



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

**REPORT OF  
THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF  
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
22 - 26 May 2023*



**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AC	Advisory Committee (AC1, AC2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the Advisory Committee)
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
AKP	Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
ATF	Albatross Task Force
AUD/\$	Australian Dollars
BLI	BirdLife International
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HSI	Humane Society International
IAC	Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOC	International Ornithological Congress
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA-Seabirds	International Plan of Action-Seabirds
MFM	Mouse Free Marion
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPOA-Seabirds	National Plan of Action – Seabirds
NZ	New Zealand
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
(t)RFMO	(tuna) Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TWG	Taxonomy Working Group
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

USA	United States of America
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WGs	Working Groups

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## 1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC13) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 22 – 26 May 2023, with Dr Mike Double as Chair and Mrs Tatiana Neves as Vice-chair.
- 1.2 Ten Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand (NZ), Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK) and Uruguay. Apologies were received from Ecuador, Norway and France.
- 1.3 In addition, three Range States, Canada, Namibia, and the United States of America (USA), and one APEC member economy, Chinese Taipei, participated as Observers.
- 1.4 BirdLife International (BLI) and Humane Society International (HSI) 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 meeting opened with a welcoming speech by Dr Will Lockhart, Deputy Director, International Biodiversity and Wildlife, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- 1.7 Dr Lockhart noted that the UK was delighted to be hosting the Advisory Committee meeting for the first time, and the first in-person ACAP meeting since 2019. He noted it also felt fitting that the meeting was commencing on World Biodiversity Day. Dr Lockhart acknowledged the large volume of valuable work that was being carried out across the world to protect albatrosses and petrels but that many populations were still in deep crisis. As such, he noted that there was more we could and should be doing to further support the conservation of these iconic species, and that the UK was committed to working with everyone to support that work.
- 1.8 Dr Lockhart outlined that domestically, there was a large body of work underway across the UK and its Overseas Territories to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels that feed or breed in these areas; from aiming to eradicate rodents and protecting breeding colonies, to implementing strong bycatch mitigation measures.
- 1.9 More widely, the UK was committed to spending £3 billion (GBP) by 2025 to protect nature internationally – through bilateral aid, contributions to multilateral aid programmes, or by helping generate new, sustainable and innovative forms of nature finance, including by working with businesses to ensure that they better price their dependencies on nature.
- 1.10 Taking note of the outcomes from discussions at the Working Group meetings, Dr Lockhart emphasised the importance of communicating the message that more must be done, and further actions needed to be identified as to how collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) could be strengthened, together with data collection

and analysis so that the scale of bycatch and other pressures on ACAP species could be better understood and mitigated. He also stressed the need to drive our broader governments to ensure they were living up to their commitments under the Agreement and that collectively we were doing our best to implement the best practices developed. He noted this would be critical to the success of the Agreement.

- 1.11 Mr Mark Tasker (UK Advisory Committee Member and Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group) also extended a warm welcome to all participants at AC13 and acknowledged the efforts of Defra, and especially Ms Elizabeth Biott and Mr Kristopher Blake, for organising the meeting. Having been involved with ACAP since its inception, he reminded everyone that the key objective of the Agreement was to conserve albatrosses and petrels, and there remained much work to achieve this. He urged everyone to keep this uppermost in their minds as the meeting proceeded over the coming week.
- 1.12 On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the AC Chair thanked Dr Lockhart and Mr Tasker for their words and good wishes for the meeting. The Chair urged all participants in the Advisory Committee to contribute towards a successful outcome from this meeting and progress with ACAP's objectives.

## **2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- 2.1 The UK suggested an additional item concerning amendments to the Rules of Procedure to be discussed under Agenda Item 17. The Advisory Committee agreed, and with this addition, the Agenda was adopted (**ANNEX 3**).

## **3 RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 The AC adopted the current Rules of Procedure for this meeting.

## **4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY**

- 4.1 Australia, in its role as Depositary, presented its report ([AC13 Doc 07](#)). The report noted there had been no new accessions to the Agreement since the most recent report of the Depositary government (of 1 February 2022) circulated as [MoP7 Doc 06](#) at the Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, which took place as a virtual meeting from 9 to 13 May 2022.

## **5 ACAP SECRETARIAT**

### **5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period**

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary provided a report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the 2022 - 2023 intersessional period ([AC13 Doc 06](#)) and noted that [AC13 Inf 03](#) would be considered under Agenda Item 12, to reflect the extensive discussion on ACAP's Communication Strategy under that agenda item.



- 5.1.2 The Secretariat provided support for a range of tasks in the Advisory Committee Work Programme. The planning and organisation of the current Advisory Committee and Working Group meetings were the main focus of recent months. Other key activities included the 2022 Secondments Programme round, representation at a range of meetings, and renewing a number of cooperation arrangements. The Executive Secretary reported that the new Communications Adviser was now well established in her part-time role. She also noted that the Secretariat had entered into a new translation and interpretation contract with 2M Language Services. The Secretariat was pleased to have been able to recommence its internship programme for translation students for the first time in three years.
- 5.1.3 The Secretariat and AC officials participated in a range of meetings of RFMOs, CCAMLR and conservation organisations with which ACAP has cooperation arrangements. Since the period covered by the report, ACAP was also represented at the 11<sup>th</sup> SPRFMO Commission meeting, the ICCAT SC-ECO meeting, the IOTC 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems, and the IOTC Commission.
- 5.1.4 The Executive Secretary reported that ACAP was a non-implementing partner alongside BLI in the Seabird Project led by the CCSBT (Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna) and funded under the second phase of the FAO's Common Oceans (Areas beyond National Jurisdiction) programme. The project is now underway and seeks to improve capacity of CCSBT Members to monitor and assess seabird bycatch and includes objectives on improved educational training and use of automated monitoring systems.
- 5.1.5 The Executive Secretary highlighted two liaison visits: to Madrid to strengthen the Secretariat's relationship with the Spanish National Contact Point and other colleagues, and to Lisbon to encourage Portugal's interest in ACAP.
- 5.1.6 The AC welcomed advice from the Secretariat that it had renewed Cooperation Guidelines with ICCAT and signed renewed MoUs with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles(IAC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Discussions to renew the MoU with the Tasmanian Government had also been taking place over recent months.
- 5.1.7 The renewed cooperation arrangement with the IAC provides many common areas of interest such as use of electronic monitoring and mitigating bycatch in small-scale fisheries, and opportunities for collaboration such as providing jointly-prepared documents to RFMOs.
- 5.1.8 The Advisory Committee welcomed the ongoing support of the Tasmanian Government, and asked the Secretariat to write a letter of thanks to the Department of State Growth.
- 5.1.9 The AC also noted that Mr John Cooper had retired from his position as Honorary Information Officer (continuing as Emeritus Information Officer) and asked the AC Chair to write a letter to him on behalf of the AC, to thank him for his dedication and many years of service.

- 5.1.10 The Advisory Committee thanked the Secretariat for its Report and the additional updates provided.

## 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025

- 5.2.1 The Executive Secretary noted that the 2023 – 2025 Secretariat Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 14**) was adopted by Parties at MoP7. It was agreed that, following the meeting, the Secretariat Work Programme would be amended in line with the AC Work Programme to reflect any changes and additions requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat in the current triennium (**ANNEX 5**).

## 6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 6.1 Financial Report

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary noted that MoP6 had directed the Secretariat to reduce its financial reporting to two reports per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year (to 31 December), and a full-year (1 July to 30 June) audited report in September. The most recent of those reports would then be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of Parties.
- 6.1.2 The Executive Secretary presented the interim financial report for 2023 ([AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1](#)), including information on income and expenditure for Appropriations 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as a summary of closing cash balances as at 31 December 2022 and a summary of outstanding contributions at 13 April 2023.
- 6.1.3 Parties' contributions for 2023 were due on 1 January. As at the end of April, the 2023 contributions from six Parties were still outstanding. Three Parties were in arrears for more than a year (see Attachment 1 of **AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1**).
- 6.1.4 The Executive Secretary advised the meeting that MoP7 had decided on a zero nominal growth budget, with additional one-off allocations included from savings. This had resulted in the allocation for AC13, together with the one-off addition, being of a similar amount to the allocation for a meeting in 2021, with no provision to cover inflation in the intervening period. In addition, some estimates in the 2021 allocations had been insufficient even at the time (for example, for interpretation costs). She thanked the UK hosts for providing a voluntary contribution of \$130,000 to cover the shortfall for the current meeting (with any unspent funds to go to the Small Grants Programme) but noted that the triennial budget would not be enough to fund the full range of activities at AC14 normally covered. This meant there would be a need for additional funds from voluntary contributions or else some normally funded activities would not receive funding.
- 6.1.5 The AC asked the Secretariat to continue to manage effectively the triennium Budget in accordance with the instructions of the MoP in [Resolution 7.5](#) and

the Agreement's Financial Regulations, including Regulation 4.5 (if required). The AC asked the Executive Secretary to prepare an early indicative AC14 budget once meeting details were known, and to distribute this to the National Contact Points, appealing to them for extra support for the meeting, for example, by sponsoring their own delegates.

- 6.1.6 The Advisory Committee noted the AC Chair and the Secretariat would continue to follow the instructions of the Meeting of the Parties (in [MoP5, Doc 27 Rev 1](#)) in determining prioritisation of sponsorship of relevant delegates, and noted that the Chair and Secretariat would emphasise strict adherence to the meeting deadlines as instructed by the MoP.
- 6.1.7 The Executive Secretary noted that funding for the AC Work Programme (WP) for 2022 - 2023 had benefited from voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei and Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy, to the value of \$20,000 and \$28,000 respectively. She also noted that an additional \$28,000 could be made available from historical tasks that no longer appear in the current Advisory Committee Work Programme if the AC agreed to reassign those funds to activities in the current triennium (either to projects or to the Small Grants Programme).
- 6.1.8 The Advisory Committee expressed their appreciation and thanks for the voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei and Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy, and agreed to re-allocate \$28,000 from historical WP tasks to the 2023-2025 Advisory Committee WP.
- 6.1.9 The Advisory Committee requested the Grants Sub-committee to divide equally the funding available for the 2023 and 2024 Small Grants calls, and to do the same for the 2023 and 2024 Secondment rounds.
- 6.1.10 The Advisory Committee thanked the Executive Secretary for her detailed presentation of the status of finances as they related to the AC.

## **7 OBSERVER REPORTS**

### **7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13**

- 7.1.1 Canada, Namibia, the USA and Chinese Taipei reported on developments and activities during the intersessional period, commenting on both domestic and regional activities. In the case of Namibia, information was provided on Namibia's progress towards acceding to the Agreement. Statements from these Observers are provided in **ANNEX 8 to 11**.
- 7.1.2 Statements were also presented by BirdLife International and Humane Society International, highlighting their collaboration with ACAP and their views on ACAP priorities for the future. Their observer statements can be found in **ANNEX 12 and 13** respectively.
- 7.1.3 AC13 welcomed the observer statements and thanked the Observers for their participation in the meeting. Some delegations responded to Namibia's update by offering assistance, as relevant and at the appropriate time, in encouraging

the Namibian government to consider accession to ACAP. Australia (as Depositary) offered to help with the process of accession when that was drawing near.

7.1.4 Chile thanked both Canada and the USA for their cooperation in relation to the Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*.

7.1.5 AC13 expressed deep appreciation of the extensive and productive collaboration between BirdLife International and ACAP over many years.

## 7.2 Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal

7.2.1 [AC13 Inf 04](#), provided by BirdLife International, discussed a potential proposal for promoting a Marine Protected Area in the Tasman Sea, in the context of the recently agreed draft text (but not yet adopted) of the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*.

7.2.2 BirdLife International noted that this Agreement had been under negotiation for over 20 years and would be adopted in June 2023, with ratification then required from 60 signatories before the Agreement would enter into force. The Agreement included a provision whereby Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) could be designated in the high seas, which could provide support for conservation efforts for ACAP-listed species. BirdLife International was working on developing a proposal for an MPA in the Tasman Sea, as described in **AC13 Inf 04**. Other potential sites of notable interest included the Emperor Seamounts in the North Pacific and the Walvis Ridge in the southeast Atlantic. *The Agreement* deferred management of fishing activities to RFMOs; accordingly, BirdLife International was interested to know how ACAP Parties might engage in such discussions within RFMOs.

7.2.3 Australia and BirdLife International encouraged ACAP Parties to consider early ratification of the Agreement.

7.2.4 New Zealand thanked BirdLife International for drawing the AC's attention to this significant development and noted its relevance to ACAP's work, especially for the PaCSWG and its work on distribution data for ACAP-listed species (since identifying areas for MPAs may use this information).

## 8 REPORT FROM THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

8.1 The AC Chair presented [AC13 Doc 15](#), which reported on outcomes of MoP7, in particular on issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee's work. The AC Chair noted that MoP7 had been held online, hosted and chaired by Australia. MoP7 adopted five resolutions, including the Advisory Committee Work Programme for 2023 - 2025.

8.2 In reporting to MoP7, the Advisory Committee continued to recommend that Parties, Range States, RFMOs and others promote and implement best

practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures; improve the collection and reporting of seabird bycatch data; and implement priority monitoring and tracking studies and schemes to eradicate detrimental non-native species at breeding sites of ACAP species. The AC report highlighted ongoing challenges for implementing the Agreement. MoP7 noted progress with the implementation of the Agreement but expressed concern that only half the Parties provided their implementation reports on time. MoP7 also expressed concern about ACAP's headline indicators, which showed a continuing decline in the status of ACAP-listed species. Parties were urged to address the conservation crisis affecting albatrosses and petrels and demonstrate global leadership through the implementation of ACAP Best Practice Advice to reduce seabird bycatch. In addition, the MoP gave priority to implementing ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy during 2023 – 2025.

- 8.3 [AC13 Inf 01](#) provides a copy of the Budget adopted by MoP7 for the 2023 - 2025 period. The Parties adopted a zero nominal growth budget supported by a one-off draw down of \$550,000 in savings from the General Fund.
- 8.4 Commenting on the Budget, the AC noted the importance of ensuring adequate funding for the work of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups (see also discussion of Budget-related issues under Agenda Item 6.1).
- 8.5 The AC agreed to act, in the current 2023 - 2025 triennium, to address and implement the agreed Resolutions from MoP7, and endorsed recommendations and other outcomes of MoP7 relevant to the Advisory Committee's agenda and its Work Programme.

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

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

- 9.1.1 The Co-convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), Mrs Patricia Pereira Serafini and Dr Marco Favero, introduced the report of the Seventh Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC13 Doc 09](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of PaCSWG7 held on 19 May 2023 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.
- 9.1.2 The Advisory Committee took note of the report when updating the AC Work Programme and agreed the following advice based on recommendations from PaCSWG7:
- 9.1.3 Updates and reviews of ACAP Species Assessments:
- (i) Endorsed the re-establishment of the Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee the updates of the ACAP Species Assessments.
  - (ii) Ensured that adequate financial resources are made available for this important work.

9.1.4 Threats:

- (i) Endorsed and encouraged support for the Mouse Free Marion ([MFM](#)) Project, which aims to achieve a more favourable conservation status for Marion Island and its globally important seabirds, including eight ACAP-listed species.
- (ii) Encouraged research assessing the exposure to, and incidence and impacts of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment on ACAP species.

9.1.5 AC13 reiterated the importance of the MFM project.

9.1.6 Review of key gaps in population data:

- (i) Encouraged 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) Encouraged ACAP Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking studies.
- (iii) Encouraged data-holders to submit their tracking data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database to enable multi-species analyses of overlap between ACAP species and fisheries.

9.1.7 Best practice guidelines and other online resources:

- (i) Noted that the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak will be updated on an ongoing basis as new information becomes available.

9.1.8 AC13 agreed to form an ACAP Avian Influenza Expert Group on epidemiology, disease risk assessment and management to further advise ACAP on this matter. The group will include invited experts from several countries and be responsible for compiling up-to-date information, revising ACAP guidelines, and communicating risks to decision makers and stakeholders within ACAP (see **ANNEX 7**).

9.1.9 AC13 thanked Patricia Serafini for the rapid response during the intersessional period regarding this significant threat to seabirds.

9.1.10 AC13 discussed the ever-changing Avian influenza risk to seabird species and highlighted the upcoming breeding seasons may see an increase in mortalities at breeding sites.

9.1.11 The AC endorsed the revised PaCSWG Terms of Reference provided in ANNEX 3 of **AC13 Doc 09**.

9.1.12 The AC Chair thanked PaCSWG and its Convenors for their considerable work and Report.

## 10 TAXONOMY OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

### 10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group

- 10.1.1 The Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) Mr Mark Tasker presented the Report of the TWG ([AC13 Doc 10 Rev 1](#)). He thanked Working Group members for their work, noting that the Terms of Reference for the WG remain unchanged since AC12.
- 10.1.2 The TWG Convenor welcomed two new members to the WG, Ms Alice Pereira, (Brazil) and Dr Natalie Forsdick (New Zealand).
- 10.1.3 Based on recommendations from the TWG, AC13 agreed that the taxonomic treatment of both Buller's *Thalassarche bulleri* and Short-tailed *Phoebastria albatrus* Albatrosses should not change despite additions to the evidence on the taxonomy of the two species.
- 10.1.4 New Zealand advised that data had been collected on the morphometrics of *T. bulleri* and on the plumage of Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* breeding on the Antipodean and Auckland Islands. A whole-genome analysis for Antipodean Albatross was also reported to be underway. This information will further inform the taxonomic treatment of these species.
- 10.1.5 AC13 discussed the possible future change in accepted taxonomic treatment of ACAP-listed Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* as either synonymous with Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan* or a sub-species of Yelkouan Shearwater that might follow from a recent scientific publication.
- 10.1.6 The Committee noted advice from Australia that species, subspecies or populations could be listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. Article I (1) of the Agreement was to be read together with Article I (2)(a) that further defines the terms 'albatross' and 'petrel'. Read together, the terms 'albatross' and 'petrel' in Article I (1) of the Agreement could refer to a species, subspecies or population of the albatross or petrel. This was relevant to possible future approaches to the listing in Annex 1 to the Agreement of Balearic Shearwater *P. mauretanicus*.
- 10.1.7 The Advisory Committee agreed to await the outcome of deliberations by the taxonomic committee (IOC), followed by ACAP for species not on Annex 1, before considering any consequences for Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 10.1.8 The AC thanked the TWG for their work and adopted their Report.

## 11 SEABIRD BYCATCH

### 11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

- 11.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Sebastián Jiménez, introduced the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG11) held from 15 – 17 May 2023,. This report ([AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1](#)) outlined intersessional progress against the SBWG Work Programme, as well as discussions and advice resulting from SBWG11.

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

11.1.3 Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic and demersal trawl fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 2 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries identified in Section 5.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.4 Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries identified in Section 6.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.5 Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 4 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries identified in Section 7.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.6 Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

- (i) Noted the important findings on bycatch in Brazilian small-scale fisheries described in **SBWG11 Inf 22** and requested that Brazil continue this important monitoring initiative and work urgently towards reducing bycatch in these fisheries.
- (ii) Encouraged further intersessional work to populate the seabird bycatch mitigation toolbox for artisanal and small-scale fisheries to reflect the updates provided to SBWG11 and report back to future meetings.



- 11.1.7 Monitoring techniques for seabird bycatch and mitigation use
- (i) Encouraged further collaboration between Parties on using genetic techniques for the identification of bycaught seabird specimens.
  - (ii) Agreed to elevate ACAP's focus on the implementation and monitoring to the same priority level as Best Practice Advice development.
  - (iii) Encouraged further work among Parties to adopt, or develop and implement, technologies and techniques to assess fisheries compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- 11.1.8 FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds
- (i) Encouraged collaboration among Parties to establish and implement regional plans of action to address seabird bycatch, where relevant.
- 11.1.9 Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs
- (i) Endorsed the continued implementation of the current RFMO Engagement Strategy, as updated in **SBWG11 Doc 09**.
  - (ii) Endorsed the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group (**ANNEX 7**) to:
    - (a) review the aims of the current RFMO engagement strategy with a view to updating them as necessary;
    - (b) review the theme-based format of the strategy and decide whether a different format might be preferable;
    - (c) develop an updated list of priority actions concerning advocacy, communications and education to be reviewed on a rolling basis; and
    - (d) report back to SBWG12 and AC14.
- 11.1.10 Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures
- (i) Endorsed and encouraged support for the development of an evidence-based information toolkit by Southern Seabirds Trust for the tuna vessel-to-market supply chain.
  - (ii) Recognised that currently few ACAP Parties and tRFMOs implement the ACAP Best Practice Advice in full and that inadequate reporting in MoP Implementation Reports submitted by Parties makes it difficult to accurately assess the level of uptake of Best Practice Advice.
  - (iii) Considered the range of reporting by Parties and how that might be improved to yield more transparent and robust reporting of Best Practice Advice implementation and bycatch reporting.
  - (iv) Recognised that ACAP participation in the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard review process contributed to substantial improvements to a new version of the standard. The new standard includes requirements on information, management and outcomes for seabird bycatch.

- (v) Encouraged continued ACAP engagement with fishery certification processes.

#### 11.1.11 Tools and guidelines

- (i) Supported the update of the remaining Mitigation Fact Sheets to the new simplified format in a phased approach in accordance with the prioritisation identified by SBWG11.
- (ii) Welcomed development of guidance on safe handling of seabirds in purse seine fisheries (reported in **SBWG11 Doc 14**) and encouraged development of guidelines for other fishing gears.

11.1.12 During the presentation of the SBWG report, a number of points were made by delegates regarding particular recommendations; these are summarised below.

11.1.13 In relation to seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl and demersal longline fisheries, New Zealand noted the continued challenges in developing effective mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch, e.g. net entanglements in trawl nets remained a substantial issue, as did sink rates of baited hooks on floated demersal longlines. New Zealand was pleased to see the work being progressed by the SBWG on advancing the research on bycatch mitigation methods across the different fisheries to address these challenges, and encouraged uptake of the recommendations presented by SBWG, particularly for floated demersal longlines in small-scale fisheries.

11.1.14 AC13 acknowledged the slow progress in advancing mitigation measures for floated demersal longlines in small-scale fisheries. This is related to difficulties in getting researchers and observers onboard vessels, and AC13 recommended Parties be encouraged to help facilitate access to vessels in these small-scale fisheries.

11.1.15 The SBWG Co-convenor Dr Jiménez noted there had been additional evidence presented on the use of lasers as a seabird bycatch mitigation tool and the likely damage they could cause to the eyes of seabirds (**SBWG11 Doc 11**) but that they continued to be used in several fisheries globally. The SBWG advice guidelines for trawl, demersal longline and pelagic longlines fisheries were updated to clearly state that the use of high energy lasers should be strongly discouraged.

11.1.16 Chile highlighted that through the legal instruments used to regulate their fishing activities, they had now been able to make mitigation measures mandatory in all their trawl fisheries (**SBWG11 Inf 15**) and that this was possible through the evidence and guidance provided by ACAP on best practice and research into effective mitigation measures. Chile noted that the work by the SBWG was critical in being able to demonstrate that lasers, which had been used in their fisheries as a voluntary bycatch mitigation measure, were not effective and should not be used. Chile was very pleased to see this updated advice being included in the ACAP Best Practice Advice.

11.1.17 The AC noted there had been substantive discussion at SBWG11 on how to strengthen the message that the combined use of the three mitigation

measures – night setting, branch line weighting, and bird scaring lines – is the most effective way to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fisheries, and welcomed the work by SBWG11 to provide greater clarity, justification and consistency on this point across the Best Practice Advice guidelines for demersal and pelagic longline fisheries.

- 11.1.18 New Zealand suggested that including this improved clarity on the combined use of the three best practice methods in material presented by ACAP to RFMOs might help to encourage stronger adoption of these mitigation measures.
- 11.1.19 The UK highlighted the need to consider how best to communicate amended ACAP Best Practice Advice noting that provision of small or continual changes can lessen their effect.
- 11.1.20 AC13 noted there had been continued discussion at SBWG11 on the divergence between the ACAP Best Practice Advice recommending use of night setting, branch line weighting and bird scaring lines, and the approaches adopted by RFMOs where the use of only two out of three best practice measures is required. AC13 acknowledged the recommendation by SBWG that intersessional work be undertaken to review the range of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used by RFMOs, and to review evidence on the relative effectiveness (noting regional differences), of different combinations of two out of three best practice mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch.
- 11.1.21 The UK highlighted the importance of the first available evidence presented in **SBWG11 Inf 22** on the impact of small-scale fisheries using surface longlines. New Zealand also noted that it would be timely to identify research priorities in the SBWG programme of work to develop measures that could be included in the mitigation toolbox for these fisheries.
- 11.1.22 Recognising these small-scale fisheries were often composed of very large fleets whose activities overlapped with the at-sea distribution of ACAP species, but that they needed adapted seabird bycatch mitigation measures, AC13 encouraged Parties and Range States to:
- i) research the effects on seabirds of small - scale pelagic fisheries, particularly where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats; and
  - ii) develop mitigation measures to reduce any impact these small-scale fisheries may have on ACAP and other seabird species.
- 11.1.23 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in SBWG11 on non-compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures in a large number of fisheries on both the High Seas and in some EEZs, including those of ACAP Parties (**SBWG11 Inf 24**). In order to address this 'compliance crisis' and elevate ACAPs focus on the implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures, AC13 recommended that the SBWG:
- i) when refining the Pressure-State-Response indicators on seabird bycatch, consider how the Response indicators could be enhanced to provide a reliable measure of compliance; and

- ii) amend the relevant standing item on their agenda to invite submission of papers on this topic and provide feedback to the AC.
- 11.1.24 AC13 offered congratulations to Argentina and Uruguay for progressing the bilateral Regional Action Plan to reduce the interaction of seabirds with fisheries operating in the Treaty Area of Río de la Plata and its Maritime Front; and to Chile for progressing their National Plan of Action – Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds).
- 11.1.25 AC13 was particularly pleased to learn that the Chile NPOA-Seabirds had included best practice advice for trawl fisheries, and welcomed the news that Chile was also working closely with the Albatross Task Force (ATF) to develop effective mitigation measures which could be applied across the purse seine fleet. Chile noted that these mitigation measures would be incorporated into the NPOA-Seabirds once available.
- 11.1.26 AC13 also recalled the Ecuador-Peru Action Plan on the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* as another good example of bilateral action plans that had been developed under ACAP. AC13 noted that they would welcome the update offered from Peru once the review of the current strengths and challenges of the Action Plan was completed.
- 11.1.27 The AC extended sincere gratitude to all the RFMOs that are working on reducing seabird bycatch in their fisheries. In particular, the AC noted that at the recent (May 2023) meeting of the ICCAT Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, it was agreed to start a revision process of ICCAT Recommendation 11-09. AC13 offered congratulations to the ACAP representative and BLI who presented the proposal for review to the Sub-committee.
- 11.1.28 The AC also noted recent decisions by the following RFMOs to update and/or review their seabird-related measures: IATTC, IOTC, SIOFA, SPRFMO, WCPFC.
- 11.1.29 AC13 expressed its serious concern regarding the apparent low implementation level of ACAP Best Practice Advice on seabird bycatch mitigation by Parties. AC13 also noted the challenges in extracting information to accurately assess uptake of mitigation measures from the current format of the MoP Implementation Reports. Therefore, AC13 recommended the questions within MoP Implementation Reports be considered in the intersessional work on ACAP seabird bycatch indicators (see 11.2.3).
- 11.1.30 The AC thanked those SBWG members who had contributed to the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard review, and in particular the substantial input from BirdLife International to this process. The AC noted that this review had led to substantial improvements to the standard and recognition of the need for protection of seabirds in the certification process.
- 11.1.31 BirdLife International welcomed the development of the toolkit for tuna vessel-to-market supply chain by the Southern Seabirds Trust and the New Zealand Department of Conservation (NZ DOC). BLI noted that it had been developing some similar materials and offered to work with Southern Seabirds and NZ

DOC to ensure outputs were consistent and complementary in advice and content.

- 11.1.32 The Co-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 the Secretariat, as well as the work of the translators, which enhances communications between members. The Co-convenor extended his gratitude for these contributions.

## 11.2 Report from the Workshop on Bycatch Data Collection

- 11.2.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Dr Igor Debski, introduced the report of the Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop held on 14 May 2023, immediately prior to SBWG11. This report (Section 11.1, **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**) outlines the potential actions that ACAP could take to address identified challenges faced by Parties in reporting data to inform the current Pressure indicators on seabird bycatch, as well as areas for where and how the current Pressure-State-Response indicators could be refined. It was noted that some of these indicators could be populated and reported upon after relatively simple refinement, while others may need more work.

- 11.2.2 AC13 recognised the importance of this workshop for progressing the Agreement and being able to measure whether ACAP's objectives were being achieved. It was noted that it would be particularly valuable if indicators demonstrating the success of ACAP could be presented in 2024, which marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement.

- 11.2.3 The AC thanked the SBWG Convenors, Vice-convenors and the Secretariat for preparing this report, agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the SBWG, and took note of this advice when developing the AC Work Programme:

- (i) Endorsed the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to discuss key challenges in data collection and reporting (see **ANNEX 7**).
- (ii) Encouraged Parties to hold a workshop between their fisheries data specialists, managers and those responsible for reporting to ACAP to improve data flow to ACAP.
- (iii) Endorsed ACAP support of these workshops, such as through provision of expert advice, where feasible, and encouraged Parties to share their experiences with other Parties to maximise lessons learned.
- (iv) Conduct an intersessional review to refine the State-Pressure-Response indicators so they can be better implemented by ACAP Parties and provide improved visibility on the use of Best Practice Advice (see **ANNEX 7**).

- 11.2.4 Further, AC13 encouraged submission of relevant seabird data from Range States and APEC member economies to the ACAP Data Portal and to contribute to the intersessional activities approved by the AC.

- 12 JOINT MEETING OF THE SEABIRD BYCATCH AND POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS WORKING GROUPS**
- 12.1 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups**
- 12.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group, Dr Marco Favero, introduced the report of the Joint Meeting of SBWG11 and PaCSWG7 held on 18 May 2023. It was highlighted that the report of the meeting ([AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1](#)) included recommendations concerning the Communications Strategy, and noted that those would be discussed together with **AC13 Inf 03** (see 12.1.16 - 12.1.23).
- 12.1.2 The report covered the discussions and recommendations from the joint meeting, which was held to optimise interactions between the two working groups, as recommended by AC11. The joint meeting was convened by SBWG Co-convenors, Drs Debski and Jiménez, SBWG Vice-convenors Drs Seco Pon and Gianuca, PaCSWG Co-convenors Mrs Patricia Serafini and Dr Marco Favero, and PaCSWG Vice-convenor Professor Richard Phillips.
- 12.1.3 The Advisory Committee agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the Joint Meeting and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:
- 12.1.4 Review of tracking studies for risk assessments
- (i) Use the information on time spent in different national and high seas areas, and in RFMOs and CCAMLR areas to develop a targeted engagement strategy to promote the conservation of the ACAP High Priority Populations.
  - (ii) Encouraged Parties and the Secretariat to engage with Angola, Namibia, and also the Benguela Current Commission, given the importance of their waters for ACAP High Priority Populations.
  - (iii) Encouraged development of tools for assessing interim, quantitative population objectives for Favourable Conservation Status, and identifying regional management units for ACAP-listed species, starting with the High Priority Populations.
  - (iv) Encouraged the use and contributions to development of user-friendly tools for spatial analysis of seabird-fisheries overlap at species and population levels.
  - (v) Encouraged the further development of ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap analysis.
- 12.1.5 Offshore energy infrastructure developments and associated risks
- (i) Recognised the potential adverse effects of offshore wind farm (OWF) infrastructure on albatrosses and petrels.
  - (ii) Recognised the importance of undertaking and sharing research to improve the understanding of the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on albatrosses and petrels.

- (iii) Requested that Parties and Observers supply information relating to the effects of offshore wind farm development on ACAP species or other similar seabirds to the Secretariat.
- 12.1.6 Brazil commented that there were many recent proposals for OWF development in Brazil. Brazil had produced a [book chapter](#) in 2022 on this issue addressing potential impacts, recommendations for OWF licensing, and implications for conservation of seabirds and shorebirds..
- 12.1.7 New Zealand also reported strong interest in OWFs; since much of this discussion related to spatial planning, evidence on bird distribution was essential.
- 12.1.8 Australia advised that several OWF declaration areas are being proposed in its jurisdiction and current work is considering environmental impact assessment approaches for OWFs and the monitoring of effects including cumulative effects. Australia considered that sharing knowledge about OWF among ACAP Parties was important to inform the conservation of ACAP species.
- 12.1.9 Chile suggested that ACAP could develop a document to help guide assessments prior to OWF approvals.
- 12.1.10 ACAP High Priority Populations
- (i) Encouraged the use of, and contribution to, the further development of tools and guidelines to address spatial analysis of seabird-fisheries overlap, at ACAP High Priority Population level, especially for RFMOs and CCAMLR.
- (ii) Requested that Parties use the draft reporting template for High Priority Populations (ANNEX 2, **AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1**) and implement it at the next meeting of the Working Groups and AC14 in 2024.
- 12.1.11 South Africa remarked that populations not currently considered High Priority Populations may also be impacted by fisheries. A population of Indian Yellow-nosed albatrosses *Thalassarche carteri* on Prince Edward Island was an example of a small population not well understood and which might well be adversely affected by fisheries or under other threats.
- 12.1.12 There was some discussion on the High Priority Population criteria. The UK pointed out that the criteria had been debated thoroughly at the time of development and if there were any changes to these then PaCSWG would need to reassess all populations.
- 12.1.13 List of candidate species
- (i) Noted the need to further refine the criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species for inclusion on Annex 1.
- (ii) Noted that from now on, the Taxonomy Working Group, in consultation with other Working Groups, will lead on updating the weighted list of species for inclusion on Annex 1, including further intersessional work to refine the criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species.

- 12.1.14 The AC endorsed a recommendation that a joint meeting of SBWG12 and PaCSWG8 precede AC14 to further discuss cross-cutting issues.
- 12.1.15 AC13 thanked Dr Favero for presenting the Report on behalf of the Joint Meeting, Convenors and Vice-convenors.
- 12.1.16 The Secretariat presented **AC13 Inf 03** and recalled that the development of a Communications Strategy had emerged from AC11, with an initial focus on improving communication about bycatch mitigation. After AC11, New Zealand had provided in-kind assistance to the Secretariat in the form of a communications specialist, who prepared some initial guidance on a Communications Strategy and review, which had been presented intersessionally to the Advisory Committee in 2020 and then discussed at AC12. As a result of these initial discussions, a proposal was included in the AC report to MoP7 and included in the Budget for 2023 - 2025 for the part-time contracting of a Communications Adviser for ACAP.
- 12.1.17 The Communications Adviser (Ms Bree Forer) asked AC13 to recognise the invaluable communications work of Mr John Cooper (former Honorary Information Officer and now Emeritus Information Officer) and acknowledged his support. She also thanked the Secretariat for their warm reception and support, and noted that it had been extremely useful for her to be at this AC meeting to hear from the working groups and meet everyone. She noted that **AC13 Inf 03** provided a framework for a Communications Strategy and this AC meeting had identified additional details that were needed.
- 12.1.18 Argentina stated that, as an Information Paper, **AC13 Inf 03** was not translated into Spanish, which for such an important paper was disappointing. If available in Spanish, these kinds of papers would be useful for distribution to interested groups domestically.
- 12.1.19 AC13 requested that papers addressing the Communication Strategy in the future be presented as working papers.
- 12.1.20 Based on recommendations from the Joint Meeting, the Advisory Committee agreed the following advice on communication and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:
- (i) To enhance communication with specific audiences, especially RFMOs and fisheries, developing dedicated material on conservation status and highlighting the responsibilities of these management bodies for addressing the conservation crisis for the ACAP High Priority Populations.
  - (ii) To create a group within ACAP to improve communication of the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels, and to further refine and implement the communication strategy (see **ANNEX 7**).
- 12.1.21 The UK suggested that possibly two separate groups would be needed, one focused on communications with fishers and fisheries stakeholders, and one on a more general audience. Alternatively, two sub-groups could be formed in due course.



- 12.1.22 Chile expressed the view that there were three important communications areas; Parties, RFMOs, and general public. Before establishing groups, the AC needed to identify what the ambition for each should be.
- 12.1.23 New Zealand reminded the AC that the Work Programme includes urgent tasks on Seabird Bycatch communications products and that these should run in parallel with the activities of the communication group.

## **13 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **13.1 Advisory Committee Reporting to the Meeting of the Parties**

- 13.1.1 The AC Chair presented [AC13 Doc 17](#), which proposed a review of how the Advisory Committee reported to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP). The AC Chair referred to the various reports presented to the MoP and the ACAP instruments which established the framework for such reporting, including the Agreement and Resolution 1.5 (2004). Since 2004, the number, structure and complexity of reports had changed significantly. Furthermore, Article IX (6) (d) (i) envisaged that the Advisory Committee would keep its reporting arrangements under review. The Chair accordingly proposed that the AC undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP. He further suggested that the Advisory Committee establish an intersessional working group of Committee members, guided by Terms of Reference drafted and agreed at AC13, which would progress the review and report to AC14.
- 13.1.2 The AC agreed that such a review would be valuable. Several delegations (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, and UK) agreed to take part in the intersessional group (see **ANNEX 7**).
- 13.1.3 New Zealand noted that outcomes from SBWG11 about reporting on bycatch mitigation would be relevant to this group's work.
- 13.1.4 The AC agreed that, if possible, a period of intersessional consultation with the AC would be followed by seeking AC approval of the approach in advance of AC14.

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

- 13.2.1 The 2023 - 2025 Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 13**) was reviewed during the meetings of SBWG11 and PaCSWG7, and was further discussed by AC13. Completed actions were noted and further actions were decided upon. Some actions were amended to better describe the topic or task. A number of possible opportunities for small grants or secondments were also noted. An updated version of the AC Work Programme for the current triennium was agreed (**ANNEX 4**) as were the Terms of Reference for the intersessional correspondence groups (**ANNEX 7**).
- 13.2.2 The AC Work Programme provides indicative costs and time required to complete the tasks. AC13 noted that 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. It was noted that these staffing resources are, in most cases, provided *pro bono*.

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

- 13.3.1 The Secretariat advised that a successful round of Secondments was held in 2022 - 2023. [AC13 Inf 02](#) summarises these proposals, as well as progress with recent Small Grants and Secondments which are yet to be completed. Many projects continued to be delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several projects contributed to discussions at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, and the joint WG meeting, highlighting the value of both schemes. In the last 10 years, 69 applications for Small Grants were assessed during four funding rounds, with 30 proposals awarded a total of \$490,809. Many projects included considerable in-kind support. Over this period, 11 of 13 Parties forwarded applications for funding.
- 13.3.2 The AC highlighted the success of both the Small Grant and Secondment schemes in terms of capacity building as well as seabird conservation research.
- 13.3.3 Calls for applications for both programmes are usually held following an AC meeting. Two more calls for applications are envisaged in the current triennium, in 2023 and 2024 (see 6.1.9).

## **14 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES**

- 14.1 The AC Chair reported that no proposals had been submitted to list new species in Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 14.2 AC13 noted the potential listing of some gadfly petrels under CMS.

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

- 15.1 The AC Chair reminded the meeting that all the Committee officer positions concluded at the end of the current meeting, but some were eligible to be considered for re-election. Elections would be required to elect officers for the next period, which would conclude at the end of the AC meeting after the Eighth Meeting of Parties (AC15). He asked in turn for nominations:
- 15.2 Co-convenors: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Chile nominated Mrs Patricia Pereira Serafini (Brazil), and the UK nominated Dr Marco Favero (Argentina), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.3 Vice-convenor: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Argentina nominated Professor Richard Phillips (UK), who was elected unopposed.

- 15.4 Co-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Australia nominated Dr Igor Debski (New Zealand), and Brazil nominated Dr Sebastián Jiménez (Uruguay), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.5 Vice-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Peru nominated Dr Dimas Gianuca (BirdLife International) and Australia nominated Dr Megan Tierney (UK), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.6 Convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: South Africa proposed Mr Mark Tasker (UK), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.7 Vice-convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: the UK proposed Dr Alan Tennyson (NZ), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.8 Vice-chair, Advisory Committee: Uruguay nominated Mrs Tatiana Neves (Brazil), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.9 Chair, Advisory Committee: New Zealand nominated Dr Mike Double (Australia), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.10 On behalf of the outgoing SBWG Co-viceconvenor, Dr Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Argentina conveyed a message that Dr Seco Pon regrets that other commitments prevented him from standing again as SBWG Vice-convenor, but that he remains a member of the SBWG and hopes to have the opportunity to hold another AC officer post in the future.
- 15.11 AC13 congratulated all the elected AC officials on their appointments and thanked the out-going official for his contribution to ACAP's work.

## **16 FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **16.1 Timing and Venue**

- 16.1.1 Peru offered to host AC14 in late August – early September 2024, in its capital, Lima.
- 16.1.2 The Advisory Committee thanked Peru and warmly welcomed this offer.

### **16.2 Draft Agenda**

- 16.2.1 A draft agenda for AC14 was reviewed by the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 6**) and will be forwarded to AC members for their consideration ahead of AC14.

## **17 OTHER BUSINESS**

- 17.1 The UK indicated that an amendment to Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure (concerning Meeting Documents), drawn up in consultation with the Chair and Australia, would be circulated for consideration and possible adoption intersessionally.

- 17.2 AC 13 recalled that World Albatross Day is celebrated on 19 June each year in commemoration of the signing of the Agreement in 2001. The theme for 2023 is plastic pollution.
- 17.3 AC 13 noted that MoP7 agreed to develop a publication celebrating ACAP's Achievements in the First 20 Years 2004–2024. Work on the publication is being coordinated by Australia, Ecuador, the United Kingdom, and the Secretariat. It will closely align with the earlier publication celebrating ACAP's Achievements in the First Ten Years 2004 – 2014.
- 17.4 AC 13 noted that the [7<sup>th</sup> International Albatross and Petrel Conference](#) (IAPC7) will be held in Ensenada, Mexico, 20 – 26 May 2024. IAPC last met in 2016.

## **18 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

- 18.1 The meeting adopted the report of AC13.

## **19 CLOSING REMARKS**

- 19.1 The Chair thanked all delegations, including Observers, for their input to the Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings. He summarised some key outcomes from AC13:
- (i) A revised Advisory Committee Work Programme and Secretariat Work Programme.
  - (ii) Outcomes from MoP7 noted.
  - (iii) Establishment of six intersessional groups on: AC reporting to the MoP; bycatch indicators; bycatch data, ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy; ACAP's Communication Strategy; and H5N1 avian influenza.
  - (iv) Endorsement of updates to Best Practice Advice on Seabird Bycatch.
  - (v) Close consideration of bycatch data needs.
  - (vi) Greater emphasis on compliance with ACAP's Best Practice Advice for bycatch mitigation and the potential need for other indicators to enable more confidence in compliance with mitigation measures.
  - (vii) The re-establishment of the Species Assessments Coordinating Group.
  - (viii) Discussion of emerging threats, especially OWFs and avian influenza.
  - (ix) A draft agenda and venue for AC14 (Peru).
  - (x) Renewal of the appointment of the current officials occupying most of the Convenor and Vice-convenor positions, with new appointees to one SBWG Co-viceconvenor position and to the TWG Vice-convenor position.
  - (xi) Renewal of the mandates of current holders of the positions of Chair and Vice-chair.

- 19.2 The Chair thanked everybody who had taken part in and supported the meeting: the Working Group convenors and Vice-convenors, the Secretariat, the technical assistant, the interpreters, the catering, reception and security officials at the venue, and everyone else involved in meeting organisation. He welcomed the new appointees to ACAP positions, and thanked the Vice-chair for agreeing to stay on. He highlighted the sterling assistance by UK colleagues in hosting the meeting.
- 19.3 The Vice-chair expressed her thanks and those of all the delegations to the Chair for his excellent steering of the meeting.
- 19.4 The Chair closed the meeting.

**ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

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## INTERPRETERS

Spanish ↔ English:	Mrs Cecilia ALAL Dr Sandra HALE 2M Language Services
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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>
AC13 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 02	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 04	List of Meeting Documents	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 05	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 06	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 07	Report of Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1	2023 Interim Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 09	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	9.1	PaCSWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 10 Rev 1	Report of Taxonomy Working Group	10.1	TWG
AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	11.1	SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1	Report of Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	12.1	PaCSWG Convenors, SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 13	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025	13.2	Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair
AC13 Doc 14	Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025	5.2	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 15	MoP7 outcomes relevant to the Advisory Committee Work Programme	8 & 13	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 16	Identification of conservation actions to booster the implementation of the MoU between ACAP and IAC	5.1 & 13.2	IAC Scientific Committee, IAC Secretary, PaCSWG Co-convenor
AC13 Doc 17	Opportunities to enhance Advisory Committee reporting to the Meeting of the Parties	13.1	Advisory Committee Chair

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Inf 01	Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025	8 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 02	Small Grants and Secondment Programmes supported by the AC	13.3	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 03	ACAP communication strategy update	5 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 04	The Tasman Sea as a candidate High Seas Marine Protected Area	7.2	BirdLife International

**ANNEX 3. AC13 AGENDA**

<b>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 7.2 Implementing the UN High Seas Treaty: Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal
<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 bycatch data collection
<b>12. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</b>	12.1 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
<b>13. Advisory Committee</b>	13.1 Advisory Committee reporting to the MoP 13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
<b>14. Listing of New Species</b>	
<b>15. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</b>	

<b>16. Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> 16.1 Timing and Venue 16.2 Draft Agenda
<b>17. Other Business</b>
<b>18. Adoption of Report</b>
<b>19. Closing Remarks</b>

**ANNEX 4. 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 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. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, joint WG meeting and AC13 are highlighted in blue font. Any responsible groups or subgroups identified for specific tasks remain open to additional participants.

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.)	∅	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	∅	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	≈ 5,000	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.	∅	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.	∅	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)	
1.6	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritization. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOC taxonomy. Criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species will be further refined intersessionally via correspondence.
<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, BirdLife International	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 ( <del>core</del> )	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC14.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	<del>Science Officer, PaCSWG leads</del> Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee updates	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	4,000 10,000 ( <del>core</del> )	Costs for BirdLife to update maps, possible design update Reports on progress provided to each PaCSWG. Working with Lead editors
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing		12,000 14,000 ( <del>core</del> )	
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.



Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2.7	<del>Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps. (now task 5.15)</del>	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000 (€€€)	Review at AC14
2.8	Identify and review <b>High</b> 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 AC14.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	0	<b>Opportunity for secondments and small grants.</b>
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2023 and 2024	12 weeks	0	
2.12	Develop new guidelines for priority issues	SG Subcommittee PaCSWG, 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.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic iv) light pollution	PaCSWG	Ongoing	?		<b>Opportunity for secondments and small grants.</b> Develop ways to assess, model, monitor, and mitigate impacts including cumulative impacts on seabirds. Provide relevant information to the bibliographic database. i) Review availability of albatross and petrel flight height data.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2.14	Maintain the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing		5,000	Create expert group (see ANNEX 7). Guidelines to cover disease risk assessment for ACAP species, colony risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak. Translation costs included under Task 2.5.
<b>3. Seabird Bycatch</b>						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (SBWG10-Doc-07 Rev 4 <b>SBWG11 Doc 09</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.  Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC  Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	a) 18 weeks p.a.  b) 18 weeks p.a.  c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) 30,000 p.a. ( <del>€</del> ) From 2025 37,500 p.a.  3,000 ( <del>€</del> )	a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly) b) RFMO co-ordinator activities  c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG)  Includes development and dissemination of resources. Translation costs. These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes.
3.1 a)	Review and update the RFMO engagement strategy	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastian Jimenez. AC Intersessional Group.	AC14			Establish an intersessional group (see ANNEX 7). Engage with IAC (lead Marco Favero, Andres Domingo, Tatiana Neves, Brazil).

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, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: <del>Amanda Kuepfer</del> Igor Debski, <a href="#">Verónica Iriarte</a> , <a href="#">Leandro Tamini</a>	Ongoing			Improve consistency between documents. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences, of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice.
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries. Formalise 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. <del>Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse seine and trawl).</del> <a href="#">(now Task 3.18)</a>	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help)  <del>Jonathon Barrington, Cristian Suazo, JP Seco Pon, Secretariat</del>	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 <del>(core)</del>	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document. <del>and guidelines, plus guidelines design.</del>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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 International, Secretariat. Leads: Bird scaring lines: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal longline line weighting: Barry Baker Trawl cable, including net monitoring, mitigation: Marcelo García Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	<del>40,000</del> 15,000 ( <del>€€€</del> , for translation, and for new factsheets)	



Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.6	<del>Make available and disseminate ACAP advice on improving safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.</del>	SBWG, RFMO Leads	<del>Ongoing</del>			<del>Note studies done with 40, 45 and 60g, not presently feasible to test 80g.</del> <b>Completed</b>
3.7	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required  Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat  Igor Debski to lead initially. AC Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7).	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (€€€)	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) <b>Workshop</b> pre SBWG11.
3.7 a)	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead. AC Intersessional Group				Establish an intersessional correspondence group to address key challenges (see ANNEX 7). Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Develop guidelines on bycatch data analysis to complement existing data collection guidelines
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2023-2024	1 week	5,000 (€€€)	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 (€€€, 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. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1.a).

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.9 a)	Understand and mitigate the effects on seabirds of small-scale pelagic fisheries, in particular where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats	SBWG				Opportunity for <b>secondments</b> and <b>small grants</b>
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks		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 SBWG11, 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			Guidelines were developed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination. <a href="#">Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1a)</a>
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	Ongoing	20 weeks		Completed
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 ( <a href="#">Also see Task 5.7</a> )	SBWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		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 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>
3.16	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing		10,000	Opportunity for <b>secondments</b> and <b>small grants</b> .  Review current status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.
3.17	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG	2024-2025			Opportunity for secondments and small grants Includes assessment of the effectiveness of weighted hook designs, and use of non-toxic alternatives to lead when adding weight to the hook.
3.18	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG, Verónica Iriate, Cristián Suazo, Jonathon Barrington, Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.19	Support the development of an evidence-based seabird safe toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	2024-2025			Share resources and provide expert advice.



Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
<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 International	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 States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties, <a href="#">Secretariat</a>	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	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, 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.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1. (now Task 1.6)	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week	0	Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed (TWG lead).
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 International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat (HSI to assist by providing paper)
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 and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2024		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement. Intersessional group (see ANNEX 7) will develop a plan for the number and structure of AC related reports to MoP8.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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 and CCAMLR.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties, <a href="#">BirdLife International</a>	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000 ( <del>grant</del> )	<b>Opportunities for small grants.</b> Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP <b>High</b> Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a ( <del>cost</del> )	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g competitions etc.
5.13	Enhance the communication of the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP's effective solutions	Lead Communications Advisor. AC Intersessional Group (See ANNEX 7).			5,000 for a <b>seconded/contractee</b> to participate in the process	Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communication Strategy for AC14.
5.14	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Parties, Science Officer	Ongoing			Possible <b>small grant</b> opportunity.  Support research and monitoring into the effects of climate change on life history, breeding behaviour and success, breeding habitat condition, and disease prevalence, etc. Identify ways to increase the resilience of albatrosses and petrels to these effects.  Cooperative and coordinated international responses are required to address critical research needs.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.15	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	Review tracking indicators at AC14
<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. SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025**

The Work Programme was adopted by MoP7. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, joint WG meeting and AC13 are highlighted in blue.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
<b>1</b>	<b>SUPPORT FOR MoP, AC &amp; WG MEETINGS</b>			<b>AC13 + WGs</b>		<b>AC14 + WGs</b>		<b>MoP8</b>		
1.1	Undertake meeting arrangements.	Article X.a								
	▪ selection of venue		Exec Secretary	3	3,682	3	3,778	3	3,876	Travel costs
	▪ organise contracts, venue/equipment		Exec Secretary	5		5		5		
	▪ liaison with host government		Exec Secretary	2		2		2		
1.2	Preparation of meeting papers	Article X.a								Within 60 days of meeting
	▪ writing of meeting documents		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Contract	35		35	1,500	35	1,500	Cost for assistance with Budget preparations
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary,	10		10		5		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20		10		
1.3	Support the attendance of sponsored experts and delegates	Article VII 5	Exec Secretary	10		10		5		Correspondence, organise travel, acquittal of accounts
1.4	Organise the translation and posting of meeting documents and provision of interpretation services	AC RoP 17 (1)								Within 30 days of meeting
	▪ coordination with service provider		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	▪ posting of documents		Sci Officer	5		5		3		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1.5	Support & operation of meetings	Article X.a								
	▪ travel for meetings		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	8	6,312	8	6,476	8	6,644	4 days per meeting, airfares
	▪ travel for meetings		Contract	4	3,156	4	3,394	4	3,482	Airfares
	▪ attendance at meeting		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	32	7,890	32	8,095	16	4,416	Accommodation and allowances
	▪ attendance at meeting		Contract	12	7,364	12	7,555	6	4,416	Contract costs, accommodation
1.6	Prepare meeting report and distribute to all Parties	Article X.a	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		
<b>2</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF SECRETARIAT</b>									
2.1	Administer the budget for the Agreement and the Special Fund provided for in Article VII (3) in accordance with the Agreement's Financial Regulations;	Article X.g								
	▪ payment of accounts		Exec Secretary	15		15		15		
	▪ preparation of invoices and receipts		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
	▪ preparation of financial statements		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
	▪ maintain advance & assets registers		Exec Secretary	1		1		1		
2.2	Prepare biannual financial reports for the information of the Parties and the Chair of the Advisory Committee	AC2, MoP2	Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
2.3	Provide information to the general public concerning the Agreement and its objectives, and promote the objectives of this Agreement	Article X.h								
	▪ preparation of ACAP Latest News for website		Info Officer, Comms Contract	90		90		90		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain/update website links and publications</li> </ul>		Sci & Info Officers, Comms Contract	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>management of ACAP Facebook page</li> </ul>		Info Officer, Comms Contract	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preparation of scientific material</li> </ul>		Sci Officer, Comms Contract	10		10		10		
2.4	Update and maintain the ACAP website	Article X.h	Sci Officer & Contracts	20	8,416	20	8,635	20	8,860	
2.5	Collate as appropriate synthesized information provided by Parties on the implementation and effective functioning of the Agreement with particular reference to the conservation measures undertaken	Article X.j;								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review data, liaise with stakeholders, amend database, collate information and draft consolidated reports</li> </ul>	Article VII (1) c); Article VIII (10)	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20				
2.6	Prepare a report on Secretariat activities for AC and MoP meetings	Article X f)	Exec Secretary	2		2		2		
2.7	Recruit and manage the Secretariat's staff in accordance with the Staff Regulations and the directions of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff Regs	Exec Secretary	5		5		5		
<b>3</b>	<b>FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>									
3.1	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee	Article X k)	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	25		25		25		
3.2	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee in preparing a report to the MoP on the activities of the Advisory Committee	Article IX 6.e)	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer			2		1		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.3	Assist the Convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.1	Sci Officer	25		25		25		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.2	Sci Officer & Contract	25	5,260	25	5,397	25	5,537	Consultant database programmer/developer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and update global population trends</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.3	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update ACAP Species Assessments</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.4	Sci Officer	31		31	10,000	31	4,000	Cost for map updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.5	Sci Officer & Contract	3	4,000	3	4,000 6,000	3	4,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.6	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.7 5.15	Sci Officer			5	1,000			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.8	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.9	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update best-practice guidelines</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.10	Sci Officer	10		10		10		



Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide reports on activities to AC meetings</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.11	Sci Officer	30		30				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop new guidelines for priority issues</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 2.12	Sci Officer	2		2		2		
3.4	Assist the Convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP (<del>SBWG10 Doc 07</del> <a href="#">SBWG11 Doc 09</a>) 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.</li> <li><a href="#">Review and update RFMO engagement strategy.</a></li> <li>Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting and present to RFMOs.</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 3.1, <a href="#">3.1 a)</a>	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Contracts	70	30,000	70	30,000	70	30,000 <a href="#">37,500</a>	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMO Interaction Plan.
					1,000		1,000		1,000	Translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Finalise ACAP</del> <a href="#">Develop</a> guidelines for the safe removal of seabirds <del>removing</del> entangled in nets (purse-seine, and-trawl, <a href="#">gillnet</a>)</li> </ul>	AC WP Task <del>3.3</del> <a href="#">3.18</a>	Sci Officer	5	<del>4,000</del>		<a href="#">8,000</a>			Design and translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 3.4	Sci Officer	5		5	<del>40,000</del> <a href="#">15,000</a>	5		Design and translation costs.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further pursue approaches to improve the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures.</li> </ul> <p><del>Continue to develop and refine communication strategy and products to:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>⇒ Reinvalidate advice</del></li> <li><del>⇒ Communicate with different audiences (e.g. presentations, videos, other multi-media) to include success stories and information aimed at overcoming impediments to implementation</del></li> </ul> <p>Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.</p> <p>Continue to engage with certification schemes, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>⇒ Contributing to reviews of standards on bycatch considerations to encourage these to be informed by ACAP advice.</del></li> <li><del>⇒ Providing information to sub-group Parties and others to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments</del></li> </ul>	AC WP Task 3.5	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary, Contracts	10		10		10		<p>Possible <b>secondment</b> to investigate further specific communication areas and to supplement work of any part-time consultant that the Secretariat might employ as communications adviser</p> <p>Secretariat to continue to engage as required consultant who has already provided advice on this process.</p> <p>Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the SBWG sub-group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of bycatch indicators and associated data, refine methodological approaches and reporting as required</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 3.7	Sci Officer, Contract	20	10,000	20	10,000	20	10,000	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 3.14	Sci Officer	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.5	Assist the Convenor of the Taxonomy WG as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database</li> </ul>	AC WP Task 1.2	Sci Officer	1		1		1		
<del>3.6</del>	<del>Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1</del>	<del>AC WP Task 5.3</del>	<del>Sci Officer</del>	<del>3</del>		<del>3</del>		<del>3</del>		
3.7	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	AC WP Task 5.4	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.8	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	AC WP Task 5.5	Sci Officer	5		2		2		
3.9	Review ACAP performance indicators	AC WP Task 5.6	Sci Officer			5		5		
3.10	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	AC WP Task 5.7	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
3.11	Manage directory of relevant legislation	AC WP Task 5.8	Sci Officer	1		1		1		Parties to supply further information as available
3.12	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations relevant to ACAP	AC WP Task 5.9	Sci & Info Officers, Comms Contract	2		2		2		Parties to supply further information as available
3.13	Support for World Albatross Day	AC WP Task 5.12	Info Officer, Comms Contract	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	Funds for developing, producing and distributing WAD material
3.14	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels	AC WP Task 5.14	Sci Officer							

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
<b>4</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT</b>									
4.1	Assist Parties in providing training, technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral or bilateral basis to facilitate implementation of the Agreement.	Article VIII 14	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	5		5		5		
4.2	Promote and coordinate activities under the Agreement, including the Action Plan, in accordance with decisions of the Meeting of the Parties	Article X c)	Exec Secretary	15		15		15		
4.3	Liaise with non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations to facilitate coordination between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.	Article X d)	Exec Secretary	15	10,520	15	10,704	15	11,075	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
4.4	Consult with and enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions, and as appropriate exchange information and data.	Article XI 2 c), 3 & 4	Exec Secretary	10	15,780	10	16,190	10	16,611	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
4.5	Facilitate the accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Article X d), k), <a href="#">AC WP 4.2</a>	Exec Secretary	5		5		5		Work with lead Parties and other Parties as needed.
4.6	Compilation of the triennial implementation report.	Article IX 6 d)	Sci Officer, Exec Sec			10		10		
<b>5</b>	<b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b>									
5.1	Assist the Advisory Committee and Parties with technical cooperation and capacity building	Article IV (2)	Exec Sec, Sci Officer	20		20		20		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
5.2	Support secondments programme to aid capacity building	MoP2	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		

**ANNEX 6. DRAFT AC14 AGENDA**

<b>DRAFT AC14 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Activities undertaken in 2023-2024 intersessional period</li> <li>5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 – 2025</li> <li>5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028</li> </ul>
<b>6. Agreement's Financial Matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Financial Report</li> <li>6.2 Agreement Budget 2026 – 2028</li> </ul>
<b>7. Observer Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Reports from Observers to AC14</li> </ul>
<b>8. Report on the Implementation of the Agreement</b>	
<b>9. Reporting to the Meeting of Parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1 Advisory Committee Report to MoP8</li> <li>9.2 Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP</li> <li>9.3 Process for the review of AC reports to MoP</li> </ul>
<b>10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>11. Seabird Bycatch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>12. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</li> </ul>
<b>13. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>14. Advisory Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee</li> <li>14.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2025</li> <li>14.3 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028</li> <li>14.4 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme</li> </ul>

<b>15. Listing of New Species</b>
<b>16. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</b>
<b>17. Eighth Meeting of the Parties</b> 17.1 Timing and Venue 17.2 Draft Provisional Agenda
<b>18. Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> 18.1 Timing and Venue 18.2 Draft Agenda
<b>19. Any Other Business</b>
<b>20. Adoption of Report</b>
<b>21. Closing Remarks</b>

**ANNEX 7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS 2023 – 2025**

The following intersessional groups were established at AC13.

Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
AC Reporting to the MoP Intersessional Group	13.1.4	5.10	AC Chair, AC Vice-chair	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, UK, HSI	<p>Recognising the expectation stated in Article IX (6) d) i) of the Agreement, and noting that the Agreement will have been in force for 20 years in 2024, the Advisory Committee (AC13) agreed to undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP.</p> <p>The Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a plan for the number and structure of AC-related reports to future MoPs so the reports:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. communicate issues effectively and succinctly;</li> <li>b. are well structured;</li> <li>c. avoid duplication of information or topics;</li> <li>d. aggregate related issues;</li> <li>e. recommendations are presented with supporting text.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>While revised reporting formats must be tailored for the MoP audience, the reports should ideally be appropriate for wider consumption to enhance within-Party communications, as well as engagement with other organisations and the public.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Seek feedback from the AC intersessionally on the planned approach on the number and structure of AC-related reports to the MoP.</li> <li>3. In close collaboration with the Secretariat, implement the revised approach to AC-related reports to the MoP and submit the draft papers to AC14.</li> </ol>	Intersessional consultation with AC, AC14
Bycatch data and reporting Intersessional Group	11.2.3	3.7a)	Megan Tierney	Call for participants	<p>The Intersessional Group will discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing guidance on methods, possibly a data collection and analysis toolbox;</li> <li>2. How to address barriers to lack of capacity and guidance;</li> <li>3. Estimating confidence intervals as well as total bycatch and bycatch rates; and</li> <li>4. Developing a range of cases studies to inform discussion on capacity limitations and to contribute to the development of possible solutions to Party- specific priorities.</li> </ol>	AC14



Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Bycatch indicators Intersessional Group	11.2.3	3.7	Igor Debski to lead initially	Mark Tasker, Jonathon Barrington, Barry Baker, Mike Double, Igor Debski, Marco Favero, HSI	The Intersessional Group will: Conduct an intersessional review to refine the State-Pressure-Response indicators so they can be better implemented by ACAP Parties and provide improved visibility on the use of Best Practice Advice.	AC14
RFMO Engagement Strategy Intersessional Group	11.1.9	3.1a)	Dimas Gianuca, Sebastián Jiménez	BLI, Marco Favero, Mark Tasker, Megan Tierney, Secretariat, Andres Domingo, HSI, Patricia Serafini, Mi Ae Kim, Tatiana Neves, Jonathon Barrington, Jose Carlos Baez	Recognising that MoP7 had given great priority to successful engagement with the RFMOs, and noting the SBWG11 recommendation 2 from item 14.1, the Advisory Committee agreed undertake a review of the RFMO Engagement Strategy. The ICG will: 1. review the aims of the current RFMO engagement strategy with a view to updating them as necessary; 2. review the theme-based format of the strategy and decide whether a different format might be preferable; 3. develop an updated list of priority actions concerning advocacy, communications and education to be reviewed on a rolling basis; and 4. report back to SBWG12 and AC14.	AC14
ACAP Communication Strategy Intersessional Group	12.1.11	5.13	Bree Forrer	UK, Brazil, others TBC	In its 13th Meeting the ACAP Advisory Committee decided on the creation of an intersessional group to enhance the communication of the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP effective solutions. This would be achieved through supporting the Communications Advisor in the refinement of the Agreement's Communication Strategy. The Intersessional Group will: 1. Identify and prioritise audiences to communicate the conservation crisis that albatross and petrel species listed in Annex 1 are facing and proven ACAP solutions (ie. seabird bycatch mitigation measures); 2. Recommend and prioritise ways of effectively communicating with various audience segments, including the production of targeted communications materials (such as advice products, presentations, other media) as well as taking account of success stories; 3. Develop and recommend implementation of specific actions for highest priority target audiences; 4. Develop ways of assessing the success of the ACAP communications; 5. Report to AC14.	AC14

Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
High Pathogenicity H5N1 Avian Influenza Intersessional Group	9.1.8	2.14	Patricia Serafini	Helen Baker, others TBC	<p>In its 13th Meeting, the ACAP Advisory Committee decided on the creation of an intersessional group of experts on epidemiology, disease risk assessment and management to be formed that could advise ACAP on issues related to the ongoing high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak.</p> <p>The ICG will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile up-to-date information and revise the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak;</li> <li>2. Recommend and prioritise ways of effectively communicating the risk to decision-makers and stakeholders within ACAP, including advice products;</li> <li>3. Prepare further documents and disease risk assessments, as necessary;</li> <li>4. Report to AC14.</li> </ol>	As needed, AC14

## ANNEX 8. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CANADA

Thank you to the ACAP Secretariat, meeting participants, and our hosts in Edinburgh.

Mexico, the United States, and **Canada** have been working together under the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, as part of the recently formed Trilateral Seabird Bycatch Working Group. This Working Group will present a proposed work plan and seek the endorsement of the Migratory Birds Working Table co-chairs at the trilateral meetings in June, 2023. Proposed short term actions, to focus initial efforts, include:

- Develop an inventory of existing actions that address seabird bycatch within each country.
- Develop an inventory of needs (e.g., scientific knowledge, data, etc.) for each country, and identify which needs may benefit from tri-national collaboration.
- Identify where best practices have already been developed (e.g., ACAP best practice for bycatch mitigation in longline fisheries) and identify other fisheries of interest.
- Several other work plan actions have been proposed, including to identify international agreements and mechanisms for involvement, with an initial focus on strengthening engagement with ACAP, recognizing my (Dr. Caroline Fox) presence as Observer at ACAP follows years of engagement by Mr. Ken Morgan, on behalf of Canada.

In Canada, seabird research and monitoring is diverse, with seabird bycatch concerns, including those for albatrosses and petrels, recognized in all three oceans (Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic). Recent efforts include but are not limited to: (1) an intensive seabird at-sea survey program initiated in the Pacific region in 2020 is due for completion in 2024, this compliments efforts to provide seabird distribution and abundance information in Atlantic and Arctic regions; (2) predictive modelling for Pink-footed Shearwater occurrence in the Pacific region has recently been completed, and similar efforts for Great and Sooty Shearwaters are ongoing in Atlantic region; (3) an analysis of demersal longline groundfish fishing effort data and associated seabird bycatch in the Pacific region, spanning 2012-2021 is underway; and (4) in Atlantic region, areas with high bycatch risk are being identified by overlaying fishery landings with seabird densities weighted by their vulnerability to bycatch in different fishery sectors. We hope to share findings soon and are working to advance conservation priorities.

**ANNEX 9. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NAMIBIA**ACAP accession progress

1. ACAP ratification was tabled in the National Assembly and Parliament.
2. However, due to top management reshuffling or top-leadership transition, the ministry had 3 different ministers to date and the accession process was affected by this staff turnover. The process is still with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, under the Directorate of Policy Planning and Economics (PPE) and it is not clear that the issue was taken further for Parliament approval and ratification by the previous ministers.
3. Provide another motivation to the new minister to take the ratification process to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) to prepare an instrument of deposit and provide the agreement with the depository, for Namibia to accede to ACAP.

Ratifying to ACAP will increase conservation efforts of seabirds in Namibia through collaboration and engagement with party states, range states, observer states and other international organizations. ACAPs high priority populations and the endangered seabirds, especially Cape gannets (*Morus capensis*) can benefit from ACAP best practice seabird-bycatch mitigation measures as this species populations are affected by fishing activities. Namibia is involved in other conservation work regionally with South Africa and Angola through the Benguela Current Commission (BCC). The BCC Top Predator Working group focuses on the conservation of seabirds, seals and turtles. There are various key actions needed such as creating awareness, training, education, improve reporting, compliance and reviewing and updating the current seabird bycatch regulations to ensure bycatch is kept at a minimum into the future. Therefore, joining ACAP can help Namibia achieve some of the above-mentioned actions.

## **ANNEX 10. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – USA**

The United States thanks the Secretariat and ACAP Parties for organizing and hosting this 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of ACAP. We are pleased to engage in discussions on the range of seabird conservation topics with ACAP Parties and other Range States, APEC member economies, and other observers. We particularly would like to work with all of you on advancing implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures across the range of fisheries where bycatch of threatened seabirds occurs.

In the United States, we were able to make some recent progress on actions that are relevant to the conservation of ACAP species. We highlight some of those below that may be of interest to AC13.

After several years' delay, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Island Conservation have commenced the *Mus musculus* eradication project at Midway Atoll, the largest albatross colony in the Northern hemisphere, and plan to do aerial applications of brodifacoum bait starting in July of this year. Plans to eradicate the remaining *Rattus exulans* at Wake Atoll in 2024 are proceeding.

Planning for climate change resilience and adaptation has accelerated in the Pacific Islands with actions proposed and being implemented for resisting, accepting, and directing change. Land managers are protecting existing seabird colonies by reducing all threats and accelerating the restoration and creation of alternate sites of higher elevation by installing predator-proof fencing, removing non-native predators, employing social attraction, and translocating eggs and chicks to help establish new colony sites. On Oahu, three of four Procellariiform species translocated have now recruited at the site and are now producing young. Black-footed Albatrosses were most recently translocated and those cohorts are now returning to prospect. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are now breeding there as well, attracted by the other species. The other two species translocated are Tristram's storm-petrel and Bonin petrel.

Progression of the previously reported albatross data management collaboration between USFWS and U.S. Geological Survey has proceeded to data analysis. Demographic patterns for Tern Island albatross populations were reported at the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in February 2023 by Colorado State University postdoctoral student Chris Malakowski. These results document trade-offs between Black-footed and Laysan albatross related to rates of survival and reproduction. As part of this project, reproductive success monitoring data is being vetted and will support development of an integrated population model to be initiated this year.

A previously reported USFWS project to identify and prioritize seabird translocation projects in Hawaii and the tropical Pacific Islands was completed in March 2023. Priorities for seabird colony creation, using habitat restoration, translocation, and social attraction, were determined from interviews with representatives of state, federal, and private land management and conservation organizations. The report informs agencies and partners about options for potential future seabird colony creation to offset the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and other threats to seabird colonies. The unpublished report is available on request; publication is pending.

United States/Canada/Mexico Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral) was established in 1995 to more effectively address conservation priorities of continental significance and boost the collaborative efforts of the three countries. Following discussions during the 2021 Trilateral meeting, a Seabird Bycatch Working Group was formed under the Migratory Birds Working Table to foster collaboration and explore shared priorities among the three countries regarding seabird bycatch. The initial goals given to the Bycatch Working Group included (a) discussing the impact of seabird bycatch in each country: what is known, where are gaps, and steps to reduce bycatch, and (b) identifying a plan for how the Trilateral can help address this issue.

In 2022, the Trilateral Seabird Bycatch Workgroup identified many short-term actions in common among the three countries, including: developing an inventory of needs for each country, prioritizing actions that would benefit from Trilateral engagement, identifying existing best practice resources for fisheries, and identifying international agreements and mechanisms for involvement (e.g., strengthening collaboration and engagement with ACAP). The Workgroup is drafting a workplan that identifies achievable actions with timelines and has sought feedback from the Migratory Birds Working Table on the Workgroup's scope and potential for involvement of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in seabird bycatch issues of interest to all three countries.

The Migratory Birds Working Table is also discussing marine debris and especially plastic pollution, and its impacts on seabirds, as a topic that warrants trilateral focus. The United States looks forward to working with the governments of Canada and Mexico in this forum to explore the potential for trilateral collaboration to increase understanding on this issue.

At its December 2021 meeting, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council took final action and recommended regulatory amendments to replace blue-dyed thawed bait and strategic offal discharge measures required for stern-setting, deep-set longline vessels with a new tori line requirement. The Council also recommended implementing best practices training on offal management as part of the annual protected species workshop required for all fishing vessel operators. This recommendation is the result of NMFS collaboration with the fishery management council and the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA) on the design, development, and field trials of tori lines, and the use of electronic monitoring technology to monitor effectiveness, in response to higher rates of Black-footed Albatross interactions.

Cooperative research conducted in 2019-2021 provided the basis for the change to the use of tori lines, as well as help determine the regulatory specifications for the tori lines. Albatrosses were 14 times less likely to be captured on a baited hook, with zero albatross captures when tori lines were deployed, compared to sets deployed with blue-dyed fish bait. The Council additionally recommended tori line regulatory specifications to ensure the tori lines will produce similar results to the lines tested in the studies. The regulatory package is currently under development and the planned effective date of the new regulation is November of 2023. The HLA has received funding to provide each deep-set longline vessel with at least one tori line that meets specifications and this date allows for the successful roll out of tori lines while ensuring the action is in effect at the start of the season where we begin see higher albatross catch rates. An experimental fishing permit has also been issued to the HLA to test tori lines in the shallow-set longline fishery.

**ANNEX 11. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CHINESE TAIPEI**

Chinese Taipei expresses gratitude to United Kingdom and the Secretariat for hosting and organizing this meeting. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous two meetings had to be held virtually. We are pleased that we are finally able to join an in-person meeting this year, and appreciate the opportunity to participate and learn from other Parties.

We have long been committed to achieving a balance between fisheries and ecological conservation. For instance, we have actively collaborated with international organizations such as BirdLife International and the Taiwan Wild Bird Federation on experimental tori lines mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch, produce seabird identification manuals, and provide observer training. We have also regulated our national fishing vessels to comply with the mitigation measures prescribed by regional fishery management organizations. Additionally, last year, we donated to the ACAP Special Fund to support small grants programme related to seabird bycatch, contributing to seabird conservation.

Domestically, we have been conducting research on the Mien-hua and Huaping Isle Wild Animal Protected Area, with a particular focus on monitoring the breeding sites of the Streaked Shearwater. In 2022, we launched the Chinese Crested Tern Conservation Plan, which mobilizes various government agencies to implement conservation actions for this critically endangered species. We are also conducting conservation status assessments on three seabird species, including the vulnerable Streaked Shearwater, Swinhoe's Storm Petrel, and the declining and endangered Aleutian Tern. Through domestic legal regulations, we aim to protect these species effectively.

Chinese Taipei is steadfast in its commitment to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels. We eagerly anticipate deepening our international exchange and cooperation with ACAP, in order to maximize our contributions to the conservation of seabirds.

**ANNEX 12. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL**

BirdLife International is grateful to the ACAP Secretariat, Parties and the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland for the arrangements of a successful in-person meeting in 2023, and the opportunities this provides for in-depth discussion on the important business treated under the two Working Groups and Advisory Committee.

We welcome the addition of the Joint meeting of the Working Groups, which enabled and facilitated the discussion of important topics of relevance for the conservation of seabird species listed under ACAP Annex 1. BirdLife gives special thanks to the Secretariat staff, Convenors and Co-Convenors for their continued efforts to coordinate activities to further the objectives of the Agreement.

Through the network of partners and collaborating organisations that together constitute BirdLife's Marine Programme, we continue to make progress in areas that are directly relevant to the Agreement, some of which have been presented to the Working Groups.

BirdLife hosts the Seabird tracking Database which provides an important resource to facilitate seabird conservation initiatives. We encourage submission of additional albatross and petrel tracking data to help increase the representativeness of species and age classes within the database.

Our grass roots activities continue to bridge the gap between best practice scientific advice and practical implementation through the efforts of the Albatross Task Force teams in Argentina, Chile, Namibia and South Africa. We are particularly encouraged by the increasing use and emphasis of remote electronic monitoring technologies in recent years, with the associated additional confidence this provides in terms of compliance with bycatch mitigation measures. Under new initiatives, we have expanded grass roots engagement to facilitate the transfer of lessons learnt in Albatross Task Force teams to distant water fleets. This work is only possible thanks to a strong collaborative spirit between the governments, industry and NGOs involved.

In Europe and Central Asia the Marine Task Force is replicating the grass roots approach through projects in multiple fisheries, but also going further through leadership in advocacy on marine spatial plans in response to the rapid expansion of offshore energy in the region. In West Africa through our local Partners we have provided dedicated fishery observer capacity building initiatives, to build greater understanding of the characteristics and scale of bycatch in the region and initiate conservation projects on colony management.

Our policy advocacy at the tuna RFMOs in collaboration with several ACAP Parties and the Secretariat continues to support opportunities to revise and update seabird conservation measures, to take into consideration ACAP Best Practice Advice. This process is critical to the successful achievement of the objectives of the Agreement and are grateful for the positive collaboration and endeavours over recent months. We note, however, that suitable data submission to the Secretariat and the tuna RFMOs continues to thwart appropriate evaluation of progress toward improved practices in high-risk fisheries. We encourage Parties to prioritise improvements in the data submission process and welcome the data management workshop as a positive process to facilitate this.



Furthermore, BirdLife has contributed toward the initiation of the FAO-funded Common Oceans 2 project, which we were pleased to see commenced in 2023. The seabird project element is being led by the Commission on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and represents an important mechanism for capacity building and progress on compliance with conservation measures by tuna fleets in the Southern Ocean. We look forward to liaising with Parties of the Agreement as part of that process.

An important element that is emerging through ACAP discussions is the engagement with the seafood supply chain and certification schemes. BirdLife has collaborated with Sustainable Seafood Partnerships to provide guidance on seafood supply chain audits of major retailers in the UK and US and contributed toward the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship Endangered, Threatened and Protected species strategy. Our team has also engaged closely with the development of the new standard 3.0 of the Marine Stewardship Council, which demonstrates potentially important additional requirements that we hope will benefit seabird populations once incorporated into certification assessments and re-assessments.

Finally, BirdLife submitted an information paper on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, which provides an instrument through which Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can be designated in areas beyond national jurisdiction which, given the importance of the high seas as habitat for the seabirds listed in Annex 1, has the potential to support conservation efforts for these species. BirdLife welcomes continued input from Parties on the development of plans toward promoting the Tasman Sea as a potential MPA under the BBNJ agreement and is grateful for the positive discussions already held. Furthermore, BirdLife encourages Parties to consider early ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

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

Humane Society International/Australia would like to thank Parties to ACAP for the opportunity to participate in the Advisory Committee meeting once again, and for your ongoing collective efforts to conserve albatross and petrels.

Despite these efforts, we remain alarmed by the high albatross and petrel mortality rates in many of your domestic fisheries, and in fisheries on the high seas. We share the strong view expressed at this meeting that it is time to concentrate efforts less on refining Best Practice Advice, and much more on ensuring it is implemented.

Universal implementation of ACAP's recommended mitigation measures, in all relevant fisheries, is the best strategy for reducing albatross and petrel fishing mortality. Attempts at species specific bycatch mitigation risk being an unhelpful distraction from this goal.

With a focus on implementation, HSI Australia was pleased to contribute to Document 25 presented to the SBWG, which analysed poor Party and tuna RFMO uptake of ACAP's recommended best practice mitigation and the reasons for this. We are pleased the AC has asked the SBWG to look at how Party reporting can be improved to provide more transparent and robust disclosure of Best Practice implementation. We also look forward to assisting with the development of a revised strategy to persuade RFMOs to adopt ACAP's best practice advice, and to do so with urgency.

For our part HSI will continue to advocate strongly for seabird bycatch mitigation at the CCSBT, which we regularly attend. We are contributing funds for trials of the Procella hook in New Zealand and we stand ready to support stronger advocacy with tuna supply chains. We will remain an active stakeholder in Australia's Threat Abatement Plan for Longline Fishing and its National Plan of Action for Seabirds.

Lastly, HSI notes with concern the ominous portents in information papers presented to this meeting. One documenting the impacts extreme weather events have had on black-browed albatross colonies. And another outlining the threat of Avian Influenza. With these alarm bells sounded, it is more essential than ever that fisheries bycatch mitigation succeeds, so that we can give albatross and petrel populations the resilience they will need to withstand worsening environmental and climate disruptions.