

Desert Habitat Method trial workshop,
Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

Desert Habitat Method intro

What is the Desert Habitat Method?

The Desert Habitat Method, or DHM, is a scientific framework for tracking and measuring the impact of land management work. Its main purpose is to show how fire management affects spinifex country. This includes how fire affects native plants, bushfoods and bush medicines and the habitat available for native animals.

How is the IDA developing the Desert Habitat Method?

The IDA is working with ecologists and rangers to develop the Desert Habitat Method.

First, we used the knowledge and experience of Indigenous people from:

- Healthy Country Plans
- Indigenous Protected Area management plans
- fire management plans.

Now, the IDA is trialling the method with 4 ranger teams to make sure it:

- is culturally appropriate
- uses local knowledge
- reflects real on-ground conditions
- helps desert rangers achieve their own goals, not just meet the needs of others.

You can read more about the trial in our Desert Habitat Method trials fact sheet.

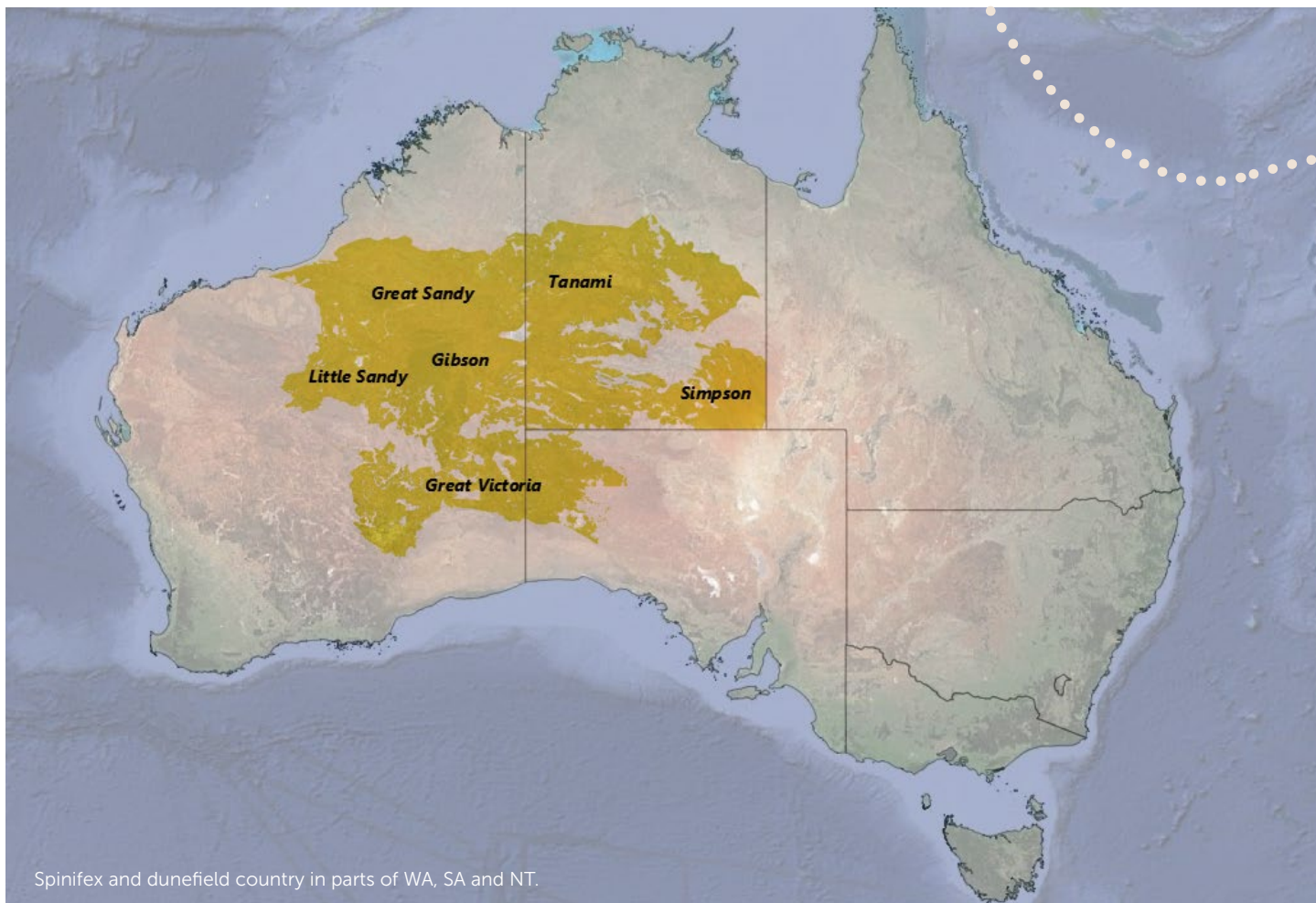


Elliot Hunter, Nyangumarta Ranger Team, Desert Habitat Method trial workshop, Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

Why is the Desert Habitat Method needed?

The IDA is developing the Desert Habitat Method to give ranger teams a clear, scientific way to:

- measure the impact of their fire management work
- plan future fire work
- explain the results of their fire work to others, including:
 - Traditional Owners
 - government departments
 - grant funders
 - nature market investors who pay for work that helps the environment.



Spinifex and dunefield country in parts of WA, SA and NT.

Who can use the Desert Habitat Method?

The Desert Habitat Method can only monitor spinifex sandplain and dunefield country. Indigenous ranger teams and other land managers who manage this type of country can use it.

The darker yellow area on the map above shows spinifex and dunefield country in parts of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Desert Habitat Method accreditation

Accounting for Nature, or AfN, accredited the Desert Habitat Method in 2023. Accounting for Nature is a respected, international, non-governmental organisation that checks if monitoring tools are scientifically reliable.

Because of this accreditation, rangers can trust the Desert Habitat Method results to help them plan and improve their work. They can also confidently share these results with others.

Adapting the Desert Habitat Method for the Nature Repair Market

The Australian Government is funding the IDA to develop the Rangelands Habitat Method as a method for the Australian Government's Nature Repair Market. The Rangelands Habitat Method will be based on the Desert Habitat Method.

If the government approves the Rangelands Habitat Method, desert ranger teams will be able to use it to measure the impact of their work and earn biodiversity certificates. They can sell those biodiversity certificates on the Nature Repair Market.

IDA nature market fact sheet series

These documents contain general information only. Groups should seek their own legal, technical and financial advice before making any decisions regarding nature markets.

See more fact sheets [here](#)

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