



**Agreement on the Conservation of
Albatrosses and Petrels**

**REPORT OF
THE NINTH MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

La Serena, Chile

9 – 13 May 2016

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee (AC1, AC2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the Advisory Committee)
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
AUD	Australian Dollar
CEMAVE	Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Aves Silvestres
CMS	Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EM	Electronic monitoring
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GECI	Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (Asociación Civil)
HSI	Humane Society International
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IFOP	Instituto de Fomento Pesquero
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA-S	International Plan of Action - Seabirds
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NPOA-S	National Plan of Action – Seabirds
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group
(t)RFMO	(tuna) Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TWG	Taxonomy Working Group
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
WGs	Working Groups

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Ninth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC9) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in La Serena, Chile from 9 to 13 May 2016, with Mr Mark Tasker as Chair.
- 1.2 Ten Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom (UK) and Uruguay. France, Norway and Spain notified their apologies for not being able to attend.
- 1.3 Three Range States participated as Observers: Canada, Namibia and the United States of America (USA).
- 1.4 Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI), Humane Society International (HSI) and Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP, Chile) attended the meeting as Observers.
- 1.5 The list of participants is provided in **ANNEX 1**. The list of meeting documents is provided in **ANNEX 2**.
- 1.6 The meeting commenced with a welcoming address by Dr María Angela Barbieri (Head of Fisheries Management Division of the Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture), Dr Carlos Montenegro Silva (Head of Fisheries Assessment Department, IFOP), and Mr Javier Chavez (Head of Coquimbo Region, Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture).
- 1.7 Dr Barbieri welcomed the Executive Secretary, the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Working Group Convenors, Delegates and Observers to the Ninth Meeting of the Advisory Committee. As the Head of Fisheries Management Division, responsible for regulating the use of fisheries resources, she highlighted the relevance of the work of the Advisory Committee in improving the conservation status of albatross and petrel species. She also recognized the importance of the contributions from the former Executive Secretary, Mr Warren Papworth, and Dr Carlos Moreno, a Chilean researcher who pioneered investigations in seabird bycatch and played a key role during the establishment of the Agreement.
- 1.8 Dr Montenegro also welcomed Delegates and highlighted the work of IFOP in advising the Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture on monitoring and assessing seabird bycatch in Chilean fisheries. He also referred to recent studies conducted in the austral trawl fleet, reported during the Seabird Bycatch Working Group meeting, drawing attention to collaborative work with other Parties to ACAP as well as local and international NGOs.
- 1.9 Mr Javier Chavez welcomed everyone to La Serena, encouraged the Delegates to enjoy the city and wished them a successful meeting.
- 1.10 On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the AC Chair thanked the Chilean authorities for their words and good wishes for the meeting.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The meeting agenda presented in **AC9 Doc 01** was adopted by the meeting (**ANNEX 3**).
- 2.2 Australia advised that an election had been announced for the Commonwealth Parliament, and this would limit the Australian delegation's ability to agree to certain matters under consideration at AC9.

3 RULES OF PROCEDURE

3.1 Amendments to Rule 20

- 3.1.1 Argentina recalled discussions on the amendment of Rule 20 that took place at AC7 and further deliberations held during AC8, with an intersessional contact group established. At Argentina's request, a draft text (see ANNEX 4, AC8 Report) was circulated by the Secretariat to AC Members prior to AC9.
- 3.1.2 UK raised concerns about elements of the draft text presenting difficulties for the functioning of the Working Groups and undermining their productivity.
- 3.1.3 Australia shared with the meeting a response from Norway to the message circulated on behalf of Argentina. Norway noted that it was not quite clear if this was a concrete proposal for the AC, but appreciated the possible broadening of the membership of potential committees, and noted that RoPs (Rules of Procedure) might require changes over time as conditions change. Norway suggested consideration be given to the CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) Secretariat reviewing RoPs across Agreements under the auspices of CMS to enable streamlining of these procedures.
- 3.1.4 Argentina expressed its willingness to discuss any issues on the matters raised in the margin of the meeting.
- 3.1.5 A drafting group was created comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Canada, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the USA. The drafting group proposed further amendments to the draft text, but the suggestions were not endorsed by the Committee.
- 3.1.6 The AC Chair proposed that due to the lack of agreement on amendments to the AC Rules of Procedure, the current RoP should be adopted for this meeting, and any further discussions for their amendment should be continued at this meeting and intersessionally. New Zealand agreed to lead an intersessional group on Rule 20, with the participation of Argentina and Brazil. The Chair recommended that a text be agreed among as many Parties as possible before a meeting document was brought to AC10.
- 3.1.7 The current Rules of Procedure were adopted for this meeting.

4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

- 4.1 Australia tabled the Report of the Depositary Government to the Agreement ([AC9 Doc 07](#)), which indicated that there has been no new accessions or notifications to the Agreement since MoP5 in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 4 - 8 May 2015. Australia noted an amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement, which entered into force on 6 August 2015 — Amendment to Annex 1: Addition of the Pink-footed shearwater (*Ardenna creatopus*, syn. *Puffinus creatopus*). Australia advised that a revised version of Annex 1 is attached to the present Report of the Depositary.
- 4.2 Argentina thanked the Depositary Government for addressing a request made in the margins of MoP5 to amend Note 3 to the Depositary report of that meeting. Australia noted that the purpose of the Notes section of the Depositary report is to provide brief facts about a State's ratification and related communications.

5 ACAP SECRETARIAT

5.1 Activities undertaken in the 2015/2016 intersessional period

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary presented [AC9 Doc 06](#) providing an overview of the Secretariat's operations since AC8 and acknowledged the assistance of the former Executive Secretary, Mr Warren Papworth, in preparing this and other AC9 documents authored by the Secretariat.
- 5.1.2 Activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the last intersessional period were largely focused on building the Agreement's relationships with other intergovernmental organisations and in raising its profile in relevant international fora. ACAP has now formal arrangements in place with all five of the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (trFMOs), as well as with four other IGOs managing key high seas fisheries.
- 5.1.3 The Executive Secretary noted recent negotiations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). The completion of this process will require intersessional consultation, as the MoU text will likely differ from the template already approved by the Parties.
- 5.1.4 The Secretariat report also highlighted the work in engaging with a number of Range States, both electronically and in the margins of international meetings, concerning their possible accession to the Agreement. The Executive Secretary referred to the guidelines to engage with Range States adopted at MoP5, and noted the need for further work for their full implementation. The Executive Secretary also referred to the recent addition of the Pink-footed Shearwater in Annex 1 of the Agreement and opportunities to engage with other Range States along the migratory flyway of this species.

- 5.1.5 The Committee thanked the Secretariat for their report, acknowledged the work of the former Executive Secretary, and expressed their good wishes to the current Secretary.
- 5.1.6 Argentina encouraged the Secretariat to continue negotiations with American Range States.
- 5.1.7 Chile welcomed the opportunity of ACAP signing a MoU with the IAC and encouraged Parties to cooperate with, and support, this arrangement.
- 5.1.8 Ecuador echoed Chile's comments regarding the MoU with IAC, noting the potential for synergies within the two organisations, especially concerning some threats, such as bycatch, addressed during the Working Group meetings.
- 5.1.9 Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) thanked the Secretariat for the invitation to this meeting and expressed its willingness to work with ACAP in the further engagement with Mexico.
- 5.1.10 It was noted that a large body of work has been achieved within the Secretariat with the assistance of Advisory Committee Officers, as well as secondees, interns and students undertaking work placements.
- 5.1.11 Finally, the Executive Secretary informed the Advisory Committee that an issue with the Spanish translation of Resolution 2.9 (originally drafted in English as ANNEX 9 of MoP2 Final Report) was identified in the course of the Working Group meetings, regarding point 4 on the *verbatim* reproduction of a speech or text.
- 5.1.12 The Advisory Committee requested the Secretariat to circulate the text of Resolution 2.9 in English along with the original and corrected versions of the Resolution in Spanish and French.
- 5.1.13 Argentina noted that it will send the corrected translation of Resolution 2.9 to the Translation Department of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its consideration.

5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2016 - 2018

- 5.2.1 The Executive Secretary presented the Secretariat Work Programme for the 2016 - 2018 triennium (**AC9 Doc 13**), noting that ACAP Parties had approved this at MoP5. The Advisory Committee was requested to identify tasks arising from its revised Work Programme that required the assistance of the Secretariat.
- 5.2.2 Following consideration of the Advisory Committee's Work Programme under agenda item 12.1 a number of additional tasks was identified for inclusion in the Secretariat's 2016 - 2018 Work Programme. The revised Secretariat Work Programme is included in **ANNEX 4**.

6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Financial Report

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary presented the interim financial report for 2016 ([AC9 Doc 08 Rev 1](#)), including information on income and expenditures for Appropriations 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as a summary of closing cash balances and a summary of outstanding contributions as at 11 April 2016.
- 6.1.2 In relation to income received, it was noted that at the time of preparing the report, approximately 50% of Parties' contributions were still outstanding. This shortfall has been partially offset by the payment of outstanding contributions from previous financial years.
- 6.1.3 For Appropriation 1, the level of expenditure was approximately 80% of the annual budget allocation, while for Appropriation 3 the level of expenditure was 66% of the budget.
- 6.1.4 The Executive Secretary noted that there was no expenditure of funds from the Small Grants Programme this financial year, and that this funding will be carried forward to the next call for grant applications.
- 6.1.5 The Executive Secretary referred to documentation received from Ecuador regarding the transfer of funds for outstanding contributions, while also confirming that no funds from Ecuador were received to date and that information on outstanding contributions from Parties in Attachment 3 of **AC9 Doc 08 Rev 1** was accurate. The Executive Secretary advised that he will make enquiries as to why the transferred funds were not credited to the ACAP account, and if any further information is discovered, will provide this to Ecuador, hoping this matter will be promptly resolved.
- 6.1.6 Chile urged Parties to work constructively to resolve issues preventing the implementation of the Small Grants Programme. Chile also suggested that a summary of payments contributed over the life of the Agreement by each Party could be compiled by the Secretariat and provided to that Party upon request. The Secretariat agreed to collate this information for the next MoP.

7 OBSERVER REPORTS

7.1 Reports from ACAP Observers at international meetings

- 7.1.1 The SBWG Convenor reported that he represented ACAP at a two-day workshop hosted by the CMS in April 2016 entitled "CMS Daughter Agreements and their Management of Bycatch – a Workshop to Explore Synergies." The aims of the workshop were to present and discuss the bycatch issues facing the CMS daughter agreements and MoUs, and to share lessons and investigate opportunities for collaboration. Topics covered included engagement with RFMOs, development of technical bycatch mitigation solutions, observer data collection and reporting protocols, sharing of bycatch resources (such as guidelines and mitigation fact sheets) and compliance monitoring. The workshop provided a good opportunity to initiate

discussion of these topics, and is intended to serve as the basis for further engagement between the CMS family to explore opportunities for synergies and collaborations on bycatch issues. Once the workshop report is available, it will be provided to the ACAP Secretariat.

7.2 Reports from Observers to AC9

- 7.2.1 Namibia and the USA reported on progress and actions undertaken during the intersessional period as well as progress in the accession to the Agreement. Statements from each Range State are provided in **ANNEX 8**.
- 7.2.2 Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) and Humane Society International (HSI) reported on actions conducted during the intersessional period. Statements from both organisations are provided in **ANNEX 9**.
- 7.2.3 The Advisory Committee Chair expressed its gratitude to all Range States and Observer organizations for their contributions to the Agreement's agenda.

8 REPORT ON THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

- 8.1 The AC Chair reported on the main outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties ([AC9 Doc 15](#)), addressing the operation of the Secretariat, operation of the Advisory Committee and operation of the Agreement.
- 8.2 MoP5 noted the considerable progress made by the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups in the implementation of the Agreement since the last Meeting of the Parties. The MoP considered that the key outcomes for the current triennium were: (1) improving the quality of seabird bycatch data and fishing effort provided by Parties, (2) implementing best practice mitigation measures in fisheries, and (3) filling data gaps relating to population status and trends.
- 8.3 Australia thanked the AC Chair for providing a summary about matters arising from MoP5. Australia recalled that MoP5 also:
- adopted Resolution 5.8 to continue urgent work in the intersession to develop options for the participation by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels in the work of the Agreement;
 - noted work by Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay concerning developing procedures on conflict of interest and bias, which will be discussed further under Agenda Item 12.6 ([AC9 Doc 17](#)).
- 8.4 Australia requested advice from the Secretariat about actions taken in the intersession concerning working with CMS to support each other's operations as far as possible.

- 8.5 The Executive Secretary advised that since he took office and as a result of correspondence with CMS, the Secretariat was invited to participate in the bycatch workshop reported on in Agenda 7.1.
- 8.6 Australia encouraged the Secretariat to liaise closely with the CMS Appointed Councillor (By-Catch), Dr Barry Baker, to ensure relevant matters under consideration by CMS are brought to the attention of the Agreement.
- 8.7 Australia recalled that MoP5 adopted Resolution 5.8 to continue urgent work identified by the Parties concerning implementing article VIII(15) of the Agreement. MoP5 considered, in the first instance, provisions concerning observership, without arriving at a consensus. Australia introduced [AC9 Doc 16](#) which had been prepared to facilitate further consultations among Parties and cooperating non-Parties under Resolution 5.8. The document proposed that provisions should be developed to provide a member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels ('relevant APEC member economy') with a contingent status under the Agreement, whereby the relevant APEC member economy's participatory rights and obligations under the Agreement would alter depending upon their level of commitment to the Agreement.
- 8.8 Australia invited Parties and cooperating non-Parties to continue to participate in advancing work under Resolution 5.8 to help establish provisions for the participation of relevant APEC member economies in the work of the Agreement including provisions about: (1) observership, (2) cooperation, and (3) committing to be bound by the terms of the Agreement.
- 8.9 Australia indicated that it had been working in the margins of AC9 with Argentina concerning bringing forward to Parties a proposal about the implementation of Resolution 5.8, pursuant to article VIII(4) and (15) of the Agreement, including the participation of Chinese Taipei, a relevant APEC member economy, as an observer in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.
- 8.10 There was general agreement that fisheries of Chinese Taipei may have substantial impacts on some ACAP-listed species and that it was important that Chinese Taipei participates in the Agreement as a relevant APEC member economy.

9 POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

9.1 Report of the Working Group

- 9.1.1 Dr Richard Phillips, Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), introduced the report of the Third Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC9 Doc 09 Rev 1](#)). This report outlined inter-sessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG and also reflected discussions and advice resulting from the WG meeting (PaCSWG3) held on 5 - 6 May 2016 in La Serena, Chile.

9.1.2 The Advisory Committee supported the following recommendations of the PaCSWG and took note of them when developing the AC Work Programme:

9.1.3 Threats and prioritisation

- i. recognised the advances that are being achieved in planning and implementing large-scale eradication programmes of non-native species that will ultimately benefit the status of ACAP species;
- ii. encouraged the thorough documentation and dissemination of details of eradication programmes, including non-target impacts and mitigation, so that lessons and benefits can be widely applied in the future;
- iii. requested that Parties ensure that stringent bio-security protocols are in place, conforming to the ACAP Biosecurity Guidelines, to prevent introductions or re-introductions of non-native species at ACAP breeding sites;
- iv. explored the means by which ACAP and ACAP Parties could support the eradication of the introduced House Mouse at Gough Island in light of the threat that predation by this species presents to the Critically Endangered Tristan Albatross;
- v. requested that Parties collaborate in projects analysing overlap and interactions between seabirds and fisheries, and relationships between changes in fishing effort and demography, by the provision of high resolution data on fishing effort;
- vi. encouraged research assessing the exposure to, and incidence and impacts of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment on ACAP species;
- vii. endorsed the addition of the Grey-headed Albatross at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹, Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross at Amsterdam Island, Balearic Shearwater at the Balearic Islands, and Waved Albatross at Española Island to, and the removal of Sooty Albatross at Prince Edward Islands from, the list of ACAP high priority populations; and
- viii. requested that ACAP Parties develop a list of actions that identify priority research and conservation activities for each of the high priority populations, and report to each AC meeting on progress in implementing those activities.

9.1.4 Data gaps

- i. encouraged Parties and non-Party Range States responsible for breeding populations of ACAP species to implement the priority monitoring programmes in order to increase current knowledge of their population size, trends and demography; and

¹ 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.

- ii. encouraged Parties and non-Party Range States to undertake the identified priority tracking studies.

9.1.5 ACAP performance indicators

- i. encouraged data-holders to submit their tracking data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database to enable multi-species analyses of overlap between ACAP species and fisheries; and
- ii. requested Parties assist BirdLife International with a comprehensive tracking data gap analysis.

9.1.6 Best practice guidelines and other online resources

- i. encouraged continued review and updating of existing and newly-developed best-practice guidelines;
- ii. encouraged updating of the Biosecurity Guidelines to include specific advice for disease sampling and/or to develop stand-alone disease sampling guidelines;
- iii. endorsed the revision of the Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide as a joint initiative between the Seabird Bycatch and Populations and Conservation Status Working Groups;
- iv. encouraged development of guidelines and best-practice advice for removing entangled seabirds from nets; and
- v. encouraged development of guidelines to quantify the ingestion of plastics (including microplastics) by albatrosses and petrels.

9.1.7 ACAP Breeding sites accounts

- i. supported the publication of a comprehensive account on all known breeding sites.

9.2 **Future PaCSWG Work Programme**

- 9.2.1 The Work Programme of the PaCSWG is outlined in section 2 of the AC Work Programme (**ANNEX 5**). The Committee endorsed this Work Programme following discussion under Agenda Item 12.1.

10 **TAXONOMY OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

10.1 **Report of the Working Group**

- 10.1.1 The AC Chair, who is a member of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG), advised the meeting that no report had been submitted by the TWG. He noted however, the contribution of the TWG to a manuscript submitted to the journal *Biological Conservation* in October 2015, which reviews the taxonomy, breeding and foraging distributions, population status and trends, threats and priorities for ACAP species. The Chair of the TWG also provided

advice to Australia on the taxonomy of the Pink-footed Shearwater, *Ardenna creatopus* syn. *Puffinus creatopus*.

10.2 Future TWG Work Programme

- 10.2.1 The Work Programme of the TWG is outlined in section 1 of the AC Work Programme (**ANNEX 5**). The Committee endorsed this Work Programme following discussion under Agenda Item 12.1.

11 SEABIRD BYCATCH

11.1 Report of the Working Group

- 11.1.1 The Convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Anton Wolfaardt, introduced the report of the Seventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG7). This report ([AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1](#)) outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the SBWG, as well as discussions and advice resulting from the SBWG meeting held from 2 - 4 May 2016, in La Serena, Chile.
- 11.1.2 The Advisory Committee supported the following recommendations of the SBWG and took note of them when developing the AC Work Programme:
- 11.1.3 Format and presentation of ACAP review and best practice advice documents
- i. Endorsed the revised format of the ACAP Review and Best Practice Advice documents.
 - ii. Endorsed the proposal to simplify the BirdLife/ACAP Mitigation Fact Sheets when the current Fact Sheets are formally revised (anticipated in 2 - 3 years).
- 11.1.4 Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries
- i. Encouraged Parties and others to prioritise research to identify mitigation measures that improve the sink rate of baited hooks on floated longlines, and to keep the group informed of developments associated with research on seabird mortality and mitigation in demersal longline fisheries.
- 11.1.5 Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries
- i. Endorsed clarifications about the recommended best practice advice for reducing impact of pelagic and demersal trawl gear on seabirds (included in the revised advice provided in ANNEX 2 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**).
 - ii. Encouraged implementation of the identified research priorities for trawl gear mitigation identified in Section 6.3 of the SBWG7 report.

11.1.6 Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

- i. Endorsed the recommendation to update the recommended line weighting of branch lines component of best practice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds, replacing the former regime with the following configurations:
 - (a) 40 g or greater attached within 0.5 m of the hook; or
 - (b) 60 g or greater attached within 1 m of the hook; or
 - (c) 80 g or greater attached within 2 m of the hook
- ii. Noted that fishing operators should take appropriate steps to assess and mitigate the hazard associated with the potential for recoil of the branch line (or 'flyback') in circumstances when there is a 'bite-off' or where the hook is dislodged during hauling.
- iii. Noted that the updated best-practice advice for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is to use the following three measures simultaneously: branch line weighting (according to the configurations outlined in i above), night setting and bird-scaring lines.
- iv. Endorsed updating the review and best practice advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds to include hook-shielding devices as outlined in ANNEX 4 of AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1 (included as **ANNEX 6** in this report).
- v. Encouraged implementation of the identified research priorities for bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries identified in Section 7.3 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**.
- vi. Endorsed the revision of [Bycatch Mitigation Fact Sheet 8](#) on branch line weighting in pelagic longline fisheries to account for the updated weighting configurations, and the development of a new factsheet for hook-shielding devices.
- vii. Endorsed the proposal to review the ACAP de-hooking guide.

11.1.7 Seabird bycatch mitigation in gillnet fisheries

- i. Encouraged Parties and others to prioritise the areas of research identified in Section 8.1 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1** and to keep the group informed of developments in research on seabird mortality and mitigation in gillnet fisheries.

11.1.8 Assessment of risks posed to ACAP species from net fishing methods other than gillnet and trawl

- i. Encouraged further data collection and analysis on the mitigation methods presented for purse seine fisheries.
- ii. Encouraged the development of best practice mitigation advice on purse seine fisheries for the next meeting of the SBWG.

11.1.9 Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

- i. Endorsed further intersessional work to finalise and populate the 'toolbox' template for providing mitigation advice in artisanal and small-scale fisheries.

11.1.10 Laser technology to mitigate seabird bycatch

- i. Noted SBWG previously acknowledged the potential utility of the technology across gear types, but recommended that bird welfare issues be addressed before further at-sea testing or industry uptake can be supported.
- ii. Noted preliminary research using lasers in a North Pacific trawl fishery did not show a detectable response in daylight hours, and that reactions to the laser at night varied between species, and whether the seabirds were feeding in the offal plume or following the vessel.
- iii. Noted that the SBWG has ongoing concerns about the safety and efficacy of laser technology as a seabird bycatch mitigation tool.

11.1.11 ACAP performance indicators: seabird bycatch

- i. Endorsed the guidelines provided on estimating seabird bycatch and reporting results and associated information to the ACAP Secretariat.
- ii. Endorsed the further development of the seabird bycatch reporting framework as part of the national reporting mechanism so as to report on the indicators developed.
- iii. Endorsed proposed intersessional work to trial the system and report back to the next SBWG and AC meetings, so that a firm recommendation can be provided to MoP6.

11.1.12 Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs

- i. Supported the implementation of the prioritised key areas for engagement with RFMOs, as identified in ANNEX 5 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**, and the provision of resources necessary to achieve this.

11.1.13 Electronic monitoring (EM)

- i. Endorsed the advice that the SBWG has developed for Electronic Monitoring in relation to seabird bycatch, outlined in i-viii of Section 14 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**.
- ii. Encouraged further development of ACAP advice on Electronic Monitoring

11.1.14 Risk assessment

- i. Encouraged Parties and others to consider the possible edge effects when planning and designing fisheries closure areas.
- ii. Endorsed the updating of relevant mitigation review documents to include the recent study on the impact of fisheries closures on seabird bycatch.

- iii. Encouraged Parties to share information and expertise on data collection protocols to quantify the negative impacts of trawl fishing on seabirds.
- iv. Encouraged Parties to contribute fisheries effort data to regional and global assessments of the impact of fisheries on seabirds and to actively collaborate in these processes.

11.1.15 FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds

- i. Encouraged ACAP Parties that do not have a National Plan – Seabirds to prepare and adopt a plan that fully complies with FAO’s Technical Guidelines.
- ii. Encouraged Parties with an existing NPOA-S to review and strengthen them, as applicable, to ensure full compliance with the Technical Guidelines.
- iii. Encouraged Parties to report to the SBWG case studies demonstrating success and highlighting challenging areas, where additional work is required and where collaboration or advice would be welcome.
- iv. Supported the recommendation to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of each plan within the intersessional period to assess their effectiveness in reducing bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.

11.1.16 Listing of species on Annex 1

- i. Endorsed further intersessional work on the listing criteria.

11.1.17 Tools and guidelines

- i. Endorsed the development of a best-practice guide on removing entangled seabirds from nets, and providing core funding to support its development.
- ii. Encouraged ACAP countries to define implementation and sustainability mechanisms (i.e. time assignments, permission to store samples on board and disembark at ports) that would enable on-board observers to complete the sample collection protocols from bycaught birds outlined in [SBWG7 Doc 24](#).
- iii. Acknowledged current limited seabird health research capacity in South America and encouraged the establishment of a regional “health network” better to deliver on ACAP priorities for proper curation of tissue samples from bycaught seabirds.
- iv. Recognised the value of field-testing the developed protocols and endorsed pilot implementation in selected countries where necessary permits have been secured

11.1.18 A number of points was made by delegates during the presentation of the SBWG report on the following items:

Seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries

- 11.1.19 In considering the inclusion of hook-shielding devices as alternative best practice for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries,

concerns were expressed regarding their proprietary nature. Some jurisdictions would be unable to prescribe the use of devices of this nature.

11.1.20 HSI raised concern that given the recent development of hook-shielding devices, their long-term failure rates have not been determined.

11.1.21 The SBWG Convenor noted that the revised best practice advice for mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries would continue to recommend that the simultaneous use of branch line weighting, bird-scaring lines and night setting represents the most effective approach. Hook-shielding devices represent an alternative option to the three-measure approach, where appropriate. It was also pointed out that all of the recommended best practice mitigation measures are susceptible to some level of failure, and long-term studies of effectiveness were encouraged.

Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

11.1.22 Peru highlighted the importance of considering socio-economic factors in the development of mitigation strategies for artisanal fisheries, but raised concerns about the use and effectiveness of economic compensation as a tool in this regard.

Laser technology to mitigate seabird bycatch

11.1.23 The Committee re-iterated its concern regarding the health impacts of laser technology on both seabirds and humans, and the lack of current information in this regard.

ACAP performance indicators: seabird bycatch

11.1.24 In response to a query from the USA, the SBWG Convenor clarified that once the bycatch reporting framework is established, Parties would be encouraged to provide bycatch estimates starting from the establishment of the Agreement in 2004. It was also clarified that capacity building and collaborative work would form important components of the implementation of the bycatch reporting framework.

Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs

11.1.25 Brazil highlighted the importance of the upcoming (September 2016) review of ICCAT's seabird conservation and management measure (Rec 11-09), and encouraged all relevant Parties and non-Party Range States to engage in this process. The SBWG Convenor reported that the IOTC seabird conservation and management measure is also scheduled to be reviewed in September 2016, and similarly encouraged active engagement in this process by all relevant Parties and non-Party Range States. It was noted that these actions are captured in the priority list of actions in ANNEX 5 of **AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**.

Electronic monitoring (EM)

- 11.1.26 A number of Parties reported on EM initiatives currently underway, including in Australia, Brazil, South Africa and Chile, and encouraged further development of guidelines for the use of EM in relation to seabird bycatch.

FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds

- 11.1.27 The USA welcomed the NPOA-S review presented in [SBWG7 Doc 13](#), highlighting that it provided useful guidance on where improvements could be made to existing NPOA-S.

11.2 Future SBWG Work Programme

- 11.2.1 The Work Programme of the SBWG is outlined in section 3 of the AC Work Programme (**ANNEX 5**). The Committee endorsed this Work Programme following discussion under Agenda Item 12.1.

12 ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

12.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016-2018

- 12.1.1 The Work Programme (**AC9 Doc 12**) adopted by MoP5 was introduced by the Chair. It had been developed further during the meetings of PaCSWG3 and SBWG7. A final version of the Work Programme was agreed (**ANNEX 5**).
- 12.1.2 Some actions in the Work Programme have a cost indicated against them (in Australian dollars). These figures are indicative only. The value of work to implement the Work Programme that is carried out by Parties, Range States, Observer Organisations and the Secretariat, and many scientists on their budgets and in their time, is not included.
- 12.1.3 Following a proposal by Australia, the Committee tasked the TWG to review the nomenclature for *Ardenna creatopus* syn. *Puffinus creatopus* (Pink-footed Shearwater) and prepare a report for the consideration of AC10 and MoP6 about its findings.
- 12.1.4 Chile noted that the issue of climate change and its effects on the conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels was not included in the Work Programme. The Chair suggested that this should be included as an item in the AC10 Agenda, and Chile agreed to provide a paper on the issue for AC10. The Chair encouraged other Parties and Observers to consider providing papers also.

12.2 Agreement Grant Scheme

- 12.2.1 The Executive Secretary presented [AC9 Doc 14](#), which detailed the process followed for the Small Grant Scheme in 2015, noted issues preventing the implementation of the programme for that round, and outlined additional

options for further developing the programme. The meeting was advised that the commencement of the next call is scheduled to take place soon after the AC9, in late June or early July.

- 12.2.2 The Committee noted the importance and high value of the Small Grant Scheme to the objectives and work of the Agreement, and the considerable effort that has gone into this initiative. Regret was expressed that the impasse encountered in the last round of applications has not as yet been resolved, and the Committee remarked on the possibility that similar issues could also prevent the successful implementation of the Secondment Programme in the future.
- 12.2.3 Argentina assured the meeting that it values the Small Grants Scheme as all Parties do, and that Argentina and the UK have been working intersessionally on this issue and will continue to do so.
- 12.2.4 The UK confirmed that bilateral discussions on this matter are ongoing, and that both sides are committed to finding a solution so that the next Small Grants round can proceed following AC9. However, the UK noted that a resolution might not be able to be reached within the time frame of this meeting.
- 12.2.5 Australia encouraged all Parties to adopt a nuanced approach when considering which applications would be referred to the ACAP Grants Subcommittee for assessment under future rounds of the ACAP Small Grants Scheme and ACAP Secondment Programme.

12.3 Agreement Secondment Programme

- 12.3.1 The Executive Secretary presented **AC9 Doc 14** outlining the processes followed for the allocation of funds within the Agreement's Secondment Programme.
- 12.3.2 The document reports on two secondments supported in 2015, one by Patricia Pereira Serafini (CEMAVE, Brazil) to the British Antarctic Survey and the University of Exeter, and another by Verónica Córtez (University of Barcelona, Spain) to the Albatross Task Force, Chile. Both secondments were highly regarded by the Working Groups and the Advisory Committee. A total of AUD 26,034 was provided to support the secondments.
- 12.3.3 The Executive Secretary referred to the need for refining the application template in order to better guide applicants in the completion and submission of supporting documents.

12.4 Outcomes of projects and secondments supported

- 12.4.1 The Secretariat presented [AC9 Inf 02](#) detailing outcomes of projects supported during the 2013 – 2014 call and any outstanding report from previous rounds. The document also included reports on outcomes from the two secondments supported in 2015.

- 12.4.2 A number of projects supported in the last successful round was presented to the Working Group Meetings preceding AC9.

12.5 Capacity Building Strategy

- 12.5.1 The Secretariat introduced [AC9 Doc 18](#) presenting a revised and complete version of the Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy for the consideration of the Advisory Committee. The strategy includes sections on objectives, principles, funding and delivery, and governance.
- 12.5.2 Argentina thanked the Chair and the Executive Secretary for their further intersessional work on the strategy, but had concerns on the implications, implementation and procedures of the strategy and asked for clarification.
- 12.5.3 Consequently, a break-out group led by Argentina, Brazil and New Zealand met in the margins of the meeting, to further consider the revised strategy.
- 12.5.4 Australia recalled that the Capacity Building Strategy presented at this meeting was the product of work done over previous years and that a substantial proportion of the strategy was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.
- 12.5.5 The drafting group presented a revised strategy, which included new text concerning external funds, as well as financial guidelines relating to capacity building, including those pursued by the Small Grants and Secondment schemes.
- 12.5.6 The UK expressed concerns with the proposed new sections relating to funding of the capacity building strategy, as these would be impractical and would impinge upon the efficient working of the Agreement, including the Small Grants and Secondment schemes. Other additions would not be consistent with ACAP's core principles of openness and transparency.
- 12.5.7 Australia noted that development of financial regulations was a matter for the MoP, and the Financial Regulations ensured that relevant procedures were available in the one source.
- 12.5.8 A drafting group constituted by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Ecuador and the UK, and led by the Executive Secretary, was established to further refine the strategy during the intersessional period.

12.6 Conflict of interest and bias

- 12.6.1 Australia, on behalf of New Zealand and Uruguay introduced [AC9 Doc 17](#) that proposed comprehensive policy arrangements concerning the potential for conflicts of interest and bias to arise in the work of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups established by the Advisory Committee from time-to-time. The application of the policy would be limited to elected officials and invited experts of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups. The policy would not apply to Parties to the Agreement appointed as an Advisory Committee member, or their advisers, pursuant to article IX(2) of the Agreement.

- 12.6.2 Australia indicated that the proposed policy provided definitions about what was meant by a conflict of interest, and bias. The proposed policy also set out procedural requirements for individuals to whom the policy would apply, and for the operation of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups. The policy would require individuals to whom the policy would apply to provide a declaration of their interests, and would establish a register of interests to be maintained by the Secretariat.
- 12.6.3 The Committee thanked Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay for preparing proposed policy arrangements concerning conflict of interest and bias. The Committee decided to continue to apply the interim measures agreed at AC8, that presently provide reassurance that any conflict of interest matter would be managed practically, feasibly and effectively. The Committee agreed to keep the interim measures under review.

13 INDICATORS TO MEASURE SUCCESS OF ACAP

- 13.1 Progress in the use and development of indicators to measure the success of the Agreement was reported in PaCSWG3 (**AC9 Doc 09 Rev 1**) and SBWG7 (**AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1**) reports.
- 13.2 Argentina reported some progress made in the development of indicators on capacity building. However the document has not yet been shared widely enough amongst the contact group and was therefore not yet ready to be tabled at AC9. Further intersessional work will allow the presentation of a document at AC10.

14 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES

- 14.1 No documents proposing the listing of new species on Annex 1 of the Agreement were presented.
- 14.2 The Committee recognised many species of the genus *Pterodroma* face significant threats to their conservation, and some of these are already identified by the Agreement as species of concern ([AC3 Doc 18](#), [MoP5 Doc 21](#) and [SBWG7 Doc 25](#)). There are also other small burrowing petrels that share a number of the same conservation characteristics as *Pterodroma* species. The Committee noted there are ongoing discussions internationally about appropriate modalities for the conservation of these species including under the Agreement, CMS and in BirdLife International's '*Pterodroma* Interest Group', and at least eight Parties to the Agreement have breeding populations of *Pterodroma* species.
- 14.3 The Committee decided that there was merit in convening a one-day workshop involving interested Parties to the Agreement, and inviting others with an interest in the conservation of these species. The workshop would be held in association with the Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups in 2017.

- 14.4 The workshop's objective is to advance understanding about best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species. The workshop would:
1. share information about current understanding of conservation threats to *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species, whether on land, at-sea, or generalised in nature;
 2. consider whether and to what extent international cooperation would assist in addressing these threats;
 3. as relevant, consider modalities for international cooperation; and
 4. prepare a report and recommendations for consideration at the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement in 2018.
- 14.5 The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should take appropriate steps to advertise the scope, timing and venue for the workshop. A small contact group including Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, New Zealand and UK would assist in the preparations for this workshop.

15 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- 15.1 Argentina presented a request relating to the use of bibliographic references. This followed discussions held in previous meetings, where Argentina proposed that a formula based on the one applied to maps published by the United Nations be included as a footnote in the documents. The footnote would be: *"The bibliographic and documentary references included in this paper have been made for exclusively scientific purposes and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area, or of its authorities"*.
- 15.2 Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay supported Argentina's request.
- 15.3 The UK stated that it believed that Resolution 2.9 paragraph 4, adopted by the Meeting of Parties at their second session (MoP2), covers the majority of this issue. With the discovery of the mis-translation of the text from English to Spanish, UK suggested that Argentina reflect upon this and review their position on this issue. The UK noted that corrected versions of the Spanish (and French) texts have now been prepared, and had been circulated to all Parties, hoping that these corrected texts will ensure no further misunderstandings on this issue.
- 15.4 Australia noted the proposed changes would appear to modify the operation of Resolution 2.9, which would be a matter for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
- 15.5 New Zealand also expressed concerns about the interaction of this proposal with Resolution 2.9.

- 15.6 Argentina noted that discrepancies in views are not related to the mis-translation issue, given that the proposal was developed on the basis of the text in the English version of Resolution 2.9.
- 15.7 Argentina noted that should new Parties be added to the Agreement, this deliberately general-nature text will serve to protect authors' rights as well as for issues not concerning strictly scientific items.
- 15.8 The Advisory Committee Chair noted that no paper had been tabled for AC9 and consequently, the lack of a detailed proposal in advance of the meeting did not allow a full consideration at this meeting.
- 15.9 Argentina agreed to present a proposal on bibliographic references at AC10 in the form of a working document in order to be fully considered by the AC.

16 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF AC OFFICERS

- 16.1 The Chair reminded the AC that all of the Committee officer positions concluded at the end of the current meeting. Elections would be required to elect officers for the next period, which will conclude at the end of the AC meeting after the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (AC11 in 2019). He asked in turn for nominations:
- 16.2 Vice-convenors, Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Australia proposed Dr Igor Debski and New Zealand proposed Mr Sebastian Jimenez. There were no other nominations so Dr Debski and Mr Jimenez were elected.
- 16.3 Convenor, Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Uruguay proposed Dr Anton Wolfaardt. There were no other nominations, so Dr Wolfaardt was elected.
- 16.4 Vice-convenors, Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Argentina proposed Ms Patricia Serafini and Brazil proposed Dr Flavio Quintana. There were no other nominations so Ms Serafini and Dr Quintana were elected.
- 16.5 Convenors, Population and Conservation Status Working Group: South Africa proposed Dr Rosemary Gales and Chile proposed Dr Richard Phillips. There were no other nominations, so Dr Gales and Dr Phillips were elected.
- 16.6 Vice-convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: Peru proposed Dr Mike Double. There were no other nominations, so Dr Double was elected.
- 16.7 Convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: Australia proposed Mr Mark Tasker. There were no other nominations, so Mr Tasker was elected.
- 16.8 Vice-chair, Advisory Committee: Uruguay proposed Ms Tatiana Neves. There were no other nominations, so Ms Neves was elected.
- 16.9 Chair, Advisory Committee: Chile proposed Mr Nathan Walker. There were no other nominations, so Mr Walker was elected.

17 TENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17.1 Timing and venue

17.1.1 New Zealand offered to host the Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC10).

17.1.2 The proposal was enthusiastically welcomed by the Committee.

17.1.3 The Chair noted that New Zealand would be an appropriate place to host the 'Pterodroma workshop' (refer to Agenda item 14) given the local expertise on these species. The Chair advised that the meeting would most likely take place in late August / early September 2017.

17.2 Draft agenda

17.2.1 A draft agenda for AC10 was reviewed by the Committee (**ANNEX 7**) and will be forwarded to Parties for their consideration.

18 SIXTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

18.1 Timing and venue

18.1.1 There were no offers from Parties present at the meeting to host the Sixth Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP6) in 2018. The Secretariat and AC Chair will work intersessionally with Parties to secure a meeting host for 2018.

19 OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Sixth International Albatross and Petrel Conference

19.1.1 The AC Chair drew attention to the Sixth International Albatross and Petrel Conference to be held in Barcelona, Spain, between 19 and 23 September 2016. A submitted abstract reporting on and promoting the work of the Agreement was discussed in the SBWG7 and the PaCSWG3 meetings.

19.1.2 The AC Chair informed the Committee that a request had been made to ACAP to contribute to supporting this conference. However, a mechanism could not be identified to fund this request. The views of the Committee were sought on providing funds to support future conferences or similar meetings.

19.1.3 Ecuador shared with the meeting the experience of a similar situation arising in the IAC, and encouraged Parties to explore a budget allocation for such requests in the next triennium.

19.1.4 South Africa supported this proposal and the Committee agreed to add a line to the draft budget document for MoP6.

19.1.5 USA drew attention of the meeting to the IUCN World Conservation Congress taking place in Honolulu in early September 2016.

20 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

- 20.1 The meeting adopted the report of AC9.

21 CLOSING REMARKS

- 21.1 The Chair, Mr Mark Tasker, made a few personal reflections as follows:

21.2 “I have been Chair or Vice-chair of ACAP’s Advisory Committee since it was established. In that time I have had the privilege of working with either John Cooper as Vice-chair, or Marco Favero as Chair. Both were excellent to work with and great companions – much fun has also been had. I am delighted that both continue to play essential roles within the ACAP framework as our Communications Officer and our new Executive Secretary.

21.3 In reflecting on my time in the Advisory Committee’s leadership, I was considering how well each part of ACAP’s machinery was working. At the expert level we have three Working Groups. Two of these are the main driving forces in moving ACAP’s work forwards. The Seabird Bycatch Working Group is regarded as one of the main places to seek expertise and wisdom on reducing bycatch of seabirds globally. The set of papers brought forward last week at its meeting were of the highest standard; the leadership of this group by Barry Baker and latterly Anton Wolfaardt along with their Vice-convenors has been energetic, focussed and very productive.

21.4 Similarly, Richard Phillips and Rosie Gales have been very effective convenors (again ably assisted by their Vice-convenors) of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group and their predecessors. The group has taken on their tasks with vigour and helped ensure that our knowledge of ACAP species is as comprehensive as possible and that the actions of Parties are focussed on the main priorities.

21.5 Underpinning both of these Groups, and the rest of the Agreement, has been an extraordinarily efficient and diligent Secretariat. For most of its existence, Warren Papworth was the Executive Secretary, responding rapidly in a courteous and diplomatic fashion to the many challenges, issues and items of work needed to run our organisation. It is difficult to exaggerate the breadth of work that is needed in this role, from the minutiae of the budget, to the representation at Governmental level, to the expertise needed to edit technical documents. Warren had all these skills and I know that we all thank him warmly for his work. Working alongside Warren (and now Marco) is the Science Officer, Wiesława Misiak (known to us all as Wavee). She has done all of those detailed things that many of us will skip past; she works incredibly hard (and often far too late into the night) with a great passion for the job that I respect and admire.

21.6 I will not comment on the Meeting of Parties (that is for themselves to evaluate), but do feel that I need to say something about the Advisory Committee. The role of the Advisory Committee is to drive forward the Agreement between Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, based on the

agreed work plan. The meetings of the Advisory Committee cost the Agreement in the order of US\$250,000 – US\$300,000 per triennium – some of this goes towards the meetings of the Working Groups but never-the-less this is a substantial proportion of the Agreement's budget. I am concerned however that the Advisory Committee does not add a great deal of value to the conservation work of the Agreement. Much of our time seems to be taken up on relatively trivial issues that seem to take a great deal of time to resolve. In many cases I feel that the Committee may not consist of the right people with the right skill sets to resolve those issues. Are our ways of working a good use of time or of the valuable (and increasingly rare) funds devoted by Parties to enhance the conservation of albatrosses and petrels? Capacity Building is still plainly a very large issue but the focus often seems to be on what can be gained by individual Parties from the Agreement rather than what can be given (and I am sure we can all give in our own ways).

- 21.7 So I think a major challenge going forward is to re-examine whether the Advisory Committee is functioning in the best possible way for the Agreement. If it should continue to address large scale diplomatic issues and financial issues, is it attracting the right experts in these areas? and is its structure and ways of working the most efficient and effective? Can we individually improve our ways of approaching the Committee's work? We owe it to the albatrosses and petrels to reflect on this and take action individually and collectively as we move forward.
- 21.8 Finally, I thank you very much for having the confidence in me to allow me to serve as your Chair or Vice-chair for so many years, and I wish Nathan Walker and Tatiana Neves the best wishes as they take the work of the Advisory Committee forward in future."
- 21.9 The Chair then thanked the staff of the Hotel Club La Serena, especially Mr Jorge Morales and Ms Carolina Cuello for their hospitality. Thanks were also extended to the local audio/video technicians and the On Call interpreters, Ms Cecilia Alal and Dr Sandra Hale, ably supported by Mr Marco Vernaza. Snrs Marcelo Garcia and Jorge Azocar had been wonderful Chilean hosts, and the Chair thanked them and their colleagues from IFOP and the Chilean Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture who had graciously opened the meeting. Finally, the Chair noted that the meeting could not have been possible without the massive efforts from the Secretariat. The meeting joined in thanking all those acknowledged.
- 21.10 In return, the Advisory Committee thanked the Chair for his leadership and excellent stewardship during the meeting.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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INTERPRETERS	
Spanish/English: English/Spanish:	<p>Dr Sandra HALE Ms Cecilia ALAL</p> <p>ONCALL Interpreters & Translators Email: Conference@oncallinterpreters.com</p>

ANNEX 2. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC9 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee
AC9 Doc 02 Rev 2	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	AC Acting Chair
AC9 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC9 Doc 04 Rev 2	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC9 Doc 05 Rev 2	List of Meeting Documents	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC9 Doc 06 Rev 1	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC9 Doc 07	Report of Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC9 Doc 08 Rev 1	2016 Interim Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC9 Doc 09 Rev 1	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	9.1	PaCSWG Convenors
AC9 Doc 10 Rev 1	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	11.1	SBWG Convenor
AC9 Doc 11	Not submitted – see Section 10.1		
AC9 Doc 12	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016 - 2018	12.1	AC Chair, Vice-chair
AC9 Doc 13	Secretariat Work Programme 2016 - 2018	5.2	Secretariat
AC9 Doc 14	Allocation of funds to the AC Work Programme	12	Grants Sub-committee, Secretariat
AC9 Doc 15	MoP5 outcomes relevant to the Advisory Committee Work Programme	8, 12	Secretariat, AC Acting Chair
AC9 Doc 16	Resolution 5.8 progressing implementation of Article VIII.15 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	8	Australia
AC9 Doc 17	Conflict of interest and bias	12.6	Australia, New Zealand & Uruguay
AC9 Doc 18	Agreement capacity building strategy	12.5	Secretariat, AC Chair

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC9 Inf 01	Agreement Budget 2016 - 2018	8, 12	Secretariat
AC9 Inf 02	Progress reports on Conservation Projects and Secondments supported by the AC	12.4	Secretariat

ANNEX 3. AC9 AGENDA

AC9 AGENDA	
1. Opening Remarks	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Rules of Procedure	3.1 Amendments to Rule 20
4. Report of Depositary	
5. ACAP Secretariat	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2015/2016 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2016 - 2018
6. Agreement's Financial Matters	6.1 Financial Report
7. Observer Reports	7.1 Reports from ACAP Observers at International Meetings 7.2 Reports from Observers to AC9
8. Report on the Fifth Meeting of Parties	
9. Conservation and Population Status of Albatrosses and Petrels	9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group 9.2 Future PaCSWG Work Programme
10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels	10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group 10.2 Future TWG Work Programme
11. Seabird Bycatch	11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group 11.2 Future SBWG Work Programme
12. Advisory Committee	12.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016 - 2018 12.2 Agreement Grant Scheme 12.3 Agreement Secondment Programme 12.4 Outcomes of projects and secondments supported 12.5 Capacity building strategy 12.6 Conflict of interest and bias
13. Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP	

14. Listing of New Species
15. Bibliographic References
16. Election and Appointment of AC Officers
17. Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee 17.1 Timing and Venue 17.2 Draft Agenda
18. Sixth Meeting of Parties 18.1 Timing and Venue
19. Other Business 19.1 Sixth International Albatross and Petrel Conference
20. Adoption of Report
21. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 4. SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2016 - 2018

Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG7, PaCSWG3 and AC9 are highlighted in blue.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1	SUPPORT FOR MoP, ADVISORY COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP MEETINGS			AC9 + WGs		AC10 + WGs		MoP6		
1.1	Undertake meeting arrangements.	Article X.a								
	▪ selection of venue		Exec Sec	3	2,500	3	2,500	3	2,500	Travel costs
	▪ organise contracts, venue/equip		Exec Sec	3		3		3		
	▪ liaison with host government		Exec Sec	2		2		2		
1.2	Preparation of meeting papers	Article X.a								Within 60 days of meeting
	▪ writing of meeting documents		Exec Sec	10		10		10		
	▪ writing of meeting documents		Sci Officer	10		10		5		
	▪ writing of meeting documents		Tech Advisor	5		5				
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Exec Sec	5		5		5		
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Sci Officer	5		5		2		
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Tech Advisor	5		5				
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Exec Sec			5		3		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Sci Officer			15		3		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Tech Advisor			5				
1.3	Support the attendance of sponsored experts and delegates	Article VII 5	Exec Sec	5		5		5		Correspondence, organise travel, acquittal of accounts
1.4	Organise the translation and posting of meeting documents and provision of interpretation services	AC RoP 17 (1)								Within 30 days of meeting
	▪ coordination with service provider		Exec Sec & Sci Officer	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ posting of documents		Sci Officer	5		5		2		
1.5	Support & operation of meetings	Article X.a								
	▪ travel for meetings		Sec. staff x 2	8	6,000	8	6,000	8	6,000	4 days per meeting, airfares
	▪ travel for meetings		Contract x 1	4	6,000	4	6,000	2	5,000	airfares, contract costs
	▪ attendance at meeting		Sec. staff x 2	28	4,400	28	4,400	14	4,400	accomm/allowances x 2
	▪ attendance at meeting		Contract x 1	12	10,000	12	10,000	6	5,000	contract costs, accomm
1.6	Prepare meeting report and distribute to all Parties	Article X.a	Sec. staff x 2	6		6		6		
1.7	Prepare guidance to Parties on Credentials options	MoP5	Exec Sec							
1.8	Review Annex A of Staff Regulations	MoP5	Exec Sec							
2	MANAGEMENT OF SECRETARIAT									
2.1	Administer the budget for the Agreement and the Special Fund provided for in Article VII (3) in accordance with the Agreement's Financial Regulations;	Article X.g								
	▪ payment of accounts		Exec Sec	15		15		15		
	▪ preparation of invoices and receipts		Exec Sec	4		4		4		
	▪ preparation of financial statements		Exec Sec	2		2		2		
	▪ maintain advance & assets registers		Exec Sec	1		1		1		
2.2	Prepare biannual financial reports for the information of the Parties and the Chair of the Advisory Committee	AC2, MoP2	Exec Sec	4		4		4		
2.3	Provide information to the general public concerning the Agreement and its objectives, and promote the objectives of this Agreement	Article X.h								
	▪ preparation of ACAP Latest News for website		Info Officer	90		90		90		
	▪ maintain/update website links and publications		Sci & Info Officers	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ management of ACAP Facebook page		Info Officer	2		2		2		
	▪ preparation of scientific material		Sci Officer	10		10		10		
2.4	Update and maintain the ACAP website	Article X.h	Sci Officer & Contract	20	8,000	20	8,000	20	8,000	
2.5	Report to the 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat in terms of the agreed performance indicators	Article X.i	Exec Sec					2		
2.6	Collate as appropriate synthesized information provided by Parties on the implementation and effective functioning of the Agreement with particular reference to the conservation measures undertaken	Article X.j;	Exec Sec			5				
	▪ review data, liaise with stakeholders, amend database, collate information and draft consolidated reports	Article VII (1) c); Article VIII (10)	Sci Officer			15				
2.7	Represent the Agreement at meetings of other intergovernmental agreements, as appropriate to facilitate achievement of the Agreement's objective	Article X.d								
	▪ attendance at CMS, FAO etc meetings	Article XI	Exec Sec & Sci Officer	15	8,500	15	8,500	15	8,500	Accomm, fares and allowances
2.8	Prepare a report on Secretariat activities for AC and MoP meetings	Article X f)	Exec Sec	1		1		1		
2.9	Recruit and manage the Secretariat's staff in accordance with the Staff Regulations and the directions of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff Regs	Exec Sec	9		9		9		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3	FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE									
3.1	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">weekly liaison, assist with co-ordination of AC officials meetings etc		Exec Sec	25		25		25		
3.2	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee in preparing a report to the MoP on the activities of the Advisory Committee	Article IX 6.e)	Exec Sec			1				
3.3	Assist the Convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes	AC WP Task 2.1	Sci Officer	25		25		25		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries	AC WP Task 2.2	Sci Officer & Contract	25	5,000	25	5,000	25	5,000	Consultant data programmer/ developer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accurately assess and update global population trends	AC WP Task 2.3	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update ACAP Species Assessments	AC WP Task 2.4	Sci Officer	30		30		30	4,000	Cost for map updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	AC WP Task 2.5	Sci Officer & Contract	3	3,000	3	3,000	3	3,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify priority species or populations for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	AC WP Task 2.6	Sci Officer	10		10		10		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps 	AC WP Task 2.7	Sci Officer			5				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and/or review priority species or populations for conservation actions 	AC WP Task 2.8	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review progress and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge 	AC WP Task 2.9	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update best-practice guidelines 	AC WP Task 2.10	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop/update database of biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites 	AC WP Task 2.11	Sci Officer	3		3		3		Parties may also need to develop/implement biosecurity plans at breeding sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain centralised catalogue of plastic rings used on ACAP species and contact list, and addresses of ringing authorities 	AC WP Task 2.12	Sci Officer	2		2		2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete breeding site accounts 	AC WP Task 2.17	Info Officer	5		5		5		
3.4	Assist the Convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the RFMO interaction plan for ACAP (AC5 Doc 29) and relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels 	AC WP Task 3.1	Exec Sec & Tech Advisor	50	30,000	50	30,000	50	30,000	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMO Interaction Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information 	AC WP Task 3.4	Sci Officer	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required 	AC WP Task 3.13	Sci Officer	20		20		20		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend revised format of review and best practice advice documents on Bycatch mitigation to demersal longline and trawl fisheries 	AC WP Task 3.18	Sci Officer and Exec. Secretary	7		7				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries, develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas/ for high priority populations. 	AC WP Task 3.6	Sci Officer, Exec Sec	5		5		5		
3.5	Assist the Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database 	AC WP Task 1.2	Sci Officer	1		1		1		
3.6	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1	AC WP Task 5.3	Sci Officer	3		3		3		
3.7	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	AC WP Task 5.4	Sci Officer	5		5		5		Seabird Bycatch ID guide and de-hooking guide
3.8	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	AC WP Task 5.5	Sci Officer	5		2		2		
3.9	Review ACAP performance indicators	AC WP Task 5.6	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.10	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	AC WP Task 5.7	Sci Officer	10		10		10		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.11	Manage directory of relevant legislation	AC WP Task 5.8	Sci Officer	5		5		5		Parties to supply further information as available
3.12	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations relevant to ACAP	AC WP Task 5.9	Sci & Info Officers	3		3		3		Parties to supply further information as available
3.13	Develop a guide on removing entangled seabirds from nets	AC WP Task 5.12	Sci Officer & Exec Sec	5		5		5		
4	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT									
4.1	Assist Parties in providing training, technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral or bilateral basis to facilitate implementation of the Agreement.	Article VIII (14)	Sci Officer & Exec Sec	5		5		5		
4.2	Promote and coordinate activities under the Agreement, including the Action Plan, in accordance with decisions of the Meeting of the Parties	Article X c)	Exec Sec	15		2		15		
4.3	Liaise with non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations to facilitate coordination between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.	Article X d)	Exec Sec	20	5,000	20	5,000	20	5,000	Airfares, accomm, allowances
4.4	Consult with and enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions, and as appropriate exchange information and data.	Article XI 2c), 3 & 4	Exec Sec	3		3		3		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2016		2017		2018		Action/Detail
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
4.5	Facilitate the accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Article X d), k)	Exec Sec	5		5		5		Carry out further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and other Parties as needed. Consider implications of addition of Pink-footed shearwater to Annex 1 of the Agreement.
4.6	Assist with the compilation of the triennial implementation report.	Article IX 6 (d)	Exec Sec Sci Officer	10		10		10		
4.7	Review list of decisions by the Meeting of Parties in order to advise Parties on which decisions should be included in Party reports	MoP5	Exec Sec	2						
4.8	Review options for the provision of legal advice to the Secretariat	MoP5	Exec Sec	1						Report to AC9
5	CAPACITY BUILDING									
5.1	Assist the Advisory Committee and Parties with technical cooperation and capacity building	Article IV (2)	Exec Sec & Sci Officer	5-20		5-20		5-20		
5.2	Support secondments programme to aid capacity building	MoP2	Exec Sec & Sci Officer	5		5		5		Airfares, accomm, allowances for secondees

ANNEX 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – 2018

Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG7, PaCSWG3 and AC9 are highlighted in blue.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	AUD 0	
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2016-2018	2 months	?	In co-operation with PaCSWG (see Item 2.14) a database of researchers holding site specific samples will be developed initially.
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2016-2018	0.5 week p.a.	AUD 0	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template.
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	1-2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Provide advice regarding a standard taxonomic list to use by Parties when assessing the suitability of candidate species for inclusion in Annex 1, and for encouraging ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN, including addressing synonyms in Annex 1.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	8 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders in June each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for secondments).
2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG	2016-2018	12 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	2016-2018	3 weeks	AUD 5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC10.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG Convenors	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 4,000 (core)	Costs for Birdlife to update maps.
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (core)	
2.6	Identify priority species or populations for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks pa	AUD 0	Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2017	1 week p.a.	AUD 1,000 (core)	Review at AC10
2.8	Identify and review priority species or populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Review at each AC Meeting
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation as required for AC10.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer, Lead Richard Phillips (UK) , Anton Wolfaardt (UK) , Marcela Uhart (UCD)	2016-2018	3 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	May include developing new disease outbreak guidelines
2.11	Develop/update database of biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	Parties may also need to develop/implement biosecurity plans at breeding sites
2.12	Maintain centralised catalogue of plastic rings used on ACAP species and contact list, and addresses of ringing authorities	Science Officer, PaCSWG	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	
2.13	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	AUD 0	
2.14	Develop list of researchers/institutions/regional nodes for bycatch samples	PaCSWG, Lead Marcela Uhart (UCD) , Patricia Serafini (Brazil) , Flavio Quintana (Argentina) , Richard Phillips (UK) , Hannah Nevins (ABC)	2016-2017	2 weeks	AUD 0	
2.15	Develop guidelines to quantify the ingestion of plastics by albatrosses and petrels	Lead Patricia Serafini (Brazil) , Marcela Uhart , Barbara Wienecke (Australia) , Richard Phillips (UK)	By AC10	2 weeks	AUD 0	
2.16	Develop guidelines for tissue sampling of dead birds	Marcela Uhart (UCD)	By AC10	1 week	AUD 0	
2.17	Complete breeding sites accounts	PaCSWG, Lead John Cooper (Secretariat)	By AC10	5 weeks	AUD 0	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO interaction plan for ACAP (AC5 Doc 29) and review at each SBWG meeting. Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels. Develop ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting for presentation to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	2016-2018	a) 18 weeks p.a. b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) AUD 30,000 p.a. (core)	a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly) b) RFMO co-ordinator activities c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG) Includes development and dissemination of resources
3.2	Update analysis of overlaps of distributions and albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP	2016-2017	4 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core)	Consider work and schedule of RFMO activities (e.g. seabird risk assessments and reviews of bycatch mitigation measures) Moved to Section 5
3.3	Continue to review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird bycatch to aid prioritisation of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction.	SBWG and Parties	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (grant)	Assess needs for waters subject to national jurisdiction and any capacity building requirements To facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch Consider possible link to conservation priorities, such as Wandering Albatross Moved to Section 5
3.4	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	BirdLife/SBWG Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Based on Endnote library Includes both published and unpublished literature Replace working papers with published papers where possible Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
3.5	Based on new information, update ACAP/BirdLife fact sheets on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (trawl, pelagic longline, demersal longline) Update fact sheet on branchline weighting for Pelagic LL fisheries; develop new fact sheets for Hook shielding devices.	SBWG/BirdLife - Trawl: New Zealand Pelagic longline: Australia Demersal longline: UK General: BirdLife	2016-2018	1 week per fact sheet	AUD10,000 (core, for translation and for new factsheet)	
3.6	Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. (e.g. produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries, develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas/ for high priority populations).	SBWG/BirdLife, Secretariat	2016-2018	8 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core for publication and translation of materials)	Target audience is fisheries managers. May help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets (task 3.15). Possible secondment opportunity.
3.7	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea.	SBWG	2016-2018	12 weeks	AUD 10,000 (grant)	Review to describe current knowledge (much from unpublished literature) and causes of any deliberate take and to consider possible take reduction strategies. (Work on review of intentional killing in jigging fleets is was planned in 2015). Potential for secondment or grant .
3.8	Recommend priority actions to advance implementation of line-weighting in pelagic longline fisheries. Extend fly-back safety studies to consider hook tear-outs and 80 g weight if practicable.	SBWG	2016-2018	12 weeks	To be determined 10 000 AUD (core)	Will be informed by output of research planned for 2015
3.9	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2017 (for MoP6)	1 week	AUD 5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible workshop.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries .	SBWG	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 0	Follows on from development of the toolbox concept in 2015. Good opportunity for secondment.
3.11	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	
3.12	Assist other organisations or range states in bycatch research by facilitating collaboration with relevant experts	SBWG	2016-2018	ongoing	AUD 0	
3.13	Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required	SBWG/Anton Wolfaardt, Igor Debski et al. Secretariat	2016-2018	20 weeks	AUD 10,000 (grant)	Possibility for continued secondments to build capacity
3.14	Develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (core)	Funds for publication and translation of materials Combined with 3.6
3.15	Implement the strategy for directly engaging with fishing fleets on the need for implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures (links to the investigation on barriers and drivers of uptake)	SBWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	Strategy and mechanism development planned for 2015- 2016
3.16	Research actions for artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		To be determined	Dependent on progress of research strategy for artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries planned for 2015- Combined with 3.10
3.17	Research actions for gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	Liaise with external initiatives

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
3.18	Extend revised format of review and best practice advice documents on bycatch mitigation to demersal longline and trawl fisheries	SBWG, Secretariat	2016-2018	4 weeks	AUD 0	
3.19	Development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries	SBWG, Chile, Australia, ATF Chile	2016-2017	4 weeks		Possible grant
3.20	Further development of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG	2016-2018	8 weeks	AUD 0	Possible secondment
3.21	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds – link to 4.1	SBWG	2016-2018	20 weeks	AUD 0	Possible secondment
4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	2016-2018	10 weeks	AUD 0	Capacity building in accordance with the needs identified by interested Parties in order to encourage implementation, particularly in Ecuador, France, Peru, South Africa, (Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Madagascar), Tristan da Cunha (UK), and EC external fisheries
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties	2016		AUD 0	Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed. Consider implications of addition of pink-footed shearwater to Annex 1 of the Agreement.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	2016-2018		AUD 0	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	2016-2018		AUD 0	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
4.5	Complete the work on drafting the capacity building strategy	Advisory Committee, Parties	2016-2018		AUD 0	Provide draft of final strategy to MoP6
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2017	4 weeks	?	
5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and priority populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 0	
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	ongoing	1 week	AUD 0	Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	2016-2018	4 weeks	AUD 0	Review Seabird Bycatch ID guide and de-hooking guide. Possible secondment opportunity.
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2016	3 weeks	AUD 0	
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Parties to supply further information, as available
5.9	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	2016-2018	2 days p.a.	AUD 0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds	
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report. Agree triennial implementation report prior to MoP6.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2017		AUD 0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Review list of decisions by the Meeting of Parties in order to advise Parties on which decisions should be included in Party reports	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2016		AUD 0	
5.12	Develop a guide on removing entangled seabirds from nets	Australia, Secretariat, SBWG, PaCSWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 2,000 (Core)	Resources needed for graphic design. Possible secondment opportunity.
5.13	Update analysis of overlaps of distributions of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP	2016-2017	4 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core)	Consider work and schedule of RFMO activities (e.g. seabird risk assessments and reviews of bycatch mitigation measures). Moved from 3.2
5.14	Continue to review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird bycatch to aid prioritisation of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 10,000 (grant)	Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Consider possible link to conservation priorities, including priority populations. Moved from 3.3
6. Management of AC work, secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.3	Oversee, advise and guide Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, Chair and Vice-chair	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2016-2018	18 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Regular teleconferences and email conversations

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDED TEXT ON HOOK-SHIELDING DEVICES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ACAP REVIEW AND BEST PRACTICE SUMMARY ADVICE FOR PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

Hook-shielding devices

Hook-shielding devices encase the point and barb of baited hooks to prevent seabird attacks during line setting until a prescribed depth is reached (a minimum of 10 m), or until after a minimum period of immersion has occurred (a minimum of 10 minutes) that ensures that baited hooks are released beyond the foraging depth of most seabirds. The following performance requirements are used by ACAP to assess the efficacy of hook-shielding devices in reducing seabird bycatch:

- (a) the device shields the hook until a prescribed depth of 10 m or immersion time of 10 minutes is reached
- (b) the device meets current recommended minimum standards for branch line weighting
- (c) experimental research has been undertaken to allow assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and practicality of the technology against the ACAP best-practice seabird bycatch mitigation criteria developed for assessing and recommending best practice advice on seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

Devices assessed as having met the performance requirements listed above will be considered best practice. At this time, the following devices meet these performance requirements and represent best practice:

1. 'Hook Pod' – 68 g minimum weight that is positioned at the hook, encapsulating the barb and point of the hook during setting, and remains attached until it reaches 10 m in depth, when the hook is released.
2. 'Smart Tuna Hook' – 40 g minimum weight that is positioned at the hook, encapsulating the barb and point of the hook during setting, and remains attached for a minimum period of 10 minutes after setting, when the hook is released.

The assessment of these devices as best practice is conditional on continuing to meet the above performance requirements.

ANNEX 7. DRAFT AC10 AGENDA

DRAFT AC10 AGENDA	
1. Opening Remarks	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Rules of Procedure	
3.1 Consideration of Rule 20	
4. Report of the Depositary	
5. ACAP Secretariat	
5.1 Activities undertaken in 2016/2017 intersessional period	
5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2016 – 2018	
5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2019 – 2021	
6. Agreement's Financial Matters	
6.1 Financial Report	
6.2 Agreement Budget 2019 - 2021	
7. Progress by Parties in the evaluation of the Secretariat	
8. Observer Reports	
8.1 Reports from ACAP Observers at International Meetings	
8.2 Reports from Observers to AC10	
9. Report on the Implementation of the Agreement	
10. Advisory Committee Report to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties	
11. Conservation and Population Status of Albatrosses and Petrels	
11.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group	
11.2 Future PaCSWG Work Programme	
12. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels	
12.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group	
12.2 Future TWG Work Programme	
13. Seabird Bycatch	
13.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group	
13.2 Future SBWG Work Programme	
14. Advisory Committee	
14.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016 - 2018	
14.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2021	
14.3 Agreement Grant Scheme	
14.4 Agreement Secondment Programme	
14.5 Outcomes of projects and secondments supported	
14.6 Capacity building strategy	
15. Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP	

16. Report from Pterodroma workshop
17. Prioritisation framework
18. Listing of New Species
19. Global Climate Change and its effects on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels
20. Bibliographic References
21. Election and Appointment of AC Officers
22. Eleventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee 22.1 Timing and Venue 22.2 Draft Agenda
23. Sixth Meeting of Parties 23.1 Timing and Venue
24. Other Business
25. Adoption of Report
26. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 8. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – RANGE STATES

Canada

Canada would like to thank Chile for hosting the Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings; and would also like to thank Chile, the ACAP Secretary and the Secretariat for organizing and coordinating the meetings. Lastly, Canada would like to thank the ACAP Parties, the AC Chair and the WG Convenors and Vice-Convenors, for once again inviting Canada to attend the meetings to participate as a Range State observer and expert.

Namibia

Dr. Holtzhausen, on behalf of the Namibian Government, thanked the Secretariat for the invitation and sponsorship to attend this important meeting of AC9 and also the Government of Chile for hosting this meeting at La Serena.

1. In November last year the Seabird bycatch mitigation measures for the hake fishery (demersal trawl & longline) were Gazetted and amended in February this year. From this year on the Namibian ATF, in conjunction with the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, will focus on implementing similar mitigation measures for the pelagic longline fisheries.
2. Namibia's formal application to accede to ACAP is currently with the legal drafters and we hope to be successful by the end of this year. The current Minister of MFMR has highlighted this in his annual address to the Fishing sector in February this year and he is keen for Namibia to become a member of ACAP.
3. The first guano scrape (collection) on the Namibian offshore islands occurred in the early 1640's and has continued ever since. However, in 2012 Namibia declared its Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) of which the main aim is to protect the seabirds breeding on these islands and hence no more concessions to collect guano will be granted. Therefore, the last guano scrape contract lapses this year and Ichaboe island will be scraped as from this week (for 10 days) and this is the last time seabirds (mainly jackass penguins, gannets and bank cormorants) breeding on the islands will be disturbed by this activity.

USA

The United States thanked the Secretariat, the Acting Chair of the Advisory Committee, and conveners and co-conveners of the working groups for organizing the meetings in Chile and thanked Chile for hosting these meetings. The United States stated that it is pleased to continue supporting the work of ACAP through seabird conservation activities and participation in the Advisory Committee and Working Groups as an observer and as invited experts. It noted that efforts towards U.S. accession to ACAP are continuing, as described in AC9 Doc 06 with a positive step having been taken in early February with the introduction of legislation in Congress that would allow the United States to join ACAP. While this step was taken, additional work will be needed for the legislation to be adopted.

The United States noted some recent highlights related to Annex 1 species conservation activities in the United States. At Midway Atoll, *Verbesina encelioides*, an aggressive non-native plant that had formed a dense monoculture over 70% of the 594 hectares of land on 3 islands at the atoll, has been completely eradicated. The atoll is home to the largest albatross colony in the world. Last year reproductive performance, in cleared areas, more than doubled for Laysan Albatrosses. In Hawai'i, a mammal-proof fence on the North Shore of O'ahu, a high island, is being built to start colonies at sites safe from sea level rise in an assisted colonization effort; Laysan Albatrosses are being raised by hand at the new site and next year Black-footed Albatrosses will be added to the project. President Obama expanded the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument out to the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone around Wake Atoll, Johnston Atoll, and Jarvis Island bringing the size of the Marine National Monuments of the Pacific to almost half a billion acres of marine protected areas.

At the NOAA Fisheries, an observer program is starting to monitor third wire cable bird interactions on catcher processors fishing hake off the west coast and work with industry to develop mitigation for those interactions. Also, outreach to Alaska longline fishermen on preventing albatross bycatch is being renewed. 23 years of seabird bycatch data is being analyzed to identify where to focus the outreach efforts (areas with the highest bycatch rates). NOAA Fisheries received the Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award for completing collaborative research with fishers to identify best practice seabird bycatch mitigation of West Coast longline fisheries.

ANNEX 9. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI)

Federico Méndez-Sánchez, from Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. (GECI) from Mexico, thanked the Chair, Executive Secretariat and Delegates from the Parties for allowing participation as an Observer. In order to provide context to the Advisory Committee about the work being carried out in Mexico, Mr. Méndez mentioned that GECI, in close collaboration with Mexico's federal government, has been making significant progress during the past two decades towards the protection and conservation of seabirds, particularly at their breeding colonies. The latter has been mainly done through the removal of invasive species, with 58 successful eradications on 37 islands all over Mexico, which represents over 51,000 hectares of insular habitat being restored. In particular, on Isla Guadalupe, a program to control introduced feral cat has been in place for over a decade, with significant benefits to the Laysan Albatross colony. In addition, in late 2014 with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation from the US, a feral cat exclusion fence was built in the southernmost point of Isla Guadalupe, creating a 62-hectare peninsula now free of feral cats. From two nests recorded in 1983, to date the Isla Guadalupe Laysan Albatross colony has >1,000 nests. Furthermore, research, monitoring and social attraction techniques targeting 31 seabird species—including Storm-petrels and Shearwaters- are being done and implemented on 27 Mexican islands. Due to the latter, GECI recognizes the importance of Mexico's adherence to ACAP, and will kindly facilitate discussions between ACAP's Secretariat and Mexico's federal government agencies so as to achieve this in the coming years.

Humane Society International

Humane Society International appreciates the opportunity the ACAP Parties have again provided to observe this important meeting.

The SBWG has recommended significant amendment of the current ACAP best practice line weighting prescription and it is important that this AC accepts this recommended change in light of seabird bycatch mitigation revision that will occur soon across the tRFMO's. This decision here is crucial and timely to assist in the appropriate revision by tRFMO's.

HSI urges the AC to recognise the necessity of line weighting, without which no alternate measures currently available deliver adequate seabird bycatch mitigation in longline fisheries although there are at least, now, one or two additional mitigation options that were considered by the SBWG. Whilst revision of current mitigation options is timely, the critical deficiency remains - lack of evidence that widespread uptake of measures is occurring.

HSI would like to draw the AC's attention in particular to perhaps the current two most at-risk ACAP listed species, both shearwaters that do require additional specific consideration to assist the mitigation efforts in Chile and Spain for these species.

HSI looks forward to observing constructive outcomes from this meeting, ones that will assist to halt the disturbing ongoing decline of some species' abundance, again reported this year by the PaCSWG. Thank you Chair.