



The Geocrinia Recovery Team and Recovery Plan

The Geocrinia Recovery Plan is a plan of action which aims within a ten year period to remove or significantly reduce the threatening processes which are affecting the survival of the white-bellied and orange-bellied frogs in the south west of WA.

Across Australia many species of plants and animals have become extinct or their populations reduced to such that their continued existence is threatened.

Both State and Federal governments identify species which are endangered and produce lists based on either a state or national perspective. In WA the list of threatened flora and fauna must be approved by the Minister for the Environment and published in the Government Gazette to confer it with legal status.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is responsible for the day to day management of threatened species in WA and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) is responsible for ensuring the conservation of Australia's wildlife at a federal level. This is achieved by encouraging relevant state authorities to adopt a formal and planned approach to the conservation of endangered species: the recovery process.

A Recovery Process

What's required to prevent the extinction of many of these species is the development of a "Recovery Process" and a determination and commitment by the community to take responsibility for the conservation of all species of indigenous wildlife and their natural habitats.

A Recovery Process should provide an overall

framework for the conservation of threatened species and communities. In WA CALM have developed such a "process" which consists of:

- 1) review the conservation status of all taxa and ecological communities,
- 2) prepare conservation priority lists of threatened taxa and ecological communities,
- 3) where insufficient information exists to prescribe conservation actions and conduct the necessary research,
- 4) produce costed Recovery Plans, and
- 5) for each Recovery Plan, obtain funding, implement, monitor and review implementation.

A Recovery Plan

To date 21 Recovery Plans (10 fauna, 11 flora) implemented through Recovery Teams have been produced. The Geocrinia Recovery Plan for the two species of threatened frogs: the White-bellied (*Geocrinia alba*) and Orange-bellied Frog (*Geocrinia vitellina*), commenced in 1992 and is jointly funded by ANCA and CALM for a 10 year period. At the end of this period it is hoped that the frogs long term conservation will be secure and these species could be removed from the threatened and endangered lists.

The plan documents what "recovery actions" are required to conserve the frogs. These actions include:

- 1) Increasing the knowledge and understanding of the frog's biology so that sound management actions can be put in place.

2) Undertake research to determine the best methods of ensuring the long term conservation of the frogs.

3) Assist landholders to manage the frogs on their properties.

4) Raise awareness of the habitat requirements, conservation value and significance of the frogs to the local community.

A Recovery Team

Integral with the development of a Recovery Plan is the formation of a Recovery Team to coordinate and implement the actions contained in the plan. The Geocrinia Recovery Team has been in operation since November 1992 and consists of representatives from:

- Australian Nature Conservation Agency
- University of Western Australia
- Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Augusta-Margaret River Shire
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
- National Threatened Species Network.

The team meets formally twice per year in December and July to review progress. Subcommittees, comprising current team members and others, explore various actions and options and report back to the full team. Participation on the team is on a voluntary basis.

For further information about the Geocrinia Recovery Team or Plan please contact:

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