

Recommendations from the Birdlife-SPREP Birds Meeting Alotau, Papua New Guinea 20 Oct. 2007

Background

The Pacific region holds the world's highest proportion of Critically Endangered and Endangered birds and the risk of extinction is increasing. The main threats to the region's avifauna are invasive alien species and habitat loss, especially from deforestation, which also threaten island ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods.

The first Birdlife/SPREP Birds Meeting in Fiji in 2005 recommended that SPREP's Regional Avifaunal Strategy be incorporated into the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation Strategy and that BirdLife's IBA process should [\[from Suva Dec\]](#) and that a Bird's sub-group be established, chaired by BirdLife, under the Roundtable's Threatened Species' Working Group.

The second Birdlife/SPREP Birds Meeting in Alotau in 2007 reviewed the conservation status of Pacific birds based on studies conducted by BirdLife International Pacific Partnership, SPREP and Government agencies, and makes the following recommendations for inclusion in the new Action Strategy:

1. Urgent, coordinated action against invasive alien species is required to prevent imminent extinctions of threatened birds.
2. Networks of protected and sustainably managed areas are critical for the conservation of the region's avifauna and wider biodiversity; Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) should be used to set priorities to guide the development of such networks.
3. Birds should be used to promote conservation and engage communities because of their traditional, cultural and economic values.