



Photo: Amanda Keesing



Defiantly ambitious: is that the best way forward?



Keith Bradby
bradby@gondwanalink.org



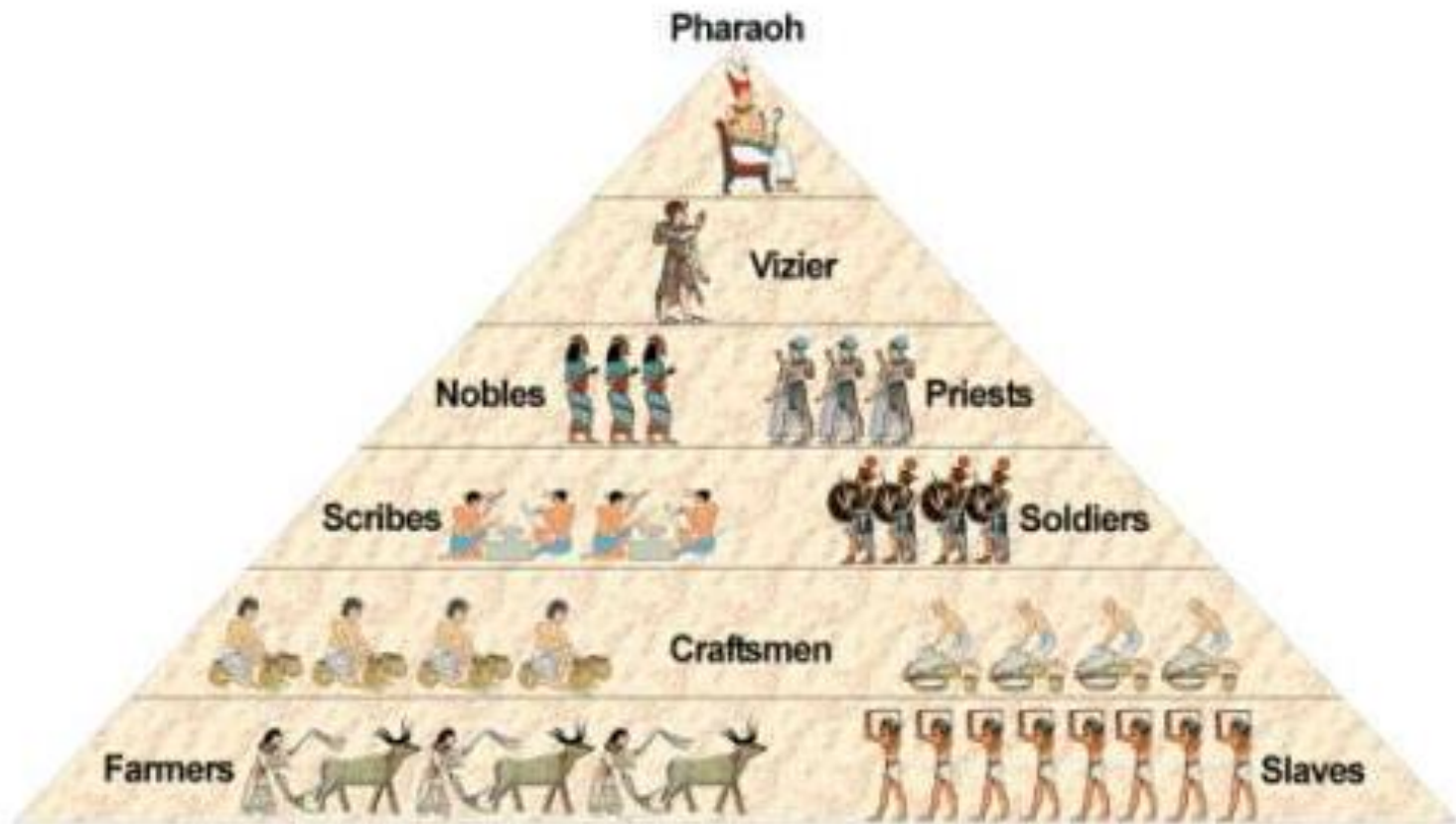
Challenging the status quo

OH&S induction

“...there is no more delicate matter to take in hand, nor more dangerous to conduct, nor more doubtful in its success, than to set up as a leader in the introduction of changes. For he who innovates will have for his enemies all those who are well off under the existing order of things, and only lukewarm supporters who might be better off under the new. This lukewarm temper arises partly from the fear of adversaries who have the laws on their side, and partly from the incredulity of mankind, who will never admit the merit of anything new, until they have seen it proved by the event.”

Niccolò Machiavelli, 1513

The Prince. Chapter 6 (Trans N.H. Thomson) Capstone Publishing, Chichester, 2010.



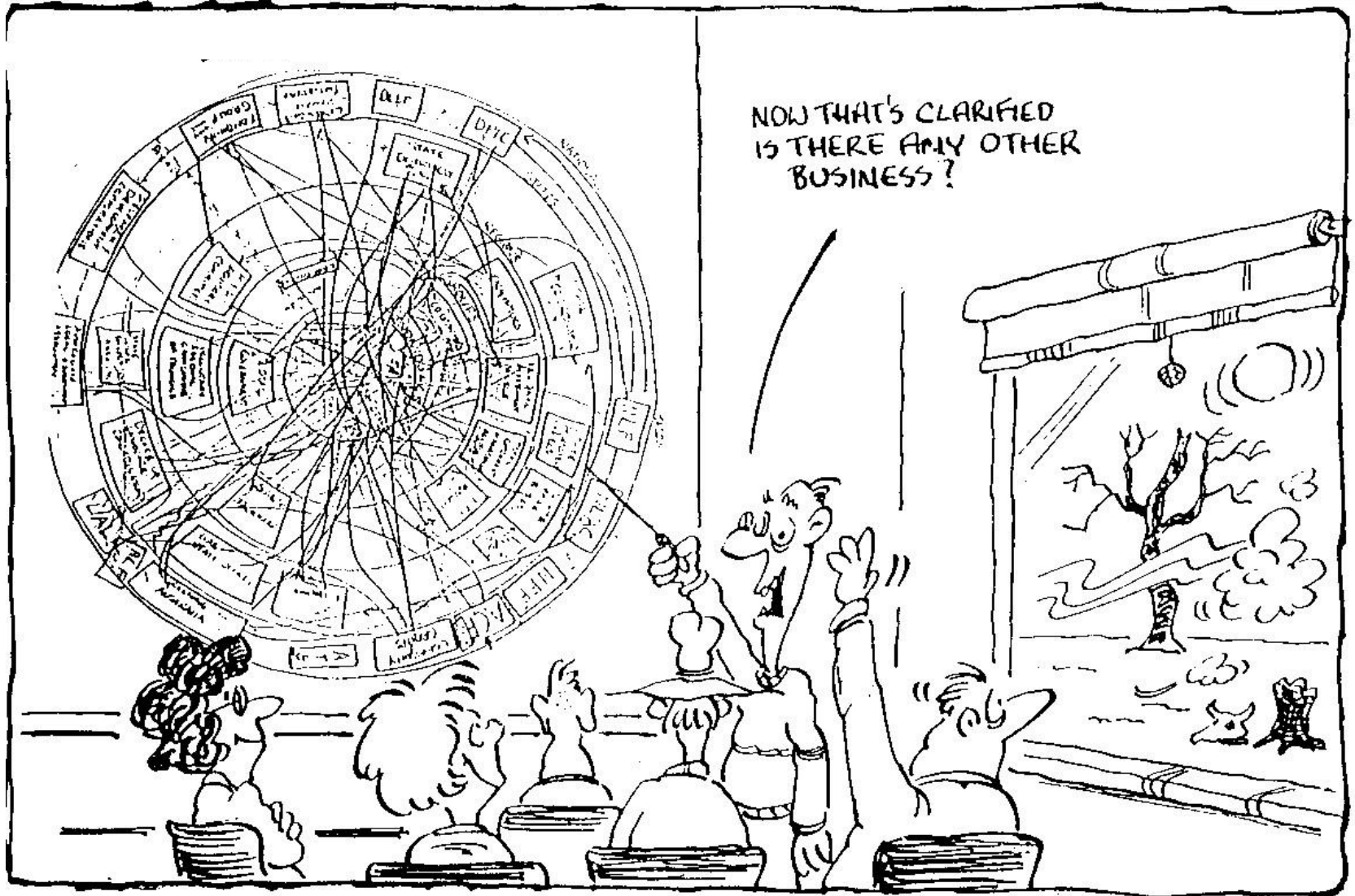
Yes Boss!

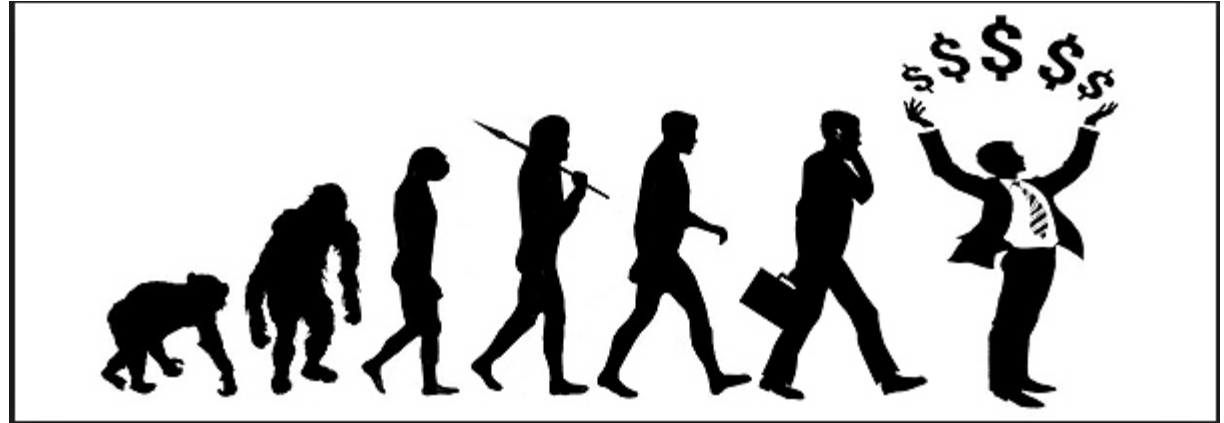
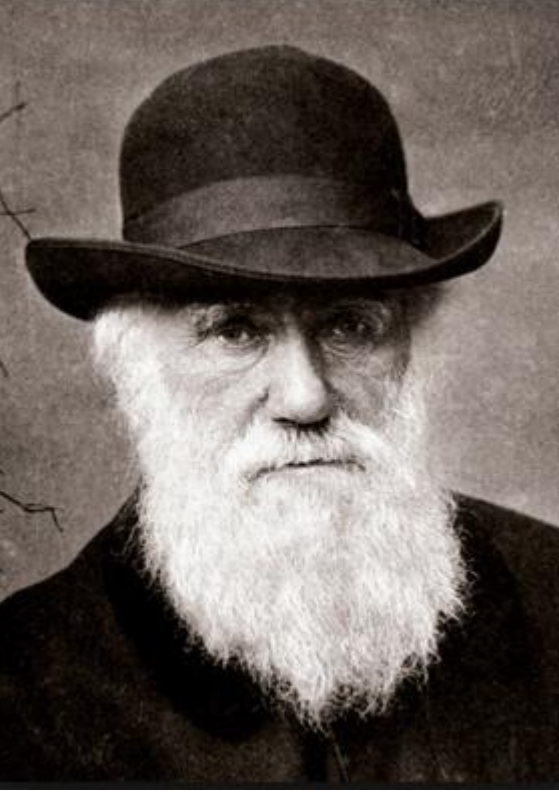


Democracy and the environment:
yet to deliver well?

You can't start without a plan

(thoroughly researched and documented)





We are constantly urged to be collaborative, to collect NGO partnerships like some people collect rare postage stamps, when in fact NGO's and agencies operate in a funding environment that selects for competitiveness

“You give hope and aspiration on three-year cycles.”

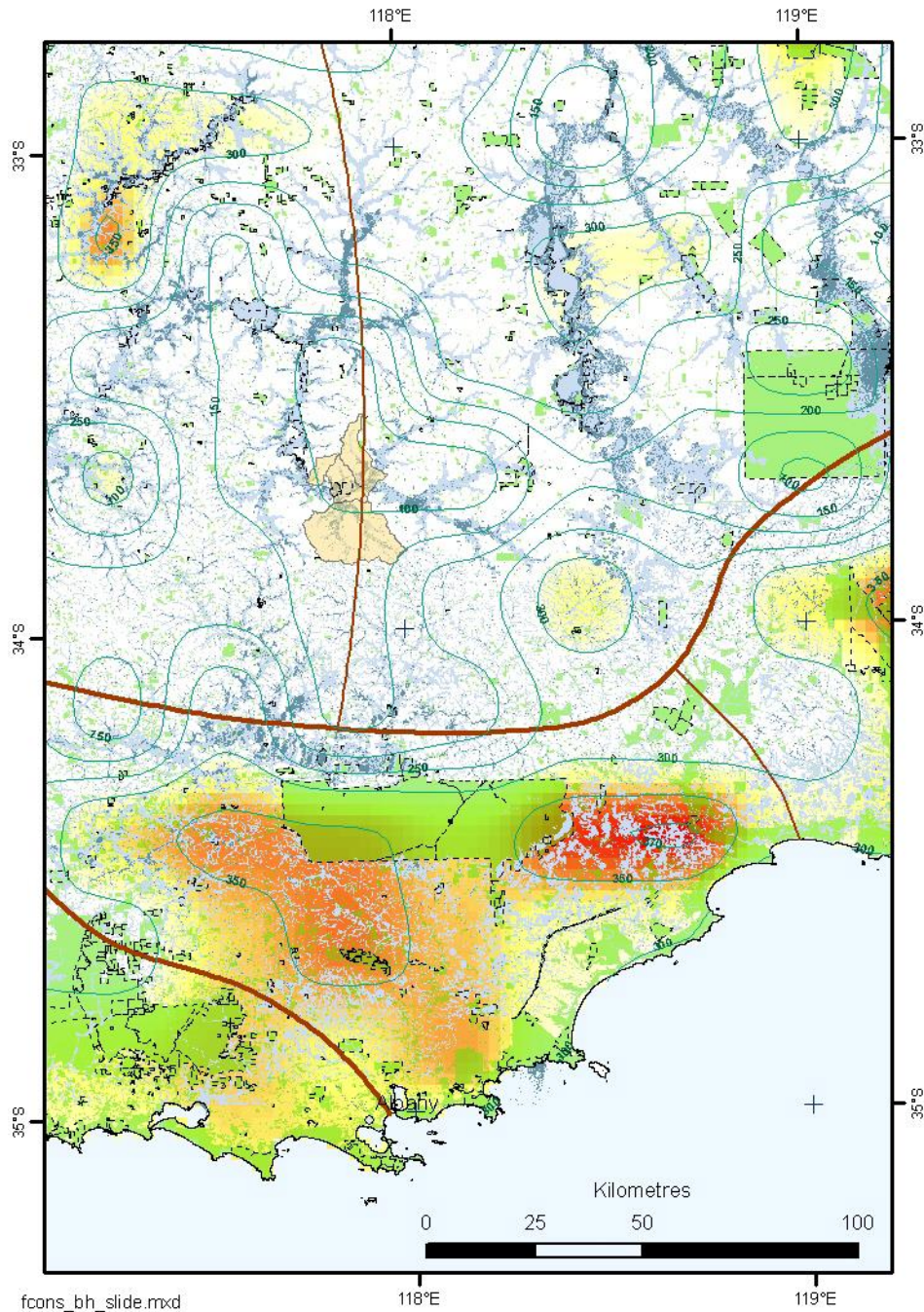
Nova Peris

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/aug/02/nova-peris-says-government-language-around-indigenous-people-is-patronising>



----- The Great South West Edge National Landscape boundary





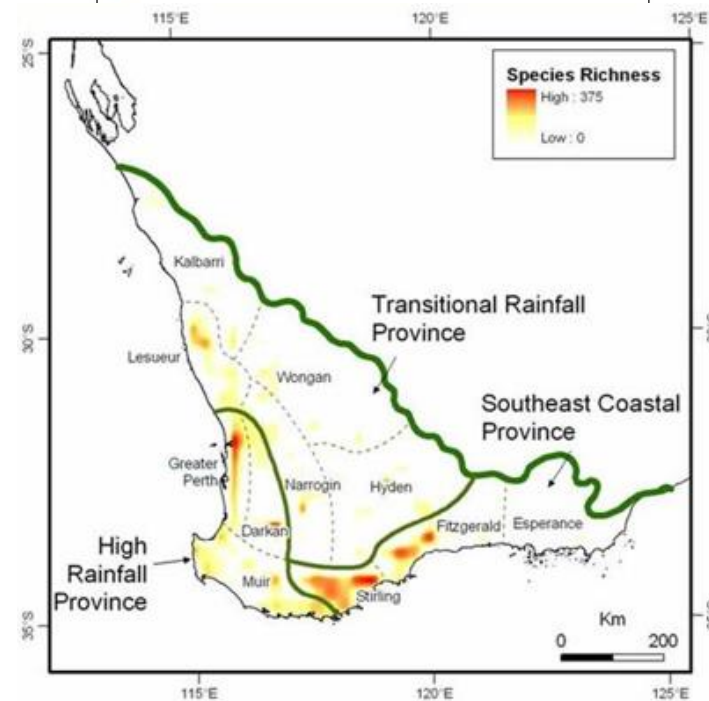
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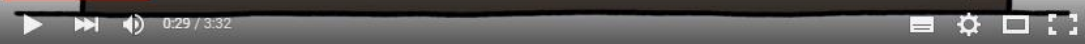
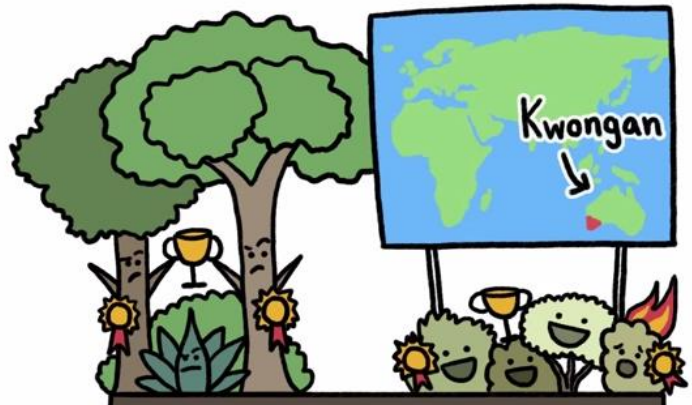
118°E

119°E

Legend (Boxwood Hills Area)

- Remnant Vegetation (2004)
 - CALM Tenure
 - Natural Diversity Recovery Catchments
- Salinity**
- Salt Affected
 - At Risk
- Sampled Species Richness**
- High : 375
 - Low : 0
- SWAFR**
- Floristic Region
 - Floristic Province
 - Floristic District





Why Poor Places Are More Diverse

MinuteEarth

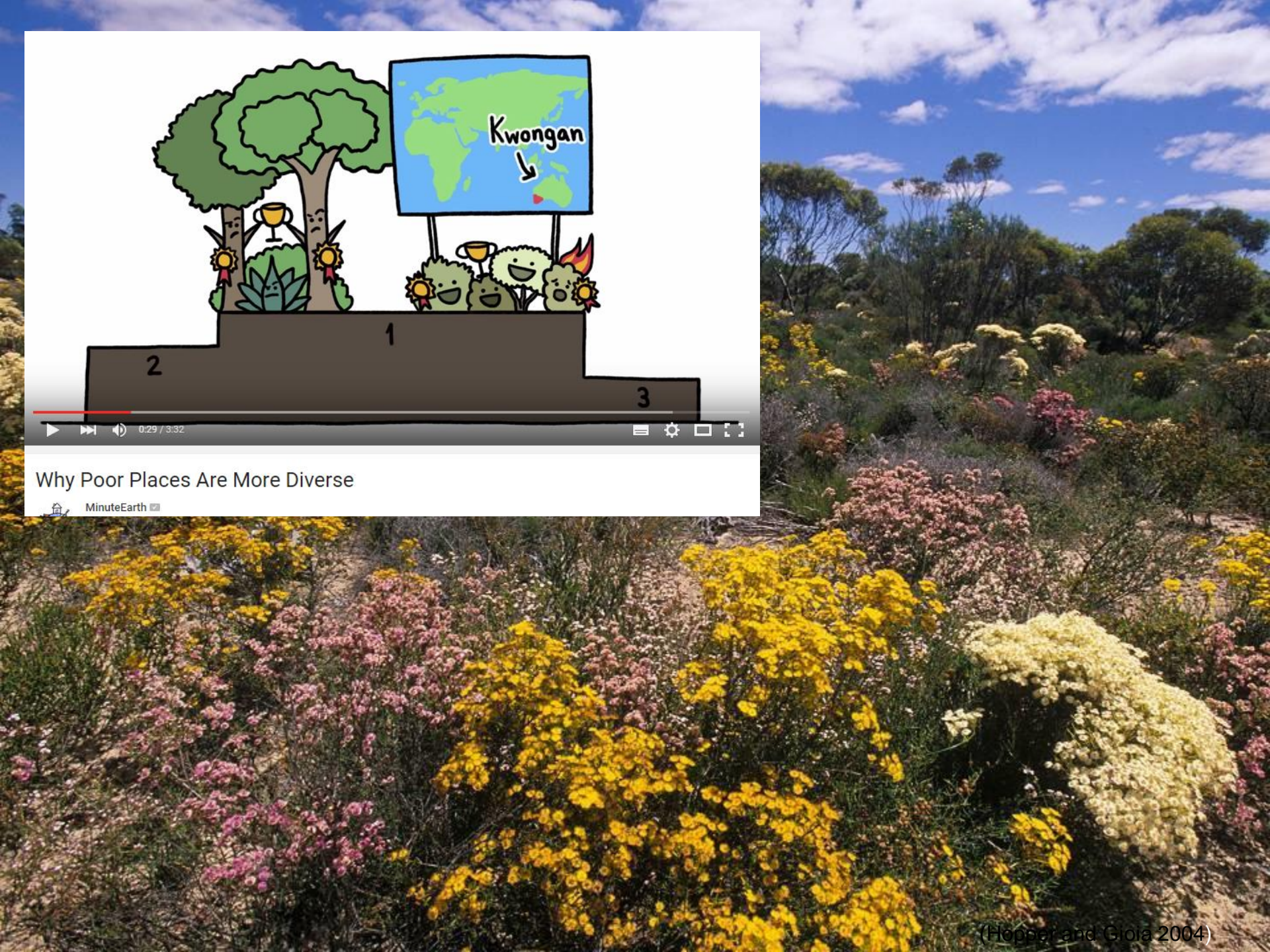
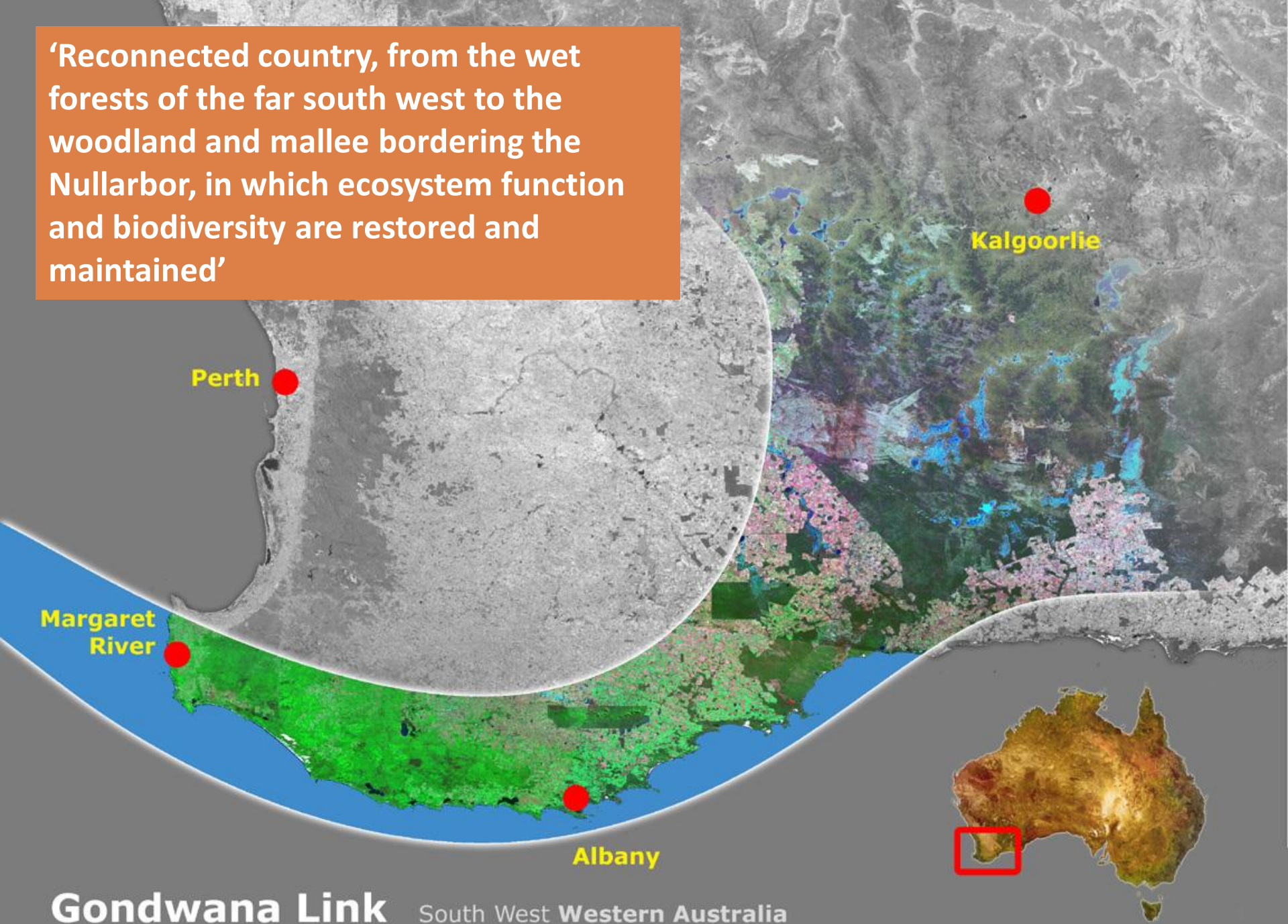




Photo courtesy : Geoff Bee



‘Reconnected country, from the wet forests of the far south west to the woodland and mallee bordering the Nullarbor, in which ecosystem function and biodiversity are restored and maintained’



Gondwana Link South West Western Australia



Generosity and goodwill



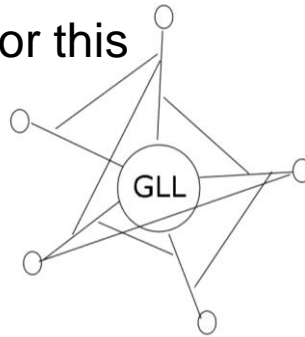


Minimal structure . . .

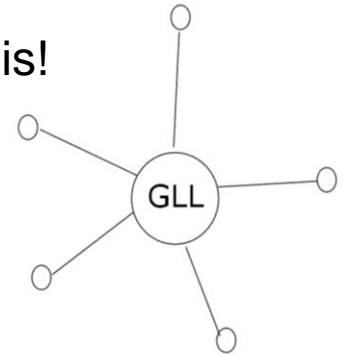
- Keeping the strength in the groups and the focus on tangible achievements, momentum and strengthened relationships
- The job we have is simple – the hard bit is keeping it simple
- Small core staff – helping out where needed and providing pooled resources, shared learnings and leadership
- Cooperative arrangements across and between the groups, with specific deals as required



Aiming for this



Not this!

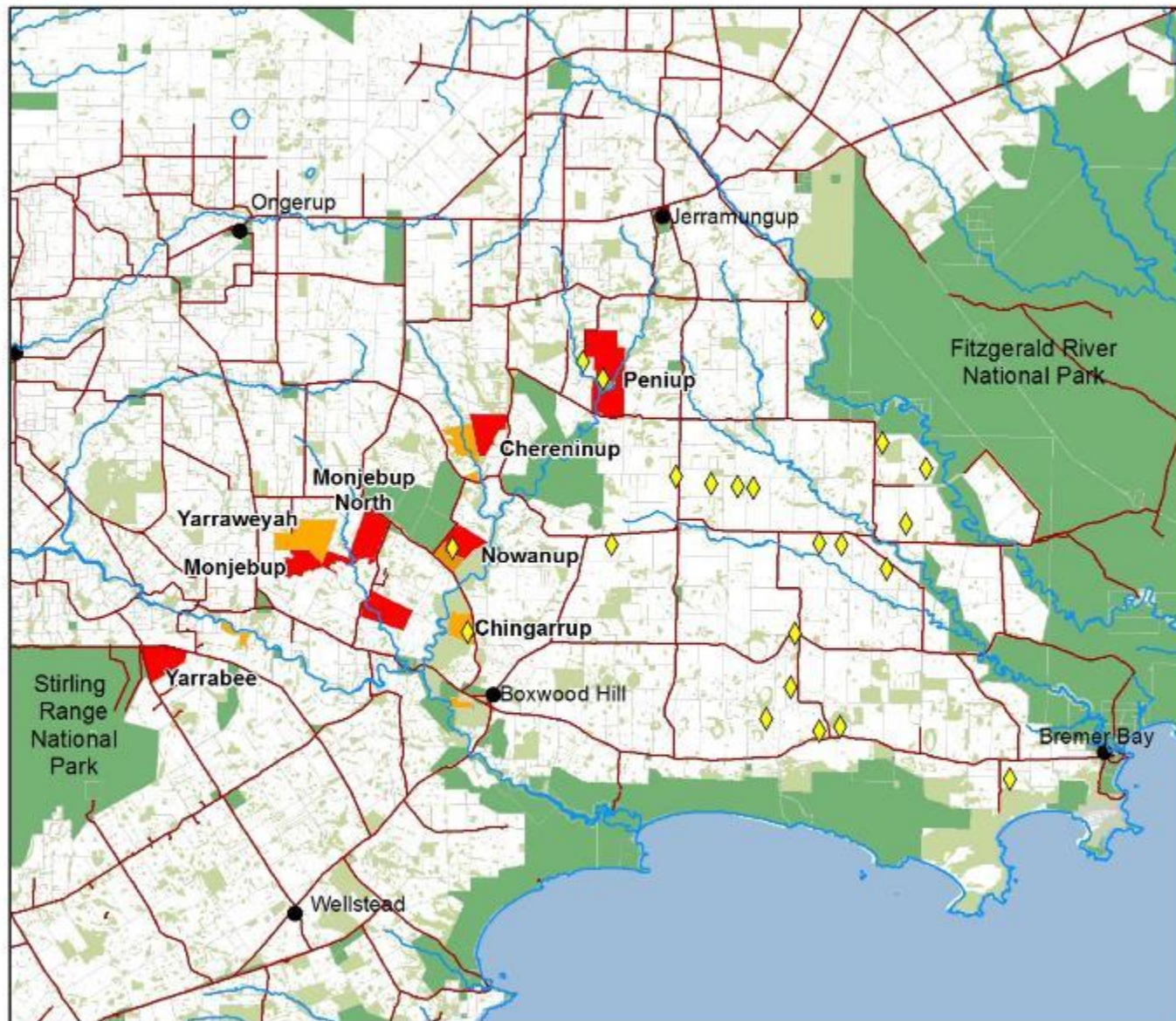


The underpinning Whole of Link game-plan (2002-2015)

A decentralised conservation approach built through ‘no-regrets’ actions that give tangible outcomes.

- **Articulate a compelling vision of the future** - imagine and act for the best. Gondwana Link is about *transforming landscapes*, rather than just *managing threats*.
- **Build momentum** by initially focusing on two key areas to secure high ecological values and provide inspiring examples (Fitz-Stirling and Great Western Woodlands).
- **Establish support mechanisms** to underpin expansion across the entire Link.
- **Phased Whole of Link roll-out**, using Conservation Action Planning to ensure a focus of effort into strategic and effective actions.

Fitz-Stirling private conservation areas - July 2014



Legend

- National parks, reserves and potential reserves
- UCL and privately owned bushland - some is actively managed for conservation
- Bush Heritage Australia and/or Greening Australia reserves (8094 Ha)
- Main covenants and private conservation reserves (3858 Ha)
- Property boundaries
- Roads
- Site of native revegetation undertaken through the Reconnections project (998 Ha)



Map by Amanda Keating, 15 July 2014



Justin Jonson (2010) Ecological restoration of cleared agricultural land in Gondwana Link: lifting the bar at 'Peniup' *ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT & RESTORATION* VOL 11 NO 1





PROUDLY PLANTED AND MANAGED BY:

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Turn Emissions into Trees™

Supported by
Individuals and businesses concerned about Climate Change
For
Carbon Sequestration, Biodiversity and Habitat Restoration

This forest will be managed by Carbon Neutral from the 1st of July, 2010 to the 30th of June, 2015.
To report any risks, hazards or events please contact Carbon Neutral at 1300 851 211 or www.carbonneutral.com.au
From the 1st of July, 2015 management of all risks, hazards and events will revert to the Land Owner.
This forest has been protected by a 100 year Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant.

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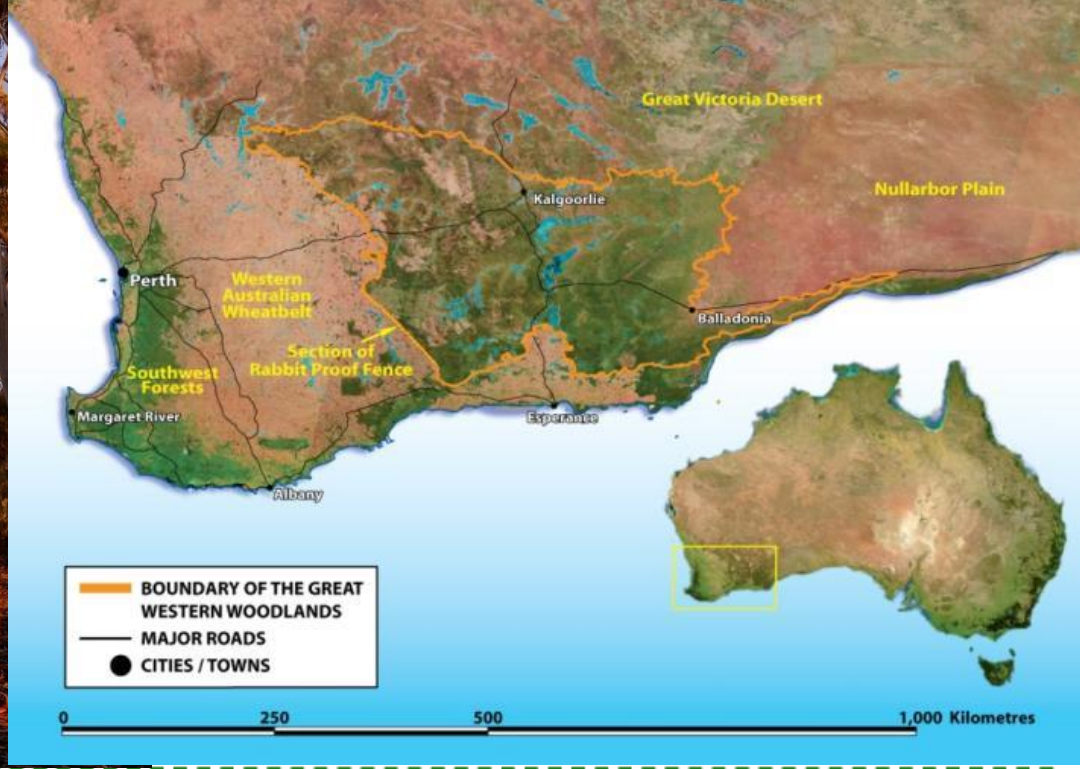
HOTSPOT
CULTURAL PROJECT

A small inset photograph in the top right corner shows a man in a light-colored shirt standing in a field, possibly a park or natural area, with trees and a body of water in the background.

A wide landscape view of a river or estuary. In the foreground, a large, shallow body of water with a brownish hue stretches across the frame. To the left, a dense forest of tall, thin trees lines the bank. In the middle ground, a large, flat expanse of land, possibly a wetland or marsh, is visible, with a small island of trees in the center. The background shows a vast, flat landscape under a clear sky.

The Great Western Woodlands

at 16 million ha the largest remaining temperate woodland on earth



How big is the Great Western Woodlands?



=



or



or



Great Western
Woodland

Over 70% of Victoria

230% the size of
Tasmania

66% of the
United Kingdom

Pulling together what we already know







CMP

The Conservation Measures Partnership

Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation

Version 2.0
October 2007



The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) is a joint venture of conservation NGOs that seek better ways to design, manage, and measure the impacts of their conservation actions. Partners include the African Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund. Collaborators include The Cambridge Conservation Forum, Conservation International, Enterprise Works/VITA, Foundations of Success, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rare, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the World Conservation Union/IUCN.

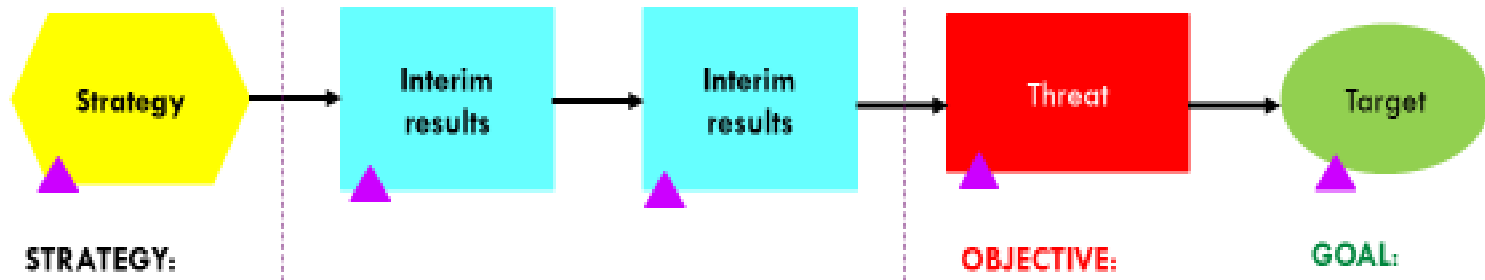


<http://www.conservationmeasures.org/>

http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/cbdgateway/cap/resources/index_html

Ongoing process not rigid plan

Results chains

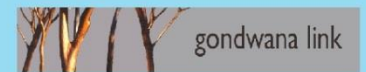


- Targets selection tested by ‘so what’
- Progress measured through a series of ‘if...then’
- focus on a series of results - NOT a series of activities.
- Show progress towards long term goals 10-50-100 yrs.





GONDWANA LINK zones and conservation action planning areas



A land use planning process for the Great Western Woodlands

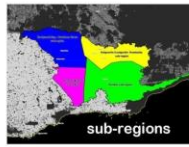
Phase one: Develop over-arching land use policy



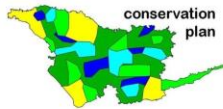
- Gather data to represent all land uses and values.
- Develop shared, regional-scale objectives for all land uses, including conservation.
- Share information across stakeholder groups.
- Conduct work to better define GWW management and protection needs.
- Initiate on-ground projects where synergies exist.



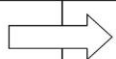
Phase two: Clarify on-ground priorities



- Consider use of sub-regions to better engage local communities and stakeholders to identify values, issues and synergies.

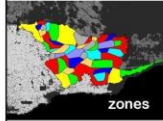


- Involve all stakeholders in a conservation planning exercise.



Phase three: Develop comprehensive plan

1. Review & finalise over-arching land use policy.



2. Zone land to clarify multiple use arrangements or prioritise land use.



3. Create overlay zones as necessary to enable plan to consider additional issues & opportunities.

4. Develop additional collaborative projects to support plan.

5. Establish system to monitor plan.

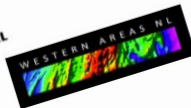
6. Consider need for supporting planning mechanisms (e.g codes of practice).



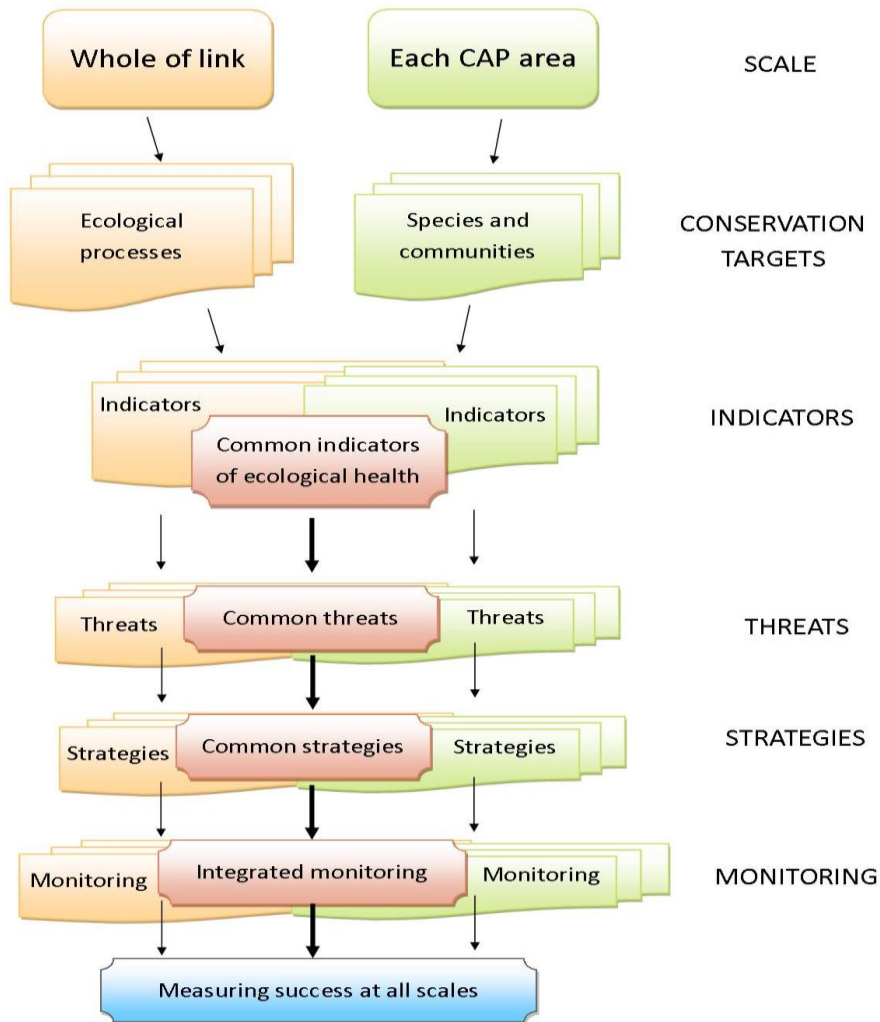
Granite and Woodlands:

The conservation action plan
for the Kondinin and Dundas parts of
the Great Western Woodlands

Plan produced by the Shire of Kondinin, Shire of Dundas,
Western Areas Ltd and Norilsk Nickel and Gondwana Link Ltd.
VERSION 1.0, AUGUST 2013



Not just top down or reality up



WHOLE OF LINK CONSERVATION TARGETS

- Natural biological and physical heterogeneity
- Hydrological processes
- Trophic interactions
- Wildlife populations and movements
- Evolutionary processes
- Natural disturbance regimes
- Living with country

Huiārcani



Plant it and they will come?

Building restoration science by doing restoration.



Clear Standards for Restoration

Continuum of biodiversity and ecological values



Low biodiversity value (“1-2 stars”)

- Few species
- Introduced species
- One structure (eg all canopy trees)
- Spatially homogeneous (eg evenly spaced rows)
- Few habitat types
- No management
- Isolated, small, no strategic connections
- Short lived

High biodiversity value (“4-5stars”)

- Many species
- Species all occurred naturally on this site
- Diverse structure (many layers)
- Spatial heterogeneity (“patchiness”)
- Diverse habitats (litter, tree hollows, logs)
- Durable (can self-replicate)
- Part of a strategic context:
 - Dieback, ferals, weeds managed





INTO THE HOTSPOT

Discussion Paper on: A Biodiversity Drive Trail across
the extraordinary nature of the Great Southern region



Working through the conflicts





ARE WE THERE YET?...



THANK GOODNESS FOR ALL THE ELECTRONIC GADGETS THAT KEEP THEM OCCUPIED ON THESE LONG TRIPS!



JOPE
17.1.15



**IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE
UNTIL IT'S DONE.**

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S
Great Western
Woodlands

A global treasure in our backyard



www.net.au

Woodlands Collaboration



The reserve system, circa 1980

“Reserves of the order of 30-94,000 ha are required to conserve most of the avifauna of the wheatbelt”

D.J. Kitchener, J. Dell, B.G. Muir, M. Palmer (1982)

Birds in Western Australian Wheatbelt Reserves – implications for conservation. *Biol. Cons.* 22, 127-163

“40,000ha approximates the area of nature reserve likely to conserve that part of the regional assemblage of mammals in southern Western Australia liable to persist in the face of moderate disturbance by man and his agencies”

D.J. Kitchener, A. Chapman, B.G. Muir (1980)

The conservation value for mammals of Reserves in the Western Australian Wheatbelt *Biol. Cons.* 18, p179





Critical bushland areas protected