



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Barking Owl

2018-2019 annual report card

Summary

Management sites	North West Slopes; Northern Rivers; Northern Rivers Region (South) - Co-investment site
Action implementation	No management actions were planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$84,925 (\$31,825 cash; \$53,100 in-kind)
Partners	Australian Wildlife Conservancy; Nature Conservation Council of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage



Scientific name:
Ninox connivens

NSW status:
Vulnerable

Commonwealth status:
Not listed

Management stream:
Landscape species

Photo: David Robson

Priority management site: North West Slopes





Local government area:

Cabonne; Coonamble; Dubbo Regional; Gilgandra; Gunnedah; Liverpool Plains; Mid-Western Regional; Narrabri; Narromine; Parkes; Tamworth Regional; Upper Hunter; Walgett; Warren; Warrumbungle

Partners:

Australian Wildlife Conservancy; Office of Environment and Heritage

Population outcome

-  **On track**
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  **Not on track (inferred)**
-  **Not on track**

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Annual target	Population numbers and distribution stable on a regional level
Long term target	Stable, viable population greater than 100 pairs.
Monitoring result	A currently stable population of approximately 300 individuals, but the influence of an increasingly severe drought and subsequent reduction in prey has yet to be measured precisely.
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Low
Conducted by	Office of Environment and Heritage

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	\$0	\$45,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$9,560	\$8,100

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Nest predation by native species such as goannas and brush-tailed possums	Nil nest predation observed from goannas or brush-tail possums.	Not assessed
Competition for prey by foxes	Nil fox activity detected within the monitoring area.	On track
Poor organisation and availability of species data	Improved provision of information among stakeholders.	On track

Site summary





Research over the past decade has demonstrated that occupancy of territories by barking owl pairs fluctuates more rapidly than might be expected in a long lived species. That means that quantified certainty about population stability will be a continuing process. Current indications are that the Pilliga population is probably stable under normal environmental conditions, but that the currently severe drought may cause cessation of breeding and a decline among adults. Detection of a decrease with precision will require accumulating data over at least a further decade.

Priority management site: Northern Rivers

Local government area:
Clarence Valley; Coffs Harbour;
Lismore; Richmond Valley

Partners:
Office of Environment and
Heritage

Population outcome

-  On track
-  **On track (inferred)**
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The species population is inferred to be on track based on threat management being on track. The population trend is unknown at this time.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Baseline monitoring conducted.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Monitoring result	Past survey using call playback and the current expansion of effort using songmeters will, within several years, set a baseline from which to monitor species abundance and population fluctuations in the large region. For the next three years this monitoring action will be implemented via Co-investment project with the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) - See other sites.
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Low
Conducted by	Office of Environment and Heritage

Investment

Participant	Cash	In-kind
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$22,265	\$0

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Clearing and degradation of habitat, mostly through cultivation, intense grazing and the establishment of exotic pastures.		Not assessed
Nest predation by native species such as goannas and brush-tailed possums		Not assessed
Competition for prey by foxes		Not assessed
Poor organisation and availability of species data		Not assessed

Site summary





In the short term (3 years) actions for this site will be implemented via Co-investment project with the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) - See other sites.

Priority management site: Northern Rivers Region (South) - Co-investment site

Local government area:
Richmond Valley

Partners:
Nature Conservation Council of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage

Population outcome

-  On track
-  On track (inferred)
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The population trend is unknown at this time because the species population was not monitored and a critical threat was not monitored or managed this financial year.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - establishing management plan including monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan.

Site summary

This site is part of a project that is in start-up phase with planning activity underway. The project targets three threatened entities and is funded by a grant of \$263,044 over three years from the *Saving our Species* (SoS) Conservation Co-investment Partnership Scheme and a cash contribution of \$151,740 from Nature Conservation Council of NSW over the life of the project. The funding agreement was signed late in the 2018-19 financial year by each party (SoS and Nature Conservation Council of NSW), confirming the allocation of resources for both cash and in-kind contributions. For the 2018-19 financial year, the grant instalment was \$133,882. Nature Conservation Council of NSW committed \$21,680 to the project and provided in-kind support valued at \$22,640. Expenditure will be reported on in the next financial year.

The project will address critical threats and threatening processes, maintain viable populations of target landscape-managed threatened species and protect and enhance the condition of a range of coastal lowland Threatened Ecological Communities on participating properties. This will be done through a series of community events to promote the conservation of large forest owls in conjunction with on-ground actions at selected priority sites within the areas mapped in the Nature Conservation Council revised proposal submission. A SoS Co-investment contract was signed with the NCC in December 2018, with subsequent initiation of field work, community contacts and development of a long-term monitoring plan.

Saving our Species 2018-2019 annual report card for Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.