

TARGETED ACTION FOR HIGHLY THREATENED SPECIES IN THE SOUTH COAST REGION

The **Targeted Action for Highly Threatened Species in the South Coast Region** project is a four-year project (2024 – 2028) dedicated to the recovery of three of the South Coast Region's most unique and threatened species: the Ngilkat (Gilbert's potoroo), Kyloriny (western ground parrot), and Djimaalap (noisy scrub-bird). The project builds upon and supports important recovery and community engagement work being undertaken by members of the South Coast Threatened Birds and Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Teams, including the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Aboriginal Ranger Groups, Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, Birdlife Australia and Albany Bird Group. The project aims to support the persistence of the species' in the face of ongoing threats, while also delivering benefits for multiple other native species across a wide range of habitats on the south coast of Western Australia.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Ngilkat, Kyloriny, and Djimaalap are among the most threatened species in the South Coast Region and found nowhere else in the world. Severely impacted by historical habitat loss, introduced predators, and inappropriate fire regimes, these iconic animals are currently reliant on conservation efforts for their survival, with only a few populations remaining. This project aims to provide essential support to assist in implementing the recovery plans for these species including by enhancing introduced predator control activities, supporting the implementation of translocations to establish new populations, monitoring the remaining populations and working with the broader community to raise awareness for these species.

Some key activities of the project include supporting:

- Translocations of Ngilkat to maintain existing populations and create new populations
- Translocations of Djimaalap to assist in creating new populations
- Feral cat trapping at Two People's Bay Nature Reserve, Waychinicup National Park/ Mount Manypeaks Nature Reserve and Cape Arid National Park to enhance existing predator control activities
- Partial census counts of singing territorial Djimaalap males to inform 'indexes' of population size and the impact of recovery actions
- Use of Autonomous Recording Units to monitor calling activity of the Kyloriny population in Cape Arid National Park and the trends in the population as a result of management actions
- Cage trapping of Ngilkat to assess population abundance at key mainland and island populations and the impact of recovery actions
- Camera trapping to investigate introduced predator (feral cats and foxes) activity levels and the impact of predator control activities
- Structured Decision-Making Workshops to guide the recovery strategies for Ngilkat and Kyloriny over the next decade
- Community engagement events and communication activities to raise awareness for the threatened species and their habitats

Photo credits:

Kyloriny – Alan Danks, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Djimaalap – Alan Danks, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Ngilkat – Dick Walker and Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group

SPECIES:



THREATENED FAUNA BENEFITING FROM THE PROJECT

NGILKAT



Thought to be extinct for over a century, the Ngilkat was rediscovered in 1994 at Two Peoples Bay on the south coast of Western Australia. Today, it is one of the world's rarest mammals, known from just four locations in the South Coast Region. This small (~ 1kg), nocturnal marsupial is listed as Critically Endangered, with fewer than 150 individuals remaining in the wild. Only one natural population survives, with the other three established as insurance populations through translocations. These insurance populations have been critical to the species' survival, as the last wild population came close to being wiped out by a devastating bushfire. The Ngilkat relies on dense, undisturbed heathland and feeds primarily on underground fungi. Key threats to its survival include frequent bushfires and introduced predators, such as foxes and feral cats.

KYLORINY



As recently as 2004, Kyloriny was found across much of the south coast of Western Australia, but by 2012 its range had contracted to a single population just east of Esperance. It is now regarded as one of the rarest parrots in the world with fewer than 150 individuals remaining. Restricted to just two remote national parks on the south coast of Western Australia, the last remaining wild population also came dangerously close to being wiped out by bushfires in 2015 and 2019. This medium-sized parrot (80–105g) is listed as Critically Endangered and lives in low heathlands, relying on a mosaic of long-unburnt and recently burnt vegetation for survival. Kyloriny feed on seeds, fruits, and flowers, have strong flight abilities, and are most reliably detected by their calls around sunrise and sunset. Unusually, they nest on or near the ground, making them especially vulnerable to habitat disturbance and introduced predators. Considerable investment and action in recent years have helped avert the extinction of the Kyloriny, including a recent wild-to-wild translocation that established a second population. However, the small remaining number of individuals and the vulnerability of its habitat to fire pose significant recovery challenges, highlighting the urgent need for continued and expanded conservation efforts.

DJIMAALAP



The Djimaalap is a small and highly elusive ground-feeding bird found in only a few isolated populations on the south coast of Western Australia just east of Albany City. Rediscovered in 1961 after being thought extinct, this bird is functionally flightless but uses its small wings for rapid manoeuvring, short runs across open ground, and leaping from shrub to shrub. Its primary threats include inappropriate fire regimes that destroy its habitat, as well as predation by feral cats and foxes due to its ground-dwelling behaviour. The Djimaalap is listed as Endangered, with its continued survival dependent on targeted conservation efforts. Djimaalap are more often heard than seen, as they inhabit dense vegetation and rarely fly. Territorial males defend a territory during the winter breeding season and have very distinctive melodious calls which are used to monitor the species throughout its range. Thanks to over 50 years of dedicated conservation efforts – including introduced predator control, fire management, and strategic translocations to the east of Albany – the Djimaalap has made a remarkable comeback. However, it continues to depend on ongoing conservation measures to ensure its long-term persistence.

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

In partnership with local conservation organisations and the South Coast Threatened Birds and Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Teams, this project builds upon and expands the existing Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions-lead recovery efforts to achieve the following:

- Increase the number of Ngilkat at mainland and island populations
- Increase the calling activity of Kyloriny in Cape Arid National Park
- Increase the population index of Djimaalap in key sub-areas of its distribution
- Maintain low activity of introduced predators (feral cats and foxes) at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Waychinicup National Park/Mount Manypeaks Nature Reserve, and Cape Arid National Park
- Improve knowledge and awareness of the threatened species and their conservation needs

IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The recovery of these highly threatened species depends on a collaborative effort guided by the South Coast Threatened Birds and Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Teams, and the expertise, support, efforts and funding from a wide range of organisations.

The *Targeted Action for Highly Threatened Species in the South Coast Region* project plays a key role in this collaborative effort, building upon and supporting the conservation work guided by Recovery Teams and community engagement work already undertaken by groups such as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Aboriginal Ranger groups, Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, Birdlife Australia, and Albany Bird Group.

In particular, this project works closely with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the leaders of the project's on-ground conservation efforts, as well as local community groups, to raise awareness and enhance the profile of these important species. This collaborative effort is critical to securing the future of these highly endangered species, alongside continued and further investment.

This exciting project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and is delivered by South Coast NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel along with a range of local partners.

GET IN TOUCH

LUKE BAYLEY

Chief Executive Officer

✉ ceo@southcoastnrm.com.au

☎ (08) 9845 8537

✉ info@southcoastnrm.com.au

BRONTE VAN HELDEN

Program Lead – Threatened Species

✉ brontev@southcoastnrm.com.au

📱 /southcoastnrm

HEAD OFFICE 88 Stead Road Albany, WA 6330