



REGIONAL GOALS

People

Biophysical

Knowledge

## Conserving culture and nature, one seed at a time

It takes hundreds of thousands of seeds to revegetate a native Woodland, however, there is currently insufficient seed available on the market to meet the demand for restoration, particularly for Banksia Woodlands species. To address this key limitation, PHCC and the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers collect and process thousands of seeds each year from threatened Woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Banksia Woodlands are culturally significant to the local Noongar community and together we work on Country to collect, clean and store seed while sharing cultural and scientific knowledge critical to the conservation of Banksia Woodlands.

### FUNDING PROGRAM

Australian Government's National Landcare Program

### PHCC PROGRAM

*Threatened Ecological Communities*

### PHCC PROJECT

*World for Woodlands – Banksia Project*

### FUNDING

National Landcare Program      \$1,120,000

### REGIONAL COVERAGE



### STAKEHOLDERS

- Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers
- Cape Life (Bilbunya seed processing facility)
- Local NRM groups
- Local Governments
- Community Members

### PROJECT TEAM

- Dr Karen Bettink
- Dr Corrine Duncan







## OUTCOME

Working on country together has facilitated the sharing of knowledge and ideas to protect Threatened Ecological Communities and species within them. The Banksia Project has increased opportunities for Noongar Rangers to work on country by undertaking on-ground activities that reduce threats to native flora and fauna (weed control, revegetation, seed collection, dieback control). Seed collection with the Noongar Rangers ensures more seed is available for local restoration projects and reduces the gap between supply and demand, in turn providing a consistent food supply for our native fauna, particularly our threatened Black Cockatoos.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Banksia Woodlands are an endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), and significant to the local Noongar community. Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers are working alongside PHCC to ensure these Woodlands persist into the future, collecting and processing seed for local restoration projects. Seed collection is a skilled and time-consuming activity and an important objective of PHCC's 'World for Woodlands' project.

Key achievements included:

- More than 140g of pure seed collected and processed every year from keystone Banksia Woodland species, reducing the gap between supply and demand of native seeds
- Development of a training manual for seed collection in Banksia Woodland, with the most up-to-date scientific knowledge on the ethics of seed collection, seed biology and evolution and seed storage methods
- Six Noongar Rangers skilled in the collection and processing of native seeds
- Additional skills and training provided to Noongar Rangers, enabling them to work in bushland sites and undertake activities that reduce threats to the Banksia TEC
- Eleven Noongar Rangers supported to obtain Chemical Handling and Green Card certificates
- All seeds collected are used for local restoration or bushfood projects, providing food for our native birds, mammals and insects

## COLLABORATION

- Indigenous Managed Services
- Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
- Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Further trainings in seed collection, processing and propagation, paid employment for the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers in on-ground works that address the threats to Banksia and Tuart Woodland TECs, workshops that qualify the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers for relevant licences to work on Country and trainings on the construction, installation and maintenance of nest boxes so that Rangers can become a key provider of this service in the future.

## LINKS TO OTHER PROJECTS

Karu Bilya Project

By working together on Country, there was a unique opportunity to share cultural and scientific knowledge. The Winjan Bindjareb Boodja Rangers shared stories of bush medicine foods and how chewing on the young shoots of *Allocasuarina allays* thirst (handy when spending hours in the bush collecting seed in the peak of summer) and how the Noongar people used Banksia cones to move fire across the landscape

