 <p data-bbox="220 566 475 607">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="619 264 1415 360">Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Wellington, New Zealand, 11 – 15 September 2017</i></p> <p data-bbox="533 434 1378 530">Draft Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2015-2017</p> <p data-bbox="619 598 1294 636"><i>Secretariat, Advisory Committee Officials</i></p>
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SUMMARY

This report has been compiled pursuant to Article X (j) and in fulfilment of Articles VII (1)(c) and IX (6)(d) of the Agreement. The information contained within Section 1 of this report has been obtained by the Secretariat from Parties pursuant to Article VII (1) (c) and Article VIII (10). Section 2 contains information provided by Parties to the Advisory Committee (AC) on an annual basis to assist it with its work. This document contains information that the Secretariat and AC Officials consider relevant to informing Parties on progress with implementing the Agreement. Section 3 identifies difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

The Advisory Committee is requested to review the information contained in this document and agree on the components that would be of most use to MoP6 in determining progress with implementation of the Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The key objectives for reporting on the implementation of the Agreement are to: (1) provide information regarding the assessment of progress towards the objectives of the Agreement; (2) gather information on lessons learned, including successes and failures, in order to conduct albatross and petrel conservation in the most efficient and effective manner; (3) identify further research and conservation actions to be carried out; and (4) provide a resource of material on albatross and petrel conservation.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the revised process agreed to at MoP3 using the electronic reporting system developed in 2010-2011. The information provided by Parties is detailed in full in Information Papers submitted to AC10 (**AC10 Inf 01 to AC10 Inf**

13). A summary of this information has been prepared by the Secretariat and is presented below (in Section 1) for the consideration of the Advisory Committee in addressing the above-mentioned objectives. The report also includes information provided by Parties and others to the Advisory Committee to enable it to meet its reporting requirements under item 5.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan (Section 2). Finally, Section 3 identifies difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Agreement.

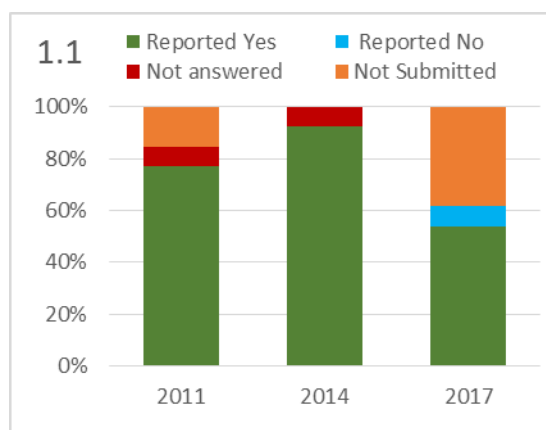
This draft report will provide the basis for the Advisory Committee's report to MoP on progress made with implementation of the Agreement, as required under Article IX(6)(d).

1. SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Implementation Reports were received from eight Parties. The reports covered the period from May 2015 to June 2017. Not all respondents reported against every reporting item. A summary of the information received is provided in **Table 1**. As 2017 was the third reporting round using a consistent format, figures illustrating response trends over time are now able to be provided for each question. However, given the large number of reports that have not been submitted this year, any patterns associated with particular questions are difficult to interpret.

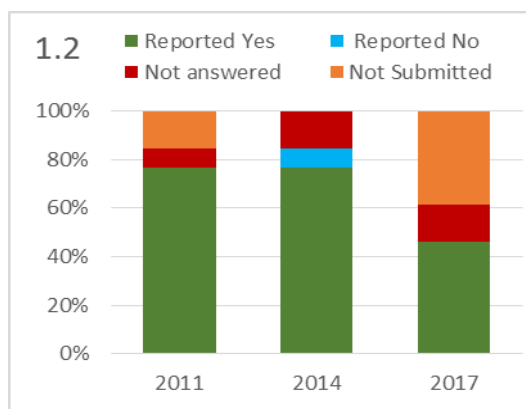
1.1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1.1. *Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?*



There has been some confusion regarding this question. The Secretariat has been tasked with collating and reviewing a list of decisions in order to advise Parties at MoP6 on which decisions should be included in this question.

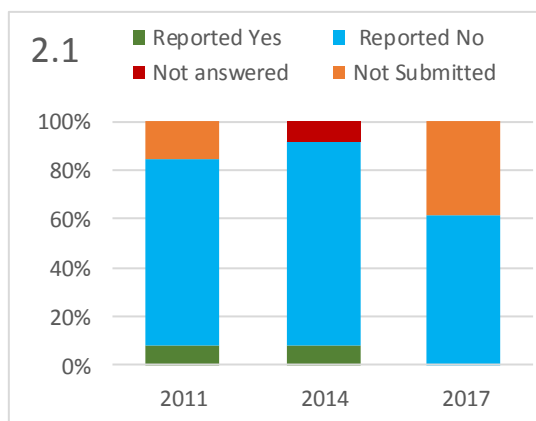
1.1.2. Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?



Five Parties provided details on their implementation plans in the current round of reporting.

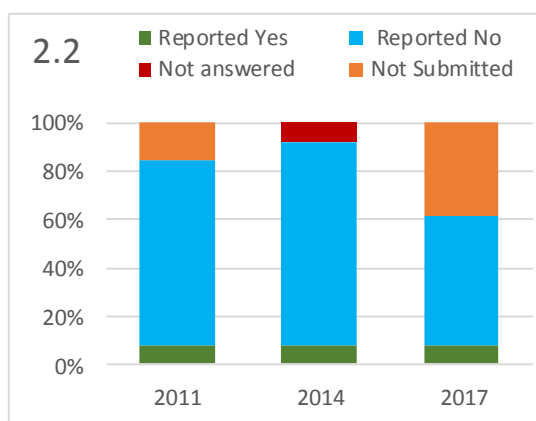
1.2 Species conservation

1.2.1. Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels?



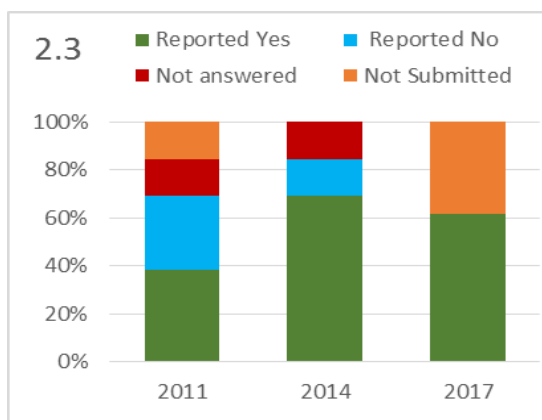
One Party, France, reported in both 2011 and 2014 exemptions as part of scientific research, as well as for museums and research institutions.

1.2.2. Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred?



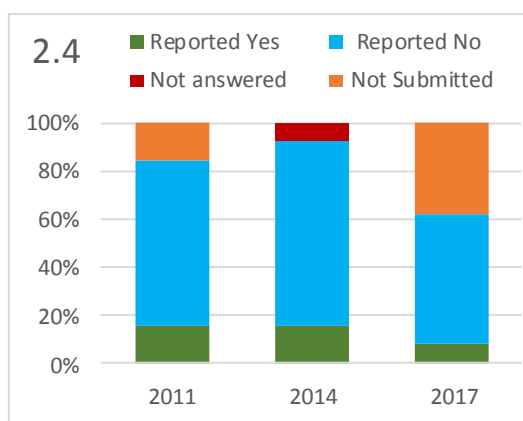
One Party, New Zealand, consistently reports bycaught ACAP species being made available (free of charge) to indigenous people for traditional uses, as well as to museums and universities

1.2.3. Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?



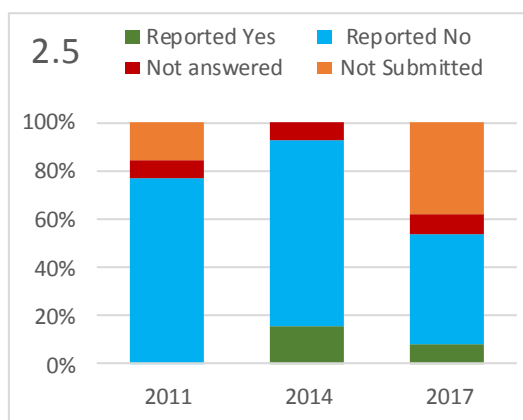
The number of Parties implementing new conservation strategies or plans has increased since 2011, with most Parties being active in this area during the last 2 reporting periods, including for recently listed ACAP species. However, action plans for non-ACAP species have also been reported here.

1.2.4. Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels?



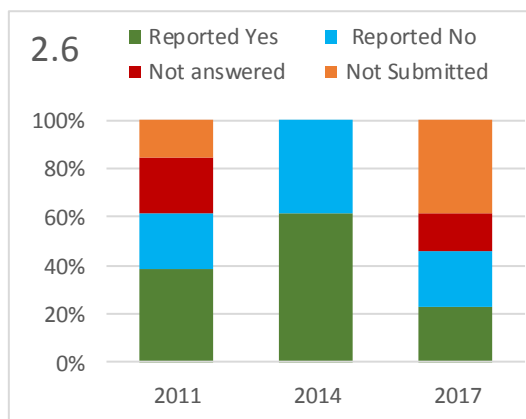
Brazil reported in all years the signing and publishing of a law to enforce the use of mitigation measures. France reported in 2014 attempted vaccinations of Yellow-nosed albatrosses. The UK reported in 2011 on implementation of strict biosecurity measures and sampling following a mortality event of Black-browed albatrosses at a breeding site.

1.2.5. Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?



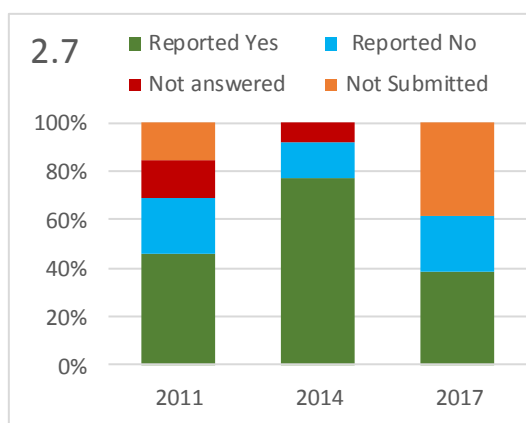
In 2017, New Zealand continued the Chatham albatross translocation programme reported on in 2014. France reported in 2014 that a programme is under consideration and includes the eradication of alien predators in several albatross colonies as well as monitoring of disease.

1.2.6. Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?



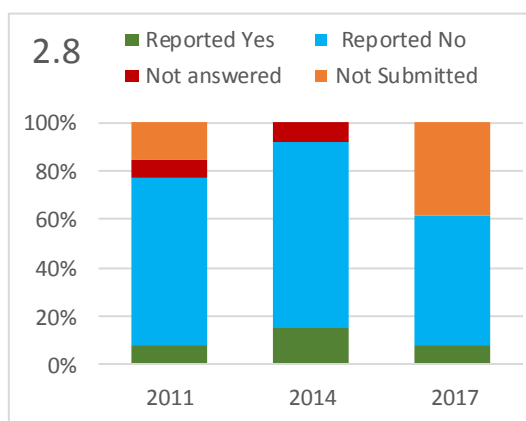
The 2014 reporting period saw most Parties engaged with new legal or policy instruments. Three Parties provided details on new initiatives in 2017.

1.2.7. Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?



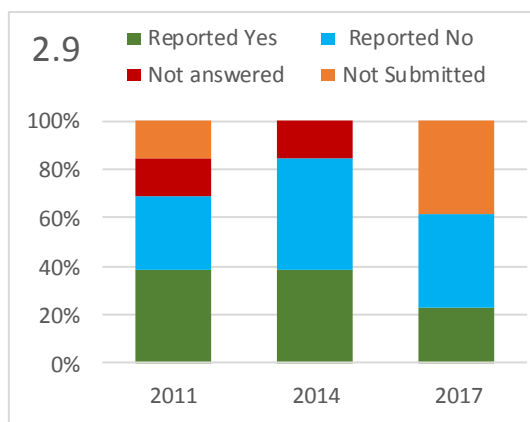
Most Parties reported activity in this area in 2014, some referring to specific projects, and some listing general legal or policy instruments in place.

1.2.8. Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1?



Spain reported in 2011 Balearic Shearwater which was listed on Annex 1 in 2012. Chile and Ecuador reported in 2014 Pink-footed Shearwater and Galapagos Petrel respectively. Pink-footed shearwater was listed on Annex 1 in 2015. Ecuador re-reported Galapagos Petrel in 2017 but did not submit a new nomination document to AC10.

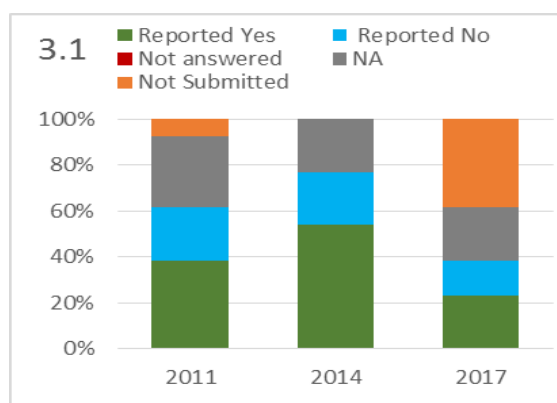
1.2.9. Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned?



Three Parties provided details on additional projects in 2017.

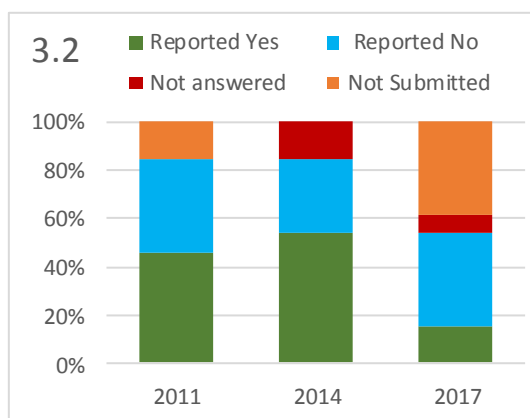
1.3. Habitat conservation

1.3.1. Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration?



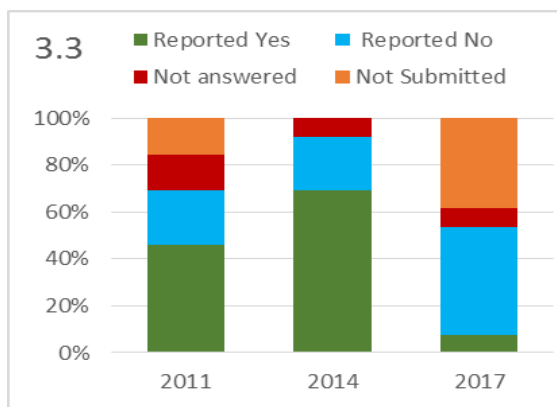
Four Parties did not have breeding sites in 2011, decreasing to three in 2014 and 2017 with the listing of the Balearic Shearwater in 2012. Three Parties reported activity in this area in 2017.

1.3.2. Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels?



Two Parties reported on existing management measures in 2017.

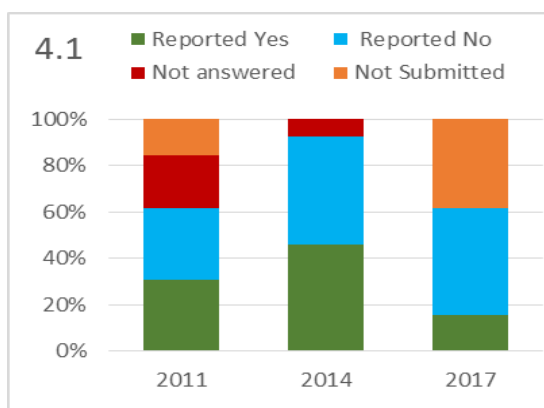
1.3.3. Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?



Spain was the only Party in 2017 that reported on new protected areas, in contrast to 2014 when a number of new initiatives was reported by most Parties.

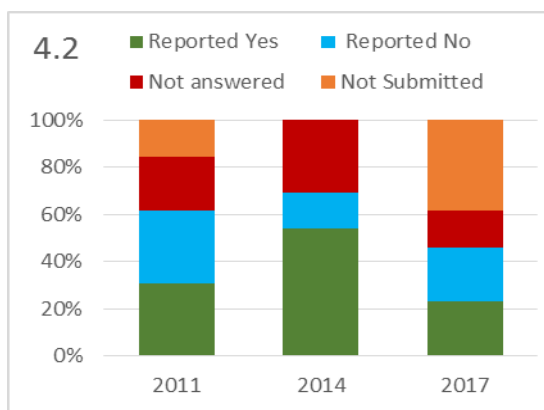
1.4. Management of human activities

1.4.1. Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels?



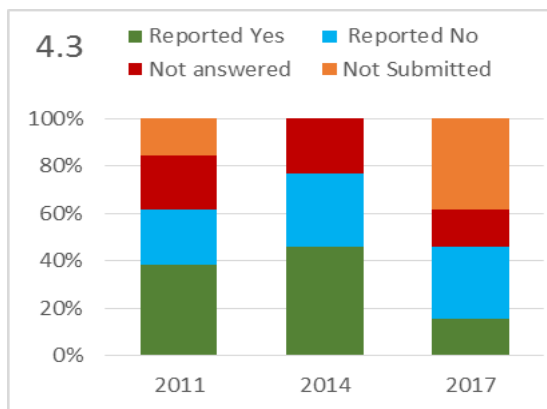
Two Parties reported on this in 2017, although those actions were already noted in Question 2.7.

1.4.2. Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)?



Three Parties reported on measures in 2017 but it was unclear if all of the initiatives were new.

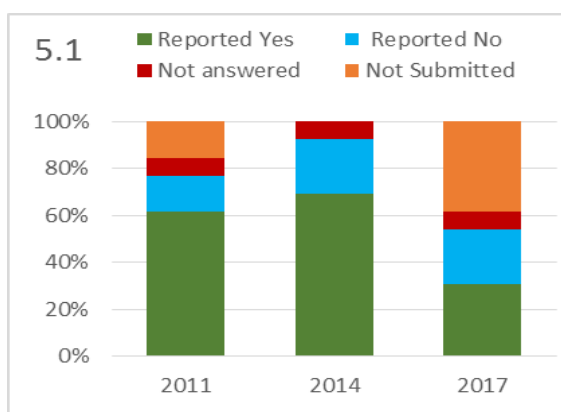
1.4.3. Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats?



Two Parties reported yes in 2017 but answers included actions already noted in previous questions and also included existing, rather than new measures.

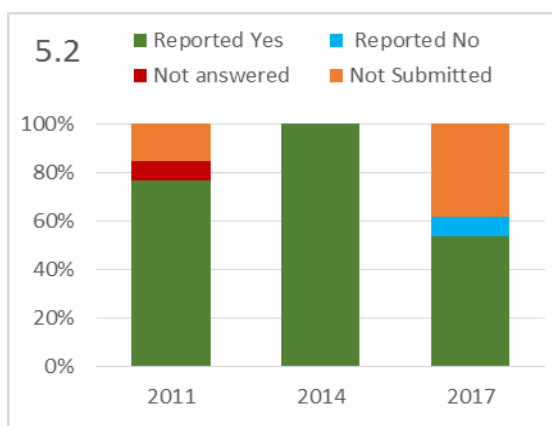
1.5. Research programmes

1.5.1. Does the Party have any ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on?



In contrast to 2017, most Parties reported on other ongoing programmes in 2011 and 2014. It is difficult to gauge if this is due to programmes not continuing or to different perception of what has already been reported on.

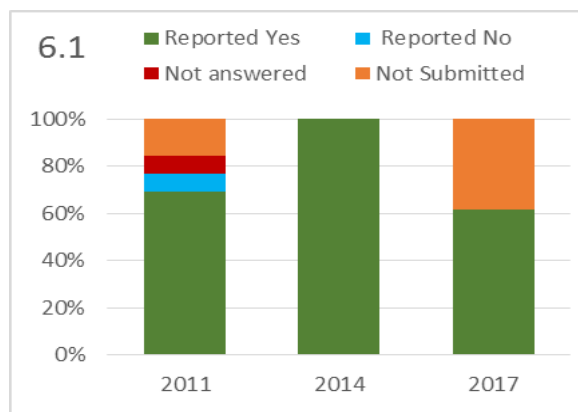
1.5.2. Does the Party have any additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?



It would appear that most Parties work with additional institutions or NGOs in any one year.

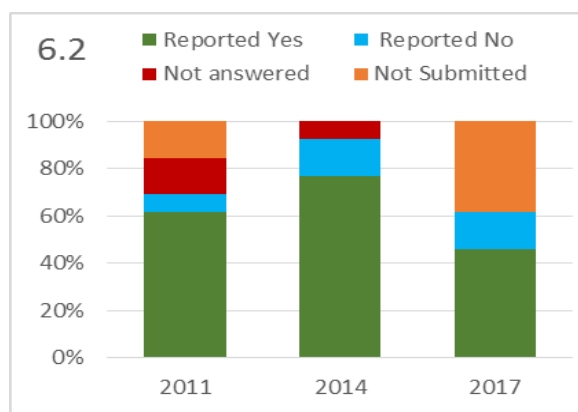
1.6. Education and public awareness

1.6.1. Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (e.g. scientists, fishers, etc)?



Most Parties are engaged with training on an ongoing basis.

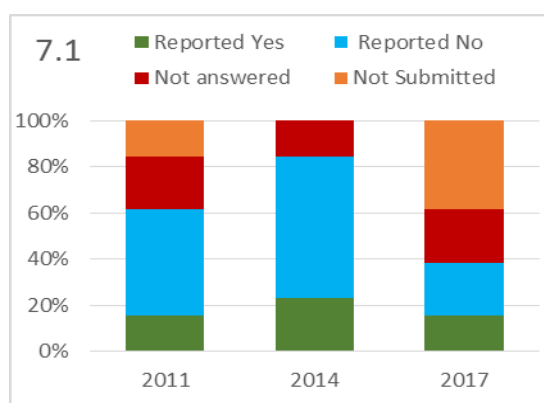
1.6.2. Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public?



Most Parties are engaged with education and public awareness on an ongoing basis.

1.7. Other

1.7.1. Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?



Two to three different Parties per reporting period have noted additional work related to climate change impacts.

1.8. Additional Comments

UK provided some additional information on relevant marine areas projects in 2017.

1.9. Issues identified

Reflecting on the last three reporting periods, a number of issues have come to light regarding the implementation reporting process and format.

1. Not all Parties submit their Reports in a timely manner, putting a strain on Secretariat resources leading up to Advisory Committee meetings as well as limiting the conclusions that can be drawn about the progress that has occurred in implementing the Agreement.

2. Reports are not completed as intended:

a) Parties do not restrict reporting to current time period and request for new information only (regarding policy, legislation, measures etc.). Parties repeatedly provide the same information, or provide historical information rather than reporting on new developments.

b) Parties are not choosing the appropriate replies from those available (used in generating the reporting summaries) or leave questions unanswered, which results in misleading analysis and interpretation of the reporting trends.

3. There is some confusion regarding the specific information being requested, with some questions clearly misinterpreted or interpreted very differently by different Parties or between reporting periods. For example regarding introduction and implementation of initiatives and requests for additional information 'not already provided'. These types of questions could benefit from more clarification and cross-reference.

The Parties may therefore wish to consider reviewing the reporting questions to determine if they are as informative as possible to the objective of assessing implementation progress.

1.10. Reporting against Priority Conservation Actions

Five Parties provided details of actions they have taken, or were not able to take, regarding land-based threats (**Table 2**).

Three Parties provided details of actions they have taken, or were not able to take, regarding at-sea threats (**Table 3**). One Party, Uruguay, reported taking action in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery, but did not provide details of those actions.

For further information, please refer to questions 7 and 8 in the Implementation Reports (**AC10 Inf 01 to AC10 Inf 13**).

Table 1. Summary of actions undertaken by ACAP Parties in 2015 - 2017 in relation to implementation of the Agreement and Action Plan.

	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	France	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	South Africa	Spain	United Kingdom	Uruguay
1. Overview of implementation													
1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?	!	✓	✓	✓	✗	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓
1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?	!	?	✓	?	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓
2. Species Conservation – Has the Party:													
2.1 provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels?	!	✗	✗	✗	✗	!	✗	!	!	!	✗	✗	✗
2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred?	!	✗	✗	✗	✗	!	✓	!	!	!	✗	✗	✗
2.3 implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓
2.4 taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels?	!	✗	✓	✗	✗	!	✗	!	!	!	✗	✗	✗
2.5 conducted any re-establishment schemes?	!	✗	✗	✗	?	!	✓	!	!	!	✗	✗	✗
2.6 introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?	!	✓	✓	?	✗	!	✗	!	!	!	✓	?	✗
2.7 implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact Assessments?	!	✗	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✗	✓	✗
2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1?	!	✗	✗	✗	✓	!	✗	!	!	!	✗	✗	✗
2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned?	!	✓	✗	✗	✗	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✗	✗
3. Habitat Conservation - Has the Party:													
3.1 introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration?	!	✗	N/A	✗	?	!	✓	!	N/A	!	✓	✓	N/A

	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	France	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	South Africa	Spain	United Kingdom	Uruguay
3.2 implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels?	!	x	x	x	?	!	x	!	!	!	✓	✓	x
3.3 implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?	!	x	x	x	?	!	x	!	!	!	✓	x	x
4. Management of human activities - Has the Party:													
4.1 completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels?	!	x	✓	x	x	!	✓	!	!	!	x	x	x
4.2 implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)?	!	?	x	?	✓	!	x	!	!	!	✓	✓	x
4.3 introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats?	!	x	✓	?	x	!	x	!	!	!	?	✓	x
5. Research Programmes - Does the Party have any:													
5.1 ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on?	!	x	✓	x	x	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	?
5.2 additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?	!	x	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓
6. Education and Public Awareness – Has the Party:													
6.1 conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)?	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓
6.2 conducted training or provided information to the general public?	!	✓	✓	x	✓	!	✓	!	!	!	✓	✓	x
9. Other													
9.1 Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?	!	✓	?	x	x	!	x	!	!	!	?	✓	?

N/A = Not applicable; ? = not answered; ! not submitted

Table 2. Land priority actions reported by Parties in the 2017 reporting round.

Island	Threat	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	France	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	South Africa	Spain	United Kingdom	Uruguay
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!		!	!	!			
Gough Island	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	!					!		!	!	!		✓	
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> (Reindeer)	!					!		!	!	!			
Formentera ^a	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
Menorca ^a	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!			
Cabrera ^a	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Cabrera ^a	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Formentera ^a	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
Ibiza ^a	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Mallorca ^a	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Menorca ^a	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!		!	!	!			
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	!					!		!	!	!			

Island	Threat	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	France	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	South Africa	Spain	United Kingdom	Uruguay
South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) ¹	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (Brown (Norwegian) rat)	!					!		!	!	!		✓	
Auckland Island ^c	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	!					!	✓	!	!	!			
Auckland Island ^c	<i>Sus scrofa</i> (Pig)	!					!	✓	!	!	!			
Marion Island	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	!					!		!	!	!			
Ile Amsterdam	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> (Avian cholera)	!					!		!	!	!			
Isla Espanola	Mosquito	!				x	!		!	!	!			
Albatross Island (AU)	Avian pox virus	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Pedra Branca	<i>Morus serrator</i> (Australasian gannet)	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Ibiza ^d	Recreation/tourism	!					!		!	!	!	✓		

! Report not submitted

^a Refers to affected colonies which may include offshore islets

^b Eradication project in progress, nearly completed

^c Management at this site would also benefit small breeding populations (<1% global) of other ACAP species affected by the same threat.

^d Problem in specific colonies, currently Tagomago and potentially Conillera

¹ “A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas”

Table 3. At sea priority actions reported by Parties in the 2017 reporting round.

Fishery method	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	France	New Zealand	Norway	Peru	South Africa	Spain	United Kingdom	Uruguay
Angola Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Argentina Demersal trawl	!					!		!	!	!			
Australia Demersal LL	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Australia Demersal trawl	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Australia Pelagic trawl	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Australia Trawl	!	✓				!		!	!	!			
Brazil Demersal LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Brazil Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Brazil Pelagic LL (Itaipava fleet)	!					!		!	!	!			
CCSBT Pelagic LL	!	✓				!	✓	!	!	!	✓		
IATTC Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
ICCAT Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!	✓		✓
IOTC Pelagic LL	!	✓				!		!	!	!	✓		
Namibia Demersal LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Namibia Demersal trawl	!					!		!	!	!			
Namibia Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Namibia Pelagic trawl	!					!		!	!	!			
Peru Demersal LL	!					!		!	!	!			
Peru Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!			
SEAFO Demersal trawl	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
Spain Demersal LL	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
Spain Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!	✓		
Spain Purse seine	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
Spain Trawl	!					!		!	!	!	✗		
SPRFMO Demersal trawl	!					!	✓	!	!	!			
UK (OT) Pelagic LL	!					!		!	!	!			
WCPFC Pelagic LL	!	✓				!	✓	!	!	!	✓		

2. REPORT ON ITEMS IN SECTION 5.1 OF THE ACTION PLAN

2.1. Assessment and review of the status of populations of albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.a).

2.1.1. Current Conservation Status

With the addition of the Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*, there are currently 31 seabird species listed by ACAP in Annex 1 of the Agreement. Of these, 21 (68%) are classified at risk of extinction, a stark contrast to the overall rate of 12% for the 9,799 bird species worldwide. Of the 22 species of albatrosses listed by ACAP, three are listed as *Critically Endangered*, five are *Endangered*, seven are *Vulnerable* and seven are *Near Threatened*. Of the nine petrel species, one is currently listed as *Critically Endangered*, five as *Vulnerable*, one as *Near Threatened* and two species as *Least Concern* (Table 1).

2.1.2. Changes in Status and Trends since MoP5

Since MoP5 (2015), there have been no changes in the status of ACAP species. However, reviews of five species by BirdLife International, the listing authority for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), are currently underway. These species are Amsterdam Albatross (proposed for downlisting to Endangered), Shy Albatross (proposed for uplisting to Vulnerable), Black-browed albatross (proposed for downlisting to Least Concern), Antipodean Albatross (proposed for uplisting to Endangered), and Westland Petrel (request for information).

2.1.3. Status of knowledge relating to population size and trends

Since MoP5 the population trend of ACAP species over the last twenty years (since mid 1990s) was re-examined by the PaCSWG. This period was considered appropriate to reflect the trend of these long lived species, some of which breed only every two years, and which may show high annual variation in breeding numbers.

Twelve ACAP species (40%) are currently showing overall population declines. For two species (c. 7%), the trend over the last 20 years is unknown. Eight species (c. 27%) appear to have been stable over that time period, with a further eight species increasing. The confidence of the assigned trend in Table 1 reflects both the accuracy and extent of the population data.

Some gaps in population data remain for a number of breeding sites, despite recent monitoring efforts to address these gaps. There are three albatross species and one petrel species in three island groups which account for at least 5% of the species' total global breeding pairs, which have not been censused at that island group in the last 20 years. Five albatross populations on four islands which were estimated to hold more than 10% of a species' global breeding pairs have not had a population estimate update in the last 20 years or more. These gaps often reflect the challenges of site remoteness and access issues, as well as the large number of breeding sites within certain jurisdictions.

A series of species assessments have been developed to describe succinctly the state of knowledge of each of the ACAP species and these are available on the ACAP website in the three languages of the Agreement.

This text to be completed following PaCSWG4.

Table 1. 2014 Summary of Status of ACAP Albatross and Petrel species

IUCN Status 2014 ¹	Common name	Number of sites (ACAP) ²	Single Country Endemic	Annual breeding pairs (ACAP) ³	Population Trend 1993-2013 ⁴	Trend Confidence
CR	Amsterdam Albatross	1	France	31	↑	High
CR	Balearic Shearwater	5	Spain	2,954	↓	Medium
CR	Tristan Albatross	1	UK	1,650	↓	High
CR	Waved Albatross	1	Ecuador	9,615	↓	Low
EN	Atlantic yellow-nosed Albatross	6	UK	33,650	↔	Low
EN	Grey-headed Albatross	29		97,716	↓	Medium
EN	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross	6		39,320	↓	Medium
EN	Northern royal Albatross	5	NZ	5,782	?	-
EN	Sooty Albatross	15		12,170	↓	Very Low
VU	Antipodean Albatross	6	NZ	8,274	↓	Medium
VU	Black Petrel	2	NZ	1,577	↓	Medium
VU	Campbell Albatross	2	NZ	21,648	↔	Low
VU	Chatham Albatross	1	NZ	5,245	↔	Medium
VU	Salvin's Albatross	12	NZ	42,219	↓	Low
VU	Short-tailed Albatross	2		592	↑	High
VU	Southern royal Albatross	4	NZ	7,941	↔	Medium
VU	Spectacled Petrel	1	UK	14,400	↑	High
VU	Wandering Albatross	28		8,132	↓	High
VU	Westland Petrel	1	NZ	2,827	↔	Low
VU	White-chinned Petrel	73		1,057,930	↓	Very Low
NT	Black-browed Albatross	65		673,048	↑	High
NT	Black-footed Albatross	13		71,592	↑	High
NT	Buller's Albatross	10	NZ	29,948	↔	Low
NT	Grey Petrel	17		79,649	↓	Very Low
NT	Laysan Albatross	17		676,785	↔	High
NT	Light-mantled Albatross	71		12,082	↔	Low
NT	Shy Albatross	3	Australia	14,618	↑	Low
NT	White-capped Albatross	5	NZ	100,525	?	-
LC	Northern giant Petrel	50		10,318	↑	Medium
LC	Southern giant Petrel	119		47,083	↑	Medium

¹ **IUCN Status:** CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern. IUCN 2014. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. <www.iucnredlist.org>.

² **Site:** usually an entire, distinct island or islet, or section of a large island

³ ACAP database. <data.acap.aq>. May 2014.

⁴ **ACAP Trend:** ↑ increasing, ↓ declining, ↔ stable, ? unknown

2.2. Identification of internationally important breeding sites (item 5.1.b)

The ACAP database lists 194 sites that hold more than 1% of the global population of each ACAP species where population numbers are known (**ANNEX 1**). Most ACAP species breed at relatively few sites; for 13 of the 31 species, there are only 1-3 sites that hold internationally important numbers (i.e. >1% of the global population).

It should be recognised that (i) census data are unavailable for approximately a third of breeding sites, particularly those of the White-chinned Petrel and the Light-mantled Albatross, and (ii) some counts are of low reliability or were collected a decade or more ago. Filling these gaps and obtaining updated population estimates should be considered a priority. There are also some inconsistencies in the scale at which breeding sites were

defined by Parties when the ACAP database was set up, such that large islands may be entered as a single site, or split.

2.3. Reviews to characterise the foraging range and migration routes and patterns of populations of albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.c).

BirdLife International has now compiled and summarized all the available information on tracking studies undertaken on ACAP-listed species, including data that have not yet been deposited in the *Tracking Ocean Wanderers (TOW)* database, into a single metadata table. This will be regularly updated in order to assess where major gaps in knowledge of the at sea distribution of these species occur, thus helping set future study priorities. The TOW database includes tracks of ACAP species collected from 89 colonies covering a range of life-history stages. The gap analysis highlighted that breeding season data are available for all ACAP species, and that while tracking data are available during the non-breeding season for most species, this is from very few juveniles and immatures.

A number of priority tracking programmes have been identified and ACAP Parties and Range States are encouraged to submit new data sets to the TOW as part of the on-going work of the Agreement.

The ACAP Species Assessments also include distribution maps as well as maps showing satellite-transmitter and other tracking data for breeding and non-breeding birds where available. These maps have been prepared by BirdLife International based on information in the TOW Database and other sources.

This text to be completed following PaCSWG4.

2.4. Identification and assessment of known and suspected threats affecting albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.d)

2.4.1. Threats at breeding sites

ACAP has adopted a system for standardising the listing of threats to breeding sites adapted from criteria produced initially by IUCN and the Conservation Measures Partnership. Each threat is assessed according to the Scope (proportion of population affected) and Severity (intensity), that when combined provide an indication of the magnitude of the threat. These consider not only current impact, but also the anticipated impact over the next decade, assuming the continuation of current conditions and trends. A breakdown of the proportion of sites, and of the global population that are subjected to threats that meet these criteria are listed below (**Table 2**). The vast majority of these relate to introduced mammals or disease and are described in section 5.1h) below. The remainder involve natural disasters.

Table 2. Species affected by land threats at 1% or more of breeding sites, or 1% or more of the population affected. Green <1%; Orange 1-33%; Red >33%

(to be updated)

Species	No of sites	% of sites									% of global population								
		Natural disaster	Contamination	Light pollution	Human disturbance	Parasite or pathogen	Predation by alien species	Habitat loss or destruction by alien species	Stress by alien species	All threats	Natural disaster	Contamination	Light pollution	Human disturbance	Parasite or Pathogen	Predation by alien species	Habitat loss or destruction by alien species	Stress by alien species	All threats
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	6	0	0	0	0	0	16.7	0	0	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	4	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0	0	<1
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	35	0	0	0	0	0	5.7	0	0	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	28.8	0	0	28.8
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	91.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91.7
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	17	35.3	0	0	5.9	0	17.6	0	0	58.8	99.7	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	99.8
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	3	0	0	0	33.3	33.3	0	0	33.3	66.7	0	0	0	0.1	99.9	0	0	0.1	100
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	15	46.7	6.7	0	6.7	0	6.7	13.3	0	60	98.2	33.9	0	0	0	0	38.2	0	98.2
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	15	0	0	0	0	6.7	6.7	0	0	13.3	0	0	0	0	3.3	12.1	0	0	15.4
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	72	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	74	0	0	0	0	0	18.9	6.8	0	18.9	0	0	0	0	0	37.8	17.8	0	37.8
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	17	0	0	0	0	0	35.3	11.8	0	35.3	0	0	0	0	0	27.9	4.5	0	27.9
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	5	0	0	60	40	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	64.4	44.9	0	100	0	0	100
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	6	0	0	0	0	16.7	0	0	0	16.7	0	0	0	0	68.7	0	0	0	68.7
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	3	0	0	0	0	33.3	0	33.3	0	66.7	0	0	0	0	66.8	0	2.3	0	69.2
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	65	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<1
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	5	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	5.6

2.4.2. Threats at sea

Albatrosses and petrels face many threats at sea including ingestion of marine debris including fishing hooks discarded in fish offal, entanglement in lost fishing gear and other marine debris, contamination from pollutants and over-fishing of prey species. However, direct interactions with fishing operations and associated mortality (bycatch has been identified by ACAP and others as the major threat causing widespread declines in albatross and petrel populations. All ACAP listed species are at risk from this threat. Since MoP5 much of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group's work has focussed on reviewing best practice mitigation advice for industrial fishing gear types, principally demersal and pelagic longline, and trawl gear, as well collection of fisheries bycatch data, and engagement with RFMOs, particularly the tuna RFMO's. Work has also been initiated to develop advice for mitigating seabird bycatch in artisanal and other small-scale fisheries.

The data underlying a prioritisation framework for at-sea threats has been reviewed since MoP5. The framework provides a robust basis for decision-making to set, monitor and report on progress against priority conservation actions for ACAP listed species. **Twenty seven fisheries and 28 seabird populations** have been identified as priority targets for action during this latest iteration of the prioritisation process.

This text to be completed following SBWG8.

2.5. Identification of methods by which these threats may be avoided or mitigated (item 5.1.e)

2.5.1. Threats at breeding sites

[Eradication Guidelines](#) and [Biosecurity Guidelines](#) have been updated since MoP5.

This text to be updated following PaCSWG4

2.5.2. Threats at sea

Based on reviews of mitigation developed for pelagic longline, demersal longline and trawl gear types, the SBWG has updated advice on current best scientific approaches to mitigating bycatch in these gear types to assist RFMOs and ACAP parties in managing bycatch in their fisheries. The [best practice advice](#), including descriptions of measures, current knowledge, implementation guidance and research needs is available on the ACAP website and is suitable for dissemination to relevant fisheries managers. RFMOs and Parties have been encouraged to use the materials to guide the development of policy and practice within the fisheries under their jurisdiction

2.6. Review and updating of data on the mortality of albatrosses and petrels in fisheries (item 5.1.f).

A web-based reporting system has been progressively developed for the capture and use of fisheries and bycatch data from Parties and collaborating Range States. The data were provided at the level of the entire fishery or fleet, a temporal and spatial resolution which is too coarse to enable useful assessments of seabird bycatch levels and trends. For many fisheries, the bycatch and fisheries data submitted by Parties were also incomplete, hampering the possibility of conducting even a low level assessment of bycatch levels and trends of ACAP-listed species. Following discussions at SBWG6, a recommendation was

made to first define clearly the bycatch indicators that would be used by ACAP to measure and track bycatch of ACAP species. Once these indicators are defined, the data, methodological approaches to estimating bycatch, and reporting requirements can be determined.

This text to be completed following SBWG8.

2.7. Review of data on the distribution and seasonality of effort in fisheries which affect albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.g)

Some data on fishing effort has been provided by Parties as part of their annual reporting (see 2.6 above). However, there has been no recent comprehensive review of effort as relevant to albatross and petrel distribution. The seabird distribution (tracking)-fishing effort overlap maps are scheduled to be updated in the 2016-2018 triennium (Action 3.2 of the AC Work Programme). These maps will provide useful information for the upcoming reviews planned by some RFMOs to assess the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation measures within their areas of jurisdiction. Consequently, the scheduling and prioritisation of these updates will be influenced by the RFMO work plans.

This text to be completed following SBWG8.

2.8. Reviews of the status at breeding sites of introduced animals, plants and disease-causing organisms known or believed to be detrimental to albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.h).

Habitat destruction and predation by introduced mammals are listed far more frequently than any other processes as threats to breeding sites of ACAP species. Those affecting the most breeding sites (site-species combinations) were predation by feral cat *Felis catus*, black rat *Rattus rattus* and brown rat *R. norvegicus*, and habitat destruction by reindeer *Rangifer tarandus* (Table 3). All other threats affected only a few sites, although were severe in some cases (High according to the agreed threat criteria), which included the effects of avian cholera at Amsterdam Island (Table 4). The species affected at the most breeding sites were the burrow-nesting White-chinned Petrel *P. aequinoctialis*, and Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, mainly because of predation or habitat destruction by introduced mammals. In interpreting the tables below and the conclusions, it should be noted that: (1) threats only include those that are documented and known or likely to cause a population decline in <10 years, (2) values in the tables are the number of breeding sites, equivalent to each species-site combination *i.e.* two species breeding in the same area constitute two breeding sites, (3) although most islands are listed as one site, a small number have been subdivided into separate sites, and (4) no attempt has been made to consider the number of birds or the percentage of the global population at each site.

This text to be updated following PaCSWG4

Table 3. Number of breeding sites of ACAP species affected by threats of different magnitude

Nature of Threat	Threat subcategory	Threat Species	Number of breeding sites affected:		
			Low	High	All
Contamination	Toxins - man made	-	1		1
Habitat loss or destruction	Habitat destruction by alien species	Reindeer	6		6
	Increased competition with native species	Australasian gannet		1	1
	Vegetation encroachment		3		3
Human disturbance	Military action	-		2	2
	Recreation/tourism	-	1	2	3
Light pollution	Collision injury or grounding	-	3		3
Parasite or pathogen	Pathogen	Avian pox virus	1		1
		Avian cholera.	1	1	2
Predation by alien species	Predation by alien species	Dog		1	1
		Cat	12	2	16
		Pig	4		4
		House mouse	1	1	2
		Polynesian rat	1		1
		Brown (Norwegian) rat	7		7
		Black (ship) rat	13		13
		Black (ship) rat		1	1
Stress by alien species	Nest desertion	Black (ship) rat		1	1
All			54	13	67

Table 4. Breeding sites of ACAP species affected by threats of High magnitude

Nature of Threat	Threat subcategory	Threat Species	Breeding sites affected:
			High
Habitat loss or destruction	Increased competition with native species	Australasian gannet	Pedra Branca - Shy albatross
Human disturbance	Military action	-	Kaula – Laysan albatross Kaula – Black-footed albatross
	Recreation/tourism	-	Ibiza – Balearic shearwater Isla de la Plata – Waved albatross
Parasite or pathogen	Pathogen	Avian cholera	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux (île Amsterdam) - Indian yellow-nosed albatross
Predation by alien species	Predation by alien species	Dog	O'ahu – Laysan albatross
		Cat	Isla Guadalupe – Laysan albatross O'ahu – Laysan albatross Formentera – Balearic shearwater Menorca – Balearic shearwater
		House mouse	Gough Island – Tristan albatross
Stress by alien species	Nest desertion	Black (ship) rat	Isla de la Plata – Waved albatross

The highest five priority actions with regard to Habitat loss or destruction/predation by alien species would be to remove Cats from Grande Terre (Kerguelen), House Mouse from Gough Island, Reindeer from Grande Terre (Kerguelen), and Cats from Formentera and Menorca. The highest priority action with regard to a Parasite or Pathogen would be to address the problem of Avian cholera at Ile Amsterdam. **See Table 2 in Section 1**

There have been three whole island eradications since MoP4. Feasibility plans have also been produced for a number of other sites, and in some cases planning is well advanced and eradications are scheduled for the next few years.

2.9. Reviews of the nature of, coverage by, and effectiveness of, protection arrangements for albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.i).

All species in all jurisdictions are now covered by management plans, including NPOAs for incidental bycatch, Threat Abatement Plans, Conservation Strategies, Conservation Action Plans, Recovery Plans and Site Management Plans. However, Parties will need to provide advice as to the effectiveness of those protection arrangements, prior to MoP6.

2.10. Reviews of recent and current research on albatrosses and petrels with relevance to their conservation status (item 5.1.j)

See relevant papers tabled at SBWG7, SBWG8, PaCSWG3 and PaCWG4.

This review is also ongoing through all Working Groups and the Secretariat, who produce Species Assessments, Action Plans and Best Practice Guidelines. **The following documents have been completed to date:**

- Biosecurity and quarantine guidelines for ACAP breeding sites
- Census guidelines to assist with the development and implementation of plans to census ACAP species
- Guidelines for eradication of introduced mammals from breeding sites of ACAP-listed seabirds
- 30 Species Assessments

The Secretariat maintains a bibliographic reference database of relevant literature which supports the compilation and updating of these documents.

To be updated following SBWG8 and PaCSWG4

2.11. List of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations concerned with albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.k).

The ACAP website provides a comprehensive list of links to various centres, institutions, organisations and websites concerned with albatrosses and petrels.

2.12. Directory of legislation concerning albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.l)

The ACAP database holds information on legislation relevant to species listed on Annex 1 and their breeding sites.

2.13. Reviews of education and information programmes aimed at conserving albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.m)

Parties reported on a range of programmes being undertaken, including education, training and outreach. Collaboration between Governmental agencies and NGOs was evident in many cases.

2.14. Review of current taxonomy in relation to albatrosses and petrels (item 5.1.n).

The TWG recommended a standard taxonomy to be used when considering new species for Annex 1 of ACAP and for other ACAP purposes. TWG also recommended deletion of the synonym *Puffinus creatopus* in Annex 1 of the Agreement.

2.15. Identified gaps in information as part of the above reviews, with a view to addressing these in future priorities (item 5.2).

The following gaps in the information provided were identified:

- Census data are unavailable for approximately a third of breeding sites and some counts are of low reliability or were collected a decade or more ago.
- Gaps remain in demographic data for a third of the species
- Gaps in the tracking data for albatross and petrels have been identified and ACAP Parties are encouraged to submit new data sets as part of the on-going work of the Agreement.
- Scarcity of information especially at an appropriate resolution, on seabird mortality in a large number of fisheries
- Lack of understanding of the magnitude and dynamics of seabird mortality in artisanal fisheries.

To be updated following SBWG8 and PaCSWG4

3. NEXT STEPS FOR THE AGREEMENT

3.1. Amendments to the Action Plan

No amendments have been proposed to the Action Plan (Annex 2 to the Agreement).

3.2. Achievements and difficulties with implementing the Agreement

Some progress has been made on the three key outcomes identified at MoP4 for the 2013-2015 triennium. These were:

(i) Improvement in the quality of seabird by-catch data and fishing effort provided by the Parties.

A review of fisheries data submitted by Parties (SBWG5 Doc 16) highlighted that the temporal and spatial resolution of the data were too coarse to enable useful assessments of seabird bycatch levels and trends. Following discussion about whether the Parties should analyse their own data and routinely submit the results to ACAP, or whether the raw or aggregated data should be sent to ACAP for analyses, a recommendation was made at AC9 to first define clearly the bycatch indicators that would be used by ACAP to measure and track bycatch of ACAP species ([AC9 Report](#), para 11.1.11). Once these indicators are defined and agreed, the data, methodological approaches to estimating bycatch, and reporting requirements will be able to be determined.

(ii) Implementation of best practice mitigation measures in both domestic and high seas fisheries.

As mentioned earlier, many Parties and RFMOs have adopted fisheries management measures based on ACAP's best practice advice, although 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 in place has made it difficult to assess the level of implementation being achieved and the effectiveness of conservation measures in force.

(iii) Filling gaps in data relating to population status and trends.

Both France and New Zealand, two Parties with the greatest number of breeding sites and therefore monitoring gaps identified, have made good progress in obtaining population data for a number of sites. Data on other neglected populations is still required, and its procurement is essential for ultimately measuring the success of the Agreement.

3.3. Key outcomes for the next triennium

Key challenges for the Agreement in the next triennium remain the same as those identified in the last triennium, namely to continue to improve the collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries; to implement ACAP's best-practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in relevant domestic and high-seas fisheries; and to fill the significant gaps in data relating to population status and trends, particularly for the species which are currently in decline.

All of the above activities are considered essential to the on-going effective implementation of the Agreement and require continued support from MoP over the next triennium.

ANNEX 1. IBAs – table to be finalised following AC10

ANNEX 3. Introduced vertebrates - table to be finalised following AC10.