



RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM		
PROGRAM INFORMATION		
Recovery Team	Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team	
Reporting Period Submission date 31 March	DATE FROM: January 2013	DATE TO: December 2013
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
Chair	Sarah Comer	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, South Coast Region
Exec Officer	Stephanie Hill	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.
members	Tony Friend	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.
	Manda Page	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Species and Communities Branch
	Tim Button	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division.
	Ron Dorn	Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.
	Val Hack	Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.
	David Taggart	Research Fellow, University of Adelaide.
	Jackie Courtenay	Consultant Wildlife Biologist (corresponding member)
	Alan Needham	Edith Cowan University, Applied Science (corresponding member)
	Vic Smith	Retired veterinarian, South Coast Community member (corresponding member)
	David Edmonds	Veterinarian, Denmark Veterinary Practice
	Brad Barton	Dept. Parks and Wildlife, Warren Region



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Dates meetings were held	19 April 2013 and 15 November 2013	
<p>Highlights of achievements for the previous 12 months suitable for publication in <i>WATSNU</i> 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>	<p><i>Please note: contact Tony Friend for an update</i></p> <p>The critically endangered Gilbert's potoroo progressed in its recovery in 2013, with Bald Island population self-sustaining.</p> <p>In June 2013, 61 potoroos were captured with the potoroos dispersing in range as a potoroo was caught in the campsite traps, which is a first. Founder potoroos are still being caught 8 years after their release onto Bald Island.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Monitoring and survey of existing and new populations/ occurrences, targeted surveys, critical habitat mapped etc.</p>	<p>Population biology of Gilbert's potoroo at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve is monitored through four-monthly census on nine regular traplines (March, June, and November) and annual census on the Mount Gardner transect (October) (Science and Conservation Division, Albany). These traplines cover about 75% of good habitat at Two Peoples Bay. Until now, potoroo numbers have remained stable despite the removal of 10 individuals between 2005 and 2007).</p> <p>Eleven potoroos were captured in November 2013 and 9 individuals were captured during the March 2014 trapping (5 females and 4 males were caught).</p>	
<p>Threat amelioration eg weed control/mapping, fencing/ repairs, fire management disease management, feral/ introduced animal control, installation of roadside markers</p>	<p>The Recovery Team is still keen to go ahead with the proposed burn at Two Peoples Bay (Mt Gardner) once the Waychinicup enclosure population is established, as it will regenerate the vegetation, provide protection etc. from fire. It is questioned 'at what point do we determine if the Waychinicup enclosure translocation is successful'? It appears that predator avoidance behaviour is very important in the success of a translocation.</p> <p>The Integrated Fauna Recovery Program (Team Leader, Sarah Comer) has begun collaring cats at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Two Peoples Bay Water Authority land, Mount Manypeaks and Waychinicup National Park. Data from collars will be used to determine habitat use, movement and bait uptake rates of feral cats. This area</p>	



	<p>has been included in an amendment to the APVMA research permit, although, it is hoped the bait will be registered before the baiting run.</p> <p>A second method for determining baiting efficacy has been trialled in Cape Arid National Park and will also be used in the Two Peoples Bay – Manypeaks area. Remote cameras are placed in a grid array and sampled for several weeks' pre and post baiting. Bayesian modelling will look at the occupancy of cats in each area pre and post baiting. With the control sites in the Water Authority (Angove) area the robustness of the model will be improved.</p>
<p>Conservation and research e.g. fire research, translocation, ex-situ conservation, revegetation/rehabilitation etc</p>	<p>Bald Island: The translocation of Gilbert's potoroos to Bald Island commenced in 2005 and the population has been steadily growing since then. In June 2013, 61 potoroos were captured. Tony Friend has the sense that the numbers of new animals trapped on the Island is beginning to decrease. However, the potoroos are dispersing in range as a potoroo was caught in the campsite traps, which is a first. Founder potoroos are still being caught 8 years after their release onto Bald Island.</p> <p>Waychinicup NP enclosure: The Waychinicup potoroo enclosure population is still low.</p> <p>During the April trapping, 9 transmitters were attached to the tails of potoroos to get an idea of what happens to them and if carpet python predation is an issue. They were not tracked to nest sites but monitored for live and mortality modes. Of these 9 transmitters 2 were subsequently found in carpet pythons.</p> <p>In September 2013 another large rain event pushed water over the fence at the culvert sites. The culverts mainly withstood the force of the water but the fence was flattened and torn at both culvert sites. The fence may have been down for a week. The enclosure was baited and cameras set up. One fox was detected on 22nd September, 2 nights after the fence was discovered to have been breached. The fence was stabilised on the 20 September and was then fixed over the next three weeks. Remote Regions funding may be possible for repair works. No sign of a fox has been seen since.</p> <p>No animals were moved from Bald Island to the Waychinicup enclosure in 2013. Given the significant</p>



	<p>mortality of newly transferred animals due to predation by carpet pythons, the decision was made to carry out future transfers in winter, rather than in spring as in the past, to allow potoroos time to settle down before the resident pythons become active in September-October.</p>
<p>Liaison, education/provision of advice 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>	<p>The Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group featured in a book published by Lotterywest "One Moment in Time." The book features 80 stories – a tribute to the Western Australian community in Lotterywest's 80th anniversary year and a video about our history.</p> <p>http://www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/unthemed/80th-anniversary-ebook/index.html or go to the Lotterywest website. www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au</p> <p>The new Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group brochure is now complete and is being distributed. A grant from Lotterywest paid for the printing.</p> <p>Ron Dorn (Chair of Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group) attended the Malleefowl Group's 21 year celebrations which was a great opportunity for networking and was given advice about obtaining a patron and sponsors.</p> <p>Ron Dorn prepared a Case Study Package on the Gilbert's Potoroo for the Australian Education Futures Conference at the Albany Entertainment Centre. Representatives from all schools in the Great Southern attended. The teachers could take the package back to their classrooms. Ron's case study package of the Gilbert's potoroo enables schools to complete projects with the information provided based on the science curriculum, Biological Science and Sustainable Ecosystems. The overall theme of the packages was "Why Conserve Biodiversity", this package allows teachers to adapt the information to the year level of the students and expand on the topics and create alternative investigations. The package included footage from Graeme Orr, the journal article - Fleming, P. A., Anderson, H., Prendergast, A. S., Bretz, M. R., Valentine, L. E. and Hardy, G. E. StJ. (2014), <i>Is the loss of Australian digging mammals contributing to a deterioration in ecosystem function?</i>. Mammal Review, 44: 94–108. doi: 10.1111/mam.12014. The journal article contains graphs for students to interpret, current and historical distributions. The Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team and the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group were acknowledged and thanked.</p>



	<p>Sarah Comer gave each member of the Recovery Team a copy of 'Remote and Rugged' DVD. Dave and Jennene Riggs from Blue Office Productions filmed some potoroo trapping in the Waychinicup enclosure in December 2012. They were funded by SCNRM to produce this educational documentary that will be sent to schools on the South Coast, the ABC is also interested in it. Jennene has a lot of footage that could be used for other potoroo documentaries.</p> <p>Tony gave his annual presentation on the potoroo project to the DPAW Fauna course in Perup. Tony also presented a talk on the use of pioneer animals to test habitat suitability for translocations to IMC 11 in Belfast.</p>
<p>Recovery plans e.g. recovery plans/ IRPs drafted, approved, reviewed or updated</p>	<p>The criteria for success of the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Plan (Courtenay and Friend 2004) are as follows:</p> <p>This Recovery Plan will be deemed successful if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of individuals known to be alive in the wild remains stable or increases and • The species is found at, or successfully reintroduced to, other locations. <p>Both of these criteria were met in the five years following the release of the plan. The estimated total number of Gilbert's potoroos has increased from around 35 in 2004 to around 130 in 2012. This has been due to two successful translocations. The first was to Bald Island, where numbers reached a total of 70 known to be alive in 2012. In 2010 the establishment of another population commenced, within a 380 ha enclosure close to Mount Manypeaks in Waychinicup NP. Numbers in this enclosure reached at least 29 in 2012.</p> <p>The criterion for failure of the Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Plan (Courtenay and Friend 2004) is as follows: This Recovery Plan will be deemed to have failed if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimated total number of mature individuals declines by more than 20 per cent within five years. <p>This criterion has not been met, and in fact the global population has increased dramatically since the Bald Island translocation in 2005.</p>