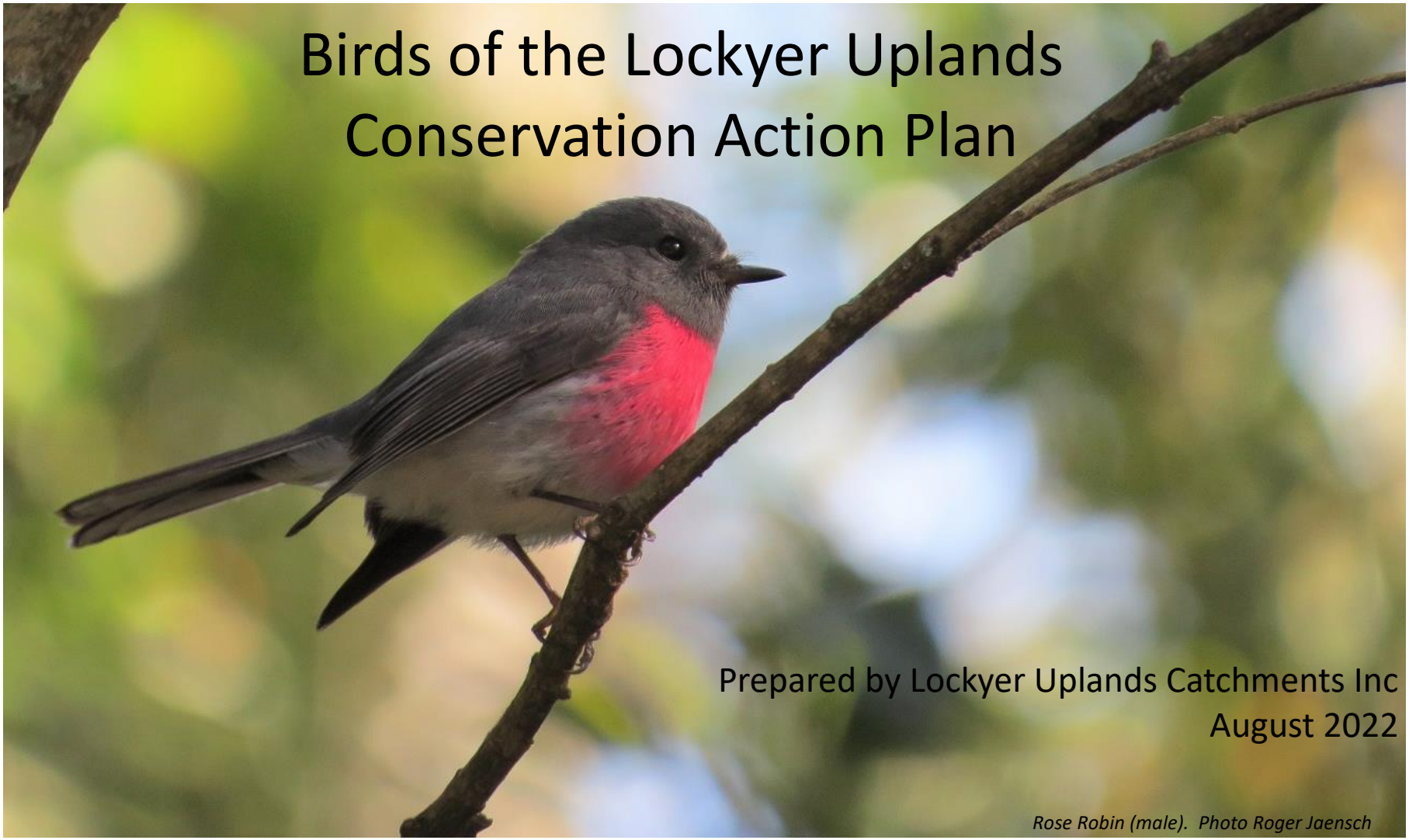
Birds of the Lockyer Uplands Conservation Action Plan



Prepared by Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc
August 2022

Rose Robin (male). Photo Roger Jaensch

Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc

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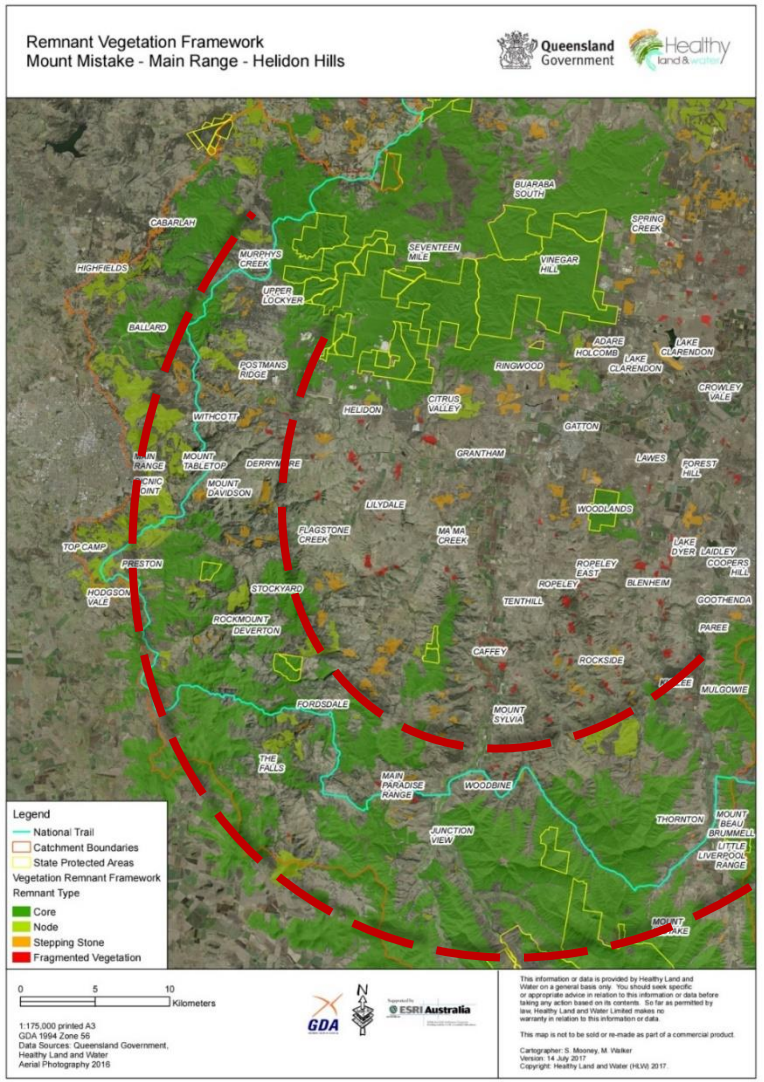
Introduction

Landholders in the Lockyer Uplands landscapes in the Main Range to Helidon Hills Biodiversity Corridor, are committed to maintaining and increasing the diversity of native bird species in their landscapes. The achievement of this goal will depend on the condition, extent, and connectivity of major bird habitat types across the corridor and the involvement of landholders and their networks of supporters working at both property scale and in collaboration across the landscape to manage these habitats.

Efforts to understand bird diversity in the Lockyer Uplands landscapes and conserve bird habitats commenced in 2016 with the Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc's (LUCI) Glossy Black Cockatoo Feed Tree Project and expanded in 2020 to a Bird Survey Project, which established baseline bird presence across 27 survey sites. To maintain and enhance bird habitats and the rich bird diversity in our landscapes, a more coordinated approach in our conservation efforts is required across private and public properties in the landscape. As such, there is a need to extend the Survey Project by engaging with more landholders to increase the number of survey sites and build greater awareness and understanding of bird habitat requirements. To this end, LUCI has initiated a conservation action planning process (CAP) to prioritise the work that needs to be done in the landscape in the immediate and longer-term, provide a framework for collaboration on priority actions and communicate to interested parties/potential partners the work that is being done and what will be achieved.

The Lockyer Uplands project area

The landscapes of interest in our conservation planning stretch from the Little Liverpool Range in the south-east of the Lockyer Valley region, via the Main Range to the west of the Lockyer Valley and north along the Great Divide escarpment to the Helidon Hills and connecting to the Lockyer National Park. The vegetation of the ridgelines, escarpments and valleys of these landscapes include a diverse array of Eucalypt open forests and woodlands and dry rainforest.



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Conservation Action Planning process

The planning process has built on an existing project and body of knowledge concerning bird presence in a part of the Lockyer Uplands landscapes. LUCI's Bird Survey Project, led by ornithologist Roger Jaensch, has been undertaken on twelve properties on 27 sites across warm and cold seasons since late 2020. A report produced by Roger Jaensch detailing bird species and seasonal variations was distributed to landholders and interested stakeholders including Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (of which LUCI is a regional partner), Little Liverpool Range Initiative, Friends of Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba), Toowoomba Bird Observers, BirdLife Australia, BirdLife Southern Queensland Darling Downs Branch, Dr Guy Castley (Griffith University) and Dr April Reside (University of Queensland).

LUCI convened two on-line meetings involving different stakeholders before convening a one-day planning workshop involving the above stakeholders or their representatives. Facilitated by Roger Jaensch, workshop participants considered the results and implications of the baseline data collected to date, potential future directions for the project, threats to maintaining bird diversity in the landscape and priorities for action. The outputs from this planning workshop were collated, distributed to participants for comment and drafted into the current plan.

Birds of the Lockyer Uplands Conservation Action Plan (BLUCAP)

The current plan provides a beginning framework for a strategic and coordinated approach to bird diversity conservation in the Lockyer Uplands landscapes. The vision for the project is to ***maintain/increase the diversity of native bird species across the Lockyer Uplands landscapes***. The vision will be achieved through three main lines of activity – ***Understand, Improve and Advocate***.

The BLUCAP is intended as a framework for conserving bird diversity in our landscapes that brings together the interests, skills and resources of stakeholders and applies that capacity to identified priorities for action under the Understand, Improve and Advocate approaches. The important contributions of the landholders involved in the existing Lockyer Uplands Bird Survey Project will continue and new collaborations and contributions will come from those individual experts and groups/agencies involved in the planning process to date. It is envisaged that, with time and achievements, the plan will be extended to take in other parts of the Lockyer Valley landscapes, such as the wetland habitats and wetland birds for which the Lockyer region is well known.

This document represents the first phase of the BLUCAP planning process with work yet to be undertaken on developing the monitoring and evaluation measures for assessing progress towards our stated goals. This latter work will be an early task for the BLUCAP implementation team.

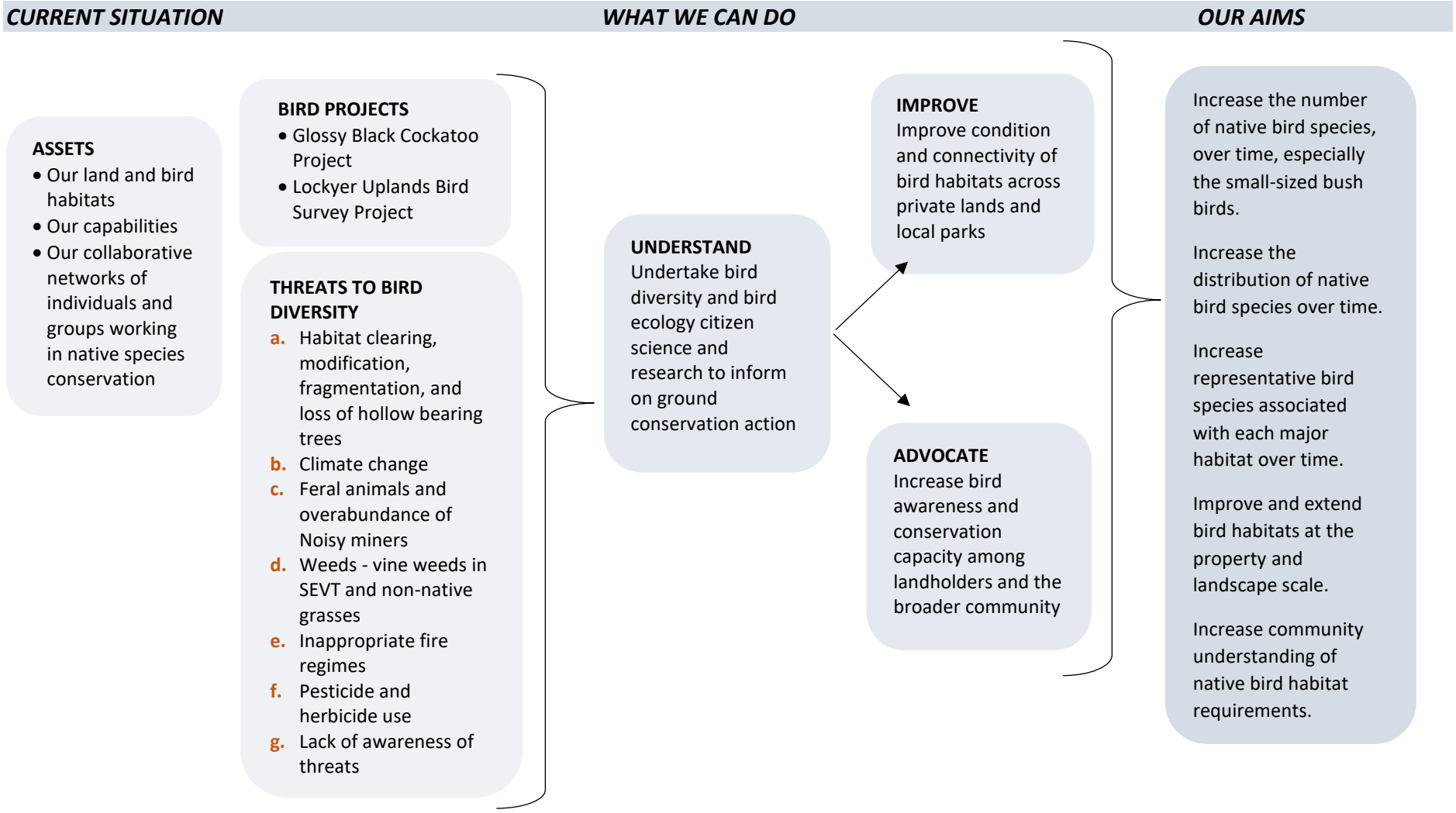
Implementation

To guide the development and implementation of the BLUCAP, a Steering Committee has been convened whose members would represent the expertise and/or major partners involved in the strategic themes of the BLUCAP. The Steering Committee would monitor progress in the implementation of activities in the BLUCAP, provide advice and support to those individuals/groups implementing activities and review, in consultation with all stakeholders, the priorities of the BLUCAP.

Inaugural steering committee members include the following:

Diane Guthrie (Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc)
Penny Kidd (Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc, landholder representative)
Roger Jaensch (Independent expert)
Shania Watson (Little Liverpool Range Initiative, Ipswich City Council)
Chris Hoffmann (Lockyer Valley Regional Council)
Dani Andlemac (Ipswich City Council)
James O"Connor (Great Eastern Ranges)
Andrea Fullagar (BirdLife Australia)
Mick Atzeni (Toowoomba Bird Observers)
Dr April Reside (University of Queensland)
Dr Guy Castley (Griffith University)

BIRDS OF THE LOCKYER UPLANDS CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN (BLUCAP)	
VISION	**Maintain/increase the diversity of native bird species across the Lockyer Uplands landscapes.**



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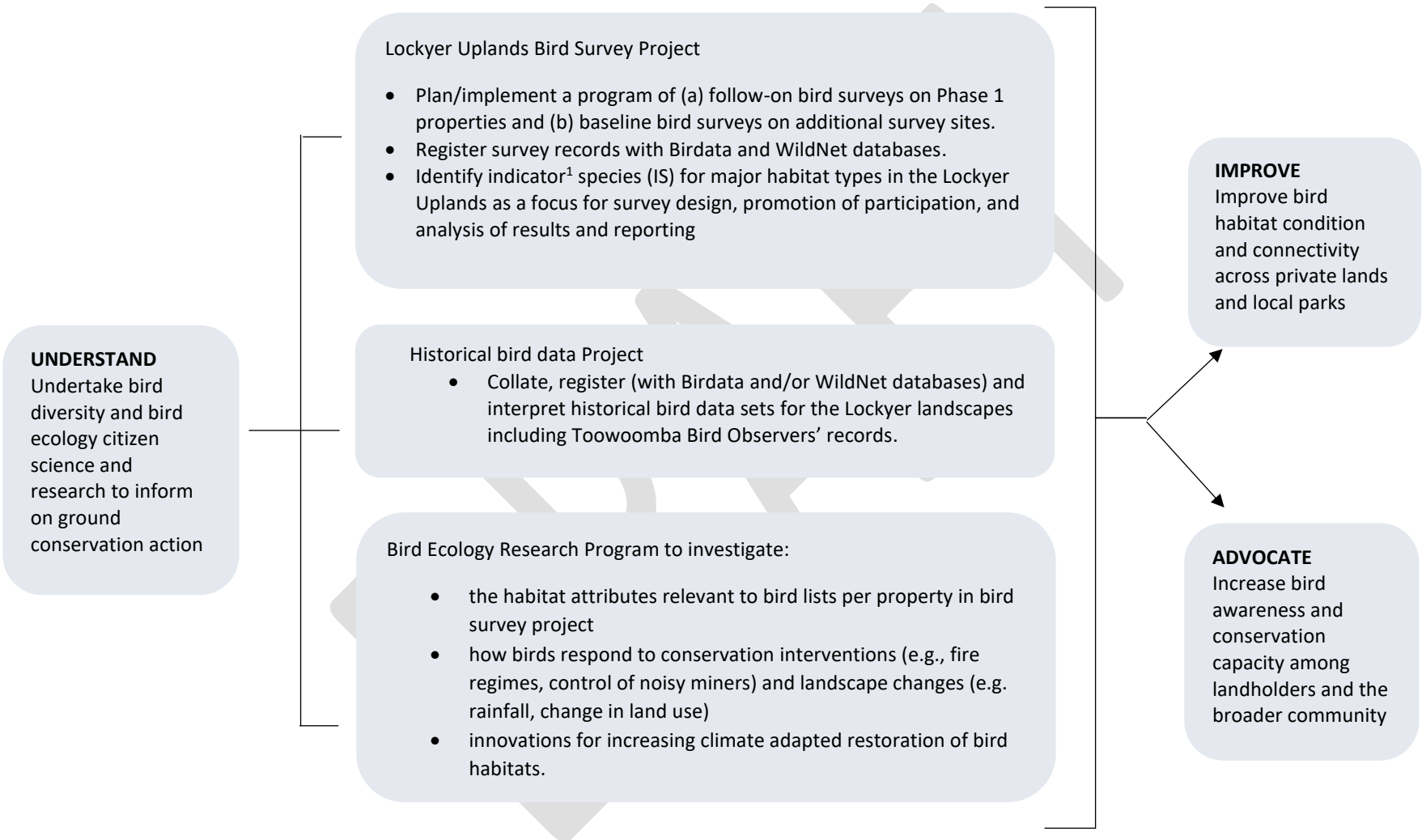
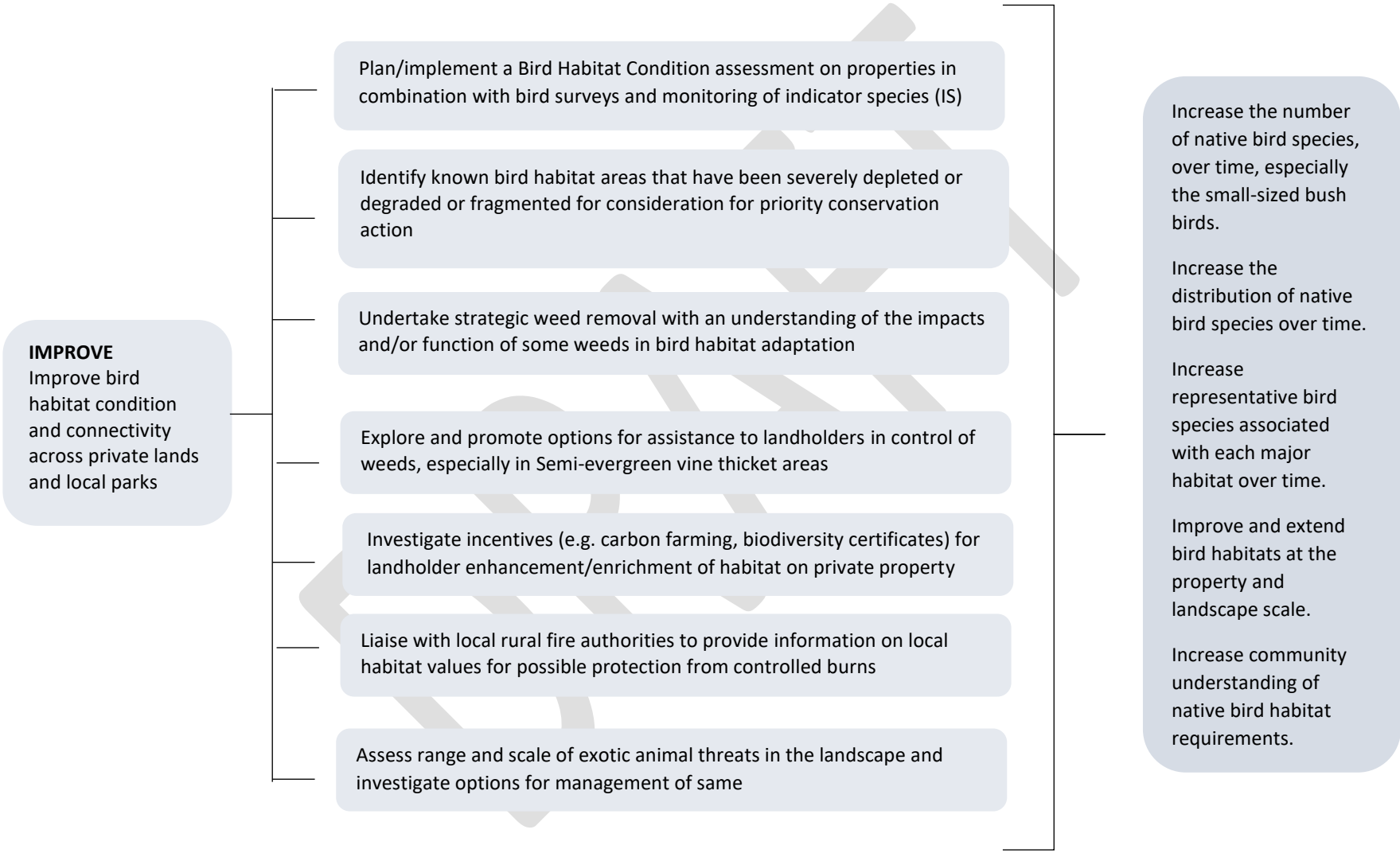
STRATEGY 1: UNDERSTAND BIRD DIVERSITY AND BIRD ECOLOGY IN THE LOCKYER UPLANDS



[1]An indicator species (IS) is a conservation target and promotional species for a major habitat type and is not intended as a representative for all species in that habitat type.

STRATEGY 2: IMPROVE CONDITION AND CONNECTIVITY OF BIRD HABITATS IN THE LOCKYER UPLANDS



STRATEGY 3: INCREASE BIRD AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION CAPACITY AMONG LANDHOLDERS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY