

Saving our Species project 2014-15 annual report card

Little Tern

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
NSW status:	Endangered
Commonwealth status:	Not listed
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: Keith Egan

Overall project status*



Stable or increasing population trend for all key management sites



Population trend not determined for some key management sites; too early to determine overall status



Decreasing population trend for at least one key management site; project review triggered

*For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Project summary

Key management sites:	Towra Point; Tathra; Bongil Bongil; Lake Wollumboola; Tuross Brou; Hearn's Lake; Wallagoot Lake; Yuraygir South; Manning River; Conjola; Nambucca Heads
Action implementation:	67 of 73 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$248,878 (cash and in-kind)
Project partners:	Coffs Harbour City Council; North Coast Local Land Services; North Coast Shorebirds; Office of Environment and Heritage; South Coast Shorebirds; Trade & Investment NSW - Crown Lands

Management site 1: Towra Point

LGA: Rockdale; Sutherland; Sydney Harbour And Botany Bay (Unincorporated)

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
18 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$25,174

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Overgrowth / encroachment of weedy vegetation into nesting areas.	Monitor target weed density using methodologies outlined in the monitoring manual for Bitou Bush control and native plant recovery (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/pestsweeds/09352MManualStandardTier.pdf)	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Overgrowth / encroachment of weedy vegetation into nesting areas.	Physical and chemical control of weeds over approximately 2ha of potential nesting habitat.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 2: Tathra

LGA: Bega Valley

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
58 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$8,742

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 3: Bongil Bongil

LGA: Bellingen; Coffs Harbour; Nambucca

Project partners: North Coast Shorebirds; Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
7 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
North Coast Shorebirds	\$6,300
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$24,622

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 4: Lake Wollumboola

LGA: Shoalhaven

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage; South Coast Shorebirds

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
34 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
South Coast Shorebirds	\$13,200
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$54,204

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 5: Tuross Brou

LGA: Eurobodalla

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
50 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$6,304

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 6: Hearnese Lake

LGA: Coffs Harbour

Project partners: Coffs Harbour City Council; North Coast Shorebirds; Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
16 breeding pairs (average)	Q] ^ { ^ } œ œ } Á œ dal [: Á [t œ Á œ } ^ ä Á	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Coffs Harbour City Council	\$4,290
North Coast Shorebirds	\$4,620
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$26,622

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Assess habitat condition and proximity to high-water mark	Not required
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Implementation partial or not as planned
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Need to monitor nests and elevate nests where threatened by inundation. Requires physically building up nest sites using sand (taking before and after photos). Known to be successful.	Not required
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Implementation partial or not as planned
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Implementation partial or not as planned

Site summary

Actions implemented in-part (as required).

Management site 7: Wallagoot Lake

LGA: Bega Valley

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
0	Not required	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$0

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Not required
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Not required
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Not required

Site summary

Site was monitored but no birds used the site this season.

Management site 8: Yuraygir South

LGA: Clarence Valley; Coffs Harbour

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage



Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
9 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$8,366

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Assess habitat condition and proximity to high-water mark.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Need to monitor nests and elevate nests where threatened by inundation. Requires physically building up nest sites using sand (taking before and after photos). Known to be successful.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 9: Manning River

LGA: Greater Taree

Project partners: North Coast Local Land Services; North Coast Shorebirds; Office of Environment and Heritage; Trade & Investment NSW - Crown Lands

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
83 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
North Coast Local Land Services	\$3,333
North Coast Shorebirds	\$1,667
Trade & Investment NSW - Crown Lands	\$667
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$19,064

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Need to monitor nests and elevate nests where threatened by inundation. Requires physically building up nest sites using sand (taking before and after photos). Known to be successful.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Nesting at flood-prone locations.	Assess habitat condition and proximity to high-water mark	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented.

Management site 10: Conjola

LGA: Shoalhaven

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage; South Coast Shorebirds

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
46 breeding pairs (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
South Coast Shorebirds	\$7,934
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$18,364

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Monitor for evidence of direct disturbance on the species at the sites.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Monitoring of fox activity as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate.	Yes
Silver gulls / ravens depredating and disturbing nests, reducing reproductive success / recruitment.	Monitor impacts of silver gulls and ravens on individual nest-sites and reactively control via appropriate method (e.g. egg destruction / poisoning / shooting) when/where required to minimise frequency of nest predation.	Yes
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented in full.

Management site 11: Nambucca Heads

LGA: Nambucca

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
7 breeding pair (average)	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Not determined

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$15,405

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2014-15 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Predation of eggs and chicks by foxes, dogs, cats, black rats, silver gulls, ravens and raptors.	Implement fox control as per the fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the site.	Yes
Disturbance to coastal feeding, nesting and roosting areas through beach-combing, fishing, dog-walking, horse-riding and 4WD vehicles; parents often leave the nest when approached, resulting in exposure of chicks or eggs.	Beach warden to coordinate continuous monitoring of known nesting sites and protect from / monitor human disturbance effects during the breeding season. Position also responsible for maintaining nest protection infrastructure (cages, fences) and promoting community awareness of the effects of disturbance on the species.	Yes

Site summary

All actions implemented.