

TAXON SUMMARY

1	Family	Gruidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Grus antigone gillae</i> Schodde 1988
3	Common name	Sarus Crane (Australian)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

The population of this subspecies exceeds 3,000 individuals and may be increasing.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	500,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	150,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	10,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	20 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

Two other subspecies are found in southern Asia where decline sufficient for global status of species to be Vulnerable.

7 Past range and abundance

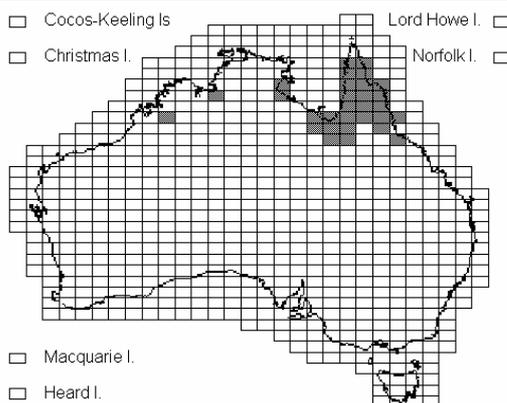
North Queensland, breeding in coastal regions of Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula, with some birds moving to Atherton Tablelands during non-breeding season. Also, a few records from Kimberley and Northern Territory and as far south as Townsville in Queensland (Marchant and Higgins, 1993).

8 Present range and abundance

As above. Roosting flocks on Atherton Tablelands have totalled over 2,000 individuals. No trends have been detected since monitoring began in 1998 (E. Scambler).

9 Ecology

Sarus Cranes occur in seasonally wet woodlands and grasslands. Most birds are found in coastal regions, but part of the population moves to agricultural land in the dry season, roosting beside nearby wetlands, many of them artificial. Sarus Cranes lay two eggs on a platform of vegetation in grassy sites within woodland. They feed on a range of seeds and small animals (Marchant and Higgins, 1993).



10 Threats

There are no imminent threats, though favoured grassy habitat is being invaded by woody shrubs in parts of the subspecies' range (Crowley and Garnett, 1998).

11 Recommended actions

11.1 Continue counts on Atherton Tablelands.

12 Bibliography

Crowley, G. M. and Garnett, S. T. 1998. Vegetation change in the grasslands and grassy woodlands of central Cape York Peninsula. *Pac. Conserv. Biol.* 4:132-148.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1993. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 2. Raptors to Lapwings*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

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