

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Masked Booby (Tasman Sea)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Family | Sulidae |
| 2 | Scientific name | <i>Sula dactylatra fullagari</i> O'Brien and Davies, 1990 |
| 3 | Common name | Masked Booby (Tasman Sea) |
| 4 | Conservation status | |

Australian breeding population Vulnerable: D1+2

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population is very small (Vulnerable: D1) and breeds at fewer than five locations (D2). The global status of the subspecies is also Vulnerable, so any genetic interchange with extralimital populations does not affect local status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	10 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	1,000	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	4	high
Largest sub-population	500	medium
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	90 %	medium
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

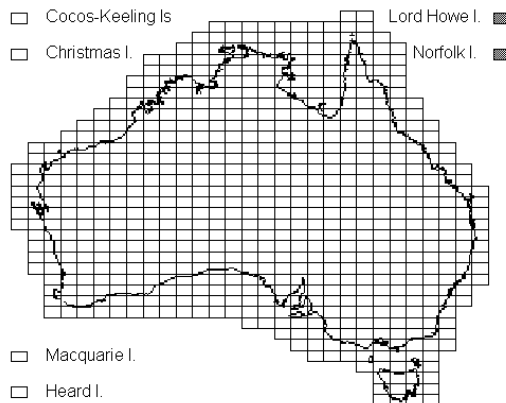
S. d. bedouti (eastern Indian Ocean), which nests on Bedout and Adele Is, W. A., Ashmore Reefs and Cocos-Keeling Is is Vulnerable. *S. d. personata* (western Pacific Is), which nests on islands off Queensland, and three, extralimital subspecies are Least Concern, as is the species. The Tasman Booby "*S. tasmani*" (van Tets *et al.*, 1988) is now thought to have been individuals at the upper size range of *S. d. fullagari* (R. Holdaway).

7 Past range and abundance

Lord Howe I., Norfolk I. and its satellite islands, Phillip and Nepean Is, where it was once very numerous (van Tets *et al.*, 1988). Extraliminally, also occurs on the Kermadec Is. Birds banded on Lord Howe I. recovered east coast of Australia and New Caledonia (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

As above with 2-300 birds on Lord Howe I. (Priddel, 1996), 400 on Norfolk I. and associated offshore stacks (M. Christian, Owen Evans), 200 on Nepean I. and 100 on Phillip I. On the Kermadec Is. there are fewer than 200 (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



9 Ecology

Masked Boobies raise their single young on rocky platforms or other bare ground, feeding offshore for fish or squid (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

10 Threats

Although once numerous, Masked Boobies were all but driven to extinction by hunting for food (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). They still breed on Norfolk and Lord Howe Is, despite the presence of rats and cats. However, birds from one colony on the cliff tops at Norfolk I. were repeatedly disturbed by dogs and people, and many were shot (M. Christian). The largest numbers are now found on offshore islets (Schodde *et al.*, 1983). These are relatively secure, but tourism to Phillip I. could be a threat in the future. The subspecies could be adversely affected at sea by longline fishing. Although they have been seen mating with Australasian Gannets *Morus serrator* (H. McCoy), no evidence of hybridisation has been reported.

11 Information required

11.1 None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Ensure persistence of the population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Census sub-population on Lord Howe I. at least once every five years.

- 14.2 Census sub-population on Phillip, Nepean and Norfolk Is, including offshore stacks, every three years.
- 14.3 Produce and implement protocols to reduce the impact of tourism on Phillip I.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation
Environment Australia, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Norfolk Island Administration.

16 Other organisations involved
Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

<i>Staff resources required 2001-2005</i>	0.05	<i>Project Officer</i> ¹
	0.05	<i>Technical Officer</i> ²
<i>Financial resources required 2001-2005</i>		

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring Lord Howe I.</i> ¹	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
<i>Monitoring Norfolk I.</i> ²	\$2,500	\$500	\$3,000
<i>Total</i>	\$10,500	\$0,500	\$11,000

1. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Woodhen, Grey Ternlet and Pied Currawong

2. Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Little Shearwater, Masked Booby and Grey Ternlet

18 Bibliography

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Marchant, S. and Higgins, P.J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Priddel, D. 1996. The status of seabirds in New South Wales. Pp. 201-208 in G. J. B. Ross, K. Weaver and J. C. Greig (eds) *The Status of Australia's Seabirds: Proceedings of the National Seabird Workshop, Canberra, 1-2 November 1993*. Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia, Canberra.

van Tets, G. F., Meredith, C. W., Fullagar, P. J. and Davidson, P. M. 1988. Osteological differences between *Sula* and *Morus*, and a description of an extinct new species of *Sula* from Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. *Notornis* 35:35-57.

Comments received from

Barry Baker, Margaret Christian, Owen Evans, Honey McCoy, David Priddel.