

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Eighth Meeting of the Parties <i>Dunedin, New Zealand, 19 - 23 May 2025</i></p> <p>Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium (**ANNEX 1**) was drafted by the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups during its Fourteenth Meeting (AC14) held in Lima, Peru, between 12 and 16 August 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to approve the following work programme for the Advisory Committee for the 2026 - 2028 triennium, subject to available funding.

ANNEX 1. DRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026 - 2028

This Work Programme provides indicative costs (in AUD) and time required to complete the tasks. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee 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 reflect the amount of time that AC Officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the bibliographic database updated with relevant taxonomy documents	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.		Ensure relevant taxonomy papers are added to ACAP's bibliographic database
1.2	Continue to work on ways of visually separating similar ACAP taxa	TWG	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process and the identification of bycatch specimens
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric database	TWG led by Convenor	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data
1.4	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2026-2028	1 month	5,000 (for database development)	Conduct a gap analysis of colonies/sites where there is insufficient genetic information
1.5	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	Variable, depending if there are proposals		Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.
1.6	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species and keep AC updated on relevant taxonomic issues	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

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1.7	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritisation. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOC taxonomy.
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Update gaps in population, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.		Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for secondments).
2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.		
2.3	Assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required. Intersessional Group established at AC14.	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC16.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee updates	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	12,000	Costs for BirdLife to update maps. 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	2 weeks p.a.	15,000	Opportunity for secondments or in-kind support
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.

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2.7	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Review at each AC Meeting
2.8	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC16.
2.9	Update eradication guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer, UK, South Africa, USA, Mark Tasker	2026	3 weeks		Required in light of new insights gained from recent attempts to eradicate house mice from islands
2.10	Review and update Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5Nx panzootic	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing			Guidelines for ACAP species offering broad recommendations to supplement local or regional risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity (HPAI) H5Nx avian influenza panzootic. Disease risk assessment for HPAI H5Nx for ACAP species to be carried out by the intersessional group.
2.11	Review and update other best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.		Opportunity for secondments and small grants .
2.12	Develop new guidelines	PaCSWG, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing	?	?	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . E.g colony management, acoustic monitoring. Review at each AC.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic	PaCSWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	2026-2028		Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Develop ways to assess, model, monitor, and mitigate impacts including cumulative impacts on seabirds. Provide relevant information to the bibliographic database. i) Review availability of albatross and petrel flight height data. ii) Develop guidelines for offshore wind farm risk assessments (Intersessional Group established at aC14)

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2.14	Provide reports on intersessional activities and working group meetings to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2026 and 2027	12 weeks		
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMCO Engagement Strategy (AC14 Doc 20) with relevant bodies that manage international fisheries (RFMOs and others) . Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.	Parties, Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	70,000 p.a. (subject to review)	Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMCO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly). Several RFMOs are engaging in the review of seabird measures during the early part of the triennium. Reflects cost of attending two meetings per RFMO for six RFMOs, based on 2024 costs. Figure will be kept under review to reflect changing priorities based on progress in RFMO CMM reviews.
3.1.a	Continue to develop and refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	3,000 (for translation)	These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes. Includes development and dissemination of resources
3.1.b	Continue the review, and update the RFMCO Engagement Strategy at each Joint WG meeting.	Leads: Dimas Gianuca and Sebastián Jiménez.	Ongoing			
3.2	Engage with other international bodies concerned with the conservation of species affected by fishing (e.g. IAC, CMS)	SBWG, Secretariat	Ongoing			In order to ensure as far possible any mitigation measures proposed for ACAP species do not adversely affect other species and to pursue mutual gains in species conservation.

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3.3	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline, trawl, and purse seine fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Megan Tierney, Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: Igor Debski, Verónica Iriarte, Leandro Tamini Purse seine: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro	Ongoing		3,000 (for translation of purse seine document)	Complete review and restructure of advice documents to improve readability and consistency between documents; version control; and documenting changes made between versions. Present to SBWG13. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice.
3.3.a	Sink rate testing advice	Intersessional group established at AC14. Lead: Sebastián Jiménez	2026			Complete guidance on adequate testing methodologies to demonstrate compliance with ACAP sink rate criterion. Present to SBWG13.
3.4	Identify and pursue new approaches to improve uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures.	SBWG, PaCSWG Secretariat	Ongoing			Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets. Scope of work dependent on ongoing investigation into enhancing implementation of mitigation measures.
3.5	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in 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, Javier Quiñones, Gabriel Canani	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 .
3.5.a	Understand and mitigate the effects on seabirds of small-scale pelagic fisheries, in particular where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats	SBWG				Opportunity for secondments and small grants

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3.6	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks		Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for SBWG11, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.7	Further understand and mitigate seabird bycatch of floated demersal longlines, including ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG Intersessional Group	2026-2028			Opportunity for secondment and small grant
3.8	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG				Opportunity for secondments and small grants Includes assessment of the effectiveness of weighted hook designs, and use of non-toxic alternatives to lead when adding weight to the hook.
3.9	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required. Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a.	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?). To support the reporting of response indicators. Possible secondment. Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Complete refinement of simple Response Indicators (SBWG13) Implement plan to support Parties and Range States to complete reporting requirements

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3.10	Review and update the prioritisation framework data for at-sea threats	Parties and SBWG	MoP9	4 weeks	10,000 (contract to collate information from RFMOs and other States)	Use a staged approach to update the fisheries: 1) Parties and Range State and APEC Member Economy Observers to update information on their fisheries; 2) information on fisheries managed by RFMOs updated using publicly available materials and via MoUs; and 3) a further process would be needed for other States not presently interacting with ACAP. Opportunity for secondment or small grant .
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines for data collection by observer programmes and the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14. Lead: Igor Debski	Ongoing			Complete initial review at SBWG13, including provision of advice on seabird bycatch estimation methods. Task 3.1 (RFMCO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.
3.12	Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.					Will require resources (possible secondment/small grant opportunity). ACAP should respond to relevant opportunities. Further investigate the human dimension of bycatch and mitigation as a relevant approach to increase the uptake of conservation measures.
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.

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3.14	Continue to engage with certification schemes by providing information to sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments	Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing		5,000 (for secondee/ contractee to continue to advise on the process)	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 schemes and will indicate when further input from the consultant would be helpful. Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the sub-group.
3.15	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing			Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Review current status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.
3.16	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG, BirdLife International, Secretariat. Leads: Bird scaring lines: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal longline line weighting: Barry Baker Trawl cable, including net monitoring, mitigation: Marcelo Garcia Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	15,000 (for translation, and for new factsheets)	

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3.17	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG, Verónica Iríate, Cristián Suazo, Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat, Yann Rouxel	SBWG13	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.18	Disseminate Seabird-Safe Toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	Ongoing			Share resources and provide expert advice.
3.19	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information (Also see Task 5.7)	SBWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Includes both published and unpublished literature. Replace working papers with published papers where possible. Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged. Refer and link to BMIS and other online bycatch databases.
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.	AC, Parties, Secretariat	Ongoing			Focus on capacity building between Parties, not on domestic activities. Reconsider capacity building indicators in light of discussions at MoP8.

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4.5	Identify opportunities to build capacity when considering Small Grant and Secondment applications	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Small Grants sub-committee.	Ongoing			Small Grants and Secondments are a key way that ACAP advances capacity building between Parties and with others.
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2027	4 weeks		Report to MoP9. See also Task 2.8 and 3.10.
5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and High Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks		Intersessional group on High Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks		
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2027	3 weeks		Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
5.7	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2027			In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement.

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5.8	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions, and interactions, of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries and bycatch information to aid prioritisation and targeting of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction and those managed by RFMOs and CCAMLR.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties, BirdLife International	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000	Opportunities for small grants . Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP High Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.9	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2026-2027	6 months	24,000 (BLI contract)	Review tracking indicators at AC16. Support a BLI contract to identify gaps in tracking data coverage; to contact holders of tracking data that are not in the Tracking Database; and encourage them to submit their data, and to assist data holders with data submission. Any contract with BLI would include significant in-kind contribution.
5.10	Develop ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessment analyses	SBWG and PaCSWG (Intersessional Group established at AC14)	AC15			See ToRs developed at AC14.
5.11	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Parties, Science Officer	Ongoing			Possible small grant opportunity. Support research and monitoring into the effects of climate change on life history, breeding behaviour and success, breeding habitat condition, and disease prevalence, etc. Identify ways to increase the resilience of albatrosses and petrels to these effects. Cooperative and coordinated international responses are required to address critical research needs.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g competitions etc.

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5.13	Enhance the communication of the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP's effective solutions	Lead: Communications Advisor.	Ongoing		5,000 (contract for additional expertise)	Opportunities for secondment . Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communications Strategy.
5.14	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		
5.15	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Parties to supply further information, as available
5.16	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.		Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
6. Management of AC work, Secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.3	Oversee, advise and guide Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, Chair and Vice-chair	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.		
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.		