



Project Dieback

'Action and opportunities for protecting biodiversity assets'

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The relentless invasion of South West forests, woodlands and heaths by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has reached the stage that an urgent and well-coordinated response on a landscape scale is required. Time is running out to protect the vulnerable plant species and high-value ecosystems of South-Western Australia. Opportunities to protect these biodiversity assets will be lost unless immediate and targeted investments are made.

Project Dieback –'Action and Opportunities for Protecting Biodiversity Assets' is a State NRM Office funded project which focuses on reducing the risk of the human vectoring of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* within priority areas of Western Australia. The project runs from October 2012 to June 2015 and builds on previous research and on-ground works undertaken.

Project Area

The project area covers the south-west of Australia with rainfall zones greater than 400 mm per annum. This includes the NRM regions of South Coast, South West Conservation Council, Northern Agricultural Conservation Council and Perth & Local Government Agencies associated with these areas.

Dieback Management and Investment Framework

The project will set a Dieback Management and Investment Framework that will identify and rank the top 100 Priority Protection Areas (PPA) in the State. The Framework will also outline management actions required to protect the top 25 areas against the adverse impacts of *Phytophthora* dieback.

The Framework goal is 'to protect and conserve the most significant examples of the biodiverse ecosystems and communities of the South West of Australia that are vulnerable to, or threatened by *Phytophthora* dieback, by the identification of at least 100 Priority Protection Areas for targeted ongoing investment and management over the next 50 years'.

Dieback Information Delivery and Management System (DIDMS)

Throughout the duration of the project a greater understanding of the disease status of PPAs will be developed through field interpretation and mapping activities. All data will be compiled into a central information database known as the Dieback Information Delivery and Management System (DIDMS) and will be available online.

On-Ground Works

On-ground works will be accomplished using existing management plan actions for regionally important areas in the first year and once the Framework has been completed in December 2013 it will guide on-ground work for the remainder of the project through until June 2015. The installation and upgrade of hygiene and access infrastructure into and surrounding PPAs will provide the cornerstone for improved management of these areas by reducing the risk of human vectoring.

The engagement of stakeholders is a key action to the implementation and extension of the project. Raising the awareness of PPAs, the possible impact of Dieback on these areas and the responsibilities of management actions will take place throughout the project's life.

Partners

Organisation	Role
South Coast NRM	Project manager and project officers. Facilitating the development of the State Dieback Management & Investment Framework; implementing the Framework through the assessment of PPAs, risk reduction planning, on-ground work, community engagement and training.
DPaW	Assisting development of the State Investment Framework; implementing the Framework through the assessment of PPAs, risk reduction planning and on-ground work.
FBG	Implementing the Framework <i>plus</i> community engagement and training.
DWG	Implementing the Framework <i>plus</i> developing information products, community engagement & high-risk operators training.
GAIA Resources	Developing State Management and Investment Framework with support from Steering Committee & project partners.

Project Outputs

- State Dieback Management and Investment Framework completed
- Four opportunities for partnered investments into implementing the Framework identified
- DIDMS available to stakeholders with over 100 stakeholders and community members registered as users of DIDMS
- Data on 20 Priority Protection Areas collated in DIDMS
- Training events held for 10 high risk operators in 5 Priority Protection Areas
- 30 community engagement events held across 10 Priority Protection Areas
- 10 000 information products distributed in across 20 Priority Protection Areas
- 10 Priority Protection Areas managed with involvement of LGAs through the DWG 'Dieback Management Framework for LGAs'
- 5 existing risk reduction plans implemented
- 100 000 hectares managed through the implementation of existing risk reduction plans
- Activities plan for Years 2 and 3 identified using the Framework to determine priority PPAs for management
- Risk reduction planning initiated for the 5 highest ranked Priority Protection Areas over 50 000 hectares.
- Phosphite treatment undertaken in two Priority Protection Areas over 20 hectares
- Rapid response eradication, control and containment of infestations within 2 Priority Protection Areas initiated over 2 hectares
- Disease status of 100 000 hectares of 10 Priority Protection Areas assessed
- Hygiene and access infrastructure installed or upgraded in 10 Priority Protection Areas

