

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 -19 September 2014</i></p> <p><b>Agreement Grant Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Grants Sub-committee, Secretariat</b></p>
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### SUMMARY

The present document outlines the processes followed for the allocation of grant funds in 2013-14. A total of 23 applications were received requesting AUD 388,906, ten of which were granted a total of AUD 107,666. Details of considerations regarding conflict of interest and lethal experimentation issues are offered for the consideration of the Advisory Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee is requested to note the process for the allocation of funds to the Advisory Committee Work Programme and the manner in which issues related to conflict of interest and lethal experimentation were addressed.

## 1. BACKGROUND

During MoP3 in 2009 Parties adopted a procedure for allocating funding to the AC Work Programme ([MoP3 Final Report](#)). The procedure was successfully applied and refined in successive years. At AC7, the Advisory Committee endorsed the strategy for calling for grant applications twice in every three-year period ([AC7 Doc 16](#), [AC7 Report](#) 12.2.2), hence the 2013-14 call for applications was opened in late August 2013 and final decisions were communicated early in 2014 to applicants in line with schedules followed in previous calls.

This document briefly describes the call for application, proposals received and funds allocated.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS

In general terms the procedure included the following steps: (1) call for applications opened by late August 2013 with the reception of proposals until mid-October, (2) evaluation of applications by relevant Working Groups and compilation of evaluations by the Grants Sub-committee finalised by early December, and (3) discussion and final advice agreed on by the Grants Sub-committee and sent to the Advisory Committee by late December, and (4) final decisions communicated to the applicants by early February 2014.

The Secretariat advised the availability of AUD 110,000 (resulting from the pooling of funds from 2013 and half of funds from 2014 budget). Twenty three applications were received requesting a total of AUD 388,906. These proposals were evaluated, as appropriate, by members of the SBWG and/or PaCSWG under the coordination of the Working Group Convenors. These evaluations were then considered by the Grants Sub-committee. Ten of the projects were funded to a total of AUD 107,666. These projects join the list of 28 projects already supported since 2008 with a total of AUD 460,663 (see details in AC7 Doc 16). The list of proposals received, researchers, funds requested and granted, and Working Group(s) involved in the assessment of proposals is provided in ANNEX 1. More information on the projects supported in the latest round can be found in AC8 Inf 01.

## **2.1 Conflict of Interest**

Following discussions and decisions taken during AC7 regarding conflict of interest matters (see AC7 Report, 12.2.3 - 12.2.4), and aiming to ensure an independent, objective, and impartial evaluation process, a declaration of interests (perceived, potential or actual) prior to assessing any proposals was requested from Working Group and Grant Sub-committee members involved in the assessment of proposals. A Conflict of Interest was defined as potentially occurring when a member of the Grants Sub-committee (AC Chair, AC Vice-chair and WG Convenors) or of a relevant Working Group was associated or involved in any way with: (1) the development or implementation of a proposal seeking ACAP funds; or (2) an organisation, department or individual that has submitted a funding proposal or would otherwise benefit from a decision. After receiving completed Conflict of Interest declaration forms (ANNEX 2), the Grants Sub-committee considered any declarations and advised whether a Conflict of Interest was sufficiently strong that the member should not participate in the assessment process. In some cases, the Working Group or Subcommittee member had already excluded themselves from the process. In general, the Grants Sub-committee agreed that where there was a Conflict of Interest with regard to particular proposals, that the relevant Grants Sub-committee or Working Group member should be excluded from the assessment process relating to those proposals, but not necessarily from the review of all other proposals.

## **2.2 Proposals involving lethal experimentation**

During AC7 the issue of granting proposals involving lethal experimentation was raised (see AC7 Report, 12.2.6 – 12.2.13). Lethal experimentation was defined by the SBWG as that using a method that may elevate seabird deaths above the level of bycatch that would have occurred under normal (*status quo*) fishing operations. The interim advice provided by the Advisory Committee to the Grants Sub-committee was that until a policy on lethal experimentation is adopted by MoP5, proposals involving lethal experimentation should not be supported. Consequently, one proposal received in the 2013-14 round involving lethal experimentation, although rated very highly, was not funded. The Grants Sub-committee will draft a paper for MoP5 introducing this issue, and offering different views and options for the development of such policy.

**ANNEX 1.** List of project applications received, head researchers, co-investigators, funds requested and funded, and Working Group(s) involved in the assessment of proposals. Granted projects are highlighted in bold font and grey cells. Note that ACAP 2013-15 and ACAP 2013-16 in the list were not assessed since they were addressing core tasks in the Advisory Committee Work Programme.

Project ID	Project Title	Project Manager(s)	Co-investigators	Requested (AUD)	Funded (AUD)	WG assessing
ACAP 2013-01	Final proof-of-concept experimentation with the underwater bait setter for pelagic longline fisheries	Graham Robertson	Phill Ashworth	20 000	0	SB
ACAP 2013-02	Reducing seabird warp strikes by improving bird bafflers deployed on trawl vessels	Johanna Pierre	John Cleal	20 000	0	SB
ACAP 2013-03	Desarrollo de nuevas herramientas estadísticas para el diagnóstico de conservación en Procellariiformes <i>Development of new statistical tools for conservation diagnosis of Procellariiformes</i>	Daniel Oro	G Tavecchia, O Gimenez, JD Lebreton, M Schaub, B Morgan, R McCrea, P Besbeas, S Tenan, F Abadi	10 120	0	PCS
<b>ACAP 2013-04</b>	<b>Multi-colony tracking of nonbreeding Black-browed Albatrosses <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> from the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>: identifying key wintering areas and zones of overlap with fisheries</b>	<b>April Hedd</b>	<b>Paulo Catry, Richard Phillips; William Montevecchi</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>12 500</b>	<b>SB &amp; PCS</b>
ACAP 2013-05	Galapagos Albatross study: Population assessment and Heavy Metals concentrations	Gustavo Jiménez-Uzcátegui	P Salinas de Leon, A Costales Carrera, C Sevilla, K Huyvaert	20 000	0	PCS
ACAP 2013-06	A population estimate of grey petrel at Campbell Island, New Zealand	David Thompson	Paul Sagar	20 000	0	PCS
<b>ACAP 2013-07</b>	<b>A population estimate of white-chinned petrel at Disappointment Island, Auckland Islands, New Zealand</b>	<b>David Thompson</b>	<b>K Rexer-Huber, B Robertson, P Sagar</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>16 000</b>	<b>PCS</b>

<sup>1</sup> "A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over 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".

Project ID	Project Title	Project Manager(s)	Co-investigators	Requested (AUD)	Funded (AUD)	WG assessing
ACAP 2013-08	Cross-Pacific exchange: the use of flagship species to enhance seabird conservation in New Zealand, Peru and Ecuador.	Joanna Alfaro & Jeffrey Mangel	Karen Baird, Emma Cronin	16 000	0	SB & PCS
ACAP 2013-09	<b>Ensayo de medidas de mitigación para la reducción de capturas accidentales de aves marinas en los palangreros demersales del Mediterráneo</b> <i>Trial of mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch in demersal longliners of the Mediterranean Sea</i>	Jacob González-Solís Bou	Veronica Cortés Serra	19 985	19 985	SB
ACAP 2013-10	Pesca y conservación de la pardela balear <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> : talleres para implicar al sector pesquero <i>Fishing and conservation of Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus: workshops to engage the fishing sector</i>	José Manuel Arcos	A Cama, J Bécares, M Louzao	20 000	0	SB
ACAP 2013-11	Comparative trials of Lumo Leads and traditional line weighting in the Brazilian pelagic longline fishery	Tatiana Neves	R Sant'Ana, A Silva-Costa, F Peppes, D Gianuca, O Yates	10 000	10 000	SB
ACAP 2013-12	Identificación de zonas de alimentación de la Pardela Balear en el NE Atlántico: una aproximación multidisciplinar <i>Identification of Balearic Shearwater's foraging ranges in the NE Atlantic: a multidisciplinary approach</i>	Maite Louzao Arsuaga	JM Arcos, D García, H Weimerskirch, K Delord, A Boué, T Micol	8 486	8 486	SB & PCS
ACAP 2013-13	Outreach Project - Short-tailed albatross conservation story	Susan Waugh		20 000	0	SB & PCS
ACAP 2013-14	Science on a sphere data layers using BirdLife Tracking Database and marine IBAs distribution	Susan Waugh	Ben Lascelles	20 000	0	SB & PCS
ACAP 2013-15	Updating maps for ACAP listed species	Ben Lascelles		4 000	Core funds	-
ACAP 2013-16	Tracking data summary of ACAP listed species	Ben Lascelles		5 000	Core funds	-
ACAP 2013-17	Assessing the conservation Status of the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross on Gough Island, Tristan da Cunha	Juliet Vickery	Rob Crawford, Trevor Glass	10 695	10 695	PCS

Project ID	Project Title	Project Manager(s)	Co-investigators	Requested (AUD)	Funded (AUD)	WG assessing
ACAP 2013-18	Determining the current status of black petrels ( <i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i> ) on Little Barrier Island/Hauturu	Elizabeth Bell	C Mischler, J Sim, Orn. Soc. of New Zealand, Royal Forest and Bird Soc.	30 000	0	PCS
ACAP 2013-19	Are fishing closures relevant to albatrosses and petrels conservation? A case study at the Argentine Continental Shelf	SOFÍA Copello & Gabriela Blanco	Juan Pablo Seco Pon	20 000	0	SB
<b>ACAP 2013-20</b>	<b>Establishing capacity in South America to build knowledge on albatross and petrel health and prevent disease introduction</b>	<b>Marcela Uhart &amp; Flavio Quintana</b>	<b>Esteban Frere, Kirsten Gilardi</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>PCS</b>
ACAP 2013-21	Avances para la conservación del petrel gigante del sur en Isla de los Estados e Isla Observatorio <i>Advances for the conservation of Southern Giant Petrel on Staten Island and Observatorio Island</i>	Adrián Schiavini	Andrea Raya Rey	19 620	0	PCS
ACAP 2013-22	Seabird distribution and abundance in the California Current: extending an existing time series	Lisa T. Ballance		20 000	0	SB & PCS
<b>ACAP 2013-23</b>	<b>Reducir la mortalidad incidental de albatros y petreles en pesquerías de arrastre en el Mar Argentino. Un enfoque integrado para la conservación de especies amenazadas</b> <i>Reducing incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels in trawl fisheries in the Argentine Sea. A comprehensive approach for the conservation of threatened species</i>	<b>Guillermo Cañete</b>		<b>20 000</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>SB</b>

## **ANNEX 2. Conflict of interest form used in the call for application 2013-14**

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST OBLIGATIONS**

#### **In relation to the ACAP Advisory Committee Grants Programme**

##### ***Introduction***

Managing conflict of interest matters aims to ensure that a Grants Subcommittee or Working Group member will bring an independent, objective, and impartial approach to a proposal before the Subcommittee. It also aims to protect both the organisation and the individuals involved from any appearance of impropriety. This is done by means of a declaration of interests (perceived, potential or actual) prior to assessing any proposals.

##### ***Definition***

Conflict of interest is defined as the Grants Subcommittee (AC Chair, AC Vice-Chair and WG Convenors) or Working Group member being associated or involved in any way with:

- The **development** or **implementation** of proposals seeking ACAP funds;
- An **organisation, department** or **individual** that has submitted a funding proposal or would otherwise benefit from a decision.

##### ***Process***

1. Prior to assessing any proposals, Subcommittee and Working Group members are asked to advise the Secretariat of any private, professional or commercial conflicts of interests (perceived, potential or actual), which members of the public might reasonably think could influence their judgement. This includes interests of close family members and persons living in the same household as the Subcommittee or Working Group member.
2. This information will be collated by the Secretariat in the Register of Declarations of Interest, and the Secretariat will draw attention to these before any Subcommittee discussions on the proposals. The Register of Interests will be available to AC members if they wish to inspect it.
3. The Subcommittee will consider the nature of declared conflicts of interest and determine whether the member should be excluded from discussion on the proposals or information under consideration, or what other steps need to be taken to resolve the situation.
4. If a Grants Subcommittee or Working Group member is a proponent or collaborator of a submitted proposal, they will be excluded from the review of proposals and the development of any advice for the Advisory Committee.
5. If in doubt, the Subcommittee should assume that the actual or potential conflict of interest may call into question the objectivity and impartiality of the Subcommittee's consideration of that issue.
6. All Subcommittee and Working Group members are expected to abide by the in-confidence nature of the business associated with the grant applications.

## DECLARATION

I declare that no Conflict of Interest exists or is likely to arise, in my performance of the work associated with the review of ACAP grant applications other than the interests declared below:

Interest to Declare	Relevant Project Application Number

**NAME:**

**DATE:**