



COORDINATED CONSERVATION PLAN

Torres Strait

1 Description

Boigu and Saibai Is in the northern Torres Strait, Queensland. These mud islands off the coast of southern Papua New Guinea are vegetated with mangroves below and eucalypt woodland above the high tide line. They share many bird species with New Guinea, where none of the taxa listed here is threatened. Except for the Singing Starling, the same species are also found elsewhere in Australia, but there are 15 species for which separate subspecies are found either side of the Torres Strait. Because the Australian islands on the northern side of Torres Strait are small, these 16 taxa meet the criteria for a Vulnerable listing. However, as the global status of these taxa is Least Concern and genetic interchange is likely to be substantial, the Australian status is downgraded to Near Threatened.

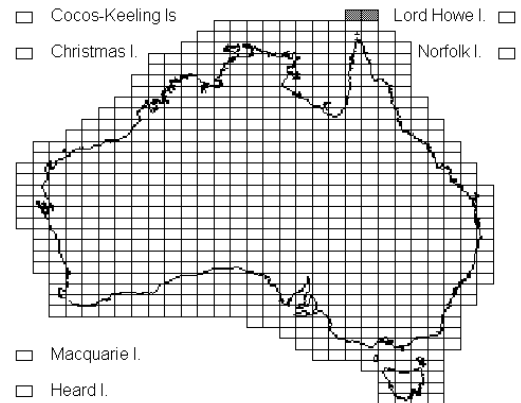
2 IBRA Regions

North-east wet/dry tropics (Cape York Peninsula).

3 Core taxa

Near Threatened

Peaceful Dove (Torres Strait)
 Eclectus Parrot (Torres Strait)
 Little Kingfisher (Torres Strait)
 Large-billed Gerygone (Torres Strait)
 Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (Torres Strait)
 Red-headed Honeyeater (Torres Strait)
 Dusky Honeyeater (Torres Strait)
 Northern Fantail (Torres Strait)
 Willie Wagtail (Torres Strait)
 Spangled Drongo (Torres Strait)
 Frilled Monarch (Torres Strait)
 Leaden Flycatcher (Torres Strait)
 Trumpet Manucode (Torres Strait)
 Black Butcherbird (Torres Strait)
 Torresian Crow (Torres Strait)
 Singing Starling



4 Conservation issues

There are no obvious threats to the birds of the northern Torres Strait, although the effects of rising sea level are unpredictable.

5 Recommended management

- 5.1 Assist island communities, if interested, to set up a small ecotourism business based on the islands' unique avifauna. Monitoring of sub-populations and habitat could then be undertaken by visiting birdwatchers and local rangers.

6 Organisations responsible for conservation

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

7 Other organisations involved

Boigu and Saibai Councils, Island Coordinating Council.

8 References

- Draffan, R. D. W., Garnett, S. T. and Malone, G. J. 1983. Bird of the Torres Strait: An annotated list and biogeographic analysis. *Emu* 83:207-234.
- Gärdenfors, U., Rodríguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.