



RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM		
PROGRAM INFORMATION		
Recovery Team	Black-flanked Rock-wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis</i>)	
Reporting Period Submission date 31 March	DATE FROM: 31 st March 2013	DATE TO: 31 st March 2014
Current membership		
Member - Representing		
Chair	David Pearson - DPaW Science and Nature Conservation Division Katherine Howard - WWF-Australia	
Exec Officer	Abby Thomas - DPaW	
Members	Juanita Renwick (JR) – DPaW Western Shield Brooke Halkyard (BH) – DPaW Exmouth District Sarah Comer (SC) – DPAW South Coast Region Anthony Desmond (AD) – DPAW Species and Communities Branch/ MidWest Natasha Moore (NM) – DPAW Central Wheatbelt District Neville Hague (NH) - DPAW Goldfields Region Alicia Whittington (AW) – DPAW Pilbara Region Manda Page (MP) - DPaW Species and Communities Branch Byrony Palmer (BP) – Australian Wildlife Conservancy Jack Kinnear (JK) – Consultant Craig Pentland (CP) – Edith Cowan PhD candidate / consultant Rowan Hegglin (RH) – Wheatbelt NRM	
Guests	David Taggart (DT) - University of South Australia Mathew Ward (MW) - SA Dept of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Mark Eldridge (ME) - Australian Museum Brett Beecham – DPaW Wheatbelt Region Frank Weisenberger (KW) - Kimberley Land Council Tristan Cole (TC) - KJ Aboriginal Group Matt Prophet (MPro) – DPaW Exmouth District Phil Lewis (PL) – Camera trap consultant Tanya Vernes (TV) and Jess Koleck (JKo) - WWF Kimberley Tracey Hobbs (TH) Shire of Kellerberrin Nicole Willers (NW) – DPaW Swan Region Kym Ottewell (KO) - DPaW Science Peter Kendrick – DPaW Barrow Island Tracey Moore - Murdoch University & private landholder	
Dates meetings were held		28 August 2013 & 4 March 2014



<p>Highlights of achievements for the previous 12 months suitable for publication in <i>WATSNU</i> and contribution to DPAW annual report. Provide 1-2 paragraphs summarising total number of new populations located, surveys completed, list major management actions etc</p>	<p>A new predator-proof sanctuary for black-flanked rock-wallabies was created at Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve in the Central Wheatbelt through a partnership between DPaW and WWF-Australia.</p> <p>A new population of black-flanked rock-wallabies was created via a DPaW translocation of 26 animals from Calvert Ranges (Kaalpi) to Durba Hills (16 to Pinpi Gorge, 10 to Jilikuru Gorge in the Little Sandy Desert in August/September 2013. Fifteen were fitted with VHF transmitters and 5 with satellite/VHF transmitters. When last monitored in Nov 2013, there had been only one confirmed mortality of those animals fitted with VHF transmitters (animal appeared to have fallen into a crevice), and 2 transmitters could not be located, but remaining 12 animals were surviving. All animals fitted with satellite transmitters were still active.</p> <p>Unfortunately, two Wheatbelt populations had to be moved in their entirety to other, occupied rock-wallaby sites in 2013 via joint DPaW-WWF translocations due to the source locations becoming unviable.</p> <p>Camera traps deployed by DPaW in Cape Range produced interesting results: images of a black-flanked rock-wallaby 'crèche' in Pilgonaman Gorge (three young at foot playing together, with one adult in attendance). Black-flanked and yellow-footed rock-wallabies have been observed using crèches before but we are unaware of any published information. An image of a rock-wallaby was captured very close to Exmouth townsite (2.5km west), closer than any previously known sighting.</p> <p>This Recovery Team focuses mainly on the <i>Petrogale lateralis</i> group but 2013 dry season surveys for the other Kimberley species by WWF and Indigenous Ranger groups have recorded Monjon (<i>P. burbidgei</i>) across part of their range, and a large area further south than previously published; however Narbalek (<i>P. concinna</i>) was not detected at any mainland site and it appears it may have undergone a wide scale decline.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Monitoring and survey of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.</p>	<p>Barrow Is: No recent surveys</p> <p>Central Wheatbelt District: Sales Rock trapping survey April 2013 = 14 animals, up from 10 in 2011. Gundaring trapping survey April 2013 = 12 animals, up from 8 in 2011. Camera traps were deployed at Mt Stirling for most of 2013 to determine if any persistence of RW at this site. Following translocation of 2 individuals in Dec 2013, 1 camera still onsite to monitor for remaining individuals. Mt Caroline – small # (10) traps (i.e. not a full census) deployed Dec 2013 to check health of individuals = 4 adults all healthy See translocations info for Nangeen Hill, Querekin Rock & Mt Stirling. Kokerbin Rock not trapped this year. Remote, low-impact monitoring units being trialled at Nangeen. Units consist of a square chip reader which the animals must pass through, and weigh scale and data logger housed in front of a feed hopper (animals have been free fed Lucerne from these hoppers for >12 months, are accustomed to using them), set up in tandem with a remote sensing camera to monitor presence of known (chipped) individuals and their weight (condition) over time. Should also be possible to monitor pouch young</p>



	<p>occurrence and survivability through extrapolation of all the data combined.</p> <p>Exmouth: Twice yearly point-based population counts conducted at 'stronghold' colonies at Mandu Mandu and Pilgonaman gorges (June/July and Oct/Nov). Counted between 9 - 6 adults at Mandu Mandu (different dates); between 19 – 10 adults at PG. Count data appears to show a decline at both sites from June 2013 to Feb 2014 but this may just be seasonal variation. Five remote camera transects were deployed in gorges, two across the Range. At least three of the gorge transects will be monitored once per year (twice if resources permit); one stronghold, one outlier and one that has potentially shown a response to management actions. Two to three additional camera transects will be deployed annually at other sites throughout the Park to detect presence/absence of rock wallabies and threats.</p> <p>Goldfields: Remote cameras were installed on the Townsend Ridges in early August 2013, DPaW has not recovered these cameras yet.</p> <p>Kimberley: - WWF surveys completed in April/May 2013 with Nyikina-Mangala and Gooniyandi Ranger groups (scat search and sensor cameras). Two main sites at southern end of Edgar Ranges and at Erskine Ranges surveyed. Eight sites were surveyed around one main area north-east of Fitzroy Crossing.</p> <p>Midwest: Currently no RW at Kalbarri NP.</p> <p>Paruna AWC: Remote sensor cameras and trapping conducted. During the May 2013 trapping, reflective ear-tags were fitted to all adult animals that were trapped (right ears male / left ears female: this has been done previously, but not for the last two years). It allows identification of previously trapped and untrapped animals, and to differentiate between sexes in previously trapped individuals.</p> <p>Perth Hills: Planning to install 8 cameras in Avon Valley NP sites previously monitored for Rock Wallabies in 2012 over a period of 4 weeks in April, then use Camerabase to compare the two years. A transect of 10 cameras is currently running in Walyunga NP to investigate general fauna population changes since January 2013. Of particular interest are the effects of the bushfire of 28 February 2013. This will also detect changes in goat activity and can be used in the assessment of the effectiveness of goat trapping in that NP.</p> <p>Pilbara: See translocations info.</p> <p>South Coast: Camera surveys of Cape Le Grand translocation sit have indicated persistence of the rock-wallabies and breeding.</p>
<p>Threat amelioration eg weed control/mapping, fencing/ repairs, fire management disease management,</p>	<p>Central Wheat belt: Predator-proof fence around Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve co-funded by WWF-Australia and DPaW completed (June 2013) and has so far prevented recolonisation of feral predators (data from track monitoring and remote camera network in the reserve). Reserve has been fox free since Aug 2013 and cat activity/numbers</p>



<p>feral/ introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers</p>	<p>significantly reduced.</p> <p>Images recorded of RW consuming a 1080 probait on camera trap at Nangeen Hill NR, but very low incidence.</p> <p>DPaW continues high intensity Western Shield baiting of all CWD rock wallaby reserves except Kokerbin Rock NR due to recreational facilities in the vicinity of the population. Will continue negotiations with adjoining landholders to bait buffer around Kokerbin Rock NR.</p> <p>Rabbit control: 1080 baiting and fumigation ongoing at Mt Caroline NR, Sales Rock, Gundaring NR & Nangeen Hill NR.</p> <p>Remaining Euros inside fence at Nangeen Hill are proving difficult to remove and are impacting on regenerating vegetation. Also suspect euros (and w greys) are suppressing regen at Mt Caroline NR. Photo monitoring plots are to be setup before winter.</p> <p>Exmouth:</p> <p>Western Shield continues to fund 2 aerial baiting runs per year (down from 4). The Exmouth District will fund a third. The summer round of aerial baiting has been dropped.</p> <p>Should Eradicat not be registered for general use in 2014, the Exmouth District has been listed on DPaW's experimental research permit. Trials will commence May 2014.</p> <p>The District will test the efficacy of aerial and strategic ground application of Eradicat baits at reducing feral cats and foxes in BFRW habitat.</p> <p>Monitoring criteria comprises two independent methods: capture and GPS collaring of cats/foxes prior to baiting to assess mortality, and monitoring species activity using remote cameras.</p> <p>365 feral goats were removed from Cape Range National Park and Learmonth Air Weapons Range during the 2013 aerial shoot. Another approx. 15 removed via ground shooting.</p> <p>With the warmer/drier conditions, starting to notice more goats moving back towards the coastal plain, including Pilgonaman Gorge during the most recent point-based counts in Feb 2014. No dedicated shoots planned for 2014; aiming for early 2015. Opportunistic shooting will be conducted by staff. Feral goat surveys to be conducted at the end of Feb.</p> <p>Goldfields:</p> <p>The populations in the Central Ranges remain unbaited. DPaW Goldfields Region plan to meet with Ngaanyatjarra Land Management Unit in 2014 to discuss possible resurvey of populations and the resumption of baiting around the Townsend Ridges.</p> <p>Kimberley:</p> <p>No known feral animal control or other threat management activities for RWs in Edgar or Erskine Ranges (TO lands and pastoral leases).</p> <p>Midwest:</p> <p>Fox baiting continues at Kalbarri NP though with changes to the program. Predator monitoring (primarily sand pads) continues at Kalbarri however no interpretation of data has occurred.</p> <p>Goat shoot conducted In early February 2014 shot approximately the same number of animals as last year (587 goats). A modification to the shoot timing was made that meant greater efficiency and so this number was shot in about 75% of the helicopter time. It is not believed goat numbers in the park are increasing, although there are high numbers on adjoining properties.</p> <p>Paruna AWC:</p>
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	<p>Continuous feral animal control over entire Paruna Sanctuary consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21 cat traps which are baited and checked daily, - Bi-monthly fox baiting in which 80+ baits are laid out and replaced as they are taken; <p>Camera traps set on a sub-set of the baits and traps, as well as at other strategic points around the sanctuary.</p> <p>So far in 2014, 10 cats were caught and destroyed. Uptake of fox bait varies btw 7 - 30%. Camera traps indicate high numbers of foxes on the sanctuary at present.</p> <p>Goat control via a goat trap installed at far eastern side of the sanctuary, where the highest numbers are observed, and opportunistic shooting. Goats have been recorded near the eastern and western boundaries, but are not present in the core of the sanctuary where rock-wallabies are known to be present.</p> <p>Perth Hills:</p> <p>Western Shield aerial baiting has been increased back to 4 times/yr as a result of the persistence of the RW population being confirmed. Funding is provided by Worsley.</p> <p>Goat control program is ongoing, 68 goats have been removed this summer, traps have been operating since mid-January, checked daily. Approximately 50 individuals left</p> <p>Pilbara:</p> <p>Ongoing baiting of Burrup Peninsula and surrounding Dampier Peninsula islands to reduce fox risk to a variety of species including Rothschild Rock-wallabies.</p> <p>South Coast:</p> <p>Considering using cat bait in Cape Le Grand cell in 2015 once bait is registered.</p> <p>Biosecurity protocol required for all work on south coast islands.</p>
<p>Conservation and research e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc</p>	<p>Central Wheatbelt:</p> <p>Unfortunately, complete translocations were required from two populations that had become unviable (Querekin Rock and Mt Stirling) to other, occupied RW sites.</p> <p><i>Querekin Rock:</i> 1080 baiting ceased 30 June 2013 at the insistence of the landholder. Decision made to remove all rock-wallabies to sites where predators can be excluded or controlled. Matrix used to evaluate suitability of all available WA sites. Translocated 17 animals to Nangeen Hill, the remainder (21 animals) to Mt Caroline over 3 nights in joint DPaW/WWF exercise. 16 previously microchipped animals were not captured during the translocation exercise nor found on camera images.</p> <p><i>Mt Stirling:</i> translocation (also DPaW CWD/WWF) took place Dec 2013 as population had dropped to unviable levels (<3 KTBA). Two animals caught, both healthy, (one adult male and one sub-adult/adult female), immediately released at Sales Rock.</p> <p>Camera traps are in place at Nangeen Hill and Sales Rock to monitor translocated individuals. There is one camera at Mt Stirling to monitor presence of any remaining individuals. No cameras currently at Mt Caroline due to resource limitations (equipment and labour).</p> <p>DPaW's ongoing weed control at Nangeen Hill NR and a 3 yr weed management program at Caroline continues.</p> <p>WWF & DPaW working together to begin revegetating over-grazed and weed-infested meadow at Nangeen Hill. Planting to take place in winter 2014.</p> <p>Genetic material from all known CWD rock wallabies and some historical collections has been collected. Considering how to analyse samples to inform genetic</p>



	<p>management of CWD population but will need to seek funds.</p> <p>Exmouth:</p> <p>In response to feedback from the Yardie Creek boat operator, data collection will now include the number of watercraft observed during each tour. More than 50 (unpowered) watercraft were observed during a recent peak period, which corresponded with a smaller number of BFRWs. To be rolled out when the operator resumes operations following the summer break.</p>
<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>	<p>Central Wheatbelt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WWF / Shire of Kellerberrin volunteer scat monitoring program continues to conduct 6-weekly monitoring at 5 Wheatbelt sites. - WWF press release 'WA wallabies counting down to a happy New Year' released 31 Dec 2013, picked up by The West Australian, Midwest Times, Merredin-Wheatbelt Mercury, WA Today & Sydney Morning Herald online. - DPaW <i>Landscape</i> articles on CWD RWs have provided some great feedback from community. <p>Exmouth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Rock Wallaby Ramble' was conducted during Oct school holidays. Included presentation at visitors' centre, followed by guided walk at Pilgonaman Gorge. Will continue to feature throughout 2014 school holiday activity program. - MATES trainee has ongoing involvement with the District's BFRW monitoring program. - Currently liaising with CVA regarding volunteer involvement for June/July monitoring. - More than 35 hours were contributed by Cape Conservation Group volunteers during on-ground works. Additional assistance has been offered for cataloguing remote camera images. Continuing involvement from Cape Conservation Group will be facilitated. - Since the previous meeting, there have been 50 hours of volunteer involvement with rock wallaby monitoring, including 36 hours from international CVA volunteers. - Staff and students from Hale School have deployed a remote camera transect as part of their Outdoor Education program. Outcomes will be provided/presented. - The wider Exmouth community will be provided with updates via DPaW's <i>Ningaloo Coast News</i> newsletter. <p>Goldfields: Nothing additional</p> <p>Kimberley: WWF surveys are conducted in partnership with Aboriginal Ranger Groups and with the approval and support of the Traditional Owners and pastoral lease holders.</p> <p>Paruna AWC: Article in AWC supporter magazine <i>Wildlife Matters</i> Summer 13/14</p> <p>Pilbara:</p> <p>South Coast: Esperance Express, South Coast Circular 2013</p>

Land use/tenure changes e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc.	Central Wheatbelt: progress made towards an MoU between DPaW and WaterCorp over the use of Knungagin Hill as a possible future translocation site for BFRW.
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	Kimberley: 2013 dry season surveys for the other Kimberley rock-wallaby species by WWF and Indigenous Ranger groups have recorded Monjon (<i>P. burbidgei</i>) across part of their range, and a large area further south than previously published; however Narbalek (<i>P. concinna</i>) was not detected at any mainland site and it appears it may have undergone a wide scale decline.
Recovery plans e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated	N/A
Other actions completed	