

## Conservation advice

This Conservation Advice has been developed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee based on the best available information regarding the conservation status and threats to this species at the time of listing.

However, this Conservation Advice should only be used as a guide for identifying priority conservation actions for this species, and is intended only as an interim measure prior to the development of a Recovery Plan.

The Tiwi Islands Masked Owl is a large owl found only on the Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory. The species is considered to exist as one population occurring in two locations – Bathurst and Melville Islands.

It is reasonably widespread on both islands, particularly in the higher rainfall areas of north-west Melville Island, where eucalypt forests are tallest and there are many small patches of monsoon rainforest (Woinarski *et al.* 2003a).

The key threats to the Tiwi Islands Masked Owl are inappropriate fire regimes, which in turn has led to changes in the vegetation structure; the spread of invasive weeds on the Islands; and the loss or degradation of suitable habitat through structural and floristic change.

Any recovery actions will need to be undertaken in consultation with the collaboration of the Tiwi Land Council.

The priority recovery and threat abatement actions required for this species are:

- control weeds at sites considered to be important habitat for the species and minimise activities that promote weed invasion.
- encourage appropriate burning regimes across the known range of the species.
- undertake the activities outlined in the Northern Territory's national multi-species recovery plan which includes the Masked Owl (Tiwi Islands).

This list does not encompass all actions that may be of benefit to this species, but highlights those that are considered to be of the highest priority at the time of listing.

**Priority for the development of recovery plan:** There is an adopted recovery plan for this species.

Associate Professor Robert J.S. Beeton

Chair

Threatened Species Scientific Committee