

# Seabirds of the Pacific Ocean



Partnership for  
nature and people



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



42

seabird species are  
known or suspected to  
breed in the Pacific

17 are Endemic\*

\*taxonomic uncertainty of some



# Endemics



Fiji petrel

Phoenix petrel

Collared petrel

Murphy's petrel

Tahiti petrel

Beck's petrel

Henderson petrel

Polynesian storm petrel

White-necked petrel

Heinroth's shearwater

Christmas shearwater

Rapa shearwater

Grey-backed tern

Little white tern

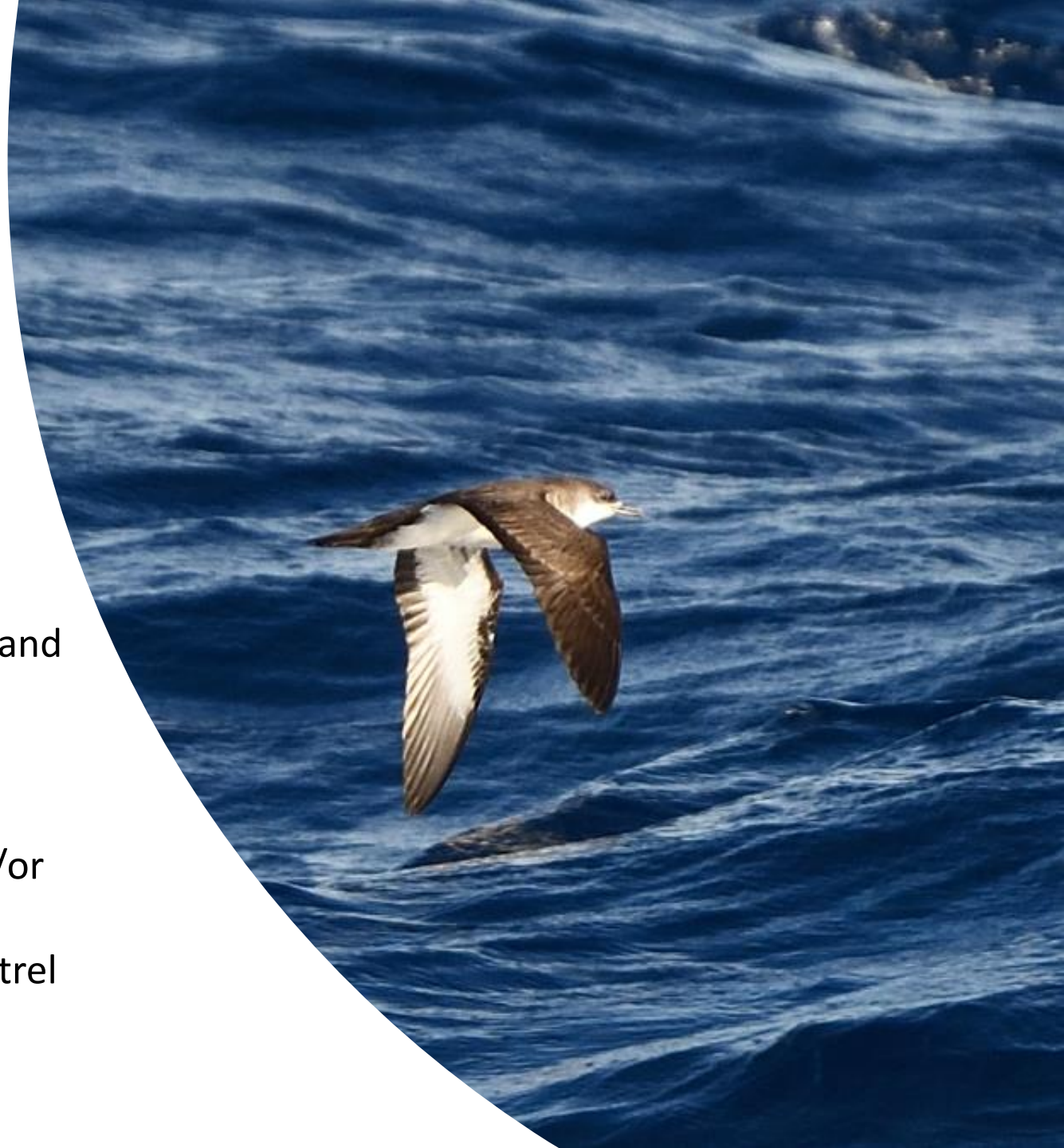
New Caledonian fairy tern

***\*At least three potentially undescribed streaked storm petrel taxa:***


- 'Coral Sea' or 'New Caledonian' Storm-petrel,
  - 'Marquesas' Storm-petrel and
  - 'Samoan' storm petrel
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***\*Taxonomic uncertainty over several taxa***

- Tropical Shearwaters // Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian
- White-necked Petrel and/or Vanuatu Petrel
- Collared Petrel and/or Magnificent Petrel
- White-winged Petrel and/or New Caledonian and/or Gould's Petrel
- White-bellied Storm Petrel and/or Titan Storm-petrel
- Fairy Tern



# Species distribution



Country	Seabirds	Country	Seabirds
American Samoa	18	New Caledonia	?
<b>Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</b>	<b>34</b>	Niue	9
Cook Islands	20	Palau	26
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b>	<b>34</b>	Papua New Guinea	?
Fiji	30	Samoa	9
<b>French Polynesia</b>	<b>40</b>	Solomon Islands	?
Guam	26	Tokelau	4
Kiribati	22	Tonga	22
Marshall Islands	35	Tuvalu	9
Nauru	9	Vanuatu	?
		Wallis and Futuna	21



A satellite-style map of the Pacific Ocean with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Overlaid on the map are numerous thin, colored lines representing migration routes of seabirds. The routes are concentrated in the North Pacific, where they form a dense, tangled network of orange and yellow lines. From there, many routes extend southward, crossing the equator and spreading across the South Pacific. Some routes are colored light blue or cyan, particularly in the southern regions. The lines represent the paths of individual birds, showing both long-distance migrations and more localized movements.

## Species distribution

- Migrations can cover whole oceans
- Millions of seabirds annually migrate across the Pacific ocean
- 60 species recorded in Pacific Island countries



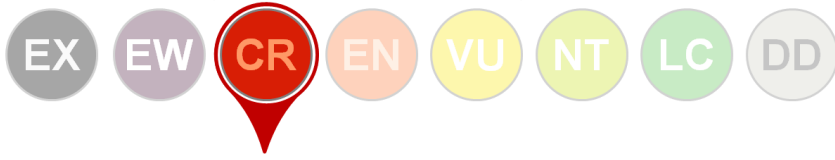


**RED  
LIST**

# Species Conservation Status



Globally Threatened



Critically Endangered

## THREE species are Critically Endangered

- Fiji petrel (*Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*)
- Beck's Petrel (*Pseudobulweria becki*)
- Rapa Shearwater (*Puffinus myrtae*)



Rapa Shearwater



Fiji petrel



Beck's Petrel



Globally Threatened



Endangered



Polynesian Storm Petrel



Phoenix petrel



Henderson Petrel

## THREE species are Endangered

- Henderson petrel (*Pterodroma atrata*)
- Phoenix petrel (*Pterodroma alba*)
- Polynesian storm petrel (*Nesofregetta fuliginosa*)

Globally Threatened



Vulnerable



White-necked Petrel



Heinroth's Shearwater



Collared Petrel



White-winged/Gould's Petrel



New Caledonian Fairy Tern

# FIVE species are **Vulnerable**

- White-necked Petrel (*Pterodroma cervicalis*)
- Collared Petrel (*Pterodroma brevipes*)
- White-winged/Gould's Petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera*)
- Heinroth's Shearwater (*Puffinus heinrothi*)
- New Caledonian Fairy Tern (*Sternula nereis exsul*)



Globally Threatened



Near Threatened

# ONE species is Near Threatened

- Tahiti Petrel (*Pseudobulweria rostrata*)





Land and sea





# Land-based threats

- Invasive predator species
- Habitat modification
- Unsustainable harvesting
- Light pollution (causing disorientation and collisions)
- Climate change
- Disease

# Marine threats

- Incidental bycatch in fisheries
- Disruption to foraging opportunities
- Plastic pollution
- Marine activities – oil spills, deep sea mining, light pollution
- Climate change







**CRITICAL  
CONSERVATION**

# Cultural & Social importance

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Traditionally harvested species :

- Collared petrel
- Tern eggs
- Wedge-tailed shearwater...

Navigation and culturally significant totems

Tourism & income generation





# Ecosystem engineers

- Alter soil qualities (guano & burrowing)
- Influence island vegetation
- Influence biological communities
- Improve nearshore marine & coral reef health and productivity
- Climate resilience





# Seabird Action Plan

- Knowledge expansion
- Protect sites (cross cutting benefits)
- Address key threats (cross cutting benefits)
- Honour and revitalise traditional guardianship & management practices
- Build capacity



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**Thank you!**

