



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

**REPORT OF
THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Swakopmund, Namibia
1 – 5 June 2026*

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee (AC1, AC2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the Advisory Committee)
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
AviList	A unified global bird checklist
BBNJ	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
BLI	BirdLife International
BMIS	Bycatch Mitigation Information System
BPA	Best Practice Advice
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
DOC	Department of Conservation (New Zealand)
EOVs	Essential Ocean Variables
EM	Electronic Monitoring
GFW	Global Fishing Watch
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HPAI	High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza
HWA	Humane World for Animals
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IG	Intersessional Group
IMARPE	Instituto del Mar del Perú
IOC	International Ornithological Congress
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NNF	Namibian Nature Foundation
NPOA	National Plan of Action
MFAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Namibia
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of the Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
OBIS	Ocean Biodiversity Information System
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG1, PaCSWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the PaCSWG)
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
RERI	Renewables Environmental Research Initiative
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RFMCO	Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
RSPB	Royal society for the Protection of Birds
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG1, SBWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the SBWG)
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SEFRA	Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
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
WG	Working Group
WG-IMAF	Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fisheries (CCAMLR)

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC15) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 1 – 5 June 2026, with Dr Michael Double as Chair and Mrs Tatiana Neves as Vice-chair.
- 1.2 Eleven Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand (NZ), Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK) and Uruguay. Apologies were received from France and Norway.
- 1.3 In addition, one Range State, Namibia, one APEC Member Economy, Chinese Taipei, and one Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), participated as Observers.
- 1.4 BirdLife International (BLI) and the Namibian Nature Foundation (NNF) 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 Ms Graça Bauleth D’Almeida, on behalf of Mr Teofilus Nghitila, Executive Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Namibia.
- 1.7 Namibia extended a warm welcome to delegates and Observers attending AC15, wished everyone a pleasant stay in Swakopmund and expressed the hope that there would be time to explore the beautiful Namibian scenery and experience the wonderful hospitality of the Namibian people. Namibia considered it a great honour to host AC15 and its Working Group meetings and participate as an Observer at these meetings.
- 1.8 Namibia noted that, while not yet a Party to ACAP, as a Range State, Namibia has a long history with regards to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels. This included a strong collaboration with the NNF, the Albatross Task Force (ATF), Government Ministries, Industry stakeholders and international partners.
- 1.9 Namibia highlighted its efforts to translate international commitments into practical conservation actions including the introduction of seabird bycatch mitigation measures into its hake fisheries regulations, which saw a 98% reduction in seabird bycatch in the demersal longline fishery and 95% reduction in the trawl fisheries. Namibia noted that the hake fishery was one of only two fisheries in Africa certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) with significant efforts made to reduce the impact of fisheries on seabirds during the certification process. With support from the ATF, Namibia distributed seabird identification handbooks to vessels and crews, with Fisheries Observer Agency observers receiving training in seabird identification, among other measures.
- 1.10 Namibia also highlighted the adoption of a National Plan of Action for Seabirds (NPOA-S) reflecting its strong commitment to the principle that sustainable fisheries management and seabird conservation are mutually reinforcing objectives rather than competing priorities.

- 1.11 Namibia recognised that joint efforts are required to ensure the continued reduction in the drastic decline of albatrosses and petrels associated with fishing activities, and the paramount importance of international cooperative efforts to address other challenges faced by these highly migratory species such as pollution, climate change and environmental degradation.
- 1.12 Namibia announced that it is making progress towards accession to the Agreement and expected to lodge its Instrument of Accession with the Depositary by the end of 2026, and if not, then before the next ACAP annual meeting.
- 1.13 Namibia also recognised that more work was needed, especially in capacity building, scientific research, electronic monitoring expansion and population monitoring, as well as strengthening data collection systems and scaling up proven mitigation measures.
- 1.14 In closing, Namibia urged all participants in the meetings to contribute towards a successful outcome according to ACAP's objectives.
- 1.15 On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the AC Chair thanked Ms Bauleth D'Almeida for the kind words and good wishes for the meeting made on behalf of Mr Nghitila. The Chair welcomed the news of Namibia's progress towards accession to the Agreement to be finalised before AC16. The Chair urged all AC15 participants to contribute towards a successful outcome from this meeting and progress with ACAP's objectives.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The AC agreed to adopt the Agenda (**ANNEX 3**).

3 RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The AC adopted the current [Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Committee](#) for this meeting.

4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

- 4.1 Australia, in its role as Depositary, presented its report ([AC15 Doc 06](#)). The report noted there have been no new accessions to the Agreement since the most recent report of the Depositary Government (of 1 February 2025) circulated as [MoP8 Doc 07](#) at the Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Dunedin, New Zealand, 19 - 23 May 2025. Australia looked forward to receiving further advice from Namibia about its Instrument of Accession.

5 ACAP SECRETARIAT

5.1 Activities undertaken in 2025/26 intersessional period

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary provided a report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the 2025/26 intersessional period ([AC15 Doc 07 Rev 1](#)).
- 5.1.2 The Secretariat provided support for a range of tasks in the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028. The planning and organisation of the current Advisory Committee and Working Group meetings were a focus in recent months. Other key activities included providing funds to successful applicants under the 2024 Small Grants Round, representation at a range of international meetings, and developing a proposed cooperation arrangement between the Secretariat and Global Fishing Watch (GFW) for the consideration of the Parties. The Secretariat was also pleased to host an internship programme for students completing master's degrees in translation and interpreting.
- 5.1.3 The Secretariat and AC Officers participated in a range of meetings of Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCOs) to advocate for improved seabird measures and provide information on ACAP Guidelines, and on the status of ACAP-listed albatross and petrel species.
- 5.1.4 The Executive Secretary highlighted and thanked the ongoing contribution to ACAP by Mr John Cooper, Emeritus Information Officer, including in developing articles for the ACAP website, infographics for ACAP-listed species, and promotional materials for World Albatross Day that is celebrated on 19 June each year.
- 5.1.5 The Executive Secretary reported that a proposal had been referred to Parties requesting approval for the Secretariat to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Global Fishing Watch. A consensus was not forthcoming, and the matter will be placed on the agenda of the Ninth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP9), in accordance with Rule 24(5) of the [Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties](#).
- 5.1.6 The Executive Secretary highlighted liaison visits to South Africa and Brazil in association with other meetings, and to Namibia to encourage Namibia's interest in and accession to ACAP, and to select a venue for AC15.
- 5.1.7 The Executive Secretary advised that a new Grant Agreement was in place with the Department of State Growth representing the Crown in the Right of Tasmania that reflected the Tasmanian Government's invaluable, ongoing financial and administrative support to the ACAP Secretariat.
- 5.1.8 Australia and the United Kingdom expressed appreciation for the substantial financial, administrative and other support provided by the Tasmanian Government to the Secretariat.
- 5.1.9 The AC welcomed the ongoing support of Tasmania and asked the Secretariat to write a letter of thanks to the Department of State Growth.
- 5.1.10 The Executive Secretary reported that 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 (BBNJ Agreement) had entered into force on 17 January 2026 ([AC15 Inf 05](#)). The First Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) will occur from 11 - 22 January 2027, New York, USA.

- 5.1.11 The AC discussed the opportunities for engagement with the BBNJ Agreement.
- 5.1.12 Australia, Chile, New Zealand, and Peru noted the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and considered that COP1 would be a strategic opportunity for ACAP engagement in BBNJ meetings and processes, with opportunities to provide guidelines and other resources, as well as to ensure that the conservation of seabirds is considered under BBNJ arrangements.
- 5.1.13 Chile and Peru considered that ACAP Parties that were also Parties to the BBNJ Agreement should support ACAP's engagement and attendance at COP1, as this meeting would set the goals and implementation priorities under the BBNJ Agreement. Peru also considered that early engagement by ACAP in the work under the BBNJ Agreement would help ensure that the conservation of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels, would be included in frameworks developed by the COP, e.g. concerning Environmental Impact Assessments for activities occurring on the high seas.
- 5.1.14 Ecuador described the link between ACAP and the BBNJ Agreement as vital for Ecuador because it ensured ecological connectivity and ocean governance. Ecuador noted the BBNJ Agreement provided the legal tools to extend ACAP's conservation standards to the high seas, mitigating bycatch on a global scale and ensuring that activities outside its jurisdiction do not compromise the biodiversity or ecological sovereignty of Ecuador's territorial waters and the Galápagos Islands. Ecuador considered the BBNJ Agreement an indispensable mechanism for strengthening ocean governance and synergy among the Parties.
- 5.1.15 The AC endorsed several actions concerning engagement with the BBNJ Agreement; it:
- i) REQUESTED that the Secretariat monitor developments under the BBNJ Agreement to identify opportunities for ACAP engagement which would advance ACAP's objective and interests. Specifically, the AC requested the Secretariat attend COP1.
 - ii) REQUESTED that AC Officers consider engagement in opportunities identified alongside those of engagement at RFMCO and other international meetings. Subject to availability of resources, engagement is encouraged in relevant processes to develop area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments and risk-based approaches.
 - iii) REQUESTED that the Secretariat liaise with Parties who are a Party to the BBNJ Agreement to coordinate actions on the relevant processes identified.
 - iv) REQUESTED that the Secretariat develop an Engagement Strategy for the BBNJ Agreement, for consideration by MoP9.
- 5.1.16 The AC thanked the Executive Secretary for the report and the additional updates provided.

5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028

- 5.2.1 The Executive Secretary noted that the Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028 (**AC15 Doc 15**) was adopted by Parties at MoP8. It was agreed that, following AC15, the Secretariat Work Programme would be amended in line with the AC Work Programme 2026 – 2028 to reflect any changes and additions requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat in the current triennium (**ANNEX 6**).

6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Financial Report

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary advised that the Secretariat produces two financial reports each year, the first covers the first six months of the financial year (to 31 December), and the second provides the full year (1 July to 30 June) audited report. The most recent of these reports is presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of Parties.
- 6.1.2 The Executive Secretary presented the 2026 Interim Financial Report ([AC15 Doc 08](#)) including information on income and expenditure for Appropriations 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as a summary of closing cash balances as of 31 December 2025 and a summary of outstanding contributions as of 1 April 2026.
- 6.1.3 Parties' contributions for 2026 were due on 1 January. As at the beginning of April, the 2026 contributions from six Parties were still outstanding. Two Parties were in arrears for more than a year (see Attachment 1 of **AC15 Doc 08**).
- 6.1.4 The Executive Secretary advised the meeting that MoP8 had agreed to adopt a zero real growth budget, supported by a one-off draw down of \$306,842 in estimated savings from the General Fund ([Resolution 8.7](#)).
- 6.1.5 The Executive Secretary noted that funding for the AC Work Programme for 2026 - 2028 benefited from voluntary contributions from Humane World for Animals (HWA), and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), to the value of \$30,000 and \$550, respectively.
- 6.1.6 The UK acknowledged the substantial voluntary contribution made by Australia for studies on Offshore Wind Farms and their potential impacts on albatrosses and petrels, noting this voluntary contribution fell just outside the current reporting period, but after the last session of the Meeting of the Parties.
- 6.1.7 The AC welcomed the generous voluntary contributions from Humane World for Animals, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and expressed their appreciation and thanks for these contributions to the Agreement.
- 6.1.8 The AC requested that those Parties which were significantly in arrears with their annual contributions ensure that the outstanding amounts are paid to the Secretariat.
- 6.1.9 The AC thanked the Executive Secretary for the Interim Financial Report.

7 OBSERVER REPORTS

7.1 Reports from Observers to AC15

- 7.1.1 Namibia 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** and **9**, respectively.
- 7.1.2 Statements were also presented by SEAFO and BirdLife International, highlighting their collaboration with ACAP and their views on ACAP priorities for the future. Their statements can be found in **ANNEX 10** and **11**, respectively.
- 7.1.3 AC15 welcomed the Observer statements and thanked the Observers for their participation in the meeting.

8 REPORT FROM THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

- 8.1 The AC Chair presented [AC15 Doc 13](#), which reported on outcomes of MoP8, on issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee's work. The AC Chair noted that MoP8 adopted seven resolutions, including the Advisory Committee Work Programme for 2026 - 2028.
- 8.2 The AC Chair indicated that MoP8 had:
- i) agreed to a zero real growth budget, supported by a drawdown of savings
 - ii) endorsed a review of the implementation reporting format to better assess the effectiveness of priority conservation actions
 - iii) agreed to allocate sufficient funding for the Advisory Committee Work Programme, including to implement the ACAP Engagement Strategy for Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations
 - iv) agreed to review Annex 2 (Action Plan) of the Agreement before the next MoP
 - v) agreed to allocate funding in the Advisory Committee Work Programme to implement ACAP's Communications Strategy
 - vi) agreed to adopt updated indicators to monitor the success of the Agreement, acknowledging the continued decline of ACAP-listed species.
- 8.3 The Chair mentioned several key issues in **AC15 Doc 13** including:
- i) MoP8 adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the MoP. Rule 4(5) was amended to align the timeline for requests to attend meetings from non-international bodies with that of Rule 4(3) applicable to international bodies.
 - ii) The Secretariat had organised two meetings of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups in Edinburgh in 2023 and in Lima in 2024, followed by organising MoP8 in May 2025.

- iii) MoP8 endorsed Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Group to review the criteria for recruitment of the Executive Secretary contained in Annex A of the current Staff Regulations.
- iv) MoP8 adopted Terms of Reference for reviewing the effectiveness of the Secretariat ([Resolution 8.3](#)).
- v) The MoP agreed to hold informal online meetings of interested Representatives, convened by the Secretariat, at least 30 days before future MoP sessions to discuss the draft Budget and assessed contributions.
- vi) MoP8 recognised the key achievements of the Advisory Committee over the 2023-2025 triennium including continued development of seabird bycatch mitigation Best Practice Advice (BPA), guidelines and factsheets; a review of priority conservation actions; funding of Small Grants and Secondments Programmes; development and implementation of ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy; provision of advice on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), and continued review of taxonomy-related publications relevant to ACAP species.
- vii) MoP8 noted the Advisory Committee's concern that despite these efforts, ACAP's objective to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels was not yet being met and the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels, highlighted since 2019, was ongoing.
- viii) MoP8 welcomed the publication of a booklet to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Agreement's entry into force.
- ix) The MoP also welcomed the new Advisory Committee reporting structure and recognised the contributions made to ACAP by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups, Convenors, Vice-convenors and technical experts.
- x) MoP8 requested that the AC review the format of reporting on the implementation of the Agreement, with a focus on priority conservation actions, on land, at-sea and for High Priority Populations.
- xi) The MoP endorsed the ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCOs), allocating sufficient funding in the Advisory Committee Work Programme to fully implement the Priority Actions outlined in the Strategy.
- xii) The MoP adopted a Resolution developed by New Zealand concerning Actions to address the conservation crisis faced by albatrosses and petrels due to the threat of fisheries bycatch ([Resolution 8.5](#)). The Resolution reiterates key actions ACAP and its Parties have agreed to undertake to address the conservation crisis, in line with Parties' commitments under Article VI of the Agreement.
- xiii) The MoP acknowledged the substantial amount of human resources allocated in-kind to the implementation of Small Grants and Secondments and agreed on the very high value of both programmes and stressed the

crucial importance of securing the funds to keep these programmes operating into the future.

- xiv) The MoP agreed to the Secretariat concluding an arrangement with the Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo (CTMFM) and developing an arrangement with Global Fishing Watch.

- 8.4 New Zealand indicated that papers presented to MoP8 from the AC helped to focus discussion in the MoP on conservation issues.
- 8.5 The UK indicated that there remained internal issues around the pressures on the Secretariat due to the zero real growth budget and late provision of annual contributions by Parties.
- 8.6 [AC15 Inf 01](#) provides links to all language versions of the Agreement Budget adopted by MoP8 for the 2026 - 2028 period.
- 8.7 The AC Chair presented [AC15 Doc 16](#) on the review of ACAP implementation reporting. He advised that MoP8 had agreed that the Advisory Committee should undertake a review during the 2026 - 2028 triennium of the Agreement's implementation reporting requirements.
- 8.8 Peru suggested that the review also consider the challenges faced by Parties when preparing their Implementation Reports.
- 8.9 The AC endorsed Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Group on Implementation Reporting that will lead this intersessional work (**ANNEX 5**).
- 8.10 Australia presented [AC15 Doc 17](#) on reviewing Annex 2 to the Agreement (the Action Plan). Australia noted that the Action Plan contained in Annex 2 had not been reviewed since its adoption over 20 years ago. Australia advised that MoP8 had agreed it would be timely to conduct a review of the Action Plan before MoP9 and this task was added to the Advisory Committee Work Programme. Australia indicated that the review was intended to ensure the Action Plan remained contemporary, including concerning understanding of threats to ACAP species, conservation priorities, best practice advice, and implementation opportunities and challenges.
- 8.11 The AC endorsed Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Group on the Review of Annex 2 to the Agreement that will undertake this intersessional work (**ANNEX 5**).
- 8.12 The AC agreed to act in the current 2026 - 2028 triennium to address and implement the agreed Resolutions from MoP8 and noted recommendations and other outcomes of MoP8 relevant to the Advisory Committee's agenda and the Advisory Committee Work Programme.

9 TAXONOMY OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

9.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group

- 9.1.1 The Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG), Mr Mark Tasker, presented the Report of the TWG ([AC15 Doc 09](#)). He thanked Working Group

- (WG) members for their work, noting that the Terms of Reference for the WG remain unchanged since AC12.
- 9.1.2 The Advisory Committee noted that elements of the TWG Report were also presented to PaCSWG9.
- 9.1.3 The Advisory Committee discussed the TWG Report and noted its recommendations when developing the AC Work Programme.
- 9.1.4 Based on the TWG's recommendations, the Advisory Committee:
1. AGREED to adopt AviList as the taxonomy to use when considering species for inclusion in Annex 1 of the Agreement (basal Taxonomy) instead of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy.
 2. AGREED that ACAP not change its taxonomy but should work to ensure that AviList adopts the ACAP taxonomic approach for species presently listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement.
 3. ENCOURAGED Parties to support research:
 - i) that would provide further support to ACAP's taxonomic approach for the three pairs of taxa AviList treats differently Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida* vs. Black-browed Albatross *T. melanophris*; White-capped Albatross *T. steadi* vs. Shy Albatross *T. cauta*; Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* vs. Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan*;
 - ii) on the gene flow and divergence across the main breeding populations of taxa Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi* and Southern Royal Albatross *D. epomophora*;
 - iii) on mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) introgression from Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* to Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri*.
- 9.1.5 During the presentation of the TWG report, several points were made by delegates regarding these recommendations; these are summarised below.
- 9.1.6 The TWG Convenor advised that AviList would replace the existing global checklists of birds including the now defunct IOC list, with this work anticipated to be completed in two years' time. He indicated that AviList is being considered for use by CMS for species included in its Appendices, and IUCN for species included in the Red List of Threatened Species and would likely replace the FAO list over time.
- 9.1.7 The TWG Convenor advised that three pairs of taxa listed in Annex 1 have been combined in AviList: 1) Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida* and Black-browed Albatross *T. melanophris*; 2) White-capped Albatross *T. steadi* and Shy Albatross *T. cauta*; and 3) Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* vs Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan*.
- 9.1.8 The TWG Convenor advised that there was an ongoing process to update AviList in the light of submissions of evidence. The exact process was unclear at present, but the Convenor would endeavour to determine the best way to try to

change AviList to be harmonised with ACAP's taxonomic approach. He indicated that there would be a need to assemble evidence about the three pairs of taxa.

- 9.1.9 The AC noted that New Zealand (Campbell *T. impavida* and Black-browed *T. melanophris* albatrosses), Australia and New Zealand (White-capped *T. steadi* and Shy *T. cauta* albatrosses) and Spain (Balearic *P. mauretanicus* and Yelkouan *P. yelkouan* shearwaters) would support provision of relevant information to AviList.
- 9.1.10 Separately, the TWG Convenor noted that in AviList, the separation of the two Royal Albatross species and the two Yellow-nosed Albatross species was based on limited evidence, and further research would help reinforce the current decision about these taxa.
- 9.1.11 New Zealand indicated that any research on albatrosses (e.g. on Royal Albatrosses) and petrels needed to consider the relevant cultural sensitivities (e.g. appropriate treatment of genetic material and indigenous data sovereignty).
- 9.1.12 In response to a query by New Zealand about whether ACAP could be represented on relevant AviList advisory groups, the TWG Convenor indicated that he would investigate this.
- 9.1.13 The AC thanked the TWG for their work and Report.

10 SEABIRD BYCATCH

10.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

- 10.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Sebastián Jiménez, introduced the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the SBWG ([AC15 Doc 10](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the SBWG as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of SBWG13 held on 27 - 29 May 2026 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
- 10.1.2 The Advisory Committee discussed the Report of the SBWG meeting, including considering its recommendations when reviewing the AC Work Programme.
- 10.1.3 The Advisory Committee:
- i) Noted the strategic communication options proposed by Mindfully Wired Consulting to support the uptake and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
 - ii) Noted the changes to Best Practice Advice for each of the industrial gear-type fisheries (trawl, and demersal and pelagic longlining), creating two separate documents.
 - iii) Noted the changes for Best Practice Advice for trawl fisheries now includes reference to additional mitigation options for the risks posed by Net Monitoring Cables when the use of these cables cannot be avoided.
 - iv) Noted the changes to Best Practice Advice for pelagic longline fisheries include that measurement of sink rates should be undertaken using the ACAP Sink Rate Guidelines and that achieving faster sink rates, or using

deeper opening hook shielding devices, may be needed to effectively mitigate seabird bycatch in areas with deep diving petrels.

- v) Noted there will be ongoing intersessional work to update and refine the ACAP Data Collection Guidelines for Observer Programmes and the Guidelines on Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Systems.

10.1.4 Based on the SBWG's recommendations the Advisory Committee:

ACAP seabird bycatch mitigation Best Practice Advice

1. APPROVED the commitment of resources under the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028 to engage suitably qualified communication consultants to undertake work aiming to achieve behavioural change in implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
2. ENDORSED the Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Group on Communications Strategy Implementation to review the communication actions taken and liaise with the communication consultants (**ANNEX 5**).

Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries

3. ENDORSED the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic and demersal trawl fisheries on seabirds that reflect the latest research presented to SBWG13.
4. ENCOURAGED implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries.

Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries

5. ENDORSED the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline fisheries on seabirds that reflect the latest research presented to SBWG13.
6. ENCOURAGED implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries.

Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

7. ENDORSED the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds that reflect the latest research presented to SBWG13.
8. ENDORSED the ACAP Guidelines to measure the sink rates of baited hooks in pelagic longline fisheries using Time-Depth Recorders.
9. ENCOURAGED implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries.

Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

10. ENDORSED the updated ACAP Mitigation Advice for Artisanal and Small-scale Fisheries, noting that final refinement of the text would be made intersessionally before being published on the ACAP website.

11. URGED Parties with jurisdiction over relevant artisanal and small-scale longline fisheries to further develop and implement mitigation measures to reduce bycatch risk.

Seabird bycatch mitigation in purse seine fisheries

12. ENDORSED the format and updated contents of the toolbox for seabird bycatch mitigation advice in purse seine fisheries, noting that final refinement of the text would be made intersessionally before being published on the ACAP website.
13. ENCOURAGED managers of purse seine fisheries to adopt the toolbox advice as a user-friendly and informative resource for decision-makers.

Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures

14. ENDORSED the establishment of an expert Intersessional Group to provide ongoing seabird bycatch mitigation advice to the content developers of the Seabird Safe Toolkit (**ANNEX 5**).
15. REQUESTED that the Secretariat consider ways that the Seabird Safe Toolkit could be more actively used or disseminated by ACAP to promote best practice mitigation advice.
16. ENDORSED an ongoing partnership with the Southern Seabirds Trust and New Zealand Department of Conservation in the further development of the Toolkit and consider how the Toolkit can be best used as part of ACAP's Communication Strategy, including as a mechanism for communicating information on the spatial distribution of species and fisheries bycatch risk.
17. ENDORSED the inclusion of a cross-RFMCO review of chartering arrangements and other access agreements in the Advisory Committee Work Programme, based on concerns raised in **SBWG13 Doc 23**.
18. URGED Parties to promote improvements to the transparency of chartering arrangements and access agreements in RFMCOs.
19. URGED Parties to commit to 100% monitoring, using a mix of observer coverage and electronic monitoring systems, on distant water vessels fishing under chartering arrangements and access agreements to improve data collection and reporting to RFMCOs.

ACAP seabird bycatch performance indicators

20. ENDORSED the refined Seabird Bycatch Response indicators outlined in [SBWG13 Doc 11 Rev 1](#).
21. URGED Parties to report on implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in fisheries under their jurisdiction prior to AC16.
22. URGED Parties to report on actions identified in the RFMCO Engagement Strategy prior to AC16.

Tools and guidelines

23. APPROVED the allocation of sufficient resources to amend the Mitigation Fact Sheets to the new simplified format in a phased approach in accordance with the prioritisation identified at SBWG12.
- 10.1.5 During the presentation of the SBWG Report, several points were made by delegates regarding the recommendations; these are summarised below.
- 10.1.6 Ecuador reported there were ongoing interactions between the Galapagos Petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia* and artisanal and high seas fisheries between the Galapagos Islands and the mainland. Ecuador indicated that it was working on improved mitigation in its artisanal fisheries and hoped that engagement under the BBNJ Agreement would assist in developing additional mitigation measures for the high seas.
- 10.1.7 Brazil advised that its NPOA Albatrosses and Petrels has been in place since 2006, with its third revision completed in 2024, Brazil also noted that it is exploring opportunities for international collaboration and information exchange with other countries along the western Atlantic seaboard, including the potential future development of a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for seabird conservation.
- 10.1.8 South Africa reported that it had finalised the second iteration of its NPOA Seabirds and is exploring the potential for developing a RPOA with other countries on the southeastern seaboard of the Atlantic Ocean (e.g. Namibia and Angola).
- 10.1.9 The AC noted that the Intersessional Group on Seabird Bycatch Data Reporting will consider Implementation Reporting against the refined Seabird Bycatch Response Indicators presented in ANNEX 5 of **SBWG13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.
- 10.1.10 The AC thanked the SBWG for their work and Report.

11 JOINT MEETING OF THE SEABIRD BYCATCH AND POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS WORKING GROUPS**11.1 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups**

- 11.1.1 The Co-vice-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Megan Tierney introduced the Report of the Joint Meeting of SBWG13 and PaCSWG9 ([AC15 Doc 11](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme for cross-cutting issues as well as discussions and advice resulting from the Joint Meeting held on 26 - 27 May 2026 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
- 11.1.2 The AC thanked the Convenors for preparing this report and took note of it when reviewing the AC Work Programme.
- 11.1.3 Based on the Joint Working Groups' recommendations, the Advisory Committee:

Review of tracking studies for risk assessments

1. ENCOURAGED the sharing of the standardised workflow for point-based seabird-fisheries overlap analyses within the R package *ShareWater* to improve comparability and transparency.
2. ENCOURAGED Parties and others, when undertaking observations or assessments of seabird bycatch in waters off southern South America, to attempt to ensure identification of *Procellaria* petrels to species level.
3. ENCOURAGED Parties to incorporate domestic small scale and artisanal fishing effort when conducting bycatch assessments and taking actions to mitigate bycatch.
4. ENCOURAGED ACAP Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to improve bycatch mitigation requirements to ensure year-round protection for Black petrels *Procellaria parkinsonii* and other ACAP species.
5. REQUESTED that the Secretariat engage with relevant Range States, including Mesoamerican and Colombian jurisdictions to promote the conservation of Black petrels *P. parkinsonii* and other ACAP-listed species in their waters.
6. ENCOURAGED further development by Parties of mitigation tools for small scale and artisanal longline fisheries.
7. ENCOURAGED Parties to fund research and engagement at the grass roots level between researchers and fishers.
8. ENCOURAGED Parties to consider the use of inexpensive archival GPS loggers to understand movements of small scale and artisanal vessels and therefore overlap with ACAP species in their domestic waters.
9. ENCOURAGED analyses that compare seabird-fisheries overlap inside and outside RFMO areas with differing bycatch-mitigation requirements to identify where more stringent regulations would benefit threatened species.
10. REQUESTED that Parties consider how to improve monitoring of seabird interactions, and to ensure seabird bycatch mitigation is implemented by demersal longline and trawl vessels in the High Seas area of the southwest Atlantic that is not covered by a relevant RFMCO.
11. ENCOURAGED ACAP Parties that are also Parties to IATTC to advocate for the amendment of [IATTC Resolution C-11-02](#) to extend the requirement for seabird-bycatch mitigation westward from 85°W to 90°W at 15-30°S to ensure coverage of the Nazca Ridge fisheries and to improve fisheries mitigation measures required.
12. ENCOURAGED direct approaches by Parties and ACAP to flag states (especially South Korea) whose vessels are operating in the southwest Atlantic to better understand the risk to ACAP species.

13. ENCOURAGED Parties to undertake studies on spatial segregation and relative fisheries overlap among different seabird populations (breeding sites) within the same island group to identify drivers of bycatch risk and potential links with population changes.
14. URGED Parties and ENCOURAGED RFMCOs to implement ACAP Best Practice Advice and improve monitoring of compliance and seabird bycatch rates in fisheries and regions where bycatch risk may be high for Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*, particularly demersal longliners flagged to South Korea and China, and pelagic longliners flagged to Brazil, China, and Chinese Taipei.
15. ENCOURAGED Brazil to require the use of vessel-tracking systems, the implementation of ACAP Best Practice Advice and monitoring of compliance and seabird bycatch rates by vessels in the small-scale fisheries within its EEZ, given the poor understanding of the risk posed to Wandering Albatross *D. exulans* that breed in the south Atlantic.
16. EXPRESSED CONCERN that the SEFRA assessment demonstrates the CCSBT fishery has a considerable, and likely unsustainable impact on several ACAP-listed species.
17. ENCOURAGED CCSBT members to immediately implement best practice seabird mitigation measures in all areas known to impact ACAP-listed species.
18. ENCOURAGED Parties and RFMCOs to undertake studies that quantify bird-vessel interactions or identify the factors that influence movements and behaviour of birds and vessels to better understand interaction rates and bycatch risk.

Offshore energy infrastructure developments and associated risks

19. ENDORSED the updated Terms of Reference and work programme for the Intersessional Group on guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm developments (**ANNEX 5**).

Proposals for new High Priority Populations

20. ENDORSED the revised Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Group on Trends to include the development and application of updated, standardised criteria for identifying ACAP High Priority Populations (**ANNEX 5**).
21. URGED Ecuador and Peru to provide a progress report on actions taken on the Waved Albatross *P. irrorata* to help focus future conservation efforts under any revised Plan of Action.

Proposals to list species on Annex 1

22. ENCOURAGED Parties to consider the CMS listing proposal document for Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* and identify any additional information that should be included in a potential proposal for listing the Flesh-footed Shearwater in Annex 1 of the Agreement that could be brought to TWG/SBWG14/PaCSWG10/AC16 for review.

23. ESTABLISHED a Contact Group on gadfly petrels to support the development of a Concerted Action (**ANNEX 5**).
- 11.1.4 The UK made a statement regarding **Joint SBWG13/PaCSWG9 Inf 07**, which is provided in **ANNEX 12**.
- 11.1.5 In response to the UK statement, Argentina made a statement, which is provided in **ANNEX 13**.
- 11.1.6 During the presentation of the Joint Meeting Report, several points were made by delegates; these are summarised below.
- 11.1.7 Peru supported the Joint Meeting's recommendations and highlighted a project funded by an ACAP Small Grant to develop mitigation measures in the mahi mahi surface longline fishery which overlaps with the foraging range of the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* and Black Petrel *P. parkinsonii*. The project is a collaboration with the New Zealand Department of Conservation with results to be presented at the next meeting of the Working Groups.
- 11.1.8 Peru recognised the need to make progress with the Waved Albatross Action Plan at the national and bi-national level, as well as the need to reinforce coordination of its efforts with Ecuador to comprehensively update the Action Plan before AC16.
- 11.1.9 Referring to **Recommendation 5**, New Zealand recalled that ACAP has a Strategy to Engage New Parties which could guide the approach to Mesoamerican and Colombian jurisdictions.
- 11.1.10 Concerning **Recommendation 9**, BLI reflected that there is a need to distinguish between gaps in regulations and gaps in the implementation of existing regulations as, in many places, regulations are not implemented.
- 11.1.11 New Zealand suggested that addressing both gaps, as relevant, is important to achieve conservation outcomes.
- 11.1.12 Referring to **Recommendation 12**, New Zealand suggested that technical level engagement with flag states alongside high-level engagement could be productive.
- 11.1.13 Regarding **Recommendations 14 and 15**, Brazil recognised the importance of strengthening compliance monitoring and the assessment of seabird interactions with fisheries operating within Brazil's EEZ. Brazil highlighted the scale of the challenge in its vast maritime jurisdiction, with a very large and diverse fishing sector. Despite these challenges, Brazil has been strengthening its monitoring framework. Brazil informed the meeting that a mandatory VMS (vessel monitoring system) for any vessels larger than 15m is already in place and is open to initiatives like Global Fishing Watch, improving transparency. In parallel, electronic monitoring trials have been implemented in northeastern Brazil, and new trials initiated in southern and southeastern Brazil. In addition, Brazil is developing initiatives to identify and test compact vessel-tracking solutions suitable for small-scale fisheries, recognising the need to expand monitoring tools to this segment of the fleet. Brazil informed the meeting that it is also advancing the reestablishment of its national onboard observer programme,

which will further strengthen at-sea data collection through updated institutional arrangements and complementary monitoring tools, including electronic monitoring. It is also cooperating with regional partners through initiatives such as the GEF-8 project with Argentina and Uruguay to strengthen monitoring capacity in the South Atlantic. Since 2014, Brazil's legislation obliges night setting, line weighting, and tori line use as simultaneous mandatory measures for the longline industrial fleet, and the National Plan of Action for Albatrosses and Petrels deals with the challenge to increase compliance. Brazil concluded that it remains committed to working with ACAP Parties and observers to strengthen the implementation of effective monitoring and mitigation measures across its fisheries.

- 11.1.14 Brazil also reported that trials of mitigation measures for small-scale fisheries are currently underway as part of a project funded by an ACAP Small Grant and that the results of this work are expected to be presented at AC16.
- 11.1.15 The Advisory Committee agreed to include **Recommendations 11, 16 and 17** in the RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
- 11.1.16 The AC thanked the PaCSWG and SBWG for their work and joint Report.

12 POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

12.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group

- 12.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), Dr Patricia Pereira Serafini introduced the report of the Ninth Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC15 Doc 12](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of PaCSWG9 held on 25 May 2026 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
- 12.1.2 The PaCSWG Co-convenor welcomed two new members to the WG, Ms Mandi Livesey (Australia) and Dr Sheryl Hamilton (Australia).
- 12.1.3 The Advisory Committee discussed the Report of the PaCSWG and noted its recommendations when reviewing the AC Work Programme.
- 12.1.4 Based on the PaCSWG recommendations the Advisory Committee:

Updates of ACAP Species Assessments:

1. AMENDED the Terms of Reference of the Intersessional Group on Species Assessments to include the development and implementation of a revised approach to efficiently deliver ACAP Species Assessments (**ANNEX 5**).

Population trends of ACAP species and IUCN Red List review:

2. ENDORSED the updated definitions for recording abundance and the approaches to modelling trends in abundance of ACAP species, including

- using the custom-built R package ACAPT developed by the Intersessional Group on Trends.
3. ENDORSED the methodology developed by the Intersessional Group on Trends for assigning IUCN Red List categories of ACAP Species using Criteria A2/A4.
 4. AGREED to request the Intersessional Group apply the IUCN Red List criteria for geographic range (B1, B2) and very small or restricted population (D) to ACAP species.
 5. AGREED to allocate funding in the 2026 – 2028 AC Work Programme to improve the structure and fields in the ACAP database to mirror the definitions used in the trends analyses, to record the reasons for edits to counts, and include counts currently not included in the database.
 6. AGREED to allocate funding in the 2026 – 2028 AC Work Programme to collate count data and to apply the trend modelling approach developed by the Intersessional Group and criteria B1, B2, D and E to ensure that the ACAP Secretariat can advise BirdLife International on IUCN Red List Assessments of ACAP species by 1 October 2026.
 7. REQUESTED that the Secretariat update the ACAP Census Guidelines to include the insights obtained through the data processing framework (e.g. ideally $\geq 10\%$ of breeding pairs at each breeding site should be monitored).
 8. ENCOURAGED Parties to submit research that will aid future abundance estimation of ACAP Species including monitoring and analyses of breeding probability and timing of failure; retrospective assignment of errors, and; methods used to extrapolate from surveyed areas to entire breeding sites.
 9. AMENDED the Terms of Reference of the Intersessional Group on Trends (**ANNEX 5**).

Updates on management of land-based threats

10. ENCOURAGED Parties to support the prioritisation of large-scale invasive species eradication programmes in relevant international and national fora, recognising the logistical, financial and conservation importance of such large-scale invasive species eradication programmes (e.g. Marion Island).
11. ENCOURAGED relevant international bodies (e.g. Antarctic Treaty System) to strengthen and implement visitor-site management guidelines, including incorporation of species-specific sensitivity and disturbance thresholds.
12. ENCOURAGED Parties, Range States and others to improve baseline data collection on abundance and breeding status of seabirds at frequently visited breeding sites, to support evidence-based tourism management.

Pollutants, including plastics and other marine debris:

13. URGED Parties to limit the production and use of PFAS and promote safer alternatives, applying a precautionary approach.

14. ENCOURAGED Parties to prioritise research on the exposure and biological effects of PFAS and other pollutants on ACAP-listed species, and the incorporation of these impacts when modelling population trends.
15. ENCOURAGED efforts by Parties to integrate contaminant data into population monitoring and modelling frameworks, including use of biomarkers and multi-species approaches.
16. ENCOURAGED Parties to support global efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution, including engagement with international policy processes.
17. ENCOURAGED Parties to enhance regional collaboration, particularly in the South Atlantic and Southern Ocean, for contaminant monitoring and research.

High-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza and other pathogens:

18. ENDORSED the ACAP HPAI database as a reference tool and source of information on the spread and impacts of HPAI in ACAP species, and ENCOURAGED Parties to contribute data and feedback.
19. URGED Parties to increase HPAI surveillance and reporting, including reporting of both positive detections and sampling effort with negative results.
20. ENCOURAGED Parties to undertake genetic characterisation of detected HPAI and other viruses to improve understanding of transmission pathways.
21. ENCOURAGED Parties to promote the integration of tracking and movement data into disease risk assessments and surveillance planning.
22. ENCOURAGED Parties to strengthen communication and outreach efforts supporting uptake of disease management guidelines developed by ACAP.
23. ENCOURAGED Parties and researchers to increase HPAI surveillance efforts in ACAP Species and provide reports to the database authors.

Review of key gaps in tracking data:

24. ENCOURAGED 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 (**AC15 Doc 12** Table 1 - 4).
25. ENCOURAGED Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking programmes identified for each ACAP species by region (**AC15 Doc 12** Table 5).
26. 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.

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) update:

27. ENCOURAGED the Working Groups to continue collaboration with the GOOS BioEco Panel, including the development of EOVs, and other global initiatives to enhance integration of seabird data into ocean observing systems.
28. ENCOURAGED Parties and data owners to contribute data directly to the GOOS BioEco Portal and the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS).
- 12.1.5 During the presentation of the PaCSWG meeting report, several points were made by delegates regarding the recommendations; these are summarised below.
- 12.1.6 The AC thanked Dr Johannes Fischer and the Intersessional Group on Trends for their excellent work, and Dr Simon Wotherspoon for developing the custom-built R package ACAPT underpinning the analyses.
- 12.1.7 BLI also expressed gratitude to the Intersessional Group on Trends on behalf of the IUCN Red List team for this work.
- 12.1.8 South Africa strongly endorsed **Recommendation 11** and requested continued support for the Mouse Free Marion project.
- 12.1.9 Chile advised the meeting that the Diego Ramirez population monitoring data gaps for the Grey-headed *Thalassarche chrysostoma* and Black-browed *T. melanophris* Albatross are currently in the process of being updated.
- 12.1.10 BLI thanked the PaCSWG for their support in encouraging tracking data submission to the Seabird Tracking Database.
- 12.1.11 The Chair in turn thanked BLI for developing and managing the database.
- 12.1.12 The AC thanked the PaCSWG for their work and Meeting Report.

13 ACAP ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS

- 13.1 The SBWG Co-Convenor, Dr Sebastián Jiménez advised that the ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations ([AC15_Inf_02](#)) had been adopted at MoP8. The aims of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy are to:
- i) Strengthen implementation of measures by RFMCOs to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
 - ii) Strengthen implementation of measures by RFMCOs that ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of fishing operations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
 - iii) Ensure the ongoing review by RFMCOs of measures that prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds, including the update of such measures in light of changes in best practices.

- 13.2 Dr Jiménez highlighted that the RFMCO Engagement Strategy set out the actions to be taken, the focus of engagement (across three categories of international organisations), the basis for engaging with RFMCOs, and proposed individualised approaches with targeted outcomes for each RFMCO.
- 13.3 AC15 noted the considerable progress with the RFMCO Engagement Strategy since AC14 and discussed the value of more detailed guidance for AC Officers and Parties in their engagement with RFMCOs without reducing their capacity to be flexible and adaptive as priorities change and opportunities arise.
- 13.4 Chile recognised the value of the strategic guidance within the RFMCO Engagement Strategy, which would help ensure consistent advocacy across RFMCOs, as well as for ACAP Parties when engaging as members of RFMCOs. Chile noted that Party delegations attending RFMOs can be from different portfolios or agencies to those attending ACAP which can impact communication and consistent messaging.
- 13.5 BLI suggested that it would be helpful to have a list of priorities which could go some way to addressing the challenges associated with consistent messaging across different departments and provide clarity on what needs to be promoted. BLI could contribute to this approach with a further consideration of advocacy in RFMCOs concerning chartering arrangements and report back to SBWG14.
- 13.6 Australia also recognised the value of highlighting and prioritising some specific actions within the RFMCO Engagement Strategy for Parties to take back to their administrations.
- 13.7 New Zealand reflected that ACAP's engagement within RFMCOs recognises that the fisheries portfolios usually have a full agenda, and it was therefore important for RFMCO delegations to include environmental portfolios to specifically advocate for improved seabird conservation measures. New Zealand acknowledged that there might not always be the capacity for this approach.
- 13.8 The UK considered that there are several links in developing ACAP's advocacy within RFMCOs, including Working Groups, the Advisory Committee, and the responsible portfolios within each Party. UK considered that it should be the responsibility of the ACAP National Contact Point and/or Advisory Committee Member to coordinate within their administration when preparing coordinated national negotiation positions.
- 13.9 The AC noted that the issue of how to encourage Parties to fully support the RFMCO Engagement Strategy intersects with the Communications Strategy and that early engagement with relevant Parties was important.
- 13.10 Peru highlighted that important technical work has already been undertaken within IATTC in the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, with contributions from ACAP, and emphasised that the challenge is not a lack of information or scientific substantiation, but ensuring that this is translated into decisions at the Commission level. Peru further suggested exploring, together with other members, possible ways to advance this process within IATTC, including consideration of a request by the Commission for the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group to develop an updated technical proposal.

- 13.11 The Advisory Committee:
1. ENCOURAGED Parties to promote the objectives of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy, including the submission and advocacy of relevant proposals within the RFMCOs of which they are members.
 2. REQUESTED AC Officers to develop an RFMCO Engagement Strategy Implementation Plan and identify priority actions from the RFMCO Strategy for ACAP- and Party led engagement. The Implementation Plan actions will be shared amongst Parties to each RFMCO.
 3. URGED Parties to proactively engage and work with AC Officers to act on the priority actions identified in the RFMCO Implementation Plan.
 4. REQUESTED AC Officers, in preparing to attend RFMCO meetings, contact National Contact Points and Advisory Committee Members to coordinate actions of ACAP Officers.
 5. REQUESTED that Party National Contact Points and Advisory Committee Members facilitate timely coordination for implementing the ACAP RFMCO Engagement Strategy by linking AC Officers representing ACAP at an RFMCO meeting to the Party's delegation to the RFMCO.
 6. REQUESTED Parties to report on seabird conservation related actions taken at the RFMCOs that they are members of in their national reports to ACAP.
- 13.12 The Secretariat advised that it would prepare a checklist for AC Officers to use in liaising with Parties and others in preparing for engagement in attending RFMCO meetings.

14 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- 14.1 Dr Megan Tierney, SBWG Co-Vice-convenor presented [AC15 Doc 20](#) that outlined potential strategic communications options to support the uptake and implementation of seabird bycatch measures. She indicated that **AC15 Doc 20** provided a summary of the advice provided by a communications consultancy on how to enhance the accessibility and uptake of ACAP Best Practice Advice, as guided by the Communications Strategy and the RFMCO Engagement Strategy. Three tiered, but progressive, communications options were proposed with incremental cost implications. Bronze focussed on clarity, consistency, and accessibility and would require investment of ~\$33,000. Silver provided structured dissemination with more focus on audience specific engagement and would require investment of ~\$65,000. Gold would provide for digital platform delivery and proactive communications support to drive behavioural change and would require investment of ~\$127,000.
- 14.2 The AC Chair indicated that MoP8 had agreed to prioritise the allocation of funding within the 2026 - 2028 Advisory Committee Work Programme for the implementation of the Communications Strategy in the amount of \$65,000 in each year (i.e. \$195,000 in total).

- 14.3 The AC considered the strategic communication options proposed by Mindfully Wired Consulting to support the uptake and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- 14.4 The AC endorsed Terms of References and guiding principles for engagement with the Consultants for an Intersessional Group on the ACAP Communications Strategy implementation (**ANNEX 5**).
- 14.5 The AC discussed a preferred approach, or combination of approaches that would maximise impact within current resource constraints.
- 14.6 The Advisory Committee agreed to take an adaptive approach based on the gold tier option. The following principles will guide engagement with the Consultants such that the strategies and products developed:
- have a life beyond the three years (2026 – 2028)
 - are focused on influencing best practice implementation
 - ensure that stakeholder mapping includes consideration of the social dimensions of primary audiences
 - minimise the impost on the Secretariat within, and after the three years
 - recognise the limited capacity of the Agreement to implement the strategies and products.
- 14.7 The AC agreed to assign funding of up to \$146,000 during the triennium to support the implementation of this approach.

15 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee

- 15.1.1 The AC Chair advised that there were no papers submitted under this item but noted that the volume and scope of tasks in the WGs means that it would be beneficial to reflect on ways to improve the work of the AC and its WGs.
- 15.1.2 UK thanked the WG Convenors for their considerable work and suggested it would be useful to prioritise time available in WG meetings to items that could achieve the greatest conservation outcomes for albatrosses and petrels.
- 15.1.3 The PaCSWG Co-Convenor noted the development by the Secretariat of a Recommendations Database will be very helpful in assessing recommendations coming to each meeting against existing recommendations. This will help focus work in the WGs on new recommendations.
- 15.1.4 The AC discussed various options and suggestions that could assist with the smooth and efficient running of its meetings.
- 15.1.5 The Advisory Committee identified opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its meetings and recommended its Chairs and Convenors:
- i) prioritise agenda items that are directly linked to the implementation of conservation actions, mitigation measures, and tangible conservation outcomes for ACAP-listed species

- ii) develop an annotated agenda which indicates priority items for the forthcoming meeting
- iii) consider early submission of indicative titles and abstracts of papers, 30 days prior to the document deadline to assist Chairs and Convenors in categorising proposed papers as Working Document or Information Paper, planning discussions, identifying priorities, and streamlining decision-making processes
- iv) develop an integrated schedule for all Working Group meetings well in advance, facilitating prioritisation of topics and management of the meetings
- v) identify a consistent approach to Working and Information papers; information papers do not need to be discussed unless they contribute to the development of ACAP advice or other ACAP products
- vi) consider which agenda items need to be considered at each meeting and those that can be tabled less frequently
- vii) communicate the importance of using the latest version of ACAP's document template and following the associated instructions to authors.
- viii) with the Secretariat, further develop guidance to authors within the document template including advice for authors, Chairs and Convenors on:
 - the handling of title and abstract submissions, Working Documents and Information papers
 - the use of the ACAP Recommendations Database and the referencing of existing recommendations that were endorsed by previous ACs
 - associating submissions with relevant agenda items within a meeting's annotated agenda.

15.1.6 The Advisory Committee noted the importance of ensuring that the Recommendations Database clearly identifies those recommendations that have been formally endorsed by the Advisory Committee, and that the final text approved by the Committee is accurately reflected in the database. The Committee noted that this approach would facilitate the use of the Recommendations Database by Parties, Range States, Observers, and other stakeholders. The default view will present only those actions that were agreed by the AC, however, all recommendations from the Working Groups will be available if specifically requested in the search criteria. Fields in the search output will always clearly indicate the status of recommendations under the Agreement, and where necessary the final text agreed by the AC or MoP.

15.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028

15.2.1 The Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028 (**AC15 Doc 14**) was reviewed during the meetings of SBWG13 and PaCSWG9 and was further discussed by AC15. Completed actions were noted and further actions were

- added. Some actions were amended to better describe the topic or task. Several possible opportunities for ACAP Small Grants or Secondments were also noted.
- 15.2.2 The AC Work Programme provides indicative costs and time required to complete the tasks. AC15 noted that significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the AC Officers, but also from Parties, Range States and NGOs. It was noted that these staffing resources are, in most cases, provided *pro bono*.
- 15.2.3 Australia presented [AC15 Inf 04](#) on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels – Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (ACAP-RERI). Australia advised that it made a voluntary contribution of \$ 2,500,000 to ACAP to deliver research to inform the assessment of potential long-term impacts of offshore renewable energy developments on ACAP-listed species.
- 15.2.4 Australia indicated that the ACAP-RERI will be overseen by a Steering Group that includes the Secretariat, representatives from Australia and potentially other interested ACAP Parties, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Scientific expertise will be provided by a multi-disciplinary Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including members of ACAP Working Groups. Funds will be distributed through a call for research proposals that will be assessed by the TAG and the Steering Committee. The contribution will support the initiative for up to five years to June 2030.
- 15.2.5 The Chair presented options for allocating the 2026 - 2028 Advisory Committee budget against existing tasks and proposed tasks in the Advisory Committee Work Programme. The Chair indicated that the Agreement Budget 2026 - 2028 did not include a specific allocation for Small Grants and the proposed options would allow for consideration of a Small Grants round in 2027. Depending on the quantum of funds available it may be appropriate to call for applications for Small Grants against specific items in the AC Work Programme.
- 15.2.6 The Chair indicated that estimated costs (\$50,000) have now been included to update the ACAP Species trends analyses which are a high priority and required by October 2026 as an input to the review of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. He also indicated that estimated costs (\$60,000) have also been included to develop a new Species Assessments framework.
- 15.2.7 The Chair advised that there were options for the implementation of the Communications Strategy (option 1, \$146,000, and option 2, \$70,000). Depending on the option selected, this will affect the quantum of funds available for a Small Grants round in 2027.
- 15.2.8 The AC recognised that while several tasks may not proceed this triennium, these tasks remained important and would be reconsidered next triennium.
- 15.2.9 The AC agreed to amend the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028 (**ANNEX 4**). The updates ensured that resources were available to address priority tasks:
- i) Assessing and updating global population trends (Task 2.3).

- ii) Implementing the ACAP Communications Strategy (Task 5.13).
 - iii) Developing an ACAP Species Assessment framework (Task 2.4).
- 15.2.10 The AC encouraged Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to the Agreement to allow progress with tasks within the AC Work Programme including those deferred until the next triennium.

15.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme

- 15.3.1 The Science Office presented a report on recent Small Grants and Secondments supported by the Advisory Committee ([AC15 Inf 03](#)). Several papers presented to the Working Groups were the results of studies funded by ACAP Small Grants and Secondments. She commented that the grants awarded from the 2024 round were funded both from ACAP funds and generous voluntary contributions from New Zealand, UK, Chinese Taipei and Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy. She also noted that summaries of the projects were now being published on the ACAP website.
- 15.3.2 The AC highlighted the success of both the Small Grant and Secondment schemes in terms of capacity building as well as seabird conservation research.
- 15.3.3 Peru recognised and expressed its gratitude for the invaluable support provided by the ACAP Small Grants and Secondment Programmes. These initiatives have been fundamental in strengthening national technical and operational capacities, thereby advancing the implementation of effective conservation measures for albatrosses and petrels in Peru.
- 15.3.4 Calls for applications for both programmes are usually held following an AC meeting, however in this triennium a call for applications for Small Grants and Secondments is only envisaged in 2027, following AC16.

16 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES

- 16.1 New Zealand advised that Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* was recognised as a strong candidate for listing in Annex 1 based on criteria used by ACAP, and that the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) had listed the species in Appendix II of CMS, and adopted a proposal for Concerted Action for the species ([AC15 Doc 18](#)).
- 16.2 New Zealand requested Parties to consider the CMS listing proposal document ([UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.6](#)) and identify any additional information that should be brought to the TWG, and to SBWG14/PaCSWG10/AC16 for review against the criteria for listing species in Annex 1 of the Agreement ([AC15 Inf 06](#)).
- 16.3 The TWG Convenor welcomed the work by NZ, Australia and France, and looked forward to reviewing the listing proposal when ready. He also noted that *A. carneipes* has been accepted as a separate species by AvIList, and that no taxonomic issues arise.

- 16.4 New Zealand presented a report on the listing of 26 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations in Appendices I and II of CMS, recognising that listing in CMS Appendices will influence the scoring of these species in ACAP's approach for identifying candidate species for listing in Annex 1 of ACAP ([AC15 Doc 19](#)).
- 16.5 New Zealand advised that it is likely to start leading a process to develop a Concerted Action for these petrels and would welcome expert input from ACAP. New Zealand requested Parties to consider the CMS listing proposal document ([UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.5/Rev.1](#)) and identify any further actions that ACAP could take to improve the conservation status of these species, including the identification of actions that should be taken to address the threats to gadfly petrels.
- 16.6 New Zealand recalled that the AC had previously discussed the conservation of gadfly petrels in a workshop in New Zealand in 2017. Several of these wide-ranging species are highly threatened, with some having very geographically restricted breeding sites. Threats on land are significant, compared to at-sea threats from fisheries. None of the 26 gadfly petrels are ranked as a higher priority for listing than those species already listed on Annex 1.
- 16.7 While not calling for a proposal to list gadfly petrels in Annex 1 of the Agreement now, the AC recognised the benefits of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Guidelines for the conservation of these species.
- 16.8 The Advisory Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference for a Contact Group to provide advice to CMS colleagues on the development of a Concerted Action for gadfly petrels (**ANNEX 5**).

17 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF AC OFFICERS

- 17.1 The AC Chair reminded the meeting that all the Committee officer positions concluded at the end of the current meeting. While positions would not normally continue after three terms, all officers 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 Ninth Session of the Meeting of Parties (AC17). He asked in turn for nominations:
- i) Chair, Advisory Committee: Dr Mike Double (Australia) was nominated by Chile and seconded by Brazil, and was elected unopposed.
 - ii) Vice-chair, Advisory Committee: Mrs Tatiana Neves (Brazil) was nominated by the United Kingdom and seconded by Uruguay, and was elected unopposed.
 - iii) Co-convenors: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Dr Patricia Pereira Serafini (Brazil) was nominated by Australia, and seconded by Peru, and Dr Marco Favero (Argentina) was nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Australia, and were both elected unopposed.
 - iv) Vice-convenors: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Professor Richard Phillips (UK) was nominated by South Africa and

seconded by Spain, and Dr Johannes Fischer (New Zealand) was nominated by the UK and seconded by Brazil, and were both elected unopposed.

- v) Co-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Dr Igor Debski (New Zealand) was nominated by Peru and seconded by Australia, and Dr Sebastián Jiménez (Uruguay) was nominated by Brazil and seconded by Australia, and were both elected unopposed.
- vi) Vice-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Dr Megan Tierney (UK) was nominated by New Zealand and seconded by Australia, and Dr Dimas Gianuca (BirdLife International) was nominated by the UK and seconded by Chile; and were both elected unopposed.
- vii) Convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: Mr Mark Tasker (UK) was nominated by Brazil and seconded by South Africa, and was elected unopposed.
- viii) Vice-convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: Dr Alan Tennyson (NZ) was nominated by the UK and seconded by Australia, and was elected unopposed.

17.2 AC15 congratulated all the elected AC Officers on their appointments.

18 SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18.1 Timing and Venue

18.1.1 Chile offered to host AC16 in August or September 2027, in Punta Arenas in Southern Patagonia.

18.1.2 The Advisory Committee thanked Chile and warmly welcomed this offer.

18.2 Draft Agenda

18.2.1 A draft agenda for AC16 was reviewed by the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 7**) and will be forwarded to AC members for their consideration ahead of AC16.

19 OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 AC15 noted that the [Fourth World Seabird Conference](#) will be held from 7 - 11 September 2026 at Hobart, Tasmania.

19.2 AC 15 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 2026 is habitat restoration, with various promotional materials available for the use of Parties and others.

20 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20.1 The Meeting adopted the report of AC15.

21 CLOSING REMARKS

- 21.1 The Chair thanked all delegations, including Observers, for their input to the Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings. He summarised some key outcomes from AC15:
- i) A revised Advisory Committee Work Programme and Secretariat Work Programme.
 - ii) Outcomes from MoP8 noted.
 - iii) Established new, and updated Terms of Reference for existing intersessional/contact groups on:
 - ACAP guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm developments
 - ACAP reporting on species status and trends
 - Conservation Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high pathogenicity H5Nx avian influenza panzootic
 - Seabird bycatch data reporting and indicators, guidelines and priority fisheries
 - ACAP Communications Strategy Implementation
 - ACAP Species Assessments
 - Seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessments
 - Review of ACAP Implementation Reporting
 - Review of the Agreement Annex 2: Action Plan
 - Expert advice to Seabird Safe Toolkit
 - Conservation advice relevant to gadfly petrels
 - iv) Endorsement of updates to Best Practice Advice on Seabird Bycatch.
 - v) Agreement on the approach to funding the implementation of the Communications Strategy
 - vi) Agreement on prioritising funding to support trend analyses to inform IUCN listing advice
 - vii) Further refinement of actions in support of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
 - viii) A draft agenda and venue for AC16 (Chile).
 - ix) Renewal of the appointment of current AC Officers occupying most of the Convenor and Vice-convenor positions, with a new appointee, Dr Johannes Fischer (New Zealand) to the PaCSWG Co-Vice-convenor position.
 - x) Renewal of the mandates of current holders of the positions of Chair and Vice-chair.

- 21.2 The Chair thanked everybody who had taken part in and supported the meeting: the Working Group Convenors and Vice-convenors, the Secretariat, the technical assistants, the interpreters, the catering, reception and other support staff at the venue, and everyone else involved in meeting organisation. He welcomed Johannes Fischer (New Zealand) to an AC Officer position and thanked those appointees continuing in their roles. He highlighted the kind assistance provided by Namibia in hosting the meeting and the excursion organised with the Namibia Nature Foundation.
- 21.3 The Vice-chair expressed her thanks and those of all the delegations to the Chair for his excellent steering of the meeting.
- 21.4 The Chair closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

CHAIR	
	Dr Michael DOUBLE Mike.Double@aad.gov.au
VICE-CHAIR	
	Mrs Tatiana NEVES tneves@projetoalbatroz.org.br

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ARGENTINA	
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UNITED KINGDOM	
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Emeritus Information Officer	Mr John COOPER

INTERPRETERS

Spanish ↔ English:	Ms Cecilia ALAL Dr Sandra HALE
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ANNEX 2. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC15 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 02	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 04	List of Meeting Documents	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 05	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC15 Doc 06	Report of the Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC15 Doc 07 Rev 1	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC15 Doc 08	2026 Interim Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC15 Doc 09 Rev 1	Report of the Taxonomy Working Group	9.1	TWG
AC15 Doc 10 Rev 1	Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group	10.1	SBWG
AC15 Doc 11 Rev 1	Report of Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	11.1	PaCSWG, SBWG
AC15 Doc 12 Rev 1	Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group	12.1	PaCSWG
AC15 Doc 13	MoP8 outcomes relevant to the Advisory Committee	8	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 14	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028	15.2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 15	Secretariat Work Programme 2026 - 2028	5.2	Secretariat
AC15 Doc 16	Review of ACAP Implementation Reporting	8	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC15 Doc 17	Review of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels Annex 2: Action Plan	8	Australia and New Zealand
AC15 Doc 18	Potential listing of Flesh-footed Shearwater on Annex 1	16	New Zealand, Australia, France
AC15 Doc 19	Listing of gadfly petrels on CMS Appendices I and II	16	New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Chile

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC15 Doc 20	Potential strategic communications options to support the uptake and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures	14	Secretariat

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC15 Inf 01	Agreement Budget 2026 – 2028	8	Secretariat
AC15 Inf 02	ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations	13	Secretariat
AC15 Inf 03 Rev 1	Recent Small Grants and Secondments supported by the Advisory Committee	15.3	Secretariat
AC15 Inf 04	The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) – Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (ACAP-RERI)	15.2	Australia
AC15 Inf 05	BBNJ Agreement	5.1	Secretariat
AC15 Inf 06	Criteria for listing species in Annex 1 of the Agreement	16	Secretariat

ANNEX 3. MEETING AGENDA

AC15 AGENDA	
1.	Opening Remarks
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
3.	Rules of Procedure
4.	Report of the Depositary
5.	ACAP Secretariat
	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2025/26 intersessional period
	5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028
6.	Agreement's Financial Matters
	6.1 Financial Report
7.	Observer Reports
	7.1 Reports from Observers to AC15
8.	Report from the Meeting of Parties relevant to AC
9.	Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels
	9.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
10.	Seabird Bycatch
	10.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group
11.	Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
	11.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
12.	Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels
	12.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
13.	ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations
14.	Communications Strategy

15. Advisory Committee

15.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee

15.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028

15.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme

16. Listing of New Species

17. Election and Appointment of AC Officers

18. Sixteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee

18.1 Timing and Venue

18.2 Draft Agenda

19. Any Other Business

20. Adoption of Report

21. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 4. REVISED ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026 – 2028

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 Officers, 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 reflects the amount of time that AC Officers and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks. The Work Programme was adopted by MoP8. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. Updated or new actions and indicative costs identified at SBWG13, PaCSWG9, joint WG meeting and agreed by AC15 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	Indicative costs (AUD)		
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the bibliographic database updated with relevant taxonomy documents	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.		Ensure relevant taxonomy papers are added to ACAP's bibliographic database.
1.2	Continue to work on ways of visually separating similar ACAP taxa	TWG	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process and the identification of bycatch specimens.
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric database	TWG led by Convenor	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data.
1.4	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2026-2028	1 month	5,000 (for database development)	Conduct a gap analysis of colonies/sites where there is insufficient genetic information. Database development required.
1.5	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	Variable, depending if there are proposals		Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties. One likely to be forthcoming prior to AC16 in 2027.
1.6	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species and keep AC updated on relevant taxonomic issues	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	Indicative costs (AUD)	
1.7	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritisation. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOG AviList taxonomy.
1.8	Work to bring AviList Taxonomy in line with ACAP's taxonomy	TWG Convenor, with three Party leads	2027-2028	5 weeks		Three pairs of taxa need to be addressed through the provision of supporting evidence.
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Update gaps in population, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.		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 secondments).
2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.		Improve the structure and fields in the ACAP database to mirror the definitions of counts and errors used in the trends analyses, and to document the reasons for edits to counts.
2.3	Assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BLI with other experts as required. Intersessional Group established at AC14.	Ongoing 2026-2027 1 Oct 2026 for species potentially requiring IUCN Red List status change		5,000 50,000	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC16. Collate count data and apply the trend modelling approach developed by the Intersessional Group and criteria B1, B2, D and E to ensure that the ACAP Secretariat can advise BirdLife International on IUCN Red List Assessments of ACAP species.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Indicative costs (AUD)		
2.4	Develop and implement new framework to update and deliver ACAP Species Assessments	Species Assessments coordinating Intersessional Group to oversee develop new framework	Ongoing	6 weeks months p.a.	12,000 72,000	Costs for BirdLife to update maps and consultant. Reports on progress to each PaCSWG meeting. Intersessional Group's Terms of Reference revised at AC15. Working with Lead editors
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	45,000 1,000	Opportunity for secondments or in-kind support.
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Review at each AC Meeting
2.8	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC16.
2.9	Update eradication guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer, UK, South Africa, USA, Mark Tasker	2026	3 weeks		Required in light of new insights gained from recent attempts to eradicate house mice from islands
2.10	Review and update Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5Nx panzootic Update guidelines and develop other products addressing the threat of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.		Guidelines for ACAP species offering broad recommendations to supplement local or regional risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity (HPAI) H5Nx avian influenza panzootic. Disease risk assessment for HPAI H5Nx for ACAP species to be carried out by the intersessional group. HPAI database established and maintained.
2.11	Review and update other best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.		Opportunity for secondments and small grants .

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
2.12	Develop new guidelines	PaCSWG, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing			Opportunity for secondments and small grants . E.g colony management, acoustic monitoring. Review at each AC.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic	PaCSWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	2026-2028		Opportunity for secondments and small grants . 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. ii) Develop guidelines for offshore wind farm risk assessments. (Intersessional Group established at aC14)
2.14	Provide reports on intersessional activities and working group meetings to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2026 and 2027	12 weeks		
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMCO Engagement Strategy (AC14 Doc 20) with relevant bodies that manage international fisheries (RFMOs and others). Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels, as appropriate .	Parties, Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	70,000 p.a. (subject to review) 210,000	Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMCO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly). Several RFMOs are engaging in the review of seabird measures during the early part of the triennium. Reflects cost of attending two meetings per RFMO for six RFMOs, based on 2024 costs. Figure will be kept under review to reflect changing priorities based on progress in RFMO CMM reviews.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.1.a	Continue to develop and refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	3,000 (for translation)	These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes. Includes translation, development and dissemination of resources.
3.1.b	Continue the review, and update the RFMCO Engagement Strategy at each Joint WG meeting.	Leads: Dimas Gianuca and Sebastián Jiménez.	Ongoing			
3.1.c	Develop an RFMCO Engagement Strategy Implementation Plan.	SBWG Convenors	2026- 2027			Develop an Implementation Plan and identify priority actions from the RFMCO Strategy for ACAP and Party led engagement. The Implementation Plan actions will be shared amongst Parties to each RFMCO. Progress will be reviewed at AC16.
3.2	Engage with other international bodies concerned with the conservation of species affected by fishing (e.g. IAC, CMS)	SBWG, Secretariat	Ongoing			In order to Ensure as far possible any mitigation measures proposed for ACAP species do not adversely affect other species and to pursue mutual gains in species conservation.
3.3	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline, trawl, and purse seine fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Sebastián Jiménez, Dimas Gianuca Demersal LL: Megan Tierney, Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: Igor Debski, Verónica Iriarte , Leandro Tamini, Marco Favero Purse seine: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro	Ongoing		3,000 (for translation of purse seine document)	Complete review and restructure of advice documents to improve readability and consistency between documents; version control; and documenting changes made between versions. Present to SBWG13. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice. Includes translation costs of purse seine advice.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.3.a	Sink rate testing advice	Intersessional group established at AC14. Lead: Sebastián Jiménez	2026			Complete guidance on adequate testing methodologies to demonstrate compliance with ACAP sink rate criterion. Present to SBWG13. Publish on ACAP website.
3.3 b	Pelagic longline soak period mitigation	SBWG Lead: Igor Debski	SBWG14			Review existing studies, seek unpublished data, and develop recommendations for ACAP advice.
3.3 c	Loop line use in pelagic longlines	SBWG (Jose Carlos Baez)	SBWG14			Review research to determine incidence and rates of seabird bycatch on loop lines (trapline/meka rings)
3.4	Identify and pursue new approaches to improve uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures.	SBWG, PaCSWG Secretariat	Ongoing			Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets. Scope of work dependent on ongoing investigation into enhancing implementation of mitigation measures.
3.5	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in purse seine 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: Artisanal - Dimas Gianuca, Javier Quiñones, Gabriel Canani Purse seine – Cristián Suazo , Joanna Alfaro	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 secondment . Includes translation.
3.5.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 secondments and small grants .
3.6	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 SBWG14, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.7	Further understand and mitigate seabird bycatch of floated demersal longlines, including ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG Intersessional Group	2026-2028			Opportunity for secondment and small grants .
3.8	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG				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.
3.9	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required. Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. 3,000	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (~0.25 FTE). To support the reporting of response indicators. Possible secondment . Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Complete refinement of simple Response Indicators (SBWG13). Implement improved reporting framework ahead of SBWG14 and develop a plan to support Parties and Range States to complete reporting requirements.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.10	Review and update the prioritisation framework data for at-sea threats	Parties and SBWG	MoP9	4 weeks	40,000 (contract to collate information from RFMOs and other States) 5,000	Use a staged approach to update the fisheries: 1) Parties and Range State and APEC Member Economy Observers to update information on their fisheries; 2) information on fisheries managed by RFMOs updated using publicly available materials and via MoUs; and 3) a further process would be needed for other States not presently interacting with ACAP. An update of species-fishery overlap should also be conducted based on the latest tracking information (note item 5.8), with a focus on ACAP High Priority Populations. Opportunity for secondment or small grant . Opportunity for contract to collate information from RFMOs and other States.
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines for data collection by observer programmes and the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14 Lead: Igor Debski, Sebastián Jiménez, Luis Cocas, Cristián Suazo	Ongoing			Complete initial review of Observer Guidelines at SBWG13 and EM at SBWG14 , including provision of advice on seabird bycatch estimation methods. Task 3.1 (RFMCO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.
3.12	Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.					Will require resources (possible secondment/small grant opportunity). ACAP should respond to relevant opportunities. Further investigate the human dimension of bycatch and mitigation as a relevant approach to increase the uptake of conservation measures.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
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 – secondment opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway.
3.14	Continue to engage with certification schemes by providing information to sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments	Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing		5,000 (for seconded/ contractee to continue to advise on the process)	<p>Secretariat to continue to engage, as required, consultant who has already provided advice on this process. A sub-group of SBWG will continue to pursue opportunities to engage with relevant schemes and will indicate when further input from the consultant would be helpful. Seabird Safe Toolkit can be used as a tool for engagement.</p> <p>Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the sub-group.</p> <p>Opportunity for secondment/ contract to continue to advise on the process.</p>
3.15	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing			<p>Opportunity for secondments and small grants.</p> <p>Review status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.16	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, BLI, Secretariat. Leads: Bird scaring lines: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal longline line weighting: Barry Baker Trawl cable, including net monitoring, mitigation: Marcelo Garcia Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte Cristián Suazo	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	15,000 (for translation, and for new factsheets)	Possibility for secondment , or support to BLI to lead the review of remaining factsheets. Includes cost for graphics and translation.
3.17	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG: Verónica Iriarte , Cristián Suazo , Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat, Yann Rouxel	SBWG13	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.18	Partner with Southern Seabirds and NZ Department of Conservation on the Disseminate Seabird-Safe Toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BLI	Ongoing			Share resources, disseminate and promote the toolkit and provide expert advice.
3.18 a	Establish expert contact group to advise on Seabird-Safe Toolkit development	Oli Yates, Patricia Pereira Serafini, Mandi Livesey, Mark Tasker, Tatiana Neves, Megan Tierney, Secretariat Lead: Igor Debski	Ongoing			Provide review as requested by the toolkit development team.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
3.19	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information (Also see Task 5.7)	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.
3.20	Conduct a cross-RFMCO review of chartering arrangements and other access agreements	Lead: Oli Yates SBWG Convenors	SBWG14			Possible secondment opportunity.
4. Capacity building, new Parties, organisation of work						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA- Seabirds	AC, Parties and BLI	Ongoing	10 weeks		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, Secretariat	Ongoing			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			
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators.	AC, Parties, Secretariat	Ongoing			Focus on capacity building between Parties, not on domestic activities. Reconsider capacity building indicators in light of discussions at MoP8.
4.5	Identify opportunities to build capacity when considering Small Grant and Secondment applications	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Small Grants sub-committee.	Ongoing			Small Grants and Secondments are a key way that ACAP advances capacity building between Parties and with others.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Indicative costs (AUD)		
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2027	4 weeks		Report to MoP9. See also Task 2.8 and 3.10.
5.2	Review the format of reporting on the implementation of the Agreement, with a focus on priority conservation actions, on land, at-sea and for high priority populations.	AC Chair, WG Convenors, Secretariat	2026-2028	4 weeks p.a.		The reporting format should capture activities undertaken under the Agreement, including those reported by Parties, and an assessment of the effectiveness of these activities in addressing the conservation priorities. The review will also identify opportunities to simplify the report.
5.3	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and High Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks		Intersessional group on High Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks		
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BLI and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat.
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BLI	2027	3 weeks		Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
5.7	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2027			In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
5.8	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, BLI	Ongoing	16 weeks	40,000	Opportunities for small grants . Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP High Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.9	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	2026-2027	6 months	24,000 (BLI contract)	Review tracking indicators at AC16. Support a BLI contract to identify gaps in tracking data coverage; to contact holders of tracking data that are not in the Tracking Database; and encourage them to submit their data, and to assist data holders with data submission. Any contract with BLI would include significant in-kind contribution.
5.10	Develop ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessment analyses	SBWG, and PaCSWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14	AC15-AC16			Intersessional Group and Terms of Reference developed at AC14 AC15 .
5.11	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Parties, Science Officer	Ongoing			Possible small grant 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.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a. 9,000	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g. competitions etc.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Indicative costs (AUD)	
5.13	Implement ACAP's Communications Strategy.	WG Convenors, AC Chairs, Secretariat, Intersessional Group	Ongoing		65,000 p.a. (including contracting of additional expertise) 146,000	<p>Opportunities for secondments. Enhance the communication of the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP's effective solutions.</p> <p>Progress strategic communications options to support the uptake and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.</p> <p>Includes costs for contracting of additional expertise.</p>
5.14	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		
5.15	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Parties to supply further information, as available.
5.16	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.		Parties and AC to supply further information, as available.
5.17	Review Annex 2 (Action Plan) of the Agreement	AC, Parties, Secretariat	2026-2027			AC Officers to draft report to AC16. Report to MoP9.
6. Management of AC work, Secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair.
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		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.		
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.		

ANNEX 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS 2026 – 2028

The following intersessional groups were established or reviewed at AC15. All groups remain open to additional participants.

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
ACAP guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm developments	11.1.3 (19)	2.13	Lawrence Chlebeck (HWA)	Patricia Serafini (Brazil) Tatiana Neves (AC Vice-chair), Gustavo Jiménez Uzcátegui (Ecuador), Graeme Taylor (New Zealand), Azwianewi Makhado (South Africa), Helena Moreno (Spain), Cristián Suazo (Chile), Mandi Livesey (Australia), Orea Anderson (UK) Mike Double (AC Chair), HWA, BLI, Jonathon Barrington (Secretariat)	<p>To develop guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) developments the Intersessional Group (IG) will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review methods that enable studies of fine-scale distributions and behaviours of ACAP species. 2. Review approaches to determine high concentrations of seabirds both spatially and temporally (e.g. near breeding colonies, flight corridors, and migration routes). 3. Explore ways to coordinate the work of the IG with the CMS Energy Task Force. 4. Develop, in collaboration with an expert consultancy, draft ACAP guidelines for OWF development for consideration at AC16 and endorsement at MoP9. <p><u>Work Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IG is in the process of appointing a new Lead, following the resignation of Dr. Helen Wade. • An expert consultancy has been commissioned to accelerate the work of the IG to develop a coherent first draft of the guidelines. This work would have otherwise been time and resource constrained. The voluntary contribution from Humane World for Animals provides an impetus for this work. 	Joint SBWG14/ PaCSWG10, AC16, MoP9

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft guidelines to be prepared by the expert consultancy will be refined by the IG for the submission of draft guidelines for consideration at AC16. • The IG are yet to determine whether the guidelines in drafting should be considered as “minimum standards” or “best practice advice”. This will be determined prior to a final draft being submitted to AC16. • The IG will consider the benefits of more detailed topic-specific companion documents and identify any additional resource needs. The value and content of seeking additional funding through the ACAP-RERI grant programme will also be assessed as a potential pathway to supporting any further work determined necessary under the IG. • Final draft guidelines will be submitted to AC16 for consideration and endorsement by MoP9. 	
ACAP reporting on species status and trends	12.1.4 (9)	2.3	Johannes Fischer (New Zealand)	Barry Baker, Mike Double, Sheryl Hamilton, Julie McInnes, Simon Wotherspoon (Australia), Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Christophe Barbraud (France), Johannes Chambon, Igor Debski, Olivia Rowley, Graeme Taylor, Theo Thompson (New	<p>To robustly estimate and communicate the trends of all ACAP species, the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement minor methodological changes (e.g., standardise starting points, standardise poor quality count identification, update statistical thresholds for IUCN Red List category assignments). 2. Publish the methodology described in PaCSWG9 Doc 03 Rev 2, including placing <i>ACAPT</i> on <i>GitHub</i>. 3. Complete standardised abundance data processing, trend modelling, and conservation assessments (Red-listing and identification of High Priority Populations) for all ACAP species. 	PaCSWG10, PaCSWG11 (2029)

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
				Zealand), Azwianewi Makhado, Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), [Pep Arcos - Spain], Richard Phillips, Megan Tierney, Richard Sherley (UK), Tommy Clay, Etienne Rouby (US), Nathan Pacoureau (Canada), Ana Carneiro (BLI), Cristián Suazo (Chile)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Lead development of ACAP input into the IUCN Red List re-assessment process led by BirdLife International by 1 October 2026. 5. Develop updated, standardised criteria for identifying ACAP High Priority Populations. 6. Investigate trends spatially by integrating trend estimates with tracking and fishing effort data. 7. Evaluate changes in trends following RFMCO resolutions and relevant domestic legislation changes. 8. Develop outputs for reporting population counts and trends, including the use of clear and easy to understand figures and graphics. 9. Work with the ACAP Secretariat to improve the ACAP population database. 10. Provide recommendations to refine ACAP population status indicators. 11. Explore options to streamline updates to abundance and trend analyses. 12. Report to PaCSWG10 on the IG's progress and provide recommendations for the integration of results into different ACAP products. 	

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
<p>Conservation Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high pathogenicity H5Nx avian influenza panzootic</p>	<p>12.1.4 (18)-(23)</p>	<p>2.10</p>	<p>Patricia Serafini (Brazil)</p>	<p>Ralph E. T. Vanstreels and Marcela Uhart (US/Argentina), Jolene Giacinti (Canada), Meagan Dewar, Michelle Wille, Jane Younger and Sarah Michael (Australia), Laura Roberts, Azwianewi Makhado, Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Amandine Gamble, Kathryn (Kate) P. Huyvaert, Thierry Work (US), Brett Gartrell (New Zealand); Gustavo Jiménez-Uzcátegui (Ecuador), Helen Baker and Jennifer Black (UK), Thierry Boulinier (France), Cristián Suazo (Chile), Veronica Lopez (Oiknons) Jennifer Chauca (Peru)</p>	<p>To continue to provide guidance on High Pathogenicity H5Nx Avian Influenza the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile up-to-date information and revise the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing [high pathogenicity H5Nx avian influenza] HPAI panzootic; 2. Recommend and prioritize ways of effectively communicating the risk to decision-makers and stakeholders within ACAP, including advice products; 3. Prepare further documents and disease risk assessments, as necessary; 4. Report to AC16. 	<p>PaCSWG10, AC16</p>

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Seabird bycatch data reporting and indicators, guidelines and priority fisheries	10.1.9	3.9	Megan Tierney (United Kingdom)	Barry Baker (Australia), Igor Debski (New Zealand), Marco Favero (Argentina), Azwianewi Makhado, Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Mike Double (AC Chair), Tatiana Neves (AC Vice-chair), Sebastian Jimenez (Uruguay), Mandi Livesey (Australia), Luis Adasme (Chile)	<p>To progress reporting of bycatch data and the implementation of mitigation measures, and to further develop seabird bycatch response indicators the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, and if necessary, refine the Response Indicators on implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures within EEZs. 2. Review, and if necessary, refine the questions in the ACAP reporting form to ensure that: a) the correct type of data collected is collected to populate the Response Indicator on implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures; and b) the reporting format is as simple and streamline as possible for the data custodians of Parties and Range States to complete. 3. Coordinate the review of the ACAP Observer and EM guidelines which is also to include the development of guidelines on bycatch estimation methods once data is collected. Initial focus of the guideline development is to be on methods for estimating bycatch rates. 4. Implement the staged approach agreed at AC14 for updating the priority fisheries for conservation action for ACAP species. Oversee the elements that will be contracted as part of this staged process. 	SBWG14, AC16
ACAP Communications Strategy Implementation	10.1.4, 14.4	5.13	Jonathon Barrington (Secretariat) and Megan Tierney (UK)	Marco Favero (Argentina), Cristian Suazo (Chile), Mark Tasker, Stephanie Good (UK), Lawrence Chlebeck (HWA), Tatiana Neves (AC)	<p>To continue the development and implementation of ACAP's Communications Strategy the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review at the end of each financial year, the current ACAP Communications Strategy to ensure audiences and messages are best prioritised to communicate the conservation crisis affecting ACAP-listed albatrosses and petrels, and proven 	AC16, MoP9

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
				Vice-chair), Megan Tierney (UK), Luis Cocas (Chile), Igor Debski (NZ) Mandi Livesey (AU), Elisa Goya (Peru)	<p>ACAP solutions to address threats (i.e. seabird bycatch mitigation measures).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Review and prioritise ways to effectively communicate with priority target audiences, 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 audiences. 4. Review the communication actions taken and liaise with the communication consultants. <p><u>Engaging with Consultants on strategies and products</u></p> <p>The IG will apply the following guiding principles for engagement with the Consultants such that the strategies and products developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have a life beyond the three years (2026 – 2028) ▪ are focused on influencing best practice implementation ▪ ensures that stakeholder mapping includes consideration of the social dimensions of primary audiences ▪ minimise the impost on the Secretariat within, and after the three years ▪ recognise the limited capacity of the Agreement to implement the strategies and products. 	

<p>ACAP Species Assessments</p>	<p>12.1.4 (1)</p>	<p>2.4</p>	<p>Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Marco Favero (Argentina), Mark Tasker (UK)</p>	<p>PaCSWG, SBWG and TWG Convenors, AC Chair, Secretariat, Olivia Rowley (New Zealand), Cristián Suazo (Chile), Cristobal Anguita (Chile)</p>	<p>The Intersessional Group (IG) on ACAP Species Assessments will develop and implement a revised approach to producing, updating, publishing and communicating ACAP Species Assessments, with the aim of ensuring they are current, conservation-focused, and accessible to the key target audiences identified in ACAP's Communications Strategy.</p> <p>The IG will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a review of species descriptions and key information on their ecology and conservation produced by other organisations and identify desirable features for ACAP Species Assessments. 2. Design a revised concept and model for developing, updating and publishing ACAP Species Assessments, including consideration of options for dynamic digital delivery (e.g. interactive web tools, Shiny apps), through short, streamlined formats focused on conservation-critical information. 3. If required, draft a scope of work for an ICT contractor to develop a new framework for ACAP Species Assessments including the facilitation of team coordination, content development, content review and publishing with variable content and formats. 4. Identify a lead editor or team of regional editors and determine a timetable for updating each ACAP Species Assessment, beginning with those closest to completion. 5. Ensure that updated assessments incorporate the latest population trend analyses, including outputs from ACAP's intersessional trend-analysis work, threats, and improved range and density distribution maps. 6. Review the aims and target audiences for the ACAP Species Assessments and align their content and format with ACAP's Communications Strategy, including consideration of how 	<p>Joint SBWG14/ PaCSWG10, AC16</p>
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Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<p>assessments integrate with ACAP’s RFMCO Engagement Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Identify the short-term and long-term resourcing requirements for ongoing implementation of the ACAP Species Assessments and a sustainable and efficient delivery model that minimises dependency on Secretariat support. 8. Report on progress to each PaCSWG meeting and provide a substantive update for consideration by AC16. <p>The IG will work intersessionally via email and virtual meetings. It should meet at least monthly. Lead editors will provide updates to the IG coordinator(s) on a quarterly basis to allow tracking of progress against the agreed timetables.</p>	
Seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessments	11.1.3 (1), (9)	5.10	Tommy Clay (US)	Johannes Fischer, Olivia Rowley, Igor Debski (New Zealand), Jonathan Rutter, Richard Phillips (UK), Sarah Becker (USA), Ana Carneiro (BLI), Cristián Suazo, Luis Adasme, Cristobal Anguita (Chile)	<p>The Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthesise existing approaches to assess seabird-fishery overlap and risk, summarise the differing data requirements and methodologies and identify their strengths and weaknesses. 2. Discuss the importance of spatial and temporal scale and data resolution, including the suitability of fine-scale versus coarse-scale analyses. 3. Assess the relevance and application of approaches to management, policy, and industry, and propose recommendations to maximize conservation relevance. 4. Report findings in the form of an ACAP Guidelines document for review to the Joint SBWG14 & PaCSWG10 Meeting in 2027. 	Joint SBWG14/ PaCSWG10

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Review of ACAP Implementation Reporting	8.9	5.2 5.7	Mike Double (AC Chair)	WG Convenors, New Zealand, Peru, UK, Spain, Uruguay, Brazil, Australia, South Africa, Secretariat	<p>To review and revise the ACAP implementation reporting requirements to improve the utility of the reporting process for the Advisory Committee, Meeting of the Parties, and Parties.</p> <p><u>Scope</u></p> <p>The review will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assess the effectiveness of the current reporting format in identifying progress on ACAP conservation priorities, including priority at-sea actions, priority land-based actions, and actions for High Priority Populations. b) Identify elements of the current reporting format that are no longer relevant, duplicative, or could be simplified without loss of important information. c) Develop a revised reporting format that focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. activities undertaken under the Agreement, including those reported by Parties ii. an assessment of the effectiveness of these activities in achieving the objective of the Agreement including addressing priority conservation actions on land, at sea, and for High Priority Populations iii. identification of gaps and opportunities for improved action. d) Consider alignment with the parallel ACAP Action Plan review (AC15 Doc 17) to ensure reporting requirements are consistent with any revisions to the Action Plan structure. e) Identify opportunities to simplify and streamline reporting to encourage higher Party participation. 	AC16, MoP9

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<p>f) Identify the difficulties and challenges Parties face in developing their implementation reports</p> <p>g) Building on progress with Seabird bycatch indicator development propose a revised reporting format and accompanying guidance for consideration by the Advisory Committee at AC16 and adoption at MoP9.</p> <p><u>Process</u></p> <p>h) The review will be led by an Intersessional Group (IG) convened by the Advisory Committee Chair, and in consultation with Parties.</p> <p>i) The IG will comprise interested Parties and the Secretariat, with input sought from ACAP Officers to ensure the revised format captures the information required by ACAP Working Groups.</p> <p>j) A draft revised reporting format will be circulated to all Parties for comment prior to AC16 and then, following input from AC16, will be submitted to MoP9.</p> <p>k) The IG will consider the findings of the parallel ACAP Action Plan review to ensure coherence between any revisions to the Action Plan structure and the revised reporting requirements.</p>	
Review of the Agreement Annex 2: Action Plan	8.11	5.17		Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, AC Chair, AC Vice-chair, Secretariat	<p><u>Objective</u></p> <p>To assess the implementation, relevance, and effectiveness of the Annex 2 Action Plan and recommend revisions as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Scope</u></p> <p>The review will:</p>	AC16, MoP9

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the implementation of each set of actions and identify possible barriers where implementation has been limited; 2. Identify Annex 2 actions that are no longer relevant or require updating; 3. Consider the frequency and utility of reporting implementation of current action in Annex 2 to the Meeting of Parties; 4. Consider including new or emerging threats to Annex 2 and incorporate relevant scientific developments; 5. Assess consistency with current ACAP priorities and international conservation frameworks; 6. Identify priority actions; and 7. Propose amendments to the Action Plan for consideration by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties. <p><u>Process</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The review will be led by the ICG in consultation with the National Contact Points and endorsed by the AC prior to MoP9. As the Action Plan is wide-ranging, Members are encouraged to consider ICG representation from a broad range of competencies including legal, policy, science and ethics where possible. 2. A draft revised Action Plan will be circulated for comment prior to AC16. 	

Intersessional Group	AC15 reference	2026– 2028 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Expert advice to Seabird Safe Toolkit	10.1.4 (14)	3.14	Igor Debski (New Zealand)	Oli Yates (BLI), Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Mandi Livesey (Australia), Mark Tasker (UK), Dimas Gianuca (BLI), Sebastian Jiménez (Uruguay), Tatiana Neves (AC Vice-chair), Secretariat	Engage with the Seabird Safe Toolkit development team to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide updates on ACAP’s Best Practice Advice and monitoring techniques 2. Provide review of methodological developments as requested 3. Provide advice on, and coordinate the dissemination and communication of the toolkit. 	SBWG14
Conservation advice relevant to gadfly petrels (Contact Group)	11.1.3 (23), 16.8		Johannes Fischer (New Zealand)	Mark Tasker (UK), [Australia], Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Cristián Suazo (Chile)	To provide advice, as requested, to CMS colleagues leading the development of a Concerted Action for gadfly petrels, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highlight relevant ACAP guidelines and resources 2. Assist in identifying conservation actions based on experience with ACAP species 3. Highlight areas of alignment between conservation actions for ACAP species and gadfly petrels. 	2026 - 2029

ANNEX 6. REVISED SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2026 - 2028

The Work Programme was adopted by MoP8. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG13, PaCSWG9, joint WGs Meeting and AC15 are highlighted in blue font.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1	SUPPORT FOR MoP, AC & WG MEETINGS			AC15 + WGs		AC16 + WGs		MoP9		
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)								
	▪ 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		
	▪ discuss Draft Budget with interested Representatives		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary,					1		Online meeting at least 30 days before each MoP
	▪ 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)								

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordination with service provider 		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> posting of documents 		Sci Officer	7		7		3		
1.5	Support & operation of meetings	Article X(a)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> travel for meetings 		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	8	6,312	8	6,476	8	6,644	4 days per meeting, airfares
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> travel for meetings 		Contract	4	3,156	4	3,394	4	3,482	Airfares
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendance at meeting 		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	32	7,890	32	8,095	16	4,416	Accommodation and allowances
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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		
2	MANAGEMENT OF SECRETARIAT									
2.1	Administer the budget for the Agreement and the Special Fund provided for in Article VII(3) in accordance with the Agreement's Financial Regulations;	Article X(g)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> payment of accounts 		Exec Secretary	15		15		15		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of invoices and receipts 		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of financial statements 		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
2.3	Provide information to the general public concerning the Agreement and its objectives, and promote the objectives of this Agreement	Article X(h)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of ACAP Latest News for website 		Comms Contract	90		90		90		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain/update website links and publications 		Sci Officer, Comms Contract	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management of ACAP social media 		Comms Contract	20		20		20		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of scientific material 		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"> review data, liaise with stakeholders, amend database, collate information and draft consolidated reports 	Article VII(1)(c); Article VIII(10)	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			25				
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		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3	FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE									
3.1	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee	Article X(k)	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			4		2		
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"> Update gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes 	AC WP Task 2.1	Sci Officer	25		25		25		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries 	AC WP Task 2.2	Sci Officer & Contract	25	5,260	25	5,397	25	5,537	Consultant database programmer/ developer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and update global population trends 	AC WP Task 2.3	Sci Officer	10		10	5,000 50,000	10		May require data portal updates. Cost for trend modelling contracts .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update ACAP Species Assessments 	AC WP Task 2.4	Sci Officer	62	12,000	62	72,000	62		Cost for map updates and consultant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French 	AC WP Task 2.5	Sci Officer & Contract	10	5,000	10	5,000	10	5,000 1,000	Opportunity for secondments or in-kind support.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography 	AC WP Task 2.6	Sci Officer	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions 	AC WP Task 2.7	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge 	AC WP Task 2.8	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update best-practice guidelines 	AC WP Task 2.9, 2.11	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new guidelines for priority issues 	AC WP Task 2.12	Sci Officer	2		2		2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide reports on activities to AC meetings 	AC WP Task 2.14	Sci Officer	30		30				
3.4	Assist the Convenors of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X(k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP (AC14 Doc 20). Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels. 	AC WP Task 3.1	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Contracts	70	37,500 70,000	70	37,500 70,000	70	37,500 70,000	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting and present to RFMOs. 	AC WP Task 3.1 a	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Comms contract		1,000		1,000		1,000	Translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with other international bodies concerned with the conservation of species affected by fishing (e.g. IAC, CMS) 	AC WP Task 3.2	Exec Secretary							

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and pursue new approaches to improve the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures 	AC WP Task 3.4	Exec Secretary, Contracts	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting of bycatch indicators and associated data, refine methodological approaches and reporting as required 	AC WP Task 3.9	Sci Officer, Contract	20	40,000	20	40,000 3,000	20	40,000	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with certification schemes, by providing information to sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments 	AC WP Task 3.14	Sci Officer, Contract						5,000	Secretariat continue to engage as required consultant who has already provided advice on this process. Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the SBWG sub-group.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 2) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures. 	AC WP Task 3.16	Sci Officer	5		5	15,000	5		Design and translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidelines for the safe removal of seabirds entangled in nets (purse-seine, trawl, gillnet) 	AC WP Task 3.17	Sci Officer	5			8,000			Design and translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on Seabird-Safe Toolkit development 	AC WP Task 3.18 a	Exec Sec	-		2		2		Provide review as requested by the toolkit development team.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information 	AC WP Task 3.19	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.5	Assist the Convenor of the Taxonomy WG as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)	Sci Officer							

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.6	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	AC WP Task 5.4	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.7	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	AC WP Task 5.5	Sci Officer	5		2		2		
3.8	Review ACAP performance indicators	AC WP Task 5.6	Sci Officer			5		5		
3.9	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	AC WP Task 5.9	Sci Officer, Contract			5	24,000			BLI contract
3.10	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels	AC WP Task 5.11	Sci Officer							
3.11	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	AC WP Task 5.14	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
3.12	Manage directory of relevant legislation	AC WP Task 5.15	Sci Officer	1		1		1		Parties to supply further information as available
3.13	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations relevant to ACAP	AC WP Task 5.16	Sci Officer, Comms Contract	2		2		2		Parties to supply further information as available
3.14	Support for World Albatross Day	AC WP Task 5.12	Comms Contract	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	Funds for developing, producing and distributing WAD material
3.15	Implement ACAP's Communications Strategy	AC WP Task 5.13	Exec Secretary, Comms Contract		5,000 48,667		48,667		48,667	Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communication Strategy. Includes costs for contracting of additional expertise

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.16	Review the format of reporting on the implementation of the Agreement, with a focus on priority conservation actions, on land, at-sea and for high priority populations.	AC WP Task 5.2	Sci Officer							
3.17	Review Annex 2 (Action Plan) of the Agreement	AC WP Task 5.17	Exec Sec, Sci Officer	-						
4	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT									
4.1	Assist Parties in providing training, technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral or bilateral basis to facilitate implementation of the Agreement.	Article VIII(14)	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

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2026		2027		2028		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
4.5	Facilitate the accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Article X(d), (k), AC WP 4.2	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), AC WP Task 5.7	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			10		10		
5	CAPACITY BUILDING									
5.1	Assist the Advisory Committee and Parties with technical cooperation and capacity building	Article IV(2)	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	20		20		20		
5.2	Support secondments programme to aid capacity building	MoP2	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		
5.3	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	AC WP Task 4.4	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer							

ANNEX 7. DRAFT AC16 AGENDA

DRAFT AC16 AGENDA	
1.	Opening Remarks
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
3.	Rules of Procedure
4.	Report of the Depositary
5.	ACAP Secretariat
	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2026/2027 intersessional period
	5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2026–2028
	5.3 Draft Secretariat Work Programme 2029–2031
6.	Agreement’s Financial Matters
	6.1 Financial Report
	6.2 Draft Agreement Budget 2029–2031
7.	Observer Reports
	7.1 Reports from Observers to AC16
8.	Report on the Implementation of the Agreement
	8.1 Review of Implementation Reporting
	8.2 Seabird bycatch data reporting and indicators
	8.3 Draft amendments to Annex 2 to the Agreement
9.	Reporting to the Meeting of Parties
	9.1 Advisory Committee Report to MoP9
	9.2 Draft ACAP Guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm Developments
10.	Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels
	10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
11.	Seabird Bycatch
	11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

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
13. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels
13.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
14. ACAP Engagement with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisation
14.1 RFMCO engagement during the intersessional period
14.2 Draft RFMCO Strategy Implementation Plan
15. Implementation of the Communications Strategy
16. Advisory Committee
16.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee
16.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026–2028
16.3 Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2029–2031
16.4 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
17. Listing of New Species
18. Election and Appointment of AC Officers
19. Ninth Meeting of the Parties
19.1 Timing and Venue
19.2 Draft Provisional Agenda
20. Seventeenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
20.1 Timing and Venue
20.2 Draft Agenda
21. Any Other Business
22. Adoption of Report
23. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 8. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NAMIBIA

Chair,

Namibia is excited to be at this meeting to share our experiences and learn from the various expertise present in the room. Namibia has attended as Observers since the Agreement on the Conservation Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) came into force and has been following the developments and progress made by the Organization since then.

As I indicated during the opening of this meeting, Namibia is the process of acceding to the Agreement, and we look forward to participating as a Party during the next ACAP annual meetings. Also, as alluded to earlier, Namibia has implemented some of ACAP's best practices on seabird conservation in our fisheries and undoubtedly will have more to take home from this meeting.

To be specific, Namibia has introduced forms for reporting incidental bycatch in all our fisheries. We have also trained specific Observers for seabird monitoring on board tuna longline vessels and adhere to the night setting of longlines. Namibia has also made strides with regard to seabird conservation in the hake fisheries, but we need to extend these measures to other fisheries, particularly in the tuna fisheries. However, we face capacity challenges on general reporting and compliance monitoring. Therefore, to increase coverage, we need more training of our fisheries observers, scientists and inspectors.

We also need to finalise and implement the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for seabirds.

Chair with these short remarks, I wish to thank ACAP for the support rendered to Namibia to attend the meetings over the years and for choosing Namibia to host this year's meetings.

ANNEX 9. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CHINESE TAIPEI

Since 2019, Chinese Taipei have actively engaged in global seabird conservation efforts, with a particular focus on the protection of key species such as albatrosses and petrels. Through our involvement in various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Chinese Taipei has gained a deeper understanding of the global fisheries system. We recognize that robust conservation frameworks are essential to managing large-scale fishing activities.

Chinese Taipei has long been committed to reducing seabird bycatch. As a member of several RFMOs, we have adopted by the relevant RFMOs incorporated seabird bycatch mitigation requirements into our domestic regulations. Our fishing vessels are required to use bird-scaring lines, weighted branch lines, and night setting techniques at the high latitudes area. In addition, we have actively engaged in international research projects. Through our participation in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), we contributed to studies identifying high-risk bycatch areas and continue to support scientific research on seabird conservation. In November 2025, at the invitation of the Department of Conservation of New Zealand, we virtually attended the official launch of the 'Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit' and proactively expressed our support for this initiative.

Beyond fisheries, Chinese Taipei is expanding its seabird research and conservation efforts. This year we initiated a satellite-tracking project on the Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) and black-footed albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*), with the aim of identifying breeding colonies and understanding the species' distribution under the impact from off-shore windfarm. Furthermore, conservation actions within the Mianhua and Huaping Islets Wildlife Refuge continue, including invasive rodent eradication programs and long-term monitoring of Streaked Shearwater breeding populations.

In addition, we would like to thank our New Zealand seabird colleagues in providing a short-term training program and workshop this year for our seabird scientist. And we also looking forward to cooperate with more members in the ACAP. Supporting international initiatives remains a top priority. Chinese Taipei was pleased to contribute to ACAP's Small Grants Fund in both 2022 and 2024, and we look forward to continuing our support for this meaningful program in the years ahead.

Chinese Taipei is committed to constructive engagement in global seabird conservation. Through participation in ACAP meetings, we hope to learn from international partners, share our experiences, and explore opportunities for collaboration—working together to safeguard the future of albatrosses, petrels, and seabirds around the world.

ANNEX 10. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION

Chair, Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, observers and colleagues,

The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) thanks ACAP for the opportunity to participate as an observer in the meetings of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups. Attendance at these meetings in Swakopmund, Namibia where our Secretariat Office is, has been a valuable experience, providing SEAFO with a greater appreciation of the scientific, technical and conservation work undertaken under the Agreement and highlighting the importance of international collaboration in addressing the challenges facing albatrosses and petrels.

SEAFO is responsible for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean beyond areas of national jurisdiction. In carrying out its mandate, SEAFO applies an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and recognises the importance of minimising the impacts of fishing activities on associated and dependent species, including seabirds.

SEAFO greatly values its longstanding relationship with ACAP through the Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations. ACAP's scientific and technical expertise has made an important contribution to SEAFO's efforts to strengthen seabird conservation measures within the Convention Area.

The Commission is currently reviewing Conservation Measure 25/12 on the Protection of Seabirds, and SEAFO is grateful for ACAP's assistance and constructive input in this process. This collaboration helps ensure that the revised measure reflects current scientific knowledge and internationally recognised best-practice mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch.

SEAFO remains committed to reviewing and improving its conservation and management measures as new scientific information and mitigation technologies become available. We also recognise ACAP's important contribution to strengthening cooperation among regional fisheries management organisations through the sharing of scientific expertise, best practices and practical approaches to reducing seabird bycatch and improving seabird conservation.

SEAFO looks forward to continuing its cooperation with ACAP under the Memorandum of Understanding and to exploring further opportunities for collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

On behalf of the SEAFO Secretariat and Commission, I thank ACAP for its continued support and wish the Advisory Committee a productive and successful meeting.

Thank you, Chair.

ANNEX 11. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

BirdLife International would like to thank the Members and Representatives of the ACAP Advisory Committee, including those of the SBWG, TWG, PaCSWG, and Joint SBWG/PaCSWG, as well as Convenors, Invited Experts, Observers, and Interpreters, for their ongoing efforts to deliver the objectives of the Agreement. We also thank Namibia for hosting this year's meetings, and for their warm welcome and hospitality during our stay in sunny Swakopmund.

We reflect on the many studies submitted to the Working Groups over the years, which collectively provide strong and irrefutable evidence of spatiotemporal overlap between fisheries and ACAP-listed species. This body of work has, with increasing certainty and detail, identified the highest-risk areas for these species. In particular, we highlight the documented susceptibility of ACAP-listed species to bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries, as outlined in numerous Working Group reports. Priority regions, fisheries, and management bodies where bycatch mitigation would yield the greatest conservation benefit are now well established. BirdLife notes that the SEFRA assessment presented at the Joint SBWG/PaCSWG meeting further demonstrates - more clearly than ever - that vessels operating under the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) have an unsustainable impact on multiple ACAP-listed species in the Southern Hemisphere. We congratulate New Zealand on its leadership in this work.

We further note that improvements in analytical techniques, along with increased data availability, now allow for greater resolution in understanding seabird–fishery overlap and potential interactions. This progress enables more targeted vessel-level engagement and outreach, including through supply chain mechanisms. As part of a strategic refresh in 2026, BirdLife will place increased emphasis on strengthening such engagement. Our analytical approaches will focus on generating information that supports company-specific recommendations, and we will continue to monitor and engage with supply chain processes to secure stronger conditions in fishery certification. BirdLife also congratulates New Zealand on the development of the Tuna Toolkit and will promote the use of this valuable resource across our Partnership.

Given the importance of the high seas for ACAP-listed species, BirdLife monitors ACAP Party engagement with tuna Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCOs). We are concerned that some ACAP Parties fail to support proposals for the inclusion of ACAP Best Practice measures and, in some cases, actively oppose them. BirdLife therefore encourages all ACAP Parties to implement the RFMCO Engagement Strategy and to take a collaborative and proactive role in promoting the adoption of ACAP Best Practice Advice, improving onboard monitoring of seabird bycatch, and strengthening compliance with seabird conservation measures - including a stepwise expansion of effective Electronic Monitoring. Given the importance of this work, we request that ACAP allocate additional time to this agenda item in future Working Group meetings.

In relation to opportunities for ACAP leadership, BirdLife highlights the current CCSBT Compliance Committee work plan, which includes harmonising the reporting of seabird bycatch and the use of mitigation measures across tuna RFMOs. BirdLife encourages

ACAP Parties to take a leading role in ensuring this process benefits from strong leadership and collaborative support.

BirdLife also notes the potential impact of the South Korean demersal longline fleet operating on the high seas of the South-West Atlantic, where no RFMO has jurisdiction. We call for bilateral and multilateral engagement between ACAP Parties and South Korea to promote the adoption of ACAP guidelines on data collection, which will help address this critical information gap.

We thank the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Offshore Wind Farms for its efforts to develop ACAP guidelines for offshore wind farm development and encourage further progress ahead of AC16. We also acknowledge the generous voluntary contribution from Australia supporting this work.

Finally, BirdLife acknowledges and thanks ACAP Parties and the Secretariat for the positive impact of the ACAP Small Grants Programme and Secondment Schemes, which support vital research and outreach initiatives. We wish the Advisory Committee every success in this year's discussions and look forward to continued collaboration ahead of AC16.

BirdLife International

**ANNEX 12. STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM REGARDING
AGENDA ITEM 11**

"The UK notes the inclusion of a map in the information paper Joint SBWG13/PaCSWG9 Inf 07 which depicts Falkland Islands waters as Argentine. The United Kingdom does not recognise this representation.

The Falkland Islands are a self-governing Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, and the UK is clear on the sovereignty of the Islands and their surrounding maritime areas.

The UK makes this point to ensure clarity of position and will not comment further on this aspect."

ANNEX 13. ARGENTINA'S RESPONSE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM'S STATEMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 11

"La Argentina rechaza lo manifestado en la declaración formulada por el Reino Unido sobre el documento SBWG13/PaCSWG9 Inf 07.

La Argentina reafirma que las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sándwich del Sur y los espacios marítimos circundantes son parte integrante del territorio nacional de la República Argentina. Dichas islas están ilegítimamente ocupadas por el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, y son objeto de una disputa de soberanía entre ambos países, reconocida por las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales y regionales. Se ha instado a ambas partes a negociar a fin de alcanzar una solución pacífica y definitiva, de conformidad con las resoluciones pertinentes de la Asamblea General.

Finalmente, solicito que la presente intervención quede reflejada en el informe final de la reunión."