

Title: Conservation of a rock wallaby on the edge of local extinction

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Management of threatened species holds more than its share of unexpected pitfalls. Following the blank flanked rock wallaby apparent disappearance from the gorges of Kalbarri National Park in the 1990s searches for over 10 years showed no sign of the species. Then as funds were secured to reintroduce the rock wallaby back into the park a very small population was rediscovered by a member of the public. The Kalbarri rock wallabies are therefore an example of small populations persisting at almost undetectable levels. In a story of science and management responding together we explore how this particular population is being managed. Persistence appears to be the result of a range of management actions including fox and goat control. Ongoing management focuses on maintaining threats at low levels and reducing the cat threat now that an operational control method is available. To reduce the risk of local extinction two supplementation translocations have been undertaken. Genetic sampling was undertaken to ensure the uniqueness of the original Kalbarri population was retained and incorporated into the planning of the translocations.