

Background Information

The Mourachan Conservation Property, located outside the town of St George, was purchased by Steve and Terri Irwin for the prime purpose of conserving the diversity of the semi-arid ecosystems and associated wildlife that occur on the property.

Previous and current knowledge and assessments show that these Ecosystems largely remain either in an unaltered or minimally altered state in terms of clearing, grazing activities and impacts from feral animals, a situation that greatly enhances the quality of property's natural values.

In broader terms the property is an important component in conserving biodiversity values of both regional and Queensland wide significance - which have otherwise been substantially eroded or removed throughout much of the remainder of Mulga and Brigalow Bioregions through land clearing for agriculture and grazing.

A second objective has been to run beef cattle in some of the previously cleared paddocks using management practices that result in minimal negative impact on the natural environment and take into account the regular drought events that affect the area. Much of the land is regaining a biodiversity with many different species of fauna and flora becoming re-established after years of broad scale clearing for sheep farming, small scale cattle farming and agricultural farming.

Expressions of Interest

We are seeking applications from researchers who are interested in conducting ecological and conservation studies Australia Zoo's St George Conservation property, 'Mourachan'. Requests for logistical support and access to research facilities will be considered but the expectation is that researchers will be self-sufficient.

More information about the property, its ecotypes, flora and fauna, as well as available infrastructure/facilities can be provided upon request.

Application Process

Applications to be submitted via email to research@australiazoo.com.au. Applications will be reviewed by a scientific panel, property rangers and logistical officers from Australia Zoo. A decision on the proposed project will be provided within 4 weeks of receipt of the application.

Deliverables and Reporting

A 1 page report is required within 1 month of departure from the conservation property. The report should briefly summarise the achievements and outcomes from the research conducted on the property.

All publications that stem from work on the St George Conservation Property should acknowledge the support provided by Australia Zoo and Wildlife Warriors Worldwide.



Project Title

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Chief Investigator	
Qualification	
Contact Details	

Additional Research Personnel their role and qualifications [please provide a biography/CV for each investigator]

Name	Role	Qualifications

Start and End Dates (proposed time and duration on the St George Conservation Property)

Arrival to the property	
Departure from the property	

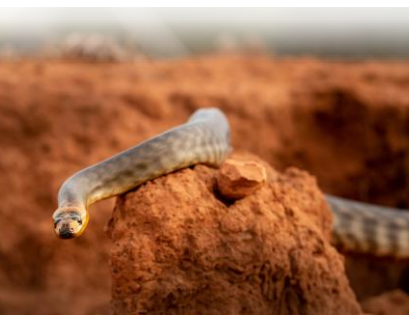
Project Description (250 words)

(Provide a brief description of the proposed research, giving some background and stating the aims and objectives).

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What threatened species and/or ecological communities will your project will be helping to manage and conserve. (100 words)

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Expected Outcomes, Significance and Impact (250 words)

(Provide a statement of the expected benefit that will come from the proposed research)

Resourcing: Will you be self-sufficient? If not what logistical resources and facilities would you require access to on the St George Conservation Property?

Permitting and Approvals

(Provide details of ethical and scientific permits/approvals necessary to undertake the research if required. Copies of permits and approvals are to be provided prior to any research being conducted).

Yes/No	Would you be willing to provide an article for Crikey Magazine about your research (approximately 500-700 words with photos)
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