



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Sixth Meeting of Advisory Committee

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Report on the Implementation of the Agreement 2008-2011 – United Kingdom

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Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-4 (2012)

Submitted by - United Kingdom

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1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1 Has action been taken Yes

to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?

Yes. In order to meet the obligations of ACAP in a coordinated and effective manner, the UK and its South Atlantic Overseas Territories (SAOTs) have funded an ACAP coordination project, including the establishment of a coordinator post, for the UK and its SOATs since March 2008. This post is funded by a number of UK and UKOT government organisations, including Defra, the Overseas Territories Environment Fund (OTEP) (jointly funded by the UK Department for International Development, DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, FCO), the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), Falkland Islands Government, the British Antarctic Territory, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The ACAP co-ordination project was developed to ensure coherence of action between the UKOTs, to assist with the planning and implementation of ACAP-related work (particularly in the territories with limited internal capacity), to take responsibility for reporting requirements, and to lead on critical seabird bycatch mitigation work, both within OT waters, and importantly, in international fisheries fora. The ACAP coordination project has been successful to date, and has contributed significantly towards a unified and effective approach to implementing ACAP in the South Atlantic. Not only has it facilitated better coordination of activities and reporting by SAOTs and the UK, but it has also led to better cooperation with other key countries in pursuing cross-boundary conservation issues. ACAP action plans have been developed for each of the SAOTs. These identify the range of requirements to be met under ACAP, prioritise these, and recommend how best to implement them, thus serving as a tool to guide ACAP-related work in the OTs and internationally. A coordinated strategy to reduce seabird bycatch in external fisheries has been developed and progressed.

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

Yes

ACAP action plans have been developed and formally adopted for each OT. These plans identify the obligations of Parties in respect of ACAP, based on information taken from the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan. Actions necessary to meet effectively the obligations of ACAP are identified and prioritised. The first audit and review of these plans will take place in 2011. Detailed information regarding planned activities for the next three years can be obtained from the actual plans, which can be downloaded from: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4374>. Broadly, and consistent with the ACAP Agreement and Action Plan, work will be focussed in the following areas: - Management of threats at breeding sites - Monitoring the status and trends of populations - Analysis of foraging ranges of ACAP species, and spatial and temporal overlap with fisheries - Reducing seabird bycatch, both within the jurisdictional waters of the OTs, but also internationally, by working, with partners, towards improving the effectiveness of RFMOs - Further development and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation - Improving education and awareness of seabird conservation issues - Robust data management - Sourcing funding for the implementation of albatross and petrel conservation projects The UK ACAP coordination project was funded for an initial three year period, from March 2008 to March 2011. Presently (February 2011) plans are being finalised to extend the project for an additional three years. See documents uploaded in previous question.

2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels?	No No exemptions were granted during the reporting period
2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred?	No
2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?	Yes ACAP Action Plans have been developed for each of the UK OTs (see section 1 above for more information). TRISTAN DA CUNHA A Darwin Initiative Project that involved the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) working with the Tristan da Cunha Government and community to increase their control, ownership and involvement in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, led to the development and publication in 2006 of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the period 2006-2010. The Biodiversity Action Plan is presently in the process of being reviewed and updated. Initial meetings have been held on Tristan, and information is now being sought from the wider Tristan Conservation Community. There has been good progress in many of the priority areas identified under the 2006-2010 Biodiversity Action Plan, so the update is an opportunity to identify new priorities and challenges for the Conservation Department. Based on the feedback from RSPB, I will include a sentence or two on the status of the Gough-Inaccessible WHS Management Plan. SOUTH GEORGIA In 2010 The UK government and the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands developed complementary strategy documents that outline key objectives and responsibilities for the management of South Georgia for the period 2010-2015. The strategies aim to ensure the long term security and good governance of the islands and help protect their rich natural environment and unique biodiversity, including ACAP species and their habitats. Key aspects of the strategy include: to conserve, and where practical restore, the biodiversity of the island, to ensure safe and sustainable management fisheries to ensure minimal impact on non-target species and habitats, including engagement in CCAMLR, to manage tourism in a manner that minimises disturbance to the island, and optimises income to the OT, to encourage high quality scientific research to underpin the responsible management of the OT, and to improve public awareness of South Georgia issues by effective and economic dissemination of information. The strategy documents can be downloaded from: http://www.sgisland.gs/index.php/%28g%29SGSSI_Strategy_2010-2015?useskin=gov FALKLAND ISLANDS In 2008, FIG published a Biodiversity Strategy, which sets out the desired future for biodiversity in the Falkland Islands, and identifies priority species, habitats, threats and management actions, for the period 2008-2018. The Biodiversity Strategy is accompanied by the Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report 2008, which documents the current status of knowledge of the state of the environment, both on land and at sea. It describes the physical and biological environment, as well as the human population, social infrastructure, and commercial and recreational activities undertaken within these habitats, and highlights processes that threaten Falkland Islands wildlife as well as key conservation policies required to manage these threats. Falklands Conservation, New Island Conservation Trust and the Falkland Islands Government have organised and will be facilitating a stakeholder workshop in April 2011 to take forward The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy. The purpose of the workshop is to review the Biodiversity Strategy and to develop action plans to address priority threats and manage important habitats, sites and species in the islands. See documents uploaded in section 1.

- 2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels? Yes
 In November 2010 approximately 800 breeding (adult) Black-browed Albatrosses were found dead or dying on Steeple Jason Island, Falkland Islands - the largest breeding colony for this species. The mortalities were largely restricted to three distinct areas in the north of Steeple Jason. The southern part of Steeple Jason Island appeared not to have been affected, and during surveys of all the other Black-browed Albatross colonies in the Falklands (an archipelago-wide census was conducted in October-November 2010), no concentrations of dead birds were found. Strict biosecurity measures were implemented, and blood and organ samples have been sent to the UK for analysis.
- 2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes? No
- 2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels? Yes
 TRISTAN DA CUNHA In July 2009 the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009 was enacted. This new Constitution recognises Tristan da Cunha as part of the UK Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, rather than being a Dependency of St Helena. The conservation legislation of Tristan da Cunha, relevant to ACAP, the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance, 2006, has not been affected. SOUTH GEORGIA During the reporting period, the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) have undertaken a review of the conservation legislation, with a view to replacing old Falkland Island Dependency legislation with new laws that are specific to South Georgia. As part of this process, GSGSSI drafted the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance, which was made available for public comment in May 2010. The Ordinance is intended to provide protection for all of the Territory's native wildlife, and to enable the declaration of Specially Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas. GSGSSI are in the process of finalising the Ordinance, which is expected to be approved and enacted in 2011. FALKLAND ISLANDS See 2.3 above for information on the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy. The National Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in trawl fisheries in the Falkland Islands (NPOA-S Trawl) was revised by Falklands Conservation in 2009, and adopted by the Falkland Islands Government, after a stakeholder consultation process, in February 2010. This NPOA extends from 2009 to 2012, with a major review due in 2013. The National Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries of the Falkland Islands (originally published in 2004) has been formally reviewed, and the revised version is in the process of being finalised.

- 2.7 Has the Party Yes
implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?
- SOUTH GEORGIA The GSGSSI oversaw an Environmental Impact Assessment for the eradication of rodents from South Georgia (submitted by the South Georgia Heritage Trust). Following a public consultation process, conditional approval was provided for Phase 1 of the rodent eradication proposal. Documentation required by GSGSSI from the project proponents (South Georgia Heritage Trust), including risk assessments, biosecurity plans, oil spill response and search and rescue plans, have been submitted, and can be downloaded from:
http://www.sgisland.gs/index.php/%28e%29Eradication_Of_Rodents?useskin=env
- FALKLAND ISLANDS Over the reporting period, a total of five Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) were submitted to the Falkland Islands Government by four companies in relation to offshore drilling for hydrocarbons in the waters of the Falkland Islands. All EISs are made available for public comment. All comments received are sent to the company for response. Companies are encouraged to organise a public meeting to present their EISs. All five of the EIAs submitted have been presented to the public in this manner. All EIAs are formally reviewed by the Environmental Planning Department of the Falkland Islands Government. Four of the five EISs were also reviewed by an external specialist consultancy. Two reviews were undertaken by the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and a further two by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). Additional comments from other organisations and individuals who comment on EISs are incorporated into recommendations to the company prior to consideration by the Minerals Committee and ultimate approval (of all EISs) by the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands Government. All EIS documents were reviewed by the UK Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office as well as Falklands Conservation (a Non-government Conservation organisation based in the Falkland Islands). Multiple Addenda documents with finer detail of drilling operations have been submitted by the four companies currently involved in drilling. These are made available to the public in the same manner as the EISs and are considered by the Minerals Committee of the Falkland Islands Government. A number of changes and updates are presently being considered for environmental regulations pertaining to offshore drilling and related activities (e.g. seismic surveys). The aim of these updates is to make clear the requirements for an Environmental Impact Assessment process, and so that the Falkland Islands legislation is entirely consistent with the relevant UK legislation. The Falkland Islands Government has recently adopted a recommendation to convene an Offshore Hydrocarbons Environmental Forum to coordinate dialogue regarding environmental aspects of the oil and gas industry in and around the Falkland Islands. The purpose of this forum would be to enable structured and formal consultation on proposals relating to oil and gas exploration and production activities which may affect the natural environment in and around the Falkland and to provide a mechanism for the drafting of relevant guidelines, best practices and other technical documentation relating to the protection of the marine environment.
- 2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1? No
- 2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned? No
- All species specific projects have been mentioned above.

3. Habitat conservation

- 3.1 Has the Party Yes
introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement
- TRISTAN DA CUNHA With funding from OTEP and Defra's Darwin Initiative, the RSPB have led a process to assess and monitor the impact of House Mice

protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration?

on a range of species at Gough Island, including the ACAP-listed Tristan Albatross, to conduct research to determine the feasibility and best approach to eradicate House Mice from the island, and to collect baseline information in advance of an eradication operation. In September-October 2010, two New Zealand experts on rodent eradication visited Gough Island to assist the RSPB in the preparation of a Draft Operational Plan for the eradication of mice from the island, which is currently being finalised and will be made available shortly. The project has recently been expanded to evaluate the impacts of mice at Steeple Jason in the Falkland Islands and at South Georgia, in collaboration with Falklands Conservation and the South Georgia Government respectively. This (OTEP funded) project funding has also supported continued efforts to eradicate *Sagina* from Gough Island. The distribution of this invasive alien plant species is presently limited to a relatively small area around the weather station on Gough Island, but has the potential to cause irreversible damage to the relatively pristine upland vegetation of Gough Island, should it be allowed to spread. During the reporting period, the Tristan Conservation Department have undertaken a range of activities to strengthen biosecurity measures at Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands (both currently free of rodents), and to manage invasive alien plant species at Tristan da Cunha and Nightingale Island, both important breeding sites for ACAP species. Biosecurity work included purchasing, deploying and maintaining rodent traps and bait stations on these islands. In 2008, Gough and Inaccessible islands and their territorial waters were designated Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention by the UK Government. Formal listing by the Convention followed in September 2009 as site number 1868 (Gough) and 1869 (Inaccessible). SOUTH GEORGIA The South Georgia Heritage Trust has developed plans to eradicate all rodents (Norway Rats and House Mice) from South Georgia. In April 2010, an Environmental Impact Assessment of the eradication project was circulated for public comment (South Georgia Heritage Trust, 2009). It is proposed that the eradication project be implemented using a phased approach. The first phase involves the eradication of rats from Thatcher, Mercer and Greene Peninsulas, and Saddle Island. The successful completion of this first phase will result in significant benefits to the biodiversity of South Georgia, including the ACAP-listed White-chinned Petrel. The first phase of the operation will also serve as a trial that will be used to inform planning and implementation of the next phases, which would be much larger in scale, covering the remaining areas of the island inhabited by rodents. An Operational Plan for the implementation of this first phase was released for comment in April 2010 (South Georgia Heritage Trust, 2010). GSGSSI has subsequently given conditional approval for the first phase of the eradication programme to proceed, the fieldwork for which commenced in February 2011. This habitat restoration programme is being led and funded by the SGHT with support from GSGSSI. GSGSSI produced a document reviewing the impact of Reindeer at South Georgia, and the options available for their management. The review document was circulated widely for public comment, and was discussed further at a consultation meeting in the United Kingdom. As a result of this process, three working groups have been established that are working towards the development of a Reindeer Management Plan. GSGSSI have developed and put in place a range of biosecurity measures that are enforced through the permitting system. These protocols apply to all vessels landing passengers, crew, expedition staff, research and management staff and supplies at South Georgia, and outline steps for proper inspection of cargo, including its packing and consolidation prior to departing Stanley. All vessels landing passengers or cargo have to complete a self-audit checklist and a declaration of compliance with all the biosecurity requirements at every landing site on the island so as to prevent the risk of intra-island transfer of non-native species or contaminants/propagules. GSGSSI have recently completed an assessment of the biosecurity risk of importing cargo to the islands. A bespoke biosecurity facility was formally established at King Edward Point in early 2010, and is used to store biosecurity materials, and for the temporary storage and inspection of incoming cargo. The range of biosecurity measures already in place are being formally taken up in the GSGSSI legislative review

currently underway, and will thus have legislative power once the new conservation legislation is enacted. GSGSSI are in the process of finalising the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance, which is expected to be approved and enacted in 2011. See also section 2.7.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

One of the priority recommendations of a previous review of biosecurity and quarantine measures in the Falkland Islands was to put in place measures to minimise the risk of rodent incursions to islands that are currently rodent-free. As a consequence of this work, four islands were identified as priority sites requiring special biosecurity and quarantine attention. These four islands, Carcass, Lively, the Speedwell/George/Barren group and Sea Lion islands (three of which are ACAP breeding sites), were selected because they are relatively large, currently rodent-free, inhabited by humans and frequently visited, thus placing them at risk with respect to rodent incursions. Island-specific Biosecurity Plans have been developed for Carcass and Sea Lion Islands (the latter an ACAP breeding site). The plans include actions to minimise the risk of rodent introductions, surveillance work to check for the presence of rodents (bait stations), and a contingency component to be implemented in the event of any incursions. The plans were developed through the South Atlantic Invasive Species (SAIS) project, coordinated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on behalf of the Governments of the UK SAOTs. The Environmental Planning Department of the Falkland Islands Government are responsible for facilitating their ongoing implementation and review. The development of Biosecurity Plans for the four sites identified above is seen as the first phase in the process of strengthening internal biosecurity and quarantine measures, and it is hoped that similar plans will later be developed for other sites. One of the key challenges is to ensure a coordinated, integrated and strategic approach to both national biosecurity (transport into the islands) and intra-island biosecurity, with strong leadership from the Falkland Islands Government. It is important to note that the biosecurity regime within the Falkland Islands also has an impact on the environment of South Georgia, as many vessels visiting South Georgia come via the Falkland Islands. This applies particularly to the biosecurity provisions in place at the Falkland Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS), which is commonly used for mooring and storage purposes by vessels and/or cargo transshipments destined for South Georgia. A South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan was developed at a regional meeting of the South Atlantic OTs on Ascension Island in May 2009. The strategy aims to provide a focus for the SAOTs to develop and implement effective prevention and response mechanisms to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.

3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels?	Yes	<p>TRISTAN DA CUNHA The Tristan da Cunha Fishery Limits Ordinance, 1983 (as amended in 1991, 1992, 1997 and 2001) defines the fishery limits of Tristan da Cunha as 200 nautical miles around each of the islands, and makes provision for the regulation of fishing activities within these limits. The main commercial fishery at Tristan is for Tristan Rock Lobster, for which there is currently a single concession holder. This fishery is managed by means of a quota system, and has relatively little impact on the seabird populations of the Tristan Islands. The Tristan Lobster fishery entered full assessment for MSC certification in January 2011. The Assessment Report has been submitted to the MSC and it is anticipated that the fishery will receive its Conditional Certification by June 2011. There is only one longline vessel licensed to fish for Bluenose at any one time throughout the year. The number of licences for tuna longline vessels is not limited, as these vessels only stay in the area for a short period whilst they are following the tuna through Tristan's EEZ. The longline vessels may not fish within 50 nautical miles of Tristan da Cunha, Nightingale, Inaccessible or Gough Islands.</p> <p>SOUTH GEORGIA Fishing in South Georgia waters adopts CCAMLR measures as a minimum standard. The South Georgia fishery for Patagonian Toothfish is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a well-managed and sustainable fishery. In 2010 this fishery was subject to a five-yearly re-assessment process. Originally certified in 2004, the fishery received an average score of 93 % in its reassessment, making it the third highest scoring of the 52 current MSC certified fisheries. In 2010, the South Georgia Mackerel Icefish fishery also received MSC certification, following an industry led application process. GSGSSI have since 2008 employed, through the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), a higher predator scientist, based at King Edward Point, to monitor the foraging ecology of higher predators, especially in the eastern component of Subarea 48.3 thus complementing the work conducted by BAS in the western area. This work will contribute to the informed management of fisheries in the area.</p> <p>FALKLAND ISLANDS The conservation of sustainable fishery resources through effective management is a primary objective for Falkland Islands Government. Fishing activities in and around the Falkland Islands are thus strictly regulated and managed. Whilst the needs of ACAP listed species are not specifically taken into account, the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005 has as a key objective that exploitation of fisheries resources and related activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the need to have regard for the impact of fishing activities on non target species and the long term sustainability of the marine environment. Falkland Islands Conservations Zones are rich fishing grounds particularly for two squid species, <i>Illex argentines</i> and <i>Loligo gahi</i>, and a number of finfish species. Daily reporting allows for real time assessment of the two squid species using depletion models, and pre-recruit surveys are conducted prior to each <i>Loligo</i> season. If conservations targets are not met for <i>Illex</i> and <i>Loligo</i> then an early closure of the fisheries results. Finfish species are monitored on a daily basis, assessed annually and recommended catch limits are set in order to maintain stocks.</p>
3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?	Yes	<p>SOUTH GEORGIA GSGSSI close CCAMLR Subarea 48.3 to fishing between September and April each year (the breeding season for albatrosses and petrels at South Georgia) to minimise seabird-fishery interactions during this critical period. There are currently no designated Marine Protected Areas that have been specifically designed and proclaimed for albatrosses and petrels. However, ongoing research work by GSGSSI and BAS will be used to inform the possible development of MPAs around South Georgia. The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG) are implementing a project (2010-2011), in consultation with GSGSSI and the FCO, to identify important and vulnerable marine habitats at South Georgia, using the systematic conservation planning approach. The outputs from this project will help contribute towards the development of a system of marine protection at South Georgia.</p>

4. Management of human activities

- 4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? Not answered
Not entirely sure of the difference between this question and 2.7 above
- 4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)? Yes
SOUTH GEORGIA The Marine Environmental Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) have recently (March 2010) adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex 1 on the use and carriage of heavy grade oil in the Antarctic area, which will apply to vessels operating in the Antarctic area (i.e. outside of the jurisdictional waters of South Georgia) from 1 August 2011. Following the adoption of these amendments, GSGSSI have undertaken a stakeholder consultation process on the future use and carriage of heavy fuel oil by vessels operating within its territorial waters. Informed by the consultation process, GSGSSI are in the process of finalising a policy on the use of heavy fuel oils within its territorial waters, in consultation with the relevant authorities in the UK. FALKLAND ISLANDS Following an oil spill from a sunken fishing vessel in 2008, the Falkland Islands Government initiated a process to review and update the oil spill contingency plan for the islands. The review process was undertaken by experts from the UK in consultation with stakeholders in the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands Government National Oil Spill Contingency Plan was published in December 2009, and endorsed by the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands Government in early 2010.
- 4.3 Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats? Yes
GSGSSI has recently (2009) updated their tourism management policy for South Georgia. Tourist landings may only be made at one of the approved tourist landing sites, and after a permit has been granted by GSGSSI. Landing sites that are SPAs require an additional application and permit. GSGSSI may, at their discretion, require an approved observer on vessels, particularly on those that are visiting for the first time, to ensure that the required standards are being met. GSGSSI work closely with the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), and expects all visitors to adhere to the standards detailed in the IAATO bylaws and guidelines. GSGSSI has also developed a number of site-specific management plans specifically for tourist visits, which can be downloaded from their website. FALKLAND ISLANDS The Falkland Islands Government provided funding to the owners of Grave Cove, Dunbar, to erect a fence around the Black-browed Albatross colony, to protect the nesting habitat and courting and nesting birds from grazing sheep and sheep-gathering activities.

5. Research programmes

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

TRISTAN DA CUNHA Ongoing monitoring of Tristan Albatross, Atlantic-Yellow Nosed Albatross and Southern Giant Petrel at Gough Island, by RSPB and UCT. Ongoing monitoring of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross at Tristan and Nightingale by Tristan Conservation Department. SOUTH GEORGIA Long term monitoring of all ACAP species breeding on Bird Island by BAS. Ongoing monitoring of Wandering and Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels at Albatross and Prion Islands. FALKLAND ISLANDS Long term monitoring of all Black-browed Albatrosses at Steeple Jason and New Island by Falklands Conservation and Paulo Catry/New Island Conservation Trust (NICT) respectively. Annual monitoring of population trends and breeding success of Southern Giant Petrels at Steeple Jason by Falklands Conservation. Ongoing studies of the foraging ecology of Black-browed Albatrosses at New Island (Paulo Catry and colleagues), and more recently at Steeple Jason (Falklands Conservation and Paulo Catry), with the involvement of the Falkland Islands Fisheries Department through the provision of VMS data.

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

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- University of Cape Town (UCT)
- British Antarctic Survey (BAS)
- South Georgia Surveys
- South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT)
- Falklands Conservation
- New Island Conservation Trust
- Eco-Ethology Research Unit, ISPA

6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)? Yes

The process to develop the ACAP action plans involved extensive stakeholder consultation, in which draft versions of the plans and associated information were provided for discussion and comment. TRISTAN DA CUNHA The process to review the management plans for Gough and Inaccessible Islands involved consultation with all key stakeholders. Training opportunities have been provided to the Tristan Conservation Department through the RSPB led and OTEP supported project 'Integrated Biodiversity Management Planning on Tristan da Cunha' as well as through a UK experiential training opportunity afforded to one of the staff members of the Tristan Conservation Department. SOUTH GEORGIA GSGSSI undertook a number of stakeholder consultation processes in 2010. These processes were conducted to solicit stakeholder inputs on: 1) a proposal to eradicate rodents from South Georgia, 2) options for the management of Reindeer at South Georgia, and 3) the draft Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance. The consultation process involved the circulation of relevant documentation, and stakeholder meetings in the UK. Staff members of GSGSSI deliver annual presentations to IAATO on tourist management policies, and also hold an annual fisheries science meeting with industry representatives. MRAG are responsible for the fisheries observer programme at SGSSI, and carry out comprehensive training programmes and workshops for prospective observers. All updated plans, guidelines and other materials are disseminated widely and made available on the GSGSSI website. FALKLAND ISLANDS In the process of reviewing the NPOA-S (trawl), Falklands Conservation undertook a consultation process with the fishing industry and the Falkland Islands Government in which the recent bycatch estimates were presented, and proposals for the revised NPOA-S (trawl) were explained. Fisheries observers responsible for monitoring bycatch (amongst other things) are provided routine training by the Falkland Islands Fisheries Department (FIFD). Following changes to the licence conditions to require trawlers to use a modified tori line design (from July 2009), the FIFD have engaged with skippers and crew of trawl vessels, through a questionnaire, to obtain feedback on the practicability of the new tori line.

6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The organisations involved in ACAP work in the UKOTs maintain web-sites (listed in the AC report), which are regularly updated with information, reports, news stories, and collectively contain a wealth of information and resources aimed at increasing general awareness of the conservation importance of the Tristan Islands, as well as providing guidelines and information for those visiting the islands. SOUTH GEORGIA All fee paying visitors to South Georgia receive a visitor pack, which includes information on the conservation of ACAP species and biosecurity measures. A number of articles about ACAP-related work at South Georgia have been published in scientific journals and in the popular media. A wide range of updated information is provided on the GSGSSI website. The BAS website (www.antarctica.ac.uk) provides general information about South Georgia and Bird Island, as well as updated details of research programmes and findings, which feature regularly in the UK press, and in high-profile scientific journals. South Georgia Surveys maintains a website (www.southgeorgiasurveys.org) with information about its research and monitoring programmes, including the monitoring work at Albatross and Prion islands. Public awareness of, appreciation and support for South Georgia and their conservation values are further promoted by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (www.sght.org), which also includes detailed information about the Habitat Restoration Project, the South Georgia Association (www.southgeorgiaassociation.org), educational films, media coverage, exhibitions and books. The BBC will be releasing in October 2011, a documentary about the Polar Regions, titled The Frozen Planet, which will feature significant footage from South Georgia, including of ACAP species. BAS collaborated with the BBC Natural History unit in 2010 to produce text for an interactive online Explorer page featuring albatross research at Bird Island and involved the tracking of two adult wandering albatrosses - http://www.bbc.co.uk/expeditions/albatrossadventure. This was intended to be a precursor to Frozen Planet. With funding from the Antarctic Research Trust, BAS deployed satellite tracking devices on Wandering and Black-browed Albatross fledglings from Bird Island in 2009/10. The movements of these birds were featured in popular articles and an interactive map where members of the public could follow the birds' progress on the Antarctic Research Trust website (http://www.antarctic-research.de/). BAS provided a presentation on albatross research and conservation to HRH Prince Charles in 2008. FALKLAND ISLANDS Environmental education and increasing environmental awareness are priority objectives of Falklands Conservation, which are implemented in a number of ways and to a range of audiences, including articles in the local newspaper, the production of a newsletter, and features on the local radio station. Falklands Conservation also manage the Watch Group – a programme for children to get involved in conservation activities, and produce a range of education books, leaflets and other materials for use by the local schools, the public in general and visiting tourists. The Environmental Studies Budget of the Falkland Islands Government has been used to fund various school outings, including to ACAP breeding sites, to raise awareness and interest in conservation issues. All of the main organisations involved in ACAP work in the Falkland Islands maintain web-sites, which are regularly updated with information, reports, news stories, and collectively contain a wealth of information and resources aimed at increasing general awareness of the conservation importance of the Falkland Islands, as well as providing guidelines and information for those visiting the islands. • Beaver Island LandCare Group (http://www.southgeorgiasurveys.org/) • Environmental Planning Department (FIG) (http://www.epd.gov.fk/?page_id=14) • Falklands Conservation (http://www.falklandsconservation.com/) • Falkland Islands Fisheries Department (FIG) (http://fis.com/falklandfish/) • New Island Conservation Trust (http://www.falklandswildlife.com/)</p>
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7. Other

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

Please note the publication of a recent paper (Nevoux et al 2010 – French and UK authors) which looks at implications of climate variability for black-browed albatrosses.

8. Additional Comments

Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

Status - Submitted to ACAP - 14-Mar-2011

Report by Mark Baxter