

National Parks and Wildlife Agency

Endangered Marmoset Conservation

The Government is concerned about the population trends of the Marmosets of Nether Hades Wildlife Preserve, and has ordered this Office to undertake population assessments in two successive years to determine whether or not the population is declining, as asserted in recent newspaper reports.

If the population is declining, we are expected to propose extensions to the Reserve, either to include the kerangas forest of Further Hades or taking in much of the Goodly Bottoms forest primary forest area, which would require excision of 50,000 ha from the recently-designated Goodly Biofuels concession. The Further Hades option is preferable on economic grounds, but may not be suitable habitat for the Marmosets.

You are required to carry out a survey of Marmosets and trees in the Nether Hades Reserve, to determine (a) if the population is declining, and (b) if Marmosets prefer the parts of the reserve with the highest density of trees.

The surveys will take place in two successive years, with trees and Marmosets both being surveyed in year 1 and Marmosets only in year 2. The survey will follow the protocol in circular NPWA 87/4.

World Union for Consternation

Fate of endangered Marmoset hangs in the balance!

The Government is again prevaricating about extending the Nether Hades Wildlife Preserve, the last remaining stronghold of the endangered Cuddly Marmoset. They say that “further studies” are needed to properly establish whether or not the population is declining, and refuse to accept the evidence recently published in scientific journals.

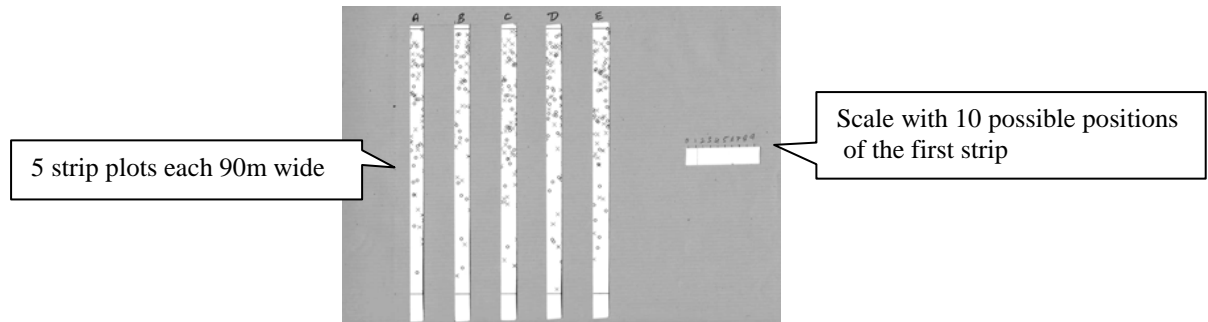
The existing reserve is too small to support a viable population and the only option for extension is include the entire Goodly Bottoms forest, the last remaining pristine lowland forest in the area. WCU is strongly urging the Government to rescind the licence to clear the forest to a foreign-based conglomerate on the grounds that the EIA for the project failed to make proper provision for the future survival of the Cuddly Marmoset. The suggestion of extensions into the Further Hades forest is unacceptable, as this is kerangas forest and not suitable habitat for these monkeys.

WUC therefore intends to carry out a survey of Marmosets and trees in the Nether Hades Reserve, to determine (a) if the population is declining, and (b) if Marmosets prefer the parts of the reserve with the highest density of trees.

We will survey Marmoset densities and tree densities this year, and Marmosets only in the following year. To make sure that our results are acceptable to the government, we will follow strictly the methodology drafted by our staff in 1987 and approved by NPWA.

Survey protocol for Nether Hades WR

As the reserve is quite small, strip plots 90m wide (45m each side of a centre line) should be established across the full width of the reserve, as shown in the diagram below.



A systematic random sampling scheme is recommended, with the first strip placed randomly within 350m of the border of the reserve, and the remaining four strips laid out parallel to the first at intervals of 350m.

Random placement of the first strip must be done by a suitable random number selection method (eg. 10-sided dice).

All marmosets or trees whose centres lie within the plot should be counted. Count marmosets in Year 1 and Year 2; count big trees (DBH > 1m) only in Year 1.

The results should be presented graphically as in the example below. Further significance testing or regression analysis is optional.

