



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

**REPORT OF  
THE TWELFTH MEETING OF  
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Virtual meeting,  
31 August – 2 September 2021 (UTC+10)*



**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
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
ANCP	ACAP National Contact Point
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
BLI	BirdLife International
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EM	Electronic Monitoring
HSI	Humane Society International
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of Parties)
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG1, PaCSWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the PaCSWG)
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG1, SBWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the SBWG)
SES	Senior Executive Service
RFMO	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
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
WGs	Working Groups



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## 1 OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Twelfth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC12) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held online, from 31 August to 2 September 2021 (UTC+10), with Mr Nathan Walker as Chair and Mrs Tatiana Neves as Vice-chair.
- 1.2 Twelve Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and Uruguay.
- 1.3 In addition, three Range States and one APEC member economy participated as Observers: Canada, Namibia, the United States of America (USA) and Chinese Taipei.
- 1.4 BirdLife International (BLI), Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., Humane Society International (HSI) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) attended the meeting as Observers.
- 1.5 The list of participants is provided in **ANNEX 1**. The list of meeting documents and information papers is provided in **ANNEX 2**.
- 1.6 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates. The Chair outlined the logistical arrangements for the virtual meeting and noted the shortened time available. He observed that, as an Advisory Committee meeting immediately preceding a Meeting of the Parties (MoP), AC12 had some additional tasks. Key tasks for AC12 included: preparing an Advisory Committee report to the MoP; reporting on the implementation of the Agreement; and reviewing the indicators of success of the Agreement; in addition to the Advisory Committee's regular tasks of reviewing the work of the Committee's Working Groups and the Secretariat.

## 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The draft agenda was adopted by the meeting and is provided in **ANNEX 3**.

## 3 RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The meeting adopted the Rules of Procedure as well as the ad-hoc guidelines that had been developed specifically for this meeting (see **AC12 Circular 5**).

## 4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

- 4.1 Australia tabled the Report of the Depositary Government to the Agreement ([AC12 Doc 06 Rev 1](#)), which indicated that there have been no new accessions or notifications to the Agreement since AC11, Florianópolis, Brazil, 13 – 17 May 2019.

- 4.2 The Executive Secretary described activities undertaken by the Secretariat to encourage accession to the Agreement. In 2019 she made a liaison visit to Mexico. Following the cessation of travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat had maintained contact by correspondence with prospective Parties, Namibia, and the USA. Correspondence about ACAP membership had been sent to Portugal. The Secretariat had also used meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other bodies to urge relevant participating countries to become ACAP Parties.

## **5 ACAP SECRETARIAT**

### **5.1 Activities undertaken in 2019 - 2021 intersessional period**

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary introduced [AC12 Doc 07](#) which provides a report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the 2019 - 2021 intersessional period. A significant activity during that period was the 2020 - 2021 intersessional decision-making process undertaken by internal correspondence, which was necessitated by the postponement of AC12 and MoP7. The first phase included endorsement by the Advisory Committee of amendments to the AC 2019 - 2021 Work Programme to encompass an additional year of activities (meaning that it is now the 2019 - 2022 Work Programme). ACAP Parties then provided initial comments on a range of proposed decisions, including a draft Budget and scale of contributions for 2022. Despite a fruitful dialogue between many Parties and the Secretariat, leading to a large degree of agreement on a draft Budget, it was not possible to adopt this in the voting phase. Instead, as consensus could not be reached, the 2022 Budget is simply a rollover of the 2021 Budget as per Article VII (2) (b) of the Agreement. A [Record of Decisions](#) from this process is available on the ACAP website, including several intersessional Resolutions.

- 5.1.2 The Advisory Committee thanked the Secretariat for the report.

### **5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2019 - 2022**

- 5.2.1 It was agreed that the Secretariat Work Programme for the current quadrennium ([AC12 Doc 17](#)) would be amended to align with changes to the 2019 - 2022 Advisory Committee Work Programme.
- 5.2.2 The meeting highlighted updating the Species Assessments as a high priority task for the Secretariat (Task 3.3 in the Work Programme) and noted the importance of these documents for ACAP and as a contribution to the IUCN Red List process. AC12 welcomed news that updated species assessments would soon be available and noted the willingness of relevant Parties and Range States to contribute to this task to ensure the updates are completed before AC13.



### **5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025**

- 5.3.1 It was agreed that the Secretariat Work Programme for 2023 – 2025 ([AC12 Doc 18](#)) would be amended to include any additional items requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat in its 2023 - 2025 Work Programme. The amended draft Work Programme will be presented to MoP7 for approval.

## **6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **6.1 Financial Report**

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary introduced the 2021 Provisional Financial Report ([AC12 Doc 08 Rev 3](#)) and confirmed that the audited financial statements for the 2021 financial year would be distributed to ACAP Parties in accordance with Financial Regulations 10.2 and 11.3. She noted that expenditure for the year was below budget allocations, mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 on travel, together with lower vehicle costs.
- 6.1.2 The level of arrears from some Parties remains a concern for the Agreement and could put at risk a balanced budget for 2022 and subsequent years. The 2022 Budget will depend in some measure on carry-over of under-expenditure from previous years, and on timely payment of Parties' contributions.
- 6.1.3 The Executive Secretary highlighted voluntary contributions towards the AC Work Programme from Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy (\$9,376) and France (\$24,738).
- 6.1.4 Argentina commended the Secretariat for their efficient financial management of the Agreement, especially given the difficulties that some Parties are experiencing due to the ongoing pandemic.

### **6.2 Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025**

- 6.2.1 The Executive Secretary introduced a draft budget for the Agreement for the 2023 - 2025 triennium ([AC12 Doc 09 Rev 2](#)), prepared in accordance with Regulation 3.1 of the Finance Regulations. The draft budget includes a statement of the significant financial implications for the 2023 - 2025 triennium in respect of proposed work programmes. It was based on an estimated inflation rate of 2.6% p.a., which was the average three-year (2017 - 2019) pre-COVID-19 pandemic rate for Hobart.
- 6.2.2 The Executive Secretary noted that approximately \$40,000 extra per year was estimated to be needed to contract a part time communications adviser. This would exceed the 2.6% increase for Item 1.2.5 and the shortfall would need to be made up from funds for other consultancies being partially re-directed to this purpose, especially in the first year of the triennium.
- 6.2.3 The Executive Secretary also noted that the estimated cost of holding AC and MoP meetings was for moderate cost locations and if meetings were to

be held in higher cost regions, voluntary contributions from Parties to assist with attendance of delegates would be welcome. Furthermore, travel costs for future AC and MoP meetings could be considerably higher than the estimated increase of 2.6% per year.

- 6.2.4 The AC Chair noted that voluntary contributions from Parties could also assist with supporting the communications advisor contract or supplementing the Small Grants Programme.
- 6.2.5 Australia suggested that the allocation for the communications advisor could be added as a separate item to employee salaries.
- 6.2.6 The UK suggested that the Executive Secretary's salary should reflect the increase that would happen over four years at SES Level 2 of the Tasmanian public service rather than from the base level.
- 6.2.7 Australia agreed, and also noted that when the draft budget is presented to MoP7 it would be helpful for Parties to understand the extent of savings from the current quadrennium and the extent to which they have been carried over into 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- 6.2.8 The Executive Secretary clarified that some of the underspent funds from 2020 and 2021 would be used for expenditure in 2022, as the 2022 Budget replicates the 2021 allocation and is not specifically adapted to 2022 activities (see paragraph 5.1.1, above). She noted that in budgeting for a new triennium, ACAP practice has generally been to assign funds from income (mainly Parties' contributions), but for Parties to agree on one-off payments from savings in the General Fund for specific activities, as is proposed in the draft 2023 - 2025 Budget for item 1.2.6 (relocation expenses - staff).
- 6.2.9 The meeting noted that not all items in the AC Work Programme were allocated at a 2.6% increase.
- 6.2.10 The Advisory Committee thanked the Executive Secretary for the draft budget.

## **7 OBSERVER REPORTS**

### **7.1 Reports from Observers to AC12**

- 7.1.1 Statements from Namibia, USA, Chinese Taipei, Birdlife International, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., and Humane Society International were provided prior to the meeting and are attached as **ANNEXES 8 to 13**.
- 7.1.2 The AC thanked the observers for their engagement.

## **8 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

- 8.1 The Secretariat presented the Draft Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2018 – 2021 ([AC12 Doc 14](#)). Implementation reports were received from six Parties ([AC12 Inf 04](#) to [AC12 Inf 09](#)).
- 8.2 The information contained in Part 1 of this draft report had been obtained by the Secretariat from Parties pursuant to Article VII (1) (c) and Article VIII (10) of the Agreement. Part 2 contains information provided by Parties and Range States on an annual basis to assist with the Agreement's work. The Draft Report will be further updated taking account of discussions and outcomes from SBWG10, PaCSWG6 and AC12.
- 8.3 The Advisory Committee noted that seven Parties were yet to submit their individual implementation reports. These Parties were strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible to facilitate a complete and comprehensive final report being prepared in time for MoP7.
- 8.4 AC members made a commitment to providing outstanding reports within three months, by 30 November 2021, so that a full report to MoP7 on the implementation of the Agreement can be prepared.

## **9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE SEVENTH MEETING OF PARTIES**

- 9.1 The AC Chair introduced the Draft Advisory Committee Report to MoP7 ([AC12 Doc 10](#)). The report will be modified by the Chair and the Vice-chair after the conclusion of the current meeting (AC12) to incorporate its outcomes, as well as the progress noted in SBWG10 and PaCSWG6.
- 9.2 The Advisory Committee thanked the AC Chair, Vice-chair and the Secretariat for the drafting of this document.
- 9.3 The Advisory Committee suggested amendments to Section 2.2 (Progress with Actions under Article IX of the Agreement) in relation to Species Assessments and to improving crew safety while hauling branch lines, as well as inclusion of the new ACAP guidelines and two stand-alone mitigation measures for pelagic longline fisheries recommended by SBWG10 and endorsed by the AC (see 12.1.5).
- 9.4 The AC Chair reiterated concerns expressed under Agenda Item 8, about the difficulty of providing full implementation data to the MoP if the Parties do not submit their Implementation Reports.
- 9.5 Australia suggested that the completion of the communications review and the identified need for additional support for the Secretariat concerning communications be noted in Section 2.2.6 (Other Activities). Australia also proposed adding in Section 3.2 (Difficulties encountered and challenges for the next triennium) a reference to the challenges of maintaining ACAP's public profile and providing information about conservation-related activities without adequate support for the Secretariat's communications activities.

- 9.6 New Zealand proposed that Section 3.2 also highlight the impacts of the lack of fisheries data on reporting bycatch indicators.
- 9.7 The UK suggested that a reference be added in the same section to the planned workshop on fisheries and bycatch data submission by Parties (see 14.2 (iii)).

## **10 POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

### **10.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group**

- 10.1.1 The Co-convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), Patricia Pereira Serafini (Brazil) and Dr Marco Favero (Argentina), introduced the report of the Sixth Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC12 Doc 11](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of PaCSWG6 held online from 24 – 25 August 2021 (UTC+10).
- 10.1.2 The Advisory Committee took note of the report when updating the AC Work Programme and agreed the following advice based on recommendations from PaCSWG6:
- 10.1.3 Threats and prioritisation
- (i) Reiterate the importance of ACAP Parties taking all feasible action to protect breeding sites, in particular by preventing the introduction of, or, if already present, ensuring the control or eradication of non-native species that may be detrimental to populations of albatrosses and petrels.
  - (ii) Encourage more research on sub-lethal effects of pollutants, and the incorporation of these impacts when modelling population trends.
- 10.1.4 Data gaps
- (i) Encourage ACAP Parties and Range States responsible for breeding populations of ACAP species to implement the priority monitoring programmes to increase current knowledge of their population size, trends and demography.
  - (ii) Encourage ACAP Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking studies, including those of deep diving and nocturnally active species.
- 10.1.5 ACAP priority populations
- (i) Highlight the need to complete the revision and updating of the Binational Action Plan on the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata*, including a more concrete reference to tourism and related issues.

- 10.1.6 Best practice guidelines and other online resources
- (i) Endorse the light pollution guidelines for wildlife as an aid for assessing and managing the impact of artificial light on seabirds including albatrosses and petrels, noting the relevance of the guidelines to other susceptible wildlife.
- 10.1.7 The Advisory Committee noted the concerted action plan for the Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* involving Australia, Chile, and New Zealand, and the bilateral regional plan of action between Uruguay and Argentina. The Advisory Committee agreed that these action plans and other papers considered by PaCSWG6 had highlighted the importance of holding a joint PaCSWG and SBWG meeting; an initiative that was endorsed at AC11 but had not been feasible this year given the online nature of the meetings.
- 10.1.8 Peru supported the recommendation to revise and update the Binational Action Plan on the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* noting that the results of a small grant funded by ACAP in 2019 had provided improved knowledge of the population size and trends of the Waved Albatross on Española Island.
- 10.1.9 The Advisory Committee looked forward to a further update on this process at AC13.
- 10.1.10 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in the PaCSWG about uncertainties relating to the Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus* population on its western-most current breeding site and referred this matter to the Meeting of the Parties for further guidance.
- 10.1.11 The AC Chair thanked the PaCSWG and its Convenors for their considerable work and report.

## 11 TAXONOMY OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

### 11.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group

- 11.1.1 The Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG), Mark Tasker, introduced the report of the TWG ([AC12 Doc 12](#)) and thanked the other members of the group for their continued engagement.
- 11.1.2 The Advisory Committee noted the progress of the TWG and endorsed the request to consider nominating additional experts to the TWG.
- 11.1.3 The Advisory Committee requested the TWG to review any proposals for updates to the taxonomy of Buller's *Thalassarche bulleri* and Short-tailed *P. albatrus* albatrosses noting that such updates may have consequences for Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 11.1.4 New Zealand noted that recently collected DNA samples from Buller's Albatross *T. bulleri* should help to inform the review of the taxonomy of this species and encouraged the TWG to await the results of this work, which should be available later in the intersessional period.

## 12 SEABIRD BYCATCH

### 12.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

12.1.1 The Convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Igor Debski (New Zealand), introduced the report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG10). This report ([AC12 Doc 13](#)) outlined intersessional progress against the SBWG Work Programme as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of SBWG10 held online from 17 - 19 August (UTC+10). The SBWG Convenor noted the challenges faced by the Working Group in conducting a virtual meeting and thanked the vice-convenors (Dr Sebastián Jiménez, Uruguay, and Dr Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Argentina) and all participants in the meeting for their goodwill and engagement.

12.1.2 The Advisory Committee thanked the SBWG Convenors and the Secretariat for preparing this report, and agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the SBWG, and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:

#### 12.1.3 Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries

- (i) Endorse the updated review and best practice advice for reducing the impact of pelagic and demersal trawl fisheries on seabirds.
- (ii) Encourage implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries.

#### 12.1.4. Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries

- (i) Endorse the updated review and best practice advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline fisheries on seabirds (**SBWG10 Doc 08 Rev 1**).
- (ii) Encourage implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in demersal longline.

#### 12.1.5. Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

- (i) Endorse the updated ACAP advice on improving crew safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations (**SBWG10 Doc 09 Rev 1**).
- (ii) Endorse the updated review and best practice advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds, with the inclusion of underwater bait setting devices, specifically the Underwater Bait Setter (Skadia Technologies), and the addition of the Hookpod-mini as an assessed hook-shielding device, as ACAP best practice seabird bycatch mitigation options, as contained in **SBWG10 Doc 10 Rev 1**.
- (iii) Encourage implementation of the research priorities for reducing seabird bycatch associated with pelagic longline gear.

- 12.1.6 Assessment of risks posed to ACAP species from net fishing methods other than gillnet and trawl
- (i) Endorse the updated purse seine toolbox advice (ANNEX 3 of **AC12 Doc 13**).
  - (ii) Encourage the use of the toolbox format in developing seabird bycatch mitigation advice for other fisheries as an accessible and informative instrument for users and decision-makers.
- 12.1.7 Electronic monitoring
- (i) Adopt the ACAP Guidelines on Fisheries Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems in **SBWG10 Doc 14 Rev 1**.
  - (ii) Disseminate and encourage use of ACAP's EM guidelines to inform and strengthen essential standards for fisheries EM systems.
  - (iii) Periodically update ACAP's EM guidelines to reflect changes, for example, in objectives of monitoring seabird interactions in marine capture fisheries, amendments to bycatch management measures, the development of new bycatch mitigation methods, and improvements in EM technology.
- 12.1.8 The Advisory Committee considered the review of the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy (**SBWG10 Doc 07 Rev 1**), including the list of priority actions, and supported the implementation of these actions, including the provision of resources necessary to achieve this, recognising the conservation crisis facing ACAP-listed species.
- 12.1.9 Argentina reflected that, noting the aims of different organisations, ACAP's objective should be for RFMOs to take into account ACAP recommendations in relation to albatrosses and petrels and that ACAP should not compromise the conservation objectives in order to adhere to the economic principles of other organisations.
- 12.1.10 The Advisory Committee noted the ongoing discussion on ABNJ in the UN context and that this would continue to involve seabird issues and also involve different RFMOs in the next phase of discussion that will commence in 2022.
- 12.1.11 The Advisory Committee welcomed an update on the bilateral regional plan of action between Uruguay and Argentina (see also 10.1.7) and noted that the engagement in the Argentinian and Uruguay Maritime Front Organisation was also relevant to the broader topic of engagement with RFMOs.
- 12.1.12 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in SBWG10 on the deliberate take and killing of ACAP species and endorsed the engagement of Dr Sebastián Jiménez and Dr Igor Debski in the CMS intersessional working group on intentional killing of seabirds.
- 12.1.13 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in SBWG10 on enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures and agreed:

- (i) that a sub-group of SBWG should continue to pursue opportunities to engage with relevant seafood certification schemes.
  - (ii) to instruct the Secretariat to continue to receive notifications from seafood certification schemes and to share these as relevant with the sub-group.
  - (iii) to instruct the Secretariat to continue to engage, as required, a consultant to provide advice on ensuring that information from ACAP is included as inputs in the development of new and revised standards for certification schemes.
  - (iv) to note the importance of developing ACAP's communications strategy, including the desirability of a possible secondment to investigate further specific communications areas and to supplement the work of any part time consultant that the Secretariat might employ as a communications adviser.
  - (v) to endorse ongoing celebration of World Albatross Day as a useful communications activity to elevate and maintain awareness around the conservation of albatrosses as a flagship group of species.
- 12.1.14 The UK acknowledged the importance placed on World Albatross Day and emphasised the need to consider the appropriate communication platforms to target fishers as a key audience in relation to at-sea threats posed by seabird bycatch.
- 12.1.15 The Advisory Committee agreed the following advice on priority conservation actions based on recommendations from the SBWG arising from a draft global review of seabird bycatch in trawl fisheries (**SBWG10 Doc 16**):
- (i) Encourage ACAP Parties to increase minimum observer-coverage standards (human or EM) in trawl fleets to improve knowledge of seabird bycatch.
  - (ii) Encourage ACAP Parties to prioritise collection of data on seabird bycatch in trawl fisheries, particularly in fleets with limited previous studies. Data collection should include warp cable, netsonde and paravane interactions, and estimates of cryptic mortality, to improve estimates of fleet-specific and global trawl mortality.
  - (iii) Encourage standardised data collection in trawl fisheries using relevant data collection guidelines such as those provided in **SBWG10 Doc 06 Rev 1** and **SBWG10 Doc 14 Rev 1**.
  - (iv) Encourage Parties to prioritise effective management of offal and discards as the principal means of mitigating seabird bycatch in trawl fisheries.
- 12.1.16 Some Parties raised the issue that the SBWG Report (**AC12 Doc 13**) did not express in detail the discussions that took place during the presentation of **SBWG10 Doc 16**.
- 12.1.17 Argentina stated that the study contained in the document presents different problems of methodology and scales of analysis, which leads to oversizing



the problem it studies and expressed that it could be counterproductive for conservation efforts. Argentina called for the study to be more inclusive and representative and aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Parties in the spirit of the Agreement.

- 12.1.18 Along the same lines, Chile noted that experience has shown that the only way to solve the bycatch problem is with the participation and commitment of fishermen, which largely depends on a common understanding and the trust generated with the stakeholders, which can be adversely affected by the presentation of sensitive information that is not entirely accurate. **SBWG10 Doc 16** contains information that would not reflect the current condition and management of seabird bycatch in trawl fleets operating in Chile, where measures have been implemented in 2019 along with control at sea through EM systems in all vessels and high levels of observer coverage for scientific monitoring. Chile valued the work presented and offered all its collaboration to the authors to provide the background information that allows updating the information regarding bycatch and the measures implemented in the national trawl fleets. Additionally, it expressed strong support for the proposal of Argentina to strengthen the cooperation between Parties of the Agreement.
- 12.1.19 For its part, Uruguay agreed with the views expressed by Argentina and Chile.
- 12.1.20 The UK welcomed the analysis presented in **SBWG10 Doc 16** noting that it was an unpublished draft and was based on available data and highlighted that the rate of seabird bycatch in trawl fisheries globally could be considerably greater than previously considered.
- 12.1.21 Birdlife International thanked Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and UK for their helpful comments and noted that the paper is currently a draft and not in the public domain. Furthermore, Birdlife International noted that the analysis presented in **SBWG10 Doc 16** is based only on available information and can always be improved as new data becomes available. BirdLife International welcomed engagement by all Parties to correct and improve the manuscript.
- 12.1.22 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in SBWG on tools and guidelines and agreed to:
- (i) Endorse the data collection guidelines for observer programmes provided in **SBWG10 Doc 06 Rev 1**.
  - (ii) Support the update of the remaining Mitigation Fact Sheets to the new simplified format in a phased approach prioritising measures that are considered best practice and allocate funding to achieve this aim.
- 12.1.23 The Convenor of the SBWG recognised that progress in all these tasks was only possible due to the considerable preparatory work during the intersessional period by numerous working group members, authors of papers and other participants, and thanked them all for these contributions.

## **13 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **13.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2022**

13.1.1 The 2019 - 2022 Work Programme (**AC12 Doc 15**) was reviewed during the meetings of SBWG10 and PaCSWG6. The AC Chair noted that the Work Programme had been amended intersessionally by the AC in 2020 to account for an additional year (2022), and subsequently adopted intersessionally by the Meeting of the Parties in May 2021. The Advisory Committee agreed on some further updates and revisions to the Work Programme for the current quadrennium (**ANNEX 4**).

### **13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025**

13.2.1 The draft 2023 - 2025 Work Programme (**AC12 Doc 16**) was reviewed during SBWG10 and PaCSWG6, and further amended during AC12 (**ANNEX 5**). It was endorsed by the Advisory Committee for presentation to MoP7.

13.2.2 The SBWG Convenor noted that the SBWG might refine its plan of work in the future given the range of advice the Working Group is now providing. This might result in some changes to the Work Programme further down the track.

### **13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme**

13.3.1 The AC Chair noted that application rounds for both programmes were held during 2019 and 2020. [AC12 Inf 01](#) summarises progress with projects funded in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Although some of those projects have been delayed, many were underway, and several have been completed.

13.3.2 The Secretariat advised that Secondments awarded in 2019 are still on hold, due to current travel restrictions. No applications were received in the 2020 round, despite the criteria being amended ad-hoc, as agreed intersessionally by the Advisory Committee (AC Circular 2020-01), to allow for proposals which did not depend on international travel.

13.3.3 The Advisory Committee noted the importance of capacity building and agreed to retain the amendments to the Secondments criteria as long as necessary, to allow maximum flexibility for arrangements within or between countries and to encourage more applications.

13.3.4 The Advisory Committee considered the merits of holding the next call for Small Grant and Secondment applications in the coming months or carrying over the funds to the 2023 round, due to take place following AC13. It was agreed that given the pending election of a new AC Chair, and the ongoing uncertainties around the pandemic, the Small Grants Subcommittee would advise early in 2022 on a timetable for the next round.

13.3.5 The AC Chair recalled that the usual practice is for a round to be held twice in a triennium, with each round following an AC meeting.

**14 INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF ACAP**

- 14.1 The SBWG Convenor recalled the discussion at SBWG10 on seabird bycatch indicators and data submitted to the reporting framework. He noted that the low level of reporting of seabird bycatch (as total estimated mortality or rates per unit effort) prevented analyses to progress indicator development and implementation.
- 14.2 The Advisory Committee noted the challenges associated with the submission and analysis of the bycatch indicator data, and, based on recommendations from SBWG, agreed to:
- (i) Reiterate the importance of Parties and Range States reporting bycatch estimates using appropriate statistical methods, or, where this is not available, observed bycatch data using relevant strata.
  - (ii) Reiterate the importance of Parties and Range States including fisheries where data are either extremely poor or lacking altogether in their reporting, and identifying the reasons for, and approaches to resolve the paucity of data.
  - (iii) Endorse the proposal for a workshop to address data submission and development of analyses to derive performance indicators.
- 14.3 HSI highlighted the importance of reporting the extent of implementation of best practice mitigation measures in an open and transparent manner, which currently is not sufficiently reported by Parties. HSI suggested that it would be helpful to strengthen the obligation to report this information.
- 14.4 The Advisory Committee recalled that the option to report implementation of best practice mitigation measures is already included in the template for online reporting by Parties prior to AC meetings. The AC recommended that the proposed workshop review approaches to improving data reporting rates, including through reviewing reporting requirements and processes.
- 14.5 The Secretariat noted that due to the truncated nature of the online meetings mitigation measures were not focused on this year but that the agreed bycatch indicators include a response indicator on implementation of mitigation, and the mechanism for reporting is in place. The challenge remains to obtain the information necessary to construct meaningful indicators.
- 14.6 The Advisory Committee reiterated the importance of implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities, including where possible following ACAP current best practice consistent with Item 3.2.1 of the ACAP Action Plan at Annex 2 of the Agreement.
- 14.7 The PaCSWG Co-convenor, Dr Marco Favero, reported on breeding sites and populations indicator data submitted to the ACAP database, and the seabird tracking data derived from the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database. Separate indicators can be generated for the original 26 species

listed on Annex 1 of the Agreement in 2004, the 29 species listed in 2009, and the 31 species listed currently.

- 14.8 The Advisory Committee noted the progress with land-based indicators and based on recommendations from PaCSWG, agreed to:
- (i) Encourage data holders to submit their land-based indicators data to the Secretariat to enable the summary indicators to be reported accurately.
  - (ii) Encourage data holders to submit their tracking data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database to enable the summary indicators to be reported accurately.
- 14.9 The Advisory Committee recalled **MoP6 Doc 21 Rev 1** and references made to capacity building in Article 4 of the Agreement. The Advisory Committee noted that the performance indicators on capacity building were built following the state pressure response approach and were adopted by MoP6. The Secretariat has included these capacity building indicators in the national reporting system and will present the first review of them to MoP7.

## **15 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES**

### **15.1 Proposals to list new species on Annex 1**

- 15.1.1 There were no proposals for listing of species on Annex 1. The Advisory Committee endorsed recommendations from both the SBWG and PaCSWG that any future proposals be presented to the Advisory Committee immediately after a Meeting of the Parties to allow sufficient time for consideration ahead of the following MoP. The Advisory Committee noted that the recommendation would also apply to changes to species listed in Annex 1 arising from taxonomic reviews.

## **16 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF AC OFFICERS**

- 16.1 The AC Chair noted that the election of AC officials usually occurs at the Advisory Committee following the MoP but that some changes in circumstances had created a requirement for an election for the position of Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. He called for nominations for those two positions.
- 16.2 New Zealand proposed Dr Sebastián Jiménez (Uruguay) for the position of Seabird Bycatch Working Group Co-convenor. Since there were no other nominations, and the AC endorsed the proposal, Dr Jiménez was duly elected.
- 16.3 The Advisory Committee noted that the appointment of Dr Jiménez as Co-convenor had created a vacancy for Co-vice convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group.

- 16.4 Uruguay proposed Dr Dimas Gianuca (Brazil) for the position of Seabird Bycatch Working Group Co-vice convenor. Since there were no other nominations, and the AC endorsed the proposal, Dr Gianuca was duly elected.
- 16.5 The UK proposed Dr Michael Double (Australia) as the new Chair of the Advisory Committee. Since there were no other nominations, and the AC endorsed the proposal, Dr Double was duly elected.
- 16.6 The Advisory Committee noted that the appointment of Dr Double as Advisory Committee Chair created a vacancy for Vice-convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group.
- 16.7 There were no nominations for this position. The TWG Convenor recalled the recommendation for Parties to nominate relevant experts to this working group and confirmed the post and call for nominations would remain open during the intersessional period.
- 16.8 AC12 congratulated Drs Double, Jiménez and Gianuca on their appointments.

## **17 SEVENTH MEETING OF PARTIES**

### **17.1 Timing and Venue**

- 17.1.1 The AC Vice-chair advised the meeting that, as previously noted, Australia would be the host of the Seventh Session of the Meeting of Parties, planned for May 2022. As advised in ACAP ANCP Circular 2021-03, a decision would be required before 2 January 2022 on whether the meeting will be in-person or online.

### **17.2 Draft Provisional Agenda**

- 17.2.1 The draft provisional agenda for MoP7 (**AC12 Doc 19**), prepared by the MoP6 Chair and the AC Chair, was reviewed, noting the need to examine the intersessional decision-making process given the increased attention to this issue recently (**ANNEX 6**). The revised draft provisional agenda will be submitted to Parties for their comments in advance of MoP7.

## **18 THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **18.1 Timing and Venue**

- 18.1.1 The AC Vice-chair reminded the meeting that Parties had agreed intersessionally (ACAP ANCP Circular 2021-03) to invite Ecuador to host AC13, if it so wished, because the COVID-19 pandemic meant it was not possible to hold AC12 in Ecuador.

- 18.1.2 Ecuador indicated that because of budgetary and biosecurity considerations it would not be in a position to host AC13. Ecuador stressed that it would be interested to host a future AC meeting.
- 18.1.3 The UK informed AC12 that it was aiming to host a future ACAP meeting but would have to investigate further whether this would be possible in 2023.
- 18.1.4 The Advisory Committee welcomed the interest from the UK and Ecuador in hosting future AC meetings, and would await intersessional advice from the UK before any further planning would be possible for AC13.

## **18.2 Draft Agenda**

- 18.2.1 A draft agenda for AC13 was reviewed by the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 7**) and will be forwarded to AC members for their consideration ahead of AC13.

## **19 OTHER BUSINESS**

- 19.1 There were no additional issues raised under this agenda item.

## **20 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

- 20.1 The Advisory Committee reviewed and confirmed decisions of the previous two days. The Chair reminded AC12 that the meeting report would be adopted by correspondence. A draft would be sent to all participants and comments invited.

## **21 CLOSING REMARKS**

- 21.1 The Vice-chair thanked everybody who had taken part in the meeting, the Secretariat, the technical staff, the interpreters, the stenographers, and everyone else involved in meeting organisation. She welcomed the new appointees to ACAP positions. The Vice-chair then reflected on her close working relationship and friendship with the out-going Chair, Nathan Walker. She thanked him for his outstanding contribution to ACAP's work and wished him well in his future endeavours.
- 21.2 Many other delegates then expressed their thanks to the Chair for his dedicated work on behalf of ACAP.
- 21.3 The Chair, in his closing remarks, described his experiences as AC Chair and how much he had learned from this role. He recalled the many experiences and friendships around the world that had come his way through his ACAP work. He highlighted the progress achieved by the Agreement over this period and noted challenges ahead. The Chair also recalled the excellent contribution to ACAP's work by Dr Anton Wolfaardt (who has left his position as Co-convenor of the SBWG to manage the Marion Island

mouse eradication project) and John Cooper, ACAP's honorary Information Officer, who has given years of dedication to the Agreement and will be retiring in mid-2022. Finally, the Chair thanked all ACAP officials for their hard work and dedication, and reiterated the Vice-chair's thanks to all involved in running the meeting.

- 21.4 The Advisory Committee thanked the Chair and Vice-chair for their excellent stewardship during the meeting.

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**ANNEX 2. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS**

<b>WORKING DOCUMENTS</b>			
<b>Paper</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
AC12 Doc 01	Meeting Agenda	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 02	Annotated Agenda	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 03 Rev 1	Meeting Schedule	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 04	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 05	List of Meeting Documents	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 06 Rev 1	Report of the Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC12 Doc 07	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 08 Rev 3	2021 Provisional Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 09 Rev 2	Draft Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025	6.2	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 10	Draft Advisory Committee Report to MoP7	9	AC Chair, Vice-chair
AC12 Doc 11	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	10.1	PaCSWG
AC12 Doc 12	Report of the Taxonomy Working Group	11.1	TWG
AC12 Doc 13	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	12.1	SBWG
AC12 Doc 14	Draft Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2018 - 2021	8	Secretariat, AC Officials
AC12 Doc 15	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2022	13.1	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 16	Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025	13.2	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat
AC12 Doc 17	Secretariat Work Programme 2019 - 2022	5.2	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 18	Draft Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025	5.3	Secretariat
AC12 Doc 19	Draft Provisional Agenda - MoP7	18.2	MoP Chair, AC Chair, Secretariat



INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC12 Inf 01	Small Grants and Secondment Programmes supported by the AC	13.3	Secretariat
AC12 Inf 02	Engaging with seafood market schemes: a guide for ACAP	9, 12.1	Secretariat
AC12 Inf 03	ACAP communications review and strategy	9, 12.1	Secretariat
AC12 Inf 04	2021 Implementation Report - Argentina	8	Argentina
AC12 Inf 05	2021 Implementation Report - Australia	8	Australia
AC12 Inf 06	2021 Implementation Report - Brazil	8	Brazil
AC12 Inf 07	2021 Implementation Report - New Zealand	8	New Zealand
AC12 Inf 08	2021 Implementation Report - Peru	8	Peru
AC12 Inf 09	2021 Implementation Report - UK	8	United Kingdom

**ANNEX 3. AC12 AGENDA**

<b>AC12 AGENDA</b>	
<b>1. Opening Remarks</b>	
<b>2. Adoption of the Agenda</b>	
<b>3. Rules of Procedure</b>	
<b>4. Report of the Depositary</b>	
<b>5. ACAP Secretariat</b>	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2019/2021 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2019 – 2022 5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 – 2025
<b>6. Agreement's Financial Matters</b>	6.1 Financial Report 6.2 Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025
<b>7. Observer Reports</b>	7.2 Reports from Observers to AC12
<b>8. Report on the Implementation of the Agreement</b>	
<b>9. Advisory Committee Report to the Seventh Meeting of the Parties</b>	
<b>10. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	10.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
<b>11. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	11.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
<b>12. Seabird Bycatch</b>	12.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group
<b>13. Advisory Committee</b>	14.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2022 14.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 14.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
<b>14. Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP</b>	
<b>15. Listing of New Species</b>	
<b>16. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</b>	
<b>17. Seventh Meeting of Parties</b>	17.1 Timing and Venue 17.2 Draft Provisional Agenda

<b>18. Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b>
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18.1 Timing and Venue
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18.2 Draft Agenda
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<b>19. Other Business</b>
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<b>20. Adoption of Report</b>
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<b>21. Closing Remarks</b>
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**ANNEX 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019 – 2022**

This Work Programme provides indicative costs (in AUD) and time required to complete the tasks. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Officials, but also from Parties, Range States and NGOs. Note that these staffing resources are in most cases provided pro-bono. The hours shown do not include time spent by the Parties or other organisations but is a reflection of the amount of time that AC Officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks. The Work Programme was adopted by MoP6 and amended by AC11. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions or timeframes identified during AC12 are in blue text.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
<b>1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review</b>						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	0	Ensure that ACAP's bibliographic database is kept updated
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2019-2024 2022	2 weeks	0	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data. Possibly a catalogue of taxa that are difficult to separate visually instead.
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2019-2024 2022	2 months	?	In co-operation with PaCSWG a database of researchers holding site specific samples was developed initially.
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	0.5-week p.a.	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	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.	0	Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
<b>2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites</b>						
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	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.	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 <b>secondments</b> ).
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	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.	0	
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC12.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG leads	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	4,000 (core)	Costs for BirdLife to update maps. Prioritise a small group of species for urgent completion (starting with Priority Populations), <a href="#">followed by all remaining species</a> .
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing		40,000 13,000 (core)	
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	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	2020-2021	1 week p.a.	1,000 (core)	Review at AC12

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
2.8	Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Review at each AC Meeting
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC12.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	0	
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	0	
<b>3. Seabird Bycatch</b>						
3.1	<p>Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP (<del>SBWG8 Doc 13</del>) (<del>SBWG9 Doc 07 Rev 1</del>) (SBWG10 Doc 07 Rev 1) 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.</p> <p>Develop ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting for presentation to RFMOs.</p> <p>Reformat ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy document. Convert Table 1 into a more efficient format for reporting, with clearer actions.</p>	<p>Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC</p> <p>Anton Wolfaardt, Igor Debski, Sebastián Jiménez, Secretariat, SBWG</p>	Ongoing	<p>a) 18 weeks p.a.</p> <p>b) 18 weeks p.a.</p> <p>c) 2 weeks p.a.</p>	<p>(a+b) 30,000 p.a. (core)</p> <p>3,000 (core)</p>	<p>a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly)</p> <p>b) RFMO co-ordinator activities</p> <p>c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG)</p> <p>Includes development and dissemination of resources</p> <p>Translation costs. These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.2	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline and trawl fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Jonathon Barrington, Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Oli Yates, Anton Wolfaardt, Ed Melvin to help Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer, Igor Debski	Ongoing			
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries Formalisation of ACAP Advice document for the purse seine mitigation advice. This advice document will include introductory and explanatory text, and will be made available on the ACAP website Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse-seine and trawl)	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, <del>Barry Baker</del> Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help)  Jonathon Barrington, Cristián Suazo, JP Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 (core)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document and guidelines, plus guidelines design.
3.4	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) <del>complete fact sheets for pelagic LL line weighting and hook shielding devices,</del> 2) line weighting safety practices 3) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 4) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG, BirdLife, Secretariat	2019-2021-2022	1 week per fact sheet	40,000 13,000 (core, for translation, and for new factsheets)	New fact sheet on improving crew safety when using branch line weighting (either as separate fact sheet or as part of line weighting fact sheet). <del>Opportunity of FAO funding with timeline.</del>





Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.6	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. Make available and disseminate ACAP advice on improving safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations. [BPA doc completed, now being picked up in Task 3.4 (Mitigation Facts Sheets)].	SBWG	Ongoing			Will be informed by output of research underway in 2017, the results of which will be reported to SBWG9. Note studies done with 40, 45 and 60g, not presently feasible to test 80g.
3.7	Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required	SBWG, Secretariat	2019-2021-2022	20 weeks	10,000 (core)	<del>Possibility for continued secondments to build capacity.</del> Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	<del>2020</del> 2021 (for MoP7)	1 week	5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. <b>Possible workshop.</b> This might be best as a two step-approach: i) update for MoP7 and ii) revise the framework for future use, taking account of risk assessment initiatives recently completed or currently underway.
3.9	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries. Make advice (toolboxes) available on ACAP website and facilitate dissemination of advice.	SBWG, Lead: Jeff Mangel	Ongoing		9 2,000 (core, for translation)	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for <b>secondment</b> . Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks	0	Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for the next meeting, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.11	Further development of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Leads: <del>Nathan Walker and Jonathon Barrington</del> Eric Gilman	2019-2024 2022			<del>Will hopefully</del> Planned to commence prior to in the triennium ending 2018 in 2020. Will be a useful input to Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement).
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	2019-2024 2022	20 weeks	0	<del>Will be taken forward by the work being undertaken by Barry Baker and BirdLife. Outcomes should be presented to SBWG9 and will inform future actions for this triennium.</del>
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales	SBWG	2019-2024 2022			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments – <b>secondment</b> opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress <del>will be</del> reported at SBWG9, and will inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	<del>BirdLife</del> /SBWG Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Includes both published and unpublished literature. Replace working papers with published papers where possible. Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged. Refer and link to BMIS and other online bycatch databases.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.15	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea	SBWG Leads: Barry Baker and Joanna Alfaro	2019-2021			Possible actions dependent on outcome of investigation planned for 2017-2018.
3.16	Prepare a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and ways to increase the sink rate of this gear	SBWG intersessional group. Lead: Anton Wolfaardt	2019-2020 2021			Possible <b>secondment</b>
3.17	CMS intersessional group on intentional take and mutilation of bills	SBWG. Lead: Igor Debski and Sebastian Jimenez	2021-2022			Report to AC13 about progress
<b>4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work</b>						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	Ongoing	10 weeks	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 Range States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties	Ongoing		0	Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	Ongoing		0	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	Ongoing		0	

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
<b>5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action</b>						
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	<del>2020</del> 2021	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	Ongoing	16 weeks	0	Intersessional group on Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week	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	Ongoing	4 weeks	0	If Seabird Bycatch ID guide not updated by the end of 2018, it will be a high priority for this triennium. Core funds of 20,000 AUD proposed (see 5.15 of 2016-2018 WP).
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	<del>2020</del> 2021	3 weeks	0	
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Parties to supply further information, as available

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.9	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.	0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report.	AC, Secretariat	<del>2020</del> 2021		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions, and interactions, of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries and bycatch information to aid prioritisation and targeting of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction and those managed by RFMOs.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000 (core) 10,000 (grant)	Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG	2021-2022		3,000 p.a. (core)	Developing, producing and distributing WAD2024 materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure
<b>6. Management of AC work, secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies</b>						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Short-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	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	0	

**ANNEX 5. DRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023 - 2025**

This Work Programme provides indicative costs (in AUD) and time required to complete the tasks. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Officials, but also from Parties, Range States and NGOs. Note that these staffing resources are in most cases provided pro-bono. The hours shown do not include time spent by the Parties or other organisations but reflect the amount of time that AC Officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
<b>1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review</b>						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	0	Ensure that ACAP's bibliographic database is kept updated
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2023-2025	2 weeks	0	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data. Possibly a catalogue of taxa that are difficult to separate visually instead.
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2023-2025	2 months	?	In co-operation with PaCSWG a database of researchers holding site specific samples was developed initially.
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.	0	Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.	0	Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
<b>2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites</b>						
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, BLI	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.	0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for <b>secondments</b> ).
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	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.	0	
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC14.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG leads	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	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	Ongoing		12,000 (core)	
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	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	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000 (core)	Review at AC14
2.8	Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Review at each AC Meeting

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC14.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	0	
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	0	
2.12	Develop new guidelines for priority issues	SG Subcommittee, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing	?	?	Opportunity for <b>secondments</b> and <b>small grants</b> . E.g colony 'management', acoustic monitoring, remote sensing. Review at each AC
<b>3. Seabird Bycatch</b>						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP ( <b>SBWG10 Doc 07 Rev 1</b> ) 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.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	a) 18 weeks p.a.	(a+b) 30,000 p.a. (core)	a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly)
	Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG		b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.		3,000 (core)



Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.2	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline and trawl fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Jonathon Barrington, Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Oli Yates, Ed Melvin to help Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer, Igor Debski	Ongoing			
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries Formalisation of ACAP Advice document for the purse seine mitigation advice. This advice document will include introductory and explanatory text, and will be made available on the ACAP website Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse-seine and trawl)	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help)  Jonathon Barrington, Cristián Suazo, JP Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 (core)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document and guidelines, plus guidelines design.
3.4	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG, BirdLife, Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	10,000 (core, for translation, and for new factsheets)	



Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.6	Make available and disseminate ACAP advice on improving safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.	SBWG, RFMO Leads	Ongoing			Note studies done with 40, 45 and 60g, not presently feasible to test 80g.
3.7	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (core)	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) <b>Workshop</b> pre SBWG11.
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2023-2024	1 week	5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible <b>workshop</b> . i) revise the framework for future use at SBWG11, taking account of risk assessment initiatives recently completed or currently underway. ii) update for MoP8
3.9	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries. Make advice (toolboxes) available on ACAP website and facilitate dissemination of advice.	SBWG, Lead: Jeff Mangel	Ongoing		2,000 (core, for translation)	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for <b>secondment</b> . Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice.
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks	0	Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for the next meeting, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Lead: Eric Gilman	Ongoing			Draft guidelines were developed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	Ongoing	20 weeks	0	
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales	SBWG	Ongoing			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments – <b>secondment</b> opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress reported at SBWG9, and will inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	SBWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Includes both published and unpublished literature. Replace working papers with published papers where possible. Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged. Refer and link to BMIS and other online bycatch databases.
3.15	Prepare a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and ways to increase the sink rate of this gear	SBWG intersessional group.	2023			Possible <b>secondment</b>
<b>4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work</b>						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	Ongoing	10 weeks	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

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties	Ongoing		0	Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	Ongoing		0	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	Ongoing		0	
<b>5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action</b>						
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	2024	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	Ongoing	16 weeks	0	Intersessional group on Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week	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	Ongoing	4 weeks	0	
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat (HSI to assist by providing paper)

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	3 weeks	0	Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	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	Ongoing	2 days p.a.	0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2024		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions, and interactions, of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries and bycatch information to aid prioritisation and targeting of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction and those managed by RFMOs.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000 (core) 10,000 (grant)	Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a (core)	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g. competitions etc
<b>6. Management of AC work, Secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies</b>						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Short-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	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	0	

**ANNEX 6. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA – MOP7**

<b>Draft Provisional Agenda</b>	
<b>Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties to ACAP</b>	
<b>1. Official Opening</b>	
1.1	Official Opening and Opening Statements
<b>2. Procedural Issues</b>	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda
2.2	Amendments to the MoP Rules of Procedure
2.2.1	Rules for intersessional process
2.3	Establishment of Credentials Committee
<b>3. Reports</b>	
3.1	Report of Credentials Committee
3.2	Report of the Depositary
3.3	Reports of Observers
<b>4. Operation of the Secretariat</b>	
4.1	Report of the Secretariat
4.2	Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025
4.3	Review of Staff Regulations
4.4	Review of Financial Regulations
<b>5. Operation of the Meeting of the Parties</b>	
<b>6. Operation of the Advisory Committee</b>	
6.1	Report of the Advisory Committee
6.2	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025
<b>7. Operation of the Agreement</b>	
7.1	Report on Implementation of the Agreement
7.2	Criteria for listing and de-listing species in Annex 1
7.3	Proposed Amendment to Annex 1 - listing of new species
7.4	Identification of Priority Actions for Conservation Measures
7.5	Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement
7.6	Capacity Building
7.7	Arrangements with Other Organisations
7.8	Financial Report
7.9	Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025
7.10	Scale of Contributions
7.11	National Plans of Action
7.12	Accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement



<b>8. Provisional Date and Venue of the Eighth Meeting</b>
<b>9. Other Business</b> 9.1 Media Release
<b>10. Adoption of MoP7 Report</b>
<b>11. Closing Remarks</b>

**ANNEX 7. DRAFT AC13 AGENDA**

<b>DRAFT AC13 AGENDA</b>	
<b>1. Opening Remarks</b>	
<b>2. Adoption of the Agenda</b>	
<b>3. Rules of Procedure</b>	
<b>4. Report of the Depositary</b>	
<b>5. ACAP Secretariat</b>	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025
<b>6. Agreement's Financial Matters</b>	6.1 Financial Report
<b>7. Observer Reports</b>	7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13
<b>8. Report from the Seventh Meeting of the Parties</b>	
<b>9. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
<b>10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
<b>11. Seabird Bycatch</b>	11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group 11.2 Report from workshop on data collection
<b>12. Advisory Committee</b>	12.1 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 12.2 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
<b>13. Listing of New Species</b>	
<b>14. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</b>	
<b>15. Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b>	15.1 Timing and Venue 15.2 Draft Agenda
<b>16. Other Business</b>	
<b>17. Adoption of Report</b>	
<b>18. Closing Remarks</b>	

## **ANNEX 8. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NAMIBIA**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources was at the final stage of acceding to ACAP with finalizing documents to be tabled in the National Assembly. However, the FISHROT scandal came to disturb the process. The scandal involves the Ministry and the Icelandic Fishing company Samherji paying bribes to Namibian politicians and businessmen to gain access to fishing quotas in Namibia. Since November 2019, the process of Namibia becoming a party to ACAP has been halted since the Minister and the co-accused were arrested in December 2019 by the Anti-Corruption Commission of Namibia and the Ministry recently got a newly appointed minister this year (2021). The Planning Policy and Economics Directorate within the Ministry have to brief the newly appointed minister on the ACAP accession issue.

## ANNEX 9. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – USA

The United States thanks the Secretariat and ACAP Parties for organizing this virtual 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee of ACAP. While we would have preferred to meet in person, we are pleased to participate in discussions without further delay on a range of seabird conservation topics with ACAP Parties, other Range States and APEC member economies, and observers.

We find great value in learning about the progress made in other parts of the world on seabird conservation and in working with you to make progress on some key issues related to addressing threats to seabirds, such as seabird bycatch mitigation and eradicating non-native species.

ACAP Parties are already aware that, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, legislation that would allow the United States to join ACAP was introduced in Congress around World Albatross Day. This bill is the same in content as the bill that was introduced previously. Re-introduction is necessary for the current Congress, which is in effect from 2021 to 2022, to consider this matter. This bill would need to pass both chambers of Congress, including the House of Representatives and the Senate, and then be signed by the President. The Senate will also need to provide advice and consent before the United States can join ACAP. With the several steps ahead, the process is far from predictable. However, should the United States be in a position to join ACAP, we would be able to enhance our contributions and further our commitment towards international seabird conservation efforts.

We would like to highlight several recent activities in the United States related to ACAP and other seabird species that may be of interest to ACAP Parties and observers:

In 2020, the National Seabird Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prepared a five-year (2020-2024) [strategic plan](#) with five strategic initiatives: (1) monitor and estimate seabird bycatch; (2) mitigate seabird bycatch; (3) strengthen key partnerships; (4) promote seabirds in advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management; and (5) elevate awareness of and support for the NSP. A steering committee is coordinating implementation of the initiatives and goals and documenting milestones.

Effective January 10, 2020, streamer line or night setting requirements for groundfish longline vessels fishing in the U.S. Pacific West Coast EEZ were extended to vessels that are between 26 ft (7.9 m) to 55 ft (16.8 m) in length overall when using bottom longline gear north of 36°N latitude. The action was necessary to fulfill the terms and conditions of a 2017 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion to minimize the take of Short-tailed Albatross in this fishery.

A Pink-footed Shearwater Identification Guide was printed to assist fishermen and fisheries observers with identification and proper handling guidelines. The brochure is being translated into Spanish to reach a larger audience.

In the Hawaii pelagic deep-set longline fishery, NMFS has been collaborating with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Hawaii Longline Association on the

design and field trials of tori lines, and the use of electronic monitoring technology to monitor effectiveness, in response to recent higher rates of Black-footed Albatross interactions. Cooperative research conducted in 2020 showed that Laysan and Black-footed Albatross contacts with baited hooks were three times less likely when tori-lines were deployed than in sets without a tori line (see SBWG10 Inf 05 for more information; [Gilman et al., 2021](#)). Results from additional tori-line research conducted in early 2021 are forthcoming.

A partnership involving U.S. Government Departments and NGOs is implementing an innovative conservation effort to establish new breeding colonies for seabirds affected by sea level rise and increased storm intensity. Five hundred eleven seabird chicks of four species (Laysan Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, Bonin Petrel, and Tristram's Storm-Petrel) have been translocated to a predator-proof fenced area at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu primarily from low islands in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument over the last 6 years. Of those, 471 (92%) have fledged and adult birds of all four species have returned to the site. Translocated Bonin Petrels have already started breeding and successfully fledging chicks from the Refuge. This conservation effort provides climate-resilient nesting habitat for species threatened by sea level rise in the low-lying areas of the Monument. More than 95% of the entire world populations of the two albatross species and the Bonin Petrels nest on low-lying islands.

Motivated by the same reasons as described above, USFWS and Pacific Rim Conservation, together with Mexico's Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) and the Mexican environmental NGO Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI) collaborated to reintroduce Black-footed Albatrosses from the U.S. Midway Atoll National Refuge to Guadalupe Island Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. In early 2021, 21 eggs and 9 chicks were moved from Hawaii to Guadalupe Island and the 27 surviving chicks were expected to fledge in June. More birds will be moved in 2022 and 2023.

Operations that had commenced in 2020 to eradicate the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) from Midway Atoll were suspended due to pandemic concerns. USFWS and Island Conservation are now deliberating on whether or not to start implementing the plan in 2022.

Scientists working at Midway Atoll obtained preliminary results from the deployment of bio-logging devices that contain GPS and radar detecting sensors on Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses. The same tag type will be deployed again this year to assess the interactions between international fishing fleets on the high seas and albatrosses associated with the Midway colony.

In May, the resident pair of Short-tailed Albatross at Midway Atoll fledged their third chick in as many years. In February of 2021, their chick from a previous season visited the nest site and was detected by the automatic camera.

After seven years of data management, researchers from the USFWS and U.S. Geological Survey have completed the vetting of a large quantity of Laysan and Black-footed Albatross monitoring data from USFWS refuge lands. These data will now be analyzed to discover demographic rates of these two species occurring at four sites in Hawai'i and the tropical Pacific.

**ANNEX 10. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CHINESE TAIPEI**

Chinese Taipei expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for organizing and hosting the virtual meetings of ACAP's AC12 and associated working groups, under the severe condition of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the Chair of the AC meeting and the Convenors of the working groups for leading the discussion and managing the operation of the working groups, more active suggestions and actions for seabird conservation measures are proposed in the AC meeting.

It is Chinese Taipei's 2nd consecutive attendance at the ACAP meetings, which indicates our faith in international albatross and petrel conservation efforts. We are pleased to attend this meeting and would like to express our appreciation to the ACAP for adopting Resolution 6.8 in 2018.

In order to reduce the impact of fishery operations on seabirds, we adopted a National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Tuna Longline Fisheries in 2006 and updated it in 2014. In order to comply with the conservation management measures adopted by various RFMOs, we have announced related regulations and requested our fishing vessels to abide by the regulations. Observers are deployed to collect information for further research and outreach programs for fishermen continue. Persistent development and trial of mitigation measures will benefit the sustainability of fisheries and the seabird population.

We are looking forward to having more opportunities to learn the experience from the continued collaborative work of Parties, Range States, the attending APEC member economy, and Non-Governmental Organizations and seeking future cooperation for the conservation and recovery of seabirds.

**ANNEX 11. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL**

BirdLife International is grateful to the Secretariat for the arrangements leading up to and during the Working Groups and 12th meeting of the Advisory Committee. Bringing the Parties together to share progress and coordinate activities to mitigate threats to albatross and petrel populations is of great importance, and the online platform has worked well. We are truly sad not to have been able to attend in person, which limits the extremely valuable discussions in the margins of the meetings but appreciate the opportunity to continue our attendance. We thank the Parties and the Secretariat for this consideration and hope to see everyone again soon.

We are pleased to see the proposal of new best practice measures in the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, further expanding the available options to the fishing industry of highly effective solutions that prevent the bycatch of seabirds. This remains the greatest at-sea threat to the survival of many albatrosses and petrels, and the practical implementation of these best practice measures, in tuna longline fisheries in particular, is still far from being achieved. We continue to engage at a local, regional and international level to encourage uptake of these measures and are thankful to the Secretariat and Parties for the support and collaboration in this engagement.

It is positive to see the emphasis ACAP is placing on enhancing implementation of mitigation measures in the Seabird Bycatch Working Groups, and we look forward to contributing to engagement at Regional Fishery Management Organisations. We feel there is great strength in harnessing the experience of the Parties, where impressive reductions in seabird bycatch have been demonstrably achieved, and we encourage Parties to share their lessons learned from that experience to support and replicate similar successes elsewhere.

Finally, we thank Parties and members of the Working Groups for the constructive input and discussion that continues to inform and improve the many outputs of this Agreement and BirdLife's Marine Programme.

## ANNEX 12. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – GRUPO DE ECOLOGÍA Y CONSERVACIÓN DE ISLAS, A. C.

El Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A. C. (GECI) agradece al Secretariado por brindar todas las facilidades para participar en esta 12va Reunión del Comité Asesor del ACAP. La conservación y restauración de las poblaciones de aves marinas es de alta prioridad para México ya que ocupa el tercer lugar en diversidad (126 especies) y el segundo lugar en endemismos (10 especies) en el mundo. Por ello, como resultado de una estrecha colaboración interinstitucional a nivel nacional e internacional, durante más de dos décadas hemos implementado un exitoso programa de conservación integral de aves marinas que incluye la mitigación de amenazas en los sitios de anidación y forrajeo, el uso de técnicas de restauración activa y el mejoramiento del hábitat. México fue pionero en Latinoamérica en el uso de técnicas de restauración activa para incentivar la recuperación de las poblaciones diezgadas de aves marinas. En colaboración con el gobierno federal, principalmente con la Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), la Comisión Nacional para el Uso y Conocimiento de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) y la Secretaría de Marina (SEMAR), por más de una década GECI ha implementado sistemas de atracción social (señuelos, madrigueras artificiales y sistemas de sonido) en 46 colonias de 18 especies en 14 islas y un islote, principalmente en el Pacífico mexicano. A la fecha, estas técnicas han sido exitosas para 14 especies en alrededor del 60% de las colonias, incluyendo el albatros de Laysan (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), la pardela de Revillagigedo (*Puffinus auricularis*), la pardela mexicana (*Puffinus opisthomelas*) y varias especies de petreles de tormenta (*Hydrobates spp.*). Continuamos, además, con la implementación del programa nacional de restauración insular, con avances significativos en las erradicaciones de gato feral en las islas Guadalupe y Socorro, ambas sitios importantes de anidación para especies de albatros y petreles. Entre enero y junio de 2021, como un esfuerzo binacional entre México y Estados Unidos, GECI y Pacific Rim Conservation (PRC) llevaron a cabo la primera translocación de albatros patas negras (*Phoebastria nigripes*) desde el atolón Midway, Hawái hasta la Reserva de la Biosfera Isla Guadalupe, en el Pacífico mexicano, para establecer una nueva colonia e incrementar la resiliencia de la especie ante el cambio climático. Este innovador y exitoso proyecto logró la sobrevivencia a etapa juvenil del 100% de los 27 individuos transportados como huevos o polluelos y que fueron criados en la isla Guadalupe. En los próximos cuatro años se continuará con la translocación hasta lograr la crianza exitosa de al menos 100 volantones. Finalmente, en temas de gestión y políticas públicas, durante 2020 y 2021 México desarrolló su primer programa nacional de acción para la conservación de las aves marinas (PACE Aves Marinas), el cual actualmente se encuentra en proceso de publicación. Este programa incluye las acciones prioritarias de conservación, manejo y restauración para 13 especies clave —5 petreles y 2 pardelas— que pueden extender los beneficios a todas las otras especies de aves marinas que se distribuyen en México. Éste será implementado por la CONANP.



## **ANNEX 13. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

Humane Society International (HSI) appreciates ACAP Parties making HSI's ongoing attendance possible at both Working Group meetings and this 12th meeting of the Advisory Committee, HSI's 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive attendance at ACAP. Our attendance is clear evidence of our belief in and ongoing commitment to international albatross and petrel conservation efforts.

At AC11 a conservation crisis was declared for albatrosses and petrels. We were pleased to see the focus of SBWG9 on the drivers and barriers of adoption of more effective seabird bycatch mitigation in particular by those fishing industries recognised to be impacting the population status of seabirds such as pelagic longlining and certain trawl fisheries. Whilst the focus of SBWG10 has shifted appropriately to enhancing and progressing implementation, we remain concerned at the lack of urgency in discussions attached to this in light of the conservation crisis.

Whilst PaCSWG6 has provided the AC with no recommended addition of species to Annex 1, the priority species or population list, none were proposed for de-listing either. HSI endorses the sentiment expressed about the importance of the species assessments and for AC to expedite the outstanding and ongoing update and revision task. Such information is vital in the face of the conservation crisis and for ACAP engagement strategies generally.

The ongoing failure of ACAP Party reports to include best practice mitigation uptake reporting is concerning. It is clear that without a clear reporting obligation this will continue not to occur. Compliance with best practice advice and any observed seabird interaction data must be reported on to enable ACAP's SBWG to adjust their advice accordingly.

Clear advice is required from the AC to address the conservation crisis. We suggest this could be aided by a resolution to be considered at the Meeting of Parties calling for all parties to make best efforts to ensure full implementation of the BPA in fisheries under their jurisdiction; and to specifically report to future Meetings on the status of implementation of the BPA in all domestic and high seas fisheries. Such reporting should be a standing item on the agenda of every Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

HSI acknowledges the commitment of Parties to conservation of albatrosses and petrels by their participation as members of ACAP. But we also believe that Parties can no longer acknowledge the need to follow the advice of the ACAP to improve fisheries seabird bycatch mitigation performance without taking the lead through their own public reporting. It is necessary for Parties to lead by example in terms of implementing ACAP best practice advice and publicly reporting against this.

We remain confident the ACAP will continue to consolidate its credibility, effective influence and guiding role for improving international conservation against the greatest immediate threat albatrosses and petrels face, their indiscriminate but avoidable killing by fisheries.