

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Joint Twelfth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and Eighth Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lima, Peru, 8 August 2024</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Review of Advisory Committee discussions relevant to the implementation of the Waved Albatross Plan of Action</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Marco Favero¹ & Kate Huyvaert²</i></p> <p>1 Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (IIMyC, UNMdP-CONICET), Argentina 2 Washington State University, USA</p>
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SUMMARY

1. The Waved Albatross Plan of Action (WAPOA) was developed to provide information to managers, scientists, and stakeholders on actions needed to improve the conservation status of the species.
2. Since its adoption in 2008, the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups have revisited the WAPOA several times since its adoption and consistently recognised the needs to (a) revise the priorities, (b) identify lead organisations for each action, (c) define steps needed to achieve the expected outcomes in the WAPOA, and (d) explore mechanisms to enhance engagement with key stakeholders.
3. This information paper outlines a timeline of actions by the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups relevant to the implementation of the WAPOA and provides background and context for **Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 06** that proposes five principal action areas for priority engagement, support, and implementation arising from the WAPOA.

RESUMEN

Revisión de lo discutido por el Comité Asesor acerca de la implementación del Plan de Acción del Albatros de Galápagos

1. El Plan de Acción del Albatros de Galápagos (WAPOA) se desarrolló para proporcionar información a administradores, científicos y partes interesadas sobre las acciones necesarias para mejorar el estado de conservación de la especie.
2. Desde su adopción en 2008, el Comité Asesor y sus Grupos de Trabajo han revisado el WAPOA varias veces y han reconocido consistentemente la necesidad de (a) revisar sus prioridades, (b) identificar organizaciones líderes para cada acción, (c) definir los pasos necesarios para lograr los resultados esperados en el plan, y (d) explorar mecanismos para mejorar el compromiso con las partes interesadas.

3. Este documento informativo describe un cronograma de acciones del Comité Asesor y sus Grupos de Trabajo relevantes para la implementación del WAPOA y proporciona antecedentes y contexto para el documento de la reunión conjunta **Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 06** que propone cinco áreas de acción principales para la participación, el apoyo y la implementación que surja del WAPOA.

1. THE CREATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE WAVED ALBATROSS

The Waved Albatross Plan of Action (WAPOA) was developed by Ecuador and Peru in collaboration with ACAP, with the objective of providing information to managers, scientists, and stakeholders on actions needed to improve the conservation status of the species. The WAPOA was developed in 2007/2008 and adopted in 2008 at the Fourth Meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (refer to AC4 Doc 50 rev.4 for the full text of the original plan). This information paper outlines a timeline of actions by the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups relevant to the implementation of the WAPOA and provides background and context for **Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 06** that proposes five principal action areas for priority engagement, support, and implementation arising from the WAPOA.

2. TIMELINE OF ACTIONS RELEVANT TO THE WAPOA IMPLEMENTATION

2007 – The Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3) note the support provided by the ACAP Secretariat for the organisation of the Waved Albatross Workshop, held in Lima, Peru, as the initial process for the discussion of the WAPOA.

2008 – Ecuador, Peru, and ACAP organise the second WAPOA Workshop held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, continuing discussions with focus on 'Recommended Actions' and the feasibility of implementation. The Governments of Ecuador and Peru agree to adopt the Plan of Action in order to commence its implementation (AC4 Doc 20 and AC4 Doc 50 Rev2).

2010 – The Status and Trends Working Group recommended a reassessment of the priorities assigned to the actions in the WAPOA relating to status and trends, so that the priority of actions could be ranked with greater certainty and clarity (AC5 Doc 20 and AC5 Inf 3). Consistently, observations were made by the other Working Groups recognising the need to (a) revise the priorities, (b) identify lead organisations for each action, (c) define steps needed to achieve the expected outcomes in the WAPOA, and (d) explore mechanisms to enhance engagement with key stakeholders.

2011 – *Aves y Conservación* (coordinating the Albatross Task Force in Ecuador) report on the start of trials on mitigation measures to reduce the bycatch of Waved Albatrosses in Ecuadorian artisanal fisheries. The Advisory Committee highlights that actions to date have concentrated on addressing interactions with fisheries (AC6 Doc 29), emphasizing that the review of the action plan should include re-defining tasks and actions, re-evaluating priorities, undertaking an examination of proposals for improving communication, and identification of a process for an easy update of actions undertaken and outcomes achieved.

2016 – The Populations and Conservation Status Working Group consider and recommend to the Advisory Committee affording the Española populations (i.e, Punta Cevallos, Punta

Suárez) 'Priority Population' status (proposed in PaCSWG3 Doc 04) and urged engagement of stakeholders to conduct a complete review of the WAPOA (AC9).

2017 – The Advisory Committee (AC10) again revisits the WAPOA, stressing the need to review its implementation as one of the ACAP priority populations.

2018 – The Advisory Committee grants a project (ACAP Small Grant 2018-04) supporting the organisation of a workshop for the comprehensive review of the WAPOA. The workshop took place in September 2018 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, with additional support from American Bird Conservancy, Packard Foundation, Colorado State University, Galapagos National Park and Humane Society International. In addition to the review of actions in the WAPOA, the workshop drafted several avenues for work including the implementation of strategies to: (1) address fishery bycatch in coastal Ecuador and Peru, (2) address key research questions at colony sites to inform conservation actions, (3) determine impacts of fisheries in other areas (IATTC, Galapagos, Colombian waters), and (4) develop outreach programs to socialize bycatch mitigation in fishing communities posing high risk to Waved Albatross (see ACAP 2018-04 in AC11 Inf 02).

2019 – The Advisory Committee review the outcomes of the 2018 Waved Albatross workshop and propose updates in the WAPOA (PaCSWG5 Inf 21). The Advisory Committee encourage Peru and Ecuador to implement the WAPOA to the extent possible (AC11 Report, para 9.1.5), supporting the establishment of an *ad hoc* intersessional group to provide advice (when requested) on priority conservation actions for ACAP Priority Populations, e.g. the Waved Albatross. However, feedback on conservation actions in the WAPOA reviewed during the workshop (PaCSWG5 Inf 21, Annex 1) was not formally incorporated in an updated version of the plan. Inconsistent funding and high turnover of staff charged with carrying out actions in the WAPOA were noted as challenges to implementing it.

2021 - The Advisory Committee again highlights the need to complete the review and update of the WAPOA including a more concrete reference to tourism and related issues. Peru supported the recommendation, noting that results from research supported by small grants had already provided improved knowledge of the population size and trends of the Waved Albatross on Española Island (AC12 Report).

2023 - AC13 recall the WAPOA as a good example of bilateral action plans that had been developed under ACAP, noting that they would welcome updates on its implementation (AC13 report, para 11.1.26).