

## COORDINATED CONSERVATION PLAN

# Shark Bay

### 1 Description

Shark Bay, northern Peron Peninsula, Dirk Hartog and Dorre Is, Western Australia. The climate is arid, with an annual average rainfall of approximately 250 mm. The vegetation is sandplain heaths, acacia shrubland and spinifex hummock grassland. Very little of the vegetation has been cleared, but sheep are grazed on Dirk Hartog I. and most of the mainland. Most of the Peron Peninsula is within the François Peron National Park, and Dorre I. is similarly protected.

### 2 IBRA Regions

Geraldton Sandplain.

### 3 Core taxa

#### Vulnerable

Rufous Fieldwren (Dorre Island)

Rufous Fieldwren (Dirk Hartog Island)

White-winged Fairy-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)

Variiegated Fairy-wren (Shark Bay)

Southern Emu-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)

#### Near Threatened

Thick-billed Grasswren (western)

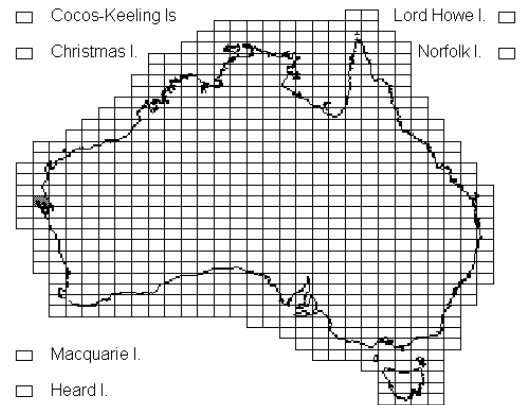
### 4 Conservation issues

Long-term isolation of the islands of Shark Bay, with limited opportunities for recolonisation, is highlighted by a high level of endemism.

The small island populations are inherently vulnerable to catastrophe, with vigilance needed against both predators and large-scale fire. Dorre I. is free of introduced predators but cats, mice, sheep and goats are present on Dirk Hartog I. Of these, overgrazing by sheep is considered the most likely reason for the local extinction of the Thick-billed Grasswren, though it persists on the adjacent mainland. Neither island has rats and their introduction could be catastrophic.

### 5 Recommended management

- 5.1 Monitor abundance and trends of core taxa every three years.
- 5.2 Restrict spread of extensive wild-fires.
- 5.3 Take measures to prevent establishment of predators, particularly rats, to islands.
- 5.4 Coordinate conservation management at a regional level.



### 6 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

### 7 Other organisations involved

Private land-holders.

### 8 References

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- Davies, S. J. J. F. and Chapman, G. S. 1975. The status of birds on Peron Peninsula and Dirk Hartog Island, Shark Bay, WA. *Emu* 75:55-61.
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