

Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust

# Annual Report



2023-2024

A report of the outputs, expenditure and governance of the Trust



## Message from the Chair

*On behalf of the Management Panel of the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust, I am pleased to present the eleventh Annual Report on our activities. This report is a public documentation of the Trust's activities for the 2023-24 financial year, ensuring our accountability to the organisations that fund the Trust, to the key stakeholders in the Great Victoria Desert (GVD), and to the broader WA public.*

*The Trust's activities this year have been focused on working with the Traditional Owners to draw on their extensive management knowledge, to work together on projects to enhance the biodiversity of the Great Victoria Desert, and to assist in building their on-going management capacity. In particular, we have been working with Upurli Upurli Nguratja Aboriginal Corporation on whose lands our landscape project is located, in developing an MOU to secure access to their land, and to agree on working together to carry out other projects on their land. Continuing to strengthen our relationships with all the Traditional Owners of the Great Victoria Desert will be a key objective of the Trust this coming year as well as looking for projects that meet theirs and the Trust's objectives for on-going management of their land.*

*2024 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Trust and I look forward to a special event to celebrate the achievements of the Trust.*

*I would like to personally thank the members of the Management Panel for their continued commitment to the Trust's objectives and the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for their high level and invaluable technical advice, all of whom have provided their time without being remunerated. As well, I'd like to acknowledge the excellent work of our Operations Manager Ian Anderson in assisting the Management Panel, working with our stakeholders, implementing and guiding the projects approved by the Panel and assisting me in my work as Chair.*

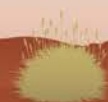
*Management Panel member Mark Cowan, representing DBCA, resigned from the Panel this year as he left DBCA to pursue an academic career. However, we didn't lose Mark completely as he has joined the TAP. Mark was a hard-working member of the Panel who brought valuable experience and knowledge to that role which he will now bring to the TAP. In his place, I welcome Ben Miller who is the Fire Science Program Leader and Principal Research Scientist at DBCA. Ben's knowledge and experience will be invaluable in guiding our on-ground projects in the Desert.*

*Finally, I would like to formally acknowledge the strong and effective working relationship the Trust has with AngloGold Ashanti Australia, the DBCA, and with the WA Public Trustees who manage the funds for the Trust.*




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## Introduction

**The Trust represents a unique model for an environmental offset in Western Australia, and Australia in general. It was established in 2014 by the Tropicana Joint Venture (AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA) Ltd (manager and 70% owner) and Independence Group NL (30% owner) as the central part of an offset package for the Tropicana Gold Mine (TGM) in Western Australia under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.**

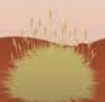
The Trust's main purpose is to deliver conservation benefits to nationally listed threatened species, at a landscape-scale, and facilitate Traditional Owners in land management and conservation activities in the region. The projects supported in the 2023-2024 financial year have focused on planning towards a large-scale land management trial to understand the benefits or otherwise of patch burning to threatened species and biodiversity in the region. Funding has also been provided to Traditional Owner groups with a focus on introducing fire into the landscape and a greater understanding of fauna assemblages within the Great Victoria Desert (GVD).

The Trust's purposes, region of focus ('Trust Area') and governance structure are outlined in more detail below for context.

### 1. Trust Purposes

The purpose of the Trust is to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop a Bioregional Management Plan (also referred to as a 'Biodiversity Conservation Plan') for the Western Great Victoria Desert bioregions 1 and 2 (i.e., the 'Trust Area').
2. Facilitate and/or undertake priority research in the Bioregional Management Plan at the landscape level and into species considered to be of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*, including the Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl.
3. Fund on-ground environmental and conservation management at the landscape level, with emphasis on net conservation benefits to threatened species, including those considered MNES.
4. Facilitate indigenous involvement in land management and conservation activities in support of the above objectives.



These objectives reflect those specified in Condition 6 of the *EPBC Act* approval 2008/4270 for the Tropicana Gold Mine.

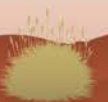
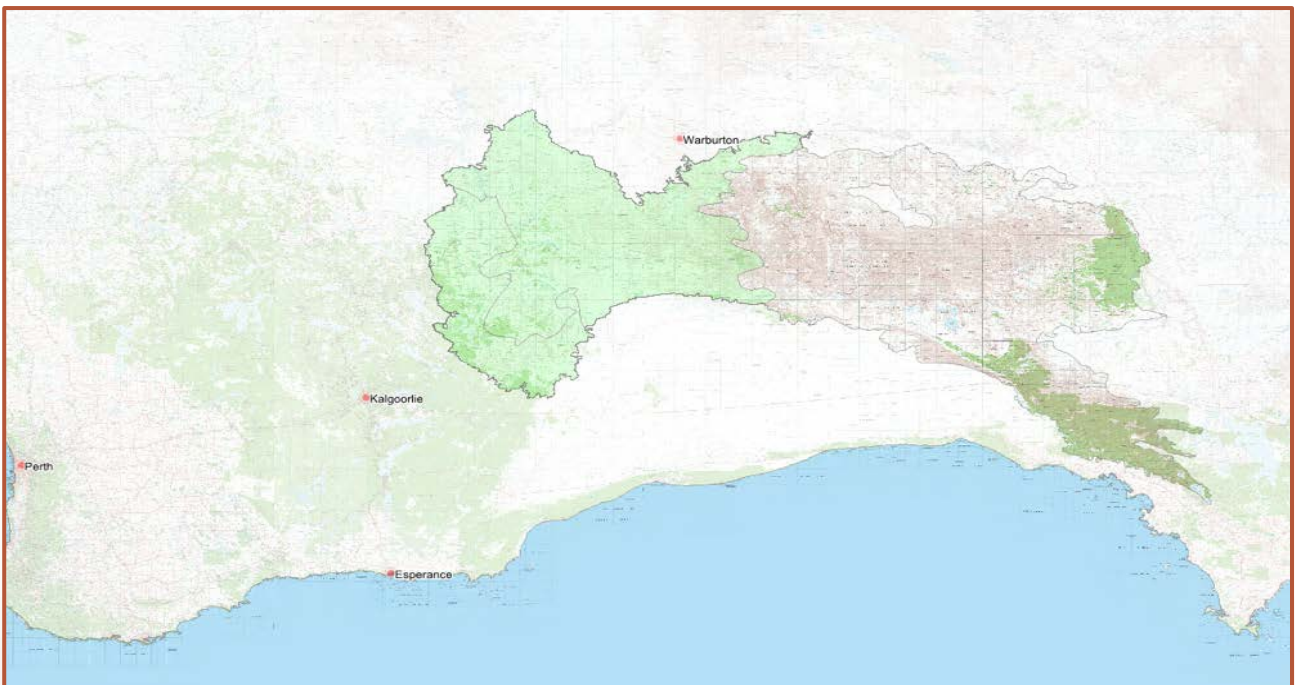
## 2. Trust Area

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classifies Australia's landscapes into 89 large geographically distinct bioregions. These are based on common climate, geology, landform, native vegetation and species information (DoE, 2015). The 89 bioregions are further refined to form 419 subregions. These are more localised and homogenous geomorphological units in each bioregion.

The GVD is one of the 89 IBRA bioregions. It is comprised of 6 subregions which extend from approximately 200km east of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia to cover large areas of South Australia. The entire GVD IBRA region covers 422 465 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Trust's area of focus ('Trust Area') is comprised of the two most western subregions of the GVD, known as Shield and Central, which are entirely located within Western Australia (Figure 1). These two sub-regions cover an area of 173 327 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Figure 1. The location and extent of the GVD (outlined) and the Trust Area (bright green)**



Whilst the Trust's activities are predominantly focussed on ground and research activities within the Shield and Central subregions of the GVD. That is, they must be relevant and beneficial to species and biodiversity within the Trust Area, especially species and communities that are MNES as listed by the *EPBC Act*.

## 2. Governance

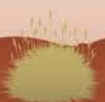
The governance structure of the Trust is a key component of ensuring stakeholder support and the delivery of activities that align with the Project Plan approved by the former DoE as part of the TGM *EPBC Act* approval (2008/4270). The governance structure of the Trust is outlined in Figure 2.

The activities and expenditure of the Trust are the overall responsibility of the Trust's Management Panel, which consists of representatives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA), as well as an independent Chair.

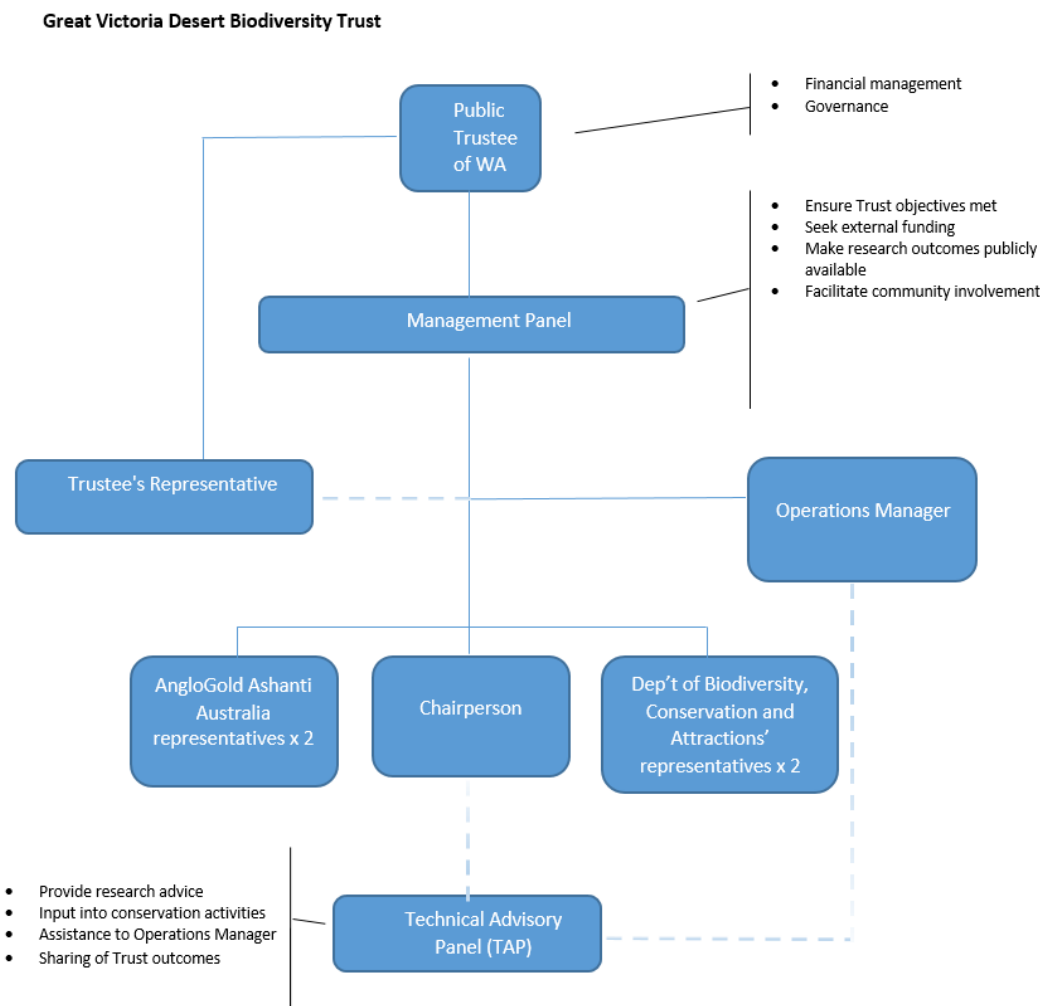
The day-to-day management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager reports to the Trust's Management Panel via the Chair. The Operations Manager and the Management Panel are supported through the provision of technical advice from the Trust's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). The TAP consists of five members with experience and technical expertise of the GVD and its landscape. The Trust's Operations Manager holds the position of Chair for the TAP.

The Public Trustee of Western Australia maintains the financial accountability of the Trust, ensuring that all the spending of the Trust account aligns with the Trust Deed. The Public Trustee maintains a role on the Management Panel, having a standing invitation to attend meetings. Governance of the Trust is provided under the Western Australian Trustee Act.

The Trust's funds, held by the Public Trustee, are allocated to various organisations and individual consultants according to anticipated benefit, alignment and value for money with the Trust's objectives and priorities. The recipients may include Traditional Owner groups, researchers, not-for-profit environmental groups, and expert consultants.



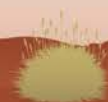
**Figure 2. The Structure of the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust**



The Trust, and all its activities and expenditure, is governed by an overarching Trust Deed. This document details the relationship between:

- The Trust's Management Panel.
- AngloGold Ashanti Australia, as the founder; and
- The Public Trustee of Western Australia, as the financial manager.

The Trust Deed also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Management Panel, Chair, Trustee, Operations Manager and the TAP, and the purposes and scope of the Trust. Additional background information including the Trust Deed can be found on the website here:



## About Us

### 2.1. The Management Panel

The Management Panel met in person three times during the 2023-2024 financial year to ensure progress was maintained on key priorities

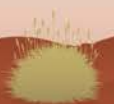
**Table 1. Management Panel meetings and attendance 2023-24**

Attendee	Meeting 1 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	Meeting 2 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Meeting 3 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Garry Middle (Chair)	√	√	√
Norm Galli (AGAA)	√	√	√
Rose Lane (AGAA)	Apologies	√	√
Nigel Wessels (DBCA)	√	√	√
Mark Cowan (DBCA)	√	Resigned from DBCA	Resigned from DBCA
Ben Miller (DBCA)	Not commenced with Management Panel	Not commenced with Management Panel	√
Ian Anderson (OM)	√	√	√

Out of session meetings are held to expedite the timely turnover of project decisions and other matters where the matter being considered is non-contentious. These meetings are held using email to send information to Management Panel members, and responses received back by email. Should the matter turn out to be contentious, a formal in-person meeting would be held.

Four out of session business cases were presented to the Management Panel for financial year 2023-24 for the dates listed :

- 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – an out of session business case.
- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – an out of session business case.
- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – an out of session business case.
- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – an out of session business case.





Mark Cowan resigned from DBCA and was replaced on the Management Panel by Ben Miller, Principal Research Scientist and Fire Science Program Leader with DBCA.

## **2.2. The Operations Manager**

The Operations Manager maintained communication and meeting with the Chair of the Trust, the Technical Advisory Panel, and Management Panel, throughout the year to ensure the Trust maintained steady progress on key activities and maintained a strategic vision of the objectives of the Trust. Ian Anderson commenced in the role July 2023, taking over from Kathryn Sinclair who resigned after starting with the Trust since inception.

## **2.3. The Technical Biodiversity Officer**

Sean Tomlinson resigned from the Technical Biodiversity Officer position in October 2023. Sean was appointed to the Trust on 0.4 FTE when Kathryn Sinclair, the previous Operations Manager, reduced her hours to 0.6 FTE. With the current Operations Manager taking the position in a full time capacity the Technical Officer position has not been reinstated.

## **2.4. The Public Trustee**

The Public Trustee's representative provided assistance with financial documents to the Trust and project invoice payments. The Trustee has provided quarterly and annual financial statements.

The nominated financial auditors, NFPAS, ensured that all the Trust's spending, accounting, and financial reporting had been conducted appropriately. The Trustee continues to give strong oversight and guidance (as required) to the Trust to ensure it meets both financial and legal obligations.

## **2.5. The Technical Advisory Panel**

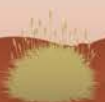
The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) was established in April 2015 to provide expert advice and support to the Trust, such as providing feedback on the scope of research proposals, on-ground environmental or conservation activities, and research reports.

The TAP met once for the 2023=2024 financial year to discuss current and proposed projects and priorities:

- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 – in person

Current membership of the TAP is as follows:

- Stephen Van Leeuwen



- Katherine Moseby
- Belinda Bastow
- Ryan Ellis
- Mark Cowan

Blair Parsons resigned from the TAP in early 2024 and was replaced by Mark Cowan on his appointment as senior adjunct fellow with Curtin University.

### **3. Strategic Direction of the Trust**

#### **3.1. Priorities and Actions for 2024-2029**

1. Communicating our work better and more broadly. The Trust has produced some very useful data and documents, and these should be made more widely available, including as academic papers.

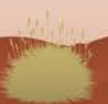
Part of this should include demonstrating the effectiveness of our work.

2. Engage more directly with Traditional Owners groups to build strong working relationships. This includes co-designing the Landscape Conservation Initiative. Explore other programs and projects that would meet the Trust's objectives and provide benefits for Traditional Owners.

3. For any new projects, the preference will be to work with, and build relationships with, research and other organisations who have a long term interest in the better management of biodiversity in the Great Victoria Desert rather than consultants. Consider partnership with Curtin for a major ARC grant.

#### **3.2. Specific Projects**

1. Develop a specific project to celebrate 10 years of the Trust activities.
2. Service camera traps and collect SD cards.
3. Continue with the Curtin Biodiversity monitoring program.
4. Continue with the Indigenous Desert Alliance project and include more direct involvement of the Trust to build our relationships with the Traditional Owners groups.
5. Mallee fowl – establish a program of monitoring some mounds using ranger groups and engage with the Traditional Owners groups to consider LiDAR surveys over additional areas.



6. Ground truth the high-resolution habitat suitability model for Sandhill Dunnart once completed.
7. Consider expanding the Landscape Conservation Initiative to include feral animals, in consultation with Traditional Owners groups.
8. Increase Traditional Owners direct involvement in the Trust – for example, membership of the Management Panel or the TAP or establishing a specific advisory committee. Consider a special training program for selected Rangers to represent their Mob with the Trust.
9. Consider specific training programs for Rangers to enable direct participation in Trust funded projects.
10. Make data from the weather stations more widely available

#### **4. Trust Activities**

##### **4.1. Projects and Activities**

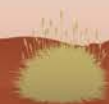
In the 2023-24 financial year the Trust continued with several projects, summarised briefly below. Full reports have been made available to the public on the Trust website:

[www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au](http://www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au)

##### **4.2. GVD Landscape Conservation Initiative (LCI)**

As a first stage, the aim of the project is to see if introducing fire management activities, in a culturally sensitive manner, into an area of the GVD could increase the biodiversity and abundance of species in that area relative to an area not managed for fire. A secondary aim is to increase the amount of suitable habitat for Sandhill Dunnarts and protect suitable habitat for this endangered species. This project aims to create a landscape with a mosaic of fire ages. A landscape with multiple fire ages creates diverse habitat and reduces the likelihood of large, hot, summer fires extending over massive areas as patches of more recently burnt areas can act as fire breaks, with their reduced fuel loads. As part of this project the Trust determined it was necessary to get a baseline understanding of the species in the management area (to be treated with fire) relative to a reference area (in which fire would not be managed in any way).

This project was put on hold in 2022 as the sites for this work became subject to a Native Title claim by the Upurli Upurli Nguratja (UUN). The determination of Country has now been resolved and the Trust is working closely with the UUN Aboriginal Board to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding and co-design the LCI project with Traditional Owners.



### 4.3. LCI – Baseline Fauna Survey

The Trust had been attempting to continue the LCI fauna monitoring project by going out to tender in 2021 however the costs came as too expensive to make it sustainable for the Trust to enter into an agreement with any of the applicants.

In 2022 the Trust and Curtin University had discussions and determined that the university would be capable of delivering the fauna monitoring program for a suitable budget, including camera maintenance, Malleefowl mound monitoring, pitfall trapping and eDNA analysis.

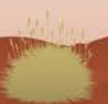
In September 2022, the Trust were in the final stages of negotiating a contract. Curtin, in a gesture of good faith ahead of the contract signing, started preparation for undertaking the fauna monitoring in early October. At the end of September Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS), representing Upurli Upurli Nguratja, requested that the fauna monitoring trip did not take place. The Trust agreed to delay the trip.

For the interim, the Chair and Operations Manager has negotiated access to the LCI areas with CDNTS and the UUN Aboriginal Board, where there are 96 fauna monitoring cameras that have been active since May 2022. Two field trips in August 2023 and April 2024 to the areas in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have been coordinated and conducted with the Operations Manager to service and change out camera storage cards, replace batteries and service the two weather stations within the LCI study areas.

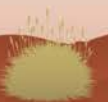
The Trust has contracted Curtin University to analyse and add to existing baseline data to further understand the extent of fauna populations within the study areas. Reports are available on the Trust website.

**Table 2. Detection of fauna species identified from camera traps on track and off track in both the LCI management and reference areas.**

Common Name	reference area off track	management area off track	reference area on track	management area on track	Total
Bearded Dragon	1	5			6
Black Tree Monitor	2	7			9
Bustard				1	1
Camel	7	4	589	495	1095
Cat	7	16	6	3	32
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush	7	1		1	9



Common Name	reference area off track	management area off track	reference area on track	management area on track	Total
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill		1			1
Crested Bellbird	18	15	2		35
Crested Dragon			1		1
Crow				1	1
Currawong	18	61	1	2	82
Dog	18	2	247	126	393
Echidna	2	1	1		4
Emu				3	3
Euro	21		1	2	24
Fox	3		25		28
Gilberts Whistler		1			1
Gould's Sand Goanna	17	17		2	36
Grey Butcherbird	9	6	1		16
Grey Kangaroo	52	52	50	23	177
Grey Shrike-thrush	2				2
Hairy-footed Dunnart	14	4			18
Hooded Robin		3			3
Magpie	1	3	1	1	6
Malleefowl		1		2	3
Mulgara		8			8
Ningui	2	29			31
Ooldea Dunnart	16	7			23
Owlet Nightjar	1	1			2
Pied Butcherbird	4	1			5
Pygmy Desert Monitor	1	2			3
Rabbit	48	1			49
Red-capped Robin	1				1
Redthroat	1				1
Sandhill Dunnart *		30			30
Sandy Inland Mouse	3	60			63
Short-tailed Grasswren		1			1
Spinifex Hopping Mouse	68	1			69
Splendid Fairy-wren	2				2



Common Name	reference area off track	management area off track	reference area on track	management area on track	Total
Spotted Nightjar	1	1			2
Striated Pardalote	1				1
Tawny Frogmouth	1	1			2
Thorny Devil	2	4			6
Wedge-tailed Eagle		1			1
White-browed Babbler	2	1			3
Yellow-throated Miner	1	5			6
Total	354	354	925	662	2295

### Key recommendations from the report.

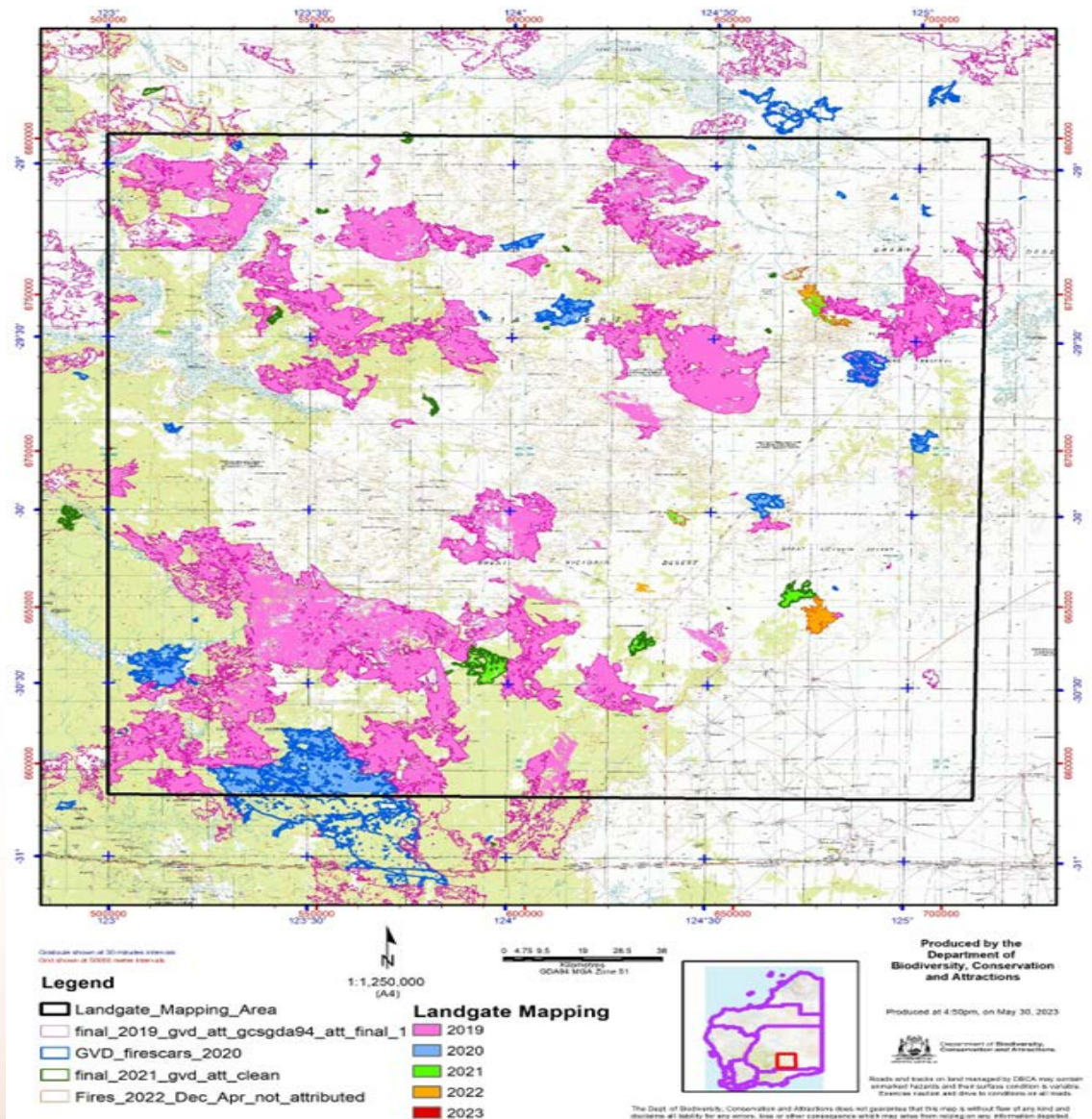
There would be a benefit for the GVD Trust management panel to clearly define the purpose of the current use of camera traps in the RA and MA. If it is to provide baseline information to measure future management it is likely to be of limited value for all but the most widespread species such as camels and dingos/dogs. There would also be significant benefit in developing more rigorous and standardised protocols around the deployment of cameras to ensure consistency in data collection and to maximise the value and amount of useful data collected. To this end, the following are some general considerations for long-term camera trap deployments using still imagery.

- Set cameras at a standardised height (e.g. sensor ~350 to 400mm above ground level) using the same method of fixing- ideally fixed by an ¼ inch bolt to a 450mm plastic or metal tent peg (Figure 15, Appendix 1). Cameras should face south where possible.
- Ensure the detection zone is as large as possible with no close obstructions or moving vegetation in the field of view. In dense vegetation locations this may require minor removal of branches or waving grasses etc, although dense vegetation can often be avoided just by moving the camera a short distance away with no negative implication for experimental design.
- Camera settings must be consistent across all cameras e.g. 3 images per detection and no delay between detections, the same PIR sensitivity and ensuring time lapse/ video is off unless specifically required.
- It is usually desirable to have labels/ID's set on all cameras so images are stamped with this. This is the best way to ensure image data can always be traced back to an individual camera and its location.
- Preferred batteries are low self-discharge 2100 milliamp Fujitsu NiMH batteries. These replaced the original Sanyo Eneloop as Eneloop are now manufactured in China and no longer have the same low self-discharge technology as they originally were.



- Cameras should be in position and ready to operate before being turned on to avoid unnecessary triggers.
- Deployment and servicing of cameras should occur at regular intervals and generally, no longer than 150 to 180 days, unless more modern Reconyx cameras are deployed as they are more efficient from a battery life perspective
- A best practice is to use datasheets to record the deployment and servicing of cameras. Recording such things as time and date of setting along with battery status ensures that cameras are not inadvertently left off and also identifies where faulty batteries and or cameras may be an issue. An example of a data-sheet is attached.
- As CPW photo warehouse has been set up for this project, this should remain the primary method for data capture and management into the future.

**Figure 3: Existing mapping shown as hollow polygons (outside border) and Landgate mapping shown as solid colour (inner border).**



Map supplied courtesy of DBCA

#### 4.4. Fire Scar Mapping

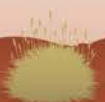
In previous years the Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis Program in Biodiversity and Conservation Science at DBCA has undertaken annual fire scar mapping over the Great Victoria Desert, funded by the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust, utilising Landsat imagery. An assessment of the semi-automated mapping method accuracy found that the Landsat based mapping method had a lower average omission and commission error (3.4% and 8%) compared to MODIS (42.2% and 19.9%). At a scale of 500 m by 500 m, Landsat was found to accurately map burn percentage, (RMSE 0.3% to 4.9%) but the accuracy was lower at a plot scale of 120 m by 120 m (RMSE 13% to 22%). The fire mapping covers a period of 1995 to 2020, and the GVDBT continued to update the mapping until April 2022. Keeping the fire scar mapping data current is essential for planning and evaluating prescribed burn activities in the GVD.

Over the last 10 years Landgate has been developing the methodology and capacity to process every Landsat and Sentinel-2 satellite tile and have these available for fire scar mapping. The method requires calibration to the various vegetation types and soil backgrounds across Western Australia. Testing the application of this method to a study area in the GVD was proposed by DBCA in March 2023. An agreement to test the application of the method over 4 Sentinel-2 tiles was agreed to April 2023.

The outcome of the testing was a success with the trial now extended to process the remaining Sentinel 2 tiles covering the GVD Shield and Central IBRA regions allowing for automated fire scar maps being made available through Landgate to the Trust and Traditional Owner groups within the GVD.

#### 4.5. LCI – High Resolution Habitat Suitability Estimates for Sandhill Dunnarts

Sean Tomlinson, with input from Katherine Moseby, is developing construct models complementary to the work reported by Riley et al.(2021), to develop higher-resolution (1 arc sec; approx. 625 m<sup>2</sup>) SDMs that capture the dependence of Sandhill Dunnarts on *Triodia* spp., edaphic and geomorphological drivers, fire frequency and climate to elaborate on the likely patterns and associations driving habitat suitability, and also to explore likely patterns of population abundance of *S. psammophila*. Sean proposes to use occurrence data collected from a series of longitudinal studies in South Australia (Read et al. 2015; Moseby et al. 2016) to train the models, largely because these data have resulted from reliable, high-intensity, balanced survey design.





It is anticipated that this model could produce detailed areas within the GVD where Sandhill Dunnarts are likely/highly likely to occur. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of calendar 2024, which may be followed up by field verification in 2025.

#### 4.6. Indigenous Fire Management (Indigenous Desert Alliance)

The Trust and IDA developed a partnership/ funding agreement in January 2022 to build outcomes in the Indigenous Ranger groups in the GVD. The funding agreement has seen IDA officers spend considerable amounts of time on-country building the capacity of particularly the Yilka land management team and the Spinifex rangers. IDA has also begun to build stronger relationships with rangers in Warburton. The project was funded in 2023 for one year for the amount of \$60,000.

The funding agreement has now been extended from 2024 – 2026 with funding agreed to at \$70 000 + GST/ year. Deliverables for Milestone 1 have been met as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 with Milestone 2 due 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### 4.7. Spinifex Biodiversity Project (Spinifex Rangers)

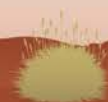
The project facilitates the documentation of the traditional knowledge of Spinifex elders, and allow rangers to visit and survey sites which are significant culturally and for their biodiversity based on traditional knowledge. The project employs a desert ecologist to work with the rangers and elders to undertake the documentation and the field trips.

The second phase of the project involves land management activities to protect native fauna species. Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl will be a significant focus of the project and cameras have already been established in areas where habitat has been assessed to be highly suitable.

Milestone 1,2 and 3 have been delivered through to the Trust with the identification of fauna species of conservation significance identified along with species considered extinct by western science within the GVD.

**Table 3. Fauna species recorded on motion sensor cameras.**

Common Name	Species Name
Spinifex Hopping Mouse	<i>Notomys alexis</i>
Sandy Inland Mouse	<i>Pseudomys hermannsburgensis</i>
Desert Mouse	<i>Pseudomys desertor</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>

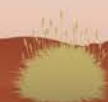


Little Long-tailed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis dolichura</i>
Hairy-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis hirtipes</i>
Dunnart Species	<i>Sminthopsis sp.</i>
Brush-tailed Mulgara*	<i>Dasycercus blythii</i>
Ningau	<i>Ningau sp.</i>
Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>
Camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Dingo	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Thorny Devil	<i>Moloch horridus</i>
Sand Goanna	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>
Knob-tailed Gecko	<i>Nephrurus laevisimus</i>
Crested Bellbird	<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>
Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>
Little Button-quail	<i>Turnix velox</i>
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Australian Owlet Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>
Crow	<i>Corbus sp.</i>
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artimus cinerius</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Echidna	<i>Tachyglossidae sp.</i>
Grey-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula plumula</i>
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis virescens</i>
Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascians</i>

#### 4.8. Communicating the Trust

The Strategic Plan 2024-2029 priority number 1 is to communicate the work of the Trust better and more broadly

The upgrade of the GVDBT website was completed in May 2024 and now has all the Trust data and documents available for interested parties and research purposes. This includes making the



weather data from the Landscape Conservation Initiative project available as a live feed on the website.

The newsletter produced annually until 2021 was produced for Summer 2023 to update and communicate the current work of the Trust to a wide audience. Held in a database of people and organisations interested in the work of the Trust. This will now continue on an annual basis.

These tools of communication will be now considered to be the central hub for all the Trust data to be made available in the public domain.

## 5. Finances, Administration and Allocation of Funds

### 5.1. Finances

The annual contribution from the Tropicana Joint Venture (TJV) to the Trust in 2023-24 financial year was \$399 751.00 based on an annual fee of \$100,000 plus \$80 per hectare of cleared footprint for the Tropicana gold mine (TGM). The Trust also received \$101 909.97 interest from the funds held on its behalf by the Public Trustee (Appendix 1). An additional \$15 756.00 was received as a GST refund.

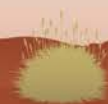
A total of \$219 408.44 was spent directly on projects in the 2023-24 financial year. This figure does not include the time spent by the Operations Manager managing these projects, or costs associated with asset management fees, or administration-related expenses.

AGAA manages the Trust's day-to-day expenditure as part of its administrative support function, and all Trust expenditure is presented to the Management Panel in quarterly and annual statements provided by the Public Trustee.

The Public Trustee has continued to provide strong support and guidance in 2023-24 so that the Trust meets its financial and legal obligations. Financial statements are provided to the Trust by the Public Trustee on a quarterly and annual basis, which are subsequently tabled at Management Panel meetings.

**Table 4. Summary of income and expenditure**

Income		
Annual contribution (AGAA)	399 750.00	
Interest	101 090.75	
Expenditure: management and administration*		



Salary (Operations Manager and Technical Biodiversity Officer - project management and administration*)		129 909.97
Public Trustee asset management and transaction fees		8845.68
Financial audit fees		8250.00
Trust Chair expenses		2436.00
Expenditure: Projects		
Spinifex Biodiversity Project (Spinifex Rangers) - Pila Nguru		88 000.00
IDA Fire Project		71 500.00
Trust website upgrade		12 787.50
Curtin University fauna camera analysis report		14 300.00
Curtin University field trip expenses		27 567.94
Iridium data- Weather stations		1848.00
Camera trap and weather station hardware purchase		3405.00
Refund		
Refund of GST on expenditure	15 756.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>516 597.75</b>	<b>368 850.09</b>

Key: \* = approximately 80% of time spent on project and contract management and 20% on Trust operations and administration.

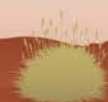
## 5.2. Administration

AGAA continues to provide essential administrative support to the Operations Manager and Trust, including:

- Human resource services, such as payroll management, employment contract.
- General office administration and equipment, such as IT, mobile phone, office/meeting space.
- Flights, accommodation, and access to vehicles at TGM, as appropriate; and
- Legal services for contracts.
- This substantial in-kind support represents a considerable reduction in the administration expenses that would otherwise be incurred by the Trust and ensures that the Trust maintains its administration cost below the 20% maximum outlined in the Trust Deed.

## 5.3. Funding

The TGM continues to be the Trust's sole financial contributor.



**Appendix 1: Statement of Transactions 2023-24 Financial Year****Statement of Transactions**

MR. GREAT VICTORIA DESERT BIODIVERSITY TRUST  
FUND

Client Reference: 33111845 Contact: TM29

Public Trustee Activity TRST / 1

Statement of Transactions Number 14

Statement Period from 30/06/23 to 30/06/24

Date	Transaction Details	Payments	Receipts
<b>Opening Balance as per Statement of Account Dated 30/06/2023</b>			<b>2,074,442.50</b>
<b>OTHER PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS</b>			
21-JUL-23	TRAVEL - VISION ENVIRONMENT	1,044.00	
16-AUG-23	GST REFUND		15,756.00
18-AUG-23	FUNDING INSTALMENT 1 - INDIGENOUS DESERT ALLIANCE	16,500.00	
18-AUG-23	FUNDING INSTALMENT 2 - INDIGENOUS DESERT ALLIANCE	16,500.00	
07-SEP-23	YEARLY IRIDIUM DATA- ENVIRO PAUL	1,848.00	
19-SEP-23	FIELD TRIP - CURTIN UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SERVICES	27,567.94	
30-SEP-23	CR INTEREST 30/09/2023		48,834.68
17-OCT-23	CHAIR OUT OF POCKET EXP. - VISION ENVIRONMENT	1,392.00	
27-NOV-23	OUTDOOR CAMERA BATTERIES - OUTDOOR CAMERAS AUSTRALIA	3,405.00	
31-JAN-24	CAMERA TRAP IMAGE COLLATI - CURTIN UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SERVICES	14,300.00	
31-MAR-24	CR INTEREST 31/03/2024		52,256.00
24-APR-24	MILESTONE 1 - INDIGENOUS DESERT ALLIANCE	38,500.00	
13-MAY-24	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE - CREATIVE TONES	377.50	
31-MAY-24	2023 AUDIT - NFPAS	8,250.00	
05-JUN-24	TRUST EXPENSES - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	129,909.97	
05-JUN-24	SPINIFEX PROJ MILESTONE 3 - PILA NGURU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION	88,000.00	
10-JUN-24	AGA ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION		399,751.00
19-JUN-24	TRUST WEBSITE - CREATIVE TONES	12,410.00	
30-JUN-24	ASSET MANAGEMENT FEE	6,091.68	
30-JUN-24	TRANSACTIONAL FEE	2,754.00	
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>2,222,190.16</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b>2,074,442.50</b>	<b>368,850.09</b>	<b>516,597.75</b>	<b>2,222,190.16</b>



[gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au](http://gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au)

