

RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Herald Petrel

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Pterodroma heraldica</i> (Salvin, 1888)
3	Common name	Herald Petrel
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Critically Endangered: D
	Population visiting Australian territory	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population almost certainly contains fewer than 50 mature individuals (Critically Endangered: D). Global status is Least Concern, but there is no evidence to suggest the species is newly arrived or that there is genetic exchange with other sub-populations. The national status of the breeding population is therefore determined independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.* 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	low
Area of occupancy	2 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	low
No. of breeding birds	25	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	1	medium
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described, recently separated from Herald Petrel *P. arminjoniana* of the Indian Ocean (Brooke and Rowe, 1996).

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on Raine I., and possibly other small cays in the Coral Sea, as well as other islands in the Pacific Ocean. Foraging in surrounding waters, mostly south of the equator (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). There are no estimates of former abundance.

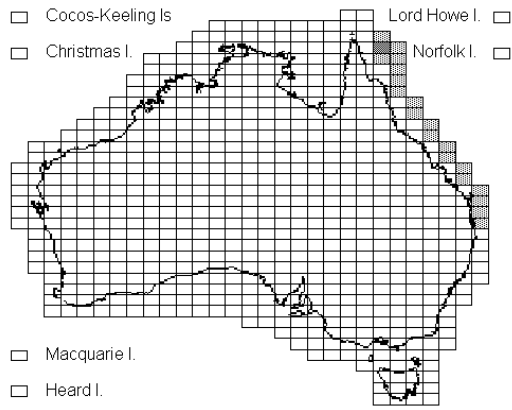
8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above, with the population very small (King, 1984).

9 Ecology

The Herald Petrel nests among shrubs on sand cays (King, 1984), but also in the rainforest on high Pacific Islands. It forages at sea, probably for cephalopods,

though diet is otherwise unknown (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



10 Threats

The tiny population is vulnerable to catastrophe, such as the accidental introduction of predators.

11 Information required

11.1 Determine size and population trends on Raine I. by timing annual visits to coincide with breeding season (Feb. - July).

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain current sub-populations.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

Unknown.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Raine Island Corporation, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Environment Australia.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out  
*Staff resources required 2001-2005*                      0.05                      *Technical Officer*  
*Financial resources required 2001-2005*

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitor Raine I. sub-population.</i>	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
<i>Total</i>	\$5,000	\$0	<b>\$5,000</b>

18 Bibliography

Brooke, M. de L. and Rowe, G. 1996. Behavioural and molecular evidence for specific status of the light and dark morphs of the Herald Petrel *Pterodroma heraldica*. *Ibis* 138:420-432.

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.

King, B. R. 1984. The Herald Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana* breeding on Raine Island. *Emu* 84:246-247.

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

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