

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Masked Booby (eastern Indian Ocean)

1	Family	Sulidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Sula dactylatra bedouti</i> Mathews, 1913
3	Common name	Masked Booby (eastern Indian Ocean)
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable D2). Global status of the subspecies is also probably Vulnerable (C2a) as extralimital breeding colonies are probably hunted for food. Site fidelity is probably high, especially given high rate of subspeciation in Masked Booby, so the immigration rate is assumed to be low. The national status of breeding population is therefore determined independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, is 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	1,600	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	4	medium
Largest sub-population	800	medium
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	80 %	low
Level of genetic exchange	low	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

S. d. fullagari (Tasman Sea), is Vulnerable. *S. d. personata* (western Pacific Is), which nests on islands off Queensland and is sometimes considered to include *S. d. bedouti*, is Least Concern. There are three extralimital subspecies. Globally, the species is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

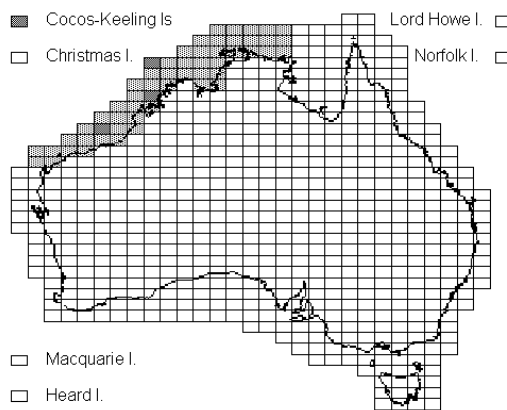
Western Indian Ocean including North Keeling I., Ashmore Reefs (West and Middle), Bedout and Adele I. Extralimitaly also breeding on islands in Indonesia (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

As above. As many as 270 pairs recorded Bedout I. and 400 on Adele I., 1-2 pairs recorded on two islands on Ashmore Reefs (Burbidge *et al.*, 1987, Burbidge and Fuller, 1996), and about 30 pairs on North Keeling I. (Stokes and Goh, 1987).

9 Ecology

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



10 Threats

The sub-population on Ashmore Reefs could be affected by illegal hunting of the birds for food, but there are no other likely threats.

11 Information required

11.1 Assess impact of longline fishing.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 To implement bird-safe fishing practices in the Cocos-Keeling Is. Exclusive Economic Zone (cost covered under albatrosses and giant-petrels, so not listed in table below).

12.2 To ensure persistence of the population.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 All sub-populations monitored during irregular visits.

14 Management actions required

14.1 If necessary, implement management in feeding habitat.

14.2 Through education and other means ensure strict quarantine on North Keeling I.

14.3 Limit access to other breeding islands.

