



**Agreement on the Conservation of
Albatrosses and Petrels**

**REPORT OF
THE SIXTH SESSION OF
THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*Skukuza, South Africa
7 – 11 May 2018*

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee (AC1, AC2 etc refer to the first, second, etc meetings of the Advisory Committee)
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AKP	Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc refer to the first, second etc Sessions of the Meeting of Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPOA-S	National Plan of Action – Seabirds
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SUBPESCA	Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura (Chile)
TWG	Taxonomy Working Group
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
USA	United States of America
\$	Australian Dollars (AUD)

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa, from 7 to 11 May 2018. The meeting was officially opened by Mr Nathan Walker as acting Chair of the session in accordance with Rule 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure.
- 1.2 All thirteen Parties to the Agreement were represented at the session: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and Uruguay.
- 1.3 Three non-Party Range States: Canada, Mexico and the United States of America (USA), attended the meeting in an observer capacity.
- 1.4 The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), BirdLife International and Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. attended the meeting in an observer capacity.
- 1.5 The List of Participants is provided in **ANNEX 9**. The List of Documents is provided in **ANNEX 11**.
- 1.6 Dr Luthando Dziba, Managing Executive, Conservation Services, South African National Parks, formally welcomed delegates to the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties on behalf of the Government of South Africa.
- 1.7 In his address Dr Dziba welcomed all the delegates and observers to South Africa and to the Kruger National Park. He noted that South Africa had previously hosted a meeting of the Advisory Committee but this was the first time it was hosting a session of the Meeting of the Parties. He described the importance of South Africa's subantarctic Prince Edward Islands for ACAP-listed species, including the Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* and the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*. He referred to research conducted on albatrosses and petrels at the Prince Edward Islands, including the at-sea tracking of albatrosses which showed they ranged widely in the Southern Ocean.
- 1.8 Dr Dziba then described the long history of, and scientific research conducted within, Kruger National Park, and wished the participants a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in the Park.
- 1.9 The acting Chair, on behalf of all delegations, thanked Dr Dziba for his welcoming remarks.
- 1.10 The acting Chair then called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Meeting. The UK proposed the election of Mr Ashley Naidoo (South Africa) as Chairperson (Chair) of the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties. This was accepted by acclamation of the Meeting. The acting Chair of the session (Advisory Committee Chair), Mr Nathan Walker, became the Vice-chairperson (Vice-chair) of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with Rule 12(2) of the MoP Rules of Procedure.

2 PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

- 2.1.1 The provisional agenda, together with items proposed in the supplementary agenda (**MoP6 Doc 01**), was adopted by the MoP and is provided in **ANNEX 10**.

2.2 Proposed Amendments to the MoP Rules of Procedure

- 2.2.1 Australia introduced [MoP6 Doc 06](#) that proposes amending Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure for the MoP to correct an error in paragraph 5 of the rule. The paragraph refers to a 'time frame' for responses received by the Secretariat that refers to the time frame specified in 'paragraph 1' of Rule 24. The relevant 'time frame' for responses is provided in 'paragraph 3' of Rule 24.
- 2.2.2 Parties endorsed the proposal and adopted **Resolution 6.5** (provided in **ANNEX 5**) which amends Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties.

2.3 Establishment of Credentials Committee

- 2.3.1 A Credentials Committee was established in accordance with Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure, consisting of representatives from Argentina, New Zealand and the UK.

3 REPORTS

3.1 Report of Credentials Committee

- 3.1.1 The Credentials Committee met on 7 May 2018.
- 3.1.2 By the deadline set out in Rule 5(2) of the MoP Rules of Procedure, the credentials of 12 Parties had been received. Of the credentials received, 10 were in order, and two were copies.
- 3.1.3 To enable those Parties that had not yet provided the original credentials to participate in the session, the Credentials Committee proposed that the relevant Parties provide assurances that their original credentials will be sent to the ACAP Secretariat within 28 days of the closure of the meeting. Both Parties provided this assurance.
- 3.1.4 The Credentials Committee met again on 8 May 2018 to consider a further set of credentials.

- 3.1.5 While the MoP Rules of Procedure require that credentials are submitted within 24 hours of the commencement of the meeting, the Credentials Committee agreed on an inclusive approach where all Parties' views could be heard. The Committee recommended the consideration of the credentials for the purpose of the meeting, and the Party concerned give the same undertaking as the others with outstanding credentials, that the original would be supplied within 28 days of the closure of the meeting. The relevant Party provided this assurance.
- 3.1.6 The Committee's reports were accepted by the Parties.

3.2 Report of Depositary

- 3.2.1 Australia, in its role as Depositary, presented its report ([MoP6 Doc 08](#)). The report notes there had been no new accessions to the Agreement since the most recent Depositary report of 11 July 2017 to the 10th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC10) which took place in Wellington, New Zealand, 11 - 15 September 2017 (**AC10 Doc 07**).

3.3 Reports of Observers

- 3.3.1 Canada, Mexico and the USA reported on progress and actions undertaken during the intersessional period. Statements from each Range State are provided in **ANNEX 14**.
- 3.3.2 Reports were also presented by AEWA, BirdLife International, and Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., and are provided in **ANNEX 15**.
- 3.3.3 Norway noted that the broad synergies and collaborations between Parties and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) was an important way forward for ACAP, and encouraged further the development of MoUs with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other relevant entities.
- 3.3.4 The Executive Secretary noted it was pleasing to see delegates from USA and Canada who both have a long history of involvement with ACAP, as well as from Mexico, who was attending an ACAP meeting for the first time. The Executive Secretary looked forward to the continued participation of both Mexico and Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. He noted that although Namibia was not represented at this meeting, there was continued engagement with the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. He also highlighted the long and close relationship with BirdLife International, and welcomed the participation of AEWA, a CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) sister agreement to ACAP.

- 3.3.5 The Chair, on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, thanked observers for their reports and for their commitment to working with ACAP to achieve the objectives of the Agreement.

4 OPERATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

4.1 Report of the Secretariat

- 4.1.1 The Executive Secretary reported on the operation of the Secretariat since the last Meeting of the Parties ([MoP6 Doc 09](#)). The work of the Secretariat is currently performed by two full-time positions, with the support of Mr John Cooper as an Information Officer in an honorary capacity, as well as consultants and contractors who perform fixed tasks as needed e.g. translations and interpretation, maintenance of the Agreement's website and the provision of technical support. Further support is provided by secondments, interns and volunteers undertaking project-type activities.
- 4.1.2 Parties noted that the majority of the Secretariat tasks planned for the 2016 - 2018 triennium have been completed, or were nearly-completed. These tasks included a number of activities in the following broad categories: providing support for the Advisory Committee meetings and Work Programme, developing and maintaining arrangements with other International Organisations, representing the Agreement at meetings of other organisations, encouraging accession of new Parties, and soliciting and managing external funds from Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) to support priority aspects of the Advisory Committee's Work Programme.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Secretary introduced [MoP6 Doc 23](#) on the implementation of **Resolution 2.9**. The document refers to an outcome in the review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat (**MoP6 Doc 10**), highlighting difficulties with the implementation of **Resolution 2.9** due to inconsistencies in the text among the three official languages of the Agreement.
- 4.1.4 As requested by the Secretariat in **MoP6 Doc 23**, the Meeting of the Parties provided the following guidance to the Secretariat to address the discrepancies in the texts of the Resolution in different languages:
- The Spanish translation of **Resolution 2.9** should accord precisely (in terms of meaning) with the English language text of **Resolution 2.9**. For the avoidance of doubt:
- (a) the term 'authored by the Secretariat or other organs of the Agreement' means 'written, or created, by the Secretariat or its organs (including the Advisory Committee and working groups)';
 - (b) The term 'verbatim' means 'exact'.
- 4.1.5 The Meeting of the Parties requested the Secretariat to work intersessionally to harmonise the translations of **Resolution 2.9** following the guidance provided.

- 4.1.6 The Secretariat advised that it will distribute the revised versions to Parties via a Circular to National Contact Points.

4.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2019 - 2021

- 4.2.1 The Executive Secretary introduced **MoP6 Doc 16** detailing the proposed Work Programme for the Secretariat for the 2019 – 2021 triennium. It was noted that the Work Programme is based on the functions assigned to the Secretariat under the Agreement, and on specific tasks allocated to it by the MoP and the AC.
- 4.2.2 The Meeting of the Parties adopted **Resolution 6.2** on the Secretariat Work Programme (provided in **ANNEX 2**) acknowledging that budgetary restrictions might prevent complete implementation of the Work Programme.

4.3 Review of Staff Regulations

- 4.3.1 Based on a review of the current Staff Regulations (**Resolution 5.3**), the Executive Secretary reported that although no specific amendments are proposed, the report of the Secretariat ([MoP6 Doc 09](#)) includes a recommendation regarding the criteria used for the selection of the Executive Secretary. This recommendation relates to 'essential criterion' 4, which requires 'fluency in one of the ACAP languages'. Because the Agreement's Secretariat is based in Australia, extensive interaction with Australian Government agencies (for example in finance matters) is required. The Secretariat therefore recommended that 'Fluency in English' be made an essential criterion, with proficiency in the other Agreement languages retained as 'desirable criterion' 8.
- 4.3.2 The Meeting of the Parties acknowledged that it would be useful to consider making fluency in English an essential selection criterion for the process of recruiting a new Executive Secretary. However, given that the current process for recruiting a new Executive Secretary has already been initiated, this recommendation should be considered, along with any others arising from the current recruitment process, at MoP7. The Meeting of the Parties requested the Secretariat to bring forward a proposal concerning these matters to MoP7 as required.

4.4 Review of Financial Regulations

- 4.4.1 Based on a review of the Agreement's Financial Regulations (**Resolution 4.5**), the Executive Secretary reported that the Resolution was considered sufficient in its current form.

4.5 Review of the Effectiveness of the Secretariat

- 4.5.1 The Chair of the Review Body, Mr Jonathon Barrington, presented a report on the review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat in facilitating the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement ([MoP6 Doc 10](#)). This is the second review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat, with the previous review considered by MoP3 (**MoP3 Doc 17**).
- 4.5.2 The Review Body was established according to the terms of reference agreed at MoP5 (**Resolution 5.5**), and included regional representation from: (i) Europe/Africa - Norway (Mr Øystein Størkersen), South Africa (Dr Azwianewi Makhado), Spain (Mr Roberto Sarralde), and United Kingdom (Mr Mark Tasker), (ii) Asia/Australasia - Australia (Mr Jonathon Barrington, Chair), and New Zealand (Dr Igor Debski), and (iii) South America - Chile (Mr Marcelo Garcia), Ecuador (Ms Caroline Icaza Galarza), and Uruguay (Mr Andres Domingo).
- 4.5.3 The Review Body provided a number of recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Secretariat in achieving the Agreement's objectives, and to modify two of the 13 performance indicators (numbers 6 and 11) to enable a more quantified assessment.
- 4.5.4 The Meeting of the Parties expressed its appreciation for the work of the Review Body, and supported the adoption of the report (**MoP6 Doc 10**) and its recommendations. The Meeting of the Parties adopted **Resolution 6.3** (provided in **ANNEX 3**) to modify Performance Indicators 6 and 11 in line with the recommendation from the Review Body.
- 4.5.5 Norway encouraged the Secretariat to investigate opportunities for improving efficiencies in reporting to Parties.
- 4.5.6 The Executive Secretary indicated that reports were previously provided to Parties on a quarterly basis, but that this had subsequently been reduced to two reports per year. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the biannual reporting frequency was working well, but that the Executive Secretary should continue to investigate whether there are any remaining redundancies in reporting that could be avoided.
- 4.5.7 The Meeting of the Parties considered the range of financial reports prepared by the Secretariat over the course of each triennium, and agreed to reduce the number of reports in order to minimise redundancies. It was agreed that two financial reports for the financial year 1 July to 30 June will be prepared: a mid-year financial report for the period to 31 December will be circulated to Parties by mid-February, and a full-year audited financial report will be circulated to Parties by mid-September (see agenda item 7.8 below) The most recent financial report will be provided to the relevant session of the Meeting of the Parties, and Advisory Committee meeting. The Meeting of the Parties also

agreed that the Secretariat would provide to each meeting up-to-date information about the status of financial contributions by Parties.

4.6 2018 Recruitment of the Agreement's Executive Secretary

- 4.6.1 The Chair of the Recruitment Subcommittee, Mr Mark Tasker, provided MoP6 with a brief summary of the process followed for the recruitment of the new Executive Secretary, following the resignation of the current Executive Secretary. This process is detailed in Annex A of the Staff Regulations for the ACAP Secretariat (**Resolution 5.3**). The closing date for applications had now passed. The Subcommittee had agreed a shortlist, and were in the process of seeking further information from candidates on the shortlist. The process aims to result in an appointment being made by 31 August 2018, with the objective of having the incoming Executive Secretary in post by 22 November 2018 in order to allow a one week handover with the outgoing Executive Secretary.
- 4.6.2 The Meeting of the Parties thanked the Recruitment Subcommittee for its work.

5 OPERATION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

- 5.1 No issues were raised for discussion under this agenda item.

6 OPERATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6.1 Report of the Advisory Committee

- 6.1.1 The Vice-chair (and Chair of the Advisory Committee) introduced the Report of the Advisory Committee for the 2016 – 2018 triennium ([MoP6 Doc 11](#)).
- 6.1.2 The Advisory Committee and its working groups have made excellent progress during the last triennium in providing expert advice to Parties, Range States and a range of organisations on actions to address threats to, and priority conservation needs of, ACAP species. A substantial proportion of this information is readily accessible through the ACAP website.
- 6.1.3 The Vice-chair stressed that one of the most challenging difficulties for the Advisory Committee for the next triennium is the increased size and complexity of the Agreement's agenda and the asymmetry with the available capacity, both in terms of human and financial resources.
- 6.1.4 The Vice-chair also highlighted that AC11 will constitute the end of all Committee Officials' terms, so all positions will require election. He encouraged Parties to give some thought to nominations in advance of AC11,

particularly for those posts where the incumbent is no longer eligible for reappointment.

- 6.1.5 MoP6 expressed its considerable appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Advisory Committee and its working groups in implementing the 2016 – 2018 AC Work Programme, and for the many achievements during the past triennium, and also for the considerable work that was undertaken to prepare the 2019 – 2021 AC Work Programme.
- 6.1.6 MoP6 noted that on the issue of seabird bycatch, mitigation measures have been introduced into many fisheries, but the major challenge is effective and consistent implementation of these measures. In addition, the collection and assessment of data relating to the levels of bycatch in fisheries that overlap with ACAP species remains a critical priority.
- 6.1.7 BirdLife International noted the important work being progressed by ACAP to estimate and address seabird bycatch, and drew the meetings attention to the seabird bycatch component of the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project, which aims to assess seabird bycatch in southern hemisphere tuna fisheries. It was noted that many of the ACAP Parties are already engaged in the project; other Parties with southern hemisphere longline fishing fleets that overlap with ACAP species were encouraged to participate actively in the process, and contribute towards the assessment.
- 6.1.8 The Vice-chair thanked the Advisory Committee, and especially the AC Vice-chair, and Working Group Convenors and Vice-convenors for their work and commitment during the triennium. He also emphasised the work of the Secretariat in assisting with, and contributing to, the work of the AC and the implementation of its Work Programme.

6.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2021

- 6.2.1 The Vice-chair presented the Advisory Committee's 2019 - 2021 Work Programme (**MoP6 Doc 15**) for adoption by the MoP. The Work Programme was drafted by the Advisory Committee at its Tenth Meeting (AC10).
- 6.2.2 The AC Work Programme identifies the key actions and outputs required to implement the Agreement's Action Plan over the next triennium. The programme also provides indicative costs for each task to facilitate discussion on the allocation of funding in the Appropriation 4 budget.
- 6.2.3 South Africa thanked the chairs and members of the AC and its working groups for their hard work during the 2016 - 2018 triennium. With regard to the Work Programme for the 2019 - 2021 triennium, South Africa noted that it was necessary for recruitment into a breeding population of a species to offset mortality from it for the population to remain stable. In order to understand these issues better, South Africa considered that tasks 2.3 and 3.1 in the Work

Programme (**MoP6 Doc 15**) would be particularly important in determining whether the bycatch thresholds or targets that are currently used (e.g. 0.05 birds per 1000 hooks) are sufficiently precautionary, especially for species having low levels of abundance and overlapping with several fisheries.

- 6.2.4 New Zealand highlighted the importance of the Advisory Committee Work Programme for achieving the objectives of the Agreement. Of the tasks identified in the Work Programme, New Zealand is particularly interested to see progress made in the following three areas during the next triennium: further development of the mitigation toolbox for artisanal, small scale and purse-seine fisheries (tasks 3.3 and 3.9), finalisation and use by Parties and Range States of the ACAP bycatch reporting framework for assessing indicators (task 3.7), and understanding and addressing drivers and barriers in uptake of effective bycatch mitigation measures (task 3.5).
- 6.2.5 The Meeting of the Parties discussed the format of the Work Programme table, and noted that the costs attached to each task are indicative, and so do not match the specific figures included in the Agreement Budget (**MoP6 Doc 17**). The indicative costs are intended to help guide the Advisory Committee in the development of a realistic Work Programme, and are used to help inform the development of the budget. It was noted that a considerable amount of work in the Work Programme is undertaken *pro bono* by members of the working groups and others. To clarify the zero cost indicated for some tasks, the Meeting of the Parties recommended that the caption of the table makes clear that the funding amounts provided are indicative, and the zero budget figures reflect *pro bono* work and in kind contributions by members of the working groups and Parties.
- 6.2.6 The MoP noted the considerable workload of the Advisory Committee and the resources necessary for the implementation of the AC Work Programme. The Meeting of the Parties endorsed the 2019 – 2021 AC Work Programme and adopted **Resolution 6.4** (provided in **ANNEX 4**).

6.3 *Pterodroma* Workshop Outcomes and Recommendations from the Advisory Committee

- 6.3.1 The Chair of the *Pterodroma* Workshop, Mr Mark Tasker, presented the report of the workshop ([Annex 2, MoP6 Doc 11](#)), which ACAP held in September 2017 in association with AC10. The objective of the workshop was to advance understanding about best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species. The workshop made a number of recommendations, the first of which is to revisit and complete a revised version of ACAP's criteria and prioritisation process for adding new species to Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 6.3.2 The Meeting of the Parties noted that there may be a case for a limited number of additions to Annex 1 of the Agreement, but such additions would increase

the demand on resources; if additions are considered it would be necessary to ensure sufficient resources are available, or could be obtained, to avoid dilution of existing conservation priorities and actions.

- 6.3.3 New Zealand indicated that they are already using the outcomes of the *Pterodroma* workshop to inform aspects of their conservation work, and highlighted the challenges of taking on additional work without a concomitant increase in capacity. New Zealand advised that for this reason, it would prefer to see the Agreement focusing on the species currently listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement, and ensuring that the current priority actions are properly addressed before taking on additional species and associated tasks.
- 6.3.4 The Meeting of the Parties noted that there are mechanisms that could be used to extend the conservation work of ACAP to *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrels without having to list these species on Annex 1 of the Agreement. Some of the conservation guidelines are already applicable to these species, and the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) will be investigating how these guidelines and resources could be usefully extended to the small burrowing petrels.
- 6.3.5 Australia recommended that the ACAP officials consider developing and presenting a paper to the 3rd World Seabird Conference, which will be taking place in Australia in 2020, outlining the complementary contribution that ACAP's best practices and guidelines make in support of international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species.
- 6.3.6 MoP6 thanked the chair of the *Pterodroma* workshop and all the participants for the valuable work undertaken, and supported the recommendations of the workshop, contained in **Annex 2 of MoP6 Doc 11**.

7 OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

7.1 Report on Implementation of the Agreement

- 7.1.1 The Secretariat presented the 2015 – 2017 Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement ([MoP6 Doc 13](#)) compiled by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee, and thanked all Parties who provided information for this purpose in a timely manner. The report provides Parties with an overview of progress made with implementation of the Agreement since MoP5, and recommends a set of actions that should be undertaken in the next triennium to advance the Agreement's objective.
- 7.1.2 The report synthesises information provided by Parties, Range States and ACAP's Advisory Committee and its subsidiary bodies. It includes information

on changes in the conservation status of ACAP species and a review of difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Agreement.

- 7.1.3 Section 1 of the document provides a summary of the information included in the individual Implementation Reports submitted by Parties. [MoP6 Inf 01](#), [MoP6 Inf 02](#), [MoP6 Inf 03](#), and [MoP6 Inf 04](#) provide detailed information on implementation by four Parties which were not presented at AC10.
- 7.1.4 The MoP agreed that the new format trialled in Section 1 of the report improves on the previous approach, and thanked the Science Officer for her work in this regard. Parties were encouraged to continue providing the Secretariat with suggestions for improvements to the reporting templates and presentation of the information at any time.
- 7.1.5 Section 2 of the document reports on items in Section 5.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan regarding the conservation status of ACAP species and changes that have occurred since MoP5 in respect of population sizes and trends, identification of important breeding sites, review of at-sea distribution, and the identification and assessment of known and suspected threats affecting albatrosses and petrels, both on land and at sea.
- 7.1.6 Since MoP5, the IUCN Red List status of three ACAP species has changed, reflecting recent reviews by BirdLife International, the IUCN listing authority for birds. These species are the Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* and Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*, which have been uplisted from 'Vulnerable' to 'Endangered', and Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*, which has been downlisted from 'Near Threatened' to 'Least Concern'.
- 7.1.7 The analysis of threats affecting ACAP species at breeding sites showed that the vast majority of these relate to introduced mammals or disease, whereas a small proportion relate to natural disasters.
- 7.1.8 With regards to introduced mammals, the UK provided an update on the successful eradication of rodents at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹, which is contained in **ANNEX 12**.
- 7.1.9 New Zealand also reported on a successful eradication operation at the Antipodes Islands, and on future work planned for the Auckland Islands (**ANNEX 13**).
- 7.1.10 The review of at-sea threats identified a number of fisheries and seabird populations as priority targets for action by the Agreement, the top 10 percent of which are included in Table 6 of **MoP6 Doc 13**. A number of fisheries

¹ 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.

featured in this list for the first time as a result of new data submitted by Parties to the prioritisation process, rather than due to a deteriorating bycatch situation in those fisheries since the last assessment.

- 7.1.11 The Secretariat emphasised that the prioritisation of conservation actions, as well as many other outputs presented in this document (and elsewhere), are based on information submitted to the Secretariat through the ACAP database or other reporting processes. It is therefore fundamental that Parties provide accurate, up-to-date data in a timely manner, and that non-Party Range States and others should be encouraged to do so as well.
- 7.1.12 The MoP noted that some progress has been achieved on the three priority areas identified at MoP5: i) improving the collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries, ii) implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in relevant domestic and high seas fisheries and iii) filling significant data gaps relating to population status and trends. However, it was also noted that much still needs to be done to address these three priority areas, and these remain the key challenges for the Agreement, as outlined in Section 3 of the report.
- 7.1.13 The MoP agreed that addressing these key challenges is essential for reaching the objectives of the Agreement, and endorsed the list of recommendations in **MoP6 Doc 13** to help achieve this aim.
- 7.1.14 The Secretariat further reported that in reviewing the MoP Implementation Reports from Parties, there were inconsistencies in approaches to answering some of the questions. Consequently, the Secretariat and representatives from Australia and New Zealand reviewed each of the questions intersessionally to better understand the causes of ambiguities, and how these could be addressed. [MoP6 Doc 19](#) provides a detailed assessment of each of the questions, with recommendations for how to clarify those which were inconsistently interpreted and completed.
- 7.1.15 The MoP endorsed all the recommendations in **MoP6 Doc 19**. In respect of Question 2.8 (dealing with new species proposed for Annex 1 of the Agreement), for which two alternative recommendations were presented, it was agreed to retain both. The Secretariat encouraged all Parties to provide any additional feedback they may have to make the reporting process easier and more efficient.

7.2 Criteria for Listing and De-listing Species on Annex 1

- 7.2.1 The Secretariat advised that further work on the criteria for listing and de-listing species had been deferred until the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) completed its work on the choice of a standard taxonomy to be used when considering new species for Annex 1 of the Agreement. This work has now

been concluded (see **MoP6 Doc 11**) and the consideration of criteria for listing and de-listing species will re-commence in the lead up to AC11 in 2019.

7.3 Proposed Amendment to Annex 1 – listing of new species

- 7.3.1 Australia and the United Kingdom advised that the Advisory Committee and Taxonomy Working Group recommend amending Annex 1 of the Agreement to remove the *Puffinus creatopus* synonym, leaving only *Ardenna creatopus* as the nomenclature for the Pink-footed Shearwater ([MoP6 Doc 14](#)).
- 7.3.2 The MoP adopted **Resolution 6.1** (provided in **ANNEX 1**) to change the nomenclature of this species.
- 7.3.3 Australia advised it may need to lodge a reservation for procedural reasons. This is because Australia's domestic procedures for amending treaties may not be able to be completed within the 90 day period set by Article XII(5) of the Agreement.

7.4 Identification of Priority Conservation Actions

- 7.4.1 The Secretariat reported on the update of the conservation priorities following the framework developed by the Agreement to address land-based and at-sea threats. This update is embedded in the Implementation Report ([MoP6 Doc 13](#)), addressed under agenda item 7.1 above.

7.5 Proposed Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement

- 7.5.1 The Secretariat introduced [MoP6 Doc 20 Rev 1](#), which presents a suite of 'State-Pressure-Response' indicators in respect of breeding sites, population status and trends, and tracking data availability, as well as a summary of progress on the proposed seabird bycatch indicators. Capacity building indicators were discussed separately under agenda item 7.6 below.
- 7.5.2 Overall, the Red List Index (RLI) indicates a deterioration in the status of ACAP species since 1988 for the 26 species originally listed on Annex 1 of the Agreement in 2004, as well as the 31 species currently listed. The species that have driven the negative trends are: Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata*, Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena*, Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebastria fusca*, Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, Antipodean Albatross *D. antipodensis*, and Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*.
- 7.5.3 The finer scale indicators at the island group or breeding site level appear to show improving trends, but patterns are affected by data gaps as well as by

timing of data availability in the ACAP database, and in the Seabird Tracking Database managed by BirdLife International.

- 7.5.4 The seabird bycatch indicators continue to be under development and Parties and collaborating Range States are urged to provide bycatch information to the Secretariat as part of the next round of annual reporting, so that further discussions to finalise these indicators may take place at SBWG9 and AC11.
- 7.5.5 The MoP noted the progress made in applying breeding sites and status and trend indicators, as well as the indicators on tracking data availability, and approved the continued development of seabird bycatch indicators and the reporting required by Parties to populate them.

7.6 Capacity Building

- 7.6.1 The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item referring to two MoP6 documents addressing actions undertaken by the Agreement relevant to capacity building.
- 7.6.2 [MoP6 Doc 21](#) presents to the Parties progress made in the development of performance indicators on capacity building, including new indicators based on the Pressure-State-Response approach.
- 7.6.3 The MoP agreed to include these new performance indicators in the online AC reporting form as a trial over the 2019 - 2021 triennium and to review it at MoP7.
- 7.6.4 [MoP6 Doc 22](#) contains a new version of the Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy refined during the last triennium.
- 7.6.5 The MoP expressed its appreciation for the refined Capacity Building Strategy and adopted the strategy.

7.7 Development of Arrangements with Other International Organisations

- 7.7.1 The Executive Secretary introduced [MoP6 Doc 24](#), which provided a report on the current status of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with other organisations and requested approval for the Secretariat to enter into negotiations for the renewal and development of new MoUs.
- 7.7.2 The meeting expressed its appreciation for the significant progress made in implementing the various MoUs and noted the benefits that had been achieved from them in advancing the Agreement's objectives.

- 7.7.3 The MoP adopted **Resolution 6.7** (provided in **ANNEX 7**) authorising the Secretariat to renew MoUs with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR, expiring in 2018) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC, expiring in 2020); as well as to continue the negotiations to finalise the MoU with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).
- 7.7.4 The MoP also authorised the Secretariat to enter into negotiations for the development of a MoU with the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) following the template in Appendix A of **Resolution 6.7**.

7.8 Financial and Auditor's Reports

- 7.8.1 The Secretariat presented an interim financial report for the 2018 financial year ([MoP6 Doc 12 Rev 1](#)).
- 7.8.2 All Parties noted the savings achieved over the 2016 - 2018 triennium in the financial report and commended the Secretariat for their success in using the Agreement budget efficiently.
- 7.8.3 The MoP noted that Financial Regulation 11.1 requires the Parties to appoint an external auditor at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Executive Secretary noted that the Government of Tasmania has offered to continue providing the external audit services. The MoP agreed to appoint the Government of Tasmania as the Agreement's external auditor for the 2019 – 2021 triennium.

7.9 Agreement Budget 2019 – 2021

- 7.9.1 The MoP considered the budget for the 2019 - 2021 triennium following discussions on the Scale of Contributions under agenda item 7.10.
- 7.9.2 The Secretariat presented a draft Agreement budget for the 2019 - 2021 triennium (**MoP6 Doc 17**), including scenarios applying 2.1 and 2.5 percentage increases, as well as zero nominal growth.
- 7.9.3 Following agreement on the Scale of Contributions, a proposed budget was provided to the MoP. Following the recommendation in **MoP6 Doc 10** regarding the need to increase the capacity of the Secretariat, this budget included an increase in the amount allocated to consultants in 2020 and 2021. Revised figures were also proposed for the recruitment and relocation of a new Executive Secretary.
- 7.9.4 Recalling the approach taken at MoP5 in **Resolution 5.6**, the MoP authorised payment of an approximate amount of \$ 20,000 as necessary for staff

relocation costs (in addition to the \$ 30,000 accounted for under Appropriation 1) from savings made from previous budgets in the General Fund.

- 7.9.5 The MoP also authorised the purchase of a vehicle for the Executive Secretary's use up to the cost of \$ 35,000 (plus the trade-in value of the existing vehicle), before the current vehicle's warranty expires in 2021, from savings made from previous budgets in the General Fund.
- 7.9.6 The MoP adopted the budget presented in **Resolution 6.6** (provided in **ANNEX 6**).

7.10 Scale of Contributions

- 7.10.1 The Secretariat presented a paper on a proposed scale of contributions for the 2019 - 2021 triennium (**MoP6 Doc 18**), including scenarios applying 2.1 and 2.5 percentage increases, as well as zero nominal growth.
- 7.10.2 Three additional options were also developed by the Secretariat in response to suggestions from Parties during the meeting. These were:
- a) 1% increase each year over the triennium for all Parties,
 - b) a combination of zero nominal growth in 2019 and 2.1% increase in the following two years for all Parties, and
 - c) 2.1% increase each year over the triennium for 12 Parties, but with zero nominal growth for France.
- 7.10.3 There was a divergence in initial views expressed by Parties on the preferred option for overall contribution totals. Of the Parties that expressed an opinion, the majority preferred an increase of the budget through the triennium.
- 7.10.4 France advised that it could only consider the scenarios with zero nominal growth applied to its contribution through the triennium.
- 7.10.5 Brazil noted that its position on the budget was already on record and that it unequivocally favoured zero nominal growth. Brazil was of the view that the approval of the budget must be done in accordance with the rules of the Agreement and it has to be apportioned according to the current scale of contributions. Brazil's view was that no exception should be taken as a precedent for future decisions. Brazil declared it will not join this decision but does not intend to object to the forming of consensus to allow the Agreement to carry out its mandate.
- 7.10.6 The MoP agreed to the updated scale of contributions applying annually a 2.1% increase to all Parties' contributions for the triennium, with the exception of France who would have a zero nominal growth applied.

- 7.10.7 Several Parties expressed concern that this approach continues the use of an exemption for a single Party in terms of the agreed calculation for the scale of contribution, particularly in the absence of exceptional economic factors adversely affecting the single Party.
- 7.10.8 Despite maintaining its contributions at zero nominal growth for the years 2019 - 2021 (\$ 121,567 per year), France expressed its readiness to pursue the ongoing preparatory work with the view of implementing projects complementing the current and future activities of ACAP, when possible through voluntary contributions.
- 7.10.9 Related to this, New Zealand expressed interest in progressing a collaborative fisheries bycatch mitigation training workshop with France and French Polynesia that would benefit both the Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* and the Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*.
- 7.10.10 The MoP adopted the scale of contributions for the 2019 - 2021 triennium presented in **Resolution 6.6 (ANNEX 6)**.

7.11 National Plans of Action

- 7.11.1 The Chair introduced this agenda item to give Parties the opportunity to report briefly to MoP6 on actions relevant to their National Plans of Action – Seabirds (NPOA–S) that were not included in the implementation reports.
- 7.11.2 Australia advised that a draft NPOA-Seabirds for Australian capture fisheries was developed in 2017, and that a new Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during longline fishing operations was developed in 2018. Australia looks forward to implementing the NPOA-Seabirds, which contains a range of actions for the conservation of seabirds. Australia indicated that it applies a threat abatement planning process in collaboration with the fishing industry to address the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during longline fishing operations, and successive threat abatement plans have been very successful at reducing seabird bycatch in Australia's longline fisheries.
- 7.11.3 New Zealand reported that it is currently reviewing its 2013 NPOA–Seabirds (“National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in New Zealand fisheries”) with an aim to have an updated NPOA-Seabirds in early 2019. There is significant change afoot in the data availability and monitoring of New Zealand fisheries, which includes a proposed digital monitoring programme (electronic reporting, Geospatial Position Reporting and possibly electronic monitoring) being implemented over the next few years. In parallel with this programme, there is a growing public demand for clear government process and transparent information sharing. With these factors in mind, New Zealand government officials have recognised that there are areas where New Zealand can improve on the structure and implementation of the NPOA-

Seabirds through this NPOA review. Discussions on proposed changes are ongoing, and New Zealand will report back to the Advisory Committee meeting in 2019 on further progress.

- 7.11.4 Peru reported that the country does not have an NPOA-Seabirds as yet. However, the ACAP action plan for the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* represents an important tool to improve the conservation of this species in Peru and Ecuador, including through better understanding and reducing bycatch. Peru and Ecuador have submitted a proposal to the ACAP Small Grants Programme for funding to conduct a review of this plan and update it accordingly. It is hoped that this process will catalyse priority actions to improve the conservation status of the Critically Endangered Waved Albatross.
- 7.11.5 Ecuador reported that from 2017 the National Fisheries Institute has required trawl fisheries for hake and red shrimp to have observers. These observers are funded by industry, but are overseen by government. The Institute is also expanding the observer programme for some industrial fleets, including the demersal longline fishery for Patagonian toothfish, and industrial and artisanal longline fleets for tuna and billfish. It is hoped that the expansion of the observer coverage will lead to an improved understanding of seabird bycatch in these fisheries.
- 7.11.6 Brazil advised that the third management cycle of its NPOA, adopted in 2006 and a consolidated part of Brazil's environmental agenda, started in 2018. The NPOA is managed in five year cycles. The next review is due in 2023.
- 7.11.7 South Africa reported that it is in the process of updating its NPOA-Seabirds. A draft revision has been developed. Once a final revised version of the NPOA-Seabirds is available, South Africa will make it available to ACAP for inclusion on the website. In the meantime, South Africa continues to apply ACAP's best practice mitigation measures.
- 7.11.8 Uruguay reported that since MoP5 it has revised its NPOA-Seabirds, and that this revised document was presented to AC9.
- 7.11.9 Spain indicated that it is planning to develop an NPOA-Seabirds, and would welcome inputs and assistance from other Parties with experience in this process.
- 7.11.10 Chile reported that it continues to implement the new legislation on fisheries incorporating the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, including a programme for the reduction of seabird bycatch in fisheries and discard management in all industrial and artisanal fisheries. In 2018, the use of bycatch mitigation measures in trawl fisheries will be incorporated. In addition, by November this year the implementation of cameras aboard all industrial vessels in Chile will begin, allowing the assessment of the levels of compliance with mitigation methods. In 2018-19 the Chilean NPOA – Seabirds will be revised and updated, and then presented at the next AC meeting. Chile also

advised that the inclusion of *Ardenna creatopus* in Annex 1 of the Agreement has triggered important research and outreach programmes in the country. The Under-Secretariat of Fisheries (SUBPESCA) support the work of the local seabird working group.

- 7.11.11 UK supplied a written report, which is included in **ANNEX 12**.

7.12 Accession of Non-Party Range States

- 7.12.1 The Executive Secretary referred to the report of the Secretariat ([MoP6 Doc 09](#)) which includes a summary of actions taken with regard to the accession of new Parties.
- 7.12.2 The Secretariat has liaised with a number of Range States concerning their possible accession to the Agreement, including in the margins of international meetings it has attended.
- 7.12.3 The Secretariat made special reference to the ongoing engagement with Canada and the USA, as well as the recent engagement with the Government of Mexico attending an ACAP meeting for the first time. The Secretariat also made reference to the participation of Japanese researchers during the last meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG8) in Wellington, New Zealand.
- 7.12.4 The Secretariat acknowledged the collaboration of Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (Mexico) in the preparation of the agenda for the official visit to Mexico in 2017. The assistance of the Argentina and Chile National Contact Points (and their respective contacts in the Embassies in Mexico) during the visit was also acknowledged.
- 7.12.5 The MoP commended the work of the Secretariat in engaging with Range States and supported the continuation of efforts in this respect.
- 7.12.6 Australia indicated that it would be pleased as Depositary to assist any non-Party Range State, and the Secretariat, concerning any queries about accession to the Agreement by a non-Party Range State.

7.13 Bibliographic References

- 7.13.1 The MoP agreed that the following disclaimer should be added as a footnote to the cover page of scientific/academic papers that are issued by the Secretariat or its organs, that include reference to disputed territories, and that are authored by entities other than (1) the Secretariat and its organs; (2) the Parties; (3) the non-Party Range States; and (4) observers (e.g. NGOs):

‘Noting Article XIII(1)(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, the references included in the present document are made exclusively for academic/scientific purposes and have no implications whatsoever for recognition of territorial sovereignty or the legal status of a state, territory, area, or their authorities, where relevant.’

7.14 Implementation of Article VIII(15) of the Agreement

- 7.14.1 Australia introduced [MoP6 Doc 07](#) that proposed the adoption of a Resolution under Article VIII(15) of the Agreement. The Resolution would enable any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels to participate as an observer by sending representatives to sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. The representatives would have the right to participate, but not vote, in accordance with Rules of Procedure adopted by the Parties from time to time. Australia recalled the urgency Parties have attached to this topic including under **Resolution 5.8**.
- 7.14.2 Several Parties supported the proposal presented by Australia. Argentina, Norway, and Spain suggested clarifications of some components of the draft resolution contained in **MoP6 Doc 07**.
- 7.14.3 The MoP endorsed the revised text and adopted **Resolution 6.8** (provided in **ANNEX 8**) with the understanding that this decision in no way affects the respective views of Parties about the legal status of any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels.

8 PROVISIONAL DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

- 8.1 Australia advised the meeting that Australia would be pleased to host the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2021 at a date and location to be confirmed.
- 8.2 MoP6 warmly welcomed this announcement and thanked Australia for this offer.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Media Release

- 9.1.1 The Secretariat together with South Africa will prepare a media release and circulate it promptly to the Parties.

9.2 Participation at Future Conferences

- 9.2.1 The Vice-chair noted two upcoming seabird conferences relevant to ACAP, the 14th International Seabird Group Conference in Liverpool, UK, in September 2018, and the 3rd World Seabird Conference in Hobart, Australia in 2020.
- 9.2.2 Australia noted that the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention (CMS COP13), will take place in India, in 2020.
- 9.3 AEWA drew the delegates' attention to a new joint World Migratory Bird Day campaign between the CMS, AEWA and the US-based Environment for the Americas. This collaboration, for the first time, unifies efforts on both sides of the Atlantic to spark awareness about the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. Starting this year, World Migratory Bird Days will be annually observed on the second Saturdays of both May and October, making it possible to organize events in countries around the world at peak times of bird migration. AEWA noted that the first 2018 World Migratory Bird Day will be taking place on 12 May.
- 9.4 The Vice-chair provided an update on the current Small Grants and Secondments round. The Secondment Programme process has been finalised, with four proposals to be funded this year. The Small Grants Programme funding will be announced in the coming days.
- 9.5 The MoP agreed that the Secretariat would send a letter on behalf of the Agreement to the past Chair of the MoP, Mr Ricardo Losa, to thank him for his support in the last triennium.
- 9.6 The MoP also agreed that the Secretariat would send letters of acknowledgement to the Tasmanian Government, in particular to the Department of State Growth, acknowledging their support of, and commitment to the Agreement as outlined in the MoU between the State of Tasmania and the Secretariat.

10. ADOPTION OF MOP6 REPORT

- 10.1 The meeting adopted the report of the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- 11.1 All Parties extended their sincere thanks to the Government of South Africa for hosting the meeting, as well as the memorable social events organised during the week. Parties highlighted the positive atmosphere and spirit of cooperation throughout the meeting, and the welcome participation of observers. Parties also expressed their thanks to the Chair, Vice-chair, and the Secretariat for steering the meeting through some complex issues.
- 11.2 The Chair noted the achievements of the session and acknowledged the valuable contributions of delegates to a successful meeting. He also thanked the interpreters, technical staff, and staff of the Nombolo Mdhuli Conference Centre for their effort in ensuring the smooth running of the event.
- 11.3 The Vice-chair thanked the Executive Secretary, Dr Marco Favero, for his excellent guidance at this meeting; his last meeting of the Agreement in this role before relinquishing the position at the end of the year. The meeting joined in warmly thanking him for his dedicated involvement with the Agreement over the last decade, wishing him all the best for his future. In reply, he thanked all his colleagues within the ACAP community for their support and friendship.
- 11.4 The Chair then closed the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

ANNEX 1. RESOLUTION 6.1 AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 1

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

Resolution 6.1

Amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling that *Ardenna creatopus*, syn. *Puffinus creatopus* is listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement;

Considering the recommendation of the Advisory Committee (AC10) to amend the nomenclature for *Ardenna creatopus*, syn. *Puffinus creatopus* in Annex 1 of the Agreement.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Decides:

Pursuant to Article XII(5) of the Agreement, to adopt the following amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels:

- ‘*Ardenna creatopus*, syn. *Puffinus creatopus*’ shall be replaced by ‘*Ardenna creatopus*’ in the current list of petrel species in Annex 1.

ANNEX 2. RESOLUTION 6.2 SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2019 - 2021

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**Resolution 6.2****Secretariat Work Programme 2019 – 2021**

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling Article VIII(11)(c) of the Agreement, which required that the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties establish the Secretariat to perform the functions listed in Article X of the Agreement;

Further recalling that Article X of the Agreement notes that a function of the Secretariat shall be to execute the decisions addressed to it by the Meeting of the Parties;

Further recalling Resolution 1.1, on the Secretariat of ACAP, which established an Interim Secretariat pending the negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Australia;

Noting that the Headquarters Agreement entered into force in 2 December 2008 and that the Secretariat is thereby established;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**Decides:**

to approve the Secretariat Work Programme in Appendix A.

RESOLUTION 6.2 APPENDIX A - SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2019 – 2021

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1	SUPPORT FOR MoP, AC & WG MEETINGS			AC11 + WGs		AC12 + WGs		MoP7		
1.1	Undertake meeting arrangements.	Article X.a								
	▪ selection of venue		Exec Secretary	3	3,500	3	3,500	3	3,500	Travel costs
	▪ organise contracts, venue/equipment		Exec Secretary	5		5		5		
	▪ liaison with host government		Exec Secretary	2		2		2		
1.2	Preparation of meeting papers	Article X.a								Within 60 days of meeting
	▪ writing of meeting documents		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Tech Advisor	35		35		35		
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		5		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Exec Secretary			5		5		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Sci Officer			15		5		
1.3	Support the attendance of sponsored experts and delegates	Article VII 5	Exec Secretary	10		10		5		Correspondence, organise travel, acquittal of accounts
1.4	Organise the translation and posting of meeting documents and provision of interpretation services	AC RoP 17 (1)								Within 30 days of meeting

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ coordination with service provider		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	▪ posting of documents		Sci Officer	5		5		3		
1.5	Support & operation of meetings	Article X.a								
	▪ travel for meetings		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	8	6,000	8	6,000	8	6,000	4 days per meeting, airfares x 2
	▪ travel for meetings		Contract x 1	4	3,000	4	3,000	4	3,000	Airfares
	▪ attendance at meeting		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	32	7,500	32	7,500	16	4,000	Accommodation and allowances x 2
	▪ attendance at meeting		Contract x 1	12	7,000	12	7,000	6	4,000	Contract costs, accommodation
1.6	Prepare meeting report and distribute to all Parties	Article X.a	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		
2	MANAGEMENT OF SECRETARIAT									
2.1	Administer the budget for the Agreement and the Special Fund provided for in Article VII (3) in accordance with the Agreement's Financial Regulations;	Article X.g								
	▪ payment of accounts		Exec Secretary	15		15		15		
	▪ preparation of invoices and receipts		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ preparation of financial statements		Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
	▪ maintain advance & assets registers		Exec Secretary	1		1		1		
2.2	Prepare biannual financial reports for the information of the Parties and the Chair of the Advisory Committee	AC2, MoP2	Exec Secretary	4		4		4		
2.3	Provide information to the general public concerning the Agreement and its objectives, and promote the objectives of this Agreement	Article X.h								
	▪ preparation of ACAP Latest News for website		Info Officer	90		90		90		
	▪ maintain/update website links and publications		Sci & Info Officers	5		5		5		
	▪ management of ACAP Facebook page		Info Officer	5		5		5		
	▪ preparation of scientific material		Sci Officer	10		10		10		
2.4	Update and maintain the ACAP website	Article X.h	Sci Officer & Contract	20	8,000	20	8,000	20	8,000	
2.5	Collate as appropriate synthesized information provided by Parties on the implementation and effective functioning of the Agreement with particular reference to the conservation measures undertaken	Article X.j;								
	▪ review data, liaise with stakeholders, amend database, collate information and draft consolidated reports	Article VII (1) c); Article VIII (10)	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer			20				
2.6	Prepare a report on Secretariat activities for AC and MoP meetings	Article X f)	Exec Secretary	2		2		2		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
2.7	Recruit and manage the Secretariat's staff in accordance with the Staff Regulations and the directions of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff Regs	Exec Secretary	5		5		5		
3	FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE									
3.1	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee	Article X k)	Exec Secretary	25		25		25		
3.2	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee in preparing a report to the MoP on the activities of the Advisory Committee	Article IX 6.e)	Exec Secretary			2		1		
3.3	Assist the Convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes 	AC WP Task 2.1	Sci Officer	25		25		25		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries 	AC WP Task 2.2	Sci Officer & Contract	25	5,000	25	5,000	25	5,000	Consultant database programmer/ developer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and update global population trends 	AC WP Task 2.3	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update ACAP Species Assessments 	AC WP Task 2.4	Sci Officer	30		30		30	4,000	Cost for map updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate updates to Species Assessments and 	AC WP Task	Sci Officer &	3	3,000	3	3,000	3	3,000	

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	2.5	Contract							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography 	AC WP Task 2.6	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps 	AC WP Task 2.7	Sci Officer			5	1,000			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions 	AC WP Task 2.8	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge 	AC WP Task 2.9	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update best-practice guidelines 	AC WP Task 2.10	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide reports on activities to AC meetings 	AC WP Task 2.11	Sci Officer	30		30				
3.4	Assist the Convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP (SBWG8 Doc 13) and review at each SBWG meeting. Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels. Develop ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data 	AC WP Task 3.1	Exec Secretary, Tech Advisor	70	30,000	70	30,000	70	30,000	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMO Interaction Plan

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	collection and reporting for presentation to RFMOs.									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries, develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas/ for high priority populations). 	AC WP Task 3.5	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary	10						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required 	AC WP Task 3.7	Sci Officer	20		20		20		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information 	AC WP Task 3.14	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.5	Assist the Convenor of the Taxonomy WG as required to facilitate the work of the Group	Article X k)								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database 	AC WP Task 1.2	Sci Officer	1		1		1		
3.6	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1	AC WP Task 5.3	Sci Officer	3		3		3		
3.7	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	AC WP Task 5.4	Sci Officer	5		5		5		
3.8	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	AC WP Task 5.5	Sci Officer	5		2		2		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
3.9	Review ACAP performance indicators	AC WP Task 5.6	Sci Officer			5		5		
3.10	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	AC WP Task 5.7	Sci Officer	10		10		10		
3.11	Manage directory of relevant legislation	AC WP Task 5.8	Sci Officer	1		1		1		Parties to supply further information as available
3.12	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations relevant to ACAP	AC WP Task 5.9	Sci & Info Officers	2		2		2		Parties to supply further information as available
4	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT									
4.1	Assist Parties in providing training, technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral or bilateral basis to facilitate implementation of the Agreement.	Article VIII 14	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary	5		5		5		
4.2	Promote and coordinate activities under the Agreement, including the Action Plan, in accordance with decisions of the Meeting of the Parties	Article X c)	Exec Secretary	15		15		15		
4.3	Liaise with non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations to facilitate coordination between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.	Article X d)	Exec Secretary	15	10,000	15	10,000	15	10,000	Airfares, accommodation, allowances

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2019		2020		2021		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
4.4	Consult with and enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions, and as appropriate exchange information and data.	Article XI 2 c), 3 & 4	Exec Secretary	10	15,000	10	15,000	10	15,000	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
4.5	Facilitate the accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Article X d), k)	Exec Secretary	5		5		5		Work with lead Parties and other Parties as needed.
4.6	Assist with the compilation of the triennial implementation report.	Article IX 6 (d)	Exec Sec, Sci Officer			10		10		
5	CAPACITY BUILDING									
5.1	Assist the Advisory Committee and Parties with technical cooperation and capacity building	Article IV (2)	Exec Sec, Sci Officer	20		20		20		
5.2	Support secondments programme to aid capacity building	MoP2	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		Airfares, accomm, allowances for secondees

ANNEX 3. RESOLUTION 6.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECRETARIAT

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

Resolution 6.3

Terms of Reference for reviewing the effectiveness of the Secretariat

Adopted by Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 - 11 May 2018

Recalling Article VIII(14) of the Agreement, which requires the Meeting of the Parties to review the effectiveness of the Secretariat in facilitating the achievement of the objective of the Agreement at every third Session of the Meeting of the Parties; and

Noting that Article VIII(14) requires that terms of reference for this review be agreed to at the previous Meeting of the Parties;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Agrees:

1. to establish a body comprising no less than two-thirds of Parties to undertake the review (the Review Body);
2. that the Review Body should seek to ensure regional representation from
 - a. Europe/Africa;
 - b. Asia/Australasia; and
 - c. North/South America;
3. that Parties participating in the review are not bound by the findings of the Review Body;
4. that the Terms of Reference of the Review Body will be to:
 - a. undertake a review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat in facilitating the achievement of the Agreement's objectives;
 - b. seek the views of all Parties and interview the Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary;
 - c. prepare a report for the sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties with recommendations, as appropriate, for enhancing the effectiveness of the Secretariat in achieving the Agreement's objective; and
 - d. prepare, as necessary, revised performance indicators to allow for quantifiable assessment of the Secretariat's performance; and
5. that the Performance Indicators in Appendix A will be used in the review.

RESOLUTION 6.3 APPENDIX A**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

1. All relevant information and meeting documents will be provided to the Parties within the timeframes specified by the Agreement.
2. All necessary staffing, logistics, interpretation, and other administrative arrangements required by the Parties will be carried out in coordination and consultation with the host governments of meetings.
3. All decisions will be executed, as required, in such a manner that is consistent with the Meeting of the Parties' intent, prioritising as appropriate within the limited available resources.
4. Facilitation and coordination activities, in accordance with the directions of the Meeting of the Parties or the Advisory Committee, will be carried out, as required, to fulfil the objectives of the Agreement.
5. Other international and national organisations and institutions are contacted, as appropriate, on matters related to achieving the objectives of the Agreement.
6. Other organisations are informed of the activities of the Agreement in order to facilitate information and technology exchange about approaches that contribute to achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels.
7. A report on the status of the budget for the implementation of the Agreement is prepared and provided in accordance with timescales set by the Meeting of the Parties.
8. The Agreement's budget is executed in a responsible, efficient, and accountable manner and in accordance with the financial regulations for the Agreement.
9. Assistance is provided to Parties, through the website, in their efforts to educate the general public about the Agreement and its objectives.
10. A system of performance indicators is provided to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat in facilitating the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement.
11. The Secretariat will supply to Parties all information identified by the Meeting of the Parties as relevant to the effective functioning of the Agreement.
12. A report is provided to each Meeting of the Parties and meetings of the Advisory Committee identifying activities that the Secretariat has been unable to carry out, providing reasons for any inaction, for example limitations in resources, and options for rectification.
13. The staff of the Secretariat follows the directions of the Executive Secretary, as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

**ANNEX 4. RESOLUTION 6.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME 2019 - 2021**

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

Resolution 6.4

Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 – 2021

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling Article VIII(11)(d) of the Agreement, which required that the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties establish the Advisory Committee provided for in Article IX of the Agreement;

Further recalling Resolution 1.5 of the Meeting of the Parties on the establishment of the Advisory Committee which included a work programme for this Committee;

Noting that the Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee developed a work programme for the period 2019 - 2021 (AC10 Final Report, Annex 5) taking into consideration the outcomes of its meeting and the preceding meetings of the Population and Conservation Status, and Seabird Bycatch Working Groups;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Decides:

to approve the Advisory Committee Work Programme in Appendix A, subject to available funding.

RESOLUTION 6.4 APPENDIX A - ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019 – 2021

This Work Programme provides indicative costs (in AUD) and time required to complete the tasks. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Officials, but also from Parties, Range States and NGOs. Note that these staffing resources are in most cases provided pro-bono. The hours shown do not include time spent by the Parties or other organisations, but is a reflection of the amount of time that AC Officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	0	Ensure that ACAP's bibliographic database is kept updated
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2019-2021	2 weeks	0	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data. Possibly a catalogue of taxa that are difficult to separate visually instead.
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2019-2021	2 months	?	In co-operation with PaCSWG a database of researchers holding site specific samples was developed initially.
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.	0	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template.
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.	0	Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.	0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders in June each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for secondments).
2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG	Ongoing	12 weeks p.a.	0	
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC12.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	4,000 (core)	Costs for BirdLife to update maps.
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing		10,000 (core)	
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2020	1 week p.a.	1,000 (core)	Review at AC12
2.8	Identify and review Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Review at each AC Meeting

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC12.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	0	
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	0	
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy for ACAP (SBWG8 Doc 13) and review at each SBWG meeting. Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels. Develop ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting for presentation to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	a) 18 weeks p.a. b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) 30,000 p.a. (core)	a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly) b) RFMO co-ordinator activities c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG) Includes development and dissemination of resources
3.2	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline and trawl fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Jonathon Barrington, Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Oli Yates, Anton Wolfaardt Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer, Igor Debski	Ongoing			
3.3	Development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Barry Baker	Ongoing	4 weeks		Using the toolbox approach.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.4	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) complete fact sheets for pelagic LL line weighting and hook-shielding devices, 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG/BirdLife	2019-2021	1 week per fact sheet	10,000 (core, for translation and for new factsheet)	
3.5	Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. (e.g. produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries, develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas/ for high priority populations).	SBWG, Secretariat	2019-2021			Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets. Scope of work dependent on outputs of investigation into drivers and barriers
3.6	Recommend priority actions to advance implementation of line-weighting in pelagic longline fisheries. Extend fly-back safety studies to consider hook tear-outs and 80 g weight if practicable.	SBWG	Ongoing			Will be informed by output of research underway in 2017, the results of which will be reported to SBWG9.
3.7	Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required	SBWG, Secretariat	2019-2021	20 weeks		Possibility for continued secondments to build capacity
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2020 (for MoP7)	1 week	5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible workshop.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.9	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing		0	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for secondment .
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks	0	Through liaison with external initiatives.
3.11	Further development of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG	2019-2021			Will hopefully commence in the triennium ending 2018.
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	2019-2021	20 weeks	0	Will be taken forward by the work being undertaken by Barry Baker and BirdLife. Outcomes should be presented to SBWG9, and will inform future actions for this triennium.
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales	SBWG	2019-2021			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress will be reported at SBWG9, and inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	BirdLife/SBWG Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Includes both published and unpublished literature. Replace working papers with published papers where possible. Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged. Refer and link to BMIS and other online bycatch databases
3.15	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea.	SBWG	2019-2021			Possible actions dependent on outcome of investigation planned for 2017-2018.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	Ongoing	10 weeks	0	Capacity building in accordance with the needs identified by interested Parties in order to encourage implementation, particularly in Ecuador, France, Peru, South Africa, (Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Madagascar), Tristan da Cunha (UK), and EC external fisheries
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties	Ongoing		0	Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	Ongoing		0	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	Ongoing		0	
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2020	4 weeks	?	
5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	0	
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week	0	Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	0	If Seabird Bycatch ID guide not updated by the end of 2018, it will be a high priority for this triennium. Core funds of 20,000 AUD proposed (see 5.15 of 2016-2018 WP).
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2020	3 weeks	0	
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Parties to supply further information, as available
5.9	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.	0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2020		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries and bycatch information to aid prioritisation and targeting of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction and those managed by RFMOs.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000 (core) 10,000 (grant)	Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
6. Management of AC work, secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	0	Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.3	Oversee, advise and guide Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, Chair and Vice-chair	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	0	

ANNEX 5. RESOLUTION 6.5 AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**Resolution 6.5****Amendment to the Rules of Procedure**

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling that, in accordance with Article VIII(11)(a) of the Agreement, the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties adopted its rules of procedure, contained in Annex 4 of the report of that Session;

Further recalling that Article VIII(13)(a) provides that the Meeting of the Parties may amend the Rules of Procedure at any session;

Aware that the Rules of Procedure were amended at the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties, contained in Annex 8 of the report of that Session;

Noting that Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties concerning intersessional voting, contains an error in Paragraph 5 of Rule 24.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**Agrees:**

1. to adopt the attached Rules of Procedure in Appendix A.

RESOLUTION 6.5 APPENDIX A**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING OF THE
PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES
AND PETRELS****PART I
ADMINISTRATION****Rule 1 – Purpose**

(1) Unless otherwise stated, these rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, convened in accordance with Article VIII of the Agreement.

(2) Unless specified to the contrary in a relevant instrument, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held within the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, except for the Advisory Committee, which has established its own rules of procedure.

(3) Where any inconsistency between these Rules and the Agreement arises, the Agreement shall prevail.

Rule 2 – Date and Place of Sessions

(1) Ordinary Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

(2) In accordance with Article VIII (9) and (12)(g), each ordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the time and venue of the next Session by consensus, or if consensus cannot be achieved, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting. Such a vote shall take place by a secret ballot.

(3) Any extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be convened not more than 90 days after the date at which the request is made to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of the date, location and duration of the Session not more than 30 days after such a request.

Rule 3 – Representation

(1) A Party to the Agreement (hereafter referred to as a "Party") shall be entitled to be represented at the Session by a delegation consisting of a Representative and such other accredited Alternative Representatives and Advisers as the Party may deem necessary.

(2) Subject to the provisions of Rule 20 paragraph 2, the Representative of a Party shall exercise the voting rights of that Party. In the Representative's absence, an Alternative Representative of that Party shall act in the Representative's place over the full range of functions.

Rule 4 – Observers

(1) All signatories to the Agreement, other States which are not Parties, any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum in respect of Article VIII, paragraph 15 of the Agreement, the United Nations, any specialised agency of the United Nations, any regional economic integration organisation, any Secretariat of a relevant international convention, particularly regional fisheries management organisations, may send observers to the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, who shall have the right to participate but not vote.

(2) Any international scientific, environmental, cultural or technical body concerned with the conservation and management of marine living resources or the conservation of albatrosses and petrels may request admittance to Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties

and its subsidiary bodies. Such participation may include submitting documents to the Secretariat for distribution to the Parties as information documents and addressing the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

(3) Written applications for attendance from such international bodies (described in paragraph 2) should be received by the Secretariat at least 90 days before the relevant Session, and circulated forthwith by the Secretariat to Parties. Parties shall inform the Secretariat of their acceptance or rejection of all applications no less than 60 days before the Session. An applicant shall be permitted to attend as a non-voting observer unless one third of the Parties object to their application.

(4) Any other scientific, environmental, cultural or technical body concerned with the conservation and management of marine living resources or the conservation of albatrosses and petrels may request admittance to Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. Such participation may include submitting documents to the Secretariat for distribution to the Parties as information documents and addressing the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

(5) Written applications for attendance from such other bodies (described in para 4) should be received by the Secretariat at least 60 days before the relevant Session, and circulated forthwith by the Secretariat to Parties. Parties shall inform the Secretariat of their acceptance or rejection of all applications no less than 30 days before the Session. An applicant shall be permitted to attend as a non-voting observer provided no objection is received.

(6) Prior to the Session, the names of Representatives of observers shall be submitted to the Secretariat by the State, agency, organisation or body invited to attend.

(7) In relation to Article XI of the Agreement, the Secretariat shall be bound by the above procedures.

Rule 5 – Credentials

(1) The Representative and any Alternative Representative of a Party shall have been granted powers by, or on behalf of, the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the head of a relevant government department or the head of an executive body of any regional economic organisation, enabling them to represent the Party at the Session and to vote.

(2) Such credentials shall be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 24 hours after the Session commences. Any later change in the composition of the delegation affecting voting rights shall also be contingent on submission of revised credentials to the Secretariat.

(3) A Credentials Committee of three Representatives of Parties shall examine the credentials and shall report thereon to the Session. Pending a decision by the Parties on their credentials, Representatives may participate in the Session.

(4) If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Session, they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

PART II

LANGUAGES, DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

Rule 6 – Official and Working Languages

(1) English, French and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Sessions.

(2) Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

(3) The official documents of the Sessions shall be distributed in the working languages. Information papers will not normally be translated, with the exception of information papers commissioned by either the Advisory Committee or the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 7 – Other Languages

(1) A speech may be made in a language other than a working language if the speaker provides for interpretation into a working language. Interpretation by the Secretariat into the other working languages may be based upon the first interpretation.

(2) Any document submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by an accurate translation into one of the working languages.

Rule 8 – Documents

(1) The documents for each ordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties, and proposals received from the Parties, subject to Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure, shall be distributed to the Parties in the working languages by the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the Session.

(2) At the discretion of the Chairperson, and only under exceptional circumstances, documents may be accepted after this deadline but shall be submitted by the Party in all working languages.

(3) Wherever practicable, documents shall be circulated electronically.

Rule 9 – Records

(1) Summary records of the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be circulated to all Parties in the official languages of the Session within 60 days.

(2) Committees and working groups shall decide upon the form in which their records shall be prepared.

(3) Sound recordings of the Sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, and whenever possible its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat. Such recordings shall be kept by the Secretariat for the purposes of verification and shall not be retained beyond the end of the next Session. Access to recordings shall be limited to the Secretariat and the Representatives of those delegations present at the Session, and shall be subject to a written request.

PART III

OFFICERS

Rule 10 – Secretariat

(1) The Head of the Agreement Secretariat (the Executive Secretary) shall be the Secretary at the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

(2) At such Sessions, the Executive Secretary shall provide and direct the staff of the Secretariat as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 11 – Responsibilities of Secretariat

(1) In addition to the functions specified in Article X of the Agreement, the Secretariat shall:

a) arrange for interpretation at the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;

- b) prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the Meeting of the Parties;
- c) draft the report of the Session, for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties;
- d) arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Meeting of the Parties; and
- e) perform such other duties as the Meeting of the Parties may require.

Rule 12 – Chairpersons

- (1) This Rule applies at all times, including between Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.
- (2) At the beginning of each ordinary Session, the Meeting of the Parties shall elect a Chairperson from among the Representatives of the Parties. The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties, and shall fulfil the role of the Chairperson should the Chairperson not be available. The term of office of the Chairperson shall commence straight away.
- (3) The Chairperson shall remain in office until a new Chairperson is elected.

Rule 13 – Presiding Officer

- (1) The Chairperson shall preside at all Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.
- (2) If the Chairperson is absent or is unable to discharge the duties of Presiding Officer, the Vice-Chairperson shall deputise.
- (3) In the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, a Representative of the Party providing the Chairperson shall deputise in their temporary absence.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall not vote but may designate an Alternative Representative from their delegation.
- (5) The terms of the Chairperson shall be limited to a maximum of two ordinary Sessions.

PART IV**AGENDA, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS****Rule 14 – Agenda**

- (1) The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda for each Session, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties and the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.
- (2) The provisional agenda of each ordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:
 - a) items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
 - b) items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous Session or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous Session;
 - c) items referred to in paragraph 6 of this Rule; and
 - d) any item proposed by a Party, the Advisory Committee or the Secretariat. Requests for additional items shall be made in writing, giving the rationale for the request.
- (3) The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties and the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, include any item that has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the Session, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

(4) The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda at this stage.

(5) The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for this Session. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary Session, at least 60 days before the Session.

(6) Any item of the agenda of an extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the Session, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next Session, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 15 – Establishment of Committees and Working Groups

(1) The Meeting of the Parties may establish such committees and working groups as may be necessary for it to carry out its functions. The Meeting of the Parties shall define the terms of reference and composition of each committee and working group. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such committee and working group may meet in the period between ordinary Sessions.

(2) Each committee and working group shall elect its own officers.

PART V

RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE

Rule 16 – Powers of Presiding Officer

(1) In addition to exercising powers conferred elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall at each Session of the Meeting of the Parties:

- (a) open and close the Session;
- (b) direct the discussions;
- (c) ensure the observance of these Rules;
- (d) accord the right to speak;
- (e) put questions to the vote and announce decisions;
- (f) rule on points of order; and
- (g) subject to these Rules, have complete control of the proceedings of the Session and the maintenance of order.

(2) The Presiding Officer may, in the course of discussion at each Session of the Meeting of the Parties, propose to the Session:

- (a) time limits for speakers;
- (b) limitation of the number of times the members of a delegation or an observer may speak on any question;
- (c) the closure of the list of speakers;
- (d) the adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion; and
- (e) the suspension or adjournment of the Session.

(3) The Presiding Officer shall exercise their powers of office in accordance with customary practice and, in the exercise of that office, remain under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 17 – Seating, Quorum

(1) Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of the Parties in the language of the meeting host.

(2) No Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the absence of a quorum. A quorum for Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist of four Parties or one-half of the Parties having delegations at the Session, whichever is the greater.

Rule 18 – Submission of Proposals for Amendment of the Agreement and its Appendices

(1) In accordance with Article XII of the Agreement:

a) proposed amendments shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the opening of a Session of the Meeting of the Parties, which shall transmit them forthwith to all Parties in the working languages of the Session;

b) any comments on a proposed amendment by the Parties shall be communicated to the Secretariat no less than 60 days before the opening of the Session. The Secretariat shall, as soon as possible after the last day for submission of comments, communicate to the Parties all comments submitted by that day.

(2) In exceptional circumstances, the Presiding Officer may also permit the discussion and consideration of proposals arising after the period prescribed in subparagraph 1b) of Rule 18 provided that they relate to proposed amendments which have been circulated in accordance with paragraph 1a) of Rule 18 and that their consideration will not unduly inhibit the proceedings of the Session. The Presiding Officer may also permit the discussion of motions as to procedures, even though such motions have not been circulated previously.

(3) After a proposal has been adopted or rejected by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article XII of the Agreement, it shall not be reconsidered unless a two-thirds majority of the Parties participating in the Session so decides.

Rule 19 – Procedural Motions

(1) During the discussion of any matter, a Representative may rise to a point of order, and the Presiding Officer, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide the point of order. A Representative may appeal against any ruling of the Presiding Officer. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the Presiding Officer's ruling shall stand unless a simple majority of the Parties present and voting otherwise decides. A Representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

(2) Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

(3) In cases where the votes are equal, a second vote shall be taken. If the second vote is also equal, the motion, or amendment shall not be carried.

(4) The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the Session:

(a) to suspend the Session;

- (b) to adjourn the Session;
- (c) to consider a motion in accordance with Rule 19(2) above;
- (d) to adjourn the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion; and
- (e) to close the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion.

PART VI VOTING

Rule 20 – Voting

- (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 3, paragraph 2, each accredited Party shall have one vote.
- (2) Parties which are more than one year behind in paying their budget contributions on the date of the opening of any Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall not be eligible to vote at that Session. However, the Meeting of the Parties may allow such Parties to continue to exercise their right to vote if it is satisfied that the delay in payment arises from exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. The Meeting of the Parties shall receive advice in this regard from the Secretariat.
- (3) The Meeting of the Parties shall normally vote by a roll-call vote. The first voter shall be drawn by lot; voting will then proceed as determined by the alphabetical order set forth in Rule 17(1). A Party may request voting to be conducted by secret ballot. Such a request shall require support from at least one-third of Parties present and voting.
- (4) Voting by roll-call shall be expressed by "Yes", "No" or "Abstain". Only affirmative and negative votes shall be counted in calculating the number of votes cast.
- (5) The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes and shall announce the result. Tellers appointed by the Secretariat may assist the Presiding Officer.
- (6) After the Presiding Officer has announced the beginning of the vote, it shall not be interrupted except by a Representative on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Presiding Officer may permit Representatives to explain their votes either before or after the voting, and may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Rule 21 – Taking of Decisions

- (1) The Chairperson shall put to the Parties, all questions, proposals and actions requiring decisions. In accordance with Article VIII (9), unless provided otherwise in the Agreement or in Rules 4(5), 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, decisions of Parties shall be adopted by consensus or, if consensus cannot be achieved, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting.
- (2) In accordance with Article VIII(11)(a), (11)(b), (12)(d) and (15), decisions about rules of procedure, financial matters, and provisions for the relationship to the Agreement by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, shall be adopted by consensus.

Rule 22 – Procedure for Voting on Motions and Amendments

- (1) A Representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for such division, the motion for division shall be voted upon first. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be accorded only to a Representative from each of two Parties wishing to speak in favour of and a Representative from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion. If the

motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or amendment, which are subsequently approved, shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

(2) When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Meeting of the Parties shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on until all amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes or revises part of that proposal.

(3) If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after voting on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 23 – Elections

(1) Elections to office shall be by secret ballot. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected to a position, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Presiding Officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

(2) If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

(3) In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the Presiding Officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Rule.

Rule 24 – Intersessional Voting

(1) This Rule applies between Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

(2) Where, in the view of any Party, the Executive Secretary or the Chair of the Advisory Committee there are exceptional circumstances that require a decision to be taken in advance of the next ordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties, any one of them may submit a proposal for such a decision to the Executive Secretary. This proposal for decision may be submitted electronically. Within 7 days, the Executive Secretary shall communicate the proposal to all Parties, together with any additional information that may assist Parties.

(3) Parties shall respond to the Secretariat's communication as soon as possible, but within 45 days of the date of distribution of the proposal, indicating whether they wish to support it, reject it, abstain on it, require additional time to consider it, or whether they consider it is not necessary for the vote to be taken during the period between Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

(4) If more than two-thirds of Parties consider it is not necessary for the vote to be taken during the period between Sessions, the Secretariat shall inform all Parties and shall include the proposal on the agenda of the next Session.

(5) Notwithstanding Rule 20, the adoption of any decision between Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be by consensus. For the purposes of this Rule, consensus shall mean that all the responses received by the Secretariat within the time frame specified in paragraph 3 of this Rule either support the decision or abstain. The result shall be promptly communicated by the Secretariat to all Parties. If consensus is not obtained, the matter will be placed on the agenda of the next Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(6) In so far as they are applicable, these Rules of Procedure shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any intersessional voting held within the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

PART VII

PUBLICITY OF DEBATES

Rule 25 – Public Access

(1) All parts of a Session of the Meeting of the Parties held in plenary shall be open to the public unless two-thirds of the Parties present and voting at the Session decide otherwise.

(2) All committees and working groups shall, in the absence of separate rules for those bodies, be open to the public unless two-thirds of the Parties present and voting at the Session decide otherwise.

PART VIII

AMENDMENT

Rule 26 – Amendment

As provided in Article VIII(13)(a), these rules may be amended by the Meeting of the Parties.

ANNEX 6. RESOLUTION 6.6 AGREEMENT BUDGET 2019 - 2021

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**Resolution 6.6****Agreement Budget 2019 - 2021**

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling that Article VIII(8) of the Agreement requires the Meeting of the Parties, at each of its ordinary Sessions, to adopt a budget for the next financial period;

Recalling also that Article VII(2)(a) of the Agreement requires decisions relating to the budget and any scale of contributions to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties by consensus, having regard to the differing resources of the Parties;

Noting that Resolution 1.1 adopted at the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties agreed to give consideration to amending the Scale of Contributions;

Recalling that Resolution 5.6 adopted at the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP5) adopted a scale of contributions formula;

Desiring to implement a scale of contributions formula that better deals with the different capacity of Parties to pay;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**Decides:**

1. to adopt the 2019 - 2021 Budget in Appendix A;
2. to adopt the scale of contributions formula in Appendix B to calculate the contributions for existing Parties;
3. that in the financial years 2019, 2020 and 2021, the core budget shall be based on fixed annual payments from the Parties as set out in Appendix C, noting the exception for the contribution from France which remains at zero nominal growth throughout the triennium;

4. to apply the formula in Appendix B, together with updated information on the UN scale of assessment for the UN budget, GNI% and GNIpc%, to calculate annual contributions for Range States that accede to the agreement in 2019, 2020 or 2021, using the total annual payments shown in Appendix C as the input amount when performing the calculation, and basing the calculation on there being a total of 14 Parties — the 13 existing Parties at the time of MoP6, plus the new Party that is the subject of the calculation;
5. that the accession of any Party to the Agreement during an intersessional period will not result in the recalculation of the fixed annual payments for any other Party prior to the next MoP;
6. that the budget is to be allocated on a functional basis into four appropriations as follows:
Appropriation 1 – Operation of the Secretariat
Appropriation 2 – Meetings of the Parties
Appropriation 3 – Meetings of the Advisory Committee
Appropriation 4 – Advisory Committee Conservation Programme;
7. that Parties should pay any outstanding contributions as soon as possible;
8. that all contributions shall be paid in Australian dollars (AUD);
9. that a working capital shall be maintained at a constant level of AUD 100,000;
10. that the Advisory Committee shall keep the status of the General Fund and other funds drawn up in accordance with the Agreement under regular review;
11. that additional funds which become available should other States accede to the Agreement during the 2019 - 2021 triennium will be allocated toward Appropriation 4 to support the implementation of the Agreement.
12. *Urges* all Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to the Special Fund to support the activities of the Agreement;
13. *Invites* non-Party Range States, governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and other agencies to consider contributing to the Special Fund or to specific activities;
14. *Requests* the Secretariat to make best endeavours to seek external funding to support the Advisory Committee Work Programme; and to identify innovative mechanisms to reduce costs.

RESOLUTION 6.6 APPENDIX A

Agreement Budget 2019 - 2021

Ref. No	Description	2019	2020	2021
1. INCOME				
	Contributions from Parties	767,628	781,195	795,048
	Interest on funds	3,567	3,642	3,718
	Tax refunds	17,498	17,865	18,241
	MoU - Tasmanian Government	22,821	23,209	23,604
	Total Income	811,515	825,912	840,610

2. EXPENDITURE**APPROPRIATION 1 - SECRETARIAT**

Employee salaries

1.1.1	Salaries – Executive Secretary	148,869	151,995	155,187
1.1.2	RBF Superannuation	14,143	14,440	14,743
1.1.3	Recruitment Costs	5,000	0	0
1.1.4	Salaries - Science Officer	100,800	102,917	105,078
1.1.5	RBF Superannuation	9,576	9,777	9,982
1.1.6	Workers Compensation	3,329	3,399	3,471
	Total Salaries	281,717	282,528	288,461

Employee expenses

1.2.1	Accommodation	10,396	10,614	10,837
1.2.2	Airfares	25,991	26,536	27,094
1.2.3	Travel Allowances	11,082	11,315	11,552
1.2.4	Travel Insurance	1,014	1,035	1,057
1.2.5	Consultants	32,546	52,928	57,093
1.2.6	Relocation expense (staff)	30,000	0	0
1.2.8	General insurance	1,467	1,498	1,529
1.2.9	Representation expenses	1,600	1,634	1,668
1.2.10	Other travel costs - visas	859	877	895
	Total Employee expenses	114,954	106,437	111,725

Operational costs

1.3.1	Office equipment /furniture	6,497	6,633	6,772
1.3.2	Office equipment maintenance	800	817	834
1.3.3	Office requisites - stationery	1,609	1,643	1,677
1.3.4	Publications /books	148	238	243
1.3.6	Printing and copying (PR material)	1,964	2,006	2,048
1.3.7	Telephones - telecommunications	2,500	2,553	2,606
1.3.8	Translations - correspondence	6,497	6,633	6,772

Ref. No	Description	2019	2020	2021
1.3.9	Postage	233	238	243
1.3.10	Freight/couriers	233	238	243
1.3.11	Light and power	2,683	2,740	2,797
1.3.12	Insurance property	1,500	1,531	1,564
1.3.14	Vehicle running costs	3,500	3,574	3,649
1.3.15	Cab charge - taxis	520	531	542
1.3.16	Parking	6,861	7,005	7,152
1.3.18	Staff training	2,333	2,382	2,432
1.3.19	Staff conferences / seminars	1,300	1,327	1,355
1.3.20	Bank charges	291	297	303
1.3.21	Bad and doubtful debts	318	325	331
1.3.22	Software purchase	2,599	2,654	2,710
1.3.23	Server lease	643	657	671
1.3.24	Outsourced IT services	2,018	2,061	2,104
1.3.25	Modifications to database	7,757	11,418	11,658
1.3.26	WAN Wireless network	1,180	1,205	1,230
1.3.27	Rent - ACAP office	32,800	33,489	34,192
1.3.28	Rates and water	0	0	0
1.3.29	Preventative maintenance	0	0	0
1.3.30	Office cleaning	500	511	521
Total Office operational costs		87,284	92,702	94,649
TOTAL APPROPRIATION 1 - SECRETARIAT		483,955	481,667	494,836
APPROPRIATION 2 – MEETING OF THE PARTIES				
Interpretation / Translation Costs				
2.1.1	Simultaneous interpretation	0	0	41,279
2.1.2	Hire of interpretation equipment	0	0	16,370
2.1.3	Translation of documents	0	0	34,016
Total Interpretation/Translation		0	0	91,666
Meeting support costs				
2.2.1	Hire of venue (including catering)	0	0	15,011
2.2.2	Hire/purchase of equipment	0	0	10,007
2.2.3	Support staff	0	0	20,639
2.2.4	Printing of documents/report	0	0	6,880
Total Meeting support costs		0	0	52,537
Sponsorship				
2.3.1	Sponsorship - experts	0	0	22,895
Total Sponsorship costs		0	0	22,895
TOTAL APPROPRIATION 2 - MoP		0	0	167,097

Ref. No	Description	2019	2020	2021
APPROPRIATION 3 – ADVISORY COMMITTEE				
Interpretation				
3.1.1	Simultaneous interpretation	49,980	51,030	0
3.1.2	Hire of interpretation equipment	14,043	14,337	0
3.1.3	Translation of meeting documents	38,721	28,535	11,000
	Total Interpretation	102,744	93,902	11,000
Venue and meeting support costs				
3.2.1	Hire of venue (including catering)	26,454	27,010	0
3.2.2	Hire/purchase of equipment	2,403	2,454	0
3.2.3	Support staff	26,039	26,585	0
	Total Venue and meeting costs	54,896	56,049	0
Sponsorship				
3.3.1	Sponsorship of experts	18,744	19,137	0
	Sponsorship non-Party Range States	0	0	0
	Total sponsorship	18,744	19,137	0
Support for Advisory Committee Officials				
3.4.1	Support for AC Officials	25,435	25,969	0
	Total support	25,435	25,969	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION 3 - AC		201,819	195,057	11,000
APPROPRIATION 4 - AC WORK PROGRAMME				
	Support for secondments	0	20,807	36,101
	Advisory Committee Work Programme	125,740	128,381	131,577
TOTAL APPROPRIATION 4 - AC WORK PROGRAMME		125,740	149,187	167,677
TOTAL AGREEMENT BUDGET		811,514	825,912	840,610
One off costs from savings in General Fund				
	Relocation expense (staff)	20,000	0	0
	Secretariat Vehicle purchase	0	0	35,000

RESOLUTION 6.6 APPENDIX B

Scale of Contributions Formulae

1. For Parties whose scale of assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment for the UN Budget (currently Resolution 61/237, February 2007) is less than or equal to 0.15%, annual contributions shall be calculated on the UN Scale of Assessment.

$$\text{Contribution 1} = \frac{\text{UN \%}}{\sum \text{UN \% ACAP}} * \text{ACAP Budget}$$

(Equation 1)

where: UN % is the calculated UN Scale of Assessment for a Party outlined in the United Nations Scale of Assessment for payment of annual contributions to the UN Budget (currently Resolution 58/1 B, March 2004);

$\sum \text{UN \% ACAP}$ is the sum of the UN Scale of Assessment for all ACAP Parties outlined in UN Resolution 58/1 B; and

ACAP Budget is the annual budget approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

2. For Parties whose scale of assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment for the UN Budget (Resolution 61/237, February 2007) is greater than 0.15%, annual contributions shall be calculated based on 50% GNI, and 50% GNI per capita, with no party paying more than 20% of the total ACAP Budget. It is calculated using the following equations:

$$\text{Contribution 2} = \left[\sum \left(\frac{\text{GNI \%}}{\sum \text{GNI \% ACAP}} \cdot 0.5 \right), \left(\frac{\text{GNIpc \%}}{\sum \text{GNIpc \% ACAP}} \cdot 0.5 \right) \right] \cdot (1 - \sum \% \text{Contribution 1})$$

* ACAP Budget

(Equation 2)

where: GNI % is the Gross National Income for a Party that has a Scale of Assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment that is greater than 0.15%;

$\sum \text{GNI \% ACAP}$ is the sum of the Gross National Incomes for all ACAP Parties that have a Scale of Assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment that is greater than 0.15%;

GNIpc% is the Gross National Income per capita for a Party that has a Scale of Assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment that is greater than 0.15%;

$\sum GNI\% ACAP$ is the sum of the Gross National Incomes per capita for all ACAP Parties that have a Scale of Assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment that is greater than 0.15%; and

$\sum \% Contribution_1$ is the total assessed contributions for Parties whose scale of assessment under the United Nations Scale of Assessment for the UN Budget is less than or equal to 0.15%: it is expressed as a percentage of the ACAP budget.

3. If the calculated percentage contribution for one or more parties resulting from Equation 2 exceeds 20%, the contribution for the Party/Parties is set at 20% of the annual budget, and the contribution for the residual Parties recalculated in one or more subsequent iterations of the following formula:

$$Contribution = \left[\sum \left(\frac{GNI\%}{\sum GNI\% ACAP < 20\%} \cdot 0.5 \right), \left(\frac{GNIpc\%}{\sum GNIpc\% ACAP < 20\%} \cdot 0.5 \right) \right] \\ \bullet \left(1 - [(0.20 \bullet Parties > 20\%) + (\sum \% Contribution - 1)] \right) \bullet ACAP Budget$$

(Equation 3)

where: $\sum GNI\% ACAP Parties < 20\%$ is the sum of the Gross National Incomes for all ACAP Parties that have an assessed annual ACAP contribution < 20% in Equation 2;

$\sum GNIpc\% ACAP Parties < 20\%$ is the sum of the Gross National Incomes per capita for all ACAP Parties that have an assessed annual ACAP contribution < 20% in Equation 2;

$Parties > 20\%$ is the number of Parties that have an assessed contribution from Equation 2 or subsequent iterations of this equation that is >20% of the ACAP Budget.

RESOLUTION 6.6 APPENDIX C

Parties' Contributions 2019 - 2021

Party	2019 Contributions (AUD)	2020 Contributions (AUD)	2021 Contributions (AUD)
Argentina	45,297	46,248	47,219
Australia	81,943	83,664	85,421
Brazil	100,535	102,647	104,802
Chile	37,574	38,363	39,169
Ecuador	2,460	2,511	2,564
France	121,567	121,567	121,567
New Zealand	47,214	48,205	49,217
Norway	79,338	81,004	82,705
Peru	4,993	5,098	5,205
South Africa	34,098	34,814	35,545
Spain	87,112	88,941	90,809
United Kingdom	122,598	125,172	127,801
Uruguay	2,900	2,961	3,023
TOTALS	767,628	781,195	795,048

ANNEX 7. RESOLUTION 6.7 ARRANGEMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**Resolution 6.7****Authority of the Secretariat to Enter into Arrangements with Relevant International Organisations**

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recalling that Article X (d) of the Agreement calls upon the Secretariat to, *inter alia*, liaise with international organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels;

Aware that Article XI (1) of the Agreement calls upon Parties to, *inter alia*, promote the objectives of this Agreement and develop and maintain coordinated and complementary working relationships with all relevant international, regional and sub-regional bodies, including those concerned with the conservation and management of seabirds and their habitats and other marine living resources;

Further recalling that Articles XI (3) authorise the Secretariat enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions as may be appropriate;

Further recalling Resolution 3.7 of the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties on the Authority of the Secretariat to Enter into Arrangements with Relevant International Organisations, which includes a template and modalities for such arrangements;

Further recalling that Resolution 3.7 states that any substantive derogation from the template that is more than merely editorial must be approved by the Parties; and

Further recalling that Resolution 3.7 states that any proposed amendments of a substantive nature must be approved by the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**Decides that:**

1. The Secretariat may renew or negotiate the Memoranda of Understanding between ACAP and the following bodies and organisations:

- a) the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), to facilitate cooperation to minimise the incidental bycatch of albatrosses and petrels;
 - b) the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), to facilitate cooperation to minimise the incidental bycatch of albatrosses and petrels; and
 - c) the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), following the approval already granted by Parties in [Resolution 5.7](#), to facilitate cooperation to minimise the incidental bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.
2. The template set out in Resolution 3.7 will be used in respect of the arrangements referred to in paragraph 1(a) and 1 (b) above; and that
3. The Secretariat may commence negotiations for the development of Memorandum of Understanding with the South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) following the same template approved in Resolution 3.7 (ANNEX A).

RESOLUTION 6.7 APPENDIX A

Text proposed for the MoU between SEAFO and ACAP Secretariat

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION

and

THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (hereafter SEAFO) and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (hereafter ACAP Secretariat);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* (hereafter ACAP), developed under the auspices of the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, is a multilateral agreement which seeks to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to albatross and petrel populations;

NOTING that Article X(d) of ACAP authorises the ACAP Secretariat to liaise with non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations and to facilitate coordination between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels;

NOTING FURTHER that Article XI of ACAP authorises the ACAP Secretariat to consult and cooperate, where appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant conventions and international instruments in respect of matters of common interest, and to enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions as may be appropriate, and to consult and cooperate with such organisations and institutions in exchanging information and data;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean is to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that Article 3(c) of the SEAFO Convention requires the contracting parties to apply the provisions of this Convention relating to fishery resources, taking due account of the impact of fishing operations on ecologically related species such as seabirds, cetaceans, seals and marine turtles; Conservation Measure 25/12: On Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in the SEAFO Convention Area was adopted in December 2012.

CONSCIOUS that some members of SEAFO are Parties to ACAP;

NOTING that Article 18 of the SEAFO Convention requires SEAFO to cooperate, as appropriate, with other relevant organisations on matters of mutual interest and shall seek to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with such other organisations;

RECOGNISING that the achievement of the objectives of SEAFO and ACAP will benefit from cooperation, with a view to strengthening the conservation measures adopted in respect of albatrosses and petrels;

DESIRING to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation in order to enhance the conservation of albatrosses and petrels;

JOINTLY DECIDE as follows:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') is to facilitate cooperation between SEAFO and the ACAP Secretariat ("the Participants") with a view to supporting efforts to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of ACAP within SEAFO Convention Area.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

SEAFO and the ACAP Secretariat may consult, cooperate and collaborate with each other on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels, including:

- a) development of systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information concerning the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in SEAFO Convention Area;
- b) exchange of information regarding management approaches relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels;

- c) implementation of education and awareness programmes for fishers who operate in areas where albatrosses and petrels may be encountered;
- d) design, testing and implementation of albatross and petrel bycatch mitigation measures relevant to fishing operations in SEAFO Convention Area;
- e) development of training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting albatrosses and petrels; and
- f) exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in SEAFO Convention Area and
- g) reciprocal participation with observer status at the relevant meetings of ACAP and SEAFO.

3. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This MoU may be reviewed or amended at any time by the mutual written consent of both Participants.

4. LEGAL STATUS

The Participants acknowledge that this MoU is not legally binding between them.

5. COMING INTO EFFECT AND TERMINATION

- (a) This MoU will remain in effect for 6 years. At that stage the Participants will review the operation of the MoU and decide whether it will be renewed or amended.
- (b) Either Participant may terminate this MoU by giving six months written notice to the other Participant.
- (c) This MoU will come into effect on signature.

SIGNATURE

Signed atthisday of 2018

Chair
SEAFO

Executive Secretary
ACAP Secretariat

ANNEX 8. RESOLUTION 6.8 IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VIII(15) OF THE AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**Resolution 6.8****Resolution on implementation of Article VIII(15) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels concerning any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels**

Adopted by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Skukuza, South Africa,
7 – 11 May 2018

Recognising that the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels is threatened by incidental mortality associated with commercial fishing activities, including those of distant water fishing fleets;

Further recognising the importance of ensuring that the threats posed to albatrosses and petrels are effectively mitigated throughout their range;

Aware that such protection can be greatly enhanced by cooperation with member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex I to the Agreement, particularly those with a high incidence of bycatch of albatross and petrel species;

Conscious of the benefit to the Agreement of the participation in the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies by member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, including as observers;

Recalling that Article VIII(15) of the Agreement provides that the Meeting of the Parties may adopt by consensus provisions for the relationship to the Agreement by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels; and that those provisions, once adopted, shall enable the member economy to participate in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including decision-making, and to comply with all obligations under the Agreement;

Recalling also that Article VIII(4) of the Agreement provides that the Meeting of the Parties shall make provision in its rules of procedure for governing the attendance and participation of observers; and that such rules shall not be unduly restrictive;

Noting that pursuant to Article VIII(11)(a) and Article VIII(13)(a) the Meeting of the Parties has adopted Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement

including, among other things, concerning observership by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels;

Desiring to encourage co-operation with member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, in order to advance the objective and fundamental principles of the Agreement, set out in Article II of the Agreement;

Recognising that any decision on the participation by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, in no way affects the respective views of Parties about the legal status of any member economy:

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

1. *Agrees* pursuant to Article VIII(15) of the Agreement, to the participation by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, as an observer in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with Rules of Procedure adopted by the Parties from time to time. Participation by any member economy, as an observer, does not include the right to vote in the course of decision-making.

ANNEX 9. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

CHAIR	
<p>Mr Ashley NAIDOO Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa anaidoo@environment.gov.za</p>	
VICE-CHAIR	
<p>Mr Nathan WALKER Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand Nathan.Walker@mpi.govt.nz</p>	

PARTIES	
ARGENTINA	
Representative	<p>Mr Francisco LOPEZ ACHAVAL Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto fzl@mrecic.gov.ar</p>
Advisor	<p>Mr Sergio ROJO Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto qsr@mrecic.gov.ar</p>
Advisor	<p>Ms Barbara AUBERT CASAS Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto auq@mrecic.gov.ar</p>
AUSTRALIA	
Representative	<p>Mr Jonathon BARRINGTON Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Antarctic Division Jonathon.Barrington@aad.gov.au</p>
BRAZIL	
Representative	<p>Mr Arthur NAYLOR Ministry of Foreign Affairs arthur.naylor@itamaraty.gov.br</p>

CHILE	
Representative	Mr Marcelo GARCIA Subsecretaria de Pesca y Acuicultura mgarcia@subpesca.cl
ECUADOR	
Representative	Ms María SOLEDAD CÓRDOVA Embassy of Ecuador in South Africa mcordova@cancilleria.gob.ec
Advisor	Mr Marco HERRERA CABRERA Instituto Nacional de Pesca mherrera@institutopesca.gob.ed
FRANCE	
Representative	Mr Alexandre OLMEDO French Embassy in South Africa alexandre.olmedo@diplomatie.gouv.fr
NEW ZEALAND	
Representative	Mr Ian ANGUS Department of Conservation langus@doc.govt.nz
NORWAY	
Representative:	Mr Øystein STØRKERSEN Norwegian Environment Agency Oystein.storkersen@miljodir.no
PERU	
Representative	Mr Jesús Raúl PONCE BRAVO Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores jponce@rree.gob.pe

SPAIN	
Representative	Ms Isabel LÓPEZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente milopez@mapama.es
SOUTH AFRICA	
Alternate Representative	Mr Herman OOSTHUIZEN Department of Environmental Affairs oosthuiz@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Dr Robert CRAWFORD Department of Environmental Affairs crawford@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Mr Johan DE GOEDE Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) JohannesDG@daff.gov.za
Advisor	Mrs Zintle LANGA Department of Environmental Affairs ZLanga@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Ms Millicent MAKOALA Department of Environmental Affairs mmakoala@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Mr Yamkela MNGXE Department of Environmental Affairs ymngxe@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Mrs Zimbini NKWINTYA Department of Environmental Affairs znkwintya@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Mr Zolile NQAYI Department of Environmental Affairs znqayi@environment.gov.za
Advisor	Mrs Leshia VISAGIE Department of Environmental Affairs lupfold@environment.gov.za

UNITED KINGDOM	
Representative	Mrs Elaine KENDALL Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) elaine.kendall@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Alternate Representative	Ms Elizabeth MORROW Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) elizabeth.morrow@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Alternate Representative	Mr Mark TASKER Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) mltasker@aol.com
Advisor	Dr Megan TIERNEY Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) megan.tierney@jncc.gov.uk
URUGUAY	
Representative	Dr Marcel CALVAR MVOTMA-Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente mcalvar@mvotma.gub.uy

OBSERVERS: RANGE STATES	
CANADA	
	Mr Ken MORGAN Environment and Climate Change Canada ken.morgan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
MEXICO	
	Mr Humberto BERLANGA GARCÍA Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) hberlang@conabio.gob.mx

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Head of Delegation	Ms Mi Ae KIM NOAA mi.ae.kim@noaa.gov
	Ms Katy SATER Department of State satermc@state.gov

OBSERVERS: INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS	
AEWA	
	Ms Melissa LEWIS AEWA Technical Committee M.G.Lewis@uvt.nl

OBSERVERS: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS	
BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL	
	Dr Ross WANLESS ross.wanless@birdlife.org.za
GRUPO DE ECOLOGIA Y CONSERVACION DE ISLAS, A.C.	
	Ms Yuliana BEDOLLA GUZMAN yuliana.bedolla@islas.org.mx

SECRETARIAT	
Executive Secretary	Dr Marco FAVERO marco.favero@acap.aq
Science Officer	Dr Wiesława MISIAK wieslawa.misiak@acap.aq

Information Officer	Mr John COOPER john.cooper61@gmail.com
MoP6 Staff	Dr Anton WOLFAARDT acwolfaardt@gmail.com ACAP Secretariat 119 Macquarie St Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia +61 3 6165 6674 www.acap.aq

INTERPRETERS

Spanish/English	Ms Cecilia ALAL Dr Sandra HALE
French/English	Mr Philippe Tanguy Ms Joelle Coussaert ONCALL Interpreters & Translators Conference@oncallinterpreters.com

ANNEX 10. MEETING AGENDA

1. Official Opening	
1.1	Official Opening and Opening Statements
2. Procedural Issues	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda
2.2	Amendments to the MoP Rules of Procedure
2.3	Establishment of Credentials Committee
3. Reports	
3.1	Report of Credentials Committee
3.2	Report of the Depositary
3.3	Reports of Observers
4. Operation of the Secretariat	
4.1	Report of the Secretariat
4.2	Secretariat Work Programme 2019 - 2021
4.3	Review of Staff Regulations
4.4	Review of Financial Regulations
4.5	Review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat
4.6	2018 Recruitment of the Agreement's Executive Secretary
5. Operation of the Meeting of the Parties	
6. Operation of the Advisory Committee	
6.1	Report of the Advisory Committee
6.2	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2021
6.3	<i>Pterodroma</i> workshop outcomes and recommendation from Advisory Committee
7. Operation of the Agreement	
7.1	Report on Implementation of the Agreement
7.2	Criteria for listing and de-listing species in Annex 1
7.3	Proposed Amendment to Annex 1 - listing of new species
7.4	Identification of Priority Actions for Conservation Measures
7.5	Proposed Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement
7.6	Capacity Building
7.7	Development of Arrangements with Other International Organisations
7.8	Financial and Auditor's Reports
7.9	Agreement Budget 2019 - 2021
7.10	Scale of Contributions
7.11	National Plans of Action
7.12	Accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement
7.13	Bibliographic references
7.14	Implementation of Article VIII(15) of the Agreement

8.	Provisional Date and Venue of the Seventh Meeting
9.	Other Business
9.1	Media Release
9.2	Participation at future Conferences
10.	Adoption of MoP6 Report
11.	Closing Remarks

ANNEX 11. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
MoP6 Doc 01	Provisional Agenda and Supplementary Provisional Agenda	2.1	Secretariat, AC Chair, MoP5 Chair, Advisory Committee
MoP6 Doc 02	Annotated Provisional Agenda and Supplementary Provisional Agenda	2.1	Secretariat, MoP6 Vice-chair
MoP6 Doc 03 Rev 2	Meeting Schedule	2.1	Secretariat, MoP6 Vice-chair
MoP6 Doc 04 Rev 1	List of Meeting Documents	2.1	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 05 Rev 2	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 06	Amendment to Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties	2.2	Australia
MoP6 Doc 07 Rev 1	Resolution on implementation of Article VIII(15) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels concerning any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels	7.14	Australia
MoP6 Doc 08	Report of the Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	3.2	Australia
MoP6 Doc 09	Secretariat Report	4.1, 7.7, 7.12	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 10	Review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat	4.5	Review Body
MoP6 Doc 11	Advisory Committee Report to the Sixth Meeting of Parties	6.1, 6.3, 7.2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 12 Rev 1	Interim 2018 Financial Report	7.8	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 13	Report on progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2015 - 2017	7.1, 7.4, 7.11	Secretariat, Advisory Committee
MoP6 Doc 14	Amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	7.3	Australia, United Kingdom
MoP6 Doc 15	Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2021	6.2	Advisory Committee
MoP6 Doc 16	Draft Secretariat Work Programme 2019 - 2021	4.2	Secretariat

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
MoP6 Doc 17	Draft Agreement Budget 2019 - 2021	7.9	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 18	Scale of Contributions	7.10	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 19	Review of Reporting on the Implementation of the Agreement	7.1	Australia, New Zealand, Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 20 Rev 1	Indicators to measure the success of the Agreement	7.5	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 21	Performance Indicators on Capacity Building	7.5	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 22	Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy	7.6	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 23	Implementation of Resolution 2.9	4.1	Secretariat
MoP6 Doc 24	Arrangements with other Organisations	7.7	Secretariat

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
MoP6 Inf 01	Informe de aplicación para 2017 - Argentina	7.1	Argentina
MoP6 Inf 02	Rapport de mise en œuvre 2017 - France	7.1	France
MoP6 Inf 03	2017 Implementation Report – Norway	7.1	Norway
MoP6 Inf 04	Informe de aplicación para 2017 - Perú	7.1	Peru
MoP6 Inf 05	Implementación del MdE entre CIT y ACAP: una cooperación en busca de potenciar las acciones de conservación de ambas Organizaciones <i>Implementation of the MoU between the IAC and ACAP: cooperation to promote conservation actions of both Organizations</i>	7.7	IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , ACAP Secretariat

ANNEX 12. STATEMENTS FROM UK ON ERADICATION AND NPOAS

Press Release: South Georgia is declared rodent free

The UK reported upon the exciting and positive news that was released by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) on 8th May 2018, that South Georgia has been officially declared rat free for the first time since humans arrived on the Island over 200-years ago. This has been a massive undertaking with the SGHT and its USA counterpart, Friends of South Georgia Island (FOSGI), raising over £10m to finance the work and represents a major win for the conservation of seabirds, including albatross and petrels.

The eradication project was conducted over four seasons, starting in 2011 and concluding in 2016, and involved the coordination of a large and exceptional international team.

The South Georgia Rat Eradication programme is the largest operation of its kind undertaken anywhere in the world. Following the last baiting work two years ago, a comprehensive monitoring survey was carried out on South Georgia in the Austral summer of 2017-18, when the Island was surveyed to search for signs of surviving rats using a combination of detection methods. This included 4,600 inert devices such as chewsticks and tracking tunnels, plus three highly trained sniffer dogs and their two handlers.

To provide context to the level of effort put into the eradication and monitoring effort it was reported by SGHT that:

- The baiting programme covered 108,723 ha (or 1,087 km²)
- The dog handlers covered 1,608 km and the dogs 2,420 km while searching for rodents
- Together the handlers climbed the equivalent ascent of Mount Everest 8x over; and the dogs 12.9 times.

The UK extended their most heartfelt congratulations to SGHT and FOSGI, and all those involved in the programme, for this outstanding achievement, which they are sure will be echoed by the whole ACAP community.

The UK noted that the rat eradication programme ran in parallel with the successful eradication of reindeer from South Georgia which was undertaken by the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI). The successful execution of both programmes is hoped to contribute significantly to the reestablishment and/or conservation of many seabirds. Indeed, there is already anecdotal evidence of some species showing signs of recovery which is extremely positive.

The UK also noted that, following the successful eradication of rodents from South Georgia it has been recognised that the stringent biosecurity measures in place for the Islands needs to be continued to prevent reintroduction, and the GSGSSI, together with the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), are currently trialling a domestic sniffer dog programme as an added biosecurity measure, whereby commercial vessels, including fishing and tourist vessels, are being inspected by dogs trained to detect rodents and other biosecurity threats.

The UK further noted that a number of rodent eradication programmes are planned for some the offshore islands of the Falkland Islands and keep the Parties to the Agreement updated on progress with this progress.

The UK also welcomed and supports the very large efforts being done by RSPB and its partners, to undertake rodent eradication programmes on Marion and Gough Islands. In regards to the eradication programme on Gough Island, the UK Government is providing financial support for this programme through the National Security Council's Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

Update on Falkland Islands NPOA

NPOA- Trawlers:

- **Waste management:** Good progress made. An industry wide consultation on proposed policy in relation to waste management on trawlers completed on 30 April. Taking into consideration consultation responses, a draft policy paper will be presented to the industry at the Fisheries Committee in June. There has been increasing level of support from industry in relation to this, with six vessels already having been fitted with a batch discarding system.
- **Progressing with alternative mitigation:** Due to issues with tori-lines (practicality & effectiveness), Falkland Islands Fisheries Department (FIFD) and industry are investing in Fixed Aerial Array research and installations. Designs have been modified and improved over the course of a few years now, and are starting to show very promising results.
- **NPOA 2019-2022** A NPOA review is scheduled, and a new NPOA (2019-2022) expected to be produced this year (2018).

NPOA-Longliners:

- Currently no NPOA (outdated) as there is negligible bycatch in this fishery. However, strategic seabird monitoring continues, as does continued improvement to mitigation (currently conducting research on the tori-line being used and improvement to the Brickle Curtain).

NPOA-Jigger:

- Currently no NPOA as there is negligible bycatch in this fishery. However, following the SBWG8 meeting, an updated review on the issue of deliberate taking has been conducted. The report is due to be finalised in June 2018. The report identified that since 2006, there has been no evidence of deliberate taking of seabirds in Falkland Islands waters.

Update on South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Conservation Action Plans

South Georgia and South Sandwich Implementation Plan for ACAP

- South Georgia and South Sandwich (SGSSI) Implementation Plan for ACAP (2016-2020) has been finalised. This Plan summarises the current status of ACAP-related work at SGSSI, and provides a prioritised programme of future

work. Under its National Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020, GSGSSI has committed to achieve these objectives in order to meet the (UK and SGSSI) obligations of the Agreement. The Implementation document is an updated version of the 2010 ACAP Action Plan for SGSSI and covers the period 2016-2020. It includes an overview of current work being conducted, a list of ACAP requirements which have been drawn from the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan, a list of recommended actions corresponding to each requirement, and a list of previously completed actions. There are also links to the relevant GSGSSI legislation and management plans.

- Although this plan deals specifically with ACAP-listed species, the activities will often respond to wider biodiversity issues, and will be implemented as part of broader programmes. It is likely also that these actions will benefit a wider range of species beyond those listed by ACAP. This plan focuses on SGSSI, but also encourages complementary action in other areas, particularly on the High Seas, and the jurisdictional waters of other countries, where albatrosses and petrels from SGSSI are known or thought likely to be killed. It is important to note that the primary objective of this plan is the conservation of ACAP species and habitats, and it is possible that something which is a low order priority for ACAP species may be a high order priority for other components of the Islands' biodiversity. A number of organisations and individuals undertake ACAP-related work at SGSSI. The main purpose of this plan is to serve as a tool to guide the coordinated and efficient implementation of best-practice actions and work that contributes effectively towards fulfilling the objectives of ACAP.

Species Conservation Action Plans for Wandering, Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatross

- Species Conservation Action Plans for Wandering, Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatross (2016-2020) have also been finalised. The scope of the Conservation Action Plans is focused on the populations that breed at South Georgia. Given the significance of these populations, it is hoped that the implementation of these plans will positively influence the overall conservation status of the species. In order to effectively implement these plans, a collaborative effort, involving many stakeholders is required. The Conservation Action Plans include measures that are the direct responsibility of GSGSSI, but importantly also include 'external' actions that involve other nations, organisations and individuals. In these latter cases, collaboration and diplomatic engagement to promote and support management of these 'external' threats to South Georgia albatrosses is vital. The UK Government has fully supported the development of these Action Plans, and has indicated that it will support implementation, as appropriate.

The first phase of implementation for these Conservation Action Plans is 2016-2020, which has been set to coincide with the time frame for the Biodiversity Action Plan for South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and the overarching South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Strategy. However, given the long-term nature of the overall goal, it is anticipated that the Conservation Action Plan will need to be extended beyond this initial five-year period.

ANNEX 13. NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT ON THE ANTIPODES AND THE AUCKLAND ISLANDS

New Zealand wishes to offer our congratulations to the United Kingdom and partners on the success of its pest eradication programmes. In March 2017 New Zealand was pleased to announce the successful eradication of house mice from the Antipodes, a vital nesting site for the Antipodean Albatross. As with the initiative, the Antipodes eradication was undertaken with support from a number of important partners. These include the Morgan Foundation, WWF-NZ, Island Conservation and public contributions. Looking ahead New Zealand confirms that the feasibility study into the eradication of pigs, feral cats and mice on the subantarctic Auckland Islands continues. We hope by the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to be able to announce our plans to implement the programme.

ANNEX 14. STATEMENTS FROM RANGE STATES

Statement from Canada

On behalf of Canada I would like to thank the government of South Africa for hosting this meeting in a truly amazing location. I would also like to thank the ACAP Secretariat for what they have done with respect to organizing the meeting and for their continued efforts to conserve albatrosses and petrels.

Canada was unable to attend the 10th Advisory Committee meeting held last year in New Zealand, so I would like to mention a few recent activities concerning Canada's efforts to better understand the nature of and to reduce the level of seabird bycatch in Canadian domestic fisheries.

On Canada's Pacific coast, we are field-testing a new seabird identification guide to be used by crew members working on domestic demersal longline vessels. Many crew members have complained that existing identification guides are overly complicated, with too much text. In response to this, we developed the guide using life-sized drawings of heads, bills and feet to distinguish the most bycatch-vulnerable species of seabirds, which includes four ACAP-listed species. Preliminary reports from those field-testing the guide have been very favorable.

In addition, last year Canada published, as part of the Species at Risk Act Management Plan series, the '*Management Plan for the Black-footed Albatross (Phoebastria nigripes) in Canada*'. As many of you know, while all three species of North Pacific albatrosses occur within Canada's Pacific coast waters, they do not breed in Canada. Of the three species, the Black-footed Albatross is the most abundant, and is present throughout the year. Relatively high numbers of this species are caught in the west coast longline fisheries. In contrast, since 2006 only a single Laysan Albatross has been reported as bycatch and there have been no reported captures of Short-tailed Albatrosses.

With the completion of the identification guide and the Black-footed Albatross Action Plan, Canada is optimistic that there not only will be notable improvements in the quality of seabird bycatch data reported; but more importantly, the number of albatrosses taken in Pacific coast fisheries will be reduced.

Thank you for your attention.

Declaración de México

México desea agradecer al gobierno de Sudáfrica y al Secretariado de ACAP por la hospitalidad y las facilidades prestadas para nuestra participación en esta 6ta Reunión de la partes del ACAP. En los últimos años México ha dedicado sus esfuerzos a la conservación y restauración de especies y ecosistemas insulares para la protección de las aves y la biodiversidad. Por ello, mediante un amplio esfuerzo de coordinación nacional e internacional, México ha establecido una estrategia nacional de conservación de islas a largo plazo, que incluye aspectos de cooperación internacional, especialmente con los Estados Unidos y con Canadá. En años recientes el gobierno mexicano consolidó su sistema de áreas naturales protegidas mediante el decreto de la Reserva de la Biósfera Islas del Pacífico de la Península de Baja California y con la reciente recategorización de la Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago Revillagigedo a Parque Nacional. Para México las aves marinas son una prioridad y representan una responsabilidad en términos de conservación, ya que cuenta con más de 4,000 elementos insulares que junto con las aguas adyacentes representan áreas clave para la reproducción, alimentación, migración y descanso de estas especies. Para México es de mucha importancia tener la oportunidad de participar en esta reunión y conocer más a fondo el ACAP y en particular los trabajos de los grupos de asesoramiento técnico, por lo que esperamos seguir participando y dando seguimiento a las actividades y productos del Acuerdo.

Humberto Berlanga García

Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)

USA Statement

The United States has been continuing its seabird conservation activities and has made technical contributions to the 9th and 10th meetings of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups as an Observer and participating as invited experts. We have also been working with the Secretariat and other partners to promote action by RFMOs to mitigate seabird bycatch in longline fisheries.

Within the United States, we have been carrying out several activities related to seabird conservation. The following are a few highlights.

The work to establish a new seabird colony at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, O'ahu, which we reported at MoP5, continues to be a success with a Laysan Albatross from the first cohort that fledged from the site returning to visit the colony this year. This initiative is motivated by the recognition that many low lying colonies will be lost to sea level rise and increased storm frequency and intensity in the coming years. Mammal-proof fences to provide safe breeding sites for seabirds, including petrels and albatrosses, have been established around existing or potential seabird colonies on Kaua'i, Maui, and O'ahu in Hawaii. At James Campbell three cohorts of Laysan Albatross and two cohorts of Black-footed Albatrosses have been translocated to the site. This spring 53 Bonin Petrels (*Pterodroma hypoleuca*) and 25 Tristram's Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*) from Midway and French Frigate Shoals have joined the nursery and will be reared there until they fledge from their new home on higher ground.

A Draft Environmental Assessment of a proposed project to eradicate the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) from Sand Island, Midway Atoll, is out for public review. These mice have preyed on nesting adult Laysan Albatross at Midway in recent years and pose a threat to the population there. Sand Island hosts 40 percent of the world's breeding Laysan Albatross. Pending the findings of the environmental assessment and public review process, the implementation of this project could begin in 2019.

Recently, there have been increases in seabird interactions, particularly Black-footed Albatross, in the Hawaii longline fisheries. In response to this trend the U.S. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council convened a 3-day workshop on improving the understanding of albatross interactions. The workshop focused on potential drivers of the higher albatross interaction rates observed in 2015-2016 within the context of longer-term oceanographic variability, shifts in fishery effort and distribution, changes in albatross at-sea distribution, and albatross demography and population trends. NOAA Fisheries will publish the workshop proceedings, including key findings and next steps.

In November, NMFS hosted a 1.5-day long Seabird Cable Strike Mitigation Workshop with approximately 40 participants, including fishermen, scientists, and managers, to identify effective, practical mitigation measures to reduce seabird cable strike mortality in the catcher-processor West coast hake and Alaska trawl fisheries. Participants learned about the scope and scale of the seabird cable strike problem and existing mitigation measures being used effectively elsewhere in the world. Participants identified mitigation measures that showed good potential for field testing, pending the availability of resources. NMFS intends to summarize the results of the workshop as a NOAA Technical Memorandum.

We will soon publish a 23-year synopsis of the Alaska groundfish longline fisheries showing the effects of mitigation gear implemented in 2002. Other studies conducted by

NOAA reviewing technological gear adaptations and operational analysis indicate that within a fishing fleet, a small subset of vessels are driving current bycatch rates. Building on past pilot work, efforts are underway to develop a vessel-specific bycatch reduction program for the longline fishing fleets.

NOAA has also conducted a number of programs related to outreach to fishermen operating in the Pacific Ocean. In Alaska, in collaboration with Washington Sea Grant and Oregon State University, free streamer lines and seabird-related information were distributed to the Alaska longline fleet. In Hawaii, a seabird handling placard has been distributed and a video showing how to handle bycaught seabirds is being developed. Outreach materials showing seabird avoidance measures were also provided to fishermen in the West Coast longline fisheries.

ANNEX 15. STATEMENTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Statement on the Seabird-related Activities of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

7 May 2018, Skukuza, South Africa

On behalf of ACAP's sister Agreement, the [Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds](#), I'd like to thank the South African government and the ACAP Secretariat for organizing this meeting, and to thank the Chair for giving me the opportunity to present this brief update on AEWA's seabird-related activities.

AEWA currently has 77 Contracting Parties within Africa and western Eurasia, and of the 254 species covered by the Agreement, 84 are seabird species, including, for instance, various species of tropicbirds, frigatebirds, gannets, cormorants, gulls, terns, and auks.

The Agreement's legal text contains several seabird-specific provisions, including provisions on minimizing the impacts of fisheries and taking measures to address marine pollution and the threats posed by non-native terrestrial predators on islands and islets, and AEWA is increasingly developing a programme of work related to seabirds.

In 2015, the Agreement's Secretariat commissioned the development of several documents to BirdLife International, which collectively reviewed the threats facing AEWA-listed seabird species and identified relevant conservation actions already underway, knowledge gaps, and priorities for further conservation action.

As a result, the sixth session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties adopted an [International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds](#); as well as [AEWA Resolution 6.9](#), which encourages Parties to implement a wide range of recommendations aimed at improving the conservation status of African-Eurasian seabirds.

There is a degree of overlap between the issues covered by these documents and those of concern to ACAP, an obvious example being bycatch mitigation. Indeed, Resolution 6.9 recognizes that there are joint issues of concern between AEWA and ACAP, and that there consequently exists potential for linkages and synergies between the two Agreements.

The resolution also determines that, in addressing seabird conservation issues, AEWA's priority should be those species, regions, or threats that are not already the subject of pre-existing international or conservation frameworks. In other words, areas in which the Agreement is able to make a unique contribution.

Pursuant to the resolution, a document is currently being finalized which identifies the most urgent AEWA priorities for seabird conservation. Also pursuant to the resolution, a further two documents are currently in the pipeline. One will assess the threats posed by marine litter to AEWA-listed seabird populations. The other will provide a guide to the

existing guidance on reducing the impacts of fisheries upon seabirds, and the current draft of this document already makes reference to various guidance produced under ACAP.

Once finalized these documents will feed into a draft resolution on seabirds to be presented to the seventh AEWA Meeting of the Parties. The AEWA Secretariat would be happy to consult with the ACAP Secretariat on a draft of the resolution once it has been produced, and also invites the ACAP Secretariat to send representation the AEWA Meeting of the Parties itself, which will be held here in South Africa on 4-8 December this year.

Thank you and I wish you a productive and successful meeting.

Melissa Lewis
AEWA Technical Committee

Statement from BirdLife International

I represent today two organisations – BirdLife International and the South African partner NGO, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA). I have also been asked to speak on behalf of the BirdLife partner in the UK, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), on their efforts in support of the ACAP work plan in relation to Gough Island and their invasive alien species eradication work.

BirdLife International's Marine Programme has, since ACAP came into force, aligned its seabird bycatch work as far as it can, to those of ACAP. The seminal work that the Albatross Task Force (ATF) teams have conducted in many fleets of member states present here today, is testament to that. Today, the ATF teams are seeking to expand their albatross bycatch work, and I wish to highlight two such initiatives today. One is to investigate new or emerging bycatch issues of seabird conservation. One such issue is reminiscent of the albatross bycatch that was discovered in demersal trawl fishing in the early 2000s. As those present here who are familiar with this matter will recall, albatross mortality in trawl fishing is highly cryptic, yet ironically in many places it was (or may still be) killing as many, or more, birds than the celebrity bycatch gear type – tuna longline fishing. In both South Africa and Brazil, ATF teams have identified that tuna pole-and-line operations are capturing ACAP-listed species during fishing operations. While the nature and scale of those risks remain to be understood, they are potentially very significant. We note with pleasure the work that the delegation from the USA has mentioned this morning, in relation to evaluating and addressing seabird cable strikes from demersal trawl fisheries, and extend an invitation to the USA representatives to discuss how BirdLife's ATF experiences might be shared.

The second matter relating to the ATF's work that I wish to highlight today relates more broadly to addressing bycatch. As everyone here present who is involved in fisheries management and bycatch will know, the threat to albatrosses and petrels from bycatch is not due to a lack of data, nor a lack of options to prevent bycatch, nor even a lack of regulations that require bycatch mitigation measures to be used during fishing operations. That risk is now, primarily, the lack of compliance with regulations. The Executive Secretary of ACAP attended an ATF meeting earlier this year, where the ATF teams agreed to consider how they can emulate their successes in getting seabird bycatch mitigation measures implemented, by developing heuristics and approaches to transition entire fleets towards compliance with regulations.

Last, but not least, BirdLife South Africa wishes to bring to the attention of this meeting the work that it is doing, under the leadership of the SA DEA, to fundraise and plan for the eradication of invasive house mice at Marion Island. BLSA is further pleased to advise that we have played a strong role in assisting our sister organization, the RSPB, in its plans to eradicate mice from Gough Island. The partnership between these two BLI member organisations is leading to efficiencies, knowledge sharing, including the use of the South African National Antarctic Programme's base at Gough Island and other facilities. The eradication of mice from these islands will make a significant contribution to the improvement in the conservation status of many ACAP priority species and

populations. We encourage and support the USA in their intention to eradicate mice that was brought to this meeting's attention by the USA delegation

Other work that BLI leads on in relation to bycatch of ACAP-listed seabird species fall broadly into two categories. One is the long-standing and highly collaborative work that BLI and ACAP undertake, to improve the functioning of tuna commissions and to strengthen the nature of regulations and the implementation thereof. We also wish this meeting to note the joint project between Government of South Georgia, RSPB and British Antarctic Survey in 2017, which identified the distant water tuna fleets as posing a particular risk to these declining populations. This highlights the importance of engaging with these fleets to reduce risks to ACAP-listed albatrosses breeding at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) and many other ACAP populations. In support of this work, we remind the meeting that BLI hosts the seabird tracking database, which is used extensively by ACAP, BLI and others in spatial assessments of threat layers. BLI is also the listing authority for birds, on behalf of the IUCN, and has recently completed an update to the status of several ACAP species, notably Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis* and White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*.

The second relates to the implementation of the seabird bycatch component of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Common Oceans (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) Tuna Project. BirdLife South Africa is implementing this project for BLI. Extensive capacity-building and outreach work to crew of longliners, fisheries observers, scientists and officials from many fleets, including major Asian fishing nations, has been implemented under this project. The Common Oceans work is also facilitating a collaborative effort by key tuna longline fishing nations to assess total seabird bycatch. Participating nations are those that operate in the areas where tuna commission regulations require the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, and several ACAP member states are participating and supporting that assessment work. This work is expected to be completed by March 2019, and the outcomes of that work will be presented to ACAP, hopefully at the 2019 AC meeting.

We also highlight the fact that BLI is developing a background paper for the ACAP-led *Pterodroma* workshop.

Of critical importance to BLI, in assisting ACAP to become as effective as possible, is that the Secretariat and ACAP parties are increasingly active in a) reporting on their bycatch levels and reductions b) reporting actively on their work to reduce threats to ACAP high priority populations. We welcome the steps taken in 2017 to increase activity on both of these, and hope it will continue. BLI encourages the ACAP Secretariat to continue the efforts to engage with range states that are currently not ACAP members. BLI notes that major fishing fleets that have, or are likely to have, significant seabird bycatch in their tuna longline fisheries, do not have much engagement with ACAP. In light of this, BLI further encourages the Secretariat to engage with those nations, and extend an invitation to use the Common Oceans tuna project that BLI is implementing, as a means to initiate such outreach by ACAP should it wish. BLI also calls on ACAP parties to assist the Secretariat with diplomatic outreach or other means, to bring representatives of non-Party nations to ACAP meetings

Declaración de Yuliana Bedolla Guzmán representante del Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., México

Muchas gracias al ACAP por ofrecernos esta invaluable oportunidad de participar como observador en la Sexta Reunión de las Partes y al gobierno de Sudáfrica por su amable hospitalidad. El Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C., en estrecha colaboración con el gobierno mexicano, lleva a cabo un programa nacional de restauración de aves marinas desde hace 20 años, mediante la erradicación de mamíferos exóticos invasores, implementación de sistemas de atracción social, técnicas de protección, restauración de hábitat e implementación de políticas públicas. A la fecha, se han erradicado 60 poblaciones de mamíferos exóticos invasores en 39 islas prioritarias, lo cual representa la protección de más de 200 colonias de aves marinas. Así mismo, se ha restaurado el 75% de las poblaciones de aves marinas extirpadas en las islas de la península de Baja California, y se ha registrado el aumento en el tamaño poblacional de muchas colonias.

En particular, la población del albatros de Laysan en Isla Guadalupe, en el Pacífico mexicano, ha tenido un aumento muy importante en los últimos años gracias a las acciones llevadas a cabo, de tan sólo unas pocas parejas en 1983 —cuando la colonia se estableció en la isla— a más de 1,000 parejas actualmente. En 2003 se comenzó con el control de gato feral, en 2014 se construyó un cerco de exclusión para este mamífero exótico invasor, y en 2017 se inició con su erradicación, la cual se planea finalizar en el 2021. En la isla Socorro, Archipiélago de Revillagigedo, la erradicación de gato feral está por ser completada a finales del presente año, lo cual representa la acción de conservación más importante para la pardela de Revillagigedo que anida exclusivamente en ese archipiélago.

Por otra parte, desde 2015 se está implementado un Programa Nacional de Bioseguridad Insular para mantener estos logros en el largo plazo. En cuanto a la preparación de documentos, recientemente se desarrolló una propuesta de programa de manejo y AICAS Marinas para las aves endémicas de México y otras especies prioritarias como el albatros de Laysan donde se identifican las prioridades de conservación y manejo. Esto es todo de mi parte, muchas gracias.