

COORDINATED CONSERVATION PLAN

Macquarie Island

1 Description

Macquarie I. in the Southern Ocean. Large subantarctic island, largely covered with Herbs and tussock grassland with extensive areas of rocks and scree. Also has rocky stacks offshore and, nearby, the rocky Bishop and Clerk Islets.

2 IBRA Regions

Not applicable.

3 Core taxa

Extinct

Buff-banded Rail (Macquarie Island)

Red-crowned Parakeet (Macquarie Island)

Critically Endangered

Blue Petrel

Wandering Albatross

Endangered

Southern Giant-Petrel

Fairy Prion (southern)

Grey Petrel

Black-browed Albatross

Grey-headed Albatross

Grey-backed Storm-Petrel

Antarctic Tern (New Zealand)

Vulnerable

Gentoo Penguin (subantarctic)

Rockhopper Penguin (eastern)

Royal Penguin

South Georgian Diving-Petrel

Northern Giant-Petrel

White-headed Petrel

Antarctic Prion

Light-mantled Albatross

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (subantarctic)

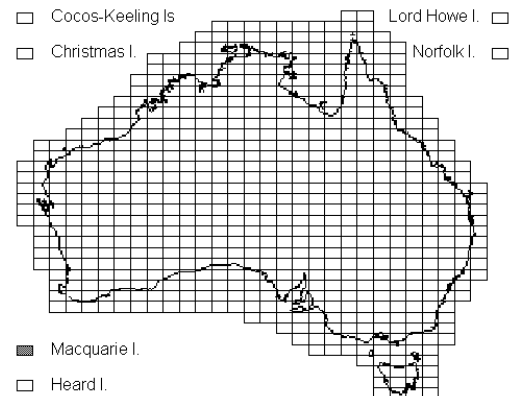
Imperial Shag (Macquarie Island)

Black-faced Sheathbill (Heard Island)

Subantarctic Skua (southern)

Near Threatened

King Penguin



4 Conservation issues

In the past on land cats, Black Rats *Rattus rattus*, Wekas *Gallirallus australis* and rabbits have either preyed on eggs or young or altered the habitat substantially. Wekas have been eliminated and cats and rats greatly reduced in numbers so that some populations can recover but Black Rats remain a problem and continued vigilance is needed for the cats and rabbits until they are eliminated.

Disease could be a problem, particularly for colonial species like penguins, and tourism is a threat to albatrosses and giant-petrels.

Threats at sea include the fishing, climate change and oceanic pollution which can either entangle birds or is swallowed and regurgitated to chicks.

5 Recommended management

- 5.1 Monitor abundance and trends of core taxa at appropriate intervals.
- 5.2 Continue predator control, and extend it to control of rats.
- 5.3 Take measures to prevent establishment of predators, particularly rats, to islands.
- 5.4 Coordinate conservation management at a island-wide level.

6 Organisations responsible for conservation

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

7 Other organisations involved

None.

8 References

Brothers, N. P. 1984. Breeding distribution and status of burrow-nesting petrels at Macquarie Island. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 11:113-131.

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