



**Effet des variables environnementales et des traits individuels sur la survie et la croissance juvéniles du kangourou gris de l'Est (*Macropus giganteus*)**

par

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Comprendre comment les facteurs environnementaux affectent la disponibilité des ressources est primordial pour l'étude de la dynamique des populations. Avec les changements climatiques et devant une variabilité environnementale grandissante, plusieurs espèces en milieu saisonniers font actuellement face à des conditions moins prévisibles. À cause de longs temps de génération et à de multiples épisodes de reproduction, les grands mammifères itéropares sont tous exposés à cette stochasticité environnementale. Une stratégie reproductrice conservatrice de la part des femelles face aux perturbations environnementales favorise la survie maternelle au-delà de la progéniture. Dans un contexte climatique de plus en plus variable, il est important de comprendre l'impact d'une telle stratégie sur la survie et la croissance juvéniles, deux traits à la base de changements en taux de croissance des populations.

Mon projet de maîtrise visait à identifier les facteurs environnementaux et les traits individuels susceptibles d'affecter la survie et la croissance juvéniles des kangourous gris de l'Est (*Macropus giganteus*) à forte densité et dans un environnement saisonnier variable. Un suivi longitudinal depuis 2008 donne accès à des données individuelles morphométriques, au statut reproducteur, à la date de naissance des juvéniles en plus d'à des mesures de densité de population et de disponibilité de végétation sur l'aire d'étude. Un accès aux données météorologiques à proximité de l'aire d'étude contribue également à la pertinence de ce système d'étude. Pour ce projet, les données de 2009 à 2020 inclusivement furent utilisées.

J'ai tout d'abord identifié les facteurs environnementaux susceptibles d'affecter la disponibilité de la végétation pour connaître leur impact respectif sur la survie et la croissance des jeunes kangourous. Les précipitations augmentaient la disponibilité de la végétation différemment en fonction de la température, avec les précipitations estivales ayant un effet plus fort. La végétation disponible eut un effet positif sur la densité de la population, la survie

de 10 à 21 mois et la croissance jusqu'à l'âge de deux ans. La densité de la population diminuait fortement la survie et la croissance juvéniles, avec un impact plus important sur la croissance lorsque la disponibilité de la végétation était plus élevée. J'ai ensuite déterminé si la condition de la mère, ainsi que le sexe et la date de naissance avaient un effet sur la survie et la croissance juvéniles. Les jeunes femelles dont la mère était en meilleure condition avaient plus de chance de survivre jusqu'à 21 mois, mais il n'y avait pas d'effet significatif pour les mâles. Les dates de naissance tardives, ayant lieu vers la fin de l'été jusqu'au milieu de l'automne, réduisaient la probabilité de survie jusqu'à 21 mois, mais aucun impact fut observé sur le taux de croissance à deux ans. Les mâles avaient généralement une croissance supérieure aux femelles à l'âge de deux ans, indiquant un dimorphisme sexuel dès un stade juvénile.

En conclusion, le suivi d'une espèce utilisant une stratégie reproductrice conservatrice jumelé à l'imprévisibilité environnementale du Sud de l'Australie nous a permis d'observer une combinaison d'effets environnementaux et de traits individuels affectant la survie et la croissance juvéniles d'un grand mammifère en milieu tempéré. Cette étude permettra de formuler de nouvelles hypothèses sur les facteurs causant des changements au niveau de la dynamique des populations des grands mammifères en milieux saisonniers et de répondre à de plus amples questions portant sur l'effet de ces variables sur la mortalité adulte, la reproduction, ainsi que la structure d'âge au sein des populations.

Mots clés : condition maternelle, croissance, densité de la population, juvénile, kangourou gris de l'Est, précipitations, survie, température

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## **LISTE DES ABRÉVIATIONS**

LPY            **Large Pouch Young**

## CHAPITRE 1

### INTRODUCTION

La dynamique de population des grands herbivores est typiquement liée aux conditions environnementales (Saether 1997). Découlant de la quantité de précipitations et de la température, l'abondance de la végétation et la densité de la population sont deux des principaux facteurs susceptibles d'affecter les populations en milieux tempérés (J. M. Gaillard, Festa-Bianchet, and Yoccoz 1998; Marino, Pascual, and Baldi 2014). Avec des saisons marquées, la reproduction suit la même phénologie que la disponibilité des ressources (A. K. English et al. 2012; Langvatn et al. 1996), favorisant le succès des grands herbivores dans ces environnements (Martin et Festa-Bianchet 2010, Corlatti et al. 2013, Morin et al. 2016). Vivant typiquement dans des environnements variables, les femelles des espèces itéropares et longévives priorisent leur condition corporelle et leur survie à long terme plutôt que leur reproduction dans une année donnée (Therrien et al. 2007). Cette stratégie suggère une canalisation (i.e. réduction de la variance) de traits chez les adultes, et souvent engendre un transfert des coûts de la reproduction à la progéniture (Gaillard et Yoccoz 2003). Ce mécanisme répandu souligne l'importance de bien connaître l'impact de l'environnement sur les premières années de vie des grands mammifères. Une telle stratégie pourrait engendrer d'importantes fluctuations interannuelles sur la survie et la croissance des jeunes. La survie juvénile détient une importance fondamentale dans la dynamique des populations, étant le trait démographique avec la plus grande variabilité et souvent plus sensible aux changements autant en densité de population qu'en qualité environnementale que l'âge à la première reproduction et la survie adulte (J. M. Gaillard, Festa-Bianchet, and Yoccoz 1998; Eberhardt 2002; J. Gaillard et al. 2000). Une survie juvénile réduite peut engendrer une baisse du taux de recrutement des populations vivant des perturbations fréquentes, ainsi réduisant leur taux de croissance. Cependant, mesurer la variabilité interannuelle des taux vitaux juvéniles requiert plusieurs années d'observation de populations marquées, avec des captures répétées (Clutton-

Brock et Sheldon 2010). En plus du peu d'études de ce genre en milieu sauvage, il est difficile d'observer des effets de la variabilité environnementale avant plusieurs décennies de suivi, si l'environnement varie peu entre années (Festa-Bianchet et al. 2017). Dans un contexte où le climat est soumis à une imprévisibilité grandissante (Hughes 2003; Post and Forchhammer 2008), la pertinence des suivis longitudinaux de grands mammifères en milieux tempérés est en essor, et mieux comprendre comment l'environnement affecte la survie et la croissance juvénile est un premier pas vers l'identification des facteurs à la base de changements en dynamique des populations.

### ***1.1 Objectifs***

Ma maîtrise visait à identifier l'impact des facteurs environnementaux et de traits individuels sur les taux de survie et de croissance des jeunes kangourous gris de l'Est (*Macropus giganteus*), un grand mammifère herbivore vivant dans un environnement saisonnier hautement variable et, dans la population à l'étude, à forte densité. Mes trois objectifs spécifiques étaient :

1: De quantifier les effets combinés des précipitations et de la température sur la disponibilité des ressources, et ce en observant la densité de la population et la végétation disponible pour déterminer leurs effets sur la survie des jeunes de la sortie permanente de la poche à 10 mois jusqu'à 21 mois, l'âge approximé de sevrage, ainsi que sur leur taille à l'âge de deux ans.

2: D'identifier l'impact de la condition de la mère ainsi que des traits individuels (date de naissance et sexe) sur le taux de survie des jeunes de 10 à 21 mois et sur la taille des jeunes à deux ans.

3: De déterminer s'il y a présence de croissance compensatoire chez les jeunes kangourous ayant eu une croissance plus lente avant la sortie de la poche.

## ***1.2 Contexte de l'étude et espèce modèle***

Mon projet se base sur une population de kangourous occupant les prairies côtières du Parc National du Promontoire Wilson (38°57' Sud, 146°17' Est), caractérisées par un climat tempéré ainsi qu'une forte variabilité saisonnière (Stern, De Hoedt, and Ernst 2000). Anciennement une piste d'atterrissage d'urgence pour l'armée Australienne lors de la seconde guerre mondiale, la *Yanakie Airstrip* compte depuis maintenant 12 ans au moins une centaine de kangourous marqués, bénéficiant d'un habitat ouvert couvert d'herbe, de fougères, de carex et d'une quantité grandissante d'arbres à thé (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) et d'acacia à longues feuilles (*Acacia longifolia*). Une saison de terrain printanière (août-novembre ou début décembre) durant quatre mois, suivie d'une période de deux semaines à l'automne (fin février – début mars) nous permet d'effectuer la recapture annuelle de 90% des individus marqués. Ayant débuté en 2008, le projet a suivi la population à travers différentes conditions climatiques, allant de fortes précipitations et d'une végétation abondante soutenant une population de 7 kangourous/hectare, à des précipitations sporadiques, une croissance de la végétation beaucoup plus faible ainsi qu'une densité de population réduite à 2 kangourous/hectare.

## ***1.3 Description de l'espèce***

Les kangourous représentent un équivalent écologique à certains ongulés de l'hémisphère nord (Fisher, Blomberg, and Owens 2002). Ils bénéficient d'une croissance squelettique semi-indéterminée (P. Jarman 1983), signifiant que les os des deux sexes continuent de grandir pour 6-8 ans après avoir atteint la maturité sexuelle. Cette croissance semi-indéterminée est plus notable chez les mâles, contribuant à un fort dimorphisme sexuel à l'âge adulte (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982; P. J. Jarman 1989). Les kangourous gris de l'Est occupent la zone tempérée à l'est du territoire australien, vivant dans un climat variable aux précipitations ne suivant pas de tendance saisonnière claire (Caughley et al. 1987). Les femelles ont une période de gestation d'environ 36 jours (Kirsch et Poole 1972). La naissance est immédiatement suivie

de la migration du jeune, très peu développé, vers la poche marsupiale, où il s'attachera à une mamelle pour y demeurer pendant plusieurs mois tout en s'alimentant de lait maternel (Poole 1975). Quelques sorties éphémères depuis le stade de LPY (*Large Pouch Young*, ~ 7 mois, Poole et al. 1982) permettent au jeune d'apprendre à se déplacer progressivement jusqu'à sa sortie permanente, ayant lieu à l'âge de dix mois (King et Goldizen 2016). Suivant la sortie de la poche, la fréquence des épisodes d'allaitement diminue progressivement, menant au sevrage (King et Goldizen 2016). Plusieurs facteurs sont susceptibles de devancer ou de reculer la date de sevrage, cependant, l'âge de sevrage utilisé pour cette étude sera de 21 mois, quand la plupart des individus ont déjà survécu leur premier hiver (Wendy J. King et al. 2017). La maturité sexuelle peut être atteinte dès l'âge de 20 mois, mais la majorité des femelles l'atteignent à trois ans et les mâles à quatre ans (Poole 1973). Lors des deux premières années de vie, les ressources disponibles sont donc allouées exclusivement à la croissance pour les deux sexes. Durant cette période, la date de naissance peut engendrer des différences au niveau du taux de croissance des jeunes dû à la synchronie avec la disponibilité des ressources – les jeunes nés tardivement démontrent un taux de croissance plus rapide que ceux nés tôt (MacKay 2019).

#### ***1.4. Impact du climat sur la végétation***

En milieux tempérés, la croissance de la végétation est fortement liée aux précipitations et à la température (De Jong et al. 2013; Piao et al. 2006; Fang et al. 2005; Wu et al. 2015). Les précipitations régulières et les températures élevées favorisent la croissance de la végétation (Rundquist et Harrington 2000), ce qui rend cette dernière variable en fonction des saisons. Les grands herbivores peuvent typiquement synchroniser leur reproduction avec les périodes de plus grande croissance de la végétation pour maximiser l'acquisition des ressources dans les phases de la reproduction qui requièrent plus d'énergie. Cependant, avec l'augmentation de la variabilité du climat, des avancements phénologiques et des périodes prolongées de température et de précipitations extrêmes sont susceptibles de changer la disponibilité de la végétation dans plusieurs environnements à haute latitude (Walther et al. 2002), réduisant ainsi



la capacité des herbivores à synchroniser leur reproduction avec la disponibilité de ressources de façon optimale.

### ***1.5 Impact de la végétation sur la densité de population***

Au sein d'une population de grands herbivores, la disponibilité de la végétation est souvent la principale cause de changements en densité (Fowler 1987; Lewis et al. 2017). Plusieurs traits populationnels sont à leur tour fort dépendants de la densité populationnelle (Pettorelli et al. 2003; Kruuk et al. 1999; Flajšman et al. 2018; Bonenfant et al. 2009; Bowyer et al. 2014). Dans un environnement stable, la densité de population peut augmenter jusqu'à la capacité de soutien d'un milieu. Cette capacité de soutien peut par contre varier dans un climat imprévisible avec, par exemple, des inondations ou des sécheresses (Fritz et Duncan 1994). Dans un milieu à forte variabilité environnementale, le facteur limitant demeure donc la disponibilité de la végétation, et des changements de cette disponibilité peuvent engendrer des changements en densité de population (McCullough 1999; Langvatn et al. 1996).

### ***1.6 Stratégie reproductrice conservatrice des grands mammifères***

Les organismes vivants, incluant les mammifères de grande taille, sont dépendants des conditions environnementales tout au long de leur vie (J. M. Gaillard, Festa-Bianchet, and Yoccoz 1998; J. Gaillard et al. 2000; Eberhardt 2002). Pour la plupart itéropares, le maintien d'une condition corporelle optimale est nécessaire à ces espèces pour assurer plusieurs épisodes de reproduction menant à une progéniture nombreuse et robuste. Des réserves en masse adipeuse (*Ursus maritimus*, Atkinson et Ramsay 1995) ou des ressources abondantes sont essentielles en période de reproduction, sans lesquelles la survie du jeune diminue rapidement (*Alces alces*, Testa et Adams 1998; *Odocoileus virginianus*, Therrien et al. 2007). Cette contrainte engendre parfois l'adoption d'une tactique reproductrice conservatrice, se disant lorsque que la mère a

tendance à prioriser sa condition corporelle avant celle de sa progéniture (Therrien et al. 2007). En d'autres mots, les coûts de la reproduction sont partiellement transférés au jeune, comme observé chez le kangourou gris (Gélin et al. 2015). Une courte gestation et une longue période d'allaitement donnent une grande latitude à la mère pour ajuster son effort reproductif en modifiant la quantité de lait produite ou en terminant l'allaitement lors des pénuries de ressources (L. Quesnel et al. 2017). Dans un environnement saisonnier hautement variable, cette stratégie permet une plus grande flexibilité de l'effort de reproduction. Il existe un lien fort entre la condition corporelle et la capacité d'allocation à la progéniture chez plusieurs espèces de grands mammifères (Clutton-Brock et al. 1996, Mcnamara et Houston 1996), permettant ainsi à la quantité de lait produite de varier d'une mère à une autre (Renaud et al. 2019). En cas de ressources limitées ou d'une diminution de sa masse, il est possible que la mère écourte la période d'allaitement ou même abandonne sa progéniture (Langenau et Lerg 1976). Cela indique l'importance de mesurer la condition de la mère lors de l'observation des effets maternels sur les taux vitaux des jeunes. La condition corporelle est un bon indicateur des réserves adipeuses chez un individu. Elle est souvent estimée en utilisant un ratio de la masse et une unité de grandeur tel que la longueur de la jambe ou du pied. Parmi les multiples méthodes permettant d'estimer la condition corporelle, il est important qu'il y ait une absence de corrélation entre la condition corporelle et la taille de la jambe, évitant tout biais lié à la taille squelettique de l'individu.

### ***1.7 Interaction des variables environnementales et dates de mise-bas***

Une grande proportion du budget temporel d'activité des grands herbivores consiste en l'acquisition de ressources (Norberg 1977; Owen-Smith 2008; Fortin et al. 2004). La qualité et la disponibilité de la végétation constituent les principaux facteurs affectant les populations en milieux saisonniers, d'autant plus au printemps (Pettorelli et al. 2005) pour combler les pertes en condition corporelle suite à l'hiver (Douhard et al. 2018). Cependant, la qualité nutritionnelle de la végétation diminue avec son âge (Pettorelli et al. 2007), soulignant l'importance de la

synchronie de la reproduction avec la phénologie de la végétation chez les herbivores. Avec l'augmentation de l'imprévisibilité environnementale, cette synchronie devient plus difficilement atteignable (Canale et Henry 2010). Cependant, un délai entre la croissance de la végétation et la date de naissance n'indique pas nécessairement une réduction en fitness chez l'individu, mais peut représenter une réponse face à d'autres facteurs environnementaux, comme l'imprévisibilité du climat (Visser and Gienapp 2019). Chez le kangourou gris de l'Est, cet effet transparait dans l'asynchronie des dates de parturition (MacKay et al. 2018), où 80% des naissances ont lieu entre fin novembre et mars (MacKay 2019). Cette variance élevée de la date de naissance permet d'observer des jeunes à des stades de développement identiques soumis à différentes conditions environnementales. Une date de naissance plus tardive diminue les probabilités de survie des jeunes jusqu'au sevrage (MacKay et al. 2018), les exposant plus jeunes aux conditions hivernales.

### ***1.8 Densodépendance des traits juvéniles***

Selon Eberhardt (2002), les changements des taux vitaux au sein d'une population de vertébrés longévifs lors d'une augmentation de sa densité suivent une séquence prévisible. La survie juvénile et l'âge à la première reproduction sont respectivement les premier et deuxième traits affectés. Lorsque la densité de la population augmente, la quantité de ressources par individu diminue, les menaçant d'une dégradation de leur condition corporelle (Leberg et Smith 1993, Flajšman et al. 2018). Lorsque jumelée à de la variabilité environnementale, une densité de population élevée peut rapidement affecter la dynamique de population (Saether 1997). La diminution des ressources disponibles peut causer une allocation réduite à la reproduction, ou un abandon de la progéniture par les femelles (J. Gaillard et al. 2000; Plard et al. 2015). Contrairement à la gestation, l'allaitement représente une période coûteuse pour la femelle chez le kangourou, à cause de la demande énergétique qu'il représente, allant de 16 à 19 mois (King et Goldizen 2016). De ce fait, la plupart des jeunes survivent la naissance, mais beaucoup disparaissent avant le sevrage (Poole 1975). En général, des conditions environnementales

favorables sont d'une grande importance pour la croissance des jeunes (S. English et al. 2014; Parker, Barboza, and Michael 2009). Une faible disponibilité de nourriture peut ainsi causer une diminution du taux de croissance et ainsi un repoussement de la maturité à un âge plus avancé (Langvatn et al. 1996).

### ***1.9 Dimorphisme sexuel chez les jeunes grands mammifères***

En plus d'être fort dépendantes des facteurs environnementaux, la survie et la croissance de l'individu peuvent varier en fonction de son sexe. Plusieurs grands herbivores démontrent un fort dimorphisme sexuel (P. Jarman 1983; LeBlanc, Festa-Bianchet, and Jorgenson 2001; Post et al. 1999). Chez certaines de ces espèces, une réponse différentielle aux perturbations environnementales est associée à des stratégies de croissance divergentes, puisque les mâles d'espèces polygynes montrent typiquement une croissance plus rapide que les femelles dû à un investissement plus faible dans la reproduction et dans l'accumulation de réserves corporelles (Promislow 1992). La croissance plus rapide des mâles apparaît dès le stade juvénile, signifiant que les coûts s'y associant se manifestent dès les premières années de vie (P. Jarman 1983). La sélection sexuelle est l'une des causes de cette croissance plus rapide, permettant généralement aux plus grands mâles de se reproduire plus souvent (Isaac 2005). Cet avantage en potentiel reproducteur mène à une sélection favorisant les taux de croissance plus rapides en bas âge, ce qui rend les mâles plus coûteux à produire et sujets à de la compétition intra-sexuelle (Ralls 1977); ils nécessitent donc de bonnes conditions pour assurer leur survie et leur croissance, sans quoi ils subiront une diminution de leur succès reproducteur. Dès les stades juvéniles de plusieurs espèces, il est possible d'observer une mortalité plus importante chez les mâles que chez les femelles, ce qui peut s'accroître lorsque les conditions environnementales sont mauvaises (Clutton-Brock et al. 1985, Clutton-Brock et Lonergan 1994, Jorgenson et al. 1997, Beauplet et al. 2005).

**CHAPITRE 2**  
**VARIABLE RAINFALL, FORAGE BIOMASS AND POPULATION DENSITY**  
**AFFECT SURVIVAL AND GROWTH OF JUVENILE KANGAROOS**

par

Charles Alexandre Plaisir, Wendy J. King, David M. Forsyth & Marco Festa-Bianchet

***2.1 Introduction de l'article et contribution des auteurs***

Ce chapitre fait l'objet d'un manuscrit soumis à *Journal of Mammalogy* le 23 novembre 2020. Il porte sur l'étude de l'effet des variables environnementales sur les taux de survie et de croissance juvéniles des kangourous gris de l'Est. Pour réaliser ces analyses, seuls les jeunes ayant été capturés dans la poche maternelle furent étudiés pour analyser les effets de la date de naissance sur les taux de survie juvénile et de croissance à deux ans. Cet article est un travail original pour un système d'étude faisant l'objet d'un suivi longitudinal d'un grand mammifère vivant dans un milieu tempéré à forte variabilité environnementale. Une méthode statistique robuste faisant l'usage de liens de causalité permet une évaluation robuste d'hypothèses issues d'autres études portant majoritairement sur des espèces euthériennes. Cette étude sur un marsupial contribuera donc à un renforcement de nos connaissances sur les facteurs environnementaux à la base des changements démographiques chez les grands mammifères.

J'ai contribué aux saisons de terrain 2018 et 2019, effectué toutes les analyses statistiques ainsi que rédigé ce manuscrit. La Dr Wendy J. King a fourni des commentaires constructifs sur le manuscrit. Le Dr David M. Forsyth a effectué les recensements de végétation et de

densité de la population depuis 2009, en plus de fournir des commentaires constructifs sur le manuscrit. Finalement, le Dr Marco Festa-Bianchet est l'instigateur du projet de suivi à long terme de kangourous. Il a également fourni multiples conseils sur la conceptualisation de ce projet ainsi que sur la rédaction de ce chapitre.

## ***2.2 Abstract***

Understanding how environmental variation affects populations is a central goal of ecology. Long-term studies of marked individuals can quantify the effects of environmental variation on key life-history traits. We monitored the survival and growth of 336 individually-marked juvenile eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*), a large herbivore living in an seasonal but unpredictable environment. During our 12-year study, the population experienced substantial variation in rainfall, forage biomass, and density. We used structural equation modelling to estimate how variation in temperature and rainfall affected juvenile survival and growth through its effect on forage biomass and population density. Independently of population density, forage biomass had strong positive effects on juvenile kangaroo survival from 10 to 21 months, and at low population density it also had a positive effect on skeletal growth to 26 months. Maternal body condition improved rearing success for daughters but not for sons. The negative effect of high population density on growth to 26 months was similar for males and females. Rainfall had an increasingly positive effect on forage biomass at high temperatures, indicating a seasonal effect on food availability. Our study reveals interacting effects of environmental variation on juvenile survival and growth for a large mammal with a conservative reproductive strategy and facing substantial stochasticity in food availability.

**Keywords:** eastern grey kangaroo, forage biomass, *Macropus giganteus*, marsupial, population density, pouch young, subadult, weaning

### ***2.3 Introduction***

The population dynamics of large mammalian herbivores, in particular juvenile survival and growth, are strongly affected by environmental variation (J. Gaillard et al. 2000; J. M. Gaillard, Festa-Bianchet, and Yoccoz 1998; Eberhardt 2002). Rainfall and temperature are key determinants of food availability for large herbivores, and most climate change scenarios predict an increase in their variability (Walther et al. 2002; Wu et al. 2015). Weather effects on food availability, and hence on juvenile survival and growth, are likely magnified at high population density, when per capita resource availability is low (Garel et al. 2004; Marino, Pascual, and Baldi 2014). It is therefore critical to quantify how rainfall and temperature affect food availability and population density while assessing their effect on juvenile growth and survival (Burggren 2018).

Maternal care is essential for adequate offspring development in large herbivores (Samuni et al. 2020). Given the high energetic costs of lactation, mothers must be in good condition and have access to sufficient food resources to wean viable offspring (Wells 2019). Since large herbivores are long-lived and iteroparous, females typically adopt a conservative reproductive strategy that prioritizes their own survival over current reproductive effort (Therrien et al. 2007). In a resource-limited environment, mothers using this strategy transfer some costs of reproduction to their progeny (Martin and Festa-Bianchet 2010). In seasonal environments, female reproductive strategy also involves birthing during an optimal time window to synchronize the most energy-demanding period of maternal care with peak forage biomass, thereby maximizing long-term reproductive output while minimizing its costs (English et al. 2012). For most ungulates in seasonal temperate environments, timing of parturition is critical because it allows juveniles to attain a viable size before winter, with early-born juveniles surviving better than late-born ones (Feder et al. 2008). Environmental conditions in early life can also influence

skeletal growth, and increasingly unpredictable environments could negate the advantages of early parturition on growth and survival (S. English et al. 2014).

Sexual size dimorphism is widespread among large mammals (Ralls 1977), often with males the larger sex (Isaac 2005; P. Jarman 1983). Male and female growth strategies frequently diverge before weaning, and both early survival (*Cervus elaphus*; Clutton-Brock and Lonergan 1994) and growth (*Odocoileus virginianus*; Leberg and Smith 1993) respond more strongly to harsh environmental conditions in the larger sex (Post et al. 1999). Young males tend to allocate more resources to growth than to maintenance (Promislow 1992). Consequently, favorable environmental conditions are key to the rapid growth of young males, whose survival is highly sensitive to resource shortages (T. Clutton-Brock, Albon, and Guinness 1985).

Kangaroos are an ecological analog to ungulates (Fisher, Blomberg, and Owens 2002), adopting a conservative reproductive strategy that favors maternal maintenance over allocation to offspring (Toni, Forsyth, and Festa-Bianchet 2020). We expected that environmental conditions such as rainfall and temperature would affect forage biomass and consequently population density, juvenile survival, and growth. As a marsupial, the eastern grey kangaroo has an extremely short gestation (36 days; Poole 1975) followed by a long lactation (16 to 19 months; King and Goldizen 2016). The short gestation means that the effects of variation in food availability and population density on juvenile survival and growth can be monitored in the pouch from a very altricial stage. Prolonged lactation allows variable resource allocation to each reproductive event (Lefèvre et al. 2007), leading to potentially strong fitness effects on juveniles from forage biomass and maternal effects. We therefore expected the juveniles of mothers in better condition to have higher growth and survival rates. Eastern grey kangaroos can reproduce year-round (MacKay et al. 2018), but in the seasonal environment of our study area we expected that birthdate would affect survival and growth. By 8 months of age, the pouch young (PY)



weighs about 2.5 kg and leaves the pouch for increasingly longer periods (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982). This stage occurs in early spring for most juveniles, and also marks the beginning of a costlier stage of lactation (Cripps et al. 2011), when the juvenile becomes a large pouch young (LPY), growing quickly until permanent pouch exit at about 10 months of age (Wendy J. King and Goldizen 2016) and a mass of about 5.0 kg (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982). As partly “income breeders”, female kangaroos depend on both stored body reserves and available resources for lactation (Gélin, Coulson, and Festa-Bianchet 2016). Females unable to gather sufficient resources may terminate their reproductive effort by abandoning their pouch young (Toni, Forsyth, and Festa-Bianchet 2020). After permanent pouch exit, juveniles continue to nurse for an additional 6 to 9 months, as they progressively increase their reliance on foraging (King & Goldizen 2016). Since most kangaroos become independent following their first winter out of the pouch, we quantified survival to 21 months (Wendy J. King et al. 2017), an age by which most have lived through winter (Wendy J. King and Goldizen 2016). Our study system is ideal to answer questions on environmental variability and its effects on large mammals, with 12 years of individual monitoring of a population with variable survival and growth rates, highly variable rainfall, and variable forage biomass among years (Choquenot and Forsyth 2013).

Through structural equation models (Shipley 2009), we used long-term population monitoring to investigate the effects of early environmental conditions on juvenile survival from 10 to 21 months and growth over the first two years of life of eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*). Given strong sexual size dimorphism (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982; P. J. Jarman 1989) and asynchronous parturition dates (A. E. MacKay et al. 2018), we also expected that sex and birthdate would affect both juvenile survival and growth.

## 2.4 Materials and methods

### 2.4.1 Study area

We monitored kangaroos in 110 ha of coastal grassland in Wilsons Promontory National Park, Victoria, south-eastern Australia (38°57'S, 146°17'E). The temperate climate is characterised by cool winters, springs and autumns with variable rainfall, and usually dry, hot summers (Stern, De Hoedt, and Ernst 2000). The grassland is surrounded by tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and coast wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), which kangaroos use as refugia during inclement weather. Further details on the study area are reported in MacKay et al. (2018).

### 2.4.2 Captures

Animal handling was approved by the Animal Care Committee of the Université de Sherbrooke, by the Animal Ethics Committee of the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University (approval A2018/02). Two-year old juveniles and adult females carrying a large pouch young were chemically immobilized using Zoletil® (W. J. King et al. 2011). Most captures of mothers occurred in late winter or early spring (August–September). After immobilization, a mask was placed over the individual's head. The fibula was measured to the nearest mm as a proxy of hindleg length and mass was measured to the nearest 0.25 kg. To enable subsequent identification, *Allflex*® (Capalaba, QLD, Australia) ear tags and neck collars of different colors and symbols were fitted to each mother (W. J. King et al. 2011). Young remained in the pouch until just before the mother was weighed, when they were carefully extracted, sexed by the presence of a scrotum or marsupium, and held in a pillowcase. Lengths of the head, hindleg and foot of pouch young were measured to the nearest mm, and mass was measured using a spring scale to the nearest 0.025 kg following Poole et al. (1982). Pouch young were marked with a unique *Leader*® (Craigieburn, VIC, Australia) ear tag combination (W. J. King et al. 2011). Two-year-old juveniles were recaptured in autumn, approximately 18 months

later (late February through April) to replace *Leader*® tags with *Allflex*® tags and to measure hindleg length (hereafter referred to as leg length). We refer to the capture of LPYs as “first capture” and the capture of 2-year-olds as “second capture”.

#### *2.4.3 Study population and variables*

In the study population, reproductive females ranged in mass from 20 to 35 kg. About 80% of births occur from November to March. While in the pouch, early-born juveniles survive better but grow slower than late-born juveniles, likely based on food availability during key periods of lactation (A. MacKay 2019). Juvenile survival from 10 to 21 months was estimated from daily observations from August to December. During this period, each marked adult female and juvenile were typically sighted approximately 80 times (mean = 84, SD = 21). Since juveniles remain in close association with their mother and dispersal occurs after 24 months of age (Wendy J. King, Garant, and Festa-Bianchet 2015), we considered any disappearance of juveniles younger than 21 months as a mortality (Wendy J. King et al. 2017). Sample size for the survival analysis was 336 individuals over 9 cohorts (2010–2018).

Birthdates were estimated from sex-specific growth curves (Poole et al. 1982). Double captures of 68 pouch young revealed that repeated estimates of birthdate for the same juvenile differed on average by less than 1 day (MacKay et al. 2018). Birthdate was coded in Julian days, with Day 1 defined as 1 August because very few births occurred in July and August (Wendy J. King and Goldizen 2016). We used t-tests to verify that there were not significant effects of sex on birth and capture dates in our survival and growth analyses.

We measured juvenile growth by adjusting leg length to a common age. At the second capture (February–April), juveniles were aged from 21.2 to 29.0 months (males: mean = 25.8 months, SD = 0.9; females: mean = 26.0, SD = 1.1). We fitted linear and quadratic functions of leg length on age over this age range, with the linear model having more support ( $\Delta\text{AICc} = 2.11$ ). Adjusted leg length was the sum of the residual of measured length and mean predicted leg length at 26 months, the mean age at second capture. To avoid possible environmental effects of individuals captured outside the February–April capture period that had developed under different seasonal conditions, we only considered those captured in autumn, thus excluding 8 individuals. Sample size was 151 individuals measured over 10 cohorts (2011–2020).

Body condition was estimated using the residuals of an OLS regression of mass over leg length (residual index,  $R_i$ ; Peig and Green 2010), with separate regressions for mothers and pouch young. Both mass and leg length were log-transformed to ensure linearity (Schulte-Hostedde et al. 2005). Measurements of juvenile condition were those at capture in the pouch (mean age = 8.1 months; range = 6–10 months).

Kangaroo population density and forage biomass were estimated quarterly (summer, autumn, winter and spring) since spring 2008 and autumn 2009, respectively. Line transects distance sampling was used to estimate density (Glass et al. 2015). All distance sampling was conducted by the same observer. The program DISTANCE (Thomas et al. 2010) was used to estimate density (number/ha). We used the mean of the four quarterly values as our annual population density estimate. Discrete values of population density and vegetation growth were also obtained using the “cut” function in R, breaking the dataset into pieces of equal length to observe potential interactions between variables. For further details on population density estimation, see Glass et al (2015) and Toni et al (2020).

To obtain estimations of total available biomass, vegetation was harvested from 50–54 systematically spaced 0.25-m<sup>2</sup> wire-mesh exclosures, sorted as palatable or unpalatable to kangaroos following Davis et al. (2008), oven-dried at 80°C for 48 hours and weighed (kg). The total weight of the dried palatable vegetation (‘forage’) was divided by the number of days since the previous harvest and multiplied by 4 to obtain a seasonal rate of daily forage biomass per m<sup>2</sup> (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/day).

Daily rainfall (mm) and maximum temperature (°C) were obtained from Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather stations ([www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/)) at Shallow Inlet (38°47’S, 146°11’E; 20 km north of the study area) and Pound Creek (38°38’S, 145°49’E; 55 km northwest of the study area), respectively. These weather stations were selected based on topography, proximity to the actual study area and data availability for the desired period.

#### *2.4.4 Structural equation models*

To account for interdependent effects of multiple variables, we analyzed causal relationships by establishing biologically sensible confirmatory path structures (Shipley 2009). We used structural equation modeling (SEM) from the package *piecewiseSEM* (Lefcheck 2016) in R version 3.5.2 (R Core Team 2016) to test the effects of population density, cumulative forage biomass, and maternal condition on 1) survival from 10 to 21 months, and 2) leg length at 26 months. Additional variables included birthdate, sex and condition of the juvenile, mean maximum temperature, and total rainfall. Cumulative forage biomass, total rainfall and mean maximum temperature were calculated for the 6-month post-partum period for each kangaroo mother-juvenile pair for survival analyses (mostly summer and autumn) and for the 7 months preceding the second capture for growth analyses (spring and summer). These periods were selected from a list of biologically sensible timeframes of varying lengths (Tables S1 and S2) using Akaike’s Information Criterion corrected for small sample size (AICc; Burnham and

Anderson 2002). We compared simplified models involving the 3 relevant parent variables (population density, forage biomass, and birthdate for survival; population density, forage biomass, and sex for adjusted leg length) to choose among periods within a  $\Delta$ AIC of 2.0 from the most parsimonious model. The periods ultimately selected had the best fit with the full model while being within a  $\Delta$ AIC of 2.0 from the most parsimonious simplified model. For adjusted leg length, 7 months was selected because other periods generated invalid causal structures. SEMs establish a set of causal relations between variables in a system and models are rejected when the *C* value is unlikely to have occurred by chance ( $p < 0.05$ , Shipley 2009). The *C* value represents a general measure of likelihood based on individual paths from the suggested causal structure. With the exception of survival, which was coded as yes/no, all variables in both paths were standardized (mean = 0, SD = 1).

Our first path model tested how early environmental conditions and individual characteristics affected juvenile survival to 21 months. Early birthdate (MacKay 2019), good maternal condition and juvenile condition were expected to increase juvenile survival (Wendy J. King et al. 2017), which we also expected to increase with rainfall and temperature through effects on cumulative forage biomass. Kangaroo density was positively correlated with forage biomass (see Results), but we expected high population density to decrease juvenile survival. Given that young males have higher energy demands than young females (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982), we also expected higher survival for female than male juveniles. Free covariances were allowed between temporally correlated variables: cumulative rainfall was correlated seasonally with maximum temperature and population density was correlated with cumulative rainfall and maximum temperature (Fig. 1). Seasons followed Australian convention, starting on the first of the month (i.e., Summer = 1 December to 28 February). Our second path model tested the effects of spring and summer environmental conditions and individual characteristics on subadult adjusted leg length the following autumn, at approximately 26 months of age. Population density the previous year was the only variable expected to negatively affect leg length. Environmental variables included rainfall, temperature, and cumulative forage biomass

7 months prior to second capture. Males grow faster than females following pouch emergence (Poole, Carpenter, and Wood 1982), therefore sex was included in this analysis. Early-born juveniles grow slower while in the pouch (MacKay et al. 2018), therefore date of birth was included, as were maternal and juvenile condition, with free covariances between temporally autocorrelated variables such as cumulative forage biomass in spring and summer and population density in the previous year and between cumulative rainfall and mean maximum temperature (Fig. 1).

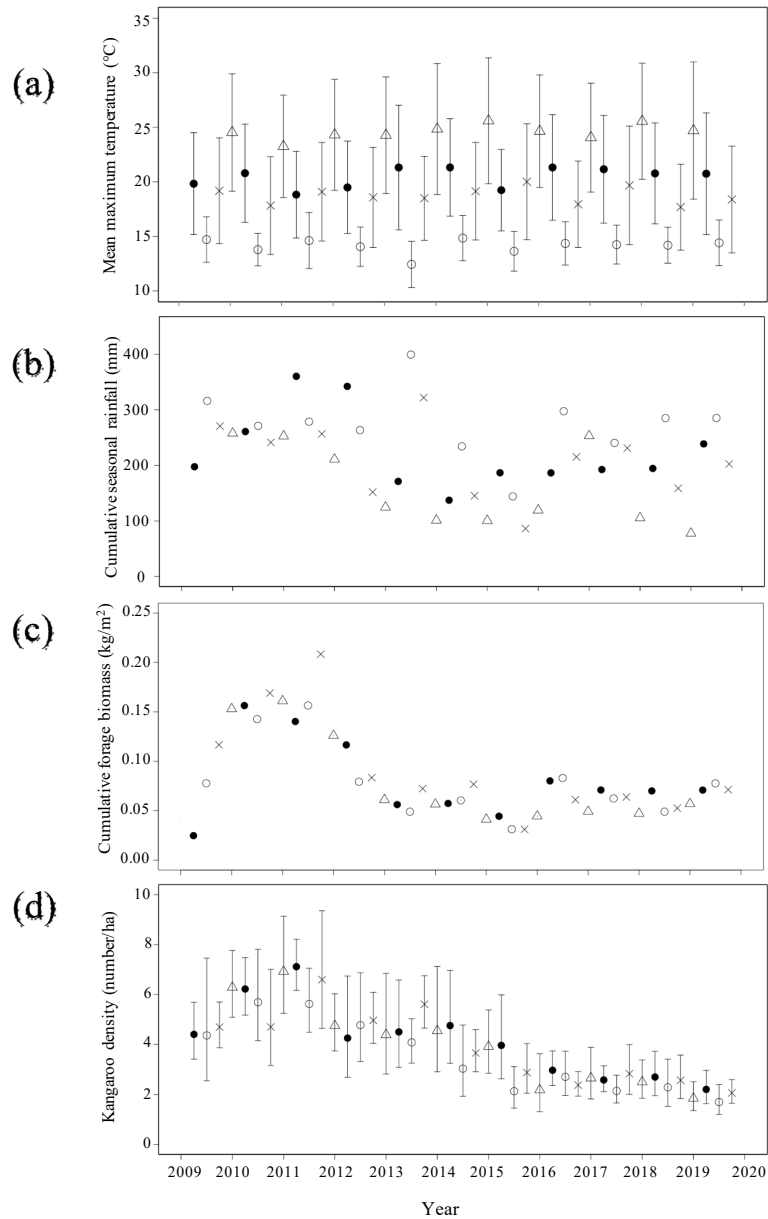
## **2.5 Results**

### *2.5.1 Environmental variation during our long-term study*

Rainfall, forage biomass and population density varied substantially during our 12-year study (Table 1). Population density ranged from 6.6 early in the study to 2.5 kangaroos per ha following a steep decline in available forage from 0.19 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (spring 2011) to 0.03 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (spring 2015) (Fig. 1c and 1d). The annual correlation between forage biomass and kangaroo population density was 0.72. Seasonal rainfall was also highly variable between years: for example, total summer rainfall ranged from 78 mm in 2019 to 258 mm in 2010 (Fig. 1b).

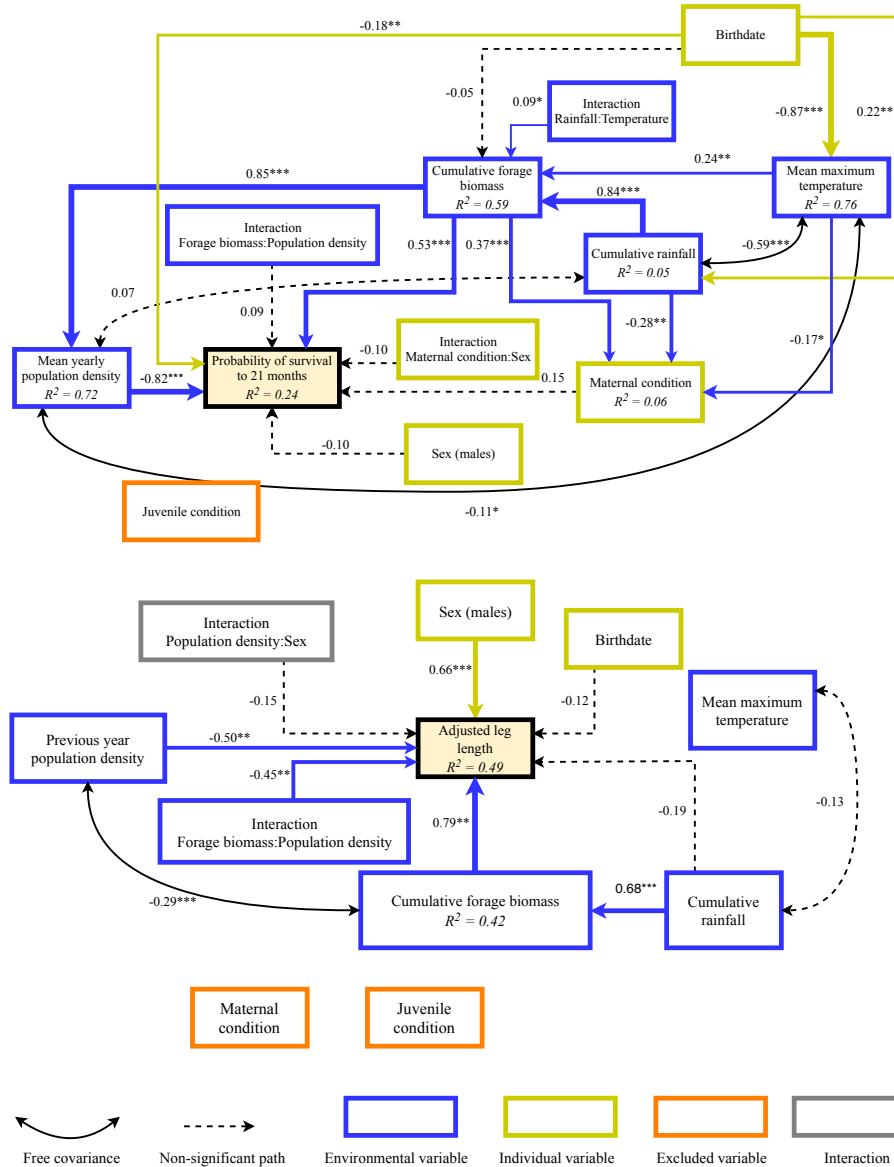
### *2.5.2 Effects of weather on forage biomass*

Rainfall had a greater positive effect on forage biomass at warmer temperatures (Figs. 2a & 3), indicating that winter rainfall had the weakest impact on forage biomass. Strong positive effects of rainfall on forage were observed in both models and explained a large proportion of the variation in forage biomass (Figs. 2a & 2b)



**Figure 1. Seasonal trends in (a) maximum temperature, (b) cumulative seasonal rainfall, (c) forage biomass, and (d) eastern grey kangaroo population density estimates at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2009–2019. Seasons: closed circle = autumn; open circles = winter; crosses = spring, open triangles = summer. Error bars represent (a) upper and lower standard deviation, and (d) upper and lower 95% confidence intervals.**

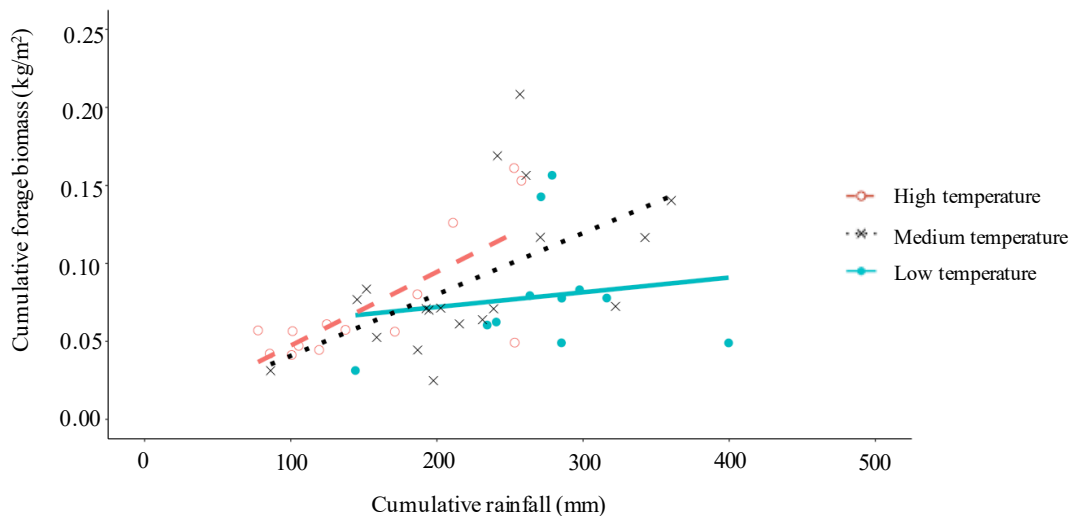




**Figure 2. Confirmatory path analyses of the relationships between individual characteristics, environmental variables and (a) survival to 21 months and (b) adjusted leg length of juvenile eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, during (a) 2010–2018 and (b) 2011–2020. Boxes represent observed variables. Numbers above arrows are standardized effect coefficients and  $R^2$  values indicate the proportion of variance explained by all causal parent variables. Fisher’s  $C$  values were 19.02 for survival ( $C_{20} = 19.02$ ,  $n = 336$ ,  $p = 0.52$ ) and 4.41 for leg length ( $C_4 = 4.41$ ,  $n = 151$ ,  $p = 0.35$ ).**

**Table 1. Mean maximum temperature, cumulative rainfall, forage biomass, and population density experienced by individual juvenile kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, in 2010–2018 (survival) and 2011–2020 (growth). Environmental variables were measured during the first 6 months postpartum and the 7 months prior to the autumn (second) capture for survival and growth data, respectively.**

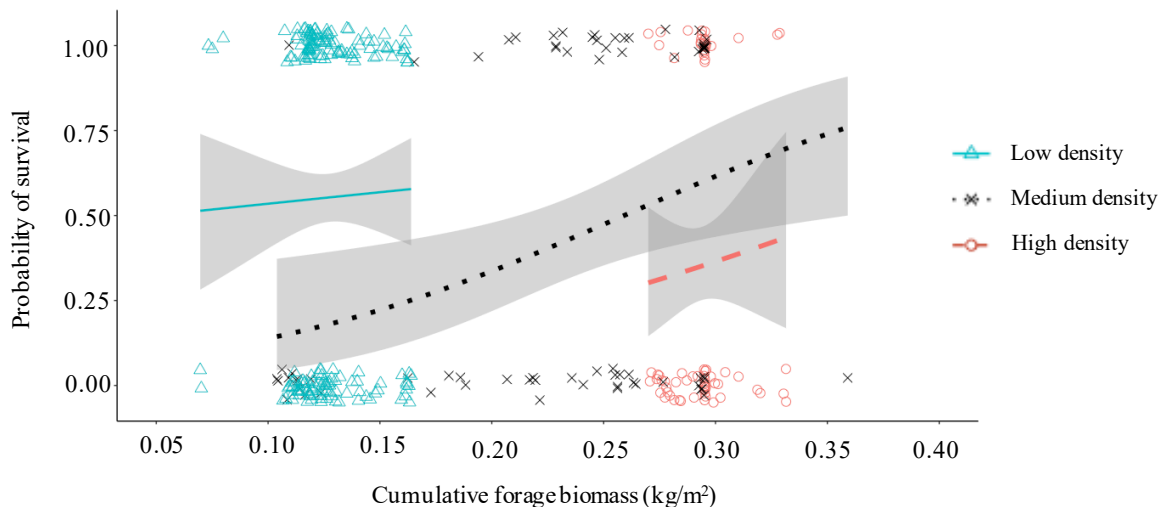
| Variable                                       | Data     | Mean  | SD    | Min   | Max   |
|--|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mean maximum temperature (°C)                  | Survival | 20.4  | 2.2   | 15.1  | 24.1  |
|  | Growth   | 20.9  | 0.8   | 19.8  | 22.9  |
| Cumulative rainfall (mm)                       | Survival | 445.9 | 128.0 | 204.8 | 744.6 |
|  | Growth   | 531.3 | 117.7 | 228.0 | 793.8 |
| Cumulative forage biomass (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | Survival | 0.19  | 0.08  | 0.07  | 0.36  |
|  | Growth   | 0.24  | 0.13  | 0.07  | 0.44  |
| Mean population density (number/ha)            | Survival | 3.79  | 1.45  | 2.51  | 6.57  |
|  | Growth   | 4.08  | 1.64  | 2.51  | 6.57  |



**Figure 3. Effects of cumulative rainfall on cumulative forage biomass at three temperature levels at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2009–2019. Each point represents a season between autumn 2009 and spring 2019. Low temperature (blue dots, solid line) = < 15°C, n = 11; medium temperature (black crosses, dotted line) = 15°C to 21.2°C, n = 19; high temperature (red circles, dashed line) = > 21.3°C, n = 14.**

### 2.5.3 Juvenile survival

Of 157 females and 179 males, 48% survived from 10 to 21 months. Mean birthdate was 13 January (SD = 47 days) and did not differ by sex ( $t_{123} = -1.41$ ,  $p = 0.16$ ). For most juveniles, early conditions occurred in the 6-month period from mid-summer to mid-winter. Survival was highly variable, ranging from 8% in 2013 ( $n = 13$ ) to 89% in 2018 ( $n = 28$ ). Survival from 10 to 21 months was partially explained by environmental variables and individual characteristics ( $R^2 = 0.24$ ). The strong negative effect of population density on survival was tempered by a positive effect of forage biomass, which highest values coincided with years of high population density early in the study (Fig. 2a, Fig. 4). Late birthdates reduced survival to 21 months (Fig. 2a). Maternal condition improved with higher forage biomass but was reduced by increasing rainfall and high temperatures (Fig. 2a). Overall, maternal condition did not appear to affect juvenile survival to 21 months (Fig. 2a).



**Figure 4.** Effects of cumulative forage biomass from birth to 6 months of age on the probability of survival from 10 to 21 months for 336 eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, for three levels of population density, 2010–2018. Low density (blue open triangles, solid line) = < 4.0 kangaroos/ha,  $n = 188$ ; medium density (black crosses, dotted line) = 4.0 to 5.0 kangaroos/ha,  $n = 73$ ; high density (red circles, dashed line) = > 5.0 kangaroos/ha,  $n = 74$ . Shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals.

Mothers in good condition had a higher probability of rearing daughters, but no difference was observed for mothers of sons (Table 2, Fig. 5). There was no sex effect on survival to 21 months (Fig. 2a). The selected path model for survival excluded juvenile condition (Fisher's  $C_{20} = 19.02$ ,  $p = 0.52$ ,  $n = 336$ ; Fig. 2a).

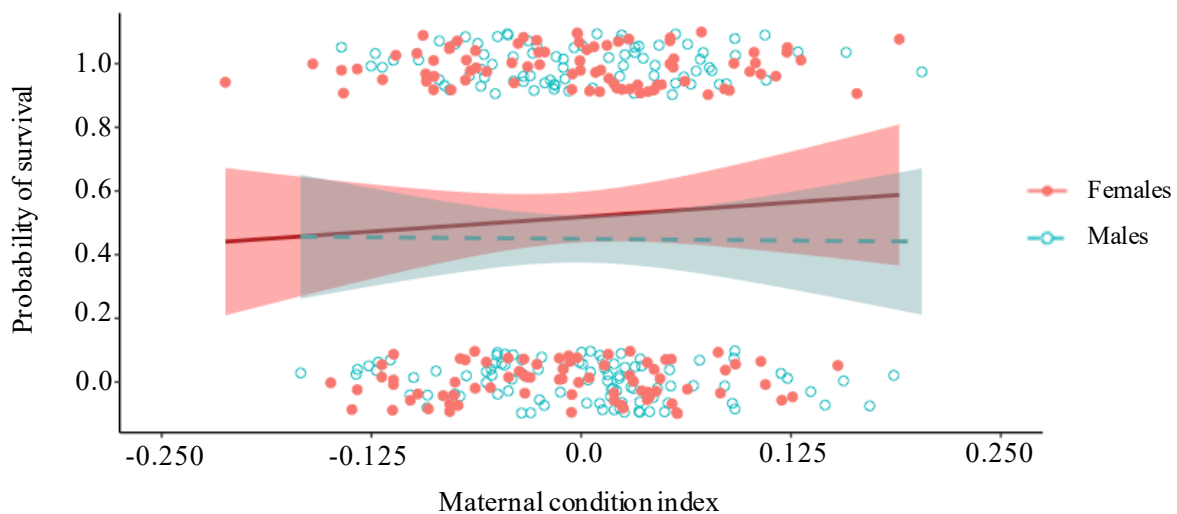
**Table 2. Effects (means and 95% confidence intervals) of five scaled variables on the probability of survival from 10 to 21 months of 179 male and 157 female eastern grey kangaroos, Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2010–2018. Variables in bold have 95% CIs not including zero and their effects are considered statistically significant.**

| Variable                  | Sex            | Probability of survival to 21 months |                     |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                           |                | Estimate                             | 95% CI              |
| Maternal condition        | Males          | -0.02                                | -0.35, 0.31         |
|                           | <b>Females</b> | <b>0.39</b>                          | <b>0.02, 0.75</b>   |
| Cumulative forage biomass | <b>Males</b>   | <b>0.83</b>                          | <b>0.04, 1.61</b>   |
|                           | <b>Females</b> | <b>1.41</b>                          | <b>0.43, 2.38</b>   |
| Mean population density   | <b>Males</b>   | <b>-1.01</b>                         | <b>-1.77, -0.25</b> |
|                           | <b>Females</b> | <b>-2.27</b>                         | <b>-3.22, -1.31</b> |
| Cumulative rainfall       | Males          | -0.19                                | -0.70, 0.32         |
|                           | Females        | 0.35                                 | -0.24, 0.95         |
| Birthdate                 | <b>Males</b>   | <b>-0.41</b>                         | <b>-0.77, -0.05</b> |
|                           | Females        | -0.40                                | -0.87, 0.07         |

#### 2.5.4 Juvenile growth

Due to poor juvenile survival in 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015, leg length was available for a total of only 10 individuals from those four years. There was no sex difference in age at capture for the 78 male and 73 female juveniles ( $t_{149} = 0.59$ ,  $p = 0.56$ ). Mean capture date was 11 March (SD = 15 days). Leg length at 26 months averaged 461.6 mm (SD = 18.3 mm) for males and

437.2 mm (SD = 13.5 mm) for females. The selected path model for subadult size excluded condition of both mother and young (Fisher's  $C_4 = 4.41$ ,  $p = 0.35$ ,  $n = 151$ ; Fig. 2b). About half the variability in juvenile leg length at 26 months was explained by environmental variables and individual characteristics ( $R^2 = 0.49$ ). Population density had a stronger negative effect on leg length at high than low forage biomass values (Fig. 2b, Fig. 6). As expected, males were larger than females (Fig. 2b), but the negative effect of population density on leg length did not vary significantly by sex (Fig. 2b, Fig. 7).

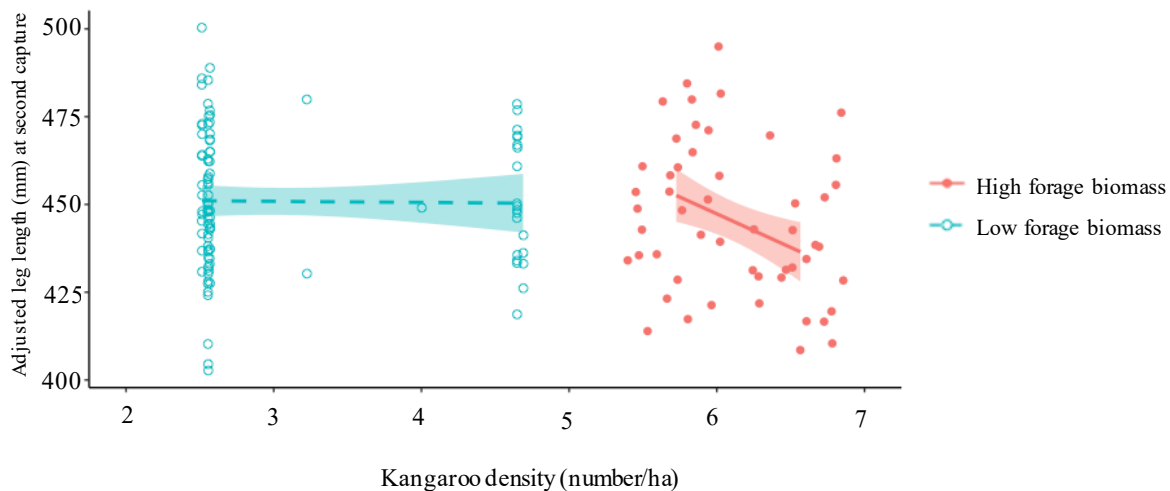


**Figure 5. Effect of maternal condition on probability of survival from 10 to 21 months for 336 female (red dots, solid line,  $n = 157$ ) and male (blue circles, dashed line,  $n = 179$ ) eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2010–2018. Shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals.**

## 2.6 Discussion

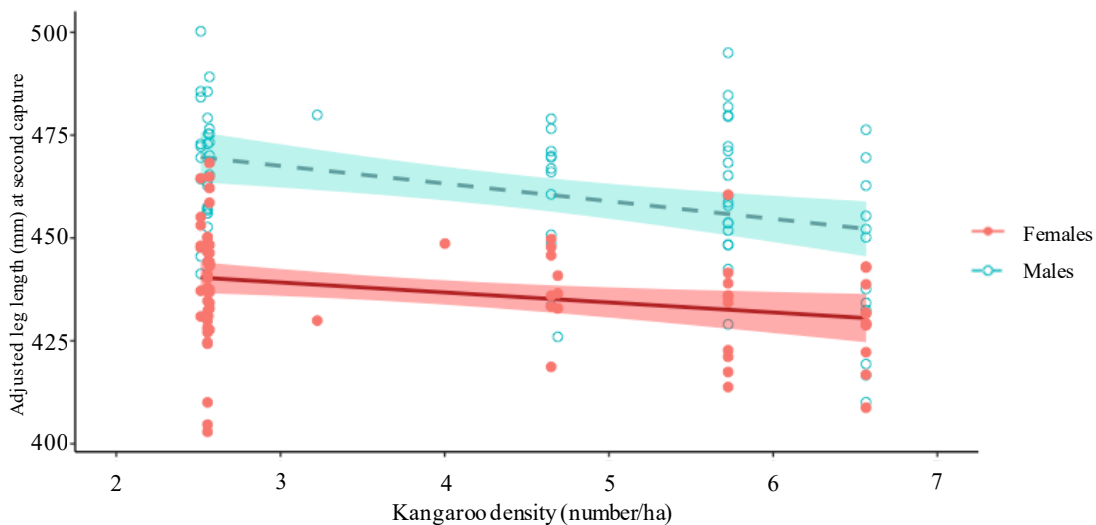
Eastern grey kangaroo juvenile survival and size at 26 months were density-dependent and varied with forage biomass, supporting the hypothesis that resource availability is a major driver

of population dynamics in this species. Density-dependent juvenile survival is common among large herbivores (Bonenfant et al. 2009). Early-life environmental conditions are therefore of crucial demographic importance in these populations, affecting juvenile mortality, growth patterns, and age at first reproduction (J. M. Gaillard, Festa-Bianchet, and Yoccoz 1998; Pigeon et al. 2019). As Eberhardt's (1977, 2002) general model illustrates, density-dependent responses by large mammal populations follow a predictable pattern. As density increases, the first vital rates to change are juvenile survival and age at first reproduction. The decrease in juvenile survival and leg length at increasing density observed in our study supports this model, assuming that body size has an effect on age at first reproduction for both males and females (Willisch et al. 2012; Festa-Bianchet 2012). Furthermore, the effects of forage biomass and population density on juvenile survival and leg length support Fowler's (1987) findings that food availability is the main factor driving density-dependent processes. In our study, higher forage



**Figure 6. Effect of kangaroo density on adjusted leg length at 26 months of age for eastern grey kangaroos at high (red dots, solid line,  $> 0.20 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 99$ ) and low (blue circles, dashed line,  $\leq 0.20 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 52$ ) forage biomass at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2011–2020. Shaded areas are 95% confidence intervals.**

biomass increased juvenile survival at all population densities. In contrast, the negative effects of population density on leg length at 26 months outweighed the positive effects of high forage biomass values. The interaction between population density and forage biomass on leg length may have been affected by the strong positive correlation between the two predictors during our study. Although the temporal overlap of years of high forage biomass with high population density represented an analytical challenge, path analysis illustrated how both variables affected kangaroos in the expected direction by working with a set of independence claims that are individually tested in order to



**Figure 7. Effects of yearly population density on adjusted leg length at 26 months of age for female (red dots, solid line,  $n = 78$ ) and male (blue circles, dashed line,  $n = 73$ ) eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2011–2020. Shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals.**

determine the individual contribution of each variable (Shipley 2009). Despite that temporal correlation, our results show the importance of climatic variables on juvenile survival and growth by confirming that harsh environmental conditions have a greater detrimental effect through reduced forage biomass at high population density (Boyce et al. 2006).

In Australia's unpredictable climate, kangaroos have evolved with high annual and seasonal variability in food supply (A. D. King et al. 2020). Environmental uncertainty is often associated with greater phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of bet-hedging life-history strategies (Furness, Lee, and Reznick 2015). The strong sexual dimorphism of eastern grey kangaroos suggests diverging growth strategies leading to sex-specific responses to food limitation (Isaac and Johnson 2005). Young males generally allocate more to growth than to maintenance compared to young females (Promislow 1992). The greater sensitivity of males to food limitations can lead to greater declines in survival than in females when resources are scarce (Tim H Clutton-Brock, Albon, and Guinness 1981; McCullough 1999). Contrary to our expectation, however, we found no sexual difference in survival. This result confirms a general pattern in this population of no sex difference in survival of juveniles from birth to weaning (Toni et al. in press). Combined with similar effects of density on male and female juvenile growth, it suggests that faced with resource shortages, both sexes experience equal declines in survival and growth. Further research should address the long-term effects of reduced growth on survival and reproduction of adult males and females.

Maternal condition did not affect juvenile survival, a surprising result given the conservative reproductive strategy of eastern grey kangaroos (Gélin et al. 2015). As marsupials, kangaroo mothers can readily adjust resource allocation to lactation at an earlier stage and for longer periods than eutherians, through milk production and composition (L. Quesnel et al. 2017). We expected that mothers in poor condition would be less likely to rear juveniles to independence than mothers in good condition and more so for sons than for daughters. Maternal body condition does affect juvenile survival to permanent pouch emergence at about 10 months (Louise Quesnel et al. 2018). Consequently, survival from 10 to 21 months is measured on a subset of juveniles whose mothers are mostly in good body condition. Although the interaction between maternal condition and sex on juvenile survival was not statistically significant, kangaroo mothers in better condition had a higher probability of rearing daughters than mothers in poor condition. The greater effort required to rear sons compared to daughters made forage



biomass more important for mothers of sons. Late-born juveniles generally had lower survival, supporting previous analyses showing that late birthdates reduced survival to 18 months (A. MacKay 2019). The absence of a birthdate effect on leg length at 26 months suggests either compensatory growth for early-born juveniles or a filtering effect, with lower survival for the most slow-growing late-born individuals. The indirect effect of birthdate on survival through cumulative rainfall and mean maximum temperature suggests that the negative effect of late births on survival is related to reduced forage biomass after pouch exit. Additionally, birth timing effects on survival appear to change with environmental conditions, with different survival rates of late-born individuals in successive years (A. MacKay 2019).

Our 12-year study of marked individuals revealed large interannual variation in the survival and growth of juvenile eastern grey kangaroos. Both survival and growth varied with population density and food availability in interaction with rainfall and temperature, with marginal effects of maternal condition and date of birth. These results are comparable to those obtained for northern temperate ungulates (Feder et al. 2008; Pettorelli et al. 2007; Garel et al. 2004; Fowler 1987) while illustrating a novel, comprehensive approach to the primary drivers of population dynamics of a large herbivore in an unpredictable seasonal environment.

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### CHAPITRE 3

#### DISCUSSION ET CONCLUSION

Ma maîtrise avait pour objectif d'identifier les facteurs environnementaux et les traits individuels affectant la survie et la croissance des jeunes kangourous gris de l'Est. Je voulais premièrement quantifier les effets des précipitations et de la température sur la disponibilité de la végétation et ainsi sur la densité de la population afin de déterminer la relation entre les facteurs les plus importants sur la survie et la croissance juvénile. Par la suite, je visais à identifier l'impact d'un contexte de développement variable en mesurant les effets de plusieurs facteurs sur la survie et la croissance des juvéniles. Finalement, je comptais déterminer s'il y avait présence de croissance compensatoire chez les kangourous ayant eu une croissance plus lente avant la sortie de la poche. En bénéficiant de 12 ans de suivi longitudinal des événements de reproduction de femelles, de la croissance somatique d'une grande proportion des individus dès la première année de vie, de la végétation disponible sur l'aire d'étude et de données quotidiennes de précipitations et de température, j'ai présenté une évaluation intégrale des liens de causalité entre les variables susceptibles d'affecter les taux de survie et de croissance des jeunes kangourous gris de l'Est du Parc National du Promontoire Wilson. L'utilité de l'analyse de piste est d'évaluer des liens causaux directs et indirects entre multiples variables. Elle se distingue des analyses corrélationnelles en évaluant la plausibilité d'une structure causale basée sur de multiples clauses d'indépendance, elles-mêmes basées sur des hypothèses biologiques. La validité d'une structure est déterminée par la vraisemblance de l'ensemble des clauses d'indépendances suggérées. Cette méthode statistique m'a permis d'avoir une meilleure compréhension des principaux facteurs à la base des changements en taux de survie et de croissance juvéniles chez une espèce de grand mammifère vivant dans un environnement saisonnier à forte variabilité environnementale.

Mon premier objectif visait à quantifier les effets combinés des précipitations, de la température et, par conséquent, de la disponibilité des ressources, sur le taux de survie des jeunes de 10 à 21 mois ainsi que sur leur taux de croissance à 26 mois. Mes résultats suggèrent que des précipitations abondantes et ainsi une forte disponibilité en végétation augmenteraient la survie jusqu'à 21 mois et la croissance des juvéniles. La densité de population, bien que corrélée avec la disponibilité de la végétation lors de cette étude, cause une diminution de la survie et de la croissance juvéniles. Tel qu'attendu, de forts effets des précipitations sur la croissance de la végétation furent observés dans l'ensemble des analyses, supportant le fait connu que les précipitations ont un impact direct sur la disponibilité des ressources (De Jong et al. 2013; Piao et al. 2006; Fang et al. 2005; Wu et al. 2015). La disponibilité des ressources avait également un impact direct sur la survie et la croissance des jeunes en plus d'être corrélée avec la densité de la population. La densodépendance au sein de mes résultats souligne l'importance de la végétation disponible par individu, agissant comme facteur limitant au sein de cette population (Choquenot et Forsyth 2013, Marino et al. 2014). En plus des précipitations, la croissance de la végétation était affectée en partie par la température. L'effet de la pluie sur la végétation disponible était plus faible à basses températures, causant une diminution de la survie en hiver même lors des pluies abondantes. Il est également possible que d'autres facteurs étant fort corrélés à la température comme la lumière (i.e. durée du jour et/ou la qualité des radiations photosynthétiques) soient responsables d'une baisse en productivité dans la période hivernale. Chez une espèce aux reproductions asynchrones ainsi qu'aux longs soins maternels comme le kangourou, une mise-bas en automne peut donc défavoriser les individus parce que la période critique de développement aurait lieu en hiver.

Mon deuxième objectif visait à mesurer comment la condition de la mère, la date de naissance et le sexe affectent la survie des jeunes de 10 à 21 mois. Premièrement, l'usage d'une stratégie reproductrice conservatrice chez les femelles kangourou gris de l'Est rend la condition maternelle l'une des variables d'intérêt dans la survie des jeunes jusqu'à la sortie permanente de la poche (Quesnel et al. 2018). Puisque les soins maternels perdurent en moyenne de 6 à 9



mois suivant la sortie de la poche (King et Goldizen 2016), il était attendu que la condition de la mère maintienne un effet important sur la survie juvénile de 10 à 21 mois. L'effet marginal de la condition de la mère observé souligne probablement la bonne condition générale des femelles dans l'échantillon disponible pour cette analyse, qui fut composé uniquement de celles ayant élevé leur jeune jusqu'à au moins 10 mois. Les jeunes de mères en mauvaise condition sont en grande partie morts avant d'atteindre l'âge de 10 mois, certains ayant été abandonnés avant leur sortie permanente de la poche (Toni, Forsyth, and Festa-Bianchet 2020). Il est fort probable que les effets de la date de naissance furent également soumis à des effets filtres, puisque la plupart des jeunes nés tard ne survivent pas jusqu'à 10 mois dû à une forte mortalité avant la sortie de la poche lorsque les conditions ne sont pas adéquates (A. MacKay 2019). Des effets négatifs d'une date de naissance tardive sur la survie entre 10 et 21 mois indiquent que les individus n'ayant pas eu accès à des ressources à temps subissent un fort taux de mortalité dû aux mauvaises conditions à la fin de l'automne et à l'hiver. Contrairement aux attentes (Clutton-Brock 1994, Jorgenson et al. 1997, Beauplet et al. 2005), des effets du sexe du jeune sur la survie n'ont pas été observés. Il est possible que les coûts plus élevés associés à la production de mâles furent dissimulés puisqu'ils sont plus fréquemment nés de mères plus grosses (Le Gall-Payne, Coulson, and Festa-Bianchet 2015). Un fort effet du sexe observé sur la taille de la jambe à 26 mois indique la présence de dimorphisme sexuel en faveur des mâles avant la maturité sexuelle. Cependant, le degré de dimorphisme sexuel ne change pas en fonction de l'environnement, contrairement à nos attentes (Lindstedt et Boyce 1985, Leberg et Smith 1993, Post et al. 1999). Une tendance (non significative) indiquerait tout-de-même une possibilité d'effet plus fort de la densité de population sur la longueur de la jambe des mâles comparativement aux femelles. Les variables individuelles ont montré une incidence sur la survie et la croissance des jeunes à différents degrés. Mes résultats suggèrent que la date de naissance et la condition de la mère furent plus importantes sur la survie que sur la taille à 26 mois. Cela indiquerait que les conditions initiales auxquelles les jeunes sont exposés ont peu d'impact suite au sevrage tandis que le sexe de l'individu gagne beaucoup en importance durant la croissance du juvénile.

Mon troisième objectif portait sur la présence de croissance compensatoire chez les jeunes kangourous ayant crû plus lentement avant la sortie de la poche. Je suggérais que l'absence d'effets de la date de naissance sur la longueur de la jambe des jeunes à 26 mois indiquerait que tout avantage lié à la synchronie entre la période de croissance dans la poche et la végétation disponible n'aurait plus d'effet. Tel qu'attendu, l'absence d'effet de la date de naissance indique soit la présence de croissance compensatoire ou est le résultat du faible taux de survie des individus ayant des dates de naissance plus tardives. Bien que le mécanisme derrière cet effet soit incertain, l'absence d'effet de la date de naissance sur la longueur de la jambe à 26 mois suggère qu'elle n'a plus d'incidence importante sur les taux de croissance suivant l'âge d'indépendance du jeune telle qu'estimée dans notre population.

### ***3.1 Implications de la recherche***

Cette recherche a bénéficié de 12 ans de suivi longitudinal dans une population vivant à forte densité dans un climat tempéré, donc saisonnier, hautement variable. Cela a permis d'effectuer une évaluation intégrale des liens de causalité entre les facteurs environnementaux et individuels susceptibles d'affecter la survie et la croissance des jeunes kangourous gris de l'Est, une espèce de grands mammifères analogue aux cervidés vivant dans l'hémisphère Nord. Mes travaux font une contribution originale de par l'utilisation des liens de causalité issus de la variabilité environnementale sur deux traits fondamentaux en dynamique des populations, favorisant ainsi une meilleure compréhension des interactions entre les variables environnementales liées à la survie et à la croissance juvéniles des grands mammifères en milieux tempérés.

Mes travaux contribueront également aux initiatives de gestion des populations par les entités responsables à des fins de conservation pour les populations menacées par les changements climatiques, l'expansion urbaine et la perte d'habitat. Dû à l'augmentation de la variabilité du climat et de la fréquence des événements météorologiques extrêmes, tous ces enjeux

écologiques prendront de l'ampleur au cours des prochaines décennies. Ces derniers exploiteront la résilience des populations de grands mammifères en milieux tempérés, avec des changements survenant à un rythme supérieur à leur vitesse d'adaptation (Hetem et al. 2014). Mieux comprendre l'interaction entre les facteurs dictant la réponse des populations sera donc d'une importance primordiale pour les parties prenantes. Chez les kangourous gris de l'Est du Parc National du Promontoire Wilson, une baisse en résilience pourrait notamment être due à la diminution de la superficie de l'aire d'étude. La prolifération d'arbres thé aux abords de l'aire d'étude réduit donc le potentiel d'expansion du domaine vital lorsque les ressources sont moins abondantes. Une méthode présentement employée pour maintenir leur habitat est l'abattage fréquent de ces arbres, permettant au gazon de pousser. Sans ces mesures, les effets néfastes de la densité de la population risqueront d'augmenter davantage. Similairement, plusieurs espèces de cervidés en Amérique du Nord se voient également confinés à des espaces restreints, formant des populations à haute densité, vivant souvent près de lieux fréquentés par les humains à cause de l'absence de prédation, entre autres. En exposant les mécanismes derrière une forte variabilité en survie et en croissance juvéniles, mes résultats demeurent importants pour les populations de grands mammifères dont la croissance doit être suivie aux endroits fortement touchés par les changements climatiques et près des milieux urbains. Chez ces populations exploitées, mes analyses des taux de croissance juvénile pourront aussi servir à l'adoption de mesures durables de récolte et ainsi maximiser la production de viande dans des conditions variables.

### ***3.2 Travaux futurs***

Mes travaux sur les facteurs environnementaux et individuels affectant la survie et la croissance des jeunes mettent la table pour de plus amples analyses sur la dynamique des populations des kangourous gris de l'Est du Parc National du Promontoire Wilson. Ayant identifié de façon intégrale les variables environnementales en mesure d'affecter la survie et la croissance juvéniles, il est maintenant possible de mesurer leur impact sur la survie à long terme des adultes ainsi que le succès reproducteur à vie des femelles. Les travaux futurs découlant de mon projet

bénéficieront d'un cadre général favorisant la formulation d'hypothèses, prenant en compte toutes les variables auxquelles notre système d'étude a accès. Plus précisément, des modèles de survie et de croissance de la population en fonction de la superficie totale du système d'étude pourraient être explorés suite à mes travaux. Depuis 2008, une diminution notable de la superficie de l'aire d'étude fut observée dû à la prolifération d'arbres à thé. Détenir des données sur la progression de ces arbres sur l'aire d'étude pourrait donc favoriser une meilleure compréhension des facteurs liés à la dynamique de population des kangourous du Parc National du Promontoire Wilson. Sachant également que les kangourous gris de l'Est sont grégaires et philopatrics, il serait pertinent d'estimer la végétation disponible à une échelle plus petite que celle utilisée dans mes analyses en employant les données GPS pour assigner des domaines vitaux à chaque individu et ainsi estimer la quantité de ressources disponible dans l'espace utilisé par chacun. Cela permettrait aussi d'estimer le degré de compétition intra-spécifique pour accéder à la végétation. Il serait également intéressant d'effectuer des analyses séquentielles pour estimer la probabilité de survie à long terme en fonction de la superficie totale de l'aire d'étude en plus des variables environnementales auxquelles nous avons déjà accès. D'autres systèmes d'étude bénéficieront de mon projet pour ses 12 années de suivi longitudinal avec une forte variabilité au niveau des taux de survie juvénile, de croissance de la végétation, de densité de population ainsi que d'une variabilité environnementale supérieure à la plupart des milieux tempérés. Cela permettra de répondre à des questions portant sur d'autres mammifères en milieux tempérés soumis à un climat de plus en plus variable.

ANNEXES  
CHAPITRE 2

**Table S1. Model selection for timing and length of the post-partum period to test relationships between cumulative forage biomass, population density, and birthdate on survival from 10 to 21 months for 336 juvenile eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2010–2018. The period chosen (bold) was compared to others using the AICc values from the retained causal structure for juvenile survival data. p is the probability of the data being generated from the hypothesized causal structure; df, degrees of freedom; AICc, second-order Akaike Information Criterion;  $\Delta$ AICc, difference between the AICc of this model and that of the most parsimonious model. Models with  $p > 0.05$  are all plausible causal structures. The selected period is in bold.**

| Post-partum period | p           | df       | AICc         | $\Delta$ AICc |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 0–3 months         | 0.43        | 2        | 21.70        | 0.75          |
| 3–6 months         | 0.62        | 2        | 20.96        | 0.01          |
| 6–9 months         | 0.07        | 2        | 25.30        | 4.35          |
| <b>*0–6 months</b> | <b>0.62</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>20.95</b> | <b>0.00</b>   |
| 3–9 months         | 0.22        | 2        | 23.00        | 2.05          |
| 0–9 months         | 0.28        | 2        | 22.57        | 1.62          |

**Table S2. Model selection of timeframes to test relationships between cumulative forage biomass, previous year population density and sex on leg length at 26 months for 151 juvenile eastern grey kangaroos at Wilsons Promontory National Park, south-eastern Australia, 2011–2020. The period was selected using the AICc values from the retained causal structure.  $p$  is the probability of the data being generated from the hypothesized causal structure; df, degrees of freedom; AICc, second-order Akaike Information Criterion;  $\Delta$ AICc, difference between the AICc of this model and that of the most parsimonious model. Models with  $p > 0.05$  are all plausible causal structures. The selected period of 7 months (bold) was selected because other periods generated invalid complete causal structures after the remaining variables from the hypothesized model were added.**

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| Pre-capture period | $p$         | df       | AICc         | $\Delta$ AICc |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 3 months           | 0.21        | 2        | 19.13        | 0.18          |
| 4 months           | 0.21        | 2        | 19.10        | 0.15          |
| 5 months           | 0.23        | 2        | 18.95        | 0.00          |
| 6 months           | 0.22        | 2        | 19.02        | 0.07          |
| <b>*7 months</b>   | <b>0.19</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>19.35</b> | <b>0.40</b>   |
| 8 months           | 0.12        | 2        | 20.24        | 3.63          |

## ANNEXES DOCUMENTAIRE

Ayant obtenu une dérogation quant à la production d'un vidéo pour accompagner mon mémoire, j'ai produit un documentaire audiovisuel d'une dizaine de minutes portant sur le contexte biologique entourant ma question de recherche. Ce documentaire est un travail original sur lequel plusieurs dizaines d'heures furent passées. Toutes les vidéos présentes furent filmées par moi-même ou produites à l'aide d'un logiciel d'animation. J'ai également effectué le montage vidéo ainsi que l'écriture du script. Marco Festa-Bianchet et Wendy King ont apporté leurs commentaires constructifs lors de la finalisation du script. Ce projet représente l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles je me suis initialement intéressé au monde biologique. Chaque espèce modèle que nous avons la chance d'étudier peut raconter une histoire à qui veut bien l'entendre. Il suffit parfois de prendre le temps de comprendre l'importance globale des travaux que nous faisons pour que cette dernière se dessine sous nos yeux. J'ai eu l'inspiration d'inclure ce projet à mon mémoire lorsque j'ai réalisé que ma maîtrise devait me ressembler. Beaucoup d'heures furent passées à conceptualiser le projet, approfondir mes connaissances théoriques ainsi que développer des modèles statistiques pour répondre à mes questions de recherche. Cependant, il serait impossible de passer à côté du plaisir que j'ai eu à filmer les kangourous et à observer leur comportement durant un total de 6 mois sur le terrain. Cela m'a permis de rester sain tout au long de ma maîtrise et de compléter cette expérience avec un réel sentiment d'accomplissement que je n'aurais jamais pu avoir autrement.

Bon visionnement!

| Image sequence   | Script (English) | Music/Sound     |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
|  |                  | ES_To Valhalla! |
| Pan right north meadow tree<br><br>MVI_2035.MOV<br>[00:09:11-00:16:01]                           |                  |                 |
| Zoom out sedges on gray morning<br><br>MVI_9112.MOV<br>[00:01:09-00:07:06]                       |                  |                 |
| Pan right walking track tree with birds<br><br>MVI_9124.MOV<br>[01:35:06-01:42:16]               |                  |                 |
| Pan left of tea tree<br><br>MVI_9660.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:06:22]                                  |                  |                 |
| Pan up of kangaroo foot<br><br>MVI_9876.MOV<br>[00:05:14-00:11:26]                               |                  |                 |
| Zoom out of advanced carcasse<br><br>MVI_9879.MOV<br>[00:01:03-00:08:03]                         |                  |                 |
| Zoom out Skylapse October 27 <sup>th</sup> (FADE OUT)<br><br>Skylapse.mov<br>[00:00:00-00:10:14] |                  |                 |
| {Screen goes dark}   |                  |                 |
| 3D Planet Earth rotating + Zoom on Australia   |                  |                 |



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|---|--|--|
| 0001-0540.mp4<br>[00:03:21-00:17:06]  |  |  |
| Female kangaroo<br>with PY foggy<br>morning looking at<br>camera<br><br>MVI_9847.MOV<br>[00:24:16-00:26:09] |  |  |
| Subadult jumping<br>alert looking right<br><br>MVI_0651.MOV<br>[00:06:24-00:08:12]                          |  |  |
| Two subadults<br>battling in morning<br><br>MVI_0272.MOV<br>[00:54:13-00:55:19]                             |  |  |
| Subadult alert<br>looking at camera in<br>afternoon<br><br>MVI_0894.MOV<br>[00:07:08-00:07:20]              |  |  |
| M-shot two<br>subadults<br>playfighting<br><br>MVI_0895.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:00:10]                          |  |  |
| W-shot two<br>subadults<br>playfighting in<br>afternoon<br><br>MVI_0953.MOV<br>[01:27:18-01:28:08]          |  |  |
| Windy sand dune<br>over Bidgee Widgee<br>meadow   |  |  |

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| {Kangaroos:<br>Juvenile survival<br>and growth}<br><br>MVI_2068.MOV<br>[00:10:08-00:16:22]         |  |   |
| Tea tree timelapse<br>Crooked tree<br>timelapse.mov<br>[00:00:15-00:06:04]                         |  | ES_Wandering Soul_<br>INSTRUMENTS               |
| Pan up of kangaroo<br>foot<br><br>MVI_9876.MOV<br>[00:05:14-00:11:26]                              | Winter mortality is a<br>major limiting factor in<br>large mammal<br>populations                                   |   |
| Pan right of early<br>carcase<br><br>MVI_9880.MOV<br>[01:51:04-01:55:21]                           | And it can affect even<br>the most adaptable of<br>species   | ES_Discover_BASS                                |
| Pan left of advanced<br>carcase<br><br>MVI_9879.MOV<br>[00:00:14-00:06:14]                         | In late winter and<br>spring, bodies of adult<br>kangaroos can be found<br>across the landscape                    |   |
| Pan right scattered<br>bones<br><br>MVI_2027.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:04:01]                            | Scavenged to the bone<br>after only a few weeks.   |   |
| Zoom out of<br>kangaroo skull<br>MVI_2060.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:08:25]                               | But winter's most<br>numerous victims are<br>ever so rarely<br>encountered, one<br>almost wonders who<br>they are. | [suspenseful sound]                             |
| (Screen goes dark)   |  |   |
| Itchy standing,<br>scratching its feet<br>and walking right<br>MVI_0863.MOV<br>[00:02:02-00:26:06] | Juveniles  | ES_Incidental_encounter<br>STEMS<br>INSTRUMENTS |
|  | Just like other<br>herbivores, they are<br>extremely dependent on<br>the forage out there                          |   |

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| Feet of 807 stepping away<br>MVI_0908.MOV<br>[00:06:27-00:10:15]              | But not only do they need quality grass, they also require quality maternal care.  |  |
| Blurry shot of 807 completing her step<br>MVI_0909.MOV<br>[00:52:11-00:54:18] |  |  |
| Bright medium shot of Itchy standing<br>MVI_0909.MOV<br>[00:34:12-00:39:20]   | But mother's milk supplies are often limited   |  |
| Medium shot of 807 feeding<br>MVI_9648.MOV<br>[00:17:15-00:24:08]             | Female kangaroos in the wild must assure two things: survive and produce   |  |
| Close-up of 807 feeding<br>MVI_9648.MOV<br>[00:54:06-00:57:26]                | viable offspring throughout their lifetime.  |  |
| Pan right of view from the road<br>MVI_2013.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:07:02]        | But with the high frequency of extreme weather events, southern Australia makes for a difficult environment to thrive in both. |  |
| Medium shot 851 feeding<br>MVI_1113.MOV<br>[00:37:07-00:42:12]                | With the daunting task to maintain their body condition,   |  |
| Close-up 851 feeding<br>MVI_1115.MOV<br>[00:06:28-00:12:18]                   | females use a conservative approach to reproduction, putting forward their own well-being                                      |  |
| Close-up of PY of 86 trying to feed<br>MVI_9865.MOV<br>[00:37:09-00:41:15]    | before their offspring's survival when resources are scarce  |  |

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| Zoom out of wind blowing through trees to the sand dunes<br>MVI_2062.MOV<br>[00:00:07-00:06:19] | this strategy exposes the juvenile to a big challenge early in life                                  |                            |
| Still shot dense tea trees above ground<br>MVI_2029.MOV<br>[00:02:15-00:05:29]                  |  | Light Rain Wet cars by.wav |
| Still close-up of tree<br>MVI_2034.MOV<br>[00:06:11-00:09:13]                                   |  |                            |
| Medium shot 921 feeding<br>MVI_9868.MOV<br>[00:00:21-00:08:11]                                  | Kangaroos are marsupials, a group of terrestrial mammals whose early growth mostly occurs in a pouch | ES_SILENT APPROVAL_INST    |
| Close-Up of 921's PY looking down and to camera<br>MVI_9868.MOV<br>[00:36:06-00:41:03]          | Before moving to the pouch, gestation only lasts 36 days.  |                            |
| Medium shot of female feeding<br>MVI_9864.MOV<br>[00:29:24-00:33:08]                            |  |                            |
| Medium shot of 921 feeding in different place<br>MVI_0760.MOV<br>[00:30:06-00:32:20]            |  |                            |
| Pan up medium shot of female with young<br>MVI_0189.MOV   | From a birth as highly undeveloped young, mothers will nurse their joey with milk,                   |                            |

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| [00:56:11-01:00:25]   |   |                              |
| Still wide shot of female alert with PY<br><br>MVI_9847.MOV<br>[00:24:18-00:27:27]          | initially rich in protein and later in fat.   |                              |
| Still shot of 807 looking at camera semi-alert<br><br>MVI_9648.MOV<br>[00:26:08-00:30:01]   |   |                              |
| Zoom out of sand dune above bidgee widgee meadow<br><br>MVI_2065.MOV<br>[00:01:03-00:08:03] | While feeding off maternal milk and growing for the following months, the joey is prepping for its first exit out of the pouch, |                              |
| Zoom out skylapse October 27 <sup>th</sup><br><br>Skylapse.mov<br>[00:00:00-00:07:08]       | And its first direct contact with the unpredictable Australian climate.   |                              |
| Screen goes dark  |   | [Ambient sound North Meadow] |
| Still shot of Darby River on cloudy morning<br><br>MVI_2014.MOV<br>[00:09:22-00:15:04]      |   | [Light Rain Wet cars by.wav] |
| Wide shot of mother with YAF<br><br>MVI_1139.MOV<br>[00:19:04-00:23:26]                     | This joey is now a young at foot  |                              |

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| <p>Medium shot of YAF with mother next to it</p> <p>MVI_1139.MOV<br/>[00:33:26-00:43:15]</p> | <p>Stage at which most have encountered their first hardships. They weigh about 5 kilos and recently vacated their mother's pouch.</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Young female walking away from YAF</p> <p>MVI_0188.MOV<br/>[00:01:07-00:12:27]</p>        | <p>With resources not always being abundant, some mothers decided to abandon their offspring early, for there not being enough food to provide milk</p>  | <p>[Ambient sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot of Dk Green Stripe with YAF</p> <p>MVI_1907.MOV<br/>[00:19:06-00:32:17]</p>   | <p>Meanwhile, others did better and managed to reach the 10 months mark.</p> <p>Young at foot might no longer be at risk of abandonment, but they still require maternal milk in addition to grass</p> |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of Itchy feeding next to 807</p> <p>MVI_0862.MOV<br/>[00:04:07-00:08:08]</p>  | <p>Even if they have survived to one year, kangaroos must keep</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Side close-up of Itchy feeding</p> <p>MVI_0910.MOV<br/>[01:52:22-01:57:25]</p>            | <p>acquiring quality resources for several months following their pouch exit.</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Close-up of 807 feeding</p> <p>MVI_0868.MOV<br/>[02:58:05-03:04:12]</p>                   | <p>As maternal milk supplies are progressively dropping, young will feed more on vegetation,</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of Itchy's upper body</p>   | <p>but vegetation contains less energy than the fat-</p>   |                                     |

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| MVI_0868.MOV<br>[01:44:04-01:47:15]   | rich milk they've become used to.   |   |
| Shot of woods with mountains in the background<br><br>MVI_2067.MOV<br>[00:05:11-00:14:08] | This transition period is crucial, for they have a limited amount of time to grow before winter arrives.                                      |   |
| Pan right of large log<br><br>MVI_0762.MOV<br>[01:10:16-01:15:20]                         |   | [Ambient sound North meadow]<br>[Lapwing.wav] |
| Wide shot of yellow arrows looking to cam<br><br>MVI_0941.MOV<br>[02:24:06-02:30:04]      | Kangaroos are often called asynchronous breeders. With females  |   |
| Wide shot of 807 nursing Itchy<br><br>MVI_1214.MOV<br>[00:01:22-00:06:20]                 | virtually capable of conceiving anytime throughout the year.  |   |
| Close-up of Itchy suckling<br><br>MVI_1218.MOV<br>[00:00:27-00:07:26]                     | In southeastern Australia, most give birth in late spring to summer, exposing young to a wide range of  |   |
| Medium shot of YAF next to mother<br><br>MVI_1118.MOV<br>[00:18:04-00:24:28]              | conditions. Which makes the timing of birth so important for survival and growth patterns.  |   |
| Medium shot of Itchy feeding next to mother<br><br>MVI_0865.MOV<br>[00:59:20-01:08:06]    | If they cannot time pouch exit with high quality vegetation, juveniles might not find enough resources to survive their first winter on foot. | [ES_Last Heartbeats STEMS BASS]               |

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| <p>Itchy scratching while Rufus walks by</p> <p>MVI_0867.MOV<br/>[00:17:22-00:25:25]</p>   | <p>Even more so with rutting males lurking around their mother</p>  | <p>[Carex.wav]</p>   |
| <p>Medium shot Rufus standing</p> <p>MVI_0864.MOV<br/>[01:38:08-01:43:27]</p>              |   | <p>ES_I Will Come Back for You STEMS BASS</p> <p>[Lapwing.wav]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot male and female interacting</p> <p>MVI_0649.MOV<br/>[02:09:00-02:17:17]</p> | <p>Starting in the spring, males can often be seen interacting with mature females</p>  |  |
| <p>Wide shot of large male displaying</p> <p>MVI_0945.MOV<br/>[01:37:23-01:43:24]</p>      | <p>Using their size, and a series of displays to seduce females, or deter competitors</p>   |  |
| <p>Extra-Wide shot of large males battling</p> <p>MVI_0209.MOV<br/>[00:09:26-00:24:20]</p> | <p>If they can't decide on a winner, they won't shy away from a quick battle.</p> <p>But most of the time, larger males get the better of confrontations, as smaller rivals would rather run than risk injury</p> |  |
| <p>Wide shot of large male standing up</p> <p>MVI_0941.MOV<br/>[01:30:17-01:35:24]</p>     | <p>Being larger might confer a reproductive advantage to a rutting male.</p>  |  |



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| <p>Medium shot of rufus looking at camera and going down</p> <p>MVI_0864.MOV<br/>[00:03:20-00:10:03]</p>    | <p>But this advantage isn't exactly gained overnight.</p>                                      | <p>[Ambient sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot of old Itchy looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_9867.MOV<br/>[00:02:28-00:07:22]</p>               | <p>Lifetime growth patterns typically start at a young age for large mammals</p>               |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of subadult standing alert looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0894.MOV<br/>[00:05:25-00:09:25]</p> | <p>Especially in sexually dimorphic species,</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Back medium shot of subadult</p> <p>MVI_0903.MOV<br/>[00:00:07-00:05:02]</p>                             | <p>As they grow, juvenile kangaroos will develop under different environmental conditions.</p> |                                     |
| <p>M-Close-up of subadult feeding</p> <p>MVI_9866.MOV<br/>[00:03:01-00:07:12]</p>                           | <p>Through which they will acquire experiences of all kinds</p>                                |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of subadult feeding</p> <p>MVI_9863.MOV<br/>[00:01:07-00:04:10]</p>                          | <p>From learning how to forage efficiently,</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Medium wide shot of two subadults playfighting</p> <p>MVI_0272.MOV<br/>[00:14:02-00:17:11]</p>           | <p>To the development of useful fighting abilities</p>   |                                     |

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| <p>Medium wide shot of subadult feeding</p> <p>MVI_0950.MOV<br/>[00:03:07-00:08:04]</p>                       | <p>But both are worthless if resources are scarce</p>  |   |
| <p>Still shot of the viewing area</p> <p>MVI_2055.MOV<br/>[00:15:04-00:21:00]</p>                             | <p>If unable to gather enough resources in the first years of life, most young will suffer the consequences up to adulthood.</p> | <p>[Ocean waves Night From Balcony.wav]</p> |
| <p>Close-up of tired subadult looking at cam</p> <p>MVI_0902.MOV<br/>[01:19:13-01:25:19]</p>                  | <p>Good conditions are critical for the upcoming months.</p>   |   |
| <p>Still shot of woods near Secret Meadow</p> <p>MVI_2051.MOV<br/>[00:04:21-00:08:22]</p>                     | <p>A bad flood or drought is all it takes to change everything.</p>  |   |
| <p>Wide shot of sand dunes with Bass strait in the background</p> <p>MVI_2070.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:08:05]</p> | <p>But with limited resources being so important, the climate is no longer the only threat to haunt juveniles.</p>               |   |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of subadult looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0876.MOV<br/>[01:13:05-01:18:15]</p>             | <p>Increasing kangaroo numbers can lead to even greater problems for juveniles,</p>  |   |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of YAF next to sedges</p> <p>MVI_0949.MOV<br/>[00:01:08-00:04:24]</p>                     | <p>since they all compete for a limited amount of grass</p>  |   |

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| <p>Zoom out of picture at high density</p> <p>Picture1.png</p> <p>Time: 10:12</p>                                  | <p>At higher numbers, herbivore populations experience greater mortality, especially at juvenile stages.</p> | <p>[Ambient Sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of subadult with burdock on fur</p> <p>MVI_0900.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:03:05]</p>                | <p>Even the few juveniles who do survive bad conditions remain</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of subadult lifting head</p> <p>MVI_0899.MOV<br/>[00:10:01-00:15:20]</p>                            | <p>unable to develop as well as others from good years.</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of mother feeding among other kangaroos</p> <p>MVI_0993.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:06:17]</p>             | <p>Density is a major driver of population dynamics. Towards the mid 2010s, successive years</p>             |                                     |
| <p>Close-up of sedges through the wind</p> <p>MVI_1223.MOV<br/>[00:00:05-00:03:17]</p>                             | <p>of high population density in the Wilsons Promontory National Park</p>                                    |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of wind going through dense bushes in secret meadow</p> <p>MVI_2058.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:02:21]</p> | <p>overlapped with a flooding event, followed by a</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Wide shot of sand and trees</p> <p>MVI_2068.MOV<br/>[00:14:01-00:19:08]</p>                                     | <p>drought, which caused a decrease in vegetation growth and extreme mortality in the kangaroo</p>           |                                     |

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| <p>Close-up of Juvenile looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0900.MOV<br/>[03:08:22-03:13:09]</p>                     | <p>population. Because of these extreme events,</p>  |  |
| <p>Medium-Close up shot of sitting subadult looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_9848.MOV<br/>[00:00:23-00:08:18]</p> | <p>very few young born during those years made it to adulthood. And most of them remained small.</p> |  |
| <p>Wide shot of two females standing behind sedges</p> <p>MVI_0767.MOV<br/>[00:05:20-00:11:11]</p>            | <p>Kangaroos have long been known as an analogous species to northern temperate ungulates</p>        |  |
| <p>3D animation of the Australian continent</p> <p>0001-0100.png<br/>[00:00:00-00:03:03]</p>                  | <p>But they evolved on a continent that is famous for its unpredictable climate patterns</p>         |  |
| <p>Wide shot of sand dunes above Bidgee Widgee meadow</p> <p>MVI_2072.MOV<br/>[00:11:06-00:14:17]</p>         | <p>From extended periods of scarcity unique to Australia</p>   | <p>ES_The English Affair<br/>STEMS<br/>INSTRUMENTS</p> |
| <p>Wide shot of tall trees moving through bushes</p> <p>MVI_2057.MOV<br/>[00:29:23-00:32:28]</p>              | <p>to extreme rainfall events and</p>  |  |
| <p>Right pan of study area with mountains in background</p> <p>MVI_0952.MOV<br/>[00:22:19-00:27:22]</p>       | <p>heat waves that can decimate their primary food source</p>  |  |

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| <p>Still shot of ferns in foreground with hopping female in background</p> <p>MVI_0710.MOV<br/>[00:38:12-00:43:25]</p> | <p>Through it all lives on several populations of eastern grey kangaroos across the country</p> |  |
| <p>Still shot of sand gliding down dune</p> <p>MVI_2074.MOV<br/>[00:06:23-00:11:28]</p>                                | <p>With numbers breaching the 15 million mark</p>   |  |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of YAF scratching next to mother</p> <p>MVI_1118.MOV<br/>[00:18:04-00:21:08]</p>                   | <p>Yet, on a local scale, strong fluctuations</p>   |  |
| <p>Medium shot of subadult standing alert looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0894.MOV<br/>[00:05:25-00:09:12]</p>            | <p>can be seen within populations</p>   |  |
| <p>Wide shot of YAF standing looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0947.MOV<br/>[00:05:11-00:08:04]</p>                         | <p>This led us to an important question:</p>  |  |
| <p>Wide shot of female with PY in foggy morning</p> <p>MVI_9847.MOV<br/>[00:26:13-00:29:24]</p>                        | <p>what are the key drivers of population dynamics in kangaroos?</p>                            |  |
| <p>Close up of young Itchy looking below camera</p> <p>MVI_0868.MOV<br/>[01:44:08-01:46:05]</p>                        | <p>For they remain</p>  |  |

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| Zoom out Skylapse<br>Skylapse October<br>[F29 <sup>th</sup> .mov<br>[00:00:15-00:07:20] | a species, that has<br>managed to adapt to<br>one of the most<br>variable temperate<br>climates. |  |
| END   |  |  |

| Image sequence   | Script (French) | Music/Sound     |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|  |                 | ES_To Valhalla! |
| Pan right north<br>meadow tree<br><br>MVI_2035.MOV<br>[00:09:11-<br>00:16:01]                |                 |                 |
| Zoom out sedges<br>on gray morning<br><br>MVI_9112.MOV<br>[00:01:09-<br>00:07:06]            |                 |                 |
| Pan right walking<br>track tree with<br>birds<br><br>MVI_9124.MOV<br>[01:35:06-<br>01:42:16] |                 |                 |
| Pan left of tea tree<br><br>MVI_9660.MOV<br>[00:00:00-<br>00:06:22]                          |                 |                 |
| Pan up of kangaroo<br>foot<br><br>MVI_9876.MOV<br>[00:05:14-<br>00:11:26]                    |                 |                 |
| Zoom out of<br>advanced carcasse<br><br>MVI_9879.MOV<br>[00:01:03-<br>00:08:03]              |                 |                 |

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| Zoom out Skylapse<br>October 27 <sup>th</sup><br>(FADE OUT)<br><br>Skylapse.mov<br>[00:00:00-<br>00:10:14]      |  |  |
| {Screen goes dark}  |  |  |
| 3D Planet Earth<br>rotating + Zoom on<br>Australia<br><br>0001-0540.mp4<br>[00:03:21-<br>00:17:06]              |  |  |
| Female kangaroo<br>with PY foggy<br>morning looking at<br>camera<br><br>MVI_9847.MOV<br>[00:24:16-<br>00:26:09] |  |  |
| Subadult jumping<br>alert looking right<br><br>MVI_0651.MOV<br>[00:06:24-<br>00:08:12]                          |  |  |
| Two subadults<br>battling in morning<br><br>MVI_0272.MOV<br>[00:54:13-<br>00:55:19]                             |  |  |
| Subadult alert<br>looking at camera<br>in afternoon<br><br>MVI_0894.MOV<br>[00:07:08-<br>00:07:20]              |  |  |



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| M-shot two subadults playfighting<br><br>MVI_0895.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:00:10]   |   |                               |
| W-shot two subadults playfighting in afternoon<br><br>MVI_0953.MOV<br>[01:27:18-01:28:08]                                      |   |                               |
| Windy sand dune over Bidgee Widgee meadow {Kangaroos: Juvenile survival and growth}<br><br>MVI_2068.MOV<br>[00:10:08-00:16:22] |   |                               |
| Tea tree timelapse<br>Crooked tree timelapse.mov<br>[00:00:15-00:06:04]  |   | ES_Wandering Soul_INSTRUMENTS |
| Pan up of kangaroo foot<br><br>MVI_9876.MOV<br>[00:05:14-00:11:26]   | La mortalité hivernale est un facteur limitant important au sein de populations de grand herbivores |                               |
| Pan right of early carcass<br><br>MVI_9880.MOV<br>[01:51:04-01:55:21]  | Et cela peut affecter les espèces les mieux adaptées  | ES_Discover_BASS              |
| Pan left of advanced carcass   | À la fin de l'hiver et au printemps, les corps de   |                               |

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| MVI_9879.MOV<br>[00:00:14-00:06:14]  | kangourous adultes peuvent être trouvés sur tout le territoire,   |   |
| Pan right scattered bones<br><br>MVI_2027.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:04:01]                         | complètement décomposés après seulement quelques semaines   |   |
| Zoom out of kangaroo skull<br>MVI_2060.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:08:25]                            | Mais les victimes les plus nombreuses de l'hiver sont si rarement trouvées qu'il est parfois difficile de savoir de qui il s'agit | [suspenseful sound]                             |
| (Screen goes dark)   |   |   |
| Itchy standing, scratching its feet and walking right<br>MVI_0863.MOV<br>[00:02:02-00:26:06] | Les juvéniles<br><br>Tout comme les autres herbivores, ils sont fort dépendants de la végétation                                  | ES_Incidental_encounter<br>STEMS<br>INSTRUMENTS |
| Feet of 807 stepping away<br>MVI_0908.MOV<br>[00:06:27-00:10:15]                             | mais ils n'ont pas juste besoin d'herbe de qualité, ils ont aussi besoin de soins maternels.                                      |   |
| Blurry shot of 807 completing her step<br>MVI_0909.MOV<br>[00:52:11-00:54:18]                |   |   |
| Bright medium shot of Itchy standing<br>MVI_0909.MOV<br>[00:34:12-00:39:20]                  | Mais les provisions de lait des mères sont parfois limitées   |   |

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| Medium shot of 807 feeding<br>MVI_9648.MOV<br>[00:17:15-00:24:08]                               | Les kangourous femelles en liberté doivent s'assurer de deux choses: survivre et produire  |                            |
| Close-up of 807 feeding<br>MVI_9648.MOV<br>[00:54:06-00:57:26]                                  | Une progéniture viable tout au long de leur vie  |                            |
| Pan right of view from the road<br>MVI_2013.MOV<br>[00:00:00-00:07:02]                          | Mais avec la fréquence élevée d'événements météorologiques extrêmes, il est difficile d'exceller aux deux au sud de l'Australie. |                            |
| Medium shot 851 feeding<br>MVI_1113.MOV<br>[00:37:07-00:42:12]                                  | Avec la tâche complexe de maintenir leur condition corporelle,   |                            |
| Close-up 851 feeding<br>MVI_1115.MOV<br>[00:06:28-00:12:18]                                     | les femelles ont une approche conservatrice face à la reproduction, priorisant leur bien-être                                    |                            |
| Close-up of PY of 86 trying to feed<br>MVI_9865.MOV<br>[00:37:09-00:41:15]                      | avant la survie de leur progéniture quand les ressources sont limitées   |                            |
| Zoom out of wind blowing through trees to the sand dunes<br>MVI_2062.MOV<br>[00:00:07-00:06:19] | Cette stratégie expose le jeune à un défi, tôt dans sa vie.  |                            |
| Still shot dense tea trees above ground<br><br>MVI_2029.MOV<br>[00:02:15-00:05:29]              |  | Light Rain Wet cars by.wav |

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| Still close-up of tree<br><br>MVI_2034.MOV<br>[00:06:11-00:09:13]                          |  |                            |
| Medium shot 921 feeding<br><br>MVI_9868.MOV<br>[00:00:21-00:08:11]                         | Les kangourous sont des marsupiaux, un groupe de mammifères terrestres dont la majorité de la croissance juvénile a lieu dans une poche. | ES_SILENT<br>APPROVAL_INST |
| Close-Up of 921's PY looking down and to camera<br><br>MVI_9868.MOV<br>[00:36:06-00:41:03] | Avant de migrer dans la poche, la gestation dure seulement 36 jours  |                            |
| Medium shot of female feeding<br><br>MVI_9864.MOV<br>[00:29:24-00:33:08]                   |  |                            |
| Medium shot of 921 feeding in different place<br><br>MVI_0760.MOV<br>[00:30:06-00:32:20]   |  |                            |
| Pan up medium shot of female with young<br><br>MVI_0189.MOV<br>[00:56:11-01:00:25]         | Depuis la naissance, sous une forme peu développée, les mères nourrissent leur jeune avec du lait,                                       |                            |

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| <p>Still wide shot of female alert with PY</p> <p>MVI_9847.MOV<br/>[00:24:18-00:27:27]</p>          | <p>initialement riche en protéines et ensuite en gras.</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Still shot of 807 looking at camera semi-alert</p> <p>MVI_9648.MOV<br/>[00:26:08-00:30:01]</p>   |  |                                     |
| <p>Zoom out of sand dune above bidgee widgee meadow</p> <p>MVI_2065.MOV<br/>[00:01:03-00:08:03]</p> | <p>En se nourrissant de lait maternel et grandissant pour les mois à venir, le jeune se prépare pour sa première sortie de la poche maternelle</p> |                                     |
| <p>Zoom out skylapse October 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Skylapse.mov<br/>[00:00:00-00:07:08]</p>        | <p>et son premier contact direct avec le climat imprévisible Australien.</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Screen goes dark</p>   |  | <p>[Ambient sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Still shot of Darby River on cloudy morning</p> <p>MVI_2014.MOV<br/>[00:09:22-00:15:04]</p>      |  | <p>[Light Rain Wet cars by.wav]</p> |
| <p>Wide shot of mother with YAF</p> <p>MVI_1139.MOV<br/>[00:19:04-00:23:26]</p>                     |  |                                     |

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| <p>Medium shot of YAF with mother next to it</p> <p>MVI_1139.MOV<br/>[00:33:26-00:43:15]</p> | <p>Un stade auquel la plupart ont fait face à leurs premiers défis. Ils pèsent environ 5 kilos et ont récemment quitté la poche maternelle.</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Young female walking away from YAF</p> <p>MVI_0188.MOV<br/>[00:01:07-00:12:27]</p>        | <p>Puisque les ressources ne sont pas toujours abondantes, certaines femelles ont décidé d'abandonner leur jeune, dû au manque de ressources pour produire du lait maternel.</p>                                 | <p>[Ambient sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot of Dk Green Stripe with YAF</p> <p>MVI_1907.MOV<br/>[00:19:06-00:32:17]</p>   | <p>Pendant ce temps, d'autres y sont parvenus, et on atteint les 10 mois.</p> <p>Les jeunes à pied ne sont plus à risque de se faire abandonner, mais ont tout de même besoin de lait en plus de végétation.</p> |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of Itchy feeding next to 807</p> <p>MVI_0862.MOV<br/>[00:04:07-00:08:08]</p>  | <p>Même s'ils ont survécu jusqu'à un an, les kangourous doivent continuer</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Side close-up of Itchy feeding</p> <p>MVI_0910.MOV<br/>[01:52:22-01:57:25]</p>            | <p>d'acquérir des ressources de qualité pour les mois suivant leur sortie de la poche</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Close-up of 807 feeding</p> <p>MVI_0868.MOV</p>   | <p>Pendant que les provisions de lait maternel diminuent progressivement, les</p>  |                                     |

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| [02:58:05-03:04:12]   | jeunes se nourriront plus d'herbe   |   |
| Medium shot of Itchy's upper body<br>MVI_0868.MOV<br>[01:44:04-01:47:15]              | mais la végétation contient moins d'énergie que le lait riche en gras auquel ils sont habitués.                                 |   |
| Shot of woods with mountains in the background<br>MVI_2067.MOV<br>[00:05:11-00:14:08] | Cette période de transition est cruciale, puisqu'ils ont une quantité de temps limitée pour grossir avant l'arrivée de l'hiver. |   |
| Pan right of large log<br>MVI_0762.MOV<br>[01:10:16-01:15:20]                         |   | [Ambient sound North meadow]<br>[Lapwing.wav] |
| Wide shot of yellow arrows looking to cam<br>MVI_0941.MOV<br>[02:24:06-02:30:04]      | Les kangourous sont souvent appelés reproducteurs asynchrones, puisque les femelles sont  |   |
| Wide shot of 807 nursing Itchy<br>MVI_1214.MOV<br>[00:01:22-00:06:20]                 | en mesure de concevoir à tout moment de l'année.  |   |
| Close-up of Itchy suckling<br>MVI_1218.MOV<br>[00:00:27-00:07:26]                     | En Australie du Sud-Est, la plupart mettent bas tard au printemps ou en été, exposant les jeunes à toute sorte de               |   |

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| <p>Medium shot of YAF next to mother</p> <p>MVI_1118.MOV<br/>[00:18:04-00:24:28]</p>           | <p>condition, faisant de la date de naissance une variable importante pour la survie et la croissance.</p>   |  |
| <p>Medium shot of Itchy feeding next to mother</p> <p>MVI_0865.MOV<br/>[00:59:20-01:08:06]</p> | <p>S'ils ne peuvent pas synchroniser la sortie de la poche avec la végétation de qualité, les jeunes peuvent ne pas trouver assez de ressources pour survivre leur premier hiver hors de la poche.</p> | <p>[ES_Last Heartbeats STEMS BASS]</p>                             |
| <p>Itchy scratching while Rufus walks by</p> <p>MVI_0867.MOV<br/>[00:17:22-00:25:25]</p>       | <p>D'autant plus avec des mâles en rut guettant leur mère.</p>   | <p>[Carex.wav]</p>   |
| <p>Medium shot Rufus standing</p> <p>MVI_0864.MOV<br/>[01:38:08-01:43:27]</p>                  |  | <p>ES_I Will Come Back for You STEMS BASS</p> <p>[Lapwing.wav]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot male and female interacting</p> <p>MVI_0649.MOV<br/>[02:09:00-02:17:17]</p>     | <p>Au printemps, des mâles peuvent fréquemment être vus en interaction avec des femelles</p>   |  |
| <p>Wide shot of large male displaying</p> <p>MVI_0945.MOV<br/>[01:37:23-01:43:24]</p>          | <p>Utilisant leur taille, et une série de démonstrations pour séduire les femelles et intimider les compétiteurs.</p>  |  |



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| <p>Extra-Wide shot of large males battling</p> <p>MVI_0209.MOV<br/>[00:09:26-00:24:20]</p>                  | <p>S'ils ne peuvent décider d'un gagnant, une bagarre va s'en suivre</p> <p>Mais la plupart du temps, les mâles plus grands remportent les confrontations, puisque les plus petits préfèrent encore courir que de risquer une blessure.</p> |                                     |
| <p>Wide shot of large male standing up</p> <p>MVI_0941.MOV<br/>[01:30:17-01:35:24]</p>                      | <p>Être plus gros peut donner un avantage reproductif au mâle</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of rufus looking at camera and going down</p> <p>MVI_0864.MOV<br/>[00:03:20-00:10:03]</p>    | <p>mais cet avantage est le fruit de beaucoup de travail</p>  | <p>[Ambient sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium shot of old Itchy looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_9867.MOV<br/>[00:02:28-00:07:22]</p>               | <p>Les patrons de croissance commencent typiquement jeune chez les grands mammifères.</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Medium shot of subadult standing alert looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0894.MOV<br/>[00:05:25-00:09:25]</p> | <p>Spécifiquement chez les espèces à dimorphisme sexuel</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Back medium shot of subadult</p> <p>MVI_0903.MOV</p>   | <p>Pendant leur croissance, les jeunes kangourous se développent dans</p>   |                                     |

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| [00:00:07-00:05:02]   | différentes conditions environnementales   |                                      |
| M-Close-up of subadult feeding<br>MVI_9866.MOV<br>[00:03:01-00:07:12]                 | Pendant lesquelles ils acquièrent des expériences de tout genre,   |                                      |
| Medium shot of subadult feeding<br>MVI_9863.MOV<br>[00:01:07-00:04:10]                | de comment bien se nourrir,  |                                      |
| Medium wide shot of two subadults playfighting<br>MVI_0272.MOV<br>[00:14:02-00:17:11] | au développement d'importantes habiletés de combats.   |                                      |
| Medium wide shot of subadult feeding<br>MVI_0950.MOV<br>[00:03:07-00:08:04]           | Mais les deux sont inutiles si les ressources sont limitées  |                                      |
| Still shot of the viewing area<br>MVI_2055.MOV<br>[00:15:04-00:21:00]                 | Lorsqu'incapable de récolter assez de ressources dans les premières années, les jeunes en souffrent les conséquences jusqu'à l'âge adulte. | [Ocean waves Night From Balcony.wav] |
| Close-up of tired subadult looking at cam<br>MVI_0902.MOV<br>[01:19:13-01:25:19]      | De bonnes conditions sont d'une importance critique pour les mois à venir.   |                                      |

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| <p>Still shot of woods near Secret Meadow</p> <p>MVI_2051.MOV<br/>[00:04:21-00:08:22]</p>                     | <p>Une inondation ou une sécheresse peuvent tout changer.</p>   |                                     |
| <p>Wide shot of sand dunes with Bass strait in the background</p> <p>MVI_2070.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:08:05]</p> | <p>Mais avec les ressources ayant une si grande importance, le climat n'est plus la seule menace pour les jeunes.</p> |                                     |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of subadult looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0876.MOV<br/>[01:13:05-01:18:15]</p>             | <p>L'augmentation du nombre de kangourous peut engendrer de plus gros problèmes chez les juvéniles</p>                |                                     |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of YAF next to sedges</p> <p>MVI_0949.MOV<br/>[00:01:08-00:04:24]</p>                     | <p>puisqu'ils compétitionnent pour une quantité d'herbe limitée.</p>  |                                     |
| <p>Zoom out of picture at high density</p> <p>Picture1.png</p> <p>Time: 10:12</p>                             | <p>À forte densité, les populations d'herbivores comptent plus de mortalités, spécifiquement chez les jeunes.</p>     | <p>[Ambient Sound North Meadow]</p> |
| <p>Medium-wide shot of subadult with burdock on fur</p> <p>MVI_0900.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:03:05]</p>           | <p>Même le peu de juvéniles qui survivent les mauvaises conditions sont</p>   |                                     |

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| <p>Medium shot of subadult lifting head</p> <p>MVI_0899.MOV<br/>[00:10:01-00:15:20]</p>                            | <p>incapables de se développer aussi bien que d'autres issus de bonnes années.</p>                                     |  |
| <p>Medium shot of mother feeding among other kangaroos</p> <p>MVI_0993.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:06:17]</p>             | <p>La densité est une force majeure dans la dynamique des populations. Au milieu des années 2010, plusieurs années</p> |  |
| <p>Close-up of sedges through the wind</p> <p>MVI_1223.MOV<br/>[00:00:05-00:03:17]</p>                             | <p>de forte densité au Parc national du promontoire Wilson</p>   |  |
| <p>Medium shot of wind going through dense bushes in secret meadow</p> <p>MVI_2058.MOV<br/>[00:00:00-00:02:21]</p> | <p>ont coïncidé avec des inondations, suivies d'une</p>  |  |
| <p>Wide shot of sand and trees</p> <p>MVI_2068.MOV<br/>[00:14:01-00:19:08]</p>                                     | <p>sécheresse, causant une diminution de la végétation et beaucoup de morts dans la population de kangourous.</p>      |  |
| <p>Close-up of Juvenile looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_0900.MOV<br/>[03:08:22-03:13:09]</p>                          | <p>Dû à ces événements extrêmes,</p>   |  |

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| <p>Medium-Close up shot of sitting subadult looking at camera</p> <p>MVI_9848.MOV<br/>[00:00:23-00:08:18]</p> | <p>Peu de jeunes ont atteint l'âge adulte. Et la plupart sont restés petits.</p>               |  |
| <p>Wide shot of two females standing behind sedges</p> <p>MVI_0767.MOV<br/>[00:05:20-00:11:11]</p>            | <p>Les kangourous sont reconnus comme une espèce analogue aux ongulés de milieux tempérés.</p> |  |
| <p>3D animation of the Australian continent</p> <p>0001-0100.png<br/>[00:00:00-00:03:03]</p>                  | <p>Mais ils ont évolué sur un continent célèbre pour son climat imprévisible</p>               |  |
| <p>Wide shot of sand dunes above Bidjee Widgee meadow</p> <p>MVI_2072.MOV<br/>[00:11:06-00:14:17]</p>         | <p>De longues périodes de pénuries typiques de l'Australie</p>                                 | <p>ES_The English Affair<br/>STEMS<br/>INSTRUMENTS</p> |
| <p>Wide shot of tall trees moving through bushes</p> <p>MVI_2057.MOV<br/>[00:29:23-00:32:28]</p>              | <p>À des pluies extrêmes et</p>  |  |
| <p>Right pan of study area with mountains in background</p> <p>MVI_0952.MOV</p>                               | <p>Vagues de chaleur qui peuvent décimer leur source de nourriture</p>                         |  |

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| [00:22:19-00:27:22]  |   |  |
| Still shot of ferns in foreground with hopping female in background<br><br>MVI_0710.MOV<br>[00:38:12-00:43:25] | À travers le tout persistent plusieurs populations de kangourous gris de l'Est à travers le pays. |  |
| Still shot of sand gliding down dune<br><br>MVI_2074.MOV<br>[00:06:23-00:11:28]                                | Avec une population totale au-delà de 15 millions.  |  |
| Medium-wide shot of YAF scratching next to mother<br><br>MVI_1118.MOV<br>[00:18:04-00:21:08]                   | Mais, localement, beaucoup de changements   |  |
| Medium shot of subadult standing alert looking at camera<br><br>MVI_0894.MOV<br>[00:05:25-00:09:12]            | ont lieu au sein de populations.  |  |
| Wide shot of YAF standing looking at camera<br><br>MVI_0947.MOV<br>[00:05:11-00:08:04]                         | Cela nous a menés à une question importante:  |  |
| Wide shot of female with PY in foggy morning   | Quels sont les facteurs d'importance dans la dynamique de   |  |

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| MVI_9847.MOV<br>[00:26:13-<br>00:29:24]   | population chez les kangourous?  |  |
| Close up of young Itchy looking below camera<br><br>MVI_0868.MOV<br>[01:44:08-<br>01:46:05] | Puisqu'ils représentent  |  |
| Zoom out Skylapse<br>Skylapse October<br>[F29 <sup>th</sup> .mov<br>[00:00:15-<br>00:07:20] | Une espèce, qui est parvenue à s'adapter à l'un des climats tempérés les plus variables. |  |
| END   |  |  |

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