



SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee and its Working Groups made considerable progress against its 2023-2025 Work Programme. A summary of activities and achievements during this triennium is provided in this document and in the reports from AC13 and AC14.

Progress included: the continued development and review of seabird bycatch mitigation Best Practice Advice, bycatch mitigation fact sheets, conservation guidelines, and review of priority conservation actions; the allocation of funding to support seven Secondments and eight Small Grants projects; the development and implementation ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy; the provision of advice on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza; and continued review of taxonomy-related publications relevant to ACAP species.

The Agreement has also continued to successfully collate and review information on ACAP species, their breeding sites and at-sea and land-based threats (**MoP8 Doc14**).

The Advisory Committee remains concerned that when population data are assessed using ACAP's own indicators they show many populations continue to decline and in general the Agreement is not achieving its stated objective to 'achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels' (**MoP8 Doc13**).

The Advisory Committee recognised this as a conservation crisis in 2019 (AC11), and agreed to prioritise actions to encourage the implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation methods by Parties and fisheries organisations.

This advice, together with a suite of other recommendations and conservation priorities for the next triennium have been developed by the Advisory Committee for consideration at MoP8 (**MoP8 Doc15**). If actioned by ACAP and its Parties these recommendations will make a much-needed contribution to improving the conservation status of ACAP's listed species.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Parties, and where appropriate, participating non-Party Range States and APEC Member Economies:

1. Note the progress and achievements made by the Advisory Committee during the past triennium.
2. Recognise the contributions made to the Agreement by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups and continue to support engagement by Convenors, Vice-convenors and technical experts in order to progress the Advisory Committee's Work Programme.
3. Allocate adequate resources to support the continued work of the Advisory Committee, its Working Groups and its Work Programme to ensure timely and reliable advice on the status of ACAP species and their breeding sites; the assessment and mitigation of threats and on priority conservation actions.
4. Provide feedback to the Advisory Committee on its reporting to the MoP and identify further opportunities to improve the delivery of information and advice.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report follows the structure agreed during the First Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP1, Resolution 1.5, Annex 1). A draft version of this report, prepared by the Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair and the Agreement's Secretariat, was presented to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC14). Following AC14 an updated draft was circulated intersessionally among the members of the Advisory Committee for further review and approval.

1.1 Establishment of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee (AC) was established under Article IX of the Agreement by MoP1, held in Hobart, Australia, from 10 to 12 November 2004.

1.2 Election and appointment of Advisory Committee Officers

Since AC13 marked the end of all Advisory Committee officials' terms, all positions required election or re-election.

Mike Double (Australia) was re-elected as Chair, and Tatiana Neves (Brazil) was re-elected as Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee.

Sebastián Jiménez (Uruguay) and Igor Debski (New Zealand) were re-elected as Co-convenors, and Dimas Gianuca (BirdLife International) was re-elected and Megan Tierney (United Kingdom) was elected as joint Vice-convenors of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG).

Patricia Serafini (Brazil) and Marco Favero (Argentina) were re-elected as Co-convenors and Richard Phillips (United Kingdom) was re-elected as Vice-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG).

Mark Tasker (United Kingdom) was re-elected as Convenor and Alan Tennyson (New Zealand) was elected as Vice-convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG).

Juan Pablo Seco Pon did not stand for re-election as joint Vice-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group at AC13 due to other commitments. The AC thanks Dr Seco Pon for his contributions to ACAP and welcomes his continued involvement in the SBWG.

At its meetings, the Advisory Committee acknowledged the significant amount of work that all ACAP officials undertake to support the Agreement and expressed thanks for their dedication.

1.3 Members, Alternates, Observers and Experts

Lists of Advisory Committee Members, Alternate Representatives, Advisors, and Observers attending each of the Advisory Committee meetings in the triennium are in ANNEX 1 of the [AC13](#) and [AC14](#) reports.

1.4 Review of rules of procedure

The Advisory Committee established its [Rules of Procedure](#) (RoP) at AC1 and has reviewed them at subsequent meetings. The Advisory Committee's RoP were last amended at AC14 (held in Lima, Peru, 12 – 16 August 2024).

1.5 Meetings and other activities since MoP7

After MoP7, the Advisory Committee met formally for its Thirteenth Meeting (AC13) at Edinburgh, UK, from 22 to 26 May 2023, and for its Fourteenth Meeting (AC14), at Lima, Peru from 12 to 16 August 2024. Meetings of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG7 and PaCSWG8), and the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG11 and SBWG12) preceded AC13 and AC14, respectively, including as joint sessions of SBWG and PaCSWG to discuss cross-cutting issues.

Informal meetings of the Advisory Committee's officials (Chair and Vice-chair, Working Group Convenors and Vice-convenors) and the Secretariat have been held every three or four months to coordinate the Advisory Committee's intersessional activities and in particular to discuss the implementation of ACAP's Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCO) Engagement Strategy (**MoP8 Doc 24**), attendance at RFMO and CCAMLR meetings and progress within the intersessional correspondence groups established at AC13.

2. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.1 Activities of the Advisory Committee Chair

Mike Double was elected as Chair of the Advisory Committee at the conclusion of AC12 (2 September 2021) and was re-elected as Chair at AC13.

2.1.1 Recruitment

At AC13, the Chair facilitated preliminary discussions amongst the members of the recruitment sub-committee appointed by MoP7 to recruit a new Executive Secretary to take up the role in July 2025.

2.1.2 Budgets

The Chair has been consulted as required by the Secretariat on issues related to management of the Agreement's budget.

2.1.3 Consultations with the Agreement Secretariat

As the Chair and Secretariat are both located in Hobart, Australia, the Chair has maintained near-monthly visits and discussions with the Secretariat. He has also convened near-quarterly informal meetings with the Advisory Committee's officials.

2.1.4 Reporting to the MoP

At AC13 the Chair developed and tabled a paper suggesting that, after 20 years since the Agreement entered into force it would be timely for the Advisory Committee to review how it reports to the MoP ([AC13 Doc 17](#)). This was agreed and following consultation a revised approach was developed intersessionally and a new suite of draft reports were presented to AC14 (see [AC14 Report](#), Section 9.3). This new structure aims to facilitate the development of shorter, topic-specific papers while still meeting the Advisory Committee's reporting obligations as defined in Articles VIII and IX of the Agreement and [Resolution 1.5](#). The previous and new AC reporting structures are presented below:

Advisory Committee reports to MoP7:

- MoP7 Doc 9 Advisory Committee report to the MoP
- MoP7 Doc 10 Implementation report to the MoP
- MoP7 Doc 16 Indicators to measure the success of the Agreement

Advisory Committee reports to MoP8:

- MoP8 Doc 11 Advisory Committee report to the MoP
- MoP8 Doc 12 Summary Implementation report to the MoP
- MoP8 Doc 13 Status of ACAP species, populations, and breeding sites
- MoP8 Doc 14 Threats to ACAP species and mitigation actions
- MoP8 Doc 15 ACAP Priority Conservation Actions for 2026 - 2028
- MoP8 Doc 16 Capacity building and outreach

2.1.5 Other activities

With the Secretariat, the Chair, in his role as Chair of the Grants Sub-committee managed a three Secondments Grants rounds launched in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and two Small Grants rounds launched in 2023 and 2024¹. These grant rounds allocated a total of AUD\$286k to seven secondments and eight small grants.

The Chair also participated in several of the Advisory Committee intersessional groups (see below), contributed to a [publication](#) celebrating ACAP's achievements in its first twenty years (2004–2024), and represented ACAP at the 43rd meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

¹ The assessment of applications for this grant round is underway (Jan 2025).

2.2 Progress with Actions under Article IX of the Agreement

2.2.1 Provision of scientific, technical, and other advice

Scientific and technical advice provided by the Advisory Committee to the MoP is based on the work produced by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups:

- The Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) addresses land-based threats, threats at sea other than fisheries bycatch, and determines the conservation status of species listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement (hereafter 'ACAP species').
- The Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) addresses threats to ACAP species from seabird bycatch in fisheries.
- The Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) reviews the taxonomic status of taxa listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement.

A summary of progress against the Advisory Committee Work Programme for 2023 - 2025 is provided in **ANNEX 1**. This document has also been used as the basis for developing the Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium (**MoP8 Doc 17**).

The Advisory Committee and its Working Groups again made considerable progress during the last triennium. Key achievements since MoP7 are summarised below.

- Maintained the ongoing production and review of ACAP's suite of [seabird bycatch mitigation Best Practice Advice](#) documents for pelagic longline, demersal longline and trawl fisheries, including recommendations for standalone mitigation measures in pelagic longline fisheries.
- Conducted a revision of ACAP's Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisation (RFMCO) Engagement Strategy to include organisation-specific strategies that aim to deliver more effective engagement.
- Implemented ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy by directly engaging in meetings of RFMOs and CCAMLR to advocate for the development, adoption, implementation and review of conservation measures relevant to ACAP species.
- Continued to engage in the review processes of seafood certification schemes and delivered substantial improvements to a new standard. The Marine Stewardship Council standard now includes requirements on information, management and outcomes for seabird bycatch.
- Updated the seabird bycatch mitigation advice toolboxes for purse seine and artisanal and small-scale fisheries as well as guidance on the handling and safe release of live caught birds.
- Continued to review and update the ACAP-BirdLife International bycatch [mitigation fact sheets](#) aimed at fisheries managers to assist in reducing bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries in several relevant languages.
- Continued to update ACAP's [species assessments](#).
- Implemented ACAP's prioritisation framework to identify priority actions to address land-based and at-sea threats.

- Continued the collation of data to assess current population trends in ACAP species and to determine ACAP indicator metrics.
- Further assessed and reviewed ACAP's list of High Priority Populations.
- Identified key gaps in breeding site monitoring, and with assistance from BirdLife International, in tracking data.
- Established an intersessional group of experts to monitor and advise ACAP Parties and other agencies on the spread, impact and response to the spread of the High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus.
- Published and maintained the ongoing review of ACAP's guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the HPAI H5Nx panzootic.
- Established an intersessional group tasked with identifying and applying a new approach for the analysis of population trends across a range of ACAP species and populations.
- Continued review of taxonomy-related publications relevant to ACAP species (Action Plan 5.1.n) and a specific evaluation of taxonomic status of the subspecific taxa of Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*.
- Continued the assessment of global species checklists and initiatives to bring together the main global taxonomies for all seabird species.
- Further developed the ACAP database to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups.

Working Groups and the Secretariat continued to review all relevant research on albatrosses and petrels (Action Plan 5.1.j) and new information has been tabled at SBWG and PaCSWG meetings and inform, *inter alia*, the Species Assessments, Action Plans and Best Practice Advice and Conservation Guidelines. The Secretariat maintains a [bibliographic reference database](#) of relevant literature, which supports the development and updating of these documents.

2.2.2 Progress with standard reference text on taxonomy of species covered by the Agreement

The International Ornithological Congress (IOC) standard taxonomy continues to be the reference list when considering new species for Annex 1 of ACAP and for other ACAP purposes (see **MoP8 Inf 01** for latest species list).

There has been no change in taxonomy of species covered by the Agreement since the last report to the Meeting of the Parties. However, as noted in **AC13 Doc 10**, the IOC has proposed merging the Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) and Yelkouan Shearwater (*P. yelkouan*) but no decision has been made to date.

2.2.3 Recommendations concerning the Action Plan and further research

A draft Advisory Committee Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium has been prepared and submitted as **MoP8 Doc 17**.

The Advisory Committee has not proposed any amendments to the Action Plan (Annex 2 to the Agreement).

2.2.4 Development of indicators to assess progress towards achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels

ACAP species status and trend indicators, as well as indicators on monitoring of breeding sites and the availability of tracking data are presented in **MoP8 Doc 13**.

Indicators on threats at breeding sites are presented in **MoP8 Doc 14**.

Capacity building indicators, as endorsed by MoP6, are presented and discussed in **MoP8 Doc 16**.

The use of indicators on seabird bycatch and the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures by Parties is still not possible, largely due to Parties not providing any or sufficient suitable data (see [SBWG12 Doc 04](#)).

In response, the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and the Advisory Committee have been exploring other approaches that could deliver an assessment of progress towards the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation methods and the reduction in seabird bycatch. This work will be progressed prior to AC15 by an intersessional group (see [AC14 Report](#), Annex 7).

2.2.5 Progress with collation of information under Section 5 of the Action Plan and identification of gaps in knowledge

A summary report on progress with implementation of the Agreement by Parties, which has been produced using the web-based reporting system, is provided as **MoP8 Doc 12**.

2.2.6 Other Activities

Grant rounds for the Advisory Committee Secondments and Small Grants Programmes were conducted in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Both these schemes play a critical role in building capacity under Article IV of the Agreement and in supporting the successful delivery of the Advisory Committee Work Programme (see **MoP8 Doc 25**).

At AC13 the Advisory Committee established six intersessional correspondence groups to progress its work on a Communications Strategy, the RFMCO Engagement Strategy, AC reporting to the MoP, seabird bycatch data, seabird bycatch indicators, and High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) (see [AC13 Report](#), Annex 7). Each of these groups reported back to AC14 on progress.

The intersessional group on 'ACAP's Communication Strategy' was led by ACAP's Communications Advisor whose services were first engaged by the Secretariat in 2022. Following input from the group an updated strategy that identified key audiences and messages was presented to AC14 ([AC14 Doc 21](#)).

At AC14 the Advisory Committee established ten intersessional groups in order to progress its work on: ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy; the Advisory Committee's Work Programme budget; new ACAP guidelines for Offshore Wind Farms; ACAP's reporting of species status and trend; measuring branch line sink rates; reporting of Secondments and Small Grants to MoP8; High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI); seabird bycatch data reporting and indicators, guidelines and priority fisheries; ACAP's Communication Strategy and ACAP's Species Assessments (see [AC14 Report](#), Annex 7). In 2026 each of these groups will report progress to their respective Working Groups or directly to AC15.

The Secretariat, together with Advisory Committee officials, experts, NGOs, and other bodies, continued to celebrate [World Albatross Day](#) on 19 June 2023 (theme: Plastic pollution) and 2024 (Marine Protected Areas), leading to worldwide activities focused on albatross conservation.

MoP7 agreed to develop a [publication](#) celebrating ACAP's achievements in its first 20 Years (2004 – 2024). The Secretariat, Advisory Committee members and officials, Parties, Range States and others contributed to the content and the document was published in May 2024.

2.3 Meetings of the Advisory Committee

Reports from the Thirteenth ([AC13 Report](#)) and Fourteenth ([AC14 Report](#)) meetings of the Advisory Committee can be found on the Agreement's website.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Achievements

ACAP's many achievements over the last triennium and indeed the last 20 years are presented in ACAP's recent [publication](#) 'Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels: Achievements in the First Twenty Years 2004 – 2024'.

Many of these achievements have been accomplished due to the dedication of highly motivated and knowledgeable individuals. Such people, often supported by their Parties or directly through ACAP, are invaluable to ACAP's Working Groups and the Advisory Committee, and the successful engagement of such people into the work of ACAP is an achievement in itself.

Another significant achievement of ACAP continues to be the development and dissemination of its Best Practice Advice and guidelines. This information has been constructed and refined over many years, including this triennium, through the contributions of many technical experts from within ACAP's Working Groups. ACAP's advice is easily accessible through the ACAP website and includes best practice advice for seabird bycatch mitigation measures, conservation guidelines, mitigation fact sheets developed in conjunction with BirdLife International, and a seabird bycatch ID guide developed with assistance from the Japanese Far Seas Fisheries institute, among others.

The Advisory Committee has continued to enhance the influence of ACAP's advice and guidelines in part through the development and implementation of its RMFCO Engagement Strategy and Communications Strategy. The implementation of the RMFCO Strategy is considered a high priority by the Advisory Committee (see **MoP8 Doc 24**) and, subject to support of MoP8, will continue in the next triennium.

This triennium, the Advisory Committee has sought to improve its reporting to the MoP by revising the number and structure of its papers including specific papers on the status of ACAP species (**MoP8 Doc 13**), threats to ACAP species (**MoP8 Doc 14**) and priority conservation actions for the 2026-2028 triennium (**MoP8 Doc 15**). It is hoped this new format will improve the accessibility of important information and facilitate decision-making both at the MoP and by Parties domestically.

The ACAP database and online reporting systems are now mature and provide Parties and other users access to essential information for the effective implementation of the Agreement's Action Plan.

ACAP's Small Grants and Secondments Programmes remain important, cost-effective and efficient tools to implement the Advisory Committee's Work Programme and to continue to build capacity within ACAP and its Parties (**MoP8 Doc 25**). Further grant rounds are planned to start in 2026 and 2027.

3.2 Difficulties encountered and challenges for the next triennium

While the Advisory Committee celebrates the achievements highlighted in ACAP's 20-year publication it recognises ACAP species continue to be impacted by many threatening processes including fisheries bycatch, invasive species, marine debris, disease, pollution, climate change and habitat modification (**MoP8 Doc 14**). These impacts are reflected in the status of ACAP's species; ACAP's own indicators show many if not most populations are in decline (**MoP8 Doc 13**). As such, the Agreement is not achieving its stated objective to 'achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels'.

The decline in the status of many ACAP species and populations has been linked directly to fisheries bycatch and threats from invasive species at breeding sites (**MoP8 Doc 14**). However, in the last triennium the Agreement's ability to identify, assess and mitigate threats to ACAP species was hindered by three principal issues:

1. Collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries.

Although the mechanism for reporting of fisheries and seabird bycatch data for relevant EEZs is now well established through the ACAP data portal, review of fisheries data submitted by Parties highlighted that the temporal and spatial resolution of the data remain too coarse to enable useful assessments of seabird bycatch levels and trends. Capacity issues with collecting and reporting adequate data that can drive robust analyses of seabird bycatch reporting data are also ongoing. Given these challenges, the indicators originally proposed by the SBWG will need to be reviewed and data reporting requirements adjusted accordingly.

2. Effective implementation of ACAP best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in relevant domestic and high seas fisheries.

ACAP Best Practice Advice for mitigating seabird bycatch has been available for many years now, and continues to be refined. While many Parties and RFMOs have adopted fisheries management measures based on ACAP's Best Practice Advice, in many cases this advice has only been adopted partially. The low level of observer coverage in many domestic and high seas fisheries, as well as deficiencies in data collection and reporting systems have made it difficult to assess the level of implementation being achieved and the effectiveness of conservation measures in force. ACAP products highlighting best practice fishing methods will need to be regularly assessed for their ability to clearly communicate the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels, and the ways to overcome the impediments to the implementation of these methods.

3. Eradication of invasive species at breeding sites

ACAP Parties and Range States continue to plan and implement invasive species eradication programmes at breeding sites of ACAP species. Logistics and funding of such large-scale projects remain challenging.

These issues and potential solutions are discussed in more details in **MoP8 Doc 14**.

3.3 Next Steps for the Agreement

This Advisory Committee report together with the other reports developed by the Advisory Committee, its Working Groups and the Secretariat (**MoP8 Doc 13, 15 and 17**) deliver a wealth of information on the status of, and threats to, ACAP species and importantly, provide to MoP8 a suite of recommendations, priority conservation actions and research priorities that, if enacted, will: address many of likely challenges in the next triennium; progress the Agreement; and ultimately deliver a 'favourable conservation status' for ACAP species.

ANNEX 1. ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

This Work Programme provides indicative costs (in AUD) and time required to complete the tasks. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee officials, but also from Parties, Range States and NGOs, in particular, BirdLife International. Note that these staffing resources are in most cases provided pro-bono. The hours shown do not include time spent by the Parties or other organisations, but reflects the amount of time that AC officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks. The Work Programme was adopted by MoP7 and revised at AC13 and AC14. Any responsible groups or subgroups identified for specific tasks remain open to additional participants.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)		Ensure that ACAP's bibliographic database is kept updated
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2023-2025	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data. Possibly a catalogue of taxa that are difficult to separate visually instead.
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2023-2025	2 months	5,000	In co-operation with PaCSWG a database of researchers holding site specific samples was developed initially.
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.		Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.
1.6	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritization. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOC taxonomy. Criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species will be further refined intersessionally via correspondence.
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Consider gaps in population, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes.	PaCSWG, Science Officer, BirdLife International	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.		Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for secondments).
2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG,	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.		
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required, Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC14.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee updates	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	10,000	Costs for BirdLife to update maps, possible design update.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
						Reports on progress provided to each PaCSWG meeting. Working with Lead editors.
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing		14,000	
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Now assimilated into task 5.15.					
2.8	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Review at each AC Meeting
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC14.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	5,000	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Funds for translation of HPAI handling guidelines for seabirds on vessels.
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2023 and 2024	12 weeks		
2.12	Develop new guidelines	PaCSWG, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing	?	?	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . E.g colony management, acoustic monitoring, seabird-fisheries overlap analysis, spatially explicit fisheries risk assessments. Review at each AC.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure	PaCSWG, Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)	Ongoing	?		Opportunity for secondments and small grants .

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
	ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic					Develop ways to assess, model, monitor, and mitigate impacts including cumulative impacts on seabirds. Provide relevant information to the bibliographic database. i) Review availability of albatross and petrel flight height data. ii) Develop guidelines for offshore wind risk assessments - intersessional group
2.14	Maintain the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing		(reallocated to 2.10)	Expert group see ANNEX 7. Guidelines to cover disease risk assessment for ACAP species, colony risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak. Translation costs included under Task 2.5.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	<p>Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (AC14 Doc 20) and review at each SBWG meeting. Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.</p> <p>Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.</p>	<p>Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC</p> <p>Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG</p>	Ongoing	<p>a) 18 weeks p.a.</p> <p>b) 18 weeks p.a.</p> <p>c) 2 weeks p.a.</p>	<p>(a+b) 30,000 p.a</p> <p>From 2025 37,500 p.a.</p> <p>3,000</p>	<p>a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly)</p> <p>b) RFMO co-ordinator activities</p> <p>c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG)</p> <p>Includes development and dissemination of resources.</p> <p>Translation costs. These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes.</p>
3.1 a)	Continue with the review and update of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastián Jiménez. Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7).	2024-2025			Engage with IAC (lead Marco Favero, Andres Domingo, Tatiana Neves, Brazil).

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.2	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline and trawl fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Jonathon Barrington, Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Megan Tierney, Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: Igor Debski, Verónica Iriarte, Leandro Tamini	Ongoing			Improve consistency between documents. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences, of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice. Commence wider review of the structure of documents, including version control and documenting version changes.
3.2 a)	Sink rate testing advice	Intersessional Group (See ANNEX 7) Lead: Sebastián Jiménez	2024-2025			To provide guidance on adequate testing methodologies to demonstrate compliance with ACAP sink rate criterion.
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries. Formalise ACAP Advice document for the purse seine mitigation advice. This advice document will include introductory and explanatory text, and will be made available on the ACAP website.	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help)	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document or possible in-kind support from Parties.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
3.4	<p>Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.</p>	<p>SBWG, BirdLife International, Secretariat.</p> <p>Leads:</p> <p>Bird scaring lines: Sebastián Jiménez</p> <p>Demersal longline line weighting: Barry Baker</p> <p>Trawl cable, including net monitoring, mitigation: Marcelo Garcia</p> <p>Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte</p>	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	15,000 (for translation, and for new factsheets)	
3.5	<p>Further pursue approaches to improve uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures.</p> <p>Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.</p> <p>Continue to engage with certification schemes, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing information to sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments 	<p>SBWG, PaCSWG Secretariat</p>	Ongoing		5,000 for a secondee/ contractee to continue to provide advice on the process	<p>Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets.</p> <p>Scope of work dependent on ongoing investigation into enhancing implementation of mitigation measures.</p> <p>Will require resources (possible secondment/small grant opportunity).</p> <p>ACAP should respond to relevant opportunities.</p> <p>Secretariat continue to engage, as required, consultant who has already provided advice on this process. A sub-group of SBWG will continue to pursue opportunities to engage with relevant</p>

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						<p>schemes and will indicate when further input from the consultant would be helpful.</p> <p>Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the sub-group.</p>
3.6	Make available and disseminate ACAP advice on improving safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.	SBWG, RFMO Leads	Completed			
3.7	<p>Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required</p> <p>Intersessional review to refine indicators</p>	<p>Parties, SBWG, Secretariat</p> <p>New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (see ANNEX 7).</p>	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a.	<p>Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)</p> <p>Commence work on refined (Response) indicators as endorsed by AC14.</p>
3.7 a)	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead. New Intersessional Group established at AC14.				<p>Possible Secondment.</p> <p>Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible.</p> <p>Commence work refining questions in seabird bycatch data reporting forms, as endorsed by AC14.</p> <p>Develop a plan and schedule for a wider project to support Parties and Range States with reporting.</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
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3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG, Parties, New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (see ANNEX 7)	2024 - 2025	1 week	5,000	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Identify and score missing Party fisheries to enable a partial update for MoP8 if possible. Develop a plan and schedule for a wider update of the framework.
3.9	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries. Make advice (toolboxes) available on ACAP website and facilitate dissemination of advice.	SBWG, Lead: Dimas Gianuca	Ongoing		2,000 (for translation)	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for secondment . Distribute to SBWG intersessionally. Post updated toolkit on website before AC15. Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1.a).
3.9 a)	Understand and mitigate the effects on seabirds of small-scale pelagic fisheries, in particular where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats	SBWG	2024-2025			Opportunity for secondments and small grants
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks		Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for SBWG11, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines for data collection by observer programmes and in the	SBWG Lead: Igor Debski	Ongoing			Guidelines were developed and last reviewed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
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	use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (same Group as under 3.7 & 3.8)				Commence review, including provision of guidance on seabird bycatch estimation methods. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1a)
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	Completed	20 weeks		
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales.	SBWG	Ongoing			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments – secondment opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress reported at SBWG9, and will inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information (Also see Task 5.7)	SBWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Includes both published and unpublished literature. Replace working papers with published papers where possible. Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged. Refer and link to BMIS and other online bycatch databases.

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3.15	Further understand and mitigate seabird bycatch in floated demersal longlines, including ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG	2024-2025			Opportunity for secondment and small grant
3.16	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing		10,000	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Review current status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.
3.17	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG	2024-2025			Opportunity for secondments and small grants Includes assessment of the effectiveness of weighted hook designs, and use of non-toxic alternatives to lead when adding weight to the hook.
3.18	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG, Verónica Iriate, Cristián Suazo, Jonathon Barrington, Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat, Yann Rouxel	Ongoing	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.19	Disseminate Seabird-Safe Toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	2024-2025			Share resources and provide expert advice.

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4. Capacity building, new Parties, organisation of work						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife International	Ongoing	10 weeks		Capacity building in accordance with the needs identified by interested Parties in order to encourage implementation, particularly in Ecuador, France, Peru, South Africa (Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Madagascar), Tristan da Cunha (UK), and EC external fisheries
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties, Secretariat	Ongoing			Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC	Ongoing			
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	Ongoing			
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2024	4 weeks		

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5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and High Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks		Intersessional group on High Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.3	Now Task 1.6.					
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks		
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat (HSI to assist by providing paper). Will now focus on implementation of mitigation for SBWG indicators.
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	3 weeks		Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Parties to supply further information, as available
5.9	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.		Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2024			In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement.

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

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
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						research needs.
5.15	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000	Review tracking indicators at AC14
6. Management of AC work, Secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair and the Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.3	Oversee, advise and guide Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, Chair and Vice-chair	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.		
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.		