



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**

and

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

The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereafter the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*) and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (hereafter the 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 *Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles* (hereafter IAC) is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

**NOTING** that Article XII of IAC states that Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention and, when they deem it appropriate, shall seek the support of relevant international organisations;

**AWARE** that sea turtles face threats similar to those of albatross and petrels, such as incidental bycatch in fisheries;

**RECOGNISING** that the achievement of the objectives of IAC and ACAP will be advanced from cooperation, with a view to strengthening the conservation measures adopted in respect of species of interest for both international instruments;

**CONSCIOUS** that some Parties to IAC are Parties to ACAP;

**JOINTLY DECIDE** as follows:

## **1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') is to facilitate cooperation between the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the ACAP Secretariat ("the Participants") with a view to supporting efforts to maintain a favourable conservation status and minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels, and sea turtles.

## **2. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The Participants 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 recovery of populations of albatrosses and petrels, and sea turtles including, among other things:

- (a) exchange of scientific knowledge regarding techniques to mitigate interactions of albatrosses and petrels, and sea turtles with fishing operations to reduce the incidental mortality resulting from such interactions;
- (b) exchange of information regarding management approaches relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, and sea turtles; and
- (c) reciprocal participation with observer status at relevant meetings of IAC and ACAP.

### **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. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION**

- (a) This MoU will remain in effect for 6 years, and prior to the end of this period, the Participants will review the operation of the MoU and decide whether to renew or amend it.
- (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 this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016 in four originals, in English and in Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

  
Secretary *Pro Tempore*  
IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*

  
Executive Secretary  
ACAP Secretariat