

TAXON SUMMARY

Cape Gannet

1	Family	Sulidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Morus capensis</i> Lichtenstein, 1823
3	Common name	Cape Gannet
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Vulnerable: D1+ 2

5 Reasons for listing

The population is small enough to be listed as Critically Endangered: D but, because it is a new colonist, its status is downgraded (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999) to match its global status, which is also Vulnerable.

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5,000,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	2 km ²	high
trend	increasing	high
No. of breeding birds	30	medium
trend	increasing	high
No. of sub-populations	2	medium
Generation time	17 years	high
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

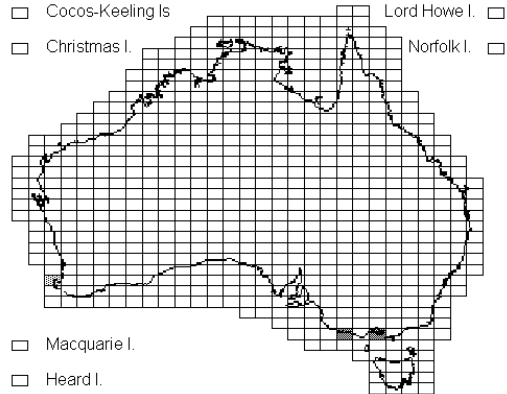
In Australia breeding in Port Phillip Bay, Vic., where first recorded in 1981 (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Norman *et al.*, 1996). Extralimittally, breeds off South Africa, and may have colonised Iles Amsterdam and St Paul (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

Continues to nest on Wedge Light, a navigational beacon within Port Philip Bay, with an additional 10-15 pairs among Australasian Gannets *Morus serrator* at Lawrence Rocks (P. Menkhorst). Extralimittally population in southern Africa 173,000, a decline of 31% since 1956 (Cooper, 2000).

9 Ecology

Cape Gannets feed on fish. A single egg is laid on a mound of guano and seaweed (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Norman *et al.*, 1996).



10 Threats

The principal threat is hybridization with the Australasian Gannet *Sula serrator*, which is occurring at Wedge Light and probably at Lawrence Rocks (Norman *et al.*, 1998, P. Menkhorst). Such hybridization is probably a natural process and may not warrant management intervention but a decision is needed on whether it should be allowed to persist.

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Allow persistence of population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Continue monitoring when possible.

14.2 Develop strategy for managing interaction between Cape and Australasian Gannets.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.0 None

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring</i>	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
<i>Total</i>	\$500	\$500	\$1,000

18 Recommended actions

18.1 Continue opportunistic monitoring.

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19 Bibliography

Cooper, J. 2000. Cape Gannet. Pp 63-64. in Barnes, K. N. (ed) *The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg.

Norman, F. I., Dann, P. and Menkhorst, P. W. 1996. The status of seabirds in Victoria. Pp. 185-200 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.

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.

Comments received from

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