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## CONSERVATION

Of the 21 species of cockatoo, six are considered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to face a high risk of extinction in the short to medium term. Up-to-date reviews of the conservation status of a number of other species are likely to demonstrate that they are similarly threatened. Within Australia, the species most at risk are those reliant upon large old trees for nesting and native canopy seedbanks for food. These mainland species have been adversely affected by the clearing and degradation of native vegetation since European settlement. Habitat loss is also a significant factor in the decline of island cockatoo species, which have also been subjected to unsustainable levels of trapping for the pet bird trade. These twin threats have pushed some island species to the edge of extinction. Global warming is an emerging threat for all cockatoos. Ensuring their long-term survival involves effectively managing processes that threaten their survival in the wild.

### **Habitat loss**

The loss and fragmentation of habitat is one of the major threats facing Australian cockatoos. The South-eastern Red-tailed Cockatoo and Carnaby's Cockatoo are endangered largely due to the conversion of forests and woodlands to grazing and cropping land. Long-term monitoring of Carnaby's Cockatoo populations has shown that their decline is closely linked to the clearing of nesting and foraging habitat at the end of the 20th century. The fragmentation of remaining habitat exacerbates the situation. Some patches are so isolated that foraging birds do not encounter them. Others cannot be used because they are too far from other critical resources. The clearance of Drooping Sheoak woodland resulted in the disappearance of Glossy Cockatoos from mainland South Australia, and the clearing of Belah and Drooping Sheoak woodlands in New South Wales