

## RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

### THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team      Geocrinia  
Reporting Period      Calendar year 2011

#### Current membership

Please include email addresses as we would like updated contact details for recovery team members

Also please include vacant positions and regular guests

	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
2. Exec Officer	Nil	
3.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
4	Dale Roberts	Uni of WA
5.	Helen Robertson	Perth Zoo
6	Megan Flowers	DEC Blackwood District

**Dates meetings were held**      Email communications occurred on a regular basis throughout the year. No formal team meeting were held, though team members met in the field during the breeding season.

Membership changes: Perth zoo representative Helen Robertson retired from the Zoo and the team late in 2011. Peter Mawson resigned from DEC and his position as SCB rep on the team in late 2011.

Manda Page will represent Species and Communities Branch in 2012 and it is likely Peter Mawson will represent the Perth Zoo in 2012.

**One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU**

The annual monitoring program was completed and field assistance was provided to the Perth Zoo's captive frog breeding program re: collection of source animals and egg masses.

Of the 70 frogs *G.alba* translocated into the wild during 2010 using captive reared animals from the Perth Zoo breeding program 25 calling males were recorded at the site in 2011. Assuming a 1:1 sex ratio then this equates to approx. 70% survival rate over 1 year. A further 31 juveniles and adults were released at the site during the 2011 breeding season.

Five captive reared *G.vitellina* were released at the GV7 site to augment this egg mass translocated population.

The first successful captive breeding of white-bellied frogs was achieved by the Perth Zoo during the year paving the way

for future translocations of this species and an increase in the number of extant occurrences

A completely revised and updated Recovery Plan has been completed and is awaiting endorsement SEWPaC.

#### List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team member/s

**Action 1 – Population monitoring:** Population monitoring was undertaken Sept to Nov 2011, covering approximately 50 sites and 300 hrs work with mixed results. Creek systems were generally quite moist and / or flowing well having received good winter rainfalls compared to previous years. Most larger sites recorded a small increase in calling males and small sites were steady. No additional sites were elevated to the extinct category.

Monitoring at the 2010 *G.alba* release site recorded 25 calling males out of a total 70 captive reared frogs translocated. Assuming a 1:1 sex ratio then this equates to approx. 70% survival rate over 1 year. A further 31 juveniles and adults were released at the site during the 2011 breeding season.

Monitoring at the 2000 *G.vitellina* egg mass translocation site was completed. Five calling males were recorded at the GV7b site, up from four the previous year, whilst the GV7c site increased to six, the highest recorded at this site, up from two the previous year. Five captive reared *G.vitellina* were released at the GV7b site to augment this egg mass translocated population.

**Action 2 – Captive Breeding:** Collaborative work with the Perth Zoo continued with further *G.alba* and *G.vitellina* specimens and egg masses collected for use in their captive rearing and breeding program.

31 *alba* and 5 *vitellina* specimens were released into the wild during the season continuing the translocation program commenced in 2010.

**Action 3 - Protect Habitat:** Investigations into a deliberate clearing of fenced and occupied *G.alba* habitat by a newly developed viticultural business first reported in 2008 were completed. A Vegetation Conservation Notice (VCN) will be issued to restore the damaged habitat.

6km of firebreaks and boundary fences were maintained in "loc 83" *alba* sites as part of protecting this important geocrinia location from fire. Further fencing repair and reinforcing works were undertaken at *G.alba* sites and two sites adjoining *G.vitellina* sites to control illegal access to the sites.

**Action 4 – Feral Control:** NRM funding was secured during the year to maintain the monitoring of both *alba* and *vitellina* sites for feral pig impacts and undertake trapping as required. Field investigations into the potential use of "pig out" baits and non target impacts were undertaken during the year. Trials to be repeated during 2012.

**Action 5 – Community Awareness:** Following a series of illegal drugs crops being located in core *G.alba* sites during the monitoring season. DEC staff presented frog conservation information at a joint South West Catchment Council, DEC, Perth Zoo, UWA community information session in September in Margaret River. DEC staff contributed text and advice to the production of a brochure "On the Edge of Extinction – the White-bellied Frog" and poster for dissemination at the information session.

Recovery Team chair presented Geocrinia conservation information at the "Margaret River Flourish" Curtin University Science workshop in October.