

## Saving Native Species in WA: Collaborations are key



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## Native species conservation at PZ

- Breed or head-start for release to the wild (Native Species Breeding Program + general collection),
- Insurance populations,
- Conducting / facilitating *ex situ* research of benefit to *in situ* conservation efforts,
- Vet care for sick or injured threatened native species,
- Providing funding.



## We collaborate with:

- Our state wildlife agency (Parks & Wildlife),
- Recovery Teams,
- Other zoos & wildlife parks,
- Local wildlife rescue / rehabilitation centres,
- Conservation NGOs,
- Universities.



## Keys to contributing to conservation

- Work collaboratively with a range of partners
  - continuity is critical: establish & maintain multiple relationships with other partners (particularly Parks & Wildlife) at various levels;
- Proactively seek out opportunities;
- Be persistent.



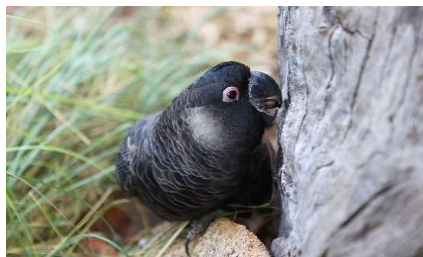
## Black cockatoos

- Baudin's & Carnaby's are Endangered, & forest red-taileds are Vulnerable.
- Initially, rescue / rehab was on a case by case basis, & was developed into a formal program by key PZ & Parks & Wildlife staff
- PZ Vet Dept currently treats >250 black cockatoos / yr, ~45% go on to rehab



## Black cockatoos

- **Rescue & rehab partners:**  
Parks & Wildlife, Kaarakin (rehab), Jamarri (rehab), Native Animal Rescue
- **Additional Black Cockatoo Conservation Project partners:**  
Murdoch Uni, Amsterdam Uni, WWF, Bird Life, South22, Newmont Boddington Gold



## Frogs

- PZ frog program started in 2006, after we received a grant to develop husbandry techniques for WA frogs (focusing on the 3 threatened species)
- Partners have included Parks & Wildlife, UWA, Murdoch Uni, the WA Museum & the South Coast Catchments Council
- We determined how to breed & rear sunset frogs (Vulnerable) & that part of the program wrapped up in 2011 (proactive husbandry research)



## Frogs

- The focus with white-bellied frogs (Critically Endangered) & orange-bellied frogs (Vulnerable) switched to head-starting for release to the wild
- ~700 white-bellied frogs have been released since 2010 & new populations appear to be doing well
- Challenge: ID of additional release sites that will remain suitable in coming decades



## Quokka

- Vulnerable, but conservation efforts are focussed on mainland provenance quokka, not Rottnest Island provenance quokka
- Current regional managed population based on RI animals, & QRT advised that role is education only in 2014



## Quokka

- Situation changed in 2015/16 (bush fire, genetic analysis of all subpopulations), QRT now interested in potential contribution of *ex situ* population to conservation efforts
- Developed proposal to run a trial in WA to determine value of an insurance / breed-for-release population → if successful, next step would be to transition entire regional managed population to mainland provenance quokka



## Little penguins

- WA little penguins are genetically distinct to east coast & SA birds & have been declining in recent years (decreased recruitment)
- Local insurance population established by PZ, Caversham Wildlife Park & WA Parks & Wildlife Penguin Island facility
- Birds are acquired through cross-fostering eggs & rescuing abandoned chicks (i.e. minimal / no impact on wild population)



# THANK YOU!

