



Department of
Environment and
Conservation

Our environment, our future

RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team

Geocrinia

Reporting Period

Submission date 31 March

DATE FROM: 1st Jan 2012

DATE TO: 31st March 2013

Current membership

Member

Representing

Chair

Kim Williams

DEC Southwest Region

Exec Officer

members

Manda Page

DEC Species and Communities Branch

Dale Roberts

University of WA

Peter Mawson

Perth Zoo

Megan Flowers

DEC Blackwood District

Dates meetings were held

A Recovery team meeting with all Team members present was held on the 5th of February.

Membership changes: Peter Mawson has returned to the recovery team representing the Perth Zoo and Manda Page has assumed representation for DEC Species and Communities branch in 2012.

Email communication occurred on a regular basis throughout the year.

Team members met and worked together in the field during breeding season.

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

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

Continued monitoring of translocated *G. alba* showed promising results. 31 calling males were recorded indicating a persisting population of at least 60 animals. Assuming a 1:1 sex ratio this equates to a survival rate above 60% over the 2 years of the translocation program.

A further 20 *G. vitellina* and 44 *G. alba* were released in 2012 from the Perth Zoo's captive breeding and rearing program.

5 captive bred *G. alba* were part of the release this year, the first release of captive bred frogs of the species. Husbandry changes at the zoo

	appear to be working with a very high success rate for rearing <i>G. alba</i> egg masses in 2012.
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.	
Action 1 – population monitoring	<p>Population monitoring was undertaken September to November 2012. Approximately 415 man hours were required to complete the annual monitoring program covering 68 sites. Due to low July rainfall many of the sites had reduced creek flow and in some sites no surface flow at all was detectable. Monitoring results were mixed; most larger populations remained stable, while several small populations once again recorded no calling males and may soon be elevated to the extinct category.</p> <p><i>G. alba</i> translocation: 101 captive reared animals were released in 2010 & 2011. 31 calling males were recorded in 2012, up from 25 heard in 2011, indicating a survival rate upward of 60%. Assuming a 1:1 sex ratio this makes this site a medium sized population for this species. A further 44 animals were released in 2012 totalling 145 animals released at this site.</p> <p><i>G. vitellina</i> translocation: Monitoring of the <i>G. vitellina</i> translocation site showed a decrease of calling males at the 2 established subpopulations: 7b had 3 males calling this season (down from 4 in 2011) and 7c had 4 males (down from 6 in 2011). While numbers at these sites may have been down a new subpopulation, now known as 7d, of 5 animals was located downstream about 100m. This is one of the largest recorded movements for the species. These subpopulations were established from egg mass translocations in 2000 and 5 zoo reared animals were released in 2011 to augment the population. A further 20 captive reared animals were released at 7c in 2012.</p>
Action 2 – Captive breeding	<p>Collaborative work with the Perth Zoo continued with further <i>G. alba</i> and <i>G. vitellina</i> specimens collected for use in captive rearing and breeding program.</p> <p>No successful captive breeding of <i>G. alba</i> or <i>G. vitellina</i> took place in 2012. Captive rearing of egg masses has been very successful for <i>G. alba</i> with 88% survival rate from collection to metamorphosis and so far 100% survival of resulting juveniles. Thus the husbandry changes implemented at the zoo in 2011 appear to be appropriate.</p> <p>20 <i>G. vitellina</i> and 44 <i>G. alba</i> were released during the 2012 breeding season. 5 of the <i>G. alba</i> were captive bred animals. All others were captive reared from egg masses.</p>
Action 3 – Protect habitat	<p>Boundary fence incursions and gate damage were repaired in 'Location 83' <i>G. alba</i> sites as well as track and firebreak maintenance as part of protecting this important <i>Geocrinia</i> location from fire.</p> <p>Fire management plans are currently being developed for 2 management areas including critical <i>Geocrinia</i> habitat in order to reduce the risk of unplanned fires in <i>Geocrinia</i> creeks.</p>
Action 4 – Feral control	<p>NRM funding was secured to maintain the monitoring of pig activity at <i>Geocrinia</i> sites and undertake trapping where required. So far no pig damage has been detected to <i>geocrinea</i> monitoring sites. Though pig activity has been detected near some of the monitoring sites and trapping undertaken accordingly.</p>

	<p>Pig control has also been undertaken on private property adjoining Geocrinia sites.</p> <p>Field trials into the potential use of 'pigout' baits and non-target impacts were undertaken during the year.</p>
Action 5 – Community awareness	<p>'On the edge of extinction brochures' produced in 2011 were disseminated to members of the public and educational programs within DEC.</p> <p>Local NRM group representatives were involved in the in-situ monitoring</p>
Recovery plans e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated	<p>Final draft of the updated recovery plan is in preparation.</p>
Other actions completed	