

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Antarctic Prion

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i> Gmelin, 1789
3	Common name	Antarctic Prion
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

Although the Australian population is substantial, it breeds at only two locations (Vulnerable: D2). The global status is Least Concern but, assuming there is little genetic interchange with other populations, the status of Australian breeding birds is determined independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5,000,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	40 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	150,000	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	2	high
Largest sub-population	100,000	low
Generation time	10 years	medium
Global population share	1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

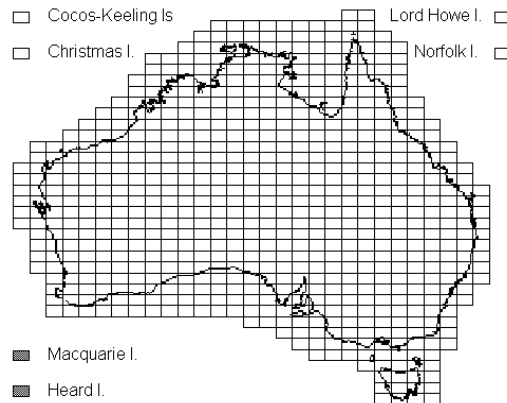
In Australian territory, breeding on Macquarie and Heard Is, with extralimital populations south of Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Presumed to move north when not breeding, but hard to identify at sea (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above. Sub-population on Macquarie I. estimated at 49,000 pairs (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). No estimate for Heard I.

9 Ecology

Antarctic Prions dig burrows among rocks or low vegetation in which to nest. They feed on small crustaceans, particularly euphausiids, plucked from the ocean surface (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



10 Threats

On land cats, rats or elevated numbers of Subantarctic Skuas *Catharacta skua lonnbergi* do not yet appear to have had a major effect on the population on Macquarie I., so may not constitute significant threats. In the marine environment, fishing around subantarctic islands for krill could affect the species and should be monitored.

11 Information required

11.1 Determine trends in numbers.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 A stable or increasing population over a period of decades.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Monitoring of breeding sub-population size and success is continuing periodically at Macquarie I.

13.2 Feral animal control is ongoing at Macquarie I.

14 Management actions required

None.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Australian Antarctic Division, Environment Australia
Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

Antarctic Science Advisory Committee.

