



<b>RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT</b> <b>THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM</b>				
<b>Recovery Team</b>	Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team			
<b>Reporting Period</b> Submission date 24 April	<b>DATE FROM:</b>	<b>01/01/2014</b>	<b>DATE TO:</b>	<b>31/12/2014</b>
Current membership				
Member		Representing		
<b>Chair</b>	Craig Olejnik <a href="mailto:Craig.olejnik@dpaw.wa.gov.au">Craig.olejnik@dpaw.wa.gov.au</a>	DPaW - Swan Coastal District – District Manager		
<b>Exec Officer</b>	Alice Reaveley <a href="mailto:Alice.Reaveley@dpaw.wa.gov.au">Alice.Reaveley@dpaw.wa.gov.au</a>	DPaW – Swan Coastal District		
<b>members</b>	Dr Gerald Kuchling <a href="mailto:Gerald.kuchling@dpaw.wa.gov.au">Gerald.kuchling@dpaw.wa.gov.au</a>	DPaW – Swan Coastal District - Chief Investigator		
	Dr Andrew Burbidge <a href="mailto:amburbidge@westnet.com.au">amburbidge@westnet.com.au</a>			
	Peter Mawson <a href="mailto:peter.mawson@perthzoo.wa.gov.au">peter.mawson@perthzoo.wa.gov.au</a>	Perth Zoo - Director Animal Health and Research		
	Bradie Durell (Guest) <a href="mailto:Bradie.Durell@perthzoo.wa.gov.au">Bradie.Durell@perthzoo.wa.gov.au</a>	Perth Zoo – WST Keeper		
	Dr David Groth <a href="mailto:igrothd@info.curtin.edu.au">igrothd@info.curtin.edu.au</a>	Department of Biomedical Science, Curtin University of Technology		
	Jan Bant <a href="mailto:westernswamptortoise@yahoo.com.au">westernswamptortoise@yahoo.com.au</a>	Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise (FoWST)		
	Prof Don Bradshaw <a href="mailto:Don.Bradshaw@uwa.edu.au">Don.Bradshaw@uwa.edu.au</a>	School of Animal Biology, the University of Western Australia		
	Byron Manning/ Terry Morley/ Gayle Males <a href="mailto:bmanning@zoossa.com.au">bmanning@zoossa.com.au</a>	Adelaide Zoo		
	Nicki Mitchell <a href="mailto:nicola.mitchell@uwa.edu.au">nicola.mitchell@uwa.edu.au</a>	University of WA - ARC Linkage Project		
<b>Dates meetings were held</b>		27 <sup>th</sup> February 2014, 13 November 2014		



<p><b>Highlights of achievements</b> 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 30 captive-bred juvenile Western Swamp Tortoises were released at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve.</li> <li>This including the 500<sup>th</sup> captive-bred and raised juvenile which was released by Environment Minister Albert Jacob.</li> <li>On 25 July 2014 38 captive-bred juvenile Western Swamp Tortoises were released at Moore Swamps Nature Reserve.</li> <li>In all Western Swamp Tortoise populations (Ellen Brook Nature Reserve, Twin Swamps Nature Reserve, Mogumber Nature Reserve, Moore River Nature Reserve) one hatchling each from the 2013/14 breeding season was found, demonstrating successful reproduction in all populations.</li> <li>In December 2014 the first hatchling ever was found at Moore River Nature Reserve where releases commenced in 2007.</li> <li>In addition at Ellen Brook Nature Reserve, the last self-sustaining wild population, one new Western Swamp Tortoise juveniles which hatched in 2011 and another one which hatched in 2012 were found. Following removal of bandicoots (for translocation) good recruitment could now be demonstrated at Ellen Brook Nature Reserve for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 breeding seasons, but after no bandicoots were removed in 2012 still no recruitment could be demonstrated for the 2012/13 breeding season. Only after bandicoot removal re-commenced during 2013 and 2014 could recruitment again be demonstrated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>List of recovery actions coordinated by Recovery Team</b> 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><b>Monitoring and survey</b> of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the 68 juveniles released during 2014 21 were recaptured at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve and 23 at Moore River Nature Reserve between late October and December 2014. All had satisfactorily grown.</li> <li>In addition, 20 marked individuals were recaptured at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve plus one new hatchling, and 21 marked individuals were recaptured at Moore River Nature Reserve plus one new hatchling</li> <li>28 marked individuals were recaptured at Ellen Brook Nature Reserve plus one new hatchling.</li> <li>Six marked individuals were recaptured in Sheep Swamp close to Mogumber Nature Reserve plus one new hatchling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threat amelioration</b> 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"> <li>Bandicoot trapping to reduce predation of WST egg was conducted in May and August with 5 M and 6 F and 5 pouched young removed.</li> <li>Watsonia, Love Grass and Tambookie Grass control continue within fenced reserve at Ellenbrook Nature Reserve</li> <li>Rabbit 1080 oat Baiting was conducted within Ellenbrook Nature Reserve</li> <li>15,000 plants were put into Mogumber NR and Ellenbrook NR</li> <li>1080 Fox bating was conducted quarterly at Ellenbrook, Twin Swamps, Mogumber and Moore River Nature Reserve</li> <li>Fence repairs were ongoing across all 4 sites</li> </ul>



<p><b>Conservation and research</b> e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 30 captive-bred juvenile Western Swamp Tortoises were released at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve.</li> <li>On 25 July 2014 38 captive-bred juvenile Western Swamp Tortoises were released at Moore Swamps Nature Reserve.</li> <li>Five nests constructed by radio-tracked females were found in 2014 at Ellen Brook Nature Reserve. Their temperatures are being monitored as part of an UWA Honours project by Nicholas Rodriguez.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Liaison, education/provision of advice</b> 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"> <li>Revegetation of the new 5ha block west of Ellen Brook Nature Reserve commenced on 28 June 2014 with XXX seedlings planted by the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise group.</li> <li>G. Kuchling gave a guest lecture on Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery for Conservation Biology BIOL2261 at The University of Western Australia on 04 September 2014.</li> <li>The federal Endangered Species Commissioner visited Ellen Brook and Twin Swamps Nature Reserves on 01 December 2014. Radio-tracking was demonstrated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land use/tenure changes</b> e.g. covenants, acquisitions, changes in land use or listed purpose etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 5ha block to the west of Ellen Brook Nature Reserve was acquired in early 2014 which will be added to the reserve.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conservation status reviews for taxa/TECs</b> e.g. nominations for additions, deletions or change in status to state threatened or priority lists; changes to EPBC list</p>	<p>N/a</p>
<p><b>Recovery plans</b> e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated</p>	<p>Recovery Plan Still Current</p>
<p><b>Other actions completed</b></p>	