



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**  
*Interim Secretariat provided by the Australian Government*

**First Meeting of Advisory Committee**  
*Hobart, Australia, 20 – 22 July 2005*

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*Agenda Item No .11*  
*ACAP/AC1/Doc.13*  
**Interim Secretariat**

**Protection of Breeding Sites and status of Non-Native  
Species**



## **Protection of Breeding Sites and status of Non-Native Species**

1. The first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) identified the following priority areas of work related to breeding sites (MOP1 report, paragraph 7.5 (b) and (c)):
  - (i) reporting and review of data relating to the eradication of non-native species injurious to albatrosses and petrels
  - (ii) documentation of information on the management and protection status of breeding sites and identification of internationally important breeding sites
2. These priorities are reflected in the Advisory Committee (AC) Work Programme (Annex 2 of Resolution 1.5); principally in task 3. This requires the collation of information on the protection and management status of breeding sites of ACAP listed species, with particular emphasis on the presence and impacts of non-native species. Key objectives under this task are to:
  - (i) develop criteria to identify sites that may require additional protection
  - (ii) prioritise sites for eradication programmes for non-native species
3. The identification of internationally important breeding sites is included under task 7 of the AC work programme (Criteria Development) and this issue is considered separately in paper AC1/Inf.1 (agenda item 11). It is worth noting however, that criteria to identify internationally important breeding sites are likely to draw on data collected under both the breeding sites assessment and the review of the status and trends of ACAP species (AC work programme, task 2).

### **Progress to date**

4. The interim Secretariat and Australia developed a draft proforma for breeding sites information which was circulated to the Advisory Committee for comment in mid-April. A finalised proforma (Attachment 1) was circulated in early May with a request for Parties to the Agreement with breeding sites within their area of jurisdiction to complete forms for a sample (up to 5) of breeding islands. Parties were also asked to nominate a national coordinator for the breeding sites forms (see Attachment 2).
5. A total of 9 completed forms have been received. A preliminary, coarse-scale analysis of summary information from these returns is included in Attachment 2. All returned forms were fully completed with the exception of maps showing the location of breeding areas and boundaries of protected areas (requested under section 1) which were provided for 2 sites only. In this context one national coordinator commented on concerns about the accuracy with which maps showing the breeding distribution of different species could be produced.
6. The completed forms are considered to provide comprehensive baseline information which can be used to underpin the assessment of sites to identify priorities for eradication of non-native species and sites which require additional protection.

### **Definition of breeding site**

7. Most breeding sites of ACAP listed species of albatrosses and petrels are located on remote offshore islands; and the intention is that one form should be completed for each separate island (i.e. each island within an island group should have its own form). It is noted however that some, particularly larger, islands may support a number of discrete colonies of albatrosses and petrels; and also that some mainland colonies exist (e.g. Southern Giant Petrels on Antarctica). The Advisory Committee may therefore like to consider possible requirements for definitions of breeding site and breeding colony.

### **Timeframe for future work**

8. The work programme for the Advisory Committee developed at MOP1 envisaged that the Advisory Committee would be in a position to assess breeding sites at its first meeting (task 3.4). However at present information has been sought from Parties only (ie not Signatories, other Breeding Range States, or other organisations who hold relevant information) and for a sample of sites only. It is recommended therefore that the timeframe for task 3 of the AC work programme is revised and that the assessment of breeding sites is held over to AC2.

### **Information Storage: possible links to Status and Trends Review**

9. Breeding sites information is currently held as electronic versions of completed forms which could be used to establish a breeding sites register or database.
10. Under the review of the Status and Trends (AC work programme task 2) information on breeding population size and other demographic parameters is being collated for ACAP species at breeding sites. Given that breeding proformas only request presence / absence information for ACAP species, there would seem to be some merit in linking stored information on population size to that on breeding sites.

### **ACTION BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

10. The Advisory Committee is asked to:
  - (i) consider whether any further amendments are required to the breeding sites proforma (Attachment 1) before Parties and Signatories are asked to complete forms for all remaining breeding sites;
  - (ii) in particular to consider possible requirements for definitions of breeding site / colony; and the desirability / feasibility of producing maps showing the breeding distribution of different species for all breeding sites;
  - (iii) consider and agree a revised timeframe for the assessment of breeding sites (AC Work Programme, Task 3);
  - (iv) advise on the development of a breeding sites register / database for the breeding sites information and possible links to site-specific data collected under the status and trends review;
  - (v) consider the merits of establishing a Working Group to oversee the review and assessment of breeding sites.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Breeding sites proforma**

## AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

### PROTECTION STATUS OF BREEDING SITES

Please complete one form for each breeding island (including separate forms for each island in an island group) or site. For sites which are infrequently visited and / or knowledge is poor please complete the form as far as possible and indicate where information is not available.

#### 1. Site details

<b>Site name</b>	
<b>Country</b>	
<b>Geographical coordinates</b> <i>(central latitude and longitude)</i>	
<b>Area of island / site</b> <i>(hectares)</i>	

Please provide a map of the site showing the location of breeding areas and boundaries of protected areas.

#### 2. Presence of ACAP species

Please indicate by checking boxes for all species present (right click on box, select properties and change default value to checked).

ACAP Annex 1 species	Breeding		
	Confirmed	Formerly bred (>5 years)	Suspected
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea gibsoni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACAP Annex 1 species	Breeding		
	Confirmed	Formerly bred (>5 years)	Suspected
<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche nov. sp. (platei)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3. Protection status and management

<b>Site designations with dates</b> <i>(please list all e.g. national park, nature reserve, world heritage area)</i>	
<b>Proposed designations</b> <i>(as above; please indicate expected date of designation)</i>	
<b>Site ownership</b> <i>(Government, Non Government Organisation (please name), private)</i>	
<b>Management Plan in place</b> <i>(please indicate dates of completion and expiry)</i> <b>URL (if available)</b>	
<b>Management Plan in preparation</b> <i>(please indicate expected date of completion)</i> <b>URL (if available)</b>	

<b>Management Authority</b>	
<b>IUCN protected area category*</b>	
<b>National legislation protecting ACAP species and their breeding sites</b> ( <i>please provide name and date of Act/Ordinance and include details of any proposed new legislation</i> )	

\* for further details see:

[http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected\\_areas/data/sample/iucn\\_cat.htm](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/data/sample/iucn_cat.htm)



#### 4. Land-based threats to albatrosses and petrels

Please complete the following tables (adding new rows if required)

##### 4.1 Non-native species – current

Please complete for each non-native species (adding rows to table as required)

<b>Species</b> <i>(please include scientific name)</i>	<b>Nature of threat</b> <i>(please describe adverse effects on ACAP species with references to any published research etc.)</i>	<b>Current Management Action</b> <i>(please describe current actions for control / eradication and their effects with references to published research etc.)</i>	<b>Future Management Action</b> <i>(please describe planned future actions for control and indicate the proposed timescale for implementation)</i>

##### 4.2 Non-native species – past

Please complete for each non-native species present in the past

<b>Species</b> <i>(please include scientific name)</i>	<b>Nature of threat</b> <i>(please describe adverse effects on ACAP species with references to any published research etc.)</i>	<b>Management Action</b> <i>(please describe actions taken to eradicate threat with references to published research etc.)</i>	<b>Eradication date</b>

##### 4.3 Other current threats to albatrosses and petrels

Please complete for any other current threats e.g. native species, disease, habitat loss or change

<b>Threat</b>	<b>Nature of threat</b> <i>(please describe adverse effects on ACAP species with references to any published research etc.)</i>	<b>Management Action</b> <i>(please describe current actions and their effects with references to published research etc.)</i>

#### 4.4 Other past land-based threats to albatrosses and petrels

Please complete for past threats e.g. extreme weather events

<b>Threat</b>	<b>Nature of threat</b> <i>(please describe adverse effects on ACAP species with references to any published research etc.)</i>	<b>Management Action</b> <i>(please describe current actions and their effects with references to published research etc.)</i>	<b>Is this threat likely to recur</b> (please give reasons for yes or no answer)

#### 4.5 Measures to prevent introduction of non-native species / disease and disturbance of breeding albatrosses and petrels

Please list measures (e.g. quarantine procedures, restrictions on poultry products, permit requirements, maximum party size for tourists ) and indicate whether they are adopted or proposed

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Proposed / adopted</b>

## 5. Human presence

### 5.1 Present numbers

*Please indicate approximate numbers of people present on site during summer and winter*

<b>Presence category</b>	<b>Summer (numbers)</b>	<b>Winter (numbers)</b>
<b>Inhabitants</b> <i>(Local people)</i>		
<b>Scientific / support</b>		
<b>Tourism</b>		
<b>Other</b> <i>(please explain)</i>		

### 5.2 Past numbers

*Please briefly describe past situations of human occupation/visitation if significantly different from the above*

### 5.2 Presence of research station

*Please indicate the presence of field stations and/or huts and whether these are occupied all year or seasonally*

## **6. Contact details for compiler of form**

**Name:**

**Organisation / affiliation:**

**E-mail address:**

**Postal Address:**

**Please return form to ACAP Interim Secretariat by:**

- e-mail (preferred): [Helen.Riley@aad.gov.au](mailto:Helen.Riley@aad.gov.au)
- Fax: +61 3 6233 5497
- Post: ACAP Interim Secretariat , GPO Box 824, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

## Attachment 2

### ACAP Parties: National Coordinators for Breeding Sites Forms

<b>Party</b>	<b>National coordinator for breeding sites</b>
Australia	Barry Baker Australian Antarctic Division
Ecuador	<i>To be advised</i>
New Zealand	Leigh Bull Department of Conservation
Peru	<i>Not a breeding range state</i>
South Africa	John Cooper University of Cape Town
Spain	<i>Not a breeding range state</i>
United Kingdom	Mark Tasker Joint Nature Conservation Committee

## **Attachment 3**

### **PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF BREEDING SITE FORMS**

The following coarse-scale analysis is based on returns from nine albatross and petrel breeding sites summarised in table 1.

The sites vary in size from 710 to 50,990 hectares and support between one and nine ACAP listed species.

Non-native species of animal were formerly present on eight of the nine sites. Currently five sites still have one or more non-native mammal species and eradication feasibility studies are underway on three sites. On one further site there is no evidence of adverse effects of the non-native species (house mouse) but consideration is being given to funding an eradication study; and on the final site the cost of eradication of the species present (also the house mouse) over large areas is considered prohibitive based on current methods.

All sites have a management plan in place and are designated as protected areas under national legislation. Seven sites are also designated under international conventions and the remaining two sites will shortly be nominated for international designations.

No sites are inhabited. All except one have a research station or hut(s).

Tourism is permitted on four of the nine sites.

All sites have quarantine procedures in place to prevent future introductions of non-native species.

On two sites, northern giant petrels are listed as a threat to other ACAP species (this information is not shown in the table).

**Table 1: Preliminary analysis of a sample of breeding site forms**

Site	Country	Area (ha)	No. ACAP species	Non-native animal species present	No. of non-native mammal species (excludes humans)	Eradication feasibility study underway	Eradication programme underway	Non-native animal species formerly present	Management plan in place	National protected area designation	International protected area	Inhabited	Research station	Tourism permitted	Quarantine procedures in place	Notes
Macquarie Island	Australia	12,785	7	Y	3	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Antipodes Island	New Zealand	2,025	7	Y	1	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	1
Auckland Island	New Zealand	50,990	5	Y	3	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	1
Campbell Island	New Zealand	11,216	8	N		N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Enderby Island	New Zealand	710	4	N		N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Main Snares Island	New Zealand	280	1	N		N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Marion Island	South Africa	29,000	8	Y	1	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	2
Prince Edward Island	South Africa	4,500	9	N		N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	3
Gough Island	United Kingdom	6,500	5	Y	1	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	

Notes:

Y= yes, N= no

1 Cost of eradication of house mouse considered prohibitive over large areas using current methods

2 No evidence of adverse effects of the non-native species (house mouse) on ACAP species; consideration being given to funding an eradication feasibility study. Site to be nominated for Ramsar and World Heritage Area status.

3 Three species of alien plants recorded but no known adverse effects on ACAP species. Site to be nominated for Ramsar and World Heritage Area status.