

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Geocrinia alba and Geocrinia vitellina Recovery Plan

**Written by Kim Williams
On behalf of the Geocrinia Recovery Team**

Recovery Team Membership

The composition of the Geocrinia recovery team has fluctuated over the past 11 years echoing the various skill sets required to progressively implemented the range of recovery actions in the plan.

Currently the team comprises:

Kim Williams	Chair, SW Region Nature Conservation Leader
Marika Maxwell	Blackwood District Nature Conservation Officer
Peter Mawson	Species and Communities Branch, senior Zoologist
Dale Roberts	UWA, Head of Zoology
Ernie Stead Richardson	Shire of AMR Environmental Officer,
Gary McMahon	contractor rewriting and updating the recovery plan

Additional community members maybe added once the updated Recovery Plan has been completed and any directional change for the team confirmed.

Summary

Changing landuse and development issues in the Margaret River area are beginning to threaten the survival of some *G. alba* populations. During the course of 2005 three *alba* populations were threatened with viticulture proposals and associated water storage (dams), drainage and chemical use issues. These generate considerable impact assessment and liaison work with both State and Federal EPBC Act Agencies. Advice and input was also provided to the Water Corporation & Dept of Environment re: potential impacts of the proposed southern extension of the Yarragadee Bore project situated not far from the Blackwood River and *G. vitellina* sites. Resolution of outcomes for all these developments are still in progress.

A rewrite and update of Recovery Plan was commenced including a program of meetings with individual land holders with frogs on their properties to update them on recovery progress and determine their development intentions. Plan should be completed by late June 2006. A major focus in the plan will be to improve our understanding and monitoring effort of local hydrological regimes supporting frog populations and the trialling of “genetic augmentation” techniques to inject some hybrid vigor into the smaller sized populations which are in decline.

A further translocation of *G vittelina* to the Adelaide Creek area was undertaken following success confirmation of previous yr 2000 trial. Undertook a habitat regeneration burn in Forest Grove NP in preparation for future *G. alba* translocations.

Despite these successes the number of *alba* populations continues to decline each year. A further 3 monitoring sites were confirmed as extinct in 2005, giving a total of 22 extinctions since 1994.

Completed negotiations with one additional property owner for the protection of a medium sized population by fencing off the habitat from grazing.

Provided input relating to conservation requirements of *G. alba* sites into the Capes Parks Management Plan process. Particularly re: recreational horse riding conflicts in the Boranup forest area.

Progress with implementing recovery plan

Most of the recovery actions in the existing 1994 plan have been completed. As such the new plan provides an opportunity to review and focus attention on actions required for the next 5-10 years.

Major actions implemented

Annual monitoring program for both species was completed with some 72 *alba* sites and all 12 *vitellina* sites inspected.

Discovered one small but previously unknown population of *G. alba*.

Confirmation of the persistence/success of the yr 2000 *vitellina* translocation and dispersal of one individual 40m provided confidence to undertake further translocation of 33 egg masses to the site in 2005.

Update and rewrite of recovery plan commenced, 2nd draft produced and awaiting feedback from team members. Final version should be completed by June 2006.

Established initial contacts with key staff from the Perth Zoo's captive frog breeding program. Also established relationship and facilitated site visit of by professional frog photographer and in return received good quality photos of both species at various stages of tadpole development.

Meeting Success or Failure criteria

Current Plan does not have success or failure criteria per se but using the objectives of the plan, being the downlisting of the conservation status of both species as the recovery intent – we are a long way from achieving this for *G.alba* and but making slow progress towards this for *G.vittelina*.