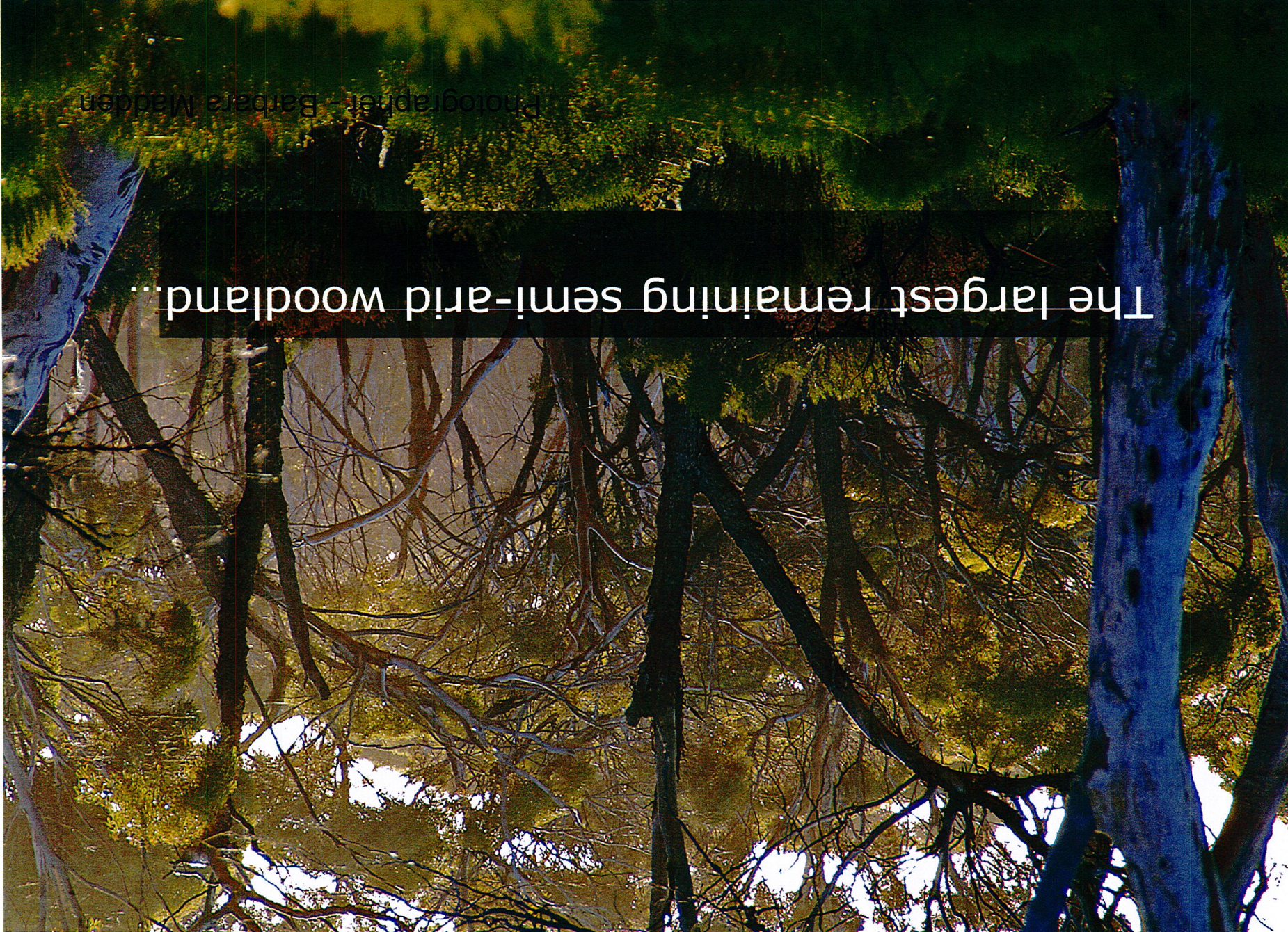
The Great Western Woodlands (GWW) – WA's 'desert forests'

16 million hectares of a relatively
untouched functioning landscape





The largest extent of intact habitat of any type remaining in southern Australia, and...

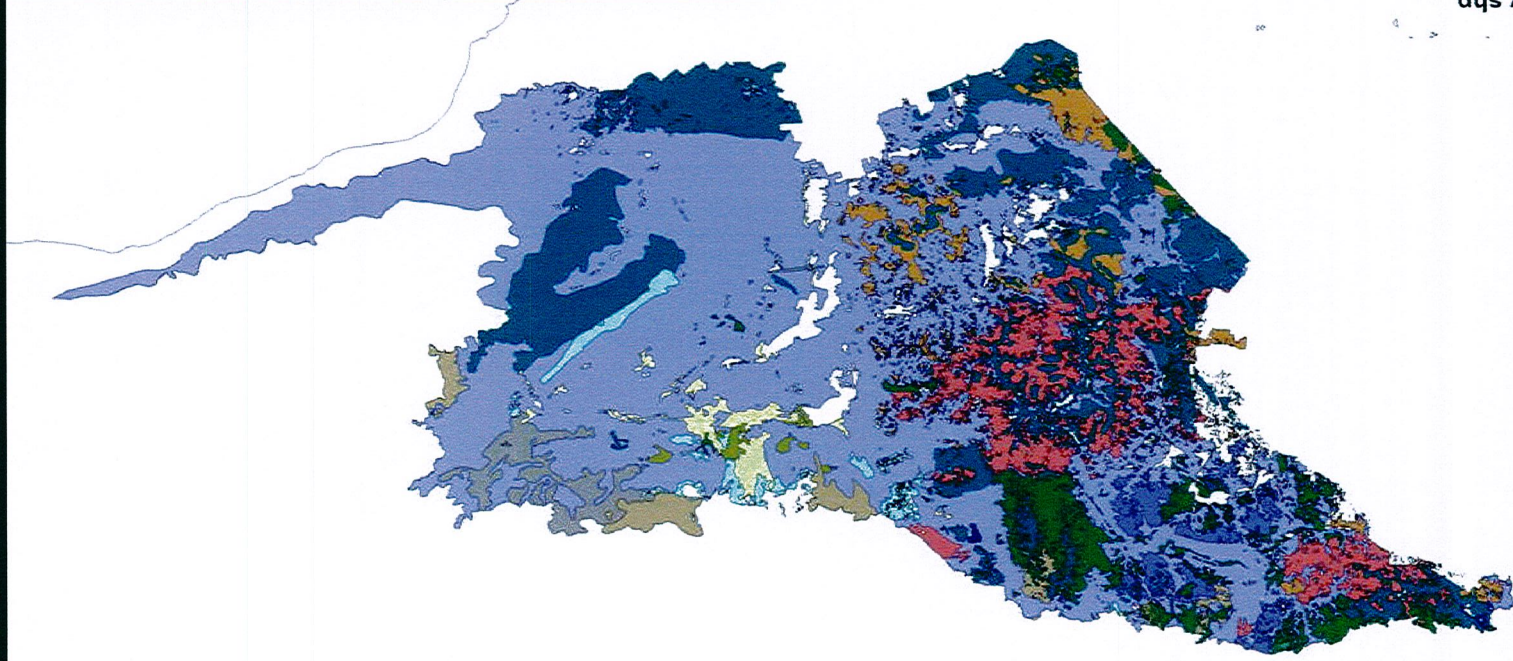


The largest remaining semi-arid woodland...

Photographer: Barbara Madden



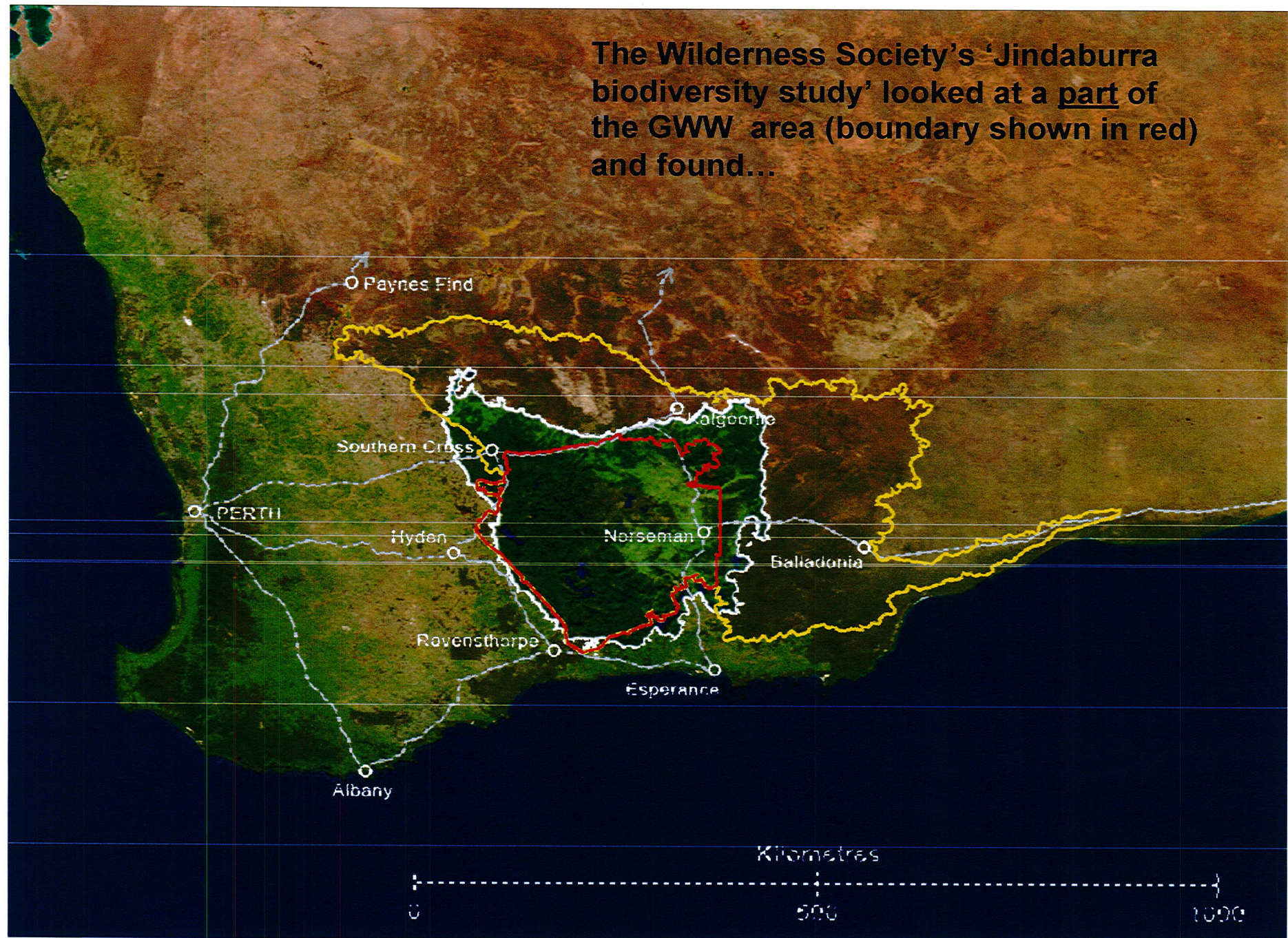
...and Mediterranean shrubland **on Earth!**



Nvis_gww.shp

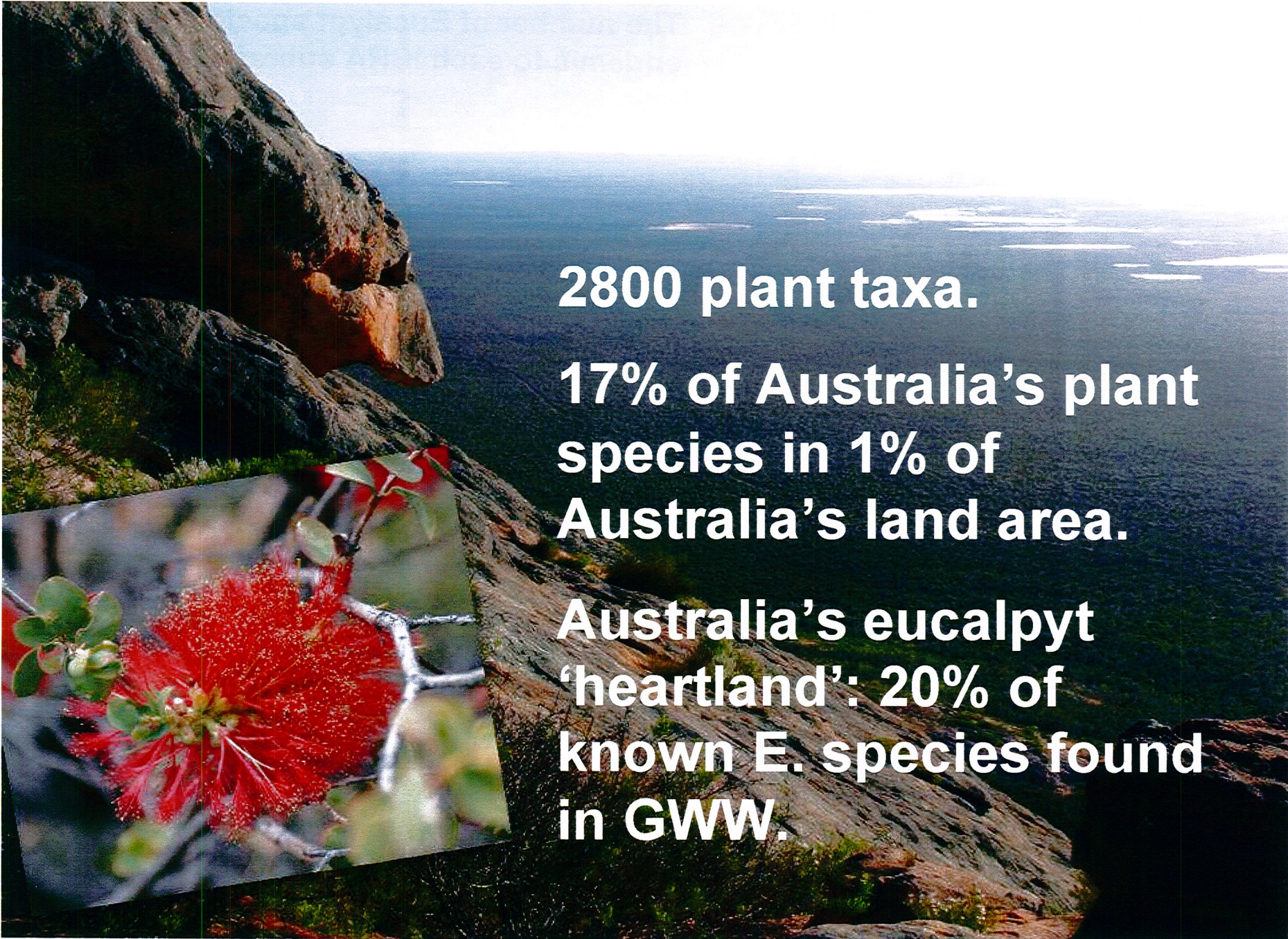
Eucaiypt Low Open Forests
Eucaiypt Woodlands
Acacia Forests and Woodlands
Callitris Forests and Woodlands
Casuarina Forests and Woodlands
Other Forests and Woodlands
Acacia Open Woodlands
Mallee Woodlands and Shrublands
Low Closed Forests and Tall Closed Shrublands
Acacia Shrublands
Other Shrublands
Heathlands
Hummock Grasslands
Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands

The Wilderness Society's 'Jindaburra biodiversity study' looked at a part of the GWW area (boundary shown in red) and found...



The study used data from the Australian
Federal Government, Western Australian
Herbarium, Western Australian Museum,
DEC and BirdsAustralia.



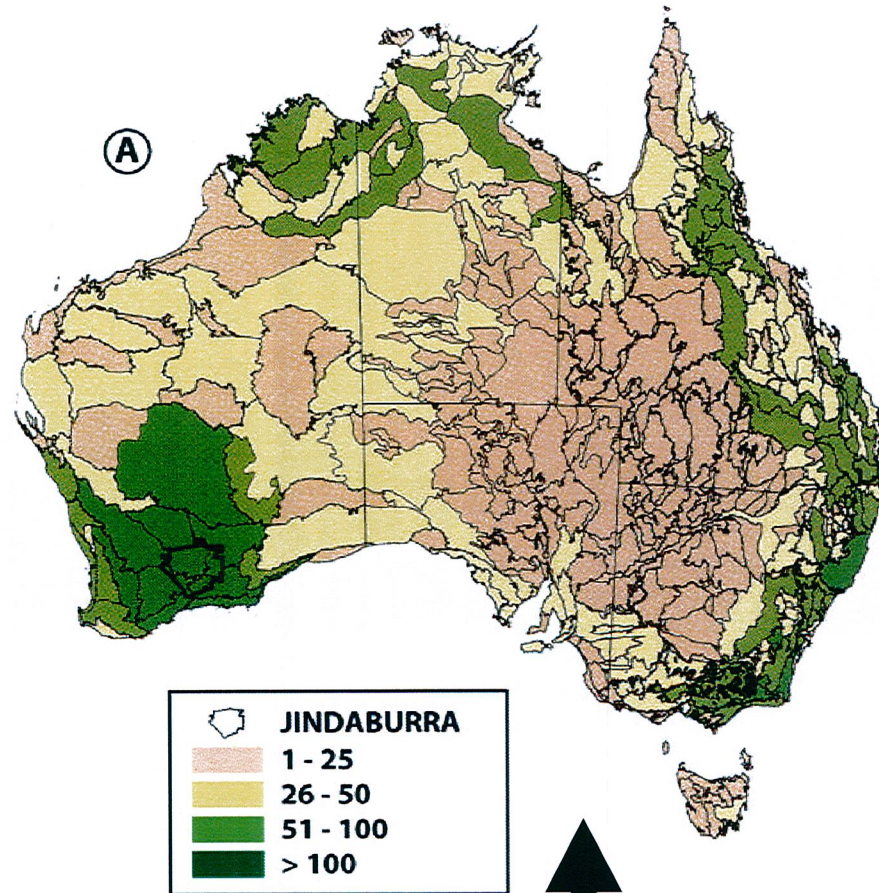


2800 plant taxa.

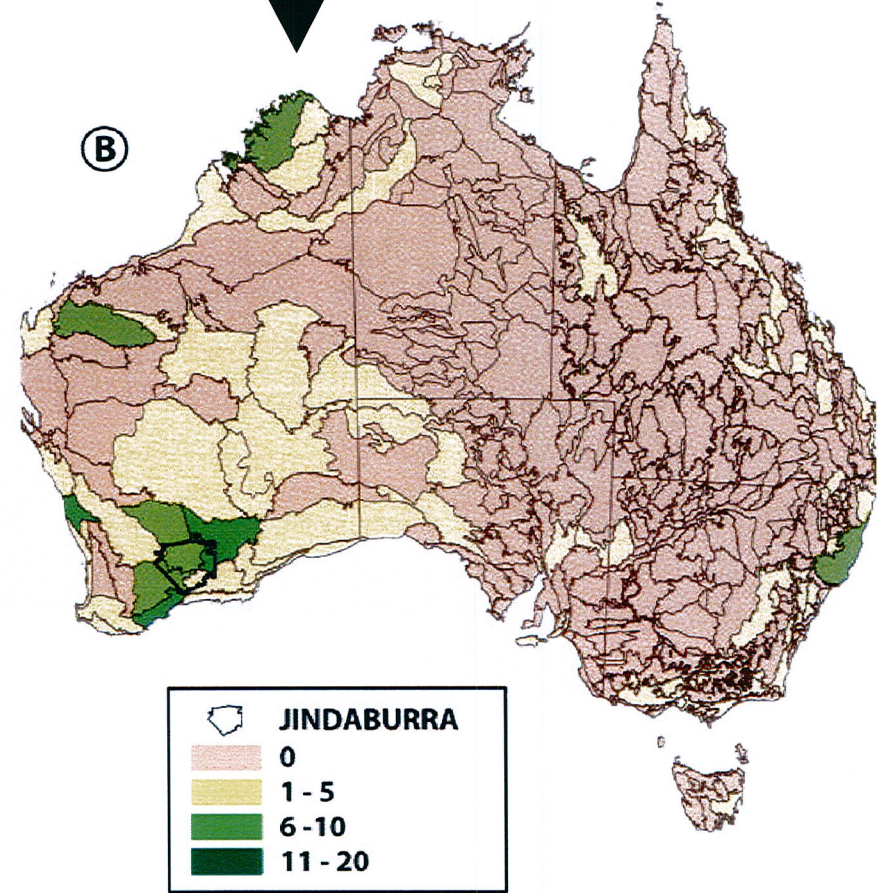
**17% of Australia's plant
species in 1% of
Australia's land area.**

**Australia's eucalpyt
'heartland': 20% of
known E. species found
in GWW.**

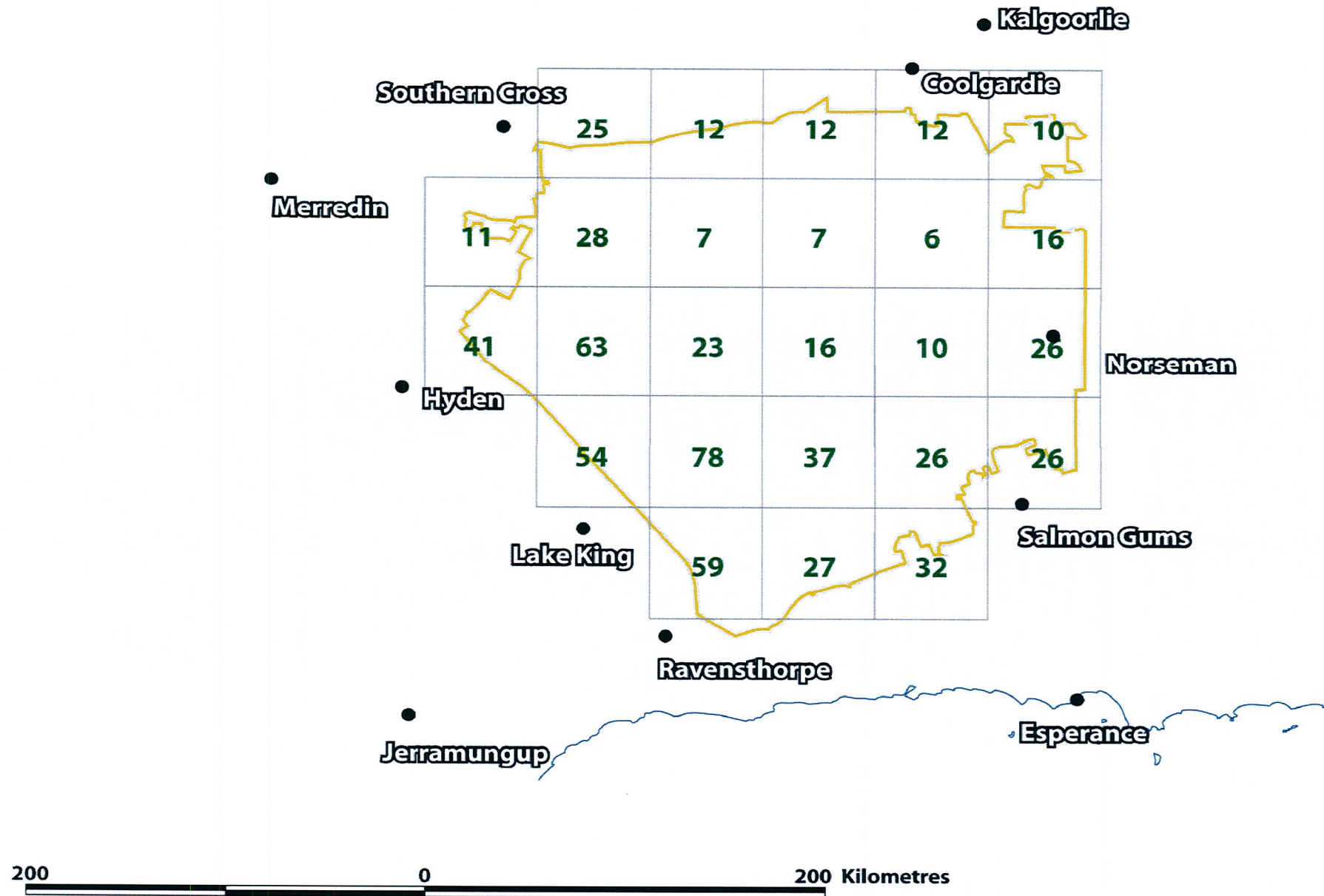
The number of Eucalypt species
endemic to each IBRA subregion



The species richness of eucalypts
within each IBRA subregion



Number of Declared Rare Flora/ Priority Species



RECORDS FROM WA MUSEUM

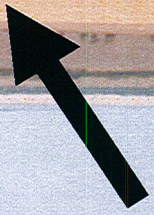
- 36 mammals sp.
+ 14 sp.
- 103 reptile sp.
+ 46 sp.
- 14 frog sp.
+ 6 sp.
- 170 bird sp.
+ 50 sp.



How do we manage
this landscape?

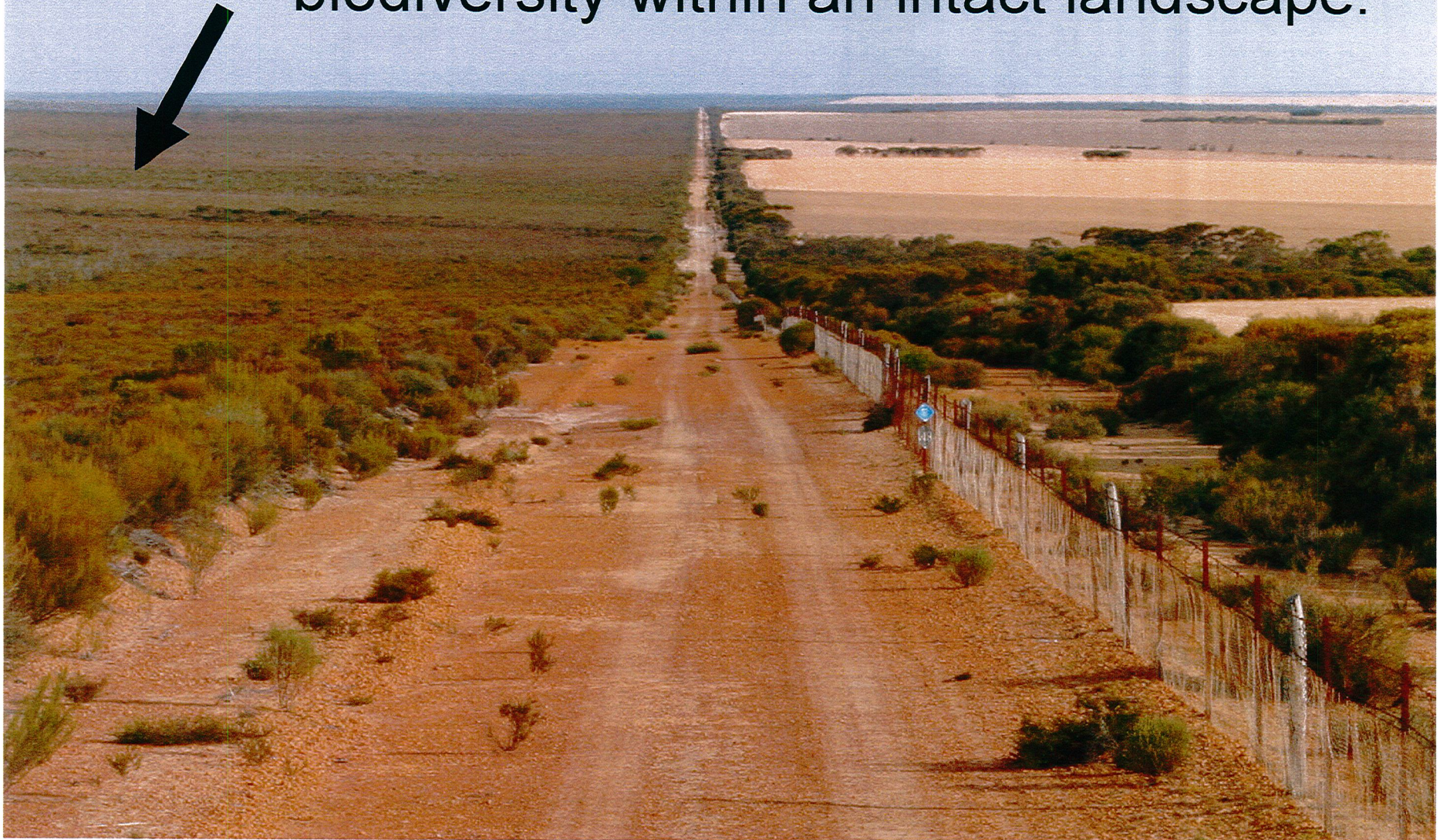
Image – David Knowles

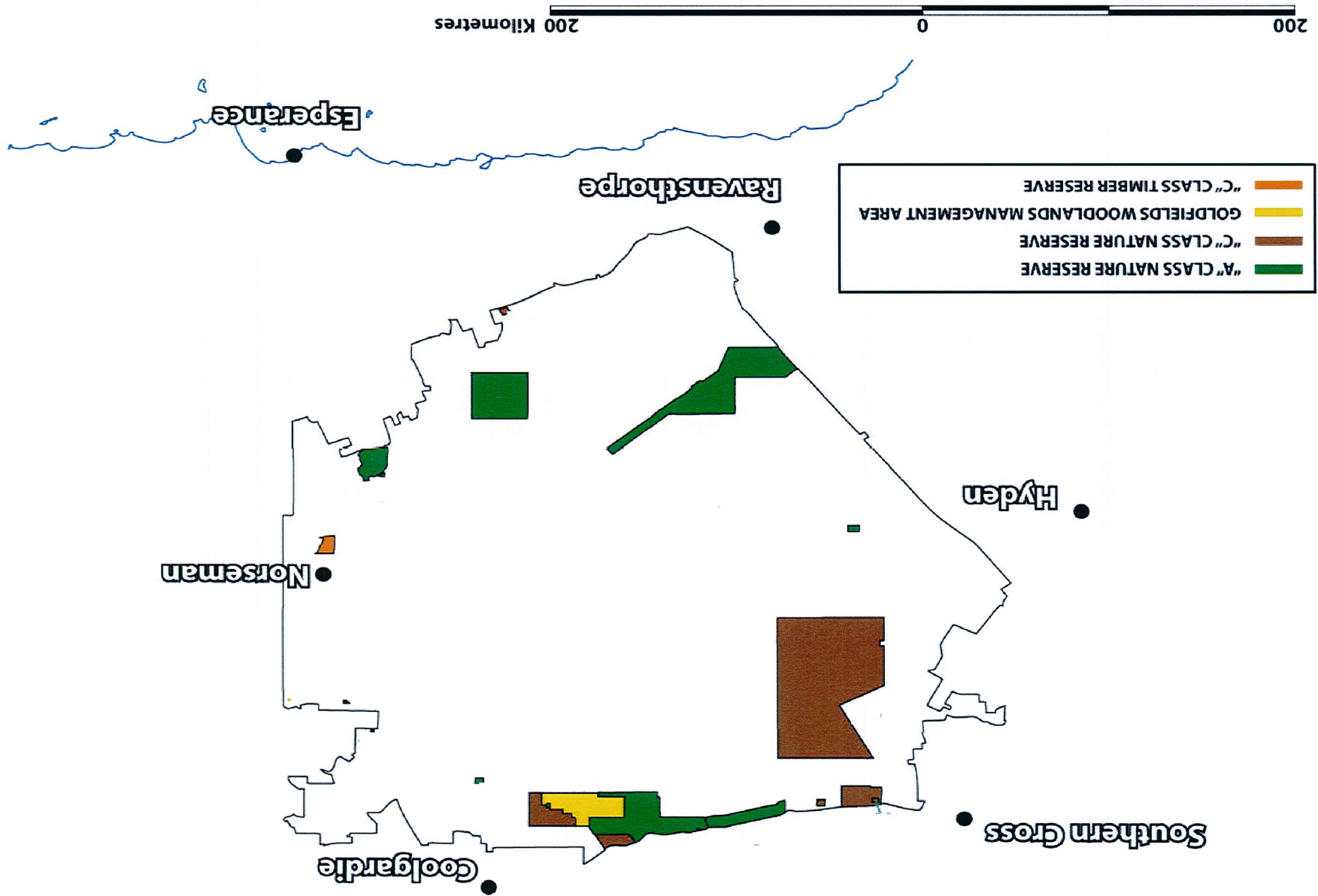
Most conservation measures (e.g., reserve system, rehabilitation and corridors) occur in heavily disturbed landscapes.



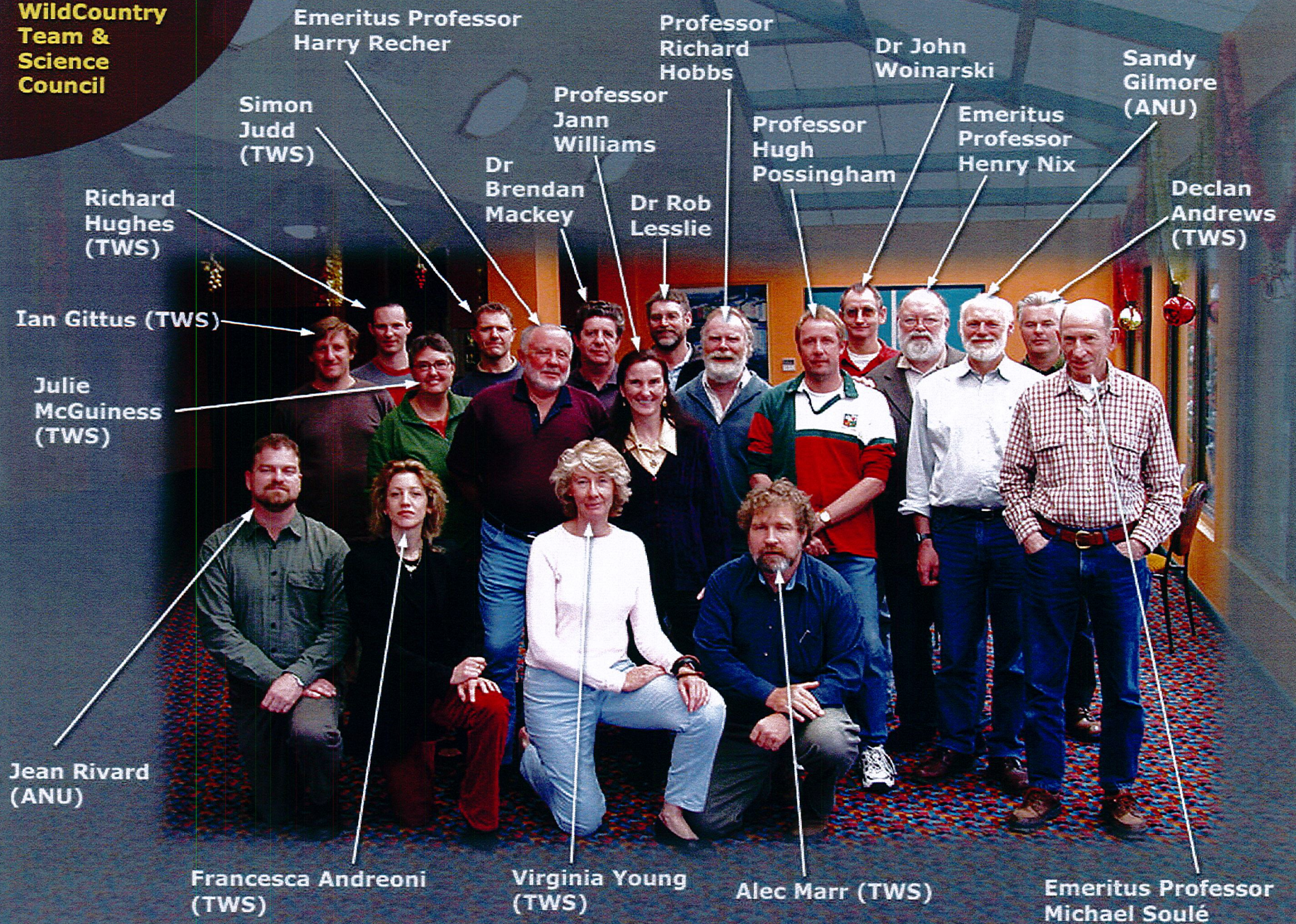
Photographer - Barbara Madden

The Great Western Woodlands offer the unique opportunity to study and manage biodiversity within an intact landscape.





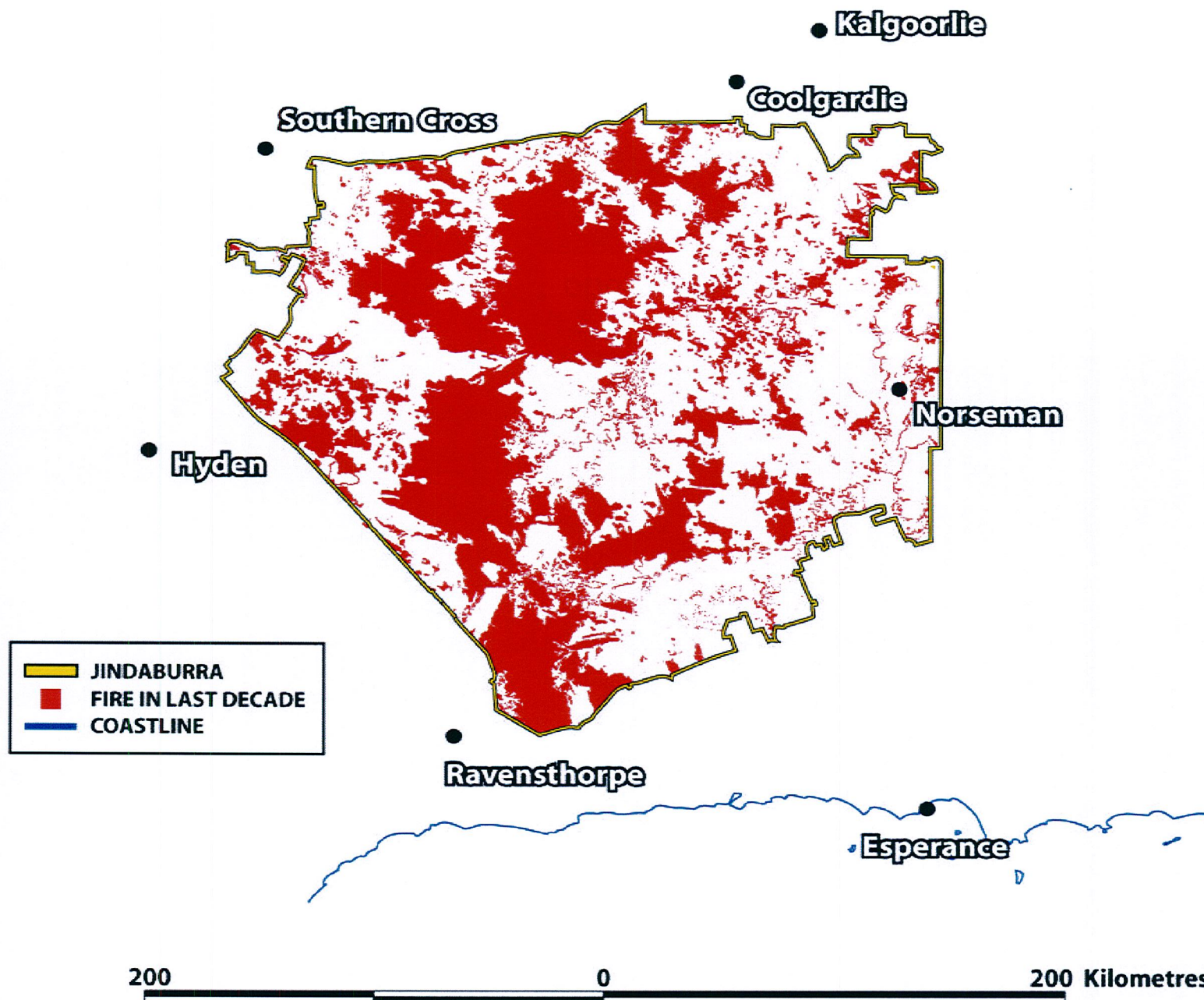
**WildCountry
Team &
Science
Council**



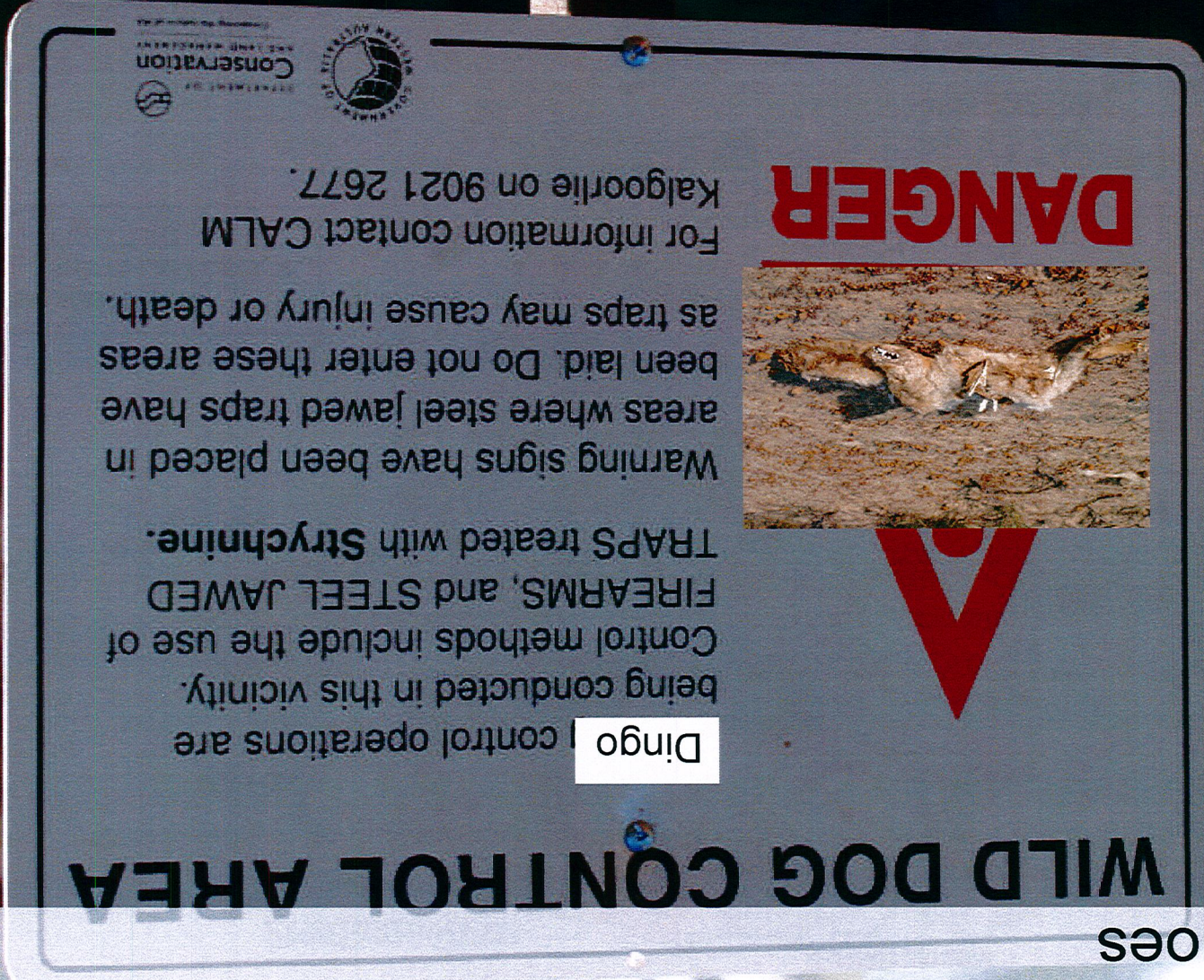


To manage for biodiversity and other WildCountry values
on this scale we need:

- Ecologically appropriate fire regimes



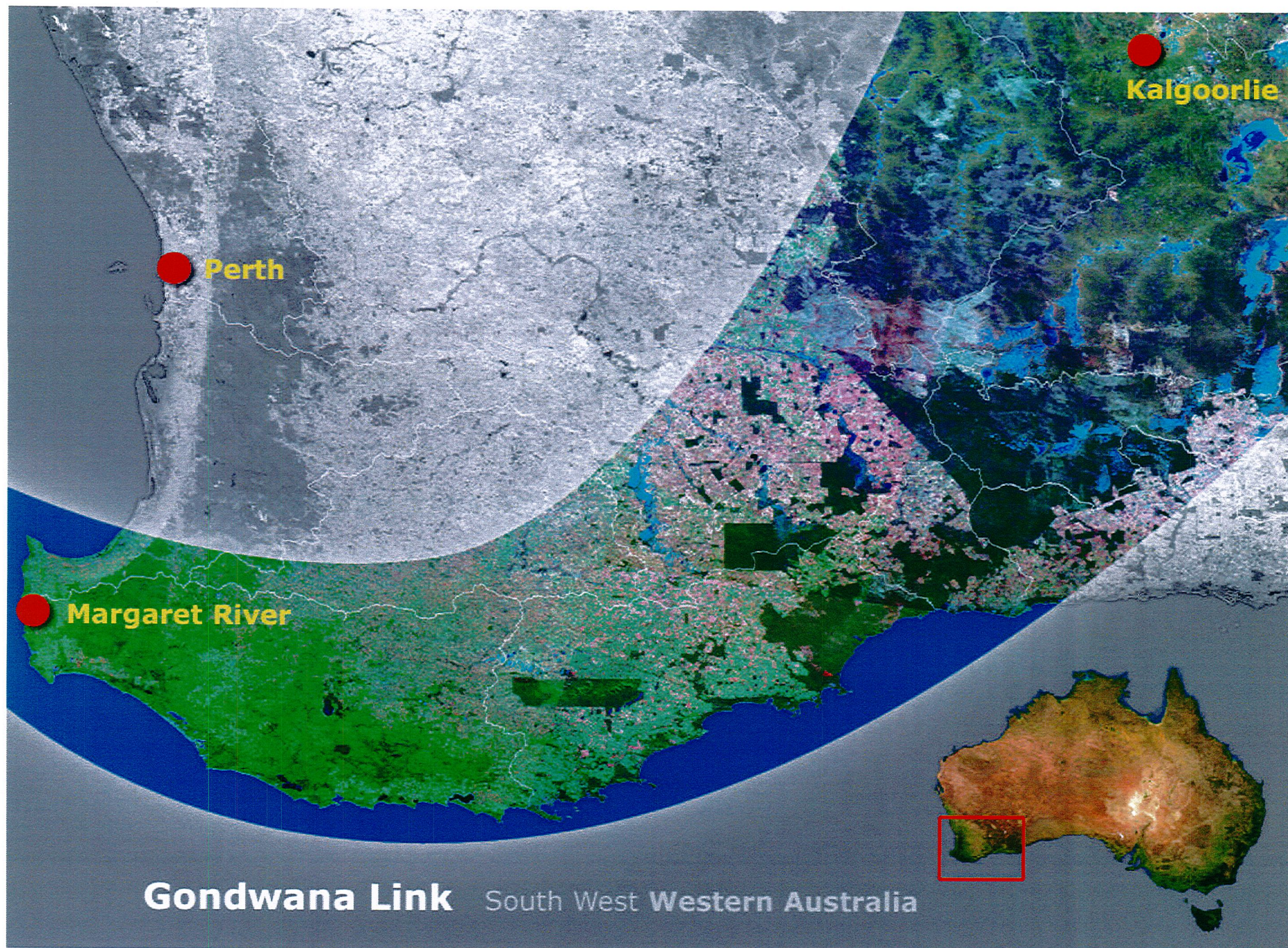
- rethink management of strongly-interactive species like dingoes



- **Understand hydro-ecology** — the relationships between water (both surface and ground water), vegetation, wildlife, and landform at local and regional scales.







GWV and the carbon economy

At a conservative estimate of 100 tonnes of carbon per hectare average, the Great Western Woodlands currently 'lock up' 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon.

However, with the current lack of protection and management, especially in relation to fire, there is a real likelihood that over time GWV will become a net source of emissions rather than a massive sink.

This is something that WA – with its already high and growing emissions - cannot afford to allow.

Where to now?

- The Wilderness Society will shortly be publishing a major scientific study on GWW
- Ongoing dialogue with Traditional Owners to ensure improved protection and management benefits Indigenous peoples
- Continue liaison with miners and local communities on 'win-win' outcomes for GWW and the region
- **State and Commonwealth governments must examine options to formally recognise the global importance of GWW and the need for conservation management to conserve its biodiversity, cultural, and carbon sink values**

For more information: The Wilderness Society WA –
08 9420 7255

