

# Solar eco systems Heard and McDonald Islands

Why are Heard Island and McDonald Islands vulnerable?

Heard Island and McDonald Islands and the surrounding ocean ecosystem are subject to various pressures due to their isolation, unique geography, and vulnerability. This report describes these pressures including from climate change, pollution, tourism, scientific research, and fisheries.

Who manages the Heard & McDonald Islands?

The islands are administered under the Heard and McDonald Islands Act of 1953 and the Environment Protection and Management Ordinance of 1987 by the Antarctic Division of the national Department of Tourism, Arts & Environment (formerly the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism & Territories, DASETT).

Where are the Heard and McDonald Islands located?

The Heard and McDonald Islands are remote subantarctic volcanic features located in the Southern Ocean, halfway between Australia and South Africa. They are approximately 1700 km from the Antarctic continent and 4000 km southwest of mainland Australia (Australian Government 2016). Heard Island is 43 km long and 21 km wide.

Are there seabirds in Heard Island and McDonald Islands?

The inshore fishes of Heard and McDonald Islands, Southern Indian Ocean. Journal of Fish Biology 23: 283-292. Woehler, E. (1991). Status and conservation of the seabirds of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands. In Croxall, J. (ed.), Seabird Status and Conservation: A Supplement. ICBP Technical Publication No. 11.

How big is Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

The group's overall land area is 372 km<sup>2</sup> (144 sq mi) and it has 101.9 km (63 mi) of coastline. Discovered in the mid-19th century, the islands lie on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean and have been an Australian territory since 1947. Heard Island and McDonald Islands contain Australia's only two active volcanoes.

Why is Heard Island a World Heritage Site?

Heard Island and McDonald Islands is listed on the World Heritage List for its outstanding geological features, and its wildlife and ecological values. The waters of the Territory sit atop the vast Kerguelen Plateau which stretches south to Antarctica, and much of which is part of Australia's extended continental shelf.

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**HEARD AND MCDONALD ISLANDS AUSTRALIA** Heard Island and the McDonald Islands are in the Southern Ocean, approximately 4,100 km south-west of Perth and 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent. Their distinctive conservation value is as one of the world's rare pristine island ecosystems which have virtually no ...

There are no other known alien plant species established on Heard island. However there maybe new arrivals or remote populations that have gone undetected. There has not been a comprehensive survey of the terrestrial ecosystem on Heard Island since 2003/4. The likelihood of colonisation (human or

conservation values of Heard Island and McDonald Islands and their adjacent unique and vulnerable marine ecosystems. The Reserve was expanded in 2014 to include additional marine areas of high

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Island and McDonald Islands group show unique evolutionary adaptations to the environment, and several other invertebrate groups provide opportunities to study evolutionary processes in undisturbed populations at the southern limits

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Five species of vascular plant occur on McDonald Islands and 11 on Heard Island . The isolation of the plant communities, combined with the increasing growth of habitat resulting from glacial retreat, makes Heard Island of significance for the study of plant colonization (UNEP/WCMC 2008).

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