Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee

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2024 Implementation Report – United Kingdom

United Kingdom

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Report - MOP-8 (2025)

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Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-8 (2025)

Submitted by - United Kingdom

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1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?
Response: Yes
In order to meet the obligations of ACAP, including implementing the decisions of the previous MoPs, in a coordinated and effective manner, the UK and its South Atlantic Overseas Territories (SAOTs) have funded an ACAP co-ordination project, including the establishment of a coordinator post, for the UK and its SAOTs since March 2008. This post is funded by UK and SAOT governments, including the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), Falkland Islands Government (FIG), Government of the British Antarctic Territory (BAT), and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The ACAP co-ordination project was developed to ensure coherence of action between the UKOTs, to assist with the planning and implementation of ACAP-related work (particularly in the Territories with limited internal capacity), to take responsibility for reporting requirements, and to lead on critical seabird bycatch mitigation work, both within SAOT waters, and importantly, in international fisheries fora. The ACAP co-ordination project has been successful to date and has contributed significantly towards a unified and effective approach to implementing ACAP in the South Atlantic. Not only has it facilitated better co- ordination of activities and reporting by SAOTs and the UK, but it has also led to better co-operation with other key countries in pursuing cross-boundary conservation issues. ACAP action plans have been developed for each of the SAOTs. These identify the range of requirements to be met under ACAP, prioritise these, and recommend how best to implement them, thus serving as a tool to guide ACAP-related work in the SAOTs and internationally.

1.1.1 to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are established/maintained to identify and robustly assess seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries and to monitor the implementation of effective bycatch mitigation strategies
Response: Yes
Licence conditions in each of the regulated UK SAOT fisheries stipulate mitigation measures which must be used to reduce seabird bycatch – e.g. use of Tori lines or Fixed Aerial Arrays, night-setting, line-weighting, seasonal closures, discard retention tanks etc. Observer programmes, to monitor and report on effectiveness of bycatch mitigation measures, are also in place in each of the SAOT fisheries. Each of the SAOTs also have patrol and enforcement vessels or officers to monitor compliance with licence conditions and regulations. Details of licence conditions, mitigation measures employed, and observer programmes can be requested from the UK. In addition, the following measures are taken in UK waters within which the ACAP listed Balearic Shearwater ranges: • The UK’s 2020 Fisheries Act’s ecosystem objective contains a requirement to “minimise, and where possible eliminate bycatch of sensitive marine species”. •

In support of this, the UK established the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative - a coordinated, stakeholder-led approach which is aiming to develop implementation plans for tackling bycatch in UK waters in a practical and risk-based way through a UK Seabird Plan of Action. • In the boreal autumn of 2020, the UK launched a broader programme of work on Protected, Endangered and Threatened Species (PETS) bycatch called Clean Catch UK. This programme supports a more holistic and ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and monitoring, encouraging the development of sustainable fisheries, minimising fishing impacts on non-commercial PETS, strengthening the available evidence base to scope and inform regional management and conservation strategies. • UK government also funds a comprehensive and well-respected bycatch monitoring programme which helps to reduce any potential fisheries impacts on sensitive marine species, including seabirds. • The UK Government commissioned the JNCC to estimate bycatch mortalities and its effects on seabird populations across the UK, as well as being engaged with trials of mitigation measures which are reporting successes in reducing seabird bycatch. Reports published in this reporting round can be accessed from: https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20461.

1.1.2 to actively support and participate in the ACAP process to better understand and address barriers and drivers in the effective use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation strategies

Response: Yes

The UK has participated in the intersessional working groups established at AC13 to revise and re-invigorate the ACAP RFMO Strategy and the ACAP Communications Strategy, both of which are attempting to address barriers and drivers to the uptake and effective use of best-practice seabird bycatch mitigation strategies. The UK intends to remain engaged with ongoing discussions and developments.

1.1.3 to review, based on the information provided by the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the efficacy of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used in the fisheries that they manage and explore the performance of new mitigation technologies and related safety and other operational issues

Response: Yes

Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: In addition to the implementation of ACAP Best Practice Advice on mitigation measures for demersal longlining and trawl fisheries, the use of electronic monitoring has been mandatory in the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands toothfish fisheries since 2018 – see https://gov.gs/documents_fisheries/. Fishing vessel operators work closely with 3rd party independent data archiving and analysis organisations to assess interactions between seabirds and fishery operations. Other developments such as the use of infra-red imaging systems which will enable observation of interactions of seabirds with vessels even during night-time operations, continue to be explored. FALKLAND ISLANDS: In the Falkland Islands, although tori lines have proved efficient in reducing the incidental mortalities of seabirds, constant improvements have been made to further reduce this risk. One such example is the use of Fixed Aerial Arrays (FAA). These have been in development between FIG and local fishing companies. Developmental work has resulted in the improved design of the FAA and a preliminary comparative study to establish the effectiveness of the FAA in relation to the standard tori-line, found that the FAA can be more effective than the tori-line but that this very much depends on the adequacy of the FAA design. Importantly, it has been found to be challenging to achieve appropriate warp coverage due to variation in depth (which affects the pitch of the warp cables and their consequent exposure) and sea state (which can cause the net to bounce, causing vertical movement of the warps and increasing distal exposure). Research and development of the efficiency and monitoring of FAAs continues; trials carried out showed that the use of single weighted streamers in the distal curtain of the FAA reduces seabird entanglements with the bird scaring lines. Based on results of discard management techniques trials which have been described in previous reporting periods, a Discard Management policy for trawlers operating in Falkland Islands waters started to be implemented in January 2021. The developmental process of this policy involved both an evidence-based approach from available research (which has been presented at SBWG7 and SBWG8) as well as a consultative approach with industry involving a 1-year (2016-2017) fleet-wide investigation into suitable discard management options, followed by a 4.5-month consultation period relating to specifics of the proposed policy. The final Discard Management Policy requires all trawlers operating in Falkland Islands waters to have a discard storage tank which enables it to hold all factory waste (whole fish discards and processing offal) for the duration of a trawl or for a minimum of two hours. If possible, stored

waste should be discharged between trawls and as soon as the fishing gear is out of the water, even if the tank has not yet reached capacity. Discharges must be no less than 3.5m3/min and must be as fast as possible. Filtered factory water may continue to be discharged during storage periods. It has been found that implementing discard management policy is a complex process and in finfish trawlers, is yet to be achieved in full and be entirely effective. Implementation of the new policy in the Patagonian squid fleet has, however, been successful, even though they had also faced difficulties in installing required tank/factory fittings/modifications. The authorities and the fishing industry continue to work together to address operational challenges and measure effectiveness in reducing seabird interactions and bycatch rates. Net-binding trials were also undertaken by FIG and a local fishing company in 2021 to explore the possibility of using this mitigation method in bottom-trawls to prevent its spread when shot until it has sunk beyond the normal diving range of albatrosses and petrels, and consequently reducing potential (lethal) interactions. However, net binding trials were neither efficient nor practical. Therefore, other measures to mitigate seabird net mortalities need to be considered. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: No new information to report. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: No new information to report.

1.1.4 to use the bycatch reporting template as part of annual reporting (Advisory Committee Annual Report, Section C), to enable the assessment and reporting of performance indicators on seabird bycatch

Response: Yes

The UK has used and submitted data on bycatch in the SAOT fisheries using the revised bycatch reporting template. The UK primarily reports raw bycatch data for its relevant fisheries as there remains some (statistical) challenges in calculating total bycatch estimates. However, the UK is currently looking to address this issue and will share findings/approaches with the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG). The UK has also participated in the intersessional working groups established at AC13 on Bycatch Data and Bycatch Indicators which aim to address some of the known reporting and indicator development challenges. Further, the UK has developed a bespoke database to streamline its internal process for collating all relevant SAOT fisheries and seabird bycatch data, which can then be used to complete the ACAP reporting forms in a more efficient manner. Populating this database, and onward updating of the ACAP Data Portal has commenced, but some retrospective updates and data checking are ongoing.

1.1.5 to support the collection and provision of seabird bycatch data by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Conservation Bodies (RCBs) that they are members of

Response: Yes

As a relatively new, independent member of five RFMOs (see below), the UK has continued to expand and enhance its efforts to sustainably manage fisheries, protect ecosystems (including reducing incidental bycatch of non-target species) and combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing at an international scale to support ocean conservation. The UK is a currently a contracting party to the following five RFMOs, the first two of which have greatest relevance to ACAP: • ICCAT – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas • IOTC – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission • NAFO – Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation • NASCO – North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation • NEAFC – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Most recently (May 2024), the UK, working with the ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group, presented the results of a study evaluating the effectiveness of Conservation and Management Mitigation Measures (CMMs) for reducing seabird bycatch on pelagic longliners in the South Atlantic at the ICCAT Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO). The results of this work were to feed into discussions focussed on the SC-ECO review of ICCAT CMMs. By applying an ecological risk assessment approach (EASI-Fish) to understand patterns in bycatch rates between different combinations and specifications of conservation measures, and implications for threatened seabird population, the study concluded that updating ICCAT CMMs for pelagic longlining in the South Atlantic to reflect current best practice guidelines would help to significantly reduce seabird mortality.

1.1.6 to support their priority population monitoring programmes, including the maintenance of long-term monitoring (see AC12 Doc 11)

Response: Yes

Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: The following priority population monitoring programmes at South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20) were maintained during the reporting period: 1) Long-term demographic or productivity monitoring at

Bird Island, South Georgia for Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled and Black-browed Albatrosses, and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels; 2) Long-term population monitoring for Wandering Albatrosses and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, and productivity monitoring for Wandering Albatrosses at Prion Island, South Georgia.; and 3) Annual monitoring of population size and productivity of both species of giant petrel at Cumberland Bay sites (Maiviken, Greene Peninsula, Discovery Point and Harpon Bay), South Georgia. In regard to action on other priority population programmes at South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20): 1) Population monitoring of White-chinned Petrels at five of six sites at South Georgia was undertaken in the reporting period. BAS have also been establishing an automatic burrow-monitoring (PIT-tag) system for White-chinned Petrels at Bird Island to provide data on adult and juvenile survival, breeding propensity, breeding success and trip durations; this should be operational by the start of the 2023-24 breeding season; 2) The decadal survey of all Wandering, Black-headed, and Grey-headed Albatrosses breeding sites at South Georgia was conducted in January-February 2024. The survey was also used to document the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 across the archipelago. FALKLAND ISLANDS: The following priority population monitoring programmes at the Falkland Islands, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20) were maintained during the reporting period: 1) Long-term demographic monitoring of Black-browed Albatrosses at two sites (Steeple Jason Island and New Island); 2) Long-term population monitoring of Black-browed Albatrosses elsewhere in the Falkland Islands – annual population monitoring was also undertaken during the reporting period at Dunbar. The monitoring programme was also used to document the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at Steeple Jason Island. In regard to action on other priority population programmes at the Falkland Islands, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20): 1) A resurvey of all Southern Giant Petrels breeding sites at the Falkland Islands is to be conducted every 10 years. An island-wide aerial census was conducted during the austral summer of 2015-16. The results were reported in 2017. Annual population monitoring is undertaken at two sites in the Falkland Islands – Steeple Jason Island and Bleaker Island. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: The following priority population monitoring programmes at Tristan da Cunha, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20) were maintained during the reporting period: 1) Long-term demographic monitoring of Tristan and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels at Gough Island – although note ringing of birds was discontinued at the end of 2021 due to licencing conditions; 2) Intermittent population monitoring of Sooty Albatrosses (cliff colonies) at Gough Island; and 3) Intermittent population monitoring (breeding success only) in study plots of Grey Petrels at Gough Island. In regard to action on other priority population programmes at Tristan da Cunha, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20) – see following list – whether it has been possible to implement or continue with these monitoring programmes/surveys is still to be confirmed with Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department: 1) Long-term demographic monitoring of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses at Tristan and Nightingale Islands; 2) Intermittent population monitoring of Spectacled Petrels at Inaccessible Island; 3) Intermittent population monitoring of Sooty Albatrosses at Tristan Island; 4) Survey of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross at Tristan Island; and 5) Confirmation as to whether Grey Petrels are breeding at Inaccessible and Tristan Islands. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: The following priority population monitoring programme in the BAT, as identified in AC13 Doc 09 Table 4 (p16-20) was maintained during the reporting period: 1) Long-term population and productivity monitoring of Southern Giant Petrels at Signy Island, South Orkney Islands.

1.1.7 to implement best practice monitoring practices that include censuses of breeding sites conducted at a minimum of 10 year intervals, and annual monitoring of population trend and demography at a minimum of one representative site for each island group

Response: Yes

Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Annual population trend, productivity or full demographic monitoring of either whole or part-sites is conducted at South Georgia, including at Bird and Prion Islands, Maiviken, Greene Peninsula, Discovery Point and Harpon Bay for one or more of the following ACAP listed species: Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled and Black-browed Albatrosses; Northern and Southern Giant Petrels; and White-chinned Petrels. Where possible, 10-year island-wide censuses are conducted for these species – as noted in Question 1.1.6 the most recent was conducted in this reporting period for Wandering, Grey-headed and Black-browed Albatrosses. Censuses of Southern Giant Petrels at the South Sandwich Islands is undertaken on an opportunistic basis. FALKLAND ISLANDS: Annual population trend,

productivity or full demographic monitoring of either whole or part-sites is conducted at Falkland Islands, including Steeple Jason Island, New Island, and Dunbar (mainland site) for Black-browed Albatrosses, and Steeple Jason Island and Bleaker Island for Southern Giant Petrels. Where possible, 10-year island-wide censuses are conducted for each species – the last island-wide census for Southern Giant Petrels was in 2015-16, and that for Black-browed Albatrosses was in 2017-18. A further survey to estimate population size of Black-browed Albatrosses at Beauchêne Island, and determine if had fluctuated significantly since 2017, was undertaken in 2022. White-chinned Petrels are not currently regularly monitored at any site, but surveys were conducted and population estimates calculated at the following four sites in 2023-24: Kidney Island, Cochon Island, Top & Bottom Tussac Islands. Repeat surveys are planned for 2024-25. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: Annual population trend, productivity or full demographic monitoring of either whole or part-sites is conducted at Tristan da Cunha, including Gough, Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands for one or more of the following ACAP listed species: Atlantic Yellow-nosed, Tristan, and Sooty Albatrosses; and Southern Giant, Spectacled and Grey Petrels. Where possible, 10-year island-wide censuses are conducted for each species. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: Annual population trend and productivity monitoring of either whole or part-sites, including annual island-wide census is conducted at Signy Island, South Orkneys for the following ACAP-listed species: Southern Giant Petrel.

1.1.8 to conduct priority tracking programmes to enable a better understanding of at-sea distribution of albatrosses and petrels (see AC12 Doc 11)

Response: Yes

Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Tracking data are available for all South Georgia's ACAP species throughout the year (breeding and non-breeding phases) and for juveniles or immatures of some species, with new data collected in this reporting period, notably for breeding and sabbatical Wandering Albatrosses at Prion Island during the breeding season, White-chinned Petrels at Cooper Island and Cumberland Bay, and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels at Cumberland Bay. These data have been used to investigate at-sea distribution, activity and diving patterns, habitat preference and overlap with fisheries. Processed tracking data for ACAP species are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database and have been used in a range of regional assessments of seabird-fisheries interactions, especially in the tuna RFMOs, and for a major analysis of global responsibility for the conservation of albatrosses and large petrels (see Beal et al. 2021). RESPONSE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS: During the reporting period, Black-browed Albatrosses were tracked from Bird Island and Grand Jason Island for studies investigating spatial ecology in relation to Marine Managed Areas, and interactions with fisheries. Pilot studies tracking Southern Giant Petrels from various locations in the Falkland Islands are planned for 2024-25. Processed tracking data for ACAP species are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database and, to date, have been used in a number of publications examining the at-sea distribution of Black-browed Albatrosses for the purposes of conservation management. RESPONSE FOR TRISTAN DA CUNHA: A number of tracking programmes have been conducted on the Tristan da Cunha island group. TDCG and RSPB are in the process of collating all tracking data for standardised archiving. It is anticipated that if data has not been submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database that data owners will be encouraged to do so. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: To date, no tracking of Southern Giant Petrels has been conducted at Signy Island, South Orkneys.

1.1.9 to update the ACAP database on an ongoing basis to maintain the currency of information underpinning analyses

Response: Yes

The UK has updated the ACAP database on a regular basis throughout the reporting period. The UK has also developed a bespoke database to streamline its internal process for collating all relevant SAOT seabird population data, which can then be used to complete the ACAP reporting forms in a more efficient manner. Populating this database, and onward updating of the ACAP Data Portal has commenced, but some retrospective updates and data checking are ongoing.

1.1.10 to support the allocation of funds for the operation of the Advisory Committee to enable its effective operation, taking into account the growth in the complexity and number of matters it now addresses

Response: Yes

In this reporting period, the UK has made an annual contribution to the budget in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed to by the Parties. These funds, in part, support the

operation of the Advisory Committee. The UK has also engaged in all discussions and review of the Advisory Committee work programme and budget. In addition, in 2023 the UK hosted the ACAP working groups and thirteenth Advisory Committee (AC13) meetings in Edinburgh. As host, the UK made a financial contribution to the ACAP Secretariat of £53,818 towards the costs of AC13 against the shortfall in the ACAP budget for meetings of the AC. At the same time, the UK also contributed £17,182 to the ACAP AC Small Grants Scheme. The UK has also supported the following AC Officers and Working Group Convenors – Mark Tasker, Richard Phillips and Megan Tierney, as well as a UK ACAP coordination post.

1.1.11 to provide the necessary resources for the conduct of the research and conservation programmes identified by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups
Response: Yes
The UK and SAOT governments have continued to provide substantial resources (human capacity, time, funding) to support the range of applicable research and conservation programmes identified by the Advisory Committee Working Groups. Details of some of these programmes are encapsulated in Section 1 and 5 of this report.

1.1.12 to engage in domestic consultation processes to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement
Response: Yes
In order to meet the obligations of ACAP in a coordinated and effective manner, the UK and its South Atlantic Overseas Territories (SAOTs) have funded an ACAP co-ordination project, including the establishment of a coordinator post, for the UK and its SAOTs since March 2008. This post is funded by UK and SAOT governments, including the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), Falkland Islands Government (FIG), Government of the British Antarctic Territory (BAT), and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The ACAP co-ordination project was developed to ensure coherence of action between the UKOTs, to assist with the planning and implementation of ACAP-related work (particularly in the territories with limited local capacity), to take responsibility for reporting requirements, and to lead on critical seabird bycatch mitigation work, both within SAOT waters, and importantly, in international fisheries fora. The ACAP coordination project is managed by a Project Steering Group, which comprises representatives of all the SAOT Governments and the relevant UK government departments and agencies (Defra, FCDO and JNCC). The project also has a Stakeholder Group, which comprises representatives from non-government organisations, research institutes and industry which work, interact or have an interest in seabirds and/or the SAOTs more broadly. Together these groups are important for ensuring effective domestic coordination and consultation on implementation of the Agreement. The ACAP co-ordination project has been successful to date and has contributed significantly towards a unified and effective approach to implementing ACAP in the South Atlantic. Not only has it facilitated better co- ordination of activities and reporting by SAOTs and the UK, but it has also led to better co-operation with other key countries in pursuing cross-boundary conservation issues. ACAP action plans have been developed for each of the SAOTs. These identify the range of requirements to be met under ACAP, prioritise these, and recommend how best to implement them, thus serving as a tool to guide ACAP-related work in the SAOTs and internationally.

1.1.13 to report on Capacity Building indicators. (See Advisory Committee Annual Report Section D: Other Annual Reporting Requirements, Question 3).
Response: Yes
Capacity building activities funded or coordinated by the UK have been reported in Section D, Question 3 of the UK National Report submitted to AC13 and AC14.

1.1.14 AC Work Programme tasks where relevant: e.g. 4.1 Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds, 4.2 Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP.
Response: Yes
The UK has not taken specific action on Task 4.1 or 4.2 of the AC Work Programme 2023-25 (AC13 Report, Annex 4), but in relation to Task 5.2 (Review existing National Plans), national ACAP action plans have been developed and formally adopted for each UK SAOT. A review process will be initiated by the UK ACAP Coordination project in the new reporting period to

update all the existing SAOT ACAP implementation plans. See further details provided in Question 1.2. The UK has also taken action on the following AC Work Programme 2023-25 tasks: 3.7 (reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data – as noted in Q1.1.4), 3.15 (review seabird bycatch with floated demersal longlines), and 3.18 (develop guidelines for safe removal of birds entangled in nets). The UK has also participated in intersessional groups for Activities: 2.14 (High Pathogenicity H5N1 Avian Influenza), 3.1a (RFMO Engagement Strategy), 3.7 (Bycatch Indicators), 3.7a (Bycatch Data Collection and Reporting), 5.10 (AC reporting to the MoP), and 5.13 (ACAP Communication Strategy).

1.1.15 to contribute to the budget in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed by the Meeting of Parties (Resolution 4.5 Financial Regulations: 5.1)

Response: Yes

In this reporting period, the UK has meet Resolution 4.5 Financial Regulations: 5.1, making an annual contribution to the budget in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed by the Parties.

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?

Response: Yes

ACAP action plans have been developed and formally adopted for each SAOT. These plans identify the obligations of Parties in respect of ACAP, based on information taken from the text of the Agreement, its Action Plan and subsequent Resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties. Actions necessary to effectively meet the obligations of ACAP are identified and prioritised. A review process will be initiated by the UK ACAP Coordination project in the new reporting period to update all the existing SAOT ACAP implementation plans. It is anticipated these will be completed by early 2025. These revised plans will shape the action to be taken over at least the next 3-years in each of the SAOTs. Broadly, and consistent with the ACAP Agreement and Action Plan, work will be focused in the following areas: Management of threats at breeding sites; Monitoring the status and trends of populations; Analysis of foraging ranges of ACAP species, and spatial and temporal overlap with fisheries; Reducing seabird bycatch, both within the jurisdictional waters of the OTs, but also internationally, by working with partners towards improving the effectiveness of RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organisations); Further development and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation; Improving education and awareness of seabird conservation issues; Robust data management; Sourcing funding for the implementation of albatross and petrel conservation projects.

1.2.1 on species conservation?

Response: Yes

Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on species conservation – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

1.2.2 on habitat conservation?

Response: Yes

Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on habitat conservation – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

1.2.3 on management of human activities?

Response: Yes

Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on management of human activities – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans

were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

1.2.4 on research programmes?
Response: Yes
Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on research programmes – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

1.2.5 on education and public awareness?
Response: Yes
Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on education and public awareness – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

1.2.6 on impacts or mitigation of climate change?
Response: Yes
Each of the SAOT ACAP Implementation Plans that are currently in place include some actions on impacts or mitigation of climate change – for detailed information regarding planned activities, the Plans can be made available upon request from the UK. However, as noted in Question 1.2, each of these plans will be reviewed in the new reporting period, with anticipated completion by early 2025. It is anticipated that some of the activities related to species conservation will be amended to align with i) any Resolutions by the Meeting of the Parties since the SAOT Plans were last updated, ii) specific conservation priorities of each SAOT, and iii) progress made in meeting actions identified in earlier Implementation Plans.

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2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? (do not include exemptions provided for scientific research purposes here)
Response: No

2.2 Has any authorised use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred? (e.g. to accommodate the traditional needs and practices of Indigenous people, for scientific, educational or similar purposes)
Response: No

2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: The following Strategies or Management Plans which will directly or indirectly affect/benefit SGSSI ACAP species have been published and/or implemented within this reporting round: 1) The new Stewardship Strategy 2021-2025 Framework: Protect Sustain Inspire, and which sets out the vision and values-driven approach for the management of SGSSI over the next five-years; 2) The Biosecurity Handbook 2024-25. A review of the biosecurity operations and handbook is undertaken annually – although note that in 2023-24, a number of updates were issued (the latest in May 2024) with guidelines for responding to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak including response actions and measures that should be taken in relation to reducing the introduction and spread of the HPAI H5N1 virus. The ACAP ‘Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during H5N1 avian influenza outbreak’ were used to help shape SGSSI’s

response to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak; and equally, feedback from that experienced in SGSSI was fed back to the ACAP Intersessional Group on HPAI to help strengthen revised versions of the ACAP guidelines; 3) In 2022 the entire landmass of SGSSI was declared a Terrestrial Protected Area (TPA) by the GSGSSI. In October 2023, the SGSSI Terrestrial Protected Areas Management Plan was published which sets out the conservation objectives and regulations to ensure the environment (including species) is protected. RESPONSE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS: The following Strategies or Management Plans which will directly or indirectly affect/benefit Falkland Island ACAP species have been published and implemented within this reporting round: 1) The Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040 was adopted in 2021. This Strategy sets out the direction of travel with respect to the natural environment for the Falkland Islands and helps to integrate environmental considerations across a variety of different administrative areas. A progress report was published in late 2022. The following were also published or implemented within the reporting period, all of which contain goals or actions which will benefit the conservation of Falkland Islands ACAP species: 1) A guidance document on HPAI outlining biosecurity measures and response actions that should be taken in relation to reducing the introduction and spread of the HPAI H5N1 virus, to prevent wild birds, poultry and people from being infected. The ACAP 'Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during H5N1 avian influenza outbreak' were used to help shape SGSSI's response to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak; and equally, feedback from that experienced in the Falkland Islands was fed back to the ACAP Intersessional Group on HPAI to help strengthen revised versions of the ACAP guidelines; 2) The FIG Falkland Islands Plan, which sets out the government's economic, social, political and environmental goals for 2022-2026; and 3) An update to the Drones and Wildlife leaflet providing guidance on the use of Unmanned Aircraft (UAVS, such as drones) near Falkland Islands wildlife. A major piece of ongoing work is the designation and implementation of Marine Managed Areas in the Falkland Islands. In 2022 a technical document on the science and economics of MMAs in the Falkland Islands was produced and a public consultation run on their designation and implementation. FIG are now in the process of developing detailed MMA policy. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: The following Strategies or Management Plans which will directly or indirectly affect/benefit Tristan da Cunha ACAP species have been published and/or are being implemented within this reporting round: 1) In November 2020, the Tristan da Cunha Marine Protection Zone (MPZ) was declared. The MPZ covers approximately 700,000 km2 or 90% of waters under the Government of Tristan da Cunha's jurisdiction. The Marine Protection Strategy and Marine Management Plan for the MPZ have now been published; and 2) The following plans or strategies which complement the Marine Management Plan have also been published: Seamount Fisheries Management Plan, Compliance and Enforcement Strategy and the Operational Plan which describes the actions to be carried out to meet the objectives of each of the above strategies/plans. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: No new information to report.

2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures, as defined in Resolution 1.4, involving albatrosses or petrels?
Response: No

2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?
Response: No

2.6 Has the Party introduced any **new** legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Work on the following legal or policy instruments which will directly or indirectly affect/benefit SGSSI ACAP species has continued in this reporting round: 1) Proposed legislation which will prohibit the commercial exploitation of mineral or hydrocarbon resources, whilst allowing for scientific research and related activities, modelled on the legal position in Antarctica under international law. The regulated activity permitting process on SGSSI will continue to be the management control for ensuring compliance with the legislation. FALKLAND ISLANDS: No new information to report. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: No new information to report. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: No new information to report.

2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments? (Completion of any new environmental impact assessments is addressed in Question 4.1)
Response: No

2.8.1 Has the Party taken action to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 (please indicate which species)?
Response: No

2.8.2 Does the Party intend to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 during the next triennium 2026 - 2028 (please indicate which species)?
Response: No

2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned in Questions 2.3 to 2.6?
Response: No

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3. Habitat conservation

3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: The following legal or policy instruments which will directly or indirectly affect/benefit protection or management of breeding sites of SGSSI ACAP species have been developed and implemented within this reporting round: As noted in Qu 2.3 and 2.6: 1) An annual review of SGSSI biosecurity operations is undertaken and the Biosecurity Handbook is updated. The latest of these is the 2024-25 version; 2) Work on proposed legislation which will prohibit the commercial exploitation of mineral or hydrocarbon resources is continuing; and 3) Responding to the guiding values and goals encapsulated in the stewardship framework ‘Protect Sustain Inspire’ the entire landmass of SGSSI was declared a Terrestrial Protected Area (TPA) by the GSGSSI in 2022. In October 2023, the SGSSI TPA Management Plan was published which sets out the conservation objectives and regulations to ensure the environment (including habitats and breeding sites of ACAP species) is protected. FALKLAND ISLANDS: No new information to report. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: No new information to report. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: No new information to report.

3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? (e.g. temporal or spatial area closures, adjustment to a fishing quota for a species known to be eaten by an albatross or petrel, size limits, issue of licences, observer programmes/reporting, research/surveys).
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Fisheries in SGSSI waters are managed under the auspices of CCAMLR, adopting their measures as a minimum standard. All commercial fishing within the SGSSI Maritime Zone is controlled and a dedicated Fisheries Patrol Vessel operates year-round to ensure that no illegal fishing occurs. Management measures serve to protect fish stock and to minimise seabird mortality and include for example, annual assessments, catch-quotas, closed areas, observer programmes, and seabird bycatch mitigation measures (restricted seasons, night setting, tori lines, line weighting). The South Georgia fishery for Patagonian Toothfish has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a well-managed and sustainable fishery since 2004, as has the Mackerel Icefish fishery since 2010. Scientific research fishing takes place at the South Sandwich Islands which underpins the sustainability of the South Georgia fishery and helps deter illegal fishing which was previously common in the maritime zone. Since 2008, a higher predator scientist has been based at King Edward Point (KEP). This post monitors the foraging ecology of higher predators, especially in the eastern component of Subarea 48.3 thus complementing the work conducted by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in the western area. This work contributes to the informed management of fisheries in the area. The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area provides seasonal and spatial protection for prey species. The MPA was designated in 2012 and is one of the world’s largest sustainable use MPAs. It seeks to protect the marine life and maintain ecological processes while allowing sustainable fishing to the highest international standards. The MPA and its management effectiveness is reviewed every 5-years – the second 5-year review was completed in 2023-24 (see further details in Qu 3.3). GSGSSI has also been working with the UK Blue Belt Programme to develop a compliance and enforcement framework to support

implementation of fisheries legislation, as well as the installation of new acoustic sensors which could be used to further enhance the detection of illegally operating vessels. FALKLAND ISLANDS: The conservation of sustainable fishery resources through effective management is a primary objective in Falkland waters. Fishing activities within Falkland Islands waters are thus strictly regulated and managed. There is a dedicated Fisheries Patrol Vessel operating year-round to ensure that no illegal fishing occurs. The Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005 has as a key objective that exploitation of fisheries resources and related activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the need to have regard for the impact of fishing activities on non- target species and the long-term sustainability of the marine environment. Management measures serve to protect fish stock and to minimise seabird mortality and include for example, VMS monitoring, daily reporting of catches to allow real-time assessment of catch, catch-quotas, annual assessments, closed areas, observer programmes, and seabird bycatch mitigation measures (tori lines, fixed aerial arrays, line weighting, discard management, net cleaning). The Falkland Islands fishery for Patagonian Toothfish has been MSC-certified since April 2014. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: The Tristan da Cunha Fishery Limits Ordinance, 1983 (as amended in 1991, 1992, 1997, 2001 and 2017) defines the fishery limits of Tristan da Cunha as 200 nautical miles around each of the islands, and makes provision for the regulation of fishing activities within these limits. The main commercial fishery at Tristan is for Tristan Rock Lobster. This fishery is managed by means of a quota system, size limits, and a closed season, and has relatively little impact on the seabird populations of the Tristan Islands (any impact is primarily from bird-strike on vessels). An observer is deployed on the vessel which fishes around Gough, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. There have been no licences issued for (longline) vessels to fish for Bluenose since 2009. There is provision to licence vessels to fish for tuna (primarily southern bluefin), however there has been no legal fishing for tuna in Tristan managed waters since 2015. Longline vessels may not fish within 50 nautical miles of Tristan da Cunha, Nightingale, Inaccessible or Gough Islands. Catch reporting is mandatory, and vessels must employ at least two of three seabird bycatch mitigation measures (tori lines, line weighting or night setting). There is no observer programme. As noted in Qu 2.3, the Tristan da Cunha Marine Protection Zone (MPZ) was declared in November 2020. The MPZ covers approximately 700,000 km2 or 90% of waters under the Government of Tristan da Cunha’s jurisdiction. The Marine Protection Strategy and Marine Management Plan for the MPZ have now been published. The Marine Management Plan includes sustainable management measures for various marine living resources, such as designated no-take zones, improving base-line data, enhanced monitoring of key species (including seabirds), improving stock assessments, revising catch-quotas, prohibition of particular fishing practices or gear-types, and enhanced fishing licence conditions to mitigate environmental effects. The Blue Belt Programme has also been working with TDCG to identify areas of heavy shipping traffic, exploring ways to keep vessels away from their sensitive inshore habitats. In April 2020 Recommended Areas to Be Avoided, agreed through the Blue Belt Programme, were implemented by the UK Hydrographic Office. The areas appear on all paper and electronic Admiralty Charts and extend out 25nm from the Tristan northern island cluster and Gough Island. This is also built into the Marine Management Plan and marine traffic will be continuously monitored to measure effectiveness. In 2018, the Blue Belt Programme also helped to support the transport of the TDCG fisheries patrol vessel to the UK for a 6-month refurbishment. During the refurbishment TDCG Fishery Department staff visited the UK to take part in the refurbishment and receive training. Training was given in compliance and enforcement, at-sea survival techniques, and all aspects of vessel maintenance. The vessel returned to the Islands in 2019 and is used to patrol the northern islands, also serving as a platform for scientific studies and providing the community with an emergency response vessel. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: The fisheries that operate within BAT are managed under the auspices of CCAMLR, with CCAMLR conservation measures adopted as minimum standard. Management measures serve to protect fish stock and to minimise seabird mortality and include for example, annual assessments, catch-quotas, closed areas, observer programmes, and seabird bycatch mitigation measures (restricted seasons, night setting, tori lines, line weighting). The higher predator monitoring programme coordinated by BAS at Signy Island contributes to the informed management of fisheries in the area. The South Orkneys Southern Shelf MPA – established in 2009, and the first in international waters – is a no-take area, and serves to help protect benthic and pelagic habitats and a range of biodiversity representative of the Southern Scotia Sea region. Between 2016-2021, the UK Government Blue Belt Programme worked to undertake a comprehensive review of fishing activity in the region to

help inform management strategies and develop satellite surveillance to support enforcement and explore alternative surveillance tools in the region.

3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: The SGSSI Marine Protected Areas Order 2019 came into force, replacing that from 2013, incorporating additional measures recommended by the first independent 5-year review of the MPA. In 2023-24, the second 5-year review of the MPA was undertaken by a panel of independent experts. As result of this second review, the spatial extent of No Take Zones in the SGSSI MPA will be extended from 283,000 km2 to 449,000 km2. These additional measures will result in 36% of the SGSSI Maritime Zone being closed to fishing activity. An additional 17,000km2 will be closed to krill fishing through the introduction of additional pelagic closed areas. These enhanced restrictions will supplement existing marine protection measures in SGSSI waters, where tourism and sustainable fisheries are strictly controlled. Current measures already include seasonal closures that limit fishing activity to the winter months in order to reduce potential interactions with breeding seals and seabirds (including ACAP species), and the prohibition of bottom trawling across the entire maritime zone. During the 5 months when highly regulated, licensed fishing is permitted, 40% of the MPA will now be closed to krill fishing, with 95% closed to longline fishing. Since the previous review, the introduction of a Research & Monitoring Plan and the SGSSI MPA GIS and Data Portal have helped focus scientific efforts towards priority areas, with substantial investment in research activities to support the management of the MPA. Work has also continued with the UK Blue Belt Programme to develop a compliance and enforcement framework to support implementation of fisheries legislation, as well the installation of new acoustic sensors which could be used to further enhance detection of illegally operating vessels. Data from benthic surveys conducted as part of the Blue Belt programme has been used to develop predictive models and maps of areas around the islands that are likely to contain vulnerable species. This information will be used in ongoing monitoring and management of longline fishing operations, and may indirectly benefit albatrosses and petrels. FALKLAND ISLANDS: Recognizing the need for holistic marine management across all sectors and maritime spaces, the Falkland Islands have embarked on a long-term process of marine spatial planning (MSP), which includes the development of a network of marine management areas (MMAs), partly utilised by albatrosses and petrels, aligned to international criteria for marine protected areas (MPAs). In this reporting period, supported by a UK Darwin Plus grant, the baseline work required for the effective fine-scale design and management of these MMAs has been completed – this included analysing existing and new at-sea utilisation data of Black-browed Albatross tracked from the Falkland Islands. In 2022 a technical document on the science and economics of MMAs in the Falkland Islands was produced and a public consultation run on their designation and implementation. FIG are now in the process of developing detailed MMA policy. RESPONSE FOR TRISTAN DA CUNHA: As noted in Qu 2.3 and 3.2, the Tristan da Cunha Marine Protection Zone (MPZ) was declared in November 2020. The MPZ covers approximately 700,000 km2 or 90% of waters under the Government of Tristan da Cunha’s jurisdiction. The Marine Protection Strategy and Marine Management Plan for the MPZ have now been published. The Marine Management Plan includes management or protection measures for marine areas utilised by albatrosses and petrels. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: As noted in Qu 3.2, the South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf MPA – established in 2009, and the first in international waters – is a no-take area, and serves to help protect benthic and pelagic habitats and a range of biodiversity representative of the Southern Scotia Sea region. Under the UK Blue Belt Programme, BAT received support and provided input to the South Orkneys Southern Shelf MPA review conducted by CCAMLR in 2019-2020. Resulting amendments to the MPA may provide benefits to ACAP species. More recently, focal work of the Blue Belt Programme in BAT (and SGSSI) has included working with BAS to provide scientific analysis and advice to support decisions made by fisheries managers in the CCAMLR Commission. Specifically, BAS and Blue Belt teams are evaluating the risk of concentrating krill fishing in areas important to krill predators, which will inform designated catch limits.

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4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any **new** environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? (legal and policy instruments are addressed in Question 2.7)
Response: No

4.2 Has the Party implemented any **new** measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)?
Response: No

4.3 Has the Party introduced any other **new** measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats not already reported in Questions 3.1 to 4.2?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Site visitor management plans are updated and reviewed as necessary. All International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) members are briefed each year at their annual conference to ensure that expedition leaders have the most up to date information about visitor management and disturbance to nesting birds is minimised. A regulated activity permitting process is in place to manage activities on SGSSI and to ensure compliance with legislation. Additional guidelines and restrictions were put in place on SGSSI in 2023-24 in response to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak to minimise introduction and spread of the virus. FALKLAND ISLANDS: FIG have an enforceable Countryside Code for the Falkland Islands which stipulates acceptable behaviour around wildlife, and a regulated activity permitting process to manage activities and to ensure compliance with legislation. There are also a number of existing guidelines that directly or indirectly help to minimise disturbance to Falkland Island ACAP species which are reviewed and updated as necessary: 1) A Drones and Wildlife leaflet providing guidance on the use of Unmanned Aircraft (UAVS, such as drones) near Falkland Islands wildlife; 2) The Stanley Tussac Grass Islands Management Plan 2018-2023 for Kidney Island, Cochon Island, and Top and Bottom Islands. and 3) Kidney Island Guide Leaflet. Additional guidelines and restrictions were put in place in the Falkland Islands in 2023-24 in response to the HPAI H5N1 outbreak to minimise introduction and spread of the virus. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: There is a regulated activity permitting process to manage activities on all Tristan da Cunha Islands and to ensure compliance with legislation. Any visits to the Islands must be authorized in advance by the Island Council. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: All British expeditions to Antarctica require a permit from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), in line with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection. The annual international Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) considers proposals for new or revised visitor management measures, including site guidelines and protected areas. Visitors are encouraged to travel with a company affiliated with IAATO. Yachting guidelines have been published which includes information on permitting procedures and environmental conduct.

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5. Research programmes

5.1 Does the Party have any ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on in Sections 2, 3 and 4?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken at the UK level and in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: UK: There are number of research programmes the UK has been involved in related to albatrosses and petrels, including: 1) An ACAP Secondment was awarded to Naomi Corderio (South Atlantic Detection Dogs) to undertake a secondment with the NZ Department of Conservation (DOC) in order to understand how detection dogs can be used to carry out burrowing bird surveys and how this method could be applied to census work on South Atlantic islands. The secondment to DOC was undertaken in August 2023; application and training of dogs in the Falkland Islands commenced in the austral summer of 2023-24 and is ongoing. A secondment report will be submitted to ACAP in June 2024; and 2) In 2023-24 the UK has been awarded two ACAP Small Grants: a) To Professor Richard Phillips (BAS) and Dr Rachel Buxton (Carleton University) to investigate the effectiveness of acoustic monitoring for estimating population trends and recolonisation of burrow-nesting petrels; and b) to Dr Ana Carneiro (BirdLife International; BLI), Professor Richard Phillips (BAS) and Dr Tammy Davis (BLI) to assess

the potential risks to ACAP species from unregulated fisheries in the Southwest Atlantic Ocean. Both projects will commence in 2024. SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: There are number of on-going research programmes related to albatrosses and petrels on SGSSI, including: 1) Long-term demographic or productivity monitoring at Bird Island, South Georgia undertaken by BAS for Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled and Black-browed Albatrosses and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels; 2) Long-term population monitoring at Prion Island for Wandering Albatrosses and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, undertaken by South Georgia Surveys and BAS; and 3) Population monitoring of Northern and Southern Giant Petrels at mainland sites in Cumberland Bay (Maiviken, Green Peninsula, Discovery Point, Harpon Bay) of South Georgia by BAS. Counts at Prion Island and mainland sites are of active nests, hatched chicks and near-fledging chicks to determine population size, hatching and fledging success (productivity). At Bird Island, the comprehensive annual demographic studies are of banded birds to determine adult and juvenile survival rates, individual reproductive success and population trends of Wandering, Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses (1975/76-present) and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels (2000/01-present). There is annual monitoring of population trends and productivity of Light-mantled Albatross (2002/03-present) and White-chinned Petrels (2016/17-present). It is also noted that a new automatic burrow-monitoring (PIT-tag) system is being set up which is hoped will provide data on adult and juvenile survival, breeding propensity, breeding success and trip duration; 4) In addition to the annual surveys, in January-February 2024, GSGSSI facilitated the decadal archipelago-wide surveys of Wandering, Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses at South Georgia. The survey was also used to document the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 across the archipelago; 5) BAS continue to be at the forefront in terms of research on the biology, ecology and conservation of ACAP species on SGSSI and coordinates a number of additional programmes or projects, including a number of specifically undertaken by PhD or MSc candidates. Overall, these include studies of demography, ageing, foraging ecology, diet and distribution. For South Georgia’s ACAP species, tracking data are available for adults throughout the year (breeding and non-breeding phases; all species), juveniles (all species except giant petrels), and immatures (Wandering and Grey-headed Albatrosses). These data have been used to investigate at-sea distribution, activity and diving patterns, habitat preference and overlap with fisheries. Processed tracking data for ACAP species are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database and have been used in a range of regional assessments of seabird-fisheries interactions, especially in the tuna RFMOs, and for recent multi-species analysis of global responsibility for the conservation of albatrosses and large petrels; 6) A number of organisations were awarded funding from the UK’s Darwin Plus scheme during this reporting period for the following projects which will have direct or indirect benefits for ACAP species: a) To investigate the use of fixed-wing drones to establish cost-effective multi-species baseline reference survey. The project is led by BAS in partnership with GSGSSI; b) To track Wandering Albatrosses, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels and White-chinned Petrels (with additional core funding from BAS for devices) at Bird Island, Maiviken, Harpon, Cooper Island or Prion Island, characterising variation in colony-specific overlap of birds with fishing fleets and identifying high-risk areas to inform a more focused approach to engaging with fisheries to better understand and address impacts of bycatch on these threatened species. Friends of South Georgia contributed additional funds for tracking devices. The project is led by BAS in partnership with Birdlife International and GSGSSI (who provided additional funding for vessel support); c) To develop bird-strike reporting systems and bird-handling guidelines for vessels operating in the SGSSI Maritime Zone. This will result in practical, standardised data collection and robust analysis to inform GSGSSI management practices. The project is led by JNCC in partnership with GSGSSI, IAATO and Argos Froyanes Ltd.; d) To establish a citizen science campaign which will use high resolution (31-cm) satellite imagery to count Wandering Albatrosses on South Georgia and Tristan Albatrosses on Gough Island, and develop an automated, standardised monitoring protocol for future surveys. The project is led by BAS in partnership with RSPB; e) To assess krill stock dynamics and predator foraging (including seabirds) during winter to enable a more informed ecosystem-based management approach of the South Georgia krill fishery. This project is led by BAS in partnership with GSGSSI and ART; and f) To trial alternative satellite technology for monitoring seabird populations, including ACAP species at South Georgia. The project is led by BAS. 7) Grants have also been awarded from: a) the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to: i) resolve life-history trade-offs over different temporal scales in Wandering and Black-browed Albatrosses at South Georgia and

Indian Ocean colonies. The project is led by University of Liverpool with co-investigators from BAS, Exeter and Sheffield Universities, and in partnership with CEBC-CNRS (France); and ii) study investigating concentrations of the pollutants, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in relation to trophic ecology of seabirds, including ACAP-listed species; and b) from Defra to assess options and provide recommendations to GSGSSI for expanding the current albatross and petrel monitoring programme on South Georgia taking into account logistical challenges and considering the range of traditional and novel techniques now available. This project is led by JNCC in partnership with GSGSSI; 8) GSGSSI has continued to be involved with the UK's Blue Belt Programme (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-blue-belt-programme). The Blue Belt Programme, now funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has worked closely with GSGSSI (and other UK Overseas Territories) over the last 7-years, to help enhance protection and management of the territories' marine environments. During the lead up to and during the reporting period, GSGSSI and the Blue Belt teams worked to develop an interactive management risk tool to ensure fisheries are managed sustainably with minimal impact on associated and dependent ecosystems. This tool was used to inform the 10-year review of the SGSSI MPA which was undertaken in late 2023. Alongside this, the Blue Belt Programme prepared a comprehensive science review paper which considered how research and monitoring over the past 10-years has informed the long-term sustainability and evolution of the SGSSI MPA, and how this may be used as an example globally. Focal Blue Belt work for SGSSI (and BAT) also included work with BAS to provide scientific analysis and advice to support decisions made by fisheries managers at CCAMLR. Specifically, BAS and Blue Belt teams are evaluating the risk of concentrating krill fishing in areas important to krill predators, which will inform designated catch limits. New satellite-based monitoring technology has also been trialled to detect vessels, in near real time, that are operating in SGSSI waters, including those which may be operating illegally. A grant was awarded from the Blue Belt programme for satellite-transmitters for tracking juvenile Black-browed Albatrosses (April-October 2023); and 9) Since the 2018 fishing season the use of electronic monitoring has been mandatory in the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands toothfish fisheries. Fishing vessel operators are working closely with 3rd party independent data archiving and analysis organisations to assess interactions between seabirds and fishery operations. Developments such as the use of infra-red imaging systems enable observation of interactions of seabirds with vessels even during night-time operations. In addition to these research projects: 1) the baiting phases of the SGHT rodent (Norway rat and House mice) eradication project were completed in 2016, and the mainland was declared rodent free (for the first time in almost 200-years) by the SGHT on 9th May 2018. To ensure it remains rodent free, GSGSSI has implemented and supports a Biosecurity Detector Dog Programme. In September 2022, the GSGSSI purchased two additional detector dogs, bringing the total number of trained dogs operating in the programme up to three. The dogs are paired with two handlers, one from South Atlantic Detection Dogs and one from Erebus Canine, who are contracted by GSGSSI to coordinate the detector dog programme. The detector dog teams screen vessels and cargo which is bound for South Georgia. GSGSSI have a comprehensive Biosecurity Policy which is designed to safeguard SGSSI against the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and pathogens. This is reviewed annually and the most recent iteration (The Biosecurity Handbook May 2024-25) also contains guidance on monitoring for and responding to any (suspected or confirmed) outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI); and 2) responding to the guiding values and goals encapsulated in the GSGSSI stewardship framework 'Protect Sustain Inspire', the GSGSSI, in July 2022, designated a Terrestrial Protected Area (TPA) across the entirety of SGSSI, resulting in 100% regulated and managed protection for terrestrial environments. The development of the TPA, which is being undertaken in a phased approach, commenced in 2021. The first iteration of the TPA Management Plan and legal Regulations have been published, with feedback from a stakeholder consultation currently being incorporated. A Terrestrial Protected Areas Advisory Group has been convened by the GSGSSI in order to provide specialist advice in regard to developing a research and monitoring programme and to identify sites which would benefit from more detailed management plans or stringent protection. Development of the Research and Monitoring Programme is ongoing. FALKLAND ISLANDS: There are number of on-going research programmes related to albatrosses and petrels on the Falkland Islands, including: 1) The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Programme (FISMP). Under this programme of work, annual monitoring of population trends and productivity of Black-browed Albatrosses (2005-present) and Southern Giant Petrels (2005-present) colonies at selected sites are carried out

under contract by local NGO Falklands Conservation (FC); 2) Breeding success and survival data have been collected annually at New Island by Dr Paulo Catry (ISPA) and the New Island Conservation Trust since 2003, as part of a comprehensive demographic and breeding ecology study of Black-browed Albatrosses. This programme of work also focusses on the spatial and trophic ecology of immature albatrosses, including during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons, and developing techniques for the study of diet using DNA barcoding methods; 3) In 2017-18, an aerial island-wide census of the breeding population of Black-browed Albatrosses, was carried out by FC, as part of the 10-year cycle of surveys. Analysis of the census results were released in 2023; 4) In addition to the annual surveys and demographic studies, FIG has also supported the following two surveys: a) Following an increase of Black-browed Albatross interactions with the Patagonian squid fishery, in 2022 the FIG Fisheries Department (FIFD) supported the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) to conduct a new Black-browed Albatross census on Beauchêne Island, which concluded that the colony is stable and has not changed significantly between 2017-2022; and b) Although White-chinned Petrels are not currently regularly monitored at any site in the Falkland Islands, FIG supported FC to survey and calculate population estimates of White-chinned Petrels at the following four locations in 2023-24: Kidney Island, Cochon Island, and Top & Bottom Tussac Islands. Repeat surveys are planned for 2024-25; 5) A PhD through the University of Exeter investigating the importance of fisheries in influencing the ecology of Black-browed Albatrosses breeding in the Falkland Islands. The project, which commenced in 2020 and was completed in 2023, had a specific focus on albatross diet, at-sea distribution and by-catch estimates. The project aimed to provide an improved understanding of the complex seabird-fishery relationship in the Falkland Islands and the wider Southwest Atlantic environment in order to guide an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and help predict future population trends in this species. The PhD was co-funded by FIG and a Falkland Island fishing company (Fortuna Ltd); 6) FIG and local fishing companies have an ongoing research programme looking into the development of Fixed Aerial Arrays and comparing their effectiveness with Tori lines for reducing seabird bycatch on trawlers; 7) Net-binding trials were also undertaken by FIG and a local fishing company in 2021 to explore the possibility of using this mitigation method in bottom-trawls to prevent its spread when shot until it has sunk beyond the normal diving range of albatrosses and petrels, and consequently reducing potential (lethal) interactions. However, net binding trials were neither efficient nor practical. Therefore, other measures to mitigate seabird net mortalities need to be considered; 8) A number of organisations were awarded funding from the UK’s Darwin Plus scheme during this reporting period for the following projects which will have direct or indirect benefits for ACAP species: a) To fill data gaps in at-sea distribution and utilisation of marine areas by seabirds (including Black-browed Albatrosses) and seals, enabling fine-scaling of Falkland Islands Marine Managed Areas. The project was led by SAERI in partnership with FIG and JNCC; b) To investigate the presence of seabird pathogens (including in albatrosses and petrels) in the Falkland Islands, characterize their dynamics across species, space and time, as well as their impact on local seabird populations. The project has evolved to also include testing specifically for HPAI H5N1. The project is being led by the University of Glasgow in partnership with SAERI, FC, the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre (MARE) and the Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology; and c) To complete preparatory steps for an eradication programme of the four invasive mammal species which threaten fauna and flora on New Island, Falkland Islands. The project is being led by FC in partnership with RSPB and FIG; 9) As part of the Falkland Islands Rat Eradication Project baiting exercises have been conducted on several small islands. To date more than 70 islands have now been baited. The Falkland Islands Rat Eradication Register documents all eradications and the results of the follow-up post-baiting checks, including references to relevant reports on each. In this reporting round, the key ACAP site of Bleaker Island which underwent a baiting programme in 2019 was declared rodent free in 2022. Monitoring for re-incursions is ongoing and South Atlantic Detection Dogs are contracted to check all cargo prior to shipment to any rodent-free island in the Falkland Islands. TRISTAN DA CUNHA: There are number of on-going research programmes related to albatrosses and petrels on Tristan da Cunha including: 1) Long-term demographic or productivity monitoring of Tristan, Atlantic Yellow-nosed, and Sooty Albatrosses, and Southern Giant Petrels at Gough Island by RSPB; 2) Long-term demographic or productivity monitoring of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses at Tristan and Nightingale by Tristan Conservation Department; 3) A number of organisations were awarded funding from the UK’s Darwin Plus scheme during this reporting period for the following projects which will have direct or indirect benefits for ACAP species: a)

Saving Tristan's only native tree and its associated unique buntings. This project is working towards establishing a biological control agent to reduce numbers and impacts of an invasive alien scale insect which infects Tristan's only native tree species (and hence also ACAP species breeding sites), and will also control the spread of the invasive flax plant which also threatens the native tree. The project is led by RSPB in partnership with FERA, TDCG and CABI; b) to establish a citizen science campaign which will use high resolution (31-cm) satellite imagery to count Wandering Albatrosses on South Georgia and Tristan Albatrosses on Gough Island, and develop an automated, standardised monitoring protocol for future surveys. The project is led by BAS in partnership with RSPB; and c) for eradication of New Zealand flax plants from Inaccessible Island, capacity building for eradication of other invasive plants on Tristan, and development of management plans to safeguard natural habitats. The project is led by RSPB in partnership with TDCG; 4) NERC has also contributed funds for seabird research and conservation (including for Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses) as part of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Work Package 1 (South Atlantic Islands) ODA project (https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/national-capability-for-global-challenges/); 5) TDCG has continued to be involved with the UK's Blue Belt Programme (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-blue-belt-programme). The Blue Belt Programme, now funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has worked closely with TDCG (and other UK Overseas Territories) over the last 7-years, to help enhance protection and management of the territories' marine environments. In Tristan, focal work on developing a training programme for government staff in scientific surveys, fisheries observations, MPA governance, and compliance and enforcement will benefit TDC's ACAP species. In addition to these research programmes: 1) TDCG and RSPB are leading on the eradication of house mice through the Gough Island Restoration Programme (https://www.goughisland.com/). The UK Government supports this project. The budget was estimated at £10.5 million for the entire programme. The mice eradication operation, originally planned for 2020, was delayed until June-August 2021 due to implications caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. While the programme was executed successfully, unfortunately mice were detected in December 2021. During this reporting period, RSPB initiated an investigation into why the eradication was unsuccessful. This investigation was undertaken by an independent panel of eradication, toxicology and mouse ecology experts to review all aspects of the Gough Island eradication attempt. Findings of the review were released in late 2023 and are summarised in the April 2024 addition of the RSPB's Island Restoration News: Gough and Henderson newsletter. The outputs of the review are currently being considered to help determine the best way forward for a future eradication attempt; and 2) TDGC, BAS, Cefas, RSPB and NERC have been working in collaboration to develop the Tristan da Cunha Data Portal. This Data Portal aims to pull together environmental data from Tristan da Cunha's marine and terrestrial territories to enable scientists and policy makers to see what data and information already exist. This will facilitate reuse of existing information and allow new research to build on existing knowledge. Data collation, including that on ACAP species, is ongoing. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: There are number of on-going research programmes related to albatrosses and petrels in BAT including: 1) Long-term monitoring of population trends and productivity of Southern Giant Petrels at Signy Island (South Orkneys) by BAS). Counts are of active nests during incubation, and of chicks in mid-late chick-rearing, providing estimates of population size and fledging success (productivity). BAT has continued to be involved with the UK's Blue Belt Programme (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-blue-belt-programme). The Blue Belt Programme, now funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has worked closely with BAT (and other UK Overseas Territories) over the last 7-years, to help enhance protection and management of the territories' marine environments. Focal Blue Belt work in BAT (and SGSSI) has included working with BAS to provide scientific analysis and advice to support decisions made by fisheries managers in the CCAMLR Commission. Specifically, BAS and Blue Belt teams are evaluating the risk of concentrating krill fishing in areas important to krill predators, which will inform designated catch limits.

5.2 Does the Party have any **new** national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?
Response: Yes
In addition to the institutions listed in previous UK MoP National Reports, new institutions who

are also involved in albatross and petrel conservation include: • Centre for Biological Studies of Chizé (CEBC-CNRS) • Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology • Erebus Canine • International Association for Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) • Marine and Environmental Science Centre (MARE), • Marine Management Organisation • South Atlantic Detection Dogs (SAD) • University of Glasgow

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6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers)?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Presentations are made at annual IAATO stakeholder meetings for tourism operators. ACAP leaflets on safe removal of hooks from seabirds are distributed to all toothfish vessels during their compulsory licensing visit to King Edward Point. GSGSSI, in partnership with JNCC, IAATO and Argos Froyanes Ltd have developed guidelines for the handling and care of birds that have struck vessels. These will be distributed to all vessels operating in the SGSSI Maritime Zone. The SGSSI Biosecurity Handbook has been updated to include guidance on the biosecurity measures and response actions that should be taken in relation to reducing the introduction and spread of the HPAI H5N1 virus, to prevent wild birds and people from being infected. BAS provided tracking data and datasets to BirdLife International for relevant projects on at-sea threats to birds and on the monitoring and protection of marine wildlife. RESPONSE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS: The Seabird & Marine Mammal Scientific Officer provides seasonal observer training regarding seabird observations in the Patagonian squid fishery. FIG and various research organisations and NGOs have provided tracking and population data for collaborative projects on at-sea distribution and on the monitoring and protection of marine wildlife. FIG have developed guidelines for a range of stakeholders outlining biosecurity measures and response actions that should be taken in relation to reducing the introduction and spread of the HPAI H5N1 virus, to prevent wild birds, poultry and people from being infected. RESPONSE FOR TRISTAN DA CUNHA: No new information to report. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: BAS has developed Standard Operating Procedures for handling and sampling seabirds for HPAI H5N1. BAS has also provided training to research staff and ships' crew on how to handle birds that strike vessels, and which may have HPAI H5N1. BAS has provided datasets for collaborative projects on at-sea threats to birds and on the monitoring and protection of marine wildlife.

6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public?
Response: Yes
Throughout this reporting period, each of the UK Overseas Territories Governments, the UK Government and partners have provided regular information on ACAP (objectives, species, management, research, World Albatross Day etc.) to stakeholders and the general public (especially tourists and school children) in a variety of formats including: press releases, website updates, social media outlets, interviews, provision of visitor packs which contain information on biosecurity and codes of conduct, public talks, being involved with conservation group displays or training days, establishment of live web-cams at field-sites, helping to develop or support educational websites and museums etc.

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7. Reporting against priorities for land-based conservation actions (see MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1)

7.2 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Gough Island?
Response: Yes
Specific action has been taken in some of the UK South Atlantic Territories: SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS: Not applicable FALKLAND ISLANDS: Not applicable TRISTAN DA CUNHA: TDCG and RSPB are leading on the eradication of house mice through the Gough Island Restoration Programme (https://www.goughisland.com/). The UK Government supports this

project. The budget was estimated at £10.5 million (AUD$19.3 million) for the entire programme. The mice eradication operation, originally planned for 2020, was delayed until June-August 2021 due to implications caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. While the programme was executed successfully, unfortunately mice were detected in December 2021. During this reporting period, RSPB initiated an investigation into why the eradication was unsuccessful. This investigation was undertaken by an independent panel of eradication, toxicology and mouse ecology experts to review all aspects of the Gough Island eradication attempt. Findings of the review were released in late 2023 and are summarised in the April 2024 addition of the RSPB's Island Restoration News: Gough and Henderson newsletter. The outputs of the review are currently being considered to help determine the best way forward for a future eradication attempt. BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: Not applicable

7.18 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Marion Island?
Response: Not Applicable

7.4 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Formentera?
Response: Not Applicable

7.5 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Menorca?
Response: Not Applicable

7.7 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Cabrera?
Response: Not Applicable

7.8 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera?
Response: Not Applicable

7.9 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Formentera?
Response: Not Applicable

7.10 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ibiza?
Response: Not Applicable

7.11 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Mallorca?
Response: Not Applicable

7.12 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Menorca?
Response: Not Applicable

7.1 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?
Response: Not Applicable

7.3 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to reindeer on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?
Response: Not Applicable

7.6 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?
Response: Not Applicable

7.13 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?
Response: Not Applicable

7.14 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?
Response: Not Applicable

7.16 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Auckland Island?
Response: Not Applicable

7.17 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to pigs on Auckland Island?
Response: Not Applicable

7.19 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian cholera on Ile Amsterdam?
Response: Not Applicable

7.20 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to mosquitos on Isla Espanola?
Response: Not Applicable

7.21 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian pox virus on Albatross Island (AU)?
Response: Not Applicable

7.22 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Australasian gannets *Morus serrator* on Pedra Branca?
Response: Not Applicable

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8. Reporting against priorities for at-sea conservation actions (see MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1)

8.1 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Angola Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.2 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Argentina Demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.4 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.28 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Gillnet fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.5 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Pelagic trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.7 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil demersal longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.8 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.9 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery (Itaipava fleet)?
Response: Not Applicable

8.15 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.16 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.17 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia pelagic trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.18 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru demersal longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.19 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.21 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain demersal longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.22 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.23 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain purse seine fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.24 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.29 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch the Uruguay demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.10 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the CCSBT Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.11 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IATTC Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.12 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Yes
UK vessels fishing in ICCAT waters are required to comply with all active conservation and management measures. This includes ICCAT Recommendation 07-07 on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. Under these management measures, fishing vessels are required to implement mitigation measures to reduce the levels of incidental bycatch of seabirds, and to record and report any instances of seabird bycatch. In addition, and as noted in Qu. 1.1.5, the UK, working with the ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group, presented the results of a study evaluating the effectiveness of Conservation and Management Mitigation Measures (CMMs) for reducing seabird bycatch on pelagic longliners in the South Atlantic at the most recent meeting of the ICCAT Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO). The aim of this work was so it could feed into the SC-ECO review of ICCAT CMMs. By applying an ecological risk assessment approach (EASI-Fish) to understand patterns in bycatch rates between different combinations and specifications of conservation measures, and implications for threatened seabird population, the study concluded that updating ICCAT CMMs for pelagic longlining in the South Atlantic to reflect current best practice guidelines would help to significantly reduce seabird mortality.

8.13 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IOTC Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Yes
UK vessels fishing in IOTC waters are required to comply with all active conservation and management measures. This includes IOTC Resolution 12-06 on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries. Under these management measures, fishing vessels are required to implement mitigation measures to reduce the levels of incidental bycatch of seabirds, and to record and report any instances of seabird bycatch.

8.20 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SEAFO demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.25 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SPRFMO demersal trawl fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

8.27 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the WCPFC Pelagic longline fishery?
Response: Not Applicable

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9. Other

Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?
Response: No

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10. Additional Comments (including feedback about this form or the reporting process)

The UK has no additional comments.

Final submission details

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Report by Megan Tierney