



Biodiversity Refugia & Linkages

Protecting species and habitats



Project Overview

Project Manager

Derani Sullivan and Jodie Deeley

Project Duration

2015 to 2018

Key Partners

Department of Parks and Wildlife, City of Busselton, Land for Wildlife landholders and other private landholders

Key Achievements

- 22 km fencing, protecting 220 ha
- 22.8 ha of revegetation

This project is designed to work at a landscape scale across the South West to protect biodiversity and restore ecosystem function and resilience.

The focus is on the protection of flora and fauna species, particularly threatened species, and Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) through increasing connectivity in the landscape and restoring priority habitats.

This project works on strategic Land for Wildlife properties across the South West. Up to December 2016, the project has included 19 hectares of rabbit control, planted 28,371 seedlings and included 2.2 kilograms of seed spread. It has also included 3 events, attracting 176 participants and relocated 15 Western Ringtail Possums to Perup Sanctuary.



This project is supported by the South West Catchments Council, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



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Outcomes

Species translocation

The Western Ringtail Possum, a nationally-listed threatened species, was targeted for conservation action as part of this project. This initiative included the capturing of individuals from the southern forest population around Manjimup and translocating them into the 420 hectare predator-free Perup Sanctuary. To date, 15 individuals have been translocated and were reporting to be thriving at least two months post-release. Monitoring will continue until June 2018 to determine the success of this action in conserving and protecting this threatened species.

On-ground action

Four priority Land for Wildlife properties were identified in this first year of the project as priority habitats for rare and threatened species, including the Western Ringtail Possum, Quenda, White and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, Numbat, Chuditch and Red-tailed Phascogale.

On-ground activities have been undertaken and will be continuing until June 2018. This includes 22 kilometres of fencing installed to protect 220 hectares of existing remnant vegetation, 22.8 hectares of newly planted revegetation areas and 19 hectares of rabbit control conducted to protect a seeding trial area and other remnant vegetation.

Community engagement

Three events have also been held to engage the community in conservation action. This included a Direct Seeding workshop at Arthur River, facilitated by Geoff Woodall, a Community Conservation in Action workshop in Bunbury to discuss how we can manage our threatened flora and fauna, and a Managing Vegetation for Threatened Species Conservation workshop in Busselton which targeted local government conservation of target species

