



# *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels*

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Achievements in the  
First Ten Years 2004 – 2014



### Require further information?

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# PREFACE

This booklet has been produced by the ACAP Secretariat and the Advisory Committee's Officials based on the inputs of ACAP Parties to mark the 10 year anniversary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Its purpose is to identify the main achievements of the Agreement and its Parties in improving the conservation status of the species listed in Annex 1, as well as to identify the key challenges remaining in its implementation.

The reports in this booklet reveal the significant progress made by ACAP Parties in addressing threats to the survival of albatrosses and petrels, both on land and at sea. This work has been complemented by the activities of many non-Party Range States, such as Canada, Japan and the United States of America, who have actively participated in and supported the work of the Agreement, even though they are not signatories to it at this point in time. The active support of non-governmental organisations such as American Bird Conservancy, BirdLife International, Humane Society International, Pro Delphinus, Projeto Albatroz, Southern Seabird Solutions and World Wildlife Fund amongst others, has also been instrumental in the success that has been achieved in improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels globally.

The Agreement has played a crucial role in bringing together a global network of researchers and managers to identify threats to albatrosses and petrels, to prioritize conservation actions and to find effective solutions to them. Through the work of its Seabird Bycatch Working Group, it has identified effective measures that can be taken to prevent the bycatch of seabirds in longline and trawl fisheries, which together pose the greatest at-sea threat to the survival of many albatrosses and petrels. Similarly, ACAP's Population and Conservation Status Working Group has developed guidelines that identify best-practice methods to address land-based threats at the breeding sites of these species.

Significant progress has been achieved at some important breeding sites, where large-scale pest eradication programmes have been completed. The success of these programmes has in some cases been immediately noticeable, with a number of species returning to breed on these islands following the successful completion of the pest eradication

programmes. Threats from disease and introduced pests still threaten the survival of some species and it is important that the work of ACAP Parties continues at these breeding sites in the years ahead until these threats are addressed.

The Agreement has also been instrumental in coordinating the development of effective seabird conservation measures in both domestic and high seas fisheries, in the latter case, through its Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) engagement strategy. As a result of this work, many of the RFMOs whose fisheries overlap with the foraging areas of albatrosses and petrels have now adopted seabird conservation measures, based on ACAP's best practice advice.

The challenge remains however to see the effective implementation of the conservation measures that have now been adopted. A lack of data has made it difficult to evaluate the extent to which these conservation measures have been implemented in many fisheries. To achieve ACAP's objective of achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status of albatrosses and petrels, it is essential that effective observer programmes and/or electronic monitoring programmes be put in place. The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which has 100% observer coverage in its longline fishing operations, has proven that the reduction of seabird bycatch to nil or negligible levels is possible in high seas fisheries.

ACAP's focus in the coming years must be to see this success replicated in other fisheries, to continue its work in addressing threats at breeding sites and to seek the active participation of those Range States who are not yet engaged in its work.

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**APRIL 2015**

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# Introduction to ACAP

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)<sup>1</sup> is a multilateral agreement that seeks to achieve a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels, primarily by coordinating and undertaking international activity to mitigate known threats to their populations.

Development of the Agreement commenced in 1999 and was concluded rapidly. Only two preparatory meetings – held in Hobart, Australia, and Cape Town, South Africa – were required and were attended by 16 countries and five international organizations. ACAP was opened for signature in Canberra, Australia on 19 June 2001 and entered into force on 1 February 2004, at which time all Southern Hemisphere species of albatrosses and seven petrel species were listed under its auspices. Currently (February 2015), there are 13 Parties to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uruguay (see Appendix 1). ACAP is supported by a Secretariat located in Hobart (Tasmania, Australia).

The First Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP1) was convened in November 2004 in Hobart. A key outcome was the establishment of an Advisory Committee to guide the implementation of the Agreement. The Advisory Committee is supported by three working groups on Population and Conservation Status, Seabird Bycatch, and Taxonomy. Sessions of the Meeting of Parties (MoP) are held at three-year intervals, with the Advisory Committee and its working groups meeting in each of the two intervening years.

## Species protected under ACAP

Although ACAP's initial focus was to protect 26 Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels, Parties agreed in 2009 and 2012 to include the three North Pacific species of albatrosses and a Mediterranean species of petrel, respectively. The 30 species now protected under ACAP are listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement (see Appendix 2). ACAP-listed species have global threat statuses according to IUCN of Critically Endangered (four species), Endangered (five species), Vulnerable (11 species), Near Threatened (eight species) and Least Concern (two species).<sup>2</sup>

## Main threats to Albatrosses and Petrels

The most significant threat facing albatrosses and petrels is mortality arising from interactions with fishing gear, especially in longline and trawl fishing operations. Many species are also threatened at their breeding sites by introduced predators, diseases, habitat loss or human disturbance. ACAP has developed a range of materials, including best practice guidelines, to assist Parties and Range States in addressing these threats.

ACAP provides a focus for international cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise. The Action Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement) provides a framework for the implementation of effective conservation measures to address threats to seabirds, both on land and at sea.

In addition to individual nations taking measures to protect albatrosses and petrels, international cooperative action is also required. Albatrosses and petrels are susceptible to threats operating throughout their very wide foraging ranges, which extend across national boundaries and into international waters, and actions by any one nation alone are not sufficient to safeguard their populations. International cooperation on albatross and petrel conservation greatly enhances the prospects for successful conservation measures across their ranges.

1. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, done 19 June 2001, 2258 UNTS 257 (entered into force 1 February 2004).  
2. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014.

# ACAP's achievements

ACAP and its Parties have made significant achievements to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels in the decade since ACAP entered into force, by working collectively and individually, and through cooperation with other countries and inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. Notable in this last category is Birdlife International and its affiliate organisations that have played a major role in ACAP since its inception. The most significant achievements and future challenges are summarised below for the Agreement and, in later sections, for each Party.

## Global outlook

As a broad, global indicator of the task facing ACAP, the table below summarises the threat status of the 30 species listed at February 2015.

**TABLE 1:** ACAP-listed species by level of threat according to IUCN Red List 2014 (for more details of these species and their population trends, refer to Appendix 1)

Level of threat	Albatross species	Petrel species
Critically Endangered	3	1
Endangered	5	0
Vulnerable	7	4
Near Threatened	7	1
Least Concern	0	2

## Achievements

Significant achievements by ACAP and its Advisory Committee (AC) from 2004 to 2014 include:

- Undertaking a range of activities to engage with fishers and fishery managers to assist them in identifying and mitigating threats to ACAP-listed species in fishing operations. Achievements in this regard include:
  - adoption of seabird conservation measures, based on ACAP's best practice advice, by many of the regional fisheries management organisations whose fisheries are known to have bycatch mortalities of ACAP-listed species. This has been achieved through the submission of papers to, and attendance at, scientific, technical and other meetings of these international organisations to negotiate the adoption of these conservation measures.
- Disseminating specialist information on feasible and effective measures that can be taken to prevent seabird bycatch in pelagic and demersal longline fishing operations, as well as in trawl and other fisheries. This information has been used by many ACAP Parties and non-Party Range States in the adoption and implementation of effective seabird conservation measures in their fisheries.
- Setting up a comprehensive, online database on management of breeding sites, threats, population size, bycatch rates and other information used to review progress in research and conservation, and prioritise the work of ACAP.
- Establishing a permanent Secretariat, headquartered in Hobart, in 2008 and developing a range of administrative documents essential to the operations of ACAP, including a Headquarters Agreement with Australia to host the Secretariat, Staff Regulations; Financial Regulations; Rules of Procedure for the MoP and AC; and a rolling triennial Work Program.

- Regular reviews of the population status and trends of all ACAP-listed species.
- Producing and maintaining Species Assessments that summarise the most recent scientific information for ACAP-listed species. These assessments provide up-to-date data on each species' distribution, population status and trends, threats facing individual populations at breeding sites and at sea, conservation measures in place to protect them, and any gaps in knowledge about the species.
- Developing and regularly reviewing best practice advice to fishers and fisheries managers on mitigation measures to avoid or minimise bycatch of ACAP-listed species by different methods of fishing operations.
- Developing Conservation Guidelines on biosecurity management and quarantine for breeding sites to assist with the development of plans to eradicate introduced vertebrates from breeding sites of ACAP species and to prevent their reintroduction.
- Developing an identification guide to dead seabirds to improve the accuracy of information on seabirds killed in fisheries.
- Developing advice on the removal of hooks from seabirds.
- Preparing advice and guidelines to assist with the development and implementation of plans to count surface-nesting and burrow-nesting ACAP species.
- Assisting Ecuador and Peru in developing a Conservation Action Plan for the Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) of Ecuador's Galapagos Islands.
- Funding 39 research and secondment projects as capacity building initiatives to the value of AUD 580 000.
- Developing a close, cooperative relationship with inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations relevant to, or with an interest in, seabird conservation. A highlight has been the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with four fisheries management organisations to enhance cooperation and information exchange between them and ACAP.
- Recommending a standard, revised taxonomy for albatrosses – overcoming several taxonomic disputes. This revised taxonomy has been widely accepted by nations and international organisations, including Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- Increasing awareness among the concerned public by way of over 2000 news stories dealing with albatross and petrel conservation and research posted to the ACAP website since 2006, and by daily postings to ACAP's Facebook page, currently with 1900 members.
- Gaining global recognition as the pre-eminent source of expertise and information on albatrosses and petrels listed under ACAP.

## Future challenges for ACAP

ACAP has as its objective achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. Much more still needs to be accomplished before this objective is achieved. Key challenges include:

- Securing the adoption and effective implementation of best-practice bycatch mitigation measures in all national, regional and international fisheries where significant seabird bycatch is occurring. Particular priorities include high seas longline fisheries for tuna, and trawl fisheries that overlap with the foraging areas of ACAP-listed species.
- Obtaining further data on where and in what numbers seabirds have been and are being bycaught in fisheries operations, including artisanal fisheries, in order to improve the effectiveness of conservation measures.
- Seeking the active involvement of, and accession to ACAP, of Range States (i.e. those States whose fishers overlap with ACAP-listed species and or which have jurisdiction over breeding sites) that are not currently Parties to ACAP or are not participating in the Agreement's work.
- Increasing the level of resources and expertise available to implement priority conservation actions in the ACAP Action Plan and the AC's Work Plan including:
  - further eradication of introduced pests at breeding sites
  - wider implementation of bycatch mitigation measures, especially in priority conservation areas where large concentrations of ACAP species frequently forage
  - further improvements to bycatch mitigation measures to make them more effective and easier and cheaper for fishers to use.
- Improving knowledge of at-sea distribution, and of threats at breeding sites including from introduced species and disease,
- Undertaking censuses of populations to update and improve the accuracy of some older datasets and to fill population data gaps.
- ACAP is well-placed to meet these future challenges. There is strong cooperation among Parties in addressing conservation threats to albatrosses and petrels. The Agreement enjoys a growing international reputation as the source of best and improving practices and advice about conserving these species. There is increasing support among Range States and regional and international organisations for the work of the Agreement.





# Argentina

Signed ACAP 19 January 2004  
Ratified 29 August 2006

Some of the world's largest albatross and petrel concentrations can be found foraging in Argentine waters, attracted by the rich nutrients of the powerful Malvinas Current sweeping over the extensive continental shelf. While Argentine waters are attractive to seabirds – 10 ACAP species forage or breed there – they also attract fishers, a potentially fatal mix. Argentina's introduction of compulsory seabird bycatch mitigation measures in its major fisheries, a Seabird National Plan of Action, education programs for fishers on how to avoid seabird bycatch, and protection of breeding sites are critical steps that Argentina has taken in some areas of its national territory in order to restore ACAP-listed species to a favourable conservation status. However, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Agreement has not been possible due to the occupation of Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur) by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.<sup>3</sup>

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented the National Program for the Conservation of Southern Giant Petrel to protect breeding grounds, including measures to prevent possible threats to these sites.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created coastal protected areas (Southern Patagonia Inter-jurisdictional Coastal Park) and marine protected areas (Namuncurá - Burdwood Bank) for the conservation of marine biodiversity, including ACAP-listed species.</li> <li>Developing management plans for these protected areas.</li> <li>Managing within the Global Environment Facility (GEF) the <i>Strengthening Project for the Management and Protection of Marine Biodiversity in Key Ecological Areas and the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fishing</i>, boosting domestic initiatives and plans related to seabird conservation.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a Seabird National Plan of Action to reduce the interaction of sea birds in Argentinean fisheries.</li> <li>Introduced compulsory use of mitigation measures in deep-sea longline fisheries.</li> <li>Identified and evaluated high ecological risks to specific species from specific fleets in demersal longline and trawl fisheries.</li> <li>Recently launched a pilot study in order to test the logistics required to implement bird-scaring lines in freezer trawlers.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified key areas for the conservation of the Black-browed Albatross and the Southern Giant Petrel using satellite telemetry. This information is being used for fisheries management.</li> <li>Tested seabird-scaring lines to reduce bycatch from trawling fleets.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted training programs for fishers, including on sea bird identification and awareness of bycatch and bycatch mitigation measures.</li> </ul>





Marco Favero



Marco Favero



Marco Favero



Marco Favero

## Implementation

- The implementation of the Agreement has been described in each of the above points.

## Challenges

- Finalising and adopting safe, practical and effective mitigation measures to reduce bycatch in fisheries.
- Developing and implementing management plans for recently created marine and coastal protected areas.
- Coordinating the existing plans of action, aligning them with the various initiatives by different institutions and within several jurisdictions.

3. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

# Australia

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 4 October 2001

Of the 30 albatrosses and petrels species listed under ACAP, 22 species forage or breed in Australian jurisdiction, including the endemic *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross). Australia played a leading role in the establishment of ACAP, following the discovery by Australian researchers that unsustainable losses were occurring to local populations of seabirds, due to their bycatch in longline fishing operations. Implementation of successive Threat Abatement Plans for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations, and national Recovery Plans for threatened albatrosses and giant petrels, have resulted in near-zero mortality in Australian longline fisheries for many years. A seven year program that eradicated rabbits, rats and mice from Macquarie Island is a major conservation milestone. Australia's pioneering research into methods of avoiding seabird bycatch has been influential globally, particularly concerning ways to mitigate seabird bycatch in longline fisheries.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully eradicated rabbits, rats, and mice from Macquarie Island in a seven year, AUD 25m project, which included three years of comprehensive searching and monitoring after the initial baiting and hunting phases. At 12 875 ha, Macquarie Island was (then) the largest island eradication project attempted and much valuable information has been gained to improve other such projects.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented protected area arrangements, including visitor entry limitations, for all Australian breeding colonies of ACAP-listed species.</li> <li>All Australian fisheries are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis that aims to maintain ecological relationships and provide for the needs of non-target species.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All ACAP species occurring in Australia are listed as protected species under Australian legislation and their deliberate or accidental take or killing is prohibited.</li> <li>Implemented successive Threat Abatement Plans that have reduced seabird mortality in Australian pelagic and demersal longline fisheries to low or near-zero levels.</li> <li>Progressively implementing successive Recovery Plans for all threatened albatross and giant petrel populations that incorporate detailed priority conservation actions.</li> <li>Developed and implementing a Threat Abatement Plan on the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life, including impacts on seabirds.</li> <li>Strongly and persistently advocated the adoption of new and improved bycatch mitigation methods in regional fisheries management organisations to which Australia is a Party.</li> </ul>



Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service



Alexis Terauds

Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaken annual long term population monitoring programs for seven ACAP species on Macquarie Island and additional monitoring following the successful pest eradication program.</li> <li>• Undertaken extensive research on the foraging ecology of several ACAP species breeding in Australia.</li> <li>• Implemented scientific observer programs in all longline fisheries with prescribed data collection on seabird bycatch.</li> <li>• Undertaken extensive and innovative research on new and improved methods of mitigating seabird bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries, including development of improved line weighting prescriptions; an automated underwater bait setting device; safer, cheaper designs for line weights; and approaches for avoiding warp strikes in trawl fisheries.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaken regular education programs for fishers on the need to avoid seabird bycatch, and to provide advice about best mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Provided a range of educational information for the public, including through the National Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian scientists and other professionals have provided extensive support to the AC including as convenors/co-convenor of its working groups.</li> <li>• Provided scientific expertise and funding to support projects for other Parties, including population censuses and development of scientists.</li> <li>• Hosted the ACAP Secretariat in Hobart, Tasmania.</li> <li>• Acted as the Depositary Government for ACAP.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Extending seabird bycatch mitigation in Australian fisheries from longline fishing to other fishing methods, particularly to trawl and gillnet fisheries.
- Maintaining the pest free status of Macquarie Island and other breeding sites in Australian jurisdiction.
- Achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for Australia's endemic Shy Albatross.
- Better understanding risks to each ACAP species throughout its range and securing the commitment and resources necessary to mitigate these risks in a timely manner.
- Improving the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, including those breeding in Australia, especially by improved mitigation of bycatch in trans-boundary and high seas fisheries.

## Brazil

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 3 September 2008

Brazil was an early supporter of ACAP's development, being a founding signatory and hosting the second meeting of ACAP's Advisory Committee in 2006. Eight ACAP species forage in the extensive and nutrient rich waters off Brazil, including the Critically Endangered Tristan Albatross. Brazil has extensive fisheries and its National Plan of Action on Seabirds emphasises widespread implementation of effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures based on ACAP's best practice advice. Significant progress has been made, with the assistance of the Brazilian non-governmental organisation Projecto Albatroz, through programs working with fishers to increase awareness of seabird bycatch and to implement best-practice mitigation methods.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (NPOA-Seabirds Brazil).</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented national regulations requiring use of bird scaring lines, appropriate line weighting regime and night setting.</li> <li>As part of the Projeto Albatroz and Albatross Task Force program, developed research projects to adapt best-practice mitigation measures to Brazilian fisheries.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaken research on biology and behaviour of seabirds and their interactions with fisheries.</li> <li>Undertaken research on improved bycatch mitigation measures.</li> <li>Established an observer program to monitor the success of bycatch mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaken education programs for fishers and their families, schools and the general public.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the adoption of bycatch mitigation measures in South Atlantic tuna fisheries, at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2011.</li> </ul>

### Challenges

- Broader implementation of ACAP and NPOA-Seabirds recommendations.
- Developing on-board monitoring tools for the enforcement of bycatch mitigation measures and data collection of seabird bycatch.
- Developing and delivering educational programs to raise awareness among fishers of the importance of implementing seabird bycatch mitigation measures.





Fabiano Peppes



Dimas Gianuca



Fabiano Peppes



Dimas Gianuca



Dimas Gianuca



## Chile

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 13 September 2005

Chile's Exclusive Economic Zone covers a significant component of the Humboldt current, one of the world's most productive marine ecosystems and a significant and regular foraging ground for 15 ACAP species, including albatrosses from as far away as Australia and New Zealand. Chile also has several globally important breeding sites, including 21% of the world's Black-browed Albatross population. As part of implementing its National Plan of Action for Seabirds, Chile has introduced mandatory measures to avoid seabird bycatch in its fisheries and has made significant contributions to developing new and improved mitigation methods. Its extensive use of at-sea scientific observers provides valuable data of benefit to ACAP-listed species. The success of its bycatch mitigation measures in longline fisheries for toothfish has been critical to the recent reversal in the decline of some Chilean Black-browed Albatross colonies and the measures are now used in a range of other nations' fisheries.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved bycatch mitigation and other measures have reduced the decrease of seabird populations, notably for Black-browed and Grey-headed albatrosses, in the most important colonies in Chile. Some populations are now increasing for the first time in many years.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed an Official Decree and a National Plan of Action (NPOA) to reduce mortality of seabirds in longline fisheries.</li> <li>Introduced national legislation that expressly states the need to reduce seabird bycatch and to use mitigation measures, and details the codes on responsible fishing, including the use of the ecosystem approach.</li> <li>Modified traditional demersal longline fishing gear used in the Chilean toothfish fishery reducing seabird bycatch to very low levels. In view of this success, such gear changes have since spread to toothfish longline fisheries in other countries.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraged academics, scientists and fishers to develop practical, effective and secure mitigation measures as part of a strong commitment to the conservation of seabirds by fisheries administration.</li> <li>Increased institutional interest in collecting information on bycatch, including specific observer data fields for this purpose and the development and financing of a scientific observer program.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater education of fishers and the public has been a key part of improving bycatch mitigation practices and developing Chile's NPOA Seabirds.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the ratification of ACAP, there has been greater commitment to responsible fisheries management, including the avoidance or reduction of bycatch.</li> </ul>





Graham Robertson



Graham Robertson



Graham Robertson

## Challenges

- Continuing the assessment of incidental bycatch mortality in the rest of Chile's national fisheries, both small-scale and industrial.
- Developing agreed *ad hoc* mitigation measures to protect nesting sites from land-based threats and to reduce further threats from the sea.

# Ecuador

Signed ACAP 18 February 2003  
Ratified 18 February 2003

Ecuador has a large, productive, marine habitat sustained by the rich Humboldt Current. With so much unique fauna in the region, it should be no surprise that the Waved Albatross, Ecuador's endemic albatross species, has a strikingly different appearance to other albatrosses. Ecuador collaborated closely with other ACAP Parties to successfully develop an Action Plan for restoring this species to a favourable conservation status. Over 99% of the 10,000 pairs of Waved Albatross breed in the Galápagos Islands and the species' relatively small at-sea foraging range is mainly concentrated in Ecuador's Exclusive Economic Zone. Thus, the commitments in Ecuador's Plan to protect nesting sites – by controlling introduced rodents and tourism – are vital to reversing the historic population decline. Continuing recent progress in reducing fisheries bycatch has also been crucial to this reversal.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed the bycatch of Waved Albatrosses in artisanal fisheries in the south of Ecuador.</li> <li>Implemented the plan of action for the conservation of the Waved Albatross.</li> <li>Improved and standardised monitoring to gather more accurate information on the conservation status and trends of the Waved Albatross. The monitoring has determined the population state of the Waved Albatross – through an estimation of their survival, mortality and breeding rates using capture-mark-recapture methods in nesting colonies – and recorded threats to their colonies.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected nesting sites in the Galapagos and Machalilla National Parks and periodically monitored nesting populations.</li> <li>Introduced programs to control introduced rodents, to manage nesting sites and tourism near such sites, and to monitor chick survival (and thus breeding success).</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified problems with, and modified fishing gear to reduce albatross bycatch during demersal longline fishing for Patagonian Toothfish.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented an onboard observer project for artisanal vessels to assess the bycatch of species of conservation interest, including seabirds.</li> <li>Recorded the migratory movements of albatross during breeding and non-breeding seasons, as well as undertaken population genetics and bycatch studies.</li> <li>Developed programs to monitor Waved Albatross nesting sites.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educated fishers and the general public through an environmental education program and an awareness-raising campaign about the importance of species protection.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed an ongoing program of work to conserve the Waved Albatross</li> </ul>





## Challenges

- To further strengthen protection measures for the Waved Albatross, including through stronger co-operation with the Peruvian Government.
- To extend these strengthened protection measures to other albatross and petrel species listed under ACAP.
- To strengthen protection for the Galapagos Petrel by listing it in ACAP Annex 1.



## France

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 28 June 2005

France's subantarctic Crozet and Kerguelen islands are small but significant specks of land in the vast Indian Ocean – and are critically important breeding sites for eight ACAP listed species of albatross and four petrels. Like many other areas with large concentrations of ACAP species, it is no coincidence that the waters around these islands are also rich fishing grounds. France has conducted long-term research on Southern Ocean seabirds and greatly added to ACAP's scientific knowledge, including of population trends, foraging ranges and diets. In recent years, France has made a lot of progress in reducing seabird bycatch in its subantarctic fisheries, with significant reductions occurring in successive years. It has also collaborated closely with its ACAP neighbour Spain to deal with threats to the Balearic Shearwater, both at sea and at Spanish breeding sites.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and implemented a National Action Plan for the Amsterdam Albatross 2011-15.</li> <li>Developed a French version of the international Action Plan for the Balearic Shearwater, supported by the Ministry of Ecology.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created the Natural Reserve of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises – TAAF) covering 2.2 million hectares of land and sea, including the Kerguelen, Crozet, Amsterdam and Saint-Paul Islands. Proclaimed as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance Site No. 1737 in September 2008.</li> <li>Implemented ACAP guidelines on biosecurity measures at breeding sites.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented a plan to reduce seabird bycatch in demersal longline fisheries for toothfish, with significant reductions achieved in successive years.</li> <li>Controlled and significantly reduced seabird bycatch in fisheries authorised in France's Exclusive Economic Zone.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented multi-year, scientific observer programs to gather data on seabird bycatch and to improve the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures in tooth-fish fisheries.</li> </ul>



## Challenges

- Dealing with threats of terrestrial invasive species (cats, rats, mice and ungulates) and avian diseases.
- Collaborating with Spain to deal with threats to the Balearic Shearwater at Spanish breeding sites and at sea.
- Taking urgent action to overcome various conservation threats in French territory. In particular, the bycatch rate of different fishing gear types, the impact of changing fishing practices on the Balearic Shearwater and its prey species, and interactions with future marine renewable energy installations.
- Improving knowledge of the Balearic Shearwater distribution, in collaboration with scientists and local NGOs, and the BirdLife Partners *League for the Protection of Birds* (*Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux* - LPO).
- Using this knowledge to implement, in collaboration with fishers, programs including to reduce the bycatch of Balearic Shearwater.

## New Zealand

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 1 November 2001

New Zealand has 11 ACAP species of albatrosses and five species of petrels, including ten endemic species, meaning it has significantly more endemic species than any other ACAP Party. This reflects the numerous offshore islands (providing suitable breeding sites) and the extensive feeding grounds in and around New Zealand.

New Zealand views its albatrosses, petrels and other birdlife as conservation icons and has undertaken a range of important actions to improve their conservation status. Notable are its pioneering efforts to eradicate rats and other pests from offshore islands – developing novel methods and expertise that have greatly benefitted other countries – as well as its development of many novel seabird bycatch mitigation measures. Its ACAP-listed breeding populations forage widely, including east to South America and beyond to the southwest Atlantic, making bycatch mitigation in high seas fishing fleets especially important for these populations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS	
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand's activities relating to improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels have encompassed legislation, policy, research, and threat management.</li> <li>• Translocated Chatham albatross over two seasons, an ACAP species listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved the habitat quality for ACAP-listed species through the eradication of introduced pests and implementation of new biosecurity measures for breeding islands.</li> <li>• Created marine reserves that exclude fishing, around the key breeding sites at the Antipodes, Auckland, Bounty and Campbell Island groups.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised and implemented a National Plan of Action-Seabirds</li> <li>• Developed a risk-based approach to managing seabird interactions with commercial fisheries.</li> <li>• Introduced mandatory seabird bycatch mitigation measures for pelagic and demersal longline, and trawl fisheries.</li> </ul>





Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researched seabird bycatch mitigation measures, including methods to reduce seabird captures in trawl nets, testing line-weighting strategies in pelagic and demersal longline fisheries, and improving the construction standards for tori lines in trawl fisheries.</li> <li>• Established best practice approaches for managing the discharge of trawl processing waste so as to minimise seabird bycatch.</li> <li>• Used government fisheries observers to monitor interactions between ACAP-listed species and some commercial fisheries.</li> <li>• Undertook long-term demographic studies of Buller's Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Antipodean Albatross and Black Petrel to improve knowledge of their populations and their at-sea habitats.</li> <li>• Commenced new studies on at-risk species, including Salvin's Albatross, White-capped Albatross and White-chinned Petrel.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published online information on incidental bycatch of ACAP-listed species in New Zealand commercial fisheries.</li> <li>• Produced and disseminated a variety of resources aimed at increasing awareness of seabird conservation, including newsletters, identification guides and DVDs.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand actively participates at relevant fisheries management organisations to promote adoption of appropriate seabird bycatch mitigation measures.</li> <li>• The Southern Seabirds Solutions Trust fosters international cooperation on seabird conservation.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Prioritising and implementing research to maintain and expand the substantial knowledge-base needed to manage 16 of the 30 ACAP-listed species.
- Undertaking research to improve knowledge of the nature and extent of seabird bycatch in inshore commercial and recreational fisheries and the mitigation strategies needed to minimise bycatch in these fisheries.
- Continue to progressively improve current bycatch reduction measures in deep-water fisheries as new information becomes available.
- Ensure that pressures on the marine environment do not degrade the quality of ACAP-species' habitats.
- Further improve the management of ACAP species' terrestrial habitats through additional eradications of introduced predators from seabirds' breeding islands, including Antipodes (house mice) and Auckland (feral pigs and cats) Islands.

# Norway

Ratified 5 March 2007

Norway was an early supporter of ACAP and other international treaties to further the global conservation of albatross and petrel species. In particular, there has been a prolonged and focussed effort to understand the population trajectory of the world's largest colony of the Antarctic petrel, in Svarthameren, Dronning Mauds Land, Antarctica. Norway has actively supported the development and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, setting a positive example to other high seas fishing nations about ensuring their nationals and flag vessels fish in an environmentally sustainable manner, including the use of scientific observers to monitor fishing operations.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All ACAP species are protected under national legislation.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norway works within several regional fisheries management organisations to which it is a Party to promote the recommendations of ACAP, including on best practice methods to avoid and mitigate fisheries bycatch.</li> <li>Norway has also implemented other aspects of ACAP advice, including with regard to use of scientific observers to monitor bycatch.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Norwegian Polar Institute has undertaken, and continues to undertake, research relevant to ACAP, including monitoring expeditions to Svarthameren.</li> <li>A range of research on bycatch in national fisheries, with a focus on gillnets fisheries and associated mitigation devices and techniques such as underwater setting tubes.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of 'best practice' approaches to bycatch mitigation among fishing fleets</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norway has been an active supporter of ACAP, including within other international fora, such as the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, the Conservation of Flora and Fauna in the Arctic, the South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.</li> <li>Supported development and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Continuing and improving demographic research into petrel and albatross populations and trends, including an ongoing monitoring program at Svarthameren.
- Ensuring that effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures are used in relevant fisheries, including in international management fora of which Norway is a member.





R Wanless & A Angel



R Wanless & A Angel

## Peru

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 17 May 2005

Peru was a founding signatory to ACAP and has worked collaboratively with other ACAP Parties to address conservation issues affecting ACAP-listed species in its waters, including notably in developing a bi-national Action Plan with Ecuador to conserve the Waved Albatross. With its large artisanal fishing fleet, Peru faces a different conservation challenge to many other ACAP Parties, in part because seabird bycatch mitigation measures commonly used in industrial fleets may not be directly transferable to its large artisanal fleet. It is also often difficult to deploy scientific observers on small artisanal vessels in order to assess what impact these fishers are having on seabirds and how best to reduce those impacts. Special educational programs for artisanal fishing communities have been implemented and Peru has conducted a range of research on mitigation measures, specifically targeted at its artisanal fleet.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed the Bi-National Action Plan between Ecuador and Peru for the conservation of Waved Albatrosses.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopted national legislation to protect 13 species of albatrosses and petrels occurring in Peru.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted research to determine the extent of catch from directed fishing operations, identified as one of the main threats to the Waved Albatross and undertaken education programs with relevant fishing communities</li> <li>Introduced an onboard observer program in the industrial anchovy purse seine fishery to observe and document seabird interactions with this fishery.</li> <li>Used seabird sighting data by observers on scientific research cruises to gain knowledge of the inter-annual variation of the distribution of ACAP species. Also investigated related issues such as marine protected areas, marine environmental protection and climate change adaptation.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided training to observers and people working on the Programa de Extensión Pesquera, in which collaborators work with fishing communities.</li> <li>Developed environmental education programs to raise awareness and participation of local people in the conservation of ACAP species, including the publication of educational materials and the training of observers.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratified ACAP and created the opportunity to coordinate albatross and petrel conservation initiatives, share information and produce documents.</li> </ul>



## Challenges

- Achieving good environmental governance by strengthening laws and institutions.
- Ensuring consistency between development policies and environmental policies.
- Developing a properly implemented *Action Plan for the Conservation of Seabirds*, including a monitoring program and an evaluation of the plan.
- Convincing official authorities to recognise conservation problems and to give priority to actions leading to their solution.
- Establishing a *National Onboard Observer Program* to obtain reliable data on the magnitude and nature of seabird bycatch in different fisheries.
- Addressing seabird bycatch in artisanal fisheries, despite the challenges presented by the large number of vessels involved and highly mobile fleets.
- Strengthening research programs in the short, medium and long term aimed at improving knowledge of albatrosses and petrels.
- Attaining adequate and effective coordination between local, regional and central government and the various stakeholders.
- Achieving genuine environmental awareness of the need for seabird conservation, especially among the fishing community and industry.

## South Africa

Signed ACAP 6 November 2003  
Ratified 6 November 2003

In common with several other ACAP Parties, South Africa has numerous ACAP species breeding in its jurisdiction, including the Endangered Sooty Albatross and the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Rich offshore fisheries abound in its region, especially those associated with the Benguela Current ecosystem. The high density of foraging concentrations of ACAP species in this area means the continued implementation of effective mitigation measures is a critical conservation priority. South Africa has conducted influential assessments on fisheries bycatch and the effectiveness of various bycatch mitigation methods and how to improve them. A notable achievement has been the adoption of mitigation measures (deployment of twin bird-scaring lines) in the domestic demersal trawl fishery, leading to a 90% reduction in albatross and petrel mortality. Its researchers have also provided unprecedented insights into the mortality of albatross chicks on Marion Island caused by mice.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the nine ACAP species that breed at South Africa's Prince Edward Islands, two have been classified as domestically endangered (Sooty and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses) and seven as vulnerable (Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, White-chinned and Grey Petrels).</li> <li>Adopted a national plan of action for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries in 2008.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve and surrounding waters extending out to 500 m were declared a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance (No. 1688) in May 2007.</li> <li>A 180 000-km<sup>2</sup> Marine Protected Area was declared around the Prince Edward Islands in April 2013.</li> <li>A new management plan for the Prince Edward Islands was adopted in 2014.</li> <li>An alien plant programme is working to eradicate five species with as-yet limited distributions on Marion Island with the aim of conserving natural habitats for, among other species, ACAP-listed Grey and White-chinned Petrels.</li> <li>A decade-long "Country Clean-up Campaign" has removed tonnes of rubble, litter and remnants of dismantled structures from Marion Island, <i>inter alia</i> reducing the risks of entanglement with wildlife, including with ACAP-listed species.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed and mitigated the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in South Africa's fisheries. A notable achievement has been the adoption of mitigation measures (deployment of twin bird-scaring lines) in the domestic demersal trawl fishery, leading to a 90% reduction in albatross and petrel mortality.</li> </ul>





John Cooper



R. Wanless & A. Angel

### Research and Monitoring

- Published a paper documenting the abundance and trends of the five albatross species and the two giant petrel species that breed at the Prince Edward Islands.
- Published a paper documenting numbers of White-chinned Petrels breeding at the Prince Edward Islands.
- Investigated the at-sea distributions of adult Sooty Albatrosses and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross through tracking studies (earlier information is available for Wandering and Grey-headed Albatross).
- Reviewed the impacts of house mice on Marion, conducted a non-target mortality study and prepared for an on-site eradication feasibility study in 2015.
- Continued long-term demographic monitoring of four species of albatrosses on Marion Island.
- Studied aspects of the breeding and foraging of Grey and White-chinned Petrels using nest cams and tracking devices at Marion Island.
- Conducted at-sea research testing mitigation measures to reduce seabird mortality in both longline and trawl fisheries.

### Education and Public Awareness

- A book reviewing research and conservation activities and findings on the Prince Edward Islands was published in 2007 to inform researchers, managers and the concerned public.
- A "coffee-table" illustrated book on the Prince Edward Islands was published in 2010 to help inform the general public.
- A conservation handbook was published for South Africa's Prince Edward Islands in 2011 to inform and educate island visitors.
- A number of websites and Facebook Pages covering aspects of the South African National Antarctic Programme regularly report on research and conservation activities, including on ACAP-listed seabirds.

### Challenges

- Reducing bycatch of seabirds by fisheries of other States and on high seas that poses a major threat to albatrosses and petrels breeding in South Africa.
- Expanding the presently limited observer coverage on some of South Africa's fishing fleets.
- Undertaking difficult research, including assessing the population of Grey Petrels at the Prince Edward Islands and the measurement of demographic parameters for the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross which breed only at Prince Edward Island within

South African territory - a site that may be visited only once every four years in terms of the island group's current management plan.

- Increasing the presently limited funding for research.

## Spain

Signed ACAP 30 April 2002  
Ratified 12 August 2003

Spain has one ACAP species breeding within its jurisdiction, the Critically Endangered Balearic Shearwater. Additionally, Spain has jurisdiction over a large number of high seas fisheries covering a wide geographic range and overlapping several ACAP species' range. Spain has worked closely with its ACAP neighbours France and the United Kingdom on research and conservation actions on the Balearic Shearwater, including conducting work to better understand the distribution of this species, threats to it on land and at sea, and how best to mitigate against fisheries bycatch mortality. Spain has incorporated into national legislation a series of mandatory measures to avoid the bycatch of seabirds by pelagic longline fishing gear. It also conducts on-board observer programs in Spanish fleets in European Union waters, as well as outside them, in order to gather information about the bycatch of seabirds, among other objectives. A national regulation was passed in 2014 designating 39 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for seabirds in Spanish oceanic waters.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradicated rodents on Sa Dragonera Island in 2011, as one of the measures taken by the Govern de les Illes Balears to stop terrestrial threats to the Balearic Shearwater; and implemented biosecurity measures to prevent their re-establishment.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) of relevance to the Balearic Shearwater were identified, 20 of which were later designated as SPAs of special relevance to this species ranging in Spanish waters.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within an on-board observer program in a pelagic longline fleet in the Western Mediterranean, the Malaga Oceanographic Centre has been collecting and systematically analysing seabird bycatch data since 1997 and proposed new management formulae for the fisheries based on those results.</li> <li>• Incorporated into national legislation a series of mandatory measures in order to avoid bycatch of seabirds and sea turtles by pelagic longline fleets.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved knowledge of the Balearic Shearwater regarding topics such as its feeding ecology, spatial and temporal distribution patterns, population size, demographics, etc.</li> <li>• The Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (IMEDEA) conducted a new population viability analysis for the Balearic Shearwater in 2014.</li> <li>• Universitat de Barcelona, SEO/Birdlife and IMEDEA have developed various research actions to assess the extent of seabird bycatch, test mitigation measures and engage fishermen, particularly in the Spanish section of the Mediterranean.</li> <li>• The Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) has launched on-board observer programs in Spanish fleets in European Union waters, as well as outside them, to gather information about the bycatch of seabirds</li> </ul>



Pep Arcos

Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed various awareness-raising materials related to seabird bycatch and the conservation of the Balearic Shearwater. Participatory workshops have also been conducted among the fishing sector, and a mobile phone app (SeaBirdstagram) has been developed to help fishermen voluntarily contribute data on bycaught seabirds.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporated into the national legislation several seabird conservation measures adopted by the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations where Spain is a member.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Developing and implementing a national plan of action to reduce fisheries bycatch of seabirds.
- Implementing the European Commission's International Action Plan's measures to protect the Balearic Shearwater.
- Approving and implementing management plans for the SPAs, both on land and at sea, for the effective conservation of the Balearic Shearwater.
- Adopting measures aimed at the control and eradication of introduced predators, particularly carnivores, in Balearic Shearwater's breeding sites.
- Adopting measures to reduce the impact of emerging at-sea threats, such as plastic pollution in the marine environment and its effects on the food web, and offshore energy production and storage platforms.



Pep Arcos



Mart Mayol

## United Kingdom

Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 2 April 2004

The United Kingdom has made major progress towards eradicating introduced mammals from a number of important breeding sites for ACAP-listed species. As a result of its long-term annual monitoring of Wandering, Grey-headed, Tristan, Atlantic Yellow-nosed and Black-browed albatrosses, and Northern and Southern giant petrels it has some of the world's best and longest running datasets and scientific publication records on these species. This knowledge has proven invaluable for understanding population processes, including the dramatic decline of Wandering and Tristan albatrosses in particular. While the UK has reduced bycatch to negligible levels in fisheries it manages, it is apparent that bird mortalities in other fisheries are the primary cause of the continued decline of many populations of ACAP-listed species in the southwest Atlantic.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS	
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major advances toward eradicating introduced mammals from ACAP breeding sites. Rats have been likely eradicated from South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>4</sup>, eradication of reindeer is complete, and of house mice is likely complete.</li> <li>Rat eradication has been carried out on over 60 islands in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>4</sup>, including some ACAP breeding sites.</li> <li>Feasibility studies have been undertaken on the eradication of house mice from Gough Island.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented strict biosecurity protocols for major breeding sites, including South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>
Management of Human Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced seabird mortality to negligible levels in the demersal longline fisheries for toothfish around the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>4</sup> and South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>4</sup>.</li> <li>Monitored bycatch and estimated undetected seabird mortality in Falklands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>4</sup> trawl fisheries.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued long-term monitoring of population trends and productivity of most breeding populations of ACAP-listed species at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>4</sup>, Falklands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>4</sup>, Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island.</li> <li>Maintained annual monitoring of demography of Wandering, Grey-headed, Tristan, Atlantic Yellow-nosed and Black-browed albatrosses, and Northern and Southern giant petrels.</li> <li>Gathered detailed data for most ACAP species on breeding biology, at-sea distribution and overlap with fisheries.</li> <li>Published over 80 papers in international scientific journals since 2004; this research has revealed numerous insights into the biology and ecology of ACAP species.</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results have highlighted population declines, assessed risk from fisheries, and have been used to advocate for improved conservation policies, including better bycatch assessment and mitigation, and the identification and protection of key marine areas.</li> <li>• Assessed the risks to seabirds from ICCAT fisheries that led directly to improvements in bycatch mitigation.</li> </ul>
Education and Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and delivered information and education programs to key stakeholders, including NGOs, tourists and the general public.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed an ACAP coordination project and established a co-ordinator post to ensure coherent implementation, across all UK territories, of actions to conserve ACAP species.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Eradicating house mice from Gough Island is the greatest immediate challenge facing the UK. Without eradication, the major seabird populations on the island will be lost and the Tristan Albatross would be at high risk of extinction.
- Ensuring the success of the rodent eradication at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>4</sup>. Eradication programmes are expensive and carry a risk of failure due to the complex logistics and unpredictability of local weather conditions.
- Undertaking further work to improve assessments of bycatch rates at sea.
- Undertaking further work to ensure the implementation of mitigation measures to further reduce bycatch in trawl fisheries around the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>4</sup>.
- Reducing bycatch of ACAP species breeding in UK territories<sup>4</sup> from fisheries in the waters of other states and on the high seas.
- Obtaining reliable data on breeding numbers and trends for several globally-important populations of ACAP species breeding in UK territories<sup>4</sup>, including Light-mantled, Sooty and Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatrosses, and White-chinned Petrel. Censuses planned at Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands in the near future should address knowledge gaps for the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross.

4. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

# Uruguay

Ratified 9 October 2008

The waters in Uruguay's EEZ are important foraging habitat for 12 ACAP-listed species, such as New Zealand's endemic Southern Royal Albatross. Due to the highly productive nature of these waters there is a considerable level of fishing effort by Uruguayan and foreign-flagged vessels. Thus, Uruguay's actions to develop and implement a National Plan of Action to reduce seabird bycatch in Uruguayan fisheries has been an important development in achieving the conservation of these seabird populations. The introduction of a national observer program to monitor and improve the use of mitigation measures has also been significant and will complement research being conducted on improved mitigation measures.

	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed the <i>National Plan for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Uruguayan Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds Uruguay)</i> to provide a general framework of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in all fisheries.</li> <li>Updated the NPOA to provide new mitigation measures for pelagic longline, demersal longline and trawl fisheries causing bycatch and mortality of ACAP-listed species.</li> </ul>
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted research on the effectiveness of mitigation measures and implemented conservation actions in longline fisheries in accordance with Uruguay's NPOA.</li> <li>Conducted research to assess the impact of the fisheries on ACAP species and to mitigate incidental bycatch.</li> <li>Implemented these mitigation measures in Uruguayan fisheries.</li> </ul>
Research and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaken research to identify bycatch problems faced in the pelagic longline fishery at a species level, to estimate the number of captured birds and to evaluate the relative impact on different populations.</li> <li>Undertaken research on the effectiveness of streamer lines, line-weighting, night setting and spatial and temporal areas on bycatch for each species.</li> <li>Preliminary study of the effect of the trawl fishery on ACAP species.</li> <li>Introduced a National Observer Program in the Uruguayan Tuna Fleet to monitor the use of mitigation measures on Uruguayan vessels and foreign-flagged vessels operating in Uruguay under lease permit for experimental fishing.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

- Further assessing the relative impact of the trawl fishery on ACAP species.
- Implementing mitigation measures in the trawl fishery.





Sebastián Jiménez



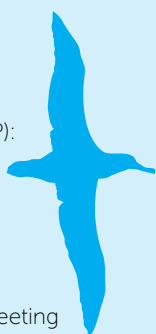
Sebastián Jiménez



Sebastián Jiménez

## Notable actions concerning ACAP

- First preparatory meeting to negotiate and develop the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP): Hobart, Australia.



- First meeting of Advisory Committee (AC1), 20-22 July, Hobart, Australia.



- Second preparatory meeting to negotiate and develop ACAP: Cape Town, South Africa.

- ACAP opens for signature on 19 June 2001 – original signatories were Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, New Zealand, Peru, and the United Kingdom.

- Annex 1 to ACAP includes 19 albatross species (covering all Southern Hemisphere species of albatross) and seven petrel species (see Appendix 2).

- Entry into force of ACAP on 1 February 2004 following the fifth ratification – original Parties were Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa and Spain.

- First Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP1), 10 – 12 November, Hobart, Australia.

- First meeting of the Breeding Sites Working Group (BSWG1), 2 June, and First meeting of the Status and Trends Working Group (STWG1), 3 June, Brasilia, Brazil.
- The Twenty-Fifth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXV) notes that for the first time, no albatrosses were reported taken in regulated longline fisheries in the CCAMLR Convention Area in 2006, and the near zero bycatch of other seabirds. Scientific observers previously reported a peak of over 5700 seabird mortalities in 1996.



- First meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG1), 17-18 June, Valdivia, Chile.



1999

2001

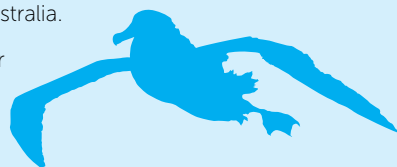
2004

2005

2006

2007

- Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Secretariat to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (the Headquarters Agreement) signed on 23 June 2008, and entered into force on 2 December 2008.
- Permanent Secretariat to ACAP established in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.
- First bycatch mitigation best practice advice developed by ACAP for national and international fisheries managers.
- ACAP's online species database becomes operational.



- Annex 1 amended in May 2009 to include the three Northern Hemisphere albatross species: *Phoebastria albatrus* (Short-tailed Albatross), *Phoebastria immutabilis* (Laysan Albatross), and *Phoebastria nigripes* (Black-footed Albatross) extending protection to all species of albatrosses globally.

- ACAP's online national reporting operational.
- Adoption of supplemental recommendation 2011-09 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries, based on ACAP's best practice advice.
- The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopts Resolution C-11-02 to mitigate the impact of fishing on seabirds for species covered by the IATTC.
- The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) recommends that Members and Cooperating Non-Members will comply with all current binding and recommendatory measures adopted by the IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC aimed at the protection of ecologically related species.

- Annex 1 amended in April 2012 to include an additional petrel species: *Puffinus mauretanicus* (Balearic Shearwater).
- The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts conservation and management measure CMM 12-07 for mitigating impacts of fishing on seabirds, based on ACAP's best practice advice for pelagic longline fishing.
- The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) adopts Resolution 12/06 on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries based on ACAP's best practice advice.

- ACAP in force for 10 years on 1 February 2014.
- Major feral pest eradication (of rabbits, rats and mice) successfully completed on Macquarie Island, Australia.
- Major feral pest eradication substantially completed on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>5</sup>. Rats have been likely eradicated, eradication of reindeer is complete, and of house mice is likely complete.
- Rat eradication has been carried out on over 60 islands in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>5</sup>, including some ACAP breeding sites.
- The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) adopts CMM 2-04 on minimising bycatch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area, based on ACAP's best practice advice for demersal longline and trawl fisheries.

5. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.



2008

2009

2011

2012

2014



# Appendices

## APPENDIX 1: Status list for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Parties to the Agreement	Date of signature	Date of ratification, acceptance/approval	Entry into force for Parties
<b>Argentina</b>	19 January 2004	29 August 2006	1 November 2006
<b>Australia</b>	19 June 2001	4 October 2001	1 February 2004
<b>Brazil</b>	19 June 2001	3 September 2008	1 December 2008
<b>Chile</b>	19 June 2001	13 September 2005	1 December 2005
<b>Ecuador</b>	18 February 2003	18 February 2003	1 February 2004
<b>France</b>	19 June 2001	28 June 2005 (acceptance/approval)	1 September 2005
<b>New Zealand</b>	19 June 2001	1 November 2001	1 February 2004
<b>Norway</b>		5 March 2007 (accession)	1 June 2007
<b>Peru</b>	19 June 2001	17 May 2005	1 August 2005
<b>South Africa</b>	6 November 2003	6 November 2003	1 February 2004
<b>Spain</b>	30 April 2002	12 August 2003	1 February 2004
<b>United Kingdom</b>	19 June 2001	2 April 2004	1 July 2004
<b>Uruguay</b>		9 October 2008 (accession)	1 January 2009



## APPENDIX 2: Summary of status of ACAP albatross and petrel species

Species name	Common name	Year listed by ACAP	IUCN Status 2014 <sup>1</sup>	Number of sites (ACAP) <sup>2</sup>	Single Country Endemic	Annual breeding pairs <sup>3</sup>	Population Trend 1993-2013 <sup>4</sup>	Trend Confidence
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	2004	VU	28		8,132	↓	High
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Tristan Albatross	2004	CR	1	UK	1,650	↓	High
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross	2004	VU	6	NZ	8,274	↓	Medium
<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	Amsterdam Albatross	2004	CR	1	France	31	↑	High
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross	2004	VU	4	NZ	7,941	↔	Medium
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross	2004	EN	5	NZ	5,782	?	-
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Waved Albatross	2004	CR	1	Ecuador	9,615	↓	Low
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Short-tailed Albatross	2009	VU	2		592	↑	High
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	2009	NT	17		676,785	↔	High
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	2009	NT	13		71,592	↑	High
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy Albatross	2004	NT	3	Australia	14,618	↑	Low
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	White-capped Albatross	2004	NT	5	NZ	100,525	?	-
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Salvin's Albatross	2004	VU	12	NZ	42,219	↓	Low
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Chatham Albatross	2004	VU	1	NZ	5,245	↔	Medium
<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Buller's Albatross	2004	NT	10	NZ	29,948	↔	Low
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	2004	EN	29		97,716	↓	Medium
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	2004	NT	65		673,048	↑	High
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Campbell Albatross	2004	VU	2	NZ	21,648	↔	Low
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	2004	EN	6		39,320	↓	Medium
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	2004	EN	6	UK	33,650	↔	Low
<i>Phoebastria fusca</i>	Sooty Albatross	2004	EN	15		12,170	↓	Very Low
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	2004	NT	71		12,082	↔	Low
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Petrel	2004	LC	119		47,083	↑	Medium
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern Giant Petrel	2004	LC	50		10,318	↑	Medium
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned Petrel	2004	VU	73		1,057,930	↓	Very Low
<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	Spectacled Petrel	2004	VU	1	UK	14,400	↑	High
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Black Petrel	2004	VU	2	NZ	1,577	↓	Medium
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	Westland Petrel	2004	VU	1	NZ	2,827	↔	Low
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Grey Petrel	2004	NT	17		79,649	↓	Very Low
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic Shearwater	2012	CR	5	Spain	2,954	↓	Medium

1. IUCN Status: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern. IUCN 2014. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)>.

2. Site: usually an entire, distinct island or islet, or section of a large island

3. ACAP database. <[data.acap.aq](http://data.acap.aq)>. May 2014.

4. Global Trend: ↑ increasing, ↓ declining, ↔ stable, ? unknown













Notes







*"I now belong to a higher cult of mortals,  
for I have seen the albatross!"*

- Robert Cushman Murphy, *Logbook for Grace: Whaling Brig Daisy, 1912-1913*

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