



Department of
Environment and
Conservation
Our environment, our future

RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team

Rock Wallaby Recovery Team

Reporting Period

Submission date 31 March

DATE FROM: 27/11/2012

DATE TO: 31/03/2013

Current membership

Member

Representing

Co-Chair

David Pearson

DEC Science

Co-Chair

Katherine Howard

WWF

Exec Officer

Mia Podesta

DEC SCB

members

Not formalised yet

Dates meetings were held

27/11/2012 and 07/02/2013

Highlights of achievements for the previous 12 months suitable for publication in *WATSNU* and contribution to DEC annual report. Provide 1-2 paragraphs summarising total number of new populations located, surveys completed, list major management actions etc

- Recovery Plan for Five Species of Rock Wallaby approved at the state level.
- Formation of the Black-Flanked Rock-Wallaby Recovery Team.
- Two preliminary meetings in Northam and Perth to meet potential members of the Recovery Team and to discuss pressing actions and funding opportunities.

List of recovery actions coordinated by Recovery Team

Detail under the headings below the recovery actions undertaken during the reporting period. Provide separate detail for each species/community against each action. For species/community-specific recovery teams, the generic activity types below can be replaced by the specific recovery actions from the recovery plan where appropriate.

Monitoring and survey of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.

- WWF/KLC/Nyikina Mangala Rangers program to survey Kimberley populations underway. Black-flanked rock wallabies confirmed as still extant in Grant and Edgar Ranges in 2012. No evidence of former population at Mt Wynne detected during 2012 survey.
- Trapping surveys and camera trap monitoring of Paruna population by AWC.
- Camera trap monitoring by DEC at Avon Valley, showing recruitment and at Walyunga, with no animals sighted.
- Camera trap monitoring of Cape Le Grand populations showing recruitment.
- Camera trap monitoring of Wheatbelt populations by DEC and WWF.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete census of all seven wheatbelt populations – total population approximately 150 at 2012. • Key habitat mapped and data on individuals gathered in all Central Wheatbelt District populations. • DEC trialling various monitoring methods at Cape Range, ready to roll them out. • A trapping program at Kaalpi (the Calvert Range) in 2012 captured 45 individuals in 600m of the range, out of a possible 15km of suitable habitat. • Predator and spotlight monitoring is occurring at Kaalpi and Jilukurru (Durba Hills) in the Little Sandy Desert in preparation for a translocation in 2013.
<p>Threat amelioration eg weed control/mapping, fencing/ repairs, fire management disease management, feral/ introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of fence installation at Nangeen Hill in the Wheatbelt, estimated to be completed by May 2013. • Barriers into Gundaring NR installed to prevent camping and illegal access. • Weed control around some Wheatbelt populations (major iceplant spraying at Nangeen Hill; minor melon weed removal at Sales Rock, Gundaring NR, and Nangeen NR and cape tulip weed control at Mt Caroline). • Successful fund application from state NRM to conduct weed control and produce a weed management plan for Mt Caroline NR over the next three years. • Rabbit control at Mt Caroline NR, Sales Rock, Nangeen NR and Querekin wheatbelt populations. • Landowners at Mt Stirling have conducted additional fox/feral cat control at the remaining inhabited rock (private). • Supplementary feed stations installed at Querekin Rock to alleviate lack of natural feed due to drought conditions and small accessible grazing area to support known population. • Review of bait uptake around all Central Wheatbelt District rock wallabies completed, and changes to baiting regime made where appropriate. • Feral predator control around wheatbelt populations as well as in Avon Valley, Walyunga, Paruna and Kaalpi (Calvert Range). • Goat control at Avon Valley and Walyunga populations and around potential translocation sites in Kalbarri NP. • Feral Control Officer employed by DEC Pilbara. Trialling new baits. Aerial goat culls in Cape Range. • DEC South Coast having some success with Eradicat[®] baits in the Fitzgerald River National Park with Cape Le Grand National Park a high priority for future Eradicat[®] baiting. • Eradicat baiting commenced at Jilukurru in 2012 in the Little Sandy Desert in preparation for a translocation in 2013. Preliminary results from track-based predator monitoring are showing a reduction in predator tracks following baiting.
<p>Conservation and research e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of a PhD project which will examine animals from Paruna Sanctuary to gather more information on the genetic consequences of translocated populations from Wheatbelt stock. Also looking at how mating preferences of dominant individuals affect gene transfer. The results will hopefully influence how we select individuals for translocation and the likely impacts on the source population • PhD pending (C. Pentland) discussing observations and implications of the behavior of Nangeen Hill rock wallabies. • Paper in early draft – Documenting the fear factor of Central Wheatbelt District rock wallabies and its impact. • Paper under review by Aust. Mammology – Mark II Bromilow-Kinnear humane soft trap for rock wallabies. • Seed collecting conducted at Nangeen Hill NR for future revegetation. Shrubs coming back after weed control, however grasses are slower to recover.

<p>Liaison, education/provision of advice e.g. promotional material inc newspaper/ magazine articles, liaison with land managers/ owners, input to impact assessment, development of specific management plans, volunteers assisting with surveys/ monitoring etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheatbelt region liaison with private landholders concerning management actions. • Landscape articles on rock wallabies in autumn 2012 and 2013. • Kellerberrin Shire/WWF/Craig Pentland coordinate regular six-weekly volunteer scat monitoring at five Wheatbelt sites since beginning of 2010. • Kellerberrin Shire began scat/camera trap monitoring program with Kellerberrin District High School Year 3/4 at Kokerbin Rock in 2012. • Wheatbelt NRM's Noongar Elders Advisory Group visited Nangeen Hill in 2012 to see construction of fence and observed scat monitoring. • Wheatbelt NRM's Noongar Budjar Carer Trainees took part in scat monitoring and weed control in 2012. • WWF added new blackp-flanked rock wallabies webpages to website and distributed fundraising appeal to WWF supporters. • Media stories on the detected decline at Nangeen and Mt Caroline and the construction of the fence (DEC, WWF). • WWF/KLC/NM Rangers survey of Grant and Edgar Ranges and Mt Wynne required Traditional Owner and landholder liaison. • Liaison with the Ngaanyatjarra Land and Culture Unit commenced about the resumption of predator baiting in the Townsend Ridges. • Monitoring of wheatbelt populations used to train DEC and AWC staff in micro chipping and provide opportunities to gain further experience in handling techniques. • Kanyirminpa Jukurpa, Jigalong Ranger team, BHP Billiton and DEC Pilbara are working closely together on rock wallaby monitoring and predator baiting in the Little Sandy Desert in preparation for a translocation in 2013.
<p>Maintain and enhance biosecurity for islands</p>	
<p>Conduct translocations, captive breeding and reintroductions to establish new, or supplement existing populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translocation proposal drafted for rock-wallabies to be moved from the Kaalpi (Calvert Range) to the Jilukurru (Durba Hills).
<p>Land use/tenure changes e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue dialogue with the Water Corporation to use Reserve 10463 (Knungajin Hill) in the Shire of Nungarin as a translocation site for wallabies in the near future.
<p>Conservation status reviews for taxa/TECs e.g. nominations for additions, deletions or change in status to state threatened or priority lists; changes to EPBC list</p>	
<p>Recovery plans e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Plan for Five Species of Rock Wallaby approved at the state level.

Other actions completed	
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