

Concept Plan SP 2018-101

Western swamp tortoise breed for release program

Perth Zoo Science

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist	Peter Mawson
Data Custodian	Peter Mawson
Site Custodian	

Project status as of July 22, 2019, 3:29 p.m.

Approved and active

Document endorsements and approvals as of July 22, 2019, 3:29 p.m.

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

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Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program

Perth Zoo Science

Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

Aims

The Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Plan includes specific recovery actions that relate to this project, and include:

- Captive breeding; and
- Translocations.

In order to support those two recovery actions the Perth Zoo Native Species Program maintains a captive population of an average of 12 breeding adults, producing at least 20 two-year-old animals each year.

Expected outcome

Perth Zoo Native Species Program has a target of producing a minimum of 30 hatchling tortoises (> 30 days of age) each year. The hatchlings are grown on until they are 3-4 years of age, at which time they are re-introduced into sites approved by the Recovery Team.

Strategic context

The strategic aim of the recovery program for the Western Swamp Tortoise is to decrease the chance of extinction of the Western Swamp Tortoise by creating at least three wild naturally recruiting populations, increasing the total number of mature individuals in the wild to more than 50 and conducting translocations at a fourth site.

Expected collaborations

A key component of the conservation program for Western Swamp Tortoises has been research collaborations with researchers and students from tertiary institutions, in particular the University of Western Australia. Perth Zoo Native Species Breeding Program also collaborates with Zoos SA (Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Zoo) to support the establishment and operation of two additional captive breeding populations of Western Swamp Tortoises.

Proposed period of the project

Sept. 7, 2018 – June 30, 2021

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist	0.05	0.05	0.05
Technical	1.75	1.75	1.75
Volunteer			
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DBCA)	146230	146230	146230
External Funding			