

出國報告（出國類別：其他）

出席「信天翁與水薙鳥保育協定
(ACAP)」諮詢委員會第13次會議
會議報告

服務機關：海洋委員會海洋保育署

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摘要

信天翁與水薙鳥保育協定 (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, ACAP) 第 11 屆海鳥混獲工作小組會議(SBWG11)於 112 年 5 月 15 至 17 日舉行，並接續於 112 年 5 月 18 至 19 日舉行第 7 屆海鳥保育狀態工作小組會議 (PaCSWG7)，第 13 屆諮詢委員會(AC13) 則於 112 年 5 月 22 至 26 日在英國愛丁堡召開，此為疫情後首度恢復辦理實體會議，我國代表團由本署郭庭瑜專員、范怡均科員、外交部周黎薇科員及學者南華大學葉裕民副教授代表與會，出席會員國包括阿根廷、澳洲、巴西、智利、紐西蘭、祕魯、南非、西班牙、英國、烏拉圭共 10 國；觀察員包括我國、美國、加拿大、納米比亞、國際鳥盟、HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (HSI，澳洲 NGO)等。

本次會議重點討論「信天翁與水薙鳥族群及保育狀況」、「信天翁與水薙鳥之生物學分類」、「海鳥混獲」、「忌避措施的最佳實踐」及「跨國合作的可行性」等議題。而我國代表團與澳洲、紐西蘭、美國及巴西等代表交流相關海鳥保育工作，強調國際間海鳥保育共識的重要。持續與各區域漁業管理組織合作推動保育措施，有助於我國漁船在高緯度漁業作業時採取相關的忌避措施，以避免混獲海鳥，並與國際保育行動接軌。本次會議遴選出新任 AC 官員，並決議第 14 屆諮詢委員會會議 (AC14)預訂於 2024 年 8 月底至 9 月初在祕魯首都利馬舉行。

關鍵字：信天翁、水薙鳥、海鳥保育、ACAP 協定、忌避措施、漁業發展。

壹、目的

為避免信天翁、水薙鳥等海鳥因混獲、繁殖地受到外來種入侵等因素，而導致族群量下降甚至滅絕，2004年在澳洲簽署「信天翁與水薙鳥保育協定（Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, ACAP）」，希望透過國際合作了解海鳥族群動態、混獲狀況、掌握海鳥混獲的熱點，以保護海鳥族群。

ACAP 為使海鳥在陸域和海上獲得有效的保護措施，集結各國的研究及保育措施，基於國際合作及專業知識，提出最佳的避鳥措施建議。這些措施倘獲得國際區域漁業組織的認可，則會依據該協定的建議，要求會員國在高緯度海域進行漁撈作業時必須實施忌避措施，以減少混獲海鳥。

ACAP 每三年召開一次大會(Meeting of Parties；簡稱 MoP)，由會員參加並通過決議，此三年期間會有海鳥混獲、族群及保育狀態等工作小組會議(Working Group)並視各項議題提出建議，各建議會提報至諮詢委員會(Advisory Committee, 簡稱 AC)，通過後交由秘書處執行，如有提案則會由諮詢委員會提報至會員大會討論。我國於 2019 年首度以觀察員(Observers)身分參加第 11 屆諮詢委員會(AC11)，2021 年受到全球新冠肺炎(Covid-19)疫情影響，第 12 屆諮詢委員會(AC12)以線上會議方式舉行，為延續我國參與動能，除海洋保育署(以下簡稱本署)人員，並同時邀請行政院農業委員會漁業署、外交部及專家學者等共同參與。

本年度第 13 屆諮詢委員會(AC13)及其下第 11 屆海鳥混獲工作小組會議(Seabird Bycatch Working Group, 以下簡稱 SBWG11)及第 7 屆族群及保育狀態工作小組會議(the Population and Conservation Status Working Group, 以下簡稱 PaCSWG7)，此為疫情後首度恢復辦理實體會議。出席會員國包括阿根廷、澳洲、巴西、智利、紐西蘭、秘魯、南非、西班牙、英國、烏拉圭共 10 國；觀察員包括我國、美國、加拿大、納米比亞、國際鳥盟、HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (HSI, 澳洲 NGO)等，我國代表團由本署郭庭瑜專員、范怡均科員、外交部周黎薇科員及學者南華大學葉裕民副教授代表與會，在會議上共同討論海鳥族群的現狀以及尋求能減少威脅海鳥生存的方法。

本次參與會議重點討論「信天翁與水薙鳥族群及保育狀況」、「信天翁與水薙鳥之生物學分類」、「海鳥混獲」、「忌避措施的最佳實踐」及「跨國合作的可行性」等，有助於我國漁船在高緯度漁業作業時，採取相關忌避措施以避免混獲海鳥，並接軌國際保育行動。ACAP 的經驗對海鳥保育極為重要，同時展示我們對海洋生物保育之國際合作的重視及承諾。藉由這次參與會議，有效地接軌國際保育相關作為及措施，以維護海洋生態及漁業發展的平衡。

貳、過程

信天翁與水薙鳥保育協定 (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, ACAP) 第 11 屆海鳥混獲工作小組會議(SBWG11)於 112 年 5 月 15 至 17 日舉行，並接續於 112 年 5 月 18 至 19 日舉行第 7 屆海鳥保育狀態工作小組會議 (PaCSWG7)，第 13 屆諮詢委員會(AC13) 則於 112 年 5 月 22 至 26 日在英國愛丁堡召開。本署於 112 年 3 月 10 日召開事前工作準備會議，經彙整各單位名單後，確認由本署、外交部及學者南華大學葉裕民副教授等 4 名人員組團參加，並於 4 月 21 日以電子郵件方式向 ACAP 秘書處報名完竣。

為讓代表團人員出席 AC13 暨相關工作小組會議前，充分掌握會議各議程涉及我國之相關議題，並利與其他國家代表交流及經驗分享，於 112 年 5 月 10 日召開行前會議，由本署、漁業署、外交部、學者國立臺灣海洋大學郭庭君助理教授及南華大學葉裕民副教授等共同與會，針對海鳥混獲忌避措施、海鳥混獲與忌避措施使用之監測技術、我國三大洋海鳥混獲情形及海鳥保育情形等議題，確認細節及正確數據資料，提供與會 ACAP 人員相關資訊。

會前檢視會議相關文件，發現生物分類工作組小組 (Taxonomy Working Group, TWG) 報告中有關東海爭議島嶼命名的問題，該報告以"Senkaku Islands"稱呼「釣魚台」，因所使用的名稱具政治意義，業於 112 年 5 月 18 日透過電子郵件向 ACAP 秘書處反映，建議延續前次會議決議，以"Western-most current breeding site"取代。112 年 5 月 20 日 AC 主席 Dr. Double 回復，ACAP 秘書處已修改該報告草稿。

一、第 11 屆海鳥混獲工作小組會議(SBWG11)

(一)5 月 15 日會議

SBWG11 於 112 年 5 月 15 日開始為期 3 天，考量工作小組會議涉專業學術領域討論，由葉裕民副教授代表參加。會議由召集人(SBWG convener) Igor Debski 開幕致詞並確認議程，並主持議程 1~5，議程 6~7 由會議副召集人(SBWG Vice- convener) Juan Pablo Seco Pon 主持，會場安排英文和西班牙即時口譯。主席宣布議程進行方式，遵循議程順序，議程相關的會議文件，由作者摘要宣讀導覽內容與建議，再開放與會人士表達意見。主席針對較有爭議的相關建議文字，請與會專家先行準備好草稿以便聚焦，再收錄至此工作小組報告相對應的章節架構內。會議相關資料都公開於 ACAP 官方網站 [SBWG11 Supplementary Material](#)。

議程 4 為 ACAP 海鳥混獲忌避措施最佳實踐方案建議(ACAP seabird bycatch mitigation best practice advice – definition and criteria)，此項議程並無相關文件，主席表示仍明列此議程的目的是強調此議題的重要性。

議程 5 為拖網漁業相關之海鳥混獲忌避措施(Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Trawl Fisheries)，相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

1. 第 6 號文件(Doc06)

這份文件為上一屆 AC12 為降低拖網漁業混獲海鳥忌避措施建議的修訂版本，主要目標是使原有建議方案更具體並與其他漁業方法的建議文件保有一致性，更改使用一致的說法來說明漁類廢棄物的管理以及漁獲殘留風險。文章結構更動將 Tamini Tabla (是一種加裝在避鳥繩上的裝置，以增加避鳥繩的覆空距離以及降低纏繞發生等)相關的建議移至避鳥繩最低標準的章節「其他考慮事項」部分，並更新關於雷射的建議。此外，該文件還提供有關目前正在積極開發，且未來可能成為拖網漁業最佳實踐措施的資訊。

相關的第 20 號資訊文件(Inf 20)關於 Tamin Tabla 的研究，因為沒有英譯，與會者詢問英譯版，作者表示未來會有。並討論此裝置適用的漁法及可能的應用性。與會者提出第 17 號資訊文件(Inf07)討論各忌避措施相對的有效性內容是這個議題最好的佐證資訊。

2. 第 11 號文件 (Doc11)

延繩釣漁業使用的雷射可能會對鳥類的眼睛造成傷害，此研究進行兩個實驗以評估雷射對鳥類眼睛的影響。研究發現，即使在不同的雷射功率和曝露時間下，類似於延繩釣漁業所使用的雷射也會對兩種鳥類造成傷害，這些傷害可能會導致視覺模糊和視野中出現黑斑等問題，進而影響鳥類的高度視覺區分行為（例如尋找食物）。此研究還進行鳥類行為研究，評估雷射曝露對鳥類覓食行為的影響。研究結果表明，雷射曝露確實會導致行為策略的變化，這可能是由於視覺模糊和視野中出現黑斑所致。研究還強調，這些結果只適用於此研究所考慮的鳥類，尚需要進一步實驗以確定雷射對其他海洋鳥類是否會造成眼睛傷害。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 研究結果提供雷射對鳥類眼睛傷害問題的第一個控制因素和標準化評估。
- (2) 基於預防原則，不應在延繩釣漁業中使用高能輸出的雷射裝置，例如 **Seabird Saver**。研究結果發現，這些裝置可能會對應該受到保護的海洋鳥類造成眼睛傷害。
- (3) 雖然研究發現雷射可能對鳥類造成傷害，但雷射技術仍有可能具有驅趕鳥類的效果，甚至是海洋鳥類。

以雷射作為忌避措施，會場上有諸多討論，關於降低雷射功率以避免對海鳥造成傷害的建議措辭需要謹慎。這篇報告和遠洋延繩釣漁業相關，

後續議程會再次討論。

3. 第 17 號文件(Doc17)

紐西蘭魷魚拖網漁業海鳥混獲問題，是產業和政府機構關注的重點。儘管投入了大量資金和資源進行各種研究、海上試驗和其他工作，但仍未能顯著減少海鳥被拖網纏繞的風險。

2019 年成立的「Net Capture Programme」組織，其目標是確保所有可能的緩解工具和方法，並且考慮到可行性（即緩解必須在監管範圍內實際可行和安全）來優先考慮進一步工作的方向。這個組織考慮非常多的緩解工具和方法，其中有七種在海上進行了試驗，而另外兩種進行了岸際試驗。這些試驗是為了驗證這些緩解措施的有效性和可行性，以便在實際應用中使用。藉由實地測試這些緩解工具和方法，以收集寶貴的數據和經驗，並根據試驗結果進一步改進和優化這些緩解措施，所有潛在的忌避選擇可分三類：

- (1) 吸引力：減少聲音和氣味等避免海鳥受船隻吸引。
- (2) 遏制：通過干擾、嚇唬等方式將海鳥保持在可能被誤捕的危險區域外。
- (3) 預防：通過物理或視覺障礙物防止海鳥被誤捕。

少數減少紐西蘭南部魷魚漁業捕捉率的試驗顯示，試圖減少船隻整體吸引力或使用視覺或聲音等威懾措施，對紐西蘭魷魚拖網漁業並不可行。當受天氣影響或海鳥數量多且激烈爭奪食物時，威懾措施對於使鳥類遠離拖網的作用很小。研究指出透過多種誘鳥信號，減少船隻的整體吸引力（除了已有的措施）是不切實際的。

減少拖網漁捕（約占捕撈量的 44%）最可行的方法是通過預防，減少拖網拉攏末端（稱為匯合區）的面積。但是一些船隻在使用這種操作關

閉網口時存在操作和工程挑戰。儘管存在挑戰，紐西蘭南部魷魚漁業混獲海鳥的機率近年有下降趨勢，改善的原因可能是近十年來有良好的溝通和回饋機制，使得船隊得以逐年改善。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 確定、開發和測試的各種減少紐西蘭漁業拖網捕捉的緩解選項。
- (2) 減少拖網混獲海鳥的最佳實踐之一是將網口設計最小化，即減小匯合區的面積。透過改變船隻的操作方式來實現，而無需依賴新的工程技術。然而也應該意識到這種方法可能存在局限性，並且不適用於所有情況。
- (3) 強調政府的觀察員、漁業管理者、漁船管理者及船長之間溝通和回饋機制的重要性，以便瞭解拖網漁業對海鳥風險的性質和特徵。
- (4) 讓有經驗的船長和觀察員一起參與忌避措施的發展與落實是非常重要的。

相關的第 7 號與第 17 號資訊文件(Inf7&Inf17)，討論船員對不同忌避措施的意見，也應持續關注對於其他物種的衝擊，相關資料的搜集是必要的重點項目。討論各種建議文字的時候，與會人士達成共識，用字遣詞上應盡量採用通用詞彙(**generic word**)，並且留意針對各漁業建議所採用忌避措施用詞的一致性。

由於對海鳥混獲量的瞭解有限，無法制定和推動更具代表性的混獲和死亡指標。自 ACAP 成立以來，智利提出有關不同類型漁業混獲海鳥數量和種類的資料衡量方式等問題。智利的拖網船隊一直是關注的焦點，因為在早期他們混獲的海鳥數量很高。為了支持 SBWG7 的第 5 號文件建議，使用統計方法計算混獲量和死亡率，2015 年至 2021 年期間分析五個拖網船隊（3 個工業船隊和 2 個小型船隊）使用簡單比率估計法得出的結果，

拖網漁業總體上記錄了 10,971 隻混獲的海鳥，死亡為 10,740 隻 (97.9%)，因其船隊較大。另一方面，兩個較小的拖網船隊沒有在其捕魚作業中提及海鳥混獲。對於最大的拖網船隊，作業的觀測覆蓋率在整個歷史資料中始終保持在 40% 以上。在捕魚作業中觀察到 12 種主要物種被意外混獲，但數量上存在明顯差異。到目前為止，黑眉信天翁 (*Thalassarche melanophris*) 是最常被混獲的物種，占總數的 87%。

2015 年至 2021 年對 3 個拖網船隊的海鳥總混獲量和死亡率進行了估計，整個估計總數為 21,092 隻 (95% (CI) : 17025-22296)，分為南部底層拖網船隊 (PDA) 的 19,480 隻 (95%CI : 17025-22296)，PDA 冰拖網船隊的 852 隻 (95%CI : 570-1292) 和南中部底層 (DCS) 冰拖網船隊的 761 隻 (95%CI : 507-1150)。針對研究期間的估計結果顯示，過去 3 年中已經有明顯的改進。自 2020 年開始在拖網作業中採取忌避措施，並在 2021 年更廣泛地使用，表明可以實現減少這些作業中的混獲。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) SBWG 審查並認可該方法作為混獲率計算的首要進展。
- (2) SBWG 要求諮詢委員會採納所提出的拖網漁業鳥類混獲報告架構作為國家層面的報告機制一部分。
- (3) SBWG 討論作為這個過程的一部分應該開展哪些額外工作，並提供在這方面的建議。

議程 6 減少底層延繩釣漁業的海鳥混獲(Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Demersal Longline Fisheries)相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下:

1. 第 18 號文件(Doc18)

漁業混獲會影響大量海洋生物，將許多物種推向極度瀕危和滅絕。在厄瓜多爾，針對小型家計型延繩釣漁船改變捕魚方式以避免捕獲非目標物種。他們開發了一種投餌系統(NISURI)，該系統以每秒 3 個魚鉤的速度投放餌料，在此過程中使鳥類看不到帶餌的魚鉤。餌料投放系統由一個雙 3 英寸 PVC 管組成餌料被引入其中，主線的遠端帶有重物，通過船舶引擎產生的彈射過程投放到水中。

餌料投放系統是從一個簡單的餌料投放設備，演變成一個帶有支撐結構的雙重系統，該支撐結構安裝在船舶上，由鋼製成能防止因鹽分所可能導致的腐蝕。如果延繩釣的主線和餌料能夠快速進入水中，將有很大比例的鳥類無法抓住帶餌的魚鉤，有助於減少餌料在海上的時間，避免海鳥誤被魚鉤鉤住。該研究對一組船隻進行數年的誘餌投放測試，通過使用簡單且便宜的工具，使許多漁民意識到漸少混獲及釋放鳥類對漁業的重要性。

此篇研究建議：

- (1) 雙重 NISURI 系統可以降低家計型延繩釣漁業海鳥混獲風險。建議 SBWG 將雙重 NISURI 系統增加到 ACAP 針對家計型延繩釣漁業所採用忌避方法。
- (2) 應向每個 ACAP 參與國的漁業或環境部長推廣，鼓勵他們國家在船隻上使用此等忌避措施，以改善海洋物種混獲情況。
- (3) 針對厄瓜多爾從 5 月中旬到 10 月大量鳥類出現時，應該實施的忌避措施，建議 ACAP 的諮詢委員會向厄瓜多爾政府機構宣導提高家計型延繩釣漁業中鳥類混獲的意識，與漁民的合作推動忌避措施。

(4) ACAP 應該更加注重小規模漁業，鼓勵更多國家制定措施以為海鳥保護做出貢獻。

2. 第 21 號文件(Doc21)

雖然在延繩釣下鉤作業期間減少或消除海鳥混獲的忌避措施開發和測試進展順利，但在起鉤作業期間仍存在混獲的風險。建議使用鳥類排除裝置來減少底層延繩釣漁業的混獲，然而這是建立在大型船舶的開發和測試的基礎上，此應用對小型船舶來說可能具有挑戰性，尤其是在惡劣天氣下需要堅固支撐結構和水上部分的忌避裝置。ACAP 將起鉤作業用的忌避措施技術開發視為遠洋延繩釣漁業的研究重點。

紐西蘭延繩釣漁業中進行的研究，包括底層和遠洋漁船，大部分是小型船隻（長度<20m，底層延繩釣船<15m）。研究選在兩艘遠洋延繩釣船和一艘底層延繩釣船上試用簡單的起鉤忌避裝置。結果表明，忌避裝置減少了進入起鉤周圍區域的鳥類數量。在底層延繩釣上，回收水面浮標也可以減少起鉤作業區域附近的鳥類出現數量。

這項研究表明，簡單且便宜的起鉤忌避裝置可以降低延繩釣起鉤期間海鳥混獲的風險，同時對捕魚作業的影響最小。目前正進行進一步的工作並規劃進行海上測試，以支持整個船隊的業者採用這些忌避裝置，驗證在更大範圍的船舶作業中的有效性。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 注意簡單起鉤作業忌避裝置的開發和測試，這些裝置可以很容易地被小型延繩釣船採用。
- (2) 更新 ACAP 對底層和遠洋延繩釣漁業的忌避措施和最佳實踐建議文件的審查，以包括對本研究的參考，並指出對於小型延繩釣船隻，簡單的起鉤作業忌避裝置可以有效地阻止鳥類進入起鉤作業區。

議程 7 減少遠洋延繩釣漁業的海鳥混獲(Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Pelagic Longline Fisheries)相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下:

1. 第 7 號文件 (Doc7)

這份是有關 ACAP 對減少遠洋延繩釣漁業混獲海鳥的忌避措施和最佳實踐方案的回顧提供更新版本的建議，旨在提高最佳落實方案的明確性以及和對於其他漁業所建議的最佳實踐方案呈現一致性。變更的內容澄清為什麼支繩加重需要搭配避鳥繩以及夜間投餌同時使用，同時也說明夜間投餌的最低標準。

關於各種忌避措施的建議有諸多討論，針對目前支繩加重的下沉速度尚缺乏明確建議，然如何提出適當的建議尚未有定論。另 ACAP 強調三種忌避措施應該同時混合使用，即「三選三」，但目前 RFMOs 的規範是「三選二」。

會中日本對於此議題提出，倘若規定漁船在高緯度一定要遵循所有作業鈎數都必須是夜間投餌，會影響南方黑鮪這種漁業的作業模式。提議在日間投餌則忌避措施切換至支繩加重，仍可符合忌避措施三選二的規定。討論結果是各忌避措施定義都非常明確，至於如何規範管理 RFMOs 的遵守配合的議題應回歸到 RFMOs。支繩加重和下沉速度的關係(profile)亦是建議的研究重點。

2. 第 10 號文件(Doc10)

遠洋漁業的混獲是信天翁等海鳥的主要威脅，該文件評估太平洋遠洋延繩釣漁業捕撈時間和相對深度，對海鳥混獲和目標物種捕撈率的影響。使用基於貝氏剩餘生產量模式(Bayesian surplus production model, BSP)推論的作業流程，發現捕撈時間和深度並沒有顯著影響目標物種黃鰭鮪的捕撈率，而夜間作業和白天作業相比，信天翁和海鳥的混獲率降低超過 99

%，這證明夜間設置與深層水下投放(deep setting)相結合可以降低海鳥混獲風險，並且對遠洋延繩釣漁業具有商業可行性(不會影響主漁獲)。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 更新 ACAP 對減少遠洋延繩釣漁業對海鳥影響的審查和最佳實踐方案，應宣導夜間作業且下深鉤 (deep-night setting)具有經濟可行性，且能夠降低海鳥混獲風險。
- (2) 應鼓勵開展更多的相關研究，評估夜間作業且下深鉤在不同的目標物種、區域和起鉤時間的遠洋延繩釣漁業中的商業可行性。
- (3) 與夜間作業且下淺鉤不同，夜間作業且下深鉤可避免對表層活動的海洋生態(如海龜換氣等)受威脅的風險。

會中注意到這篇報告提出的發現，鼓勵相關研究的投入應探討朝向不同目標魚種、作業區域、作業船隊等。

3. 第 15 號文件(Doc15)

目前 ACAP 忌避措施的最佳實踐方案中對於魚鉤的重量並未被計算在內，此文件說明應向魚鉤製造商和分銷商宣導，以便提供加重魚鉤重量這種選項，並以較實用和經濟的形式販賣給漁民，將有助於刺激進一步發展。在不使用鉛的情況下，建議 ACAP 對於「魚鉤加重」(滿足魚鉤最低重量規定為 50 克)可做為最佳實踐方案之一。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 遠洋延繩釣漁業最佳實踐方案建議最低 50 克（包括魚鉤的重量）以符合當前標準。
- (2) SBWG 審查當前的忌避措施建議，對於「魚鉤大小和設計改變」應說

明清楚。

- (3) SBWG 建議 ACAP 向遠洋延繩釣漁業的魚鉤製造商和分銷商提供「魚鉤加重」的概念，進行忌避措施的宣導，有助於產品的開發和銷售供應。
- (4) SBWG 不建議使用鉛塊使遠洋延繩釣漁具用魚鉤更重，建議使用更少潛在有害的金屬材質。

會中日本提出通常船員都採用自己設計的漁具，所以對於各種建議都應該是原則性的，而非制式化的規範。亦有與會者附議這個現象。因此若此篇報告對於各種「加重規格和下沉速度的關係」才是未來研究的重點。下沉速度的結果才是降低混獲的關鍵。

(二)5月16日會議

繼續議程 7

4. 第 23 號文件(Doc23)

探討紐西蘭遠洋鮪延繩釣漁業，除了採用忌避措施之外，其他會影響海鳥混獲的因子。根據紐西蘭遠洋延繩釣漁業的觀察員資料，研究分析發現夜間作業時間越長，海鳥釣獲率越低。當避鳥繩的覆空距離越長，海鳥釣獲率也越低。而當表水溫越高，或下鈎作業的路徑轉越多彎，海鳥釣獲率則越高。

第 4 號與第 11 號資訊文件(Inf04 & Inf11)日本和我國都分享有關忌避措施相關的研究，SBWG 從各忌避措施的細節(如飄帶的材質)到評估主漁獲釣獲率和海鳥混獲率的變異因子，有諸多討論與比較，包含研究試驗所呈現的混獲率通常都會比一般觀察員報告資料所計算得來得高，另與會專家建議相關研究呈現海鳥混獲率的單位應採用每千鈎多少隻以利比較。

議程 8 家計型與小型漁業(Artisanal and Small-scale Fisheries)相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

1. 第 22 號文件(Doc22)

小型延繩釣對海鳥構成重大威脅，對巴西漁業亦是如此，為了解影響程度並確定各船隻對海鳥影響程度仍然是一個挑戰。該文件分析巴西東南部一個主要港口的漁船船長所填報的資料，以評估巴西東南部小型漁業(BSSF)的海鳥混獲情況。資料來自多種漁業，重點是最常混獲信天翁和水雉鳥等鳥類，在非繁殖季節混獲率很高，但在夜間作業明顯降低混獲的數量。考慮到所有漁具的混獲率和船隊規模（約 800 艘船），信天翁和水雉鳥等海鳥已經受到西大西洋遠洋延繩釣漁業混獲的威脅。因此，強烈建議制定一項管理計劃，以降低巴西東南部延繩釣小規模漁業中受威脅的信天

翁和水雜鳥與漁業相關的死亡率，並在西大西洋區域，應將海鳥與該船隊的互動納入漁業對海鳥影響的生態風險評估中。

2. 其他文件：

第 18 號文件無英文版本且作者未出席，SBWG 與會者試圖了解這些裝置的設計與操作，討論內容包含這些裝置適用的漁業種類以及目標魚種，但也注意到，這些試驗設計測試的場域並未出現很多海鳥，因此研究結果可再評估。

第 18 號資訊文件(Inf18)先前已討論過，此議程沒有做更多的討論。第 19 號資訊文件(Inf19)談到祕魯漁業使用內臟拋棄的忌弊措施相關的研究，SBWG 與會者分享關於鯊魚的肝特別吸引鳥類等一些觀察資訊，做為參考。

第 22 號資訊文件(Inf22)被視為較重要的一篇報告，巴西漁業因為作業漁區等特點，對海鳥造成的威脅非常嚴重，這篇報告是觀察員登上小船辛苦蒐集的資料，非常珍貴，也發現了更多的問題。強調這是所有小船都面臨的問題。再次提到船隊的分類明確性的重要性，因為牽涉到忌避措施可採用的選擇以及後面規範等。巴西代表陳述該國努力在處理這個問題，包括三十年來持續進行監測這些漁船，也建立國家行動方案等。但會中認為這裡的討論有點政治化，有與會者抗議，在 SBWG 工作小組的問題應該著重在技術層面的討論，主席建議大家思考相關建議用詞，雖然有必要強調有些漁業確實對海鳥造成嚴重的威脅，但是不能針對性的撻伐，以免政治爭議。

議程 9 圍網漁業相關之海鳥混獲忌避措施(Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Purse Seine Fisheries)只有第 16 號資訊文件一篇，且無英文版。第 19 號文件也與此議程相關，並無多做討論。

議程 10 其他漁業的海鳥混獲忌避措施(Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Other Fisheries)無相關文件，但討論到漁具漁法分類的需求與重要性，SBWG 說明目前 FAO 的分類只針對漁具構造特點分大類，各個組織則會以不同基準再進行分類，用不同的解析度或規模進行分類，端看分類訴求為何。

議程 11ACAP 績效指標：海鳥混獲數據工作坊(ACAP Performance Indicators: Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop)相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

1. 第 5 號文件(Doc5)

SBWG 認為此文件建立適當的績效指標，建議可放入 ACAP 滿 20 周年的報告書中呈現，但文字修辭必須要考慮多面向為宜，如漁業的面向和保育的面相等。

2. 第 16 號文件(Doc16)

此文件以美洲熱帶鮪類委員會(IATTC)為案例之研究，有關每年觀察員報告(CPCs)提交給區域漁業管理組織 (RFMOs) 中海鳥意外混獲相關資訊的可用性和品質，提供更好的瞭解。經過全面的分析，此研究可提供 ACAP 制定具體建議，並定制特定行動以改善 RFMOs 進行資料收集。自 2013 年提交的報告數量有所增加，觀察員覆蓋率平均在 5%以上，儘管各觀察員報告書填報狀況尚存在差異，但整體而言，平均有 56%的觀察員報告提到物種別或較粗分類的海鳥意外混獲情況，有 17%至 40%的觀察員報告中提到海鳥物種別的相關資料，共有 8 種海鳥物種被辨識出都是信天翁，其中黑腳(Black-footed)和萊森(Laysan)信天翁居多。未來在 IATTC 意外混獲工作小組可呈現更精細的分析結果，藉此討論目前觀察員報告的完善度並提供待修正的具體建議。由於該分析可以在多種分類水準上進行，因此未來有利於整合分析並在各國際組織分享此資訊。

這篇報告建議：

- (1) 其他鮪類 RFMOs 支持對觀察員報告進行更精細、更完整的調查，並建議將此分析納入諮詢委員會(AC)工作計畫的核心任務。
- (2) 這篇報告跟指標的關聯是因為這篇報告用了一些量測方法，可作為指標設定可能的例子參考。RMFOs 的參與很重要。因為很多資料來源在於 RMFOs，但許多是機密的。目前這篇報告用的是公開的資料，所以實用性較高。工作小組強調須注意和 RMFOs 互動的細節，也需注意各 RMFOs 的可獲得的資料內容，才能考慮如何設定指標。

3. 第 20 號文件(Doc20)

由於對海鳥混獲量的瞭解還是相當有限，無法制定或推進更高水準的混獲和死亡指標。自 ACAP 成立以來，智利提供有關不同類型漁業意外混獲總鳥數和種類的名目資料(nominal data)，以衡量相關指標的確定。智利的拖網漁船一直是受關注的焦點，因為在過去的幾年中，其混獲的海鳥數量很高。為了支持 SBWG7 Doc05 建議的使用統計方法計算混獲量和死亡率的報告的建議和重要性，介紹了使用簡單比率估計法得出的 2015 年至 2021 年期間的結果，分析五個拖網船隊（3 個商業船隊和 2 個小型船隊）。研究期間拖網漁業總體上記錄到 10,971 隻混獲的海鳥，死亡率為 10,740 隻（97.9%），與較大的船隊有關。另一方面，兩個較小的拖網船隊沒有在其捕魚作業中呈報海鳥混獲量。對於最大的拖網船隊，在作業中的觀測覆蓋率保持在 40%以上，捕魚作業中觀察記錄到 12 種混獲物種，雖資料中尚存在明顯差異，但以黑眉信天翁 (*Thalassarche melanophris*) 是最常被混獲的物種，占總數的 87%。

4. 第 25 號文件(Doc25)

ACAP 為減少海洋漁業對信天翁和水薺鳥等鳥類族群的影響特成立海鳥混獲工作組 (SBWG) 以提供相關研究及建議。SBWG 定期審查可用

於降低混獲的措施，並制定「最佳實踐方案」（BPA），而 ACAP 的成員國、秘書處和非政府組織在管轄區域和鮪類區域漁業管理組織（tRFMO）廣泛宣傳 BPA。此項研究採用質性和量化的多種方法調查 ACAP 成員國商業延繩釣漁業和拖網漁業中實施忌避措施和 BPA 的主要差異。研究辨識出 BPA 指南和這些漁業實際應用上的一些主要差距，同時提供建議以縮小差距、促進商業漁業管理海鳥混獲的成功方式。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 然而目前只有少數 ACAP 成員國和 RFMOs（區域性漁業管理組織）全面實施了 BPA，造成未完全實施的原因，可能是專家未提供足夠證據來說明倘若未全面實施 BPA 將會造成多大的損失或效果，這也是大部分不願意配合的原因之一。
- (2) 由於各國提交的實施報告品質不佳，因此很難準確評估 BPA 的落實現況。
- (3) 建議將 BPA 忌避措施的接受程度作為壓力指標，要求會員國報告在其管轄範圍內作業的所有漁業的參數，包括根據不同漁業使用的各項措施之詳細資訊。
- (4) 更新 ACAP 與 RFMO 合作的策略，以鼓勵更多的漁業採納 BPA，並指出在 ACAP 會員國未強制實施這些措施的情況，這些漁業組織是不太可能全面實施 BPA。
- (5) 建議 ACAP 會員國將 BPA 納入其國內與漁業管理有關的立法和法規的要素。

會議中討論關於為何三種忌避措施需要同時使用的文字段落。重點是強調各單一忌避措施都有其侷限性，如夜間投餌，在月光充足的情況下，在夜間覓食的鳥種依然有混獲的可能性或避鳥繩有可能纏繞漁具等。

議程 15 強化實施海鳥混獲的最佳實踐緩解措施 (Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures)相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下:

1. 第 13 號文件(Doc13)

漁業混獲導致海鳥數量下降，尤其是信天翁和水雜鳥，雖然有成功緩解的例子，但海鳥混獲仍然是全球許多漁業中的一個重要問題。現有管理系統的國際和國家忌避措施，雖能解決海鳥混獲問題，但成效不一。在過去 6 年中，透過審查管理海鳥和其他海洋脊椎動物漁業混獲等之最佳實踐方法，以製定評估捕魚作業可持續性的標準。通過制定和實施適應性管理方法以解決海鳥混獲問題並提出建議，提供從該項目中吸取的經驗教訓，針對特定船隊的管理者以及區域或國際管理機構提出不同層面的行動建議。

此篇報告建議：

- (1) 檢討區域和國際組織所提出的建議，獨立或與他人合作實施以下行動：
 - a. 為有利保育狀態設定指導方針或暫定的量化族群目標。
 - b. 為 ACAP 列出的物種確定區域管理單位，從重點物種或族群開始。
 - c. 為支持在物種和族群水準上識別海鳥漁業重疊，在數據有限的情況下進行絕對風險評估、分享 ACAP 最佳實踐並記錄在特定漁業實施這些措施的挑戰和成功，貢獻工具的開發。
 - d. 持續檢討和更新獨立於漁業的監測指南，並將這些經驗與協定以外的其他組織（例如 CMS 下的其他協定、RFMO、NGO）分享。
 - e. 在執行協議時將根本原因分析評估納入履行評估中，並確定在 ACAP 和各方層面實施的糾正措施。
- (2) 鼓勵各方考慮採納針對管理海鳥混獲的適應性方法所提出的建議。

2. 第 22 號文件(Doc22)

Southern Seabirds 和 NZ Department of Conservation 正在為鮪漁船到市場供應鏈（鮪魚捕撈公司、採購和零售公司）和鮪魚行業/非政府組織合作夥伴關係準備一個資訊工具包，內容包含：

- (1) 總結世界海洋中海鳥的風險區。
- (2) 描述可用於降低海鳥死亡率的技術和操作忌避措施。
- (3) 描述單獨或綜合使用這些措施可能降低海鳥死亡率的程度。
- (4) 概述驗證正在使用的措施並滿足 ACAP 規範的監測工具。
- (5) 描述這些監測工具在不同情況下的適用性和可靠性。
- (6) 對於能降低海鳥死亡率的監測結果提供指導。

該工具包將為尋求確保其產品永續性的公司提供七清楚的資訊。它也可能對政府、非政府組織、區域漁業管理組織、鮪魚合作夥伴關係以及旨在支持鮪魚捕撈業實現永續發展目標的計劃或倡議的組織有用。此篇報告建議：

- (1) 注意南方海鳥信託基金和保護部迄今為止在開發海鳥安全遠洋延繩釣工具包方面所做的工作。
- (2) 考慮可以提供哪些 ACAP 建議或外展材料作為工具包資源的一部分。
- (3) 考慮 ACAP 是否以何種方式支持工具包的開發和推廣。

(三) 5月17日會議

接續議程 15

3. 第 25 號文件(Doc25)

SBWG 建議關於忌避措施的操作指導說明，應注意產業界對於措施的理解及實際操作時的細節，相關的議題還有各種資料的填報資料有時候

很複雜紛亂，指標就是能夠精簡量化反映這些資料的內容，還有資料的公開性也是需要考量的議題。

會中主席插播議程 7 的建議文字討論，建議最佳實踐方案須考慮有些漁業用一種忌避措施就可以達到很好的效果，指出不同海域、不同漁業對於忌避措施的需求都不一樣，例如南半球和北半球高緯度的海域就有差別，因為海鳥群聚種類就不一樣。若三種忌避措施同時使用的話，縱使在海鳥熱區，也能有很好的忌避效果。另，若藉由調整漁業作業深度以降低海鳥的混獲，也要考慮會不會因此傷害到其他海洋物種。

SBWG 提到若要要求 RFMOs 規範三種最佳忌避措施同時使用，而非只是三選二的话，建議優先從 ACAP 會員國本身得要做到同時使用三種最佳忌避措施。

議程 14 是關於協調與區域漁業管理組織相關的活動(Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs)。相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

第 9 號文件(Doc9)

SBWG10 檢討 ACAP 與 RFMOs 以及 CCAMLR 的合作交涉策略架構 (SBWG10 Doc 07)。這份報告的修訂版以及一份更新的擬議清單提供了 2023-2025 年閉會期間的行動計劃。但 COVID-19 導致時程上延後一年。整體目標是希望克服挑戰及掌握機會和 RFMOs 共同合作發展忌避措施最佳實踐的標準以降低海鳥混獲。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 考慮對 ACAP RFMO 參與策略的審查，進一步制定該策略並修訂優先行動清單。
- (2) 要求諮詢委員會支持這些行動的實施，包含提供實現目標所需的資源。

SBWG 與會者認為這是最重要的一個議程。唯有和 RFMOs 充分有效的溝通合作才能落實忌避措施降低海鳥混獲。ACAP 秘書處摘要出五點重要的進展，整體來說，在 WCPFC、IOTC 以及 CCAMLR 都有好的推動和進展，包括採納相關忌避措施的規範以及推動 EM 系統監測海鳥忌避措施的落實，和 BirdLife 以及 RFMOs 都建立了許多合作研究的模式。

第 5 號資訊文件(Inf05)，日本提出和 CCSBT 溝通互動時必須理解到 CCSBT 是一個特別的國際組織，只管理單一魚種，且並無管理其它魚種的權利，其無所謂的管轄海域範圍。目前 CCSBT 依據其他組織(如 ICCAT 以及 IOTC)的相關規定來規範南方黑鮪船隊進行海鳥保育，但是 CCSBT 也表示非常願意和 BirdLife 和 ACAP 合作保育海鳥。

議程 12 是關於海鳥混獲監測技術和緩解措施(Monitoring Techniques for Seabird Bycatch and Mitigation Use)。相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

1. 第 12 號文件(Doc12)

漁業混獲對全球信天翁和水薙鳥的族群變化造成了重大影響。然而，由於近親物種之間的外觀相似性和/或樣本殘缺，鳥種的誤判可能會阻礙監測工作。基因方法可以是有力的診斷工具，但需要適當的基因標記和參考資料庫來識別目標物種。此研究設計、測試和評估了一系列基因標記，以協助識別列入《ACAP 附件 1》和澳大利亞遠洋延繩釣漁業混獲的信天翁和水薙鳥物種的身份。分析發現，結合兩個基因標記可以將 36 個目標海鳥物種中的 97% (n = 35) 識別為物種 (n = 32) 或姊妹物種 (n = 3)，而對於一個水薙鳥物種則沒有參考序列。基因方法提供了一個簡化的框架，用於漁業中海鳥混獲的分子識別，以協同和/或更正由電子監測系統捕獲的圖像、觀察員報告和日誌輸入。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 鼓勵收集混獲的死亡海鳥的羽毛或組織樣本。
- (2) 鼓勵將海鳥混獲樣本的基因識別納入漁業監測計畫，以提高物種識別的準確性。
- (3) 建議各方努力創建已知產地樣本的儲存庫並使其可用，以提高基因數據的準確性和信心。
- (4) 建議各方致力於開發和維護一個經過策劃的參考資料庫，以提高診斷物種識別的準確性。

此篇是澳洲學者的研究，其表示 Inf09 提供了部分相關技術資訊，接下來的 PaCSWG 也有相關的報告可以回覆與會者對於辨識率等的問題。工作小組中許多與會者(巴西、祕魯等)表示樂於分享樣本，同時分享各自國家研究團隊的相關經驗和能力，日本則表示樣本的運送困難，或許可以透過相關資訊與技術分享進行合作研究和整合。與會者關心此法的實用性，如經濟成本、技術成本、時間成本以及研究能量成本等。作者表示分析一個樣本所需費用可從十幾元到幾百元(美元)不等，會因許多軟硬體條件而有所不同，有時候是兩難情境，辨識率越高所需成本就越高。

2. 第 24 號文件(Doc24)

避鳥繩 (BSL) 是一種在遠洋延繩釣漁業、底延繩釣漁業和拖網漁業中減少海鳥死亡和混獲的最佳忌避措施。雖然 BSL 已被證明在漁業中成功減少海鳥混獲和餌料損失，但要求漁船遵守使用 BSL 的規範仍然是一個挑戰。電子監測設備的使用可以在船隻於海上時確保 BSL 忌避措施的實施和合規性。BSL 合規性監測設備已經被開發和試驗，並在 2020 年獲得 ACAP 小額補助。該設備通過持續監測 BSL 的間隔距離。這種設備可望能監看 BSL 的部署配置和使用情形，減少海上觀察員的工作量和潛

在的工作健康和 safety 風險。值得進一步研究和開發這 BSL 合規性監測設備。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 瞭解需要開發相關設備和技術，以改善延繩釣漁業和拖網漁業中避鳥繩（BSL）措施的合規性。
- (2) 瞭解到 BSL 合規性監測設備作為提高獨立監測避鳥繩部署和使用、減少漁業觀察員工作量和潛在工作健康和 safety 風險的手段之潛力。
- (3) 鼓勵相關技術設備的研究，包括 BSL 合規性監測設備，以提高延繩釣漁業和拖網漁業使用避鳥繩措施的合規性。

紐西蘭表示類似的 EM 系統已成功應用在圍網漁業，工作小組與會者也非常鼓勵這樣的研究，認為與其發展更多的忌避措施，不如發展能夠確保忌避措施有效執行的 EM 系統。

3. 第 26 號文件(Doc26)

電子監測系統逐漸用於補充傳統觀察員計畫的不足，電子監測系統通常使用照相機、全球定位系統、感測器和資料記錄器收集資訊。阿根廷霍基魚(*Macrurus magellanicus*)漁業，採用海洋管理委員會（MSC）標準和漁業客戶與阿根廷鳥類組織合作發展了電子監測計畫，並提供漁船船員相關的專業知識、合作和跟技術支援。自 2021 年 1 月起，在 4 艘冷凍拖網漁船上安裝了照相機並記錄 21 次捕魚航行（代表 759 天航行和 2,086 次作業），記錄了避鳥繩（BSL）在絞索電纜上的使用和配置。通過遠端存取和互聯網傳輸資料（≤每次漁行 2 GB），在船隻到達港口時收集資料。在拖網過程中（~20%的拖網時間）三次檢查資料，對比日誌資訊，如有差異，則調整最初報告的使用百分比。記錄了漁業操作的 22 個變數，以及在使用 BSL 的同時部署第三根電纜。確定了可能影響資料品質的技術

限制，如照相機上的硝酸鹽和濕度的堆積，以及照相區域偶發的變化，需要定期向船員提供說明。收集到的資料表明，在監測的漁船航行中，BSL 的使用時間占拖網時間的 80.5%。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 請 SBWG 考慮增加拖網船上使用避鳥繩數量。
- (2) 請 SBWG 建議 ACAP 成員國考慮使用這種監測方法來確定拖網船上使用避鳥繩的合規率。
- (3) 請 SBWG 建議與漁船船員建立合作過程是實施忌避措施的關鍵元素。

智利、阿根廷和巴西都表示他們也有用這樣的照相監測，但是巴西的經驗是照相機的部分出了很多問題，希望能經驗分享交流。

4. 第 27 號文件(Doc27)

漁業混獲是地中海特有瀕危物種——巴厘阿裡群島腳斑水薺鳥 (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) 的最大威脅，此物種被列為 ACAP 優先種群。但地中海擁有眾多高度多元化的漁船隊伍，大多數是小型漁船，使用傳統的港口和船上問卷調查的方法難以精確評估問題。在此，提出一種補充方法，使用由漁民自己每天填寫的日誌，定期由港口觀察員監測，以評估混獲情況。這種方法是由 SEO/BirdLife 在 2017 年至 2021 年間在西地中海的西班牙實施的，共有 42 艘遠洋延繩釣漁船的漁民進行了合作，由 8 個觀察員在港口填寫監測的日誌。資料收集了 3,522 個捕魚日，其中混獲了 1,142 隻鳥，水薺鳥受到的影響最大（93%），巴厘阿裡群島腳斑水薺鳥和地中海黃嘴水薺鳥尤其受影響。混獲率在不同的年份和地區以及漁具的配置和操作特徵中有所不同，小型漁船在晚春季節更容易發生混獲。最大的混獲風險發生在白天設置漁具，使用小型餌料魚，並且在釣線上添加很少或不加重物時。日誌證明是一種在小型漁業中評估海鳥混獲的良好方

法，與觀察員計畫相比工作量更少，可提高漁民的意識並使其參與解決混獲問題，可望擴展到其他地區和漁具，尤其是在小型漁船中使用。

本篇報告建議：

討論漁民填報日誌作為評估海鳥混獲的一種方法，特別是在小型漁業中，以及其作為推薦方法的驗證。

工作小組與會者提出疑慮，牽涉到遵守配合度，須考略填報資料的可信度。第 24 號資訊文件(Inf24)關於 AIS 的相關議題報告，工作小組與會者關心利用這類資料(AIS 或 VMS 等)檢驗的適當性與合法性。雖然部分與會者認為 AIS 可以清楚掌握作業模式，因此可以用以監測忌避措施(如夜間投餌)的落實，且同一套分析程序也可以運用在 VMS，但也有部分與會者質疑並認為 AIS 的分析結果並不完整。

議程 13 關於國際農糧組織減少延繩釣漁業混獲海鳥之國際(國家)行動方案(FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds)。智利、烏拉圭和阿根廷說明他們的國家行動方案，工作小組建議鼓勵其他國家參考。

議程 16 關於工具和指南。相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下：

1. 第 8 號文件(Doc8)

接續 SBWG10 後，海鳥忌避措施介紹性說明書以及改善揚繩作業時船員安全說明書已定案，並已翻譯成 8 種語言(包括繁體中文)。4 頁避鳥繩說明是未來待完成重點任務。SBWG10 提議針對改良式圍網、拖網和遠洋延繩釣編寫三份額外的說明書提供最佳忌避措施的資訊。SBWG 應以更新研發最佳海鳥忌避措施為下一個優先任務(在有限預算下)，並考慮如何協助完成說明書的翻譯和校對。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 請求 SBWG 給予對於說明書更新的這個優先任務提供回饋，並考慮要提供的語言版本。
- (2) 考慮如何協助翻譯和校對。

智利提到支線的忌避措施在拖網漁業施行的困難和問題(如第三條支線 對海鳥的傷害很大)，建議要修訂相關的說明書。秘書處說明目前的安排，並尋求與會者的支援。主席徵求自願者進行分工合作。

2. 第 14 號文件(Doc 14)

不同漁業和規模的海鳥混獲事件的原因和結果已經有廣泛的知識。新的漁業，如圍網漁業，也提供這些影響的證據。然而，混獲到的海鳥還能活著放飛的相關事件仍然所知甚少。因此，本文（從圍網漁業的角度）回顧這一現象，以及為促進在漁船上實施最佳忌避措施降低海鳥死亡，發展一套行動或工具以救援混獲到但還活著的海鳥。因此，該研究提供更新和推廣安全的海鳥處理技術和使用適當工具的建議。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) 將這些內容包含在協定的議程中，作為降低海鳥混獲死亡的補救加強。
- (2) 標準化這些程式，並圖示化，混獲指南更新或建立新的手冊以利船員培訓。
- (3) 提供一個工具箱，其中包括如何將安全地將海鳥和漁具分離以及安全對待在甲板上的海鳥。

SBWG 關心處理後是否存活，建議應有追蹤機制。作者回應根據現場觀察海鳥是存活的，雖然不知道是否有回到繁殖地。

議程 18 關於海鳥混獲工作小組(SBWG)工作計劃。相關文件摘要與討論要點分述如下:

1. 第 13 號文件(Doc 13)

漁業混獲導致海鳥數量下降，尤其是信天翁和水薙鳥。雖然有一些採用忌避措施成功避免海鳥混獲的例子，但海鳥混獲仍然是全球許多漁業中的一個問題。現有管理框架內的國際和國家忌避措施已經建立，以更好地解決海鳥混獲問題，但功效不一。在過去六年中，審查管理海鳥和其他海洋脊椎動物漁業混獲的最佳實踐方法，以制定評估捕魚作業永續性的標準。通過關於制定和實施適應性管理方法以解決海鳥混獲問題的建議，提供從該項目中吸取的經驗教訓。針對特定船隊的管理者以及區域或國際管理機構不同層面的行動提出了建議。

本篇報告建議，區域和國際組織單獨或與其他組織一起實施以下措施：

- (1) 為有利的保護狀態設定指南或保護物種的目標。
- (2) 從優先物種族群開始，確定 ACAP 所列物種的區域管理單位。
- (3) 幫助開發工具以支持在物種和族群層面識別海鳥與漁業作業區域的重疊，在數據有限的情況下進行風險評估，分享 ACAP 最佳實踐並記錄在特定漁業中實施這些措施的挑戰和成功。

二、第 7 屆海鳥保育工作小組會議(PaCSWG7)

(一)5 月 18 日 Joint SBWG11/PaCSWG7 會議

因前次諮詢委員會議發現有許多需跨工作小組討論的議題，因此決議於 AC13 前召開小組聯合會議，亦為首次的聯合會議，我國由葉裕民副教授代表參加。主席進行簡單開幕和議程確認後即報告 ACAP 優先考慮的物種報告 (ACAP Priority Population)，包括各鳥種族群狀態、管理措施、相關研究以及危及族群的主要原因。

1. 第 4 號文件(Doc 04) 全球共同責任來保護 ACAP 的優先族群(Global political responsibility for the conservation of ACAP Priority Populations)

本篇報告建議 SBWG 和 PaCSWG 應針對不同國家、公海區域、區域漁業管理組織 (RFMO) 和 CCAMLR 區域制定具有針對性的參與策略，以促進 ACAP 優先種群的保護。

了解有哪些國家和哪個鳥種有互動，然後鼓勵其加入 ACAP，尋求合作的機會。秘書處表示有和葡萄牙、韓國、美國、加拿大、奈米比亞等接觸，其中葡萄牙表示有意願，但是這次仍未派員出席。或海鳥會遷徙出現在其經濟海域的國家，也較容易有契機發展合作關係。

北太平洋短尾信天翁有混獲到一隻就會被禁漁，目前族群數量已回升至 1,000 隻以上。日本補充保育短尾信天翁的繁殖地也功不可沒。這種管理方式在阿拉斯加漁業可行，但是在 RFMOs 規模則不可能做到即時管理的程度。工作小組談及各種策略，大致可分成三大類：

- (1) 溝通：考慮溝通對象(包括對於第一線的船員的宣導教育)、文化、立場、溝通人員的挑選(很多情境科學家可能不能勝任)。
- (2) 法規制定和遵守

(3) 產業(鏈)或市場機制:說服業者落實海鳥忌避措施取得認證具有商業利益。

日本呼籲工作小組和鮪類區域漁業管理組織溝通的重點應該用他們可以理解的方式，如希望將海鳥混獲的量控制在甚麼基準以下，雖然很多與會者不能接受這種陳述方式，因為這好像傷害少數的海鳥就是合理的事情。

紐西蘭這方面應有很好的經驗可以分享。這個部分許多的團體也在推動，不一定要 ACAP 親自推動。或是從生態系健全的角度，強調海鳥的生態功能，有利於永續漁業。

工作小組同時強調除了漁業的混獲外，氣候變遷、海洋污染等環境垃圾都會對海鳥造成相當程度的影響。

全球漁業觀察(Global Fishing Watch)有 Automatic Identify System (AIS) 回報作業船隻的地理資訊,2017 年到 2020 年辨識出 4,923 艘遠洋延繩釣漁船的 GPS 地理資訊。經由分析，這些資料可揭露可以瞭解漁業作業和海鳥分布重疊的範圍。分析結果顯示夜間投餌的作業比例，遠比各船隊觀察員報告中呈現的數據要低許多，強調忌避措施落實的警訊。會議中特別提到韓國遠洋延繩釣漁船，因其作業海域和海鳥分佈有非常大的重疊。

工作小組注意到這些資訊用在忌避措施的遵守有待商榷。包括根據 AIS 進行的估計值的精準度與偏差以及使用權限等。

2. 第 3 號文件與第 1 號資訊文件(Doc 03/Inf01)內容說明管理澳大利亞海上可再生能源基礎設施的安排正在建設中，目前偏重於沿岸風電場 (OWF)。ACAP 列出的信天翁、水雉鳥及其他海鳥可能會受到 OWF 不利影響。此類環境影響包括碰撞風險、障礙和位移效應。缺乏數據來提供適當的證據基礎來解決 ACAP 列出的信天翁、水雉鳥以及南半球其他海鳥可能在 OWF 位於海洋環境內的區域內遇到的具體威脅。潛在影響可能因 OWF

技術而異：固定式與浮動式渦輪機，水平軸與垂直軸設計；以及位於近岸和離岸水域的基礎設施之間。澳大利亞正在努力填補數據空白，以協助國內 OWF 環境審批和監管。有效理解和應對與 OWF 相互作用及其不利影響將需要所有 ACAP 會員國投入。

本篇報告建議

- (1) 認識到沿岸風電場可能對 ACAP 列出的信天翁、水薙鳥以及其他海鳥產生的潛在不利影響。
- (2) 強調開展專門研究以提高對沿岸風電場對 ACAP 列出的信天翁、水薙鳥以及其他海鳥的潛在影響的理解的重要性。
- (3) 鼓勵締約方分享關於沿岸風電場與 ACAP 列出的信天翁、水薙鳥以及其他海鳥的相互作用和不利影響的研究結果。

關於沿岸風電場對海鳥的衝擊，英國也有很多相關資料和經驗。但是與會人士也質疑沿岸風電場是否屬於 ACAP 的職權範圍。

(二)5月19日會議

PaCSWP7 會議由召集人 Atricia Pereira Serafini、Marco Faveroc 和 ACAP 秘書處分項主持。會議進行方式是逐序討論議程文件與資訊文件，先由主持人摘要報告內容，再開放討論。簡單開幕，提醒與會者第一次發言時簡單自我介紹。另歡迎加拿大加入成為新成員。

1. ACAP 鳥種族群評估狀況與更新的回顧與進展報告

秘書處進行報告感謝大家提供資料，秘書處也一直致力資料更新、網站資料的更新與以及維護完善資料庫等。相關工作包括翻譯工作(Fact sheets 翻譯成 8 種語言，包括中文，物種評估結果翻譯成英文、西班牙與法文)。但也有進展有限的情況，原因包括 ACAP 秘書處人力與經費有限等。許多

工作是需要會員國分工承擔執行的，但是根據以往經驗，很多時候成效不彰。建議還是必須在有限條件下，制定出鳥種的優先評估順序。在此之前建議先完成許多快完成的評估工作。雖然所有的工作都有時間緊迫的壓力，但是品質有非常重要，須謹慎為之。同時資料庫和各種評估的資訊一定要確保一致性。

澳洲提出 PaCSWG 應建立一套新方法，以確保及時更新 ACAP 物種評估。PaCSWG 應建立一個 PaCSWG 物種評估小組委員會，負責 ACAP 物種評估並持續更新。每個 ACAP 物種應有一位負責人，負責制定和遵守更新相關 ACAP 物種評估的時間表，並確保未來的更新及時進行。負責人應定期向 PaCSWG 物種評估小組委員會提供有關他們工作的最新進度，而小組委員會也需要向每次 PaCSWG 會議提供一份關於其工作的進展報告。這需要額外的預算以開展這項優先工作並促進其擴展。

2. ACAP 鳥種族群狀態

今年關於相關族群動態研究更新資訊提出的鳥種有 *Southern Royal Albatross*、*Northern Royal Albatross*、*Southern Buller's Albatross*、*Pink-footed Shearwaters* 以及 *Shy and White-capped Albatross*。

3. ACAP 鳥種族群面臨的各種威脅

工作小組提到被列入所謂的威脅是否有所謂的標準?這議題關心各種對於海鳥傷害的陸地相關的威脅，以及關於相關的管理發展的進展。特別針對各種海洋垃圾(包括塑膠)。工作小組各與會者協助逐一檢視報告內的相關列表提供更新資訊。

4. 第 4 號文件

越來越多的證據顯示塑膠對野生動物構成威脅。目前關於塑膠碎片對野生動物的負面影響的知識主要來自容易觀察到的後果。然而，其他不太

明顯的影響，如塑膠添加劑產生的毒性，研究仍然較少。通過合作網絡，我們評估了 17 種藻類物種的塑膠攝入量（物品 >1 毫米），其中包括巴西和阿根廷沿海的 7 種 ACAP 列出的物種。在 30.6%（n=193）檢查的屍體中發現了塑膠物品，其中白領鸕（*Procellaria aequinoctialis*）、南方巨鸕（*Macronectes giganteus*）和曼克斯水薺鳥（*Puffinus puffinus*）是最易受影響的物種。塑膠的出現頻率因屍體收集的來源和地點而異。回收物品的尺寸（n=473）為：1–5 毫米（36%）、5–25 毫米（47%）、>25 毫米（17%）。最常見的是碎片（71%），其次是泡沫（即聚苯乙烯/聚氨酯；11%）、顆粒（10%）、細絲和其他類型的塑膠（各佔 4%）。在巴西發現的一部分死亡海鳥中，大多數分析的物種（12/13）都檢測到鄰苯二甲酸鹽，大多數樣本（65%）的濃度 >0.01 ng/L。然而，與消化道中殘留的塑膠沒有關係。然而，塑膠添加劑的檢測反映了塑膠浸出的暴露可能對健康的負面影響。研究結果證實，塑膠攝入是西南大西洋的一個常見問題，並強調需要更進一步研究它們的致死原因。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) PaCSWG 認知當前的證據並承認需要進一步評估與塑膠攝入相關的生態因素及其對 ACAP 物種的亞致死影響。
- (2) PaCSWG 考慮推薦長期合作計劃和全球網絡，以監測塑膠攝入的變化及其對 ACAP 物種的影響，應用 ACAP 指南來標準化方法。

5. 數據差距(Data gaps)

第 2 號資訊文件(inf2)內容是關於使用生物聲學監測白領鸕的巡航時聲音和時間模式。秘書處報告目前關於 ACAP 鳥種族群豐度數據和追蹤數據以及這些資料的缺口。與會者分享其所知的相關研究文獻資訊，協助秘書處更新內容。

秘書處在逐一檢視各鳥種的資料缺口的時候，討論到短尾信天翁 (short-tailed albatross) 的繁殖地名稱的問題，最終 AC 主席力挺用中立名稱 (western-most current breeding site) 指稱釣魚台列嶼。

6. 最佳實踐的技術指引和其他線上資源

更新現有指南和資源，包括遙感（衛星和無人機）監測新指南以及持續的高致病性 H5N1 禽流感爆發期間處理信天翁和水蘆鳥的新指南。

(1) 第 8 號文件

儘管許多中大型陸生脊椎動物仍通過地面或航空調查進行統計，但近幾十年來遙感技術和圖像分析發展迅速，提供了更高的準確性和可重複性、更低的成本、更快的速度、更大的空間覆蓋範圍和更大的潛力供公眾參與。這篇評論將提交給一份期刊，建議可以採納為 ACAP 指南提供實施遙感技術的指南，用於計算陸地上的大型脊椎動物，包括返回陸地繁殖或棲息的海洋捕食者。概述整個過程，包括選擇最合適的技術、指示性成本、圖像採集和處理程序、觀察員培訓和註釋、自動化和公民科學活動。該評論考慮與脊椎動物遙感不同方法相關的潛力和挑戰，並且針對該領域相對較新的研究人員和保護主義者。目標是鼓勵更廣泛地應用技術解決方案來統計野生動物數量、提高效率、降低成本並最大限度地減少與實地工作相關的干擾。概述未來研究和方法開發的有希望的途徑。

本篇報告建議：

- (1) PaCSWG 審查這些關於使用遙感計數海鳥的指南，並提供補充或其他改進建議。
- (2) PaCSWG 考慮採用本評論的修訂版，一旦發表在同行評審的期刊上，作為使用遠程監測計算海鳥數量的 ACAP 保護指南。

7. ACAP 補助計畫經費規畫

秘書處簡單報告現況，應該強調許多小型計畫是由在學研究生執行的，但是有非常的研究成效結果。

8. 評論資訊

第 3 號正式文件在 ACAP 諮詢委員會第十二次會議期間，如 AC12 第 11 號正式文件中所述，PaCSWG 強調充分監測的重要性，將其作為有關族群量趨勢可靠數據的關鍵來源，有助於支持對影響信天翁和水雉鳥的保護危機的宣傳。為加強全球監測計劃，探討 PaCSWG 與全球海洋觀測系統 (GOOS) 生物學和生態系統專家小組之間的合作機會。

2012 年，聯合國教科文組織政府間海洋學委員會 (IOC) 下屬的 GOOS 啟動了生物學和生態系統 (BioEco) 專家組的開發，此前已經建立物理和生物地球化學專家組，作為海洋觀測框架的一部分。BioEco 小組的任務是確定一組基本海洋變量 (EOV) 觀測，該小組確定 13 個 EOV，分為三類，即為功能組、棲息地狀態組和海洋壓力組。海鳥作為功能組 EOV 包括在內。制定 GOOS BioEco Panel 路線圖 (2021-2030) 是為了進一步開發 EOV，圍繞每個 EOV 建立觀測社區，並提高每個 EOV 採納和實施準備水平，以建立全球海洋觀測能力。

信天翁和水雉鳥是受到巨大人為壓力的海鳥。了解這些壓力對物種的影響並實施有效管理以解決威脅過程並取得積極的種群水平成果，需要在觀察工作中加強相互合作。ACAP (PaCSWG) 可以在促進海鳥 EOV 觀測網絡，協助確保觀測工作有效並落實管理和政策重點。概述海鳥 EOV 和 GOOS 生物生態小組，促進討論 ACAP 和 GOOS 生物生態小組之間持續和持久的合作形式。

本篇報告建議

- (1) PaCSWG 承認海鳥基本海洋變量(EOV)作為全球海洋觀測系統 (GOOS) 的一部分。
- (2) PaCSWG 承認海洋觀測計劃的能力建設和合作也符合協議的目標，正如協議附件 2（行動計劃）第 7 節強調的那樣：7· 實施：7.2 締約方應與其他參與信天翁和水薙鳥研究、監測和管理的國家和組織合作，以交流知識、技能和技術，確保更有效地實施本行動計劃。
- (3) PaCSWG 考慮建議與 BioEco 小組合作，以加強海鳥觀測網絡，包括信天翁和水薙鳥，並討論為此 EOV 制定最佳實踐，以促進數據集的可訪問性、互操作性和擴展使用遵循公平原則。

9. 臨時動議

鼓勵大家參加相關信天翁和水薙鳥的學術研討會，這也是一個溝通 ACAP 主張的途徑。

三、第 13 屆諮詢委員會會議(AC13)

(一) 代表團長會議

5 月 21 日 6 時召開代表團長會議，觀察員代表(我國、加拿大、美國)於場外等待，主席經會員國一致同意後，使得進入參與討論(如圖 1)，會議討論諮詢委員會內的各個職位和任命事項，包括海鳥混獲工作組、族群保育狀態工作組和分類工作組的召集人，以及諮詢委員會副主席等，下屆工作小組會議副主席尚待選出。主席 Mike Double 討論副主席的提名，部分會員國提議若無合適人選，建議現有成員繼續擔任。

下一屆諮詢委員會會議(AC14)擬於 2024 年 8 月召開，可能於南美洲召開，尚未確定主辦國家。ACAP 秘書長 Christine Bogle 將於 2025 年退休，英國等代表表示一時可能無法找到適合人選，秘書長表示視會員國會議(Meeting of the Parties, MOP)召開時間，負責辦完後再退休。

英國提出修改議事規則(Rule of Procedur)第 17 條，有會員國表示尚未提供西語版本(ACAP 官方語言為英文及西文)供西語系會員國檢視，由於會議時間匆促，至於是在本次決議或下次(AC14)決議，尚未定案。

澳洲建議於 2024 年世界信天翁日(6 月 19 日)發布 ACAP20 週年的成果報告手冊，將在秘書處協助下，與英國及烏拉圭共同完成，智利表示將給予協助。



圖 1、代表團長會議實況照片

(二) 5月22日會議

AC13 由主席 Mike Double 及副主席 Tatiana Neves (如圖 2 及 3)邀請地主國英國由環境、食品及農村事務部(Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ,Defra)之國際生物多樣性和野生動物副主任 Will Lockhart 博士開幕致辭。他表示世界各地展開行動保護信天翁和水薙鳥等海鳥，但許多族群仍處於嚴重危機之中。強調英國與大家一同致力於這項工作，做更多的事情來進一步支持保護行動。

在英國國內，目前正在進行改善信天翁和水薙鳥的覓食區或繁殖區的保護狀況，從保護繁殖族群到實施混獲緩解措施。Will Lockhart 博士強調國際上必須做更多保護工作的重要性，需要積極的保育行動，以確定與區域漁業管理組織(RFMO)及加強南極海洋生物資源保護公約(CCAMLR)的數據收集和分析，以便了解和減輕混獲的規模及對 ACAP 物種的壓力。他還強調需要更廣泛的政府參與並確保各國履行協議下的承諾。大家共同制定最佳忌避措施並實踐，這對協議的成功至關重要。

英國諮詢委員會成員兼分類工作組召集人 Mark Tasker 也對 AC13 的所有與會者表示熱烈歡迎，並感謝 Defra，尤其是 Elizabeth Biott 和 Kris Blake 為籌辦這次會議所做的努力。自 ACAP 成立以來一直參與其中，他提醒該協議的主要目標是保護信天翁和水薙鳥，而要實現這一目標還有很多工作要做，在接下來一周的會議中將這一點放在首位。

AC 主席代表諮詢委員會感謝 Will Lockhart 博士和 Mark Tasker 的發言以及對會議的期許。主席也期許諮詢委員會的所有與會者為本次會議的結果和 ACAP 的目標取得進展做出貢獻。接續由秘書處說明會議及會場注意事項、確認本次議程，並進入議題討論。

1. 議事規則

諮詢委員會通過了本次會議的現行議事規則。

2. 協定託存報告

澳大利亞受託保管協定，提交報告（AC13 Doc 07）。報告指出，自受託保管國政府的最新報告（2022 年 2 月 1 日）在第 7 屆會員大會以來，至今沒有新成員加入該協定。

3. ACAP 秘書處報告

秘書長 Christine Bogle 說明秘書處在 2022-2023 年閉會期間開展的活動的報告（AC13 Doc 06），近幾個月以來，秘書處除了致力於一系列協定有關的事務，同事也專注規劃和組織目前的諮詢委員會和工作小組會議。近期的工作重點包括 2022 年輪借調計劃、更新合作安排及派代表參加一系列會議。秘書處和 AC 官員參與區域性漁業管理組織(RFMOs)、南極海洋生物資源養護委員會(CCAMLR)、第 11 次南太平洋區域漁業管理組織(SPRFMO) 委員會會議、大西洋鮪類保育委員會(ICCAT) SC-ECO 會議、印度洋鮪類委員會(IOTC)第 3 電子監測系統工作組和 IOTC 委員會，及與 ACAP 有合作安排的保護組織的一系列會議。此外，執行秘書強調了兩次重要的訪問活動，前往馬德里以加強秘書處與西班牙國家聯絡機會和關係，以及前往里斯本以鼓勵對 ACAP 的參與興趣。

秘書處也說明更新與 ICCAT 的合作指南，並與美洲海龜委員會 (Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention, IAC)和美洲熱帶鮪類委員會(IATTC) 簽署了更新的合作備忘錄(MOU)。最近幾個月也一直在與塔斯馬尼亞 (Tasmanian)政府討論續簽合作備忘錄。

與美洲海龜委員會(IAC) MOU 更新部分，會中建議未來合作方向如：沿近海小型漁業使用電子觀察員，特別是美洲海龜委員會(IAC)身為美洲熱帶鮪類委員會(IATTC)及大西洋鮪類保育委員會 ICCAT 等會員，可合作提案海龜海鳥的保育避忌措施。

諮詢委員會感謝秘書處的報告和進度更新，對於與 IAC 的新合作安排及增加相關的合作機會表示肯定，諮詢委員會也感謝塔斯馬尼亞政府一直以

來的支持，並請秘書處向該政府寫一封感謝信。

4. 財務報告

執行秘書指出，MoP6 通過決議指示秘書處將其財務報告減少為每年兩份報告，1-6 月份財報於當年度 9 月份繳交；全年度財報於隔年度 2 月份繳交，秘書處詳細說明財務狀況，2023 年會員會費用尚有多個會員國仍未支付，部分會員國積欠一年多（AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1），根據 MoP7 最新的決定暫不增加預算，與 2021 年的預算額度相近但尚未考慮到通貨膨脹的問題，2023 年的經費相對拮据，秘書處感謝英國提供 130,000 澳幣的自願捐款以彌補本次會議的不足，但指出三年期預算不足以為 ACAP 相關會議的全部活動提供資金且 AC14 通常由 ACAP 支應。這表示需要從自願捐款中獲得額外資金，否則一些需補助的活動將得不到資助。這些最新報告隨後將提交給諮詢委員會的相關會議或會員大會參考。另，執行秘書指出，2023 年諮詢委員會工作計劃的資金來自我國和 Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy 的自願捐款，分別為 20,000 澳幣和 28,000 澳幣。

主席裁示：諮詢委員會請執行秘書在準備一份 AC14 經費預算，並將其分發給各會員國，呼籲他們為會議提供額外支持，例如贊助他們自己的國家代表。對我國和 Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy 的自願捐助表示感謝，並將這些資金重新分配給 2023-2035 年項目或小額捐款計劃中的活動。

5. 第七屆會員大會

諮詢委員會主席說明了第 7 屆會員大會(Meeting of Parties 7,簡稱 MoP7)的重點訊息(AC13 Doc 15 文件)，特別是與諮詢委員會工作相關的問題。主席指出 MoP7 是 2021 年由澳大利亞主辦和主持的線上會議，會議通過了諮詢委員會 2023-2025 年工作方案等五項決議。

諮詢委員會建議會員國、區域漁業管理組織(RFMO)和其他各方促進和實施最佳實踐海鳥混獲緩解措施；改進海鳥混獲數據的收集和報告；實施優先監測和追蹤研究和計劃，以解決 ACAP 物種棲地的有害外來物種的危害。

MoP7 注意到協議實際執行取得的進展，但對只有半數會員國按時提交實施報告表示關切。MoP7 還對 ACAP 的指標顯示 ACAP 所列物種的狀況持續下降，敦促各方解決保護危機，並通過實施 ACAP 最佳實踐的建議來讓全球各國重視並配合實施，以減少海鳥混獲情形。此外，會員大會優先考慮在 2023 年至 2025 年期間實施 ACAP 的 RFMO 參與戰略。

AC13 Inf 01 提供了 MoP7 通過的 2023-2025 年期間預算的副本。會員國通過從普通基金中一次性提取 550,000 澳幣的節餘資金支持。在討論預算時，審計委員會指出確保為諮詢委員會及其工作組的工作提供足夠資金的重要性。

諮詢委員會同意在 2023 - 2025 三年期內採取行動、處理和實施 MoP7 決議、批准的建議以及 MoP7 與諮詢委員會議程及其工作計劃相關的結果。

6. 分類工作小組報告及新物種名錄

分類工作小組(Taxonomy Working Group, TWG)召集人 Mark Tasker(英國)報告名單內的物種分類提案，有關布勒信天翁(Buller's albatross)及短尾信天翁(Short-tailed Albatross) (繁殖地位於日本及釣魚台)在分類上可能各有亞種，惟經工作小組檢視相關證據(型態及分子生物等)，尚無足夠資訊可據以分出亞種，因此仍維持目前保育名單內的物種數。

紐西蘭表示，已經收集了關於在澳大利亞和奧克蘭群島繁殖的 *T. bulleri* 形態學和澳大利亞信天翁 *Diomedea antipodensis* 羽毛的數據，將進一步研析這些物種的分類處理。諮詢委員會感謝分類工作小組所做的工作及努力並通過這次報告。

7. 諮詢委員會向會員大會報告

諮詢委員會主席重點摘述 AC13 Doc 17 文件，提到諮詢委員會提交給 MoP 的各種報告和建立此類報告架構的 ACAP 文書，包括協議和決議的格式及架構。自 2004 年以來，報告的數量、結構和複雜性產生顯著變化，主席建議諮詢委員會建立一個由委員會成員組成的閉會期間工作組，以 AC13

起草和商定的職權範圍為指導，該工作組將推進審查並向 AC14 報告。

諮詢委員會同意這樣的審核很有價值。幾個會員國代表（阿根廷、澳大利亞、巴西、智利、紐西蘭和英國）同意參加閉會期間小組。

主席裁示：諮詢委員會同意該提議，如果可能在閉會期間與諮詢委員會進行一段時間的磋商後，將在 AC14 之前尋求諮詢委員會對該方法及原則擬出共識並做出決定。



圖 2、左至右為 Tatiana Neves 副主席、Mike Double 主席、秘書處 Christine Bogle、Wiesława Misiak



圖 3、ACAP 會議情形(會員國為中心，觀察員皆於外圍)

(三) 5月23日會議

1. 海鳥混獲工作小組(SBWG)報告

海鳥混獲工作小組(SBWG)召集人 Sebastian Jimenez 博士(烏拉圭)說明 5月15日至17日的海鳥混獲工作小組第十一次會議(SBWG11)重點，提交報告(AC13 Doc 11)概述 SBWG 工作計劃的閉會期間進展以及 SBWG11 討論和建議。

AC 決議與我國相關重點紀要：

(1) 遠洋延繩釣部分

- a. 強烈建議不使用高能量雷射光作為忌避措施，因研究發現該類型光源影響鳥類視覺。
- b. 最有效減少遠洋延繩釣海鳥混獲的方法，是同時使用支線加重、夜間投繩及避鳥繩等三個最佳措施。
- c. 可再增加使用魚鉤防護裝置(Hookpod)或水下投餌(underwater baiting)裝置，前者可包覆餌鉤的尖端和倒鉤，於達到規定的深度或浸水時間後，該裝置才會打開並釋放魚鉤，以避免潛水性的海鳥誤食。
- d. 有關忌避措施的實驗，鼓勵優先研究項目：支繩加重、公海漁業加強支繩加重、魚鉤防護裝置、避鳥繩、作業時間、水下投餌裝置、不同忌避措施組合、開發新技術、鳥類感官生態學(視覺、聲音、嗅覺)、誤食魚鉤的活鳥捕獲方式、鉤子材質及重量等研究。

(2) 針對小型遠洋延繩釣，特別是以表層浮子連接主繩的漁業方式(巴西鬼頭刀漁業及類似一支釣)對海鳥危害甚大。原決議為鼓勵會員國及分布國研究相關忌避措施，對象再增加 APEC 經濟體。

(3) 本次海鳥混獲數據工作坊(Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop)僅會員國可參加，美國表示已提交數據予 ACAP，希望觀察員未來可參加工作

坊，英國則建議將 APEC 經濟體納入。

2. SBWG11 及 PaSWG7 聯合會議向諮詢委員會報告

SBWG11 和 PaCSWG7 的聯席會議於 5 月 18 日舉行。Marco Favero 博士（PaCSWG7 聯合召集人）向 AC 提交聯席會議的報告。根據 AC11 的建議，該報告涵蓋了聯席會議的討論和建議，該會議旨在優化兩個工作組之間的互動。

聯席會議由 SBWG 聯合召集人 Igor Debski(紐西蘭)和 Sebastián Jiménez（烏拉圭）、SBWG 副召集人 Juan Pablo Seco Pon(阿根廷)和 Dimas Gianuca（國際鳥盟）、PaCSWG 聯合召集人 Patricia Serafini（巴西）和 Marco Favero（阿根廷），以及 PaCSWG 副召集人 Richard Phillips（英國）。副主席指出，將在該議程項目下審議兩份文件：AC13 Doc 12 和 AC13 Inf 03。副主席強調，會議報告（AC13 Doc12）包括有關溝通戰略的建議，並建議可以在會議結束時與 AC13 Inf 03 一起討論這些建議。

AC 決議與我國相關重點紀要：

(1) 有關海上能源設施發展及相關風險

- a. 瞭解海上風場設施對海鳥潛在不利影響。
- b. 研究改善海上風場對信天翁和水薙鳥的影響並分享。
- c. 要求會員和觀察員提供海上風電場開發影響 ACAP 物種或其他同類別海鳥資訊予秘書處。

(2) 有關海上威脅

- a. 為促進 ACAP 高優先種群的保護，針對不同國家和公海區域及 RFMO、CCAMLR 地區，訂定不同策略，並加強與特定受眾(RFMO 和漁業)的溝通。
- b. 為辨識鳥類及海上威脅(漁業)的重疊區域，建議以友善使用者的方式，開發空間分析工具及指導手冊，以利瞭解物種情況。鼓勵進一步訂定 ACAP 海鳥-漁業重疊準則的分析。

(3) SBWG12 及 PaSWG8 聯合會議將於下次諮詢委員會(AC14)之前召開。

3. 族群及保育狀態工作小組(PaSWG)會議報告

PaCSWG 聯合召集人 Patricia Pereira Serafini 和 Marco Favero 博士介紹了 PaCSWG7 的報告(AC13 Doc 09)。報告概述 PaCSWG 工作計劃的閉會期間進展，以及 5 月 19 日 PaCSWG7 會議的討論和建議。檢視物種族群狀態增減或是缺乏調查資料，並盤點繁殖地，哪些為優先保育物種。

AC 決議與我國相關重點紀要：

- (1) 鼓勵實施 ACAP 物種優先監測計劃，以掌握其族群規模、趨勢和數量。
- (2) 鼓勵 ACAP 會員國等指認優先研究監測。
- (3) 鼓勵數據持有者向國際鳥盟提交數據至海鳥監測資料庫，以便能分析出 ACAP 物種範圍與具漁業威脅的重疊空間。
- (4) 有關短尾信天翁繁殖地監測地點提及「at Minami-Kojima in the western-most current breeding site(釣魚台的其中一個島嶼)」，英國指出應刪除 at Minami-Kojima，以維持 ACAP 政治中立。

(四) 5 月 24 日會議

1. 諮詢委員會 2023-2025 年工作計畫

諮詢委員會列出近 3 年內工作計畫 (AC13 Doc 13)，包括檢視物種分類及附錄一、物種狀態、趨勢及繁殖地資訊、海鳥混獲資訊、能力建構(capacity building)、新會員加入或新組織合作、建立指標、排定保育優先順序、檢視整體保育行動、ACAP 工作的管理、秘書處的監督和聯絡，以及 ACAP 與相關機構互動情形等，逐一條列討論，工作計劃提供完成任務所需的指示性成本(澳元)和時間，開展工作計劃需要來自其他來源的大量財政和人力資源，主要來自秘書處和諮詢委員會官員，但也來自會員國和非政府組織等，其中人力資源在大多數情況下是無償的自願服務。針對相關執行內容及經費運用等細節討論及調整，相關決議會再更新版本提供給與會單位。

2. 秘書處 2023-2025 年工作計畫

依據會員國第 7 屆會議(MoP7)決議，ACAP 秘書處制定為期三年(2023-2025)的工作計畫(AC13 Doc 14)，根據 ACAP 所賦予秘書處的職能、會員國會議(MoP)分配的具體任務及諮詢委員會的指示，同時參考 2023-2025 年諮詢委員會工作計畫和預算等相關文件所擬定，成為秘書處在 2023-2025 年期間工作執行的指導方針，以實現 ACAP 的目標和使命。針對秘書處所提工作計畫，各會員國於本次諮詢委員會一致通過。

秘書處概述針對 2022-2023 年完成的小額經費補助研究計畫與借調情形及尚未完成的進展情況。提案金額約在美金 1 至 2 萬元，前 2 年因疫情，造成部分計畫無法結案，但英國認為此屬能力建構之一，仍應繼續支持，並取得巴西及阿根廷附議，並表示五個會員國有研究單位或學校提出研究計畫提案，很高興有新血加入海鳥保育。秘書處也說明在過去 10 年中，進行 4 輪資助計劃共 69 項提案申請，其中 30 項提案獲得資助，總計 490,809 澳幣。在此期間，13 個會員國中有 11 個提交了資金申請。AC 強調小額補助和借調計劃在能力建設和海鳥保護研究方面是重要的支持也創造成功的成果。

3. ACAP 觀察員報告

主席邀請各觀察員代表依序報告，包含美國、納米比亞、加拿大和我國等報告閉會期間的發展和活動，並對國內和地區活動發表了評論。就納米比亞而言，AC 提供關於納米比亞在加入 ACAP 方面相關訊息，鼓勵該國成為會員國成員。我國代表團發言(如圖 4)內容，除感謝英國和秘書處主辦及組織此次會議外，也說明我國長期致力於維持漁業和生態保育之間的平衡，包含積極與國際組織如國際鳥盟和台灣野鳥學會合作，進行實驗性的忌避措施以減少海鳥混獲；製作海鳥辨識手冊供漁業觀察員培訓；對我國漁船進行規範，以符合區域漁業管理組織制定的忌避措施。此外，我國去年捐款給 ACAP 特別基金，以支持與海鳥混獲相關研究的小額補助計畫，為海鳥保育作出貢獻，並強調我國對海鳥保育的重視，將加強與 ACAP 的國際交流與合作。

國際鳥盟 BirdLife International (BLI) 和國際人道協會 HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (HSI)也發表了聲明，強調了他們與 ACAP 的合作以及他們對 ACAP 未來優先事項的看法。BLI 提案「執行聯合國公海條約：塔斯曼海海洋保護區」(AC13 Inf 04)，討論聯合國商定海洋法公約的協議背景下促進塔斯曼海海洋保護區之議題。關於聯合國海洋法公約下國家管轄外區域海洋生物多樣性保育及永續利用協定 (Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, BBNJ) (尚未簽署或批准)，BLI 指出，該協定已經談判了 20 多年，將於 2024 年 6 月簽署，屆時需要 60 個簽署國的批准才能生效。該協定包括一項條款，據此可以在公海指定海洋保護區，這可以為 ACAP 所列物種的保護工作提供支持。如 AC13 Inf 04 所述，BLI 正致力於製定塔斯曼海海洋保護區的提案，值得注意的潛在地點包括北太平洋的帝王海山和南大西洋的沃爾維斯海嶺。《聯合國海洋法公約》關於國家管轄範圍以外區域海洋生物多樣性的養護和永續利用的協定 (BBNJ)將漁業活動的管理工作交給區域漁業管理組織；因此，BLI 建議委員會鼓勵各會員國簽署 BBNJ，混獲避忌工作小組(SBWG)召集人 Igor Debski(紐西蘭)認為此舉可得到更多的混獲數據，但澳洲及烏拉圭表達不同看法，認為應充分瞭解條約內容後再鼓勵會員國加入，澳洲再補充，可待條約有關保育措施定案後再討論。

4. 諮詢委員會官員的選舉和任命

主席說明所有委員會官員的職位都在本次會議結束時到任，但有些職位有資格重新當選。將需要通過選舉來選出下一個任期的官員，該任期將會員國大會第八次會議之後的 AC 會議(AC15)結束時到任。

各當選名單如下：

4.1 族群與保育狀態工作小組

共同召集人：智利提名 Patricia Pereira Serafini (巴西)，英國提名 Marco

Favero 博士（阿根廷）。

副召集人：阿根廷提名 Richard Phillips 教授（英國）。

4.2 海鳥混獲工作小組

共同召集人：澳大利亞提名 Igor Debski 博士（紐西蘭），巴西提名 Sebastián Jiménez 博士（烏拉圭）。

副召集人：秘魯提名 Dimas Gianuca 博士（巴西），澳大利亞提名 Megan Tierney 博士（英國）。

4.3 分類工作小組

召集人：南非提議 Mark Tasker（英國）。

副召集人：英國提名 Alan Tennyson 博士（紐西蘭）。

4.4 諮詢委員會

主席：智利提名 Mike Double 博士（澳大利亞）。

副主席：烏拉圭提名 Tatiana Neves（巴西）。

5. 第 14 屆諮詢委員會(AC14)

第 14 屆諮詢委員會(AC14)預計於 2024 年 8 月底至 9 月初在秘魯首都利馬舉行，初步擬定 AC14 會議議程，並將在 AC14 之前轉交給會員國審議及確認。



圖 4、5 月 24 日會議實況及我國代表團報告觀察員聲明

(五) 5 月 25 日參訪蘇格蘭海鳥保育中心(Scottish Seabird Centre)

蘇格蘭海鳥保育中心 (Scottish Seabird Centre) 致力於保護蘇格蘭海洋野生動物、生態環境和海鳥的機構，它參與保護蘇格蘭國際上重要的海鳥繁殖地，改善海岸和海洋環境的質量。該中心位於小鎮北貝裡克(North Berwick)，距離愛丁堡 25 英里，是英國著名的候鳥棲息地。這次參訪行程由 ACAP 規劃參觀蘇格蘭海鳥中心，搭乘該中心導覽船舶環繞克雷格利斯島(Craigleith)和海鳥北方鰹鳥棲息地的巴斯岩(Bass Rock)。(如圖 5~圖 8)

蘇格蘭海鳥保育中心對於保護海洋生態系統和瀕危海鳥族群具有重要意義，該中心的主要工作內容：

1.海鳥保護：致力於保護蘇格蘭國內重要的海鳥繁殖地，監測並研究不同種類的大海鳥，包括北極海鸚 (Atlantic puffin)、北方鰹鳥(Northern Gannet)等。中心的工作有助於了解海鳥的生態習性、遷徙模式及繁殖行為，制定相應的保育措施。

2.環境質量改善：積極參與改善海岸和海洋環境的質量，致力於減少污染、控制海岸開發，並提倡永續漁業實踐，以確保海洋生態系統的健康。

3.教育和民眾意識：該中心的重要任務之一是提高公眾對海鳥和海洋生態保育的意識。他們通過展示中心、互動展覽、教育計劃和社區活動來向公眾傳達知識，並鼓勵人們通過公民科學方式參與保育行動。

4.技術創新：蘇格蘭海鳥保育中心利用科技創新，例如使用遠端監控攝影系統觀察海鳥繁殖地，收集數據和監測海鳥的情況。這些數據對於保育策略的制定和實施非常重要。

該中心扮演保護和維護當地海洋生物多樣性的重要角色，遊客搭船出海即可近距離見到數以千計的海鳥在繁殖地覓食、孵卵等活動，加上船上解說員詳細說明海鳥與環境之間的互動，包括疫情後的海廢之一口罩，也出現在海鳥巢內，抑或是北方鯉鳥族群因鳥類病毒肆虐而劇烈變動等，可讓大眾目睹鳥類保育實受到海洋生態系統的影響。

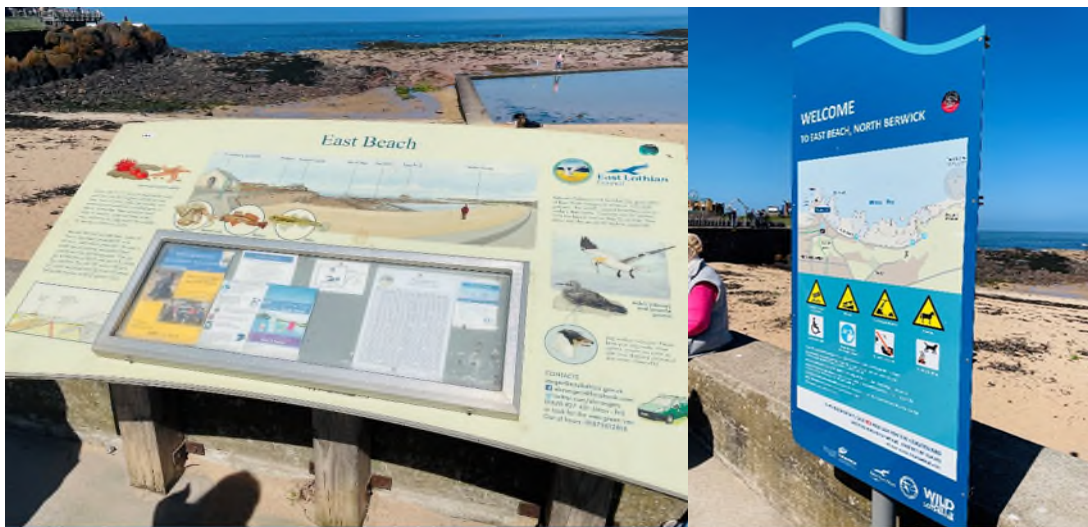


圖 5、蘇格蘭海鳥保育中心周邊告示牌



圖 6、該中心利用科技創新，使用遠端監控攝影系統觀察海鳥繁殖地



圖 7、搭乘船舶環繞克雷格利斯島(Craigleith)和巴斯岩(Bass Rock)



圖 8、數以千計的海鳥在繁殖棲地上活動

(六) 5 月 26 日會議

諮詢委員會逐條確認會議報告內容，包含討論並修正報告文字或內容，確認後將提交會員大會，經修改確認草稿，報告通過，包括海鳥混獲工作小組 (SBWG)、分類工作小組(TWG)、族群與保育狀態工作小組(PaCWG)等報告。

(七) 我國代表團參與 AC13 交流情形

我國代表團為強化國際交流，會議期間與相關會員國，包含主辦方英國環境、食品暨鄉村事務部 (Defra, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs)及英國 JNCC、美國(NOAA)、紐西蘭及澳洲等代表互動交流，另準備本署宣導品致贈秘書長 Christine Bogle，並感謝秘書處辛苦籌辦此次會議。

與國際鳥盟、HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (HSI)交流有關公民科學調查數據的部分，雖非科學性數據，但 HSI 表示仍是相當有用的資料，國際鳥盟建議可以提交論文到 ACAP 會議中，HSI 表示贊同。另，巴西於會中表示近期已完成風電相關報告(葡萄牙文)，其中一部分為離岸風電，會後經洽詢

巴西代表，巴西表示樂意分享資訊提供本署參考。

會後我國代表團向諮詢委員會(AC)主席 Michael Double 及副主席 Tatiana Neves 表示感謝他們對我國在 ACAP 中相關的幫助與支持，並致贈本署準備的宣導品。(如圖 9~圖 10)



圖 9、與諮詢委員會主席 Michael Double、副主席 Tatiana Neves
及秘書長 Christine Bogle 合影



圖 10、我國代表團與英國主辦方合影

參、心得及建議


本次會議的重點討論包括信天翁與水薺鳥族群及保育狀況、生物學分類、海鳥混獲、忌避措施的最佳實踐以及跨國合作的可行性等議題。這些討論有助於我國遠洋漁業漁船在高緯度漁業作業時能採取相關的忌避措施，避免混獲海鳥，並與國際保育行動接軌。ACAP 的經驗亦對於我國海鳥保育極為重要，同時展示了我們對海洋生物保育的國際合作的重視和承諾。

透過參與這次會議，我們能有效地了解 ACAP 協定對於海鳥保育的重要性，ACAP 持續呼籲其他國家和相關利害關係方加入協定，共同保護全球海鳥族群。海洋生物保育是一個全球性的議題，需要各國共同努力，通過國際合作和知識交流來實現可持續的海洋生態和漁業發展。

未來，我國將繼續參與 ACAP 協定的相關會議和工作小組，並與其他會員國和觀察員交流與學習，共同致力於保護海鳥的生存及棲地維護。也建議國內海鳥研究專家或致力於海鳥保育的非政府組織(NGO)或民間團體、漁政相關單位等能共同來參與，透過多方合作和專業知識交流，我們將能更加了解海鳥族群的狀況和面臨的威脅，並提出更有效的保育措施。

肆、附錄


- 一、AC13 會議議程
- 二、AC13 與會名單
- 三、AC13 會議報告

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p><i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 15 - 17 May 2023</i></p> <p>Draft Meeting Agenda</p> <p><i>SBWG Convenors and Vice-convenors</i></p>
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SBWG11 Draft Agenda	
1. Welcome and opening remarks	SBWG11 Doc 03
2. WG membership and introduction	
3. Adoption of Agenda	SBWG11 Doc 01 Rev 1 SBWG11 Doc 04 Rev 1
4. ACAP seabird bycatch mitigation best practice advice – definition and criteria	
5. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Trawl Fisheries 5.1 Review recent developments in mitigation research and update Best Practice Advice 5.2 Update Mitigation Fact Sheets if required 5.3 Consider priorities for mitigation research	SBWG11 Doc 06 SBWG11 Doc 11 SBWG11 Doc 17 SBWG11 Inf 07 SBWG11 Inf 10 SBWG11 Inf 17 SBWG11 Inf 18 SBWG11 Inf 19 SBWG11 Inf 20 Rev 1
6. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Demersal Longline Fisheries 6.1 Review recent developments in mitigation research and update Best Practice Advice 6.2 Update Mitigation Fact Sheets if required 6.3 Consider priorities for mitigation research	SBWG11 Doc 11 SBWG11 Doc 18 SBWG11 Doc 21 SBWG11 Inf 01 SBWG11 Inf 12 SBWG11 Inf 13


<p>7. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Pelagic Longline Fisheries</p> <p>7.1 Review recent developments in mitigation research and update Best Practice Advice</p> <p>7.2 Update Mitigation Fact Sheets if required</p> <p>7.3 Consider priorities for mitigation research</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 07 SBWG11 Doc 10 SBWG11 Doc 11 SBWG11 Doc 15 SBWG11 Doc 21 SBWG11 Doc 23 SBWG11 Inf 04 SBWG11 Inf 06 SBWG11 Inf 11</p>
<p>8. Artisanal and Small-scale Fisheries</p> <p>8.1 Review recent developments in mitigation research and update toolbox advice</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 18 SBWG11 Doc 19 SBWG11 Inf 18 SBWG11 Inf 21 SBWG11 Inf 22</p>
<p>9. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Purse Seine Fisheries</p> <p>9.1 Review recent developments in mitigation research and update toolbox advice</p>	<p>SBWG11 Inf 16</p>
<p>10. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Other Fisheries</p> <p>10.1 Consider recent developments in mitigation research and consider priorities for further research</p>	
<p>11. ACAP Performance Indicators: Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop</p> <p>11.1 Report back on pre-meeting workshop</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 05 SBWG11 Doc 16 SBWG11 Doc 20 SBWG11 Doc 25 SBWG11 Doc 27 SBWG11 Inf 02 SBWG11 Inf 22</p>
<p>12. Monitoring Techniques for Seabird Bycatch and Mitigation Use</p> <p>12.1 Review developments in monitoring methods or techniques in relation to seabird bycatch and the use of seabird bycatch mitigation</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 12 SBWG11 Doc 24 SBWG11 Doc 26 Rev 1 SBWG11 Doc 27 SBWG11 Inf 09 SBWG11 Inf 14 SBWG11 Inf 22 SBWG11 Inf 23 SBWG11 Inf 24 Rev 1</p>

<p>13. FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds 13.1 Review of status of implementation of NPOA-Seabirds</p>	<p>SBWG11 Inf 03 SBWG11 Inf 15</p>
<p>14. Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs 14.1 Update on RFMO engagement strategy implementation</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 09 SBWG11 Doc 16 SBWG11 Doc 25 SBWG11 Inf 05</p>
<p>15. Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 13 SBWG11 Doc 22 SBWG11 Doc 25 SBWG11 Inf 06 SBWG11 Inf 08 SBWG11 Inf 16 SBWG11 Inf 19 AC13 Inf 03</p>
<p>16. Tools and Guidelines 16.1 Updates and new guidelines 16.2 Mitigation Fact Sheets</p>	<p>SBWG11 Doc 08 SBWG11 Doc 14</p>
<p>17 ACAP funded programmes 17.1 Small Grants and Secondments 17.2 Funding priorities for 2023 -2025</p>	<p>AC13 Inf 02</p>
<p>18. SBWG Work Programme 18.1 Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 13</p>
<p>19. Any other business</p>	
<p>20. Reporting to AC13</p>	
<p>21. Close of Meeting</p>	

 <p style="font-size: small;">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p><i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 15 - 17 May 2023</i></p> <p>Provisional Meeting Schedule</p> <p><i>SBWG Convenors and Vice-convenors</i></p>
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Time	Agenda Item / Activity
MONDAY 15 MAY	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	1. Welcome and opening remarks
	2. WG membership and introduction
	3. Adoption of Agenda
	4. ACAP seabird bycatch mitigation best practice advice – definition and criteria
	5. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Trawl Fisheries
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	5. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Trawl Fisheries (contd)
	6. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Demersal Longline Fisheries
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	7. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Pelagic Longline Fisheries
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	7. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Pelagic Longline Fisheries (contd)
	8. Artisanal and Small-scale Fisheries
TUESDAY 16 MAY	
09:00-10:30	9. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Purse Seine Fisheries
	10. Seabird Bycatch Mitigation in Other Fisheries
	11. ACAP Performance Indicators: Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop

10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	11. ACAP Performance Indicators: Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop (contd)
	14. Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Return to open agenda items
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	15. Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures
WEDNESDAY 17 MAY	
09:00-10:30	Return to open agenda items
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	12. Monitoring Techniques for Seabird Bycatch and Mitigation Use
	13. FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds
	16. Tools and Guidelines
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	17 ACAP funded programmes
	18. SBWG Work Programme
	19. Any other business
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	20. Reporting to AC13
	21. Close of Meeting

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Seventh Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 18 - 19 May 2023</i></p> <p>Draft Meeting Agenda <i>PaCSWG Convenors and Vice-convenor</i></p>
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PaCSWG7 – DRAFT AGENDA	
1. Welcome and opening remarks	
2. WG membership and introduction	
3. Adoption of the Agenda	PaCSWG7 Doc 01 PaCSWG7 Doc 02
4. Progress reports 4.1. Updates and reviews of ACAP Species Assessments	ACAP website PaCSWG7 Inf 12
5. Population status and trends 5.1. Population trends of ACAP species	PaCSWG7 Inf 01 PaCSWG7 Inf 09 PaCSWG7 Inf 10 PaCSWG7 Inf 11 PaCSWG7 Inf 15 PaCSWG7 Inf 16
6. Threats 6.1. Updates on management of land-based threats 6.2. Pollutants, including plastics and other marine debris 6.3. Other threats	PaCSWG7 Inf 05 PaCSWG7 Inf 06 PaCSWG7 Inf 07 PaCSWG7 Inf 08 PaCSWG7 Inf 13 PaCSWG7 Doc 04 PaCSWG7 Inf 03 PaCSWG7 Inf 04

<p>7. Data gaps 7.1. Review key gaps in population data 7.2. Review key gaps in tracking data</p>	<p>PaCSWG7 Inf 02</p>
<p>8. Best-practice guidelines and other online resources 8.1. Updates to existing guidelines and resources 8.2. New guidelines on remote sensing (satellite-based and UAVs) monitoring 8.3 New guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the on-going high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak</p>	<p>ACAP website PaCSWG7 Doc 05</p>
<p>9. ACAP funded programmes 9.1. Small Grants and Secondments Programmes</p>	<p>AC13 Inf 02</p>
<p>10. Reviews and information 10.1. Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) update</p>	<p>PaCSWG7 Doc 03 PaCSWG7 Inf 14</p>
<p>11. Future work programme 11.1. Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 13</p>
<p>12. Reporting to AC13</p>	
<p>13. Any other business</p>	
<p>14. Closing remarks</p>	

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Draft Meeting Agenda</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee, Secretariat</i></p>
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DRAFT AC13 AGENDA	
1. Opening Remarks	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Rules of Procedure	
4. Report of the Depositary	
5. ACAP Secretariat	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025
6. Agreement's Financial Matters	6.1 Financial Report
7. Observer Reports	7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13 7.2 Implementing the UN High Seas Treaty: Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal
8. Report from the Seventh Meeting of the Parties	
9. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels	9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels	10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
11. Seabird Bycatch	11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group 11.2 Report from workshop on bycatch data collection

<p>12. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</p> <p>12.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</p>
<p>13. Advisory Committee</p> <p>13.1 Advisory Committee reporting to the MoP</p> <p>13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p> <p>13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme</p>
<p>14. Listing of New Species</p>
<p>15. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</p>
<p>16. Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>16.1 Timing and Venue</p> <p>16.2 Draft Agenda</p>
<p>17. Other Business</p>
<p>18. Adoption of Report</p>
<p>19. Closing Remarks</p>


 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Annotated Draft Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</p>
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DRAFT AC13 AGENDA	Papers and authors
<p>1. Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>The meeting will begin with an introduction by the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the key outcomes expected from the meeting. The Secretariat will inform delegates of administrative, technical, and organisational matters.</i></p>	
<p>2. Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p><i>This is a procedural agenda item. The annotated agenda has been prepared to assist delegates in identifying which papers are to be discussed under individual agenda items. A meeting schedule is presented as a guide, but flexibility will be retained to enable the most efficient use of the time available.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Adoption of the agenda</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 01 AC Chair, Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 02 AC Chair, Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 03 AC Chair, Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 04 AC Chair, Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 05 Secretariat</p>
<p>3. Rules of Procedure</p> <p><i>No proposals have been received for amendments to the Rules of Procedure.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Adoption of the AC's Rules of Procedure.</p>	
<p>4. Report of the Depositary</p> <p><i>Australia, as the Depositary for the Agreement will provide an update on new signatures to the Agreement since the last meeting.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Note the report of the Depositary Government.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 07 Australia</p>

<p>5. ACAP Secretariat</p> <p>5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p> <p><i>The Executive Secretary will report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since AC12 and present for discussion the Work Programme for 2023- 2025 approved by MoP7.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Note the activities undertaken during the intersessional period and the Secretariat's Work Programme for the current triennium.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 06 Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 14 Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Doc 16 IAC Scientific Committee, IAC Secretary, PaCSWG Co-convenor</p> <p>AC13 Inf 03 Secretariat</p>
<p>6. Agreement's Financial Matters</p> <p>6.1 Financial Report</p> <p><i>The Executive Secretary will provide an interim report on the Agreement's finances for the current financial year.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Note the interim 2023 financial report and take action under relevant agenda items.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 08 Secretariat</p>
<p>7. Observer Reports</p> <p>7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13 7.2 Implementing the UN High Seas Treaty: Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal</p> <p><i>Reports by observers to the meeting will be presented and discussed as required.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: note the information and reports presented.</p>	<p>AC13 Inf 04 BLI</p>
<p>8. Report from the Seventh Meeting of the Parties</p> <p><i>The Chair of the Advisory Committee will report on the outcomes of MoP7 and in particular on issues of relevance to the operation of the Advisory Committee and its work. The Secretariat will inform AC Members of matters of interest regarding the Agreement Budget adopted by MoP7.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Note relevant outcomes of MoP7 and, where necessary, discuss under relevant agenda items.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 15 AC Chair, Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Inf 01 Secretariat</p>
<p>9. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels</p> <p>9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group</p> <p><i>The report of the PaCS Working Group will be tabled and a summary of progress provided.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Review of action taken so far and consideration/ endorsement of a future work programme to be incorporated into the AC Work Programme.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 09 PaCSWG Convenors</p> <p>AC13 Doc 13 AC Chair, Vice-chair</p>

<p>10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels 10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group</p> <p><i>A summary of progress will be provided.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Review of action taken so far and consideration/ endorsement of a future work programme to be incorporated into the AC Work Programme.</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 10 TWG</p> <p>AC13 Doc 13 AC Chair, Vice-chair</p>
<p>11. Seabird Bycatch 11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group 11.2 Report from workshop on bycatch data collection</p> <p><i>The report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group will be tabled and a summary of progress provided, together with the outcomes of the workshop on bycatch data.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Review of action taken so far and consideration/ endorsement of a future work programme to be incorporated into the AC Work Programme</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 11 SBWG Convenors</p> <p>AC13 Doc 13 AC Chair, Vice-chair</p>
<p>12. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups 12.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups</p> <p><i>The report of the joint meeting will be tabled and discussed.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Review of action taken so far on joint issues and consideration/ endorsement of a future work programme to be incorporated into the AC Work Programme</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 12 PaCSWG Convenors, SBWG Convenors</p> <p>AC13 Doc 13 AC Chair, Vice-chair</p>
<p>13. Advisory Committee 13.1 Advisory Committee reporting to the MoP 13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme</p> <p><i>Discuss a proposal to review the Advisory Committee's reporting to the MoP. Review of the Advisory Committee Work Programme for 2023 - 2025 and the allocation of funds provided in support of it. A summary of progress reports received from conservation projects and secondments funded from previous grant allocations will be provided and upcoming grants and secondments rounds discussed</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Advisory Committee Work Programme for the current triennium reviewed and endorsed</p>	<p>AC13 Doc 17 AC Chair</p> <p>AC13 Doc 13 AC Chair, Vice-chair</p> <p>AC13 Doc 16 IAC Scientific Committee, IAC Secretary, PaCSWG Co-convenor</p> <p>AC13 Inf 02 Secretariat</p> <p>AC13 Inf 03 Secretariat</p>
<p>14. Listing of New Species</p> <p><i>No proposals have been received for amendments to Annex 1</i></p>	


<p>15. Election and Appointment of AC Officers</p> <p><i>All AC posts are subject to election at the end of the first AC meeting after each session of the MoP. Officers may be re-elected but shall not normally hold office for more than three consecutive terms. Nominations will be sought early in the meeting. The Vice-chair has advised that she will not seek re-election.</i></p> <p>Action/expected outcome: Appointment/re-appointment of officials to all positions.</p>	
<p>16. Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>16.1 Timing and Venue 16.2 Draft Agenda</p> <p><i>Offers from Parties to host AC14 (August/September 2024) will be sought. A draft agenda for AC13 should be developed by AC Members during AC13.</i></p>	
<p>17. Other Business</p>	
<p>18. Adoption of Report</p>	
<p>19. Closing Remarks</p>	

 <p style="font-size: small;">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>List of Meeting Documents</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 02	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 04	List of Meeting Documents	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 05	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 06	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 07	Report of Depository Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC13 Doc 08	2023 Interim Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 09	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	9.1	PaCSWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 10	Report of Taxonomy Working Group	10.1	TWG
AC13 Doc 11	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	11.1	SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 12	Report of Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	12.1	PaCSWG Convenors, SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 13	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025	13.2	Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair
AC13 Doc 14	Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025	5.2	Secretariat

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Doc 15	MoP7 outcomes relevant to the Advisory Committee Work Programme	8 & 13	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 16	Identification of conservation actions to booster the implementation of the MoU between ACAP and IAC	5.1 & 13.2	IAC Scientific Committee, IAC Secretary, PaCSWG Co-convenor
AC13 Doc 17	Opportunities to enhance Advisory Committee reporting to the Meeting of the Parties	13.1	Advisory Committee Chair

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Inf 01	Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025	8 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 02	Small Grants and Secondment Programmes supported by the AC	13.3	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 03	ACAP communication strategy update	5 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 04	The Tasman Sea as a candidate High Seas Marine Protected Area	7.2	BirdLife International

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>List of Meeting Participants</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
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Alternate Representative	Ms Elizabeth BIOTT Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) elizabeth.biott@defra.gov.uk
Alternate Representative	Mr Kristopher BLAKE Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) kristopher.blake@defra.gov.uk
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Science Officer	Dr Wiesława MISIAK wieslawa.misiak@acap.aq

INTERPRETERS

Spanish ↔ English:	Ms Cecilia ALAL Dr Sandra HALE 2M Language Services
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 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Secretariat Report</p> <p><i>Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

As decided by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, this report draws on the most recent Secretariat six-monthly report to provide an overview of the Secretariat's operations during the first half of the 2023 financial year. A highlight of the six month period was the return to in-person meetings by many of the international organisations with which ACAP engages; allowing enhanced engagement with a number of contacts. Preparations for AC13 got underway. A Secondments round was launched.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee take note of the outcomes achieved by the Secretariat since MoP7 and, if appropriate, use this information to suggest amendments to the Secretariat's Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 14**).

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6), the Secretariat prepares two reports (together with accompanying financial reports) per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year, and a full-year audited report in September. MoP6 decided that the most recent such report would be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of the Parties. This report covers the Secretariat's activities over the period 1 July to 31 December 2022. **AC13 Doc 08** provides an interim financial report for the 2023 financial year.

A highlight of the six month period was the return to in-person meetings by many of the international organisations that ACAP engages with. ACAP was represented at several meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international bodies. Over the six months (1 July - 31 December 2022) the Secretariat continued to implement actions in the Advisory Committee and Secretariat Work Programmes. This included launching a Secondments round. Preparations for AC13 got underway.

2. COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the Secretariat and the Agreement's operations. Internationally, many organisations held in-person meetings for the first time in three years, but some were online.

3. AC13 PLANNING

Preparations for the 13th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC13) and its working groups, to be held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom (UK), got underway, in consultation with Advisory Committee officials and UK colleagues. Two AC13 Circulars (about AC13 deadlines and arrangements) were issued and one ACAP ANCP Circular (ACAP-ANCP Circular 2022-01 on sponsorship of delegates). Planning included a visit to Edinburgh by the Executive Secretary to look at the proposed meeting venue and discuss logistics. AC13 will be the first ACAP meeting held in person since AC11 in May 2019.

4. SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS

The Secretariat's office remains at Level 2, 119 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

5. STAFFING

Staffing of the Secretariat remains at two full-time positions, the Executive Secretary and the Science Officer. John Cooper retired from his position as Honorary Information Officer in August 2022 but continued to be involved in some activities, as Emeritus Information Officer and News Correspondent.

Additional support to the Secretariat is provided by volunteers, consultancies and internships, as well as by Advisory Committee officials. Volunteers included Geoffrey Tyler, who updated the World Albatross Day logos he designed in 2020, and Laurence Laureau, who helped with some translations into French.

6. CONTRACTS/CONSULTANTS

In October 2022, the Secretariat's contract with *OnCall Conference Interpreters and Translators* came to an end. In October 2022 a new three year contract was signed with *2M Language Services*.

Marco Favero, Sebastián Jiménez and Juan Pablo Seco Pon attended RFMO and other meetings as ACAP representatives on a contract basis.

Wombat Data Solutions continued to provide database development services, and *Web Monkey* continued to provide web hosting and associated administration services.

Bree Forrer continued work under contract as a part time Communications Advisor for ACAP.

7. SUPPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Secretariat liaised closely with Advisory Committee officials and members throughout the six-month period. A Secondments round was launched in September 2022. As at 31 December, the assessment process for the applications had not been finalised. One secondment carried over from 2019 was completed during this period. Two other secondments awarded in 2019 will be undertaken in the coming months.

8. ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTIES AND NON PARTIES

The resumption of international travel enabled the Executive Secretary to undertake two liaison visits, taking advantage of travel to RFMO meetings (see below) to add on a brief visit to Madrid and Lisbon. In Madrid she met with ACAP's National Contact Point (Elvira García-Bellido Capdevila) and colleagues at the *Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico* and had a separate meeting with the *Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación*. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss issues likely to be covered at AC13 and its working groups, and to learn about Spain's national (and EU-related) developments in relation to seabird bycatch mitigation and other issues. During her visit to Madrid the Executive Secretary also had a meeting with the ICCAT Executive Secretary, Camille Mantel.

The objective of the visit to Lisbon was to make initial contact with Portuguese colleagues (given that Portugal is not an ACAP Party) and encourage them to take an interest in ACAP and to consider attending AC13 as an Observer. The visit was well received, and some useful contacts were made with officials from the *Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas* (Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests) and the *Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos* (Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services).

There were also opportunities to engage in the margins at RFMO and other meetings with a range of contacts from various countries and organisations.

9. REPRESENTATION AT RELEVANT MEETINGS

The Secretariat and AC officials represented the Agreement at a number of meetings during the period from July to December 2022:

- Juan Pablo Seco Pon represented ACAP at the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC 18) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), online, in August 2022.
- The Executive Secretary participated in the 35th meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 35) and the 9th Meeting of the Regional Secretariats Network (RSN 9) in Rome in September 2022. She also attended the 23rd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), held in Portugal in November 2022 and the 19th meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC 19) held in Vietnam in November-December 2022.

- In September 2022 Sebastián Jiménez represented ACAP at the 18th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB18) of the IOTC, online, and in December 2022 took part in the 25th meeting of the IOTC's Scientific Committee (IOTC SC25), in the Seychelles.
- In October 2022, Igor Debski attended a one-day online Technical Compliance Working Group meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), about Electronic Monitoring Systems. The Executive Secretary attended the online 29th Annual Meeting of the Extended Commission and Commission (EC29) of the CCSBT.
- In October 2022, Igor Debski attended, as an invited observer, the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), in Hobart, Tasmania. Together with the Executive Secretary and the Science Officer, Igor attended the 41st meeting of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee (CAML-41). The Executive Secretary and the Science Officer also attended the 41st meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR-41).
- Marco Favero represented ACAP, online, at the 19th Scientific Committee Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) in November 2022.

The attendance at RFMO and CCAMLR meetings reflected the priorities for ACAP's RFMO engagement strategy, as endorsed by AC12 and by MoP 7.


10. ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

During the intersessional decision-making process of the Meeting of the Parties in 2020-2021, the ACAP Parties (in [Resolution 6.11](#)) authorised the Secretariat to renew or amend existing arrangements concerning matters of common interest between this Agreement and a number of other organisations with which we had an existing arrangement. In accordance with this policy, the Secretariat renewed our Cooperation Guidelines with ICCAT in September 2022 (see ACAP-ANCP Circular 2022—08).

Attached as ANNEX 1 is an updated list of the status of ACAP's cooperation arrangements with other organisations.

ANNEX 1. Arrangements between the Secretariat and relevant international and national organisations and institutions

Title	Adopted / Renewed	Duration	Expiry
International organisations			
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	9 November 2021	3 years	9 November 2024
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	6 December 2021	6 years	6 December 2027
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	23 February 2021	5 years	23 February 2026
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)	30 January 2023	Ongoing	—
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	27 July 2017	6 years	26 July 2023 (Discussions on renewal have begun)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	2 September 2022	6 years	2 September 2028
South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)	11 December 2018	6 years	10 December 2024
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	26 November 2018	6 years	25 November 2024
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	28 October 2014	Ongoing	—
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	7 December 2007	Ongoing	—
National organisations			
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Arts (DEDTA), now Department of State Growth (DSG), Tasmania, Australia	1 February 2013	10 years	31 January 2023 (Renewal under discussion with Dept of State Growth)
Institutions			
Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine (UC Davis)	25 May 2022	Ongoing	—

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Report of Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)</p> <p><i>Australia</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Australia is pleased to provide at **ANNEX 1** the Report of the Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001). The report is dated 1 March 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Notes the Report of the Depositary Government on the status of the Agreement as at 1 March 2023.

ANNEX 1

**REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY GOVERNMENT
ON THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS
(Canberra, 19 June 2001)**

Depositary: Australia

Entry into force generally: 1 February 2004

Report date: 1 March 2023

1. Australia, as Depositary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (the Agreement), is pleased to report on the status of the Agreement.
2. Australia advises the Parties to the Agreement that there have been no new ratifications, accessions to or withdrawals from the Agreement since the most recent Report of the Depositary Government (of 1 February 2022; circulated as MoP7 Doc 06 (Agenda Item 3.2), Seventh Meeting of the Parties, virtual meeting, 9 – 13 May 2022.
3. A copy of the current status list for the Agreement is set out below.

Parties to the Agreement	Date of Signature (subject to ratification)	Ratification Accession - (a) Acceptance/Approval - (A) Definitive Signature - (ds)	Entry into force for Parties
Argentina	19 Jan 2004	29 Aug 2006 (see note 3)	1 Nov 2006
Australia	19 Jun 2001	4 Oct 2001 (see notes 4 & 5)	1 Feb 2004
Brazil	19 Jun 2001	3 Sep 2008	1 Dec 2008
Chile	19 Jun 2001	13 Sep 2005	1 Dec 2005
Ecuador	18 Feb 2003	18 Feb 2003	1 Feb 2004
France	19 Jun 2001	28 Jun 2005 (A)	1 Sep 2005
New Zealand	19 Jun 2001	1 Nov 2001	1 Feb 2004
Norway	n / a	5 Mar 2007 (a)	1 Jun 2007
Peru	19 Jun 2001	17 May 2005	1 Aug 2005
South Africa	6 Nov 2003	6 Nov 2003	1 Feb 2004
Spain	30 Apr 2002	12 Aug 2003	1 Feb 2004
United Kingdom	19 Jun 2001	2 Apr 2004 (see notes 1 & 2)	1 Jul 2004
Uruguay	n / a	9 Oct 2008 (a)	1 Jan 2009

Notes.

1. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the Agreement in respect of itself, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur).¹
2. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland extended its ratification to include the Territory of Tristan da Cunha. The above action was effected in Canberra on 13 April 2006 when notification by diplomatic note No.17/06 from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was received by the depositary. In accordance with United Kingdom practice, extension of the Agreement to Tristan da Cunha took effect as from the date of receipt of the above notification.
3. The Argentine Republic deposited its Instrument of Ratification on 29 August 2006 together with a statement objecting to the terms of the United Kingdom's ratification.²
4. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia deposited a reservation by diplomatic note concerning the entry into force of the amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on 14 February 2007.
5. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia advised withdrawal of its reservation to the entry into force of the amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on 23 November 2007.

¹ A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the 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.

² *Ibid.*

**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
done at Canberra on 19 June 2001**

Annex 1

**Albatross and Petrel Species to which the Agreement will apply
as at 1 March 2023**

Albatrosses (22 species)

Diomedea exulans

Diomedea dabbenena

Diomedea antipodensis

Diomedea amsterdamensis

Diomedea epomophora

Diomedea sanfordi

Phoebastria irrorata

Phoebastria albatrus

Phoebastria immutabilis

Phoebastria nigripes

Thalassarche cauta

Thalassarche steadi

Thalassarche salvini

Thalassarche eremita

Thalassarche bulleri

Thalassarche chrysostoma

Thalassarche melanophris

Thalassarche impavida

Thalassarche carteri

Thalassarche chlororhynchos

Phoebetria fusca

Phoebetria palpebrata

Petrels (9 species)

Macronectes giganteus

Macronectes halli

Procellaria aequinoctialis

Procellaria conspicillata

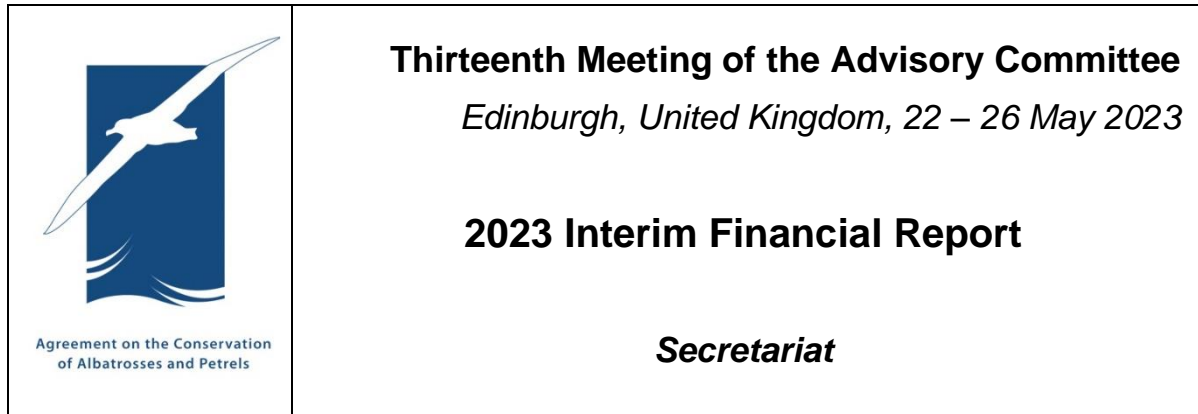
Procellaria parkinsoni

Procellaria westlandica

Procellaria cinerea

Ardenna creatopus

Puffinus mauretanicus



SUMMARY

As decided by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, this report draws on the most recent Secretariat six-monthly report to provide an interim account of the Agreement's finances during the first half of the 2023 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Review the 2022 - 2023 Interim Financial Report and make recommendations as appropriate
2. Take into consideration the 2022 - 2023 Provisional Financial Report when determining the allocation of funds to the Advisory Committee's Work Programme
3. Consider assigning funds allocated to historic projects that no longer appear in the current Advisory Committee Work Programme to 2023 - 2025 ACWP projects and/or the Small Grants Programme.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) decided that the Secretariat should prepare two financial reports per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year, and a full-year audited report in September and that the most recent such report would be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of the Parties. On this occasion, the Secretariat has prepared for the Advisory Committee a provisional financial report for the first six months of the 2022 - 2023 financial year (1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022). This can be found below and in the attachments (**Attachments 1, 2 and 3**). An audited financial report for the full financial year will be provided to ACAP Parties before 30 September 2023.

2. INCOME

2.1. Contributions from Parties

During the six months ending 31 December 2022, part payment of outstanding contributions from previous financial years was received from three Parties, totalling \$91,268. Payments of 2023 Annual Contributions (due on 1 January 2023) were received from 5 Parties, totalling \$425,985. This brought to \$517,253 the total contributions from Parties over the six month period. As at 31 December 2022, four Parties still had outstanding payments owing from previous years.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of outstanding contributions as at 13 April 2023. In accordance with ACAP's financial regulations (5.8), Parties which are more than one year behind in paying their budget contributions on the date of the opening of AC13 shall not be eligible to vote at AC13.

3. EXPENDITURE

3.1. Appropriation 1 – Secretariat

Attachment 2 provides details of income and expenditure. Expenditure for **employee salaries** was around 49% of the annual allocation.

The Secretariat's **operational costs** were approximately 40% of the total annual allocation for this item, while the total expenditure from Appropriation 1 was around 46% of the amount budgeted. As agreed at MoP7, additional funds (from savings) of \$66,000 are available for Appropriation 1.

3.2. Appropriation 2 – Meeting of the Parties

Expenditure on MoP7 mainly came to charge in the first half of 2022. Expenditure in the second half of 2022 was \$5,060.

3.3. Appropriation 3 – Advisory Committee

The majority of the costs of AC13 (May 2023) will come to charge in the first half of 2023. Some pre-payments were made for travel costs of sponsored delegates, totalling \$41,600.

3.4. Appropriation 4 – Advisory Committee Work Programme

A reconciliation of the Advisory Committee's Work Programme is provided in **Attachment 3**. Income for the Advisory Committee Work Programme (ACWP) is not reflected in the first section of the financial report but included as a credit in the ACWP. The ACWP is accounted for on a cash basis as expenditure and commitments are carried forward over subsequent years. \$23,248 of the appropriation for the ACWP for 2023 had been spent by 31 December 2022. Expenditure included payment of some Secondments that had been awarded in 2019. Further expenditure will come to charge in early 2023 as a result of the latest Secondments round and other ACWP activities. A Small Grants round is planned for late 2023. The expenditure total also reflects income to the ACWP from a voluntary contribution of \$20,000 received from Chinese Taipei. This will be assigned to the next Small Grants round, specifically for a project or projects on bycatch mitigation. In addition to current 2023 allocations, \$94,411 from the previous year's (2022) Advisory Committee Work Programme allocation and \$43,804 from savings were allocated to the ACWP for 2023 by MoP7.

3.4.1 Funds remaining in Appropriation 4 for historic projects no longer on current triennial Advisory Committee Work Programme

Attachment 3 includes some remaining funds from projects that no longer appear in the current ACWP (2023 - 2025). Since these funds were assigned to specific tasks in the past, the Secretariat is unable to draw on them to fund current approved ACWP activities. The total amount of such unspent funds is approximately \$28,000. The Advisory Committee might wish to consider assigning funds from projects that no longer appear in the Work Programme to current (2023 - 2025) ACWP tasks and/or the Small Grants Programme.

**ATTACHMENT 1. OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ACAP PARTIES AS
 AT 13 APRIL 2023**

PARTY	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Argentina	0	0	0	0	44,429	44,429
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0		50,729	104,802	93,429	248,960
Chile	0	0	39,741	2,390	36,779	78,910
Ecuador	2,332	2,511	2,564	2,564	3,468	13,439
France	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0	16,895	16,895
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	4,143	4,143
Total Outstanding	2,332	2,511	93,034	109,756	199,143	406,776

**ATTACHMENT 2. SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2022**

INCOME			
	Budget	Received	Outstanding
Contributions from Parties	795,047	517,253	277,794
Interest on funds	3,885	0	3,885
Refund of GST	15,550	0	15,550
MoU - Tasmanian Government	26,129	0	26,129
Total Income	840,611	517,253	323,358

EXPENDITURE				
APPROPRIATION 1 - SECRETARIAT				
	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance	
Employee salaries				
1.1.1	Salaries	290,436	140,974	149,462
1.1.2	RBF Superannuation	30,496	14,802	15,694
1.1.3	Recruitment costs	0	0	0
1.1.6	Workers Compensation	3,627	3,802	-175
	Total salaries	324,559	159,578	164,981
Employee expenses				
1.2.1	Accommodation	11,325	3,686	7,639
1.2.2	Airfares	28,313	13,956	14,357
1.2.3	Travel Allowances	12,072	6,583	5,489
1.2.4	Travel Insurance	1,105	0	1,105
1.2.5	Consultants	59,662	27,143	32,519
1.2.6	Relocation expense (staff)	0	0	0
1.2.8	General insurance	1,598	1,062	536
1.2.9	Representation expenses	1,743	811	932
1.2.10	Other travel costs - visas	935	79	856
	Total employee expenses	116,753	53,320	63,433
Operational costs				
1.3.1	Office equipment /furniture	7,077	0	7,077
1.3.2	Office equipment maintenance	872	0	872
1.3.3	Office requisites - stationery	1,752	122	1,630
1.3.4	Publications /books	254	30	224
1.3.6	Printing and copying (PR material)	2,140	1,236	904
1.3.7	Telecommunications	2,723	1,367	1,356
1.3.8	Translations - correspondence	10,077	7,821	2,256
1.3.9	Postage	254	20	234
1.3.10	Freight/couriers	254	0	254

		Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
1.3.11	Light and power	2,923	2,294	629
1.3.12	Insurance property	1,634	1,418	216
1.3.14	Vehicle running costs	3,813	683	3,130
1.3.15	Cab charge – taxis	566	0	566
1.3.16	Parking	3,576	2,245	1,331
1.3.18	Staff training	2,541	930	1,611
1.3.19	Staff conferences / seminars	1,417	0	1,417
1.3.20	Bank charges	317	0	317
1.3.21	Bad and doubtful debts	346	0	346
1.3.22	Software purchase	2,831	39	2,792
1.3.23	Server lease	701		701
1.3.24	Outsourced IT services	2,199	1,147	1,052
1.3.25	Modifications to database	12,183	1,155	11,028
1.3.26	WAN Wireless network	1,285	216	1,069
1.3.27	Rent - ACAP office	35,731	18,150	17,581
1.3.28	Rates and water	0	0	0
1.3.29	Preventative maintenance	0	0	0
1.3.30	Office cleaning	0	0	0
	Total operational costs	97,466	38,873	58,593
Total Appropriation 1 – Secretariat		538,778	251,771	287,007

APPROPRIATION 2 - MEETING OF PARTIES

		Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
	Interpretation			
2.1.1	Interpretation	0	0	0
2.1.2	Interpretation equipment	0	0	0
2.1.3	Translation of documents	0	5,060	-5,060
	Total interpretation	0	5,060	-5,060
	Venue and meeting support			
2.2.1	Hire of venue /catering	0	0	0
2.2.2	Hire - meeting equipment	0	0	0
2.2.3	Support staff	0	0	0
2.2.4	Printing costs	0	0	0
	Total venue and meeting support	0	0	0
	Sponsorship			
2.3.1	Sponsorship - Experts	0	0	0
	Sponsorship - Non-Parties	0	0	0
	Total sponsorship	0	0	0
Total Appropriation 2 - Meeting of Parties		0	5,060	-5,060

APPROPRIATION 3 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE				
		Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
	Interpretation			
3.1.1	Simultaneous interpretation	55,470	0	55,470
3.1.2	Interpretation equipment	15,584	0	15,584
3.1.3	Translation of documents	31,018	0	31,018
	Total interpretation and translation	102,072	0	102,072
	Venue and meeting support			
3.2.1	Hire of venue /catering	29,360	0	29,360
3.2.2	Hire - meeting equipment	2,667	0	2,667
3.2.3	Support staff	28,898	10,600	18,298
	Total venue and meeting support	60,925	10,600	50,325
	Sponsorship			
3.3.1	Sponsorship - Experts	20,802	10,000	10,802
	Sponsorship - Non-Party Range States	0	0	0
	Total sponsorship	20,802	10,000	10,802
	Support for AC Officials			
3.4.1	Support for AC Officials	0	21,000	-21,000
	Total support for AC officials	0	21,000	-21,000
	Total Appropriation 3 - Advisory Committee	183,799	41,600	142,199
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	APPROPRIATIONS 1-3	722,577	298,431	424,146
APPROPRIATION 4 - AC WORK PROGRAMME				
		Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
4.1.1	Support for secondments	22,867	13,174	9,693
4.2.1	AC Work Programme ^[1]	95,167	10,074	85,093
	Total Appropriation No 4 - AC Work Programme	118,034	23,248	94,786
	TOTAL AGREEMENT BUDGET	840,611	321,679	518,932

[1] The Advisory Committee's Work Programme is accounted for on a cash basis as expenditure and commitments are carried forward over subsequent years. A detailed account for the AC Work Programme is attached.

**ATTACHMENT 3. RECONCILIATION OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL FUNDS AS
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Cash summary of ACAP Funds as at 31 Dec 2022

Total Funds

Opening cash balance at 1 July 2022	1,284,968
Receipts – contributions, refund GST, MoU contribution	517,253
Expenditure	321,679
Closing cash balance at 31 Dec 2022	2,123,900

Special Fund 1 - Voluntary Contributions

Opening cash balance at 1 July 2021	125,458
Receipts - voluntary contributions	20,000
Expenditure	-912
Closing cash balance at 31 Dec 2022	144,546

Special Fund 2 - Contingency Fund

Opening cash balance at 1 July 2022	100,000
Receipts - voluntary contributions	0
Expenditure	0
Closing cash balance at 31 Dec 2022	100,000

Income Summary for Special Funds

Special Fund 1 - Voluntary Contributions

Date	Authority	Description	Fund	Amount	Expenditure	Balance
	MoP1	Advisory Committee Fund 2005	SF1-1	56,985	56,985	0
	MoP1	Advisory Committee Fund 2006	SF1-2	56,985	56,985	0
	UK	UK voluntary contribution - Petrel census	SF1-3	61,531	61,531	0
2005	UK	UK voluntary contribution - AC Work Programme	SF1-4	25,300	25,300	0
2006	UK	UK voluntary contribution - AC Work Programme	SF1-5	81,616	81,616	0
2006	UK	UK voluntary contribution - Support for MoP2	SF1-6	24,774	24,774	0
2006	NZ	NZ voluntary contribution - support MoP2	SF1-7	7,643	7,643	0
2006	NZ	NZ voluntary contribution - MoP2	SF1-8	4,000	4,000	0
2007	NZ	NZ voluntary contribution - secondment	SF1-9	13,000	13,000	0
2007	UK	UK voluntary contribution - AC Work Programme	SF1-10	125,000	125,000	0
2007	UK	UK voluntary contribution - ACAP Officer	SF1-11	124,000	91,202	32,798
2007	MoP2	Norway's - new Party Contribution (2007)	SF1-12	38,885	38,885	0
2007	C'with OPP	Contribution towards cost of Waved Albatross Workshop	SF1-13	3,000	3,000	0
2008	MoP2	Norway's New Party Contribution (2008)	SF1-14	68,211	68,211	0
2008	MoP2	Brazil - new Party contribution (2008)	SF1-15	2,936	2,936	0
2009	MoP2	Norway - new Party contribution (2009)	SF1-16	72,019	71,221	798
2009	MoP2	Brazil - new Party contribution (2009)	SF1-17	37,203	37,141	62
2009	MoP2	Uruguay - new Party contribution (2009)	SF1-18	1,285	1,130	155

Date	Authority	Description	Fund	Amount	Expenditure	Balance
2009	NZ	Voluntary contribution capacity building - Secondment Arg	SF1-19	8,554	8,554	0
2010	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO engagement strategy	SF1-20	28,098	28,098	0
2010	Australia	Voluntary contribution	SF1-21	100,000	31,662	68,338
2011	Australia	Voluntary contribution	SF1-22	50,000	50,000	0
2011	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO engagement strategy	SF1-23	21,763	21,763	0
2012	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO engagement strategy	SF1-24	21,093	21,093	0
2012	Australia	Voluntary contribution (Robertson projects)	SF1-25	121,700	121,680	20
2013	Norway	Voluntary contribution - MoP4 sponsorship	SF1-26	8,267	8,267	0
2013	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO engagement strategy	SF1-27	28,126	28,278	-152
2014	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO engagement strategy	SF1-28	24,451	24,330	121
2017	New Zealand	Voluntary Contributions MFAT, DOC, MPI sponsorship AC10	SF1-29	22,284	22,375	-92
2018	MoP5	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie & Kent - flybacks (2017)	SF1-30	6,068	6,068	0
2018	MoP5	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie & Kent - flybacks (2018)	SF1-31	8,661	6,060	2,601
2019	New Zealand	DOC voluntary contribution RFMO engagement	SF1-32	7,000	7,000	0
2019	MoP6 inter	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy	SF1-33	6,492	6,492	0
2020	MoP6 inter	FAO voluntary contribution	SF1-34	18,369	21,802	-3,433
2020	NA	SPC Seabird ID Guide Contract - Cost neutral	SF1-35	18,382	20,291	-1,909
2020	MoP6 inter	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy	SFI-36	9,376	9,376	0
2021	France	Voluntary contribution France - French Polynesia	SFI-37	24,738	0	24,738
2022	NZ	Voluntary Contribution NZ -AA Infographic	SF1-38	456	456	0
2022	NZ	Voluntary contribution NZ - NRA infographic	SF1-39	500	0	500
2023	Chinese Taipei	Voluntary contribution Chinese Taipei	SF1-40	20,000	0	20,000
Totals				1,358,751	1,214,206	144,546

Special Fund 2 - Contingency Fund

Date	Authority	Description	Amount	Expenditure	Balance
2006	MoP2	Contingency Fund	100,000	0	100,000
Totals			100,000	0	100,000

Expenditure - Advisory Committee Work Programme (funded from Special Fund 1 & General Fund)

Advisory Committee Work Programme Reconciliation at 31 December 2022

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2005-1	AC1	Database development		20,000	20,000	0
2005-2	AC1	Analysis remote tracking data - BirdLife	SF1-1	25,000	25,000	0
2005-3	AC1	Travel costs AC meetings- Experts	SF1-1	10,000	10,000	0
2005-4	AC1	Additional staffing of Secretariat	SF1-1	20,000	20,000	0
2005-5	MoP1	Capacity building fund - AUD 12,650		0	0	0
2005-6	AC1	Bibliographic database for taxonomic WG	SF1-1, 2	2,000	2,000	0
2005-7	UK	UK petrel census	SF1-3	61,531	61,531	0
2006-1	AC2	Update of BLI tracking database	SF1-2	5,000	5,000	0
2006-2	AC2	Maps for species assessments - Frances Taylor	SF1-2	4,800	4,800	0
2006-3	AC2	Production of Waved Albatross Action Plan - Jancke	SF1-2	17,000	17,000	0
2006-4	AC2	Draft species assessments	SF1-2	12,500	12,500	0
2006-5	AC2	Support delegates to Waved Alb Workshop - Peru	SF1-2	15,000	15,000	0
2006-6	UK	ACAP Officer - UK voluntary contribution	SF1-11	124,000	91,202	32,798
2006-7	UK	Support delegates to MoP2	SF1-6	24,774	24,774	0
2006-8	NZ	Meeting support for MoP2 - DoC	SF1-7	7,643	7,643	0
2006-9	NZ	Meeting support for MoP2 - MoF	SF1-8	4,000	4,000	0
2007-1	AC3	Production of Species assessments	SF1-2,4&5	41,800	41,800	0
2007-2	AC3	Website design - species assessments	SF1-5	11,200	11,200	0
2007-3	AC3	Waved Albatross Workshop - Ecuador	SF1-5	33,000	33,000	0
2007-4	AC3	FAO Consult - NPOA Guidelines	SF1-5	13,000	13,000	0
2007-5	I/S	Translation of species assessments	SF1-5	3,000	3,000	0
2007-6	NZ	Support for secondment - T. Neves	SF1-9	13,000	13,000	0
2007-7	MoP2/AC3	Sponsorship of delegates to AC meetings	SF1-5&10	41,000	41,000	0
2008-1	AC4	Secretariat capacity - Science Officer	SF1-10	46,000	46,000	0
2008-2	AC4	Bait pod development - BirdLife	SF1-10	20,000	20,000	0
2008-3	AC4	House mice eradication - Tristan Albatross	SF1-10	4,750	4,750	0
2008-4	AC4	Implementation Waved Albatross Action Plan - APECO	SF1-10	20,000	20,000	0
2008-5	AC4	Impl'n Waved Albatross Action Plan - Pro Delphinus	SF1-13&14	23,000	23,000	0
2008-6	AC4	Update of BLI tracking database	SF1-10&12	10,000	10,000	0
2008-7	AC4	Capacity building Ecuador-Argentina-BLI	SF1-12	5,000	5,000	0
2009-1	AC Interse	Development of database implementation reports	SF1-12	5,000	5,000	0

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2009-2	AC Interse	Improving Waved Alb Conservation: Population Monitoring	SF1-12	16,950	16,950	0
2009-3	AC Interse	Translation of species assessments	SF1- 12&14	8,000	8,000	0
2009-4	AC Interse	Introducing Weighted Swivels in Peru's Artisanal Fleet	SF1-14	20,974	20,974	0
2009-5	AC Interse	Seabird Interactions in Peruvian Hake Trawl Fishery	SF1-14	20,056	20,056	0
2009-6	AC Interse	Translation of Best Practice Mitigation Fact Sheets	SF1- 14,15,16	18,216	18,216	0
Proj	AC Interse	Maps for species assessments	SF1-16	5,000	4,202	798
2009-8	AC Interse	Attendance at RFMO Meetings	SF1-16	30,000	30,000	0
2009-9	AC Interse	Implementation of Observer Programme - South of Chile	SF1-16	10,000	10,000	0
2009-10	AC Interse	Regional Workshop: Improving Observer data collection	SF1- 16&17	23,000	20,729	2,271
2009-11	AC Interse	Evaluating a Fast Sinking Line Weighting Regime	SF1-17	5,850	5,850	0
2009-12	NZ	Secondment for Capacity Building - Juan Pablo Seco Pon	SF1-19	8,554	8,554	0
2010-01	AC Interse	At-sea Distribution of WAAL	General	11,500	11,500	0
2010-02	AC5 Core	Development of Database for Priorities Work	General	10,000	0	10,000
2010-03	AC Interse	Evaluating Alternative Approaches At-sea Distributions	General	7,200	7,200	0
2010-04	AC Interse	Modified Discharge Management Regimes - Trawl Vessels	General	14,500	14,500	0
2010-05	AC5 Core	Translation of species assessments into French	General	8,000	8,000	0
2010-06	AC5 Core	Attendance at RFMO Meetings	General	25,000	24,783	217
2010-07	AC5 Core	Analysis of interactions with RFMO - updates (item 4.4 AC WP)	General	5,000	5,000	0
2010-08	AC5 Core	Data portal developments for status and trends	General	2,000	1,971	29
2010-09	AC Interse	Consolidation of NPOA-Seabirds Peru	General	0	0	0
2010-10	AC Interse	Defining High-risk Areas in Argentina Continental Shelf	General	14,100	14,100	0
2010-11	AC Interse	Improving Data Collection SAm Observer Programmes	General	10,000	12,241	-2,241
2010-12	AC5 Core	Maintain Mitigation Fact Sheets	General	5,000	5,000	0
2010-13	AC Interse	Final On-shore Development of Hook Pod	General	25,000	25,000	0
2010-14	AC5 Core	Development of database for national reporting framework	General	10,000	9,535	465
2010-15	AC Interse	Estimates of WAAL Mortality in Artisanal Fisheries	General	15,000	15,000	0
SF1-20	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO Engagement Strategy	SF1-20	28,098	28,098	0
SF1-21	Australia	Voluntary contribution for Australian projects	SF1-21	100,000	30,750	69,250

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
SF1-22	Australia	Voluntary contribution for Sth American projects	SF1-22	50,000	50,000	0
SF1-23	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO Engagement Strategy	SF1-23	21,763	21,763	0
SF1-24	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO Engagement Strategy	SF1-24	21,093	21,093	0
SF1-25	Australia	Voluntary contribution for Robertson projects	SF1-25	121,700	121,680	20
2012-03	AC Interse	Effectiveness of smart tuna hooks - Baker - SSS	General	20,000	20,000	0
2012-04	AC Interse	Population demography and at-sea distribution of Sooty Albatross at the Prince Edward Islands	General	17,600	17,600	0
2012-06	AC Interse	NGO action in Santa Rosa, Ecuador to reduce bycatch of Waved albatross (and other seabirds) in artisanal longline fisheries	General	20,000	19,994	6
2012-07	AC Interse	Tracking Juvenile Tristan Albatrosses at Gough Island	General	20,000	19,865	135
2012-09	AC Interse	Evaluación del impacto de la pesca de arrastre de fondo en la aves marinas en Uruguay	General	20,000	20,020	-20
SF1-26	Norway	Voluntary contribution for sponsorship of delegates	SF1-26	8,267	8,267	0
SF1-27	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO Engagement Strategy	SF1-27	28,126	28,278	-152
	AC7 Core	Task 2.5 - Data portal update for global population trends	General	5,000	0	5,000
	AC7 Core	Task 2.6 - Update maps for ACAP species assessments	General	4,000	1,965	2,035
	AC7 Core	Task 2.7 - Translate updates to species assessments & guidelines	General	7,500	0	7,500
	AC7 Core	Task 2.12 - Translation costs, eradication guidelines	General	500	0	500
	AC7 Core	Task 2.a1 - Translation of translocation best practice guidelines	General	1,000	0	1,000
	AC7 Core	Task 2.13 - Translation of guidelines for monitoring trends	General	1,000	0	1,000
	AC7 Core	Task 3.1 - Implementation of RFMO interaction plan	General	30,000	30,000	0
	AC7 Core	Task 3.6 - Translation of mitigation fact sheets	General	5,000	5,000	0
	AC7 Core	Task 3.12 - Review and update prioritisation framework- at sea	General	0	0	0
	AC7 Core	Task 5.a3 - Complete id guide for bycatch seabirds	General	15,000	17,859	-2,859
	AC7 Core	Task 5.a4 - Design and translation costs for biological samples guidelines	General	0	0	0
2013-04	AC Interse	Multi-colony tracking of nonbreeding Black-browed Albatrosses: identifying key wintering areas and overlap with fisheries	General	12,500	12,500	0

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2013-07	AC Interse	A population estimate of white-chinned petrel at Disappointment Island	General	16,000	16,000	0
2013-09	AC Interse	Trial of mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch in demersal longliners of the Mediterranean Sea	General	19,985	19,985	0
2013-11	AC Interse	Comparative trials of Lumo Leads and traditional line weighting in the Brazilian pelagic longline fishery	General	10,000	10,000	0
2013-12	AC Interse	Identification of Balearic Shearwater's foraging ranges in the NE Atlantic: a multidisciplinary approach	General	8,486	8,486	0
2013-15	AC Interse	Updating maps for ACAP listed species	General	4,000	4,000	0
2013-16	AC Interse	Tracking data summary of ACAP listed species	General	5,000	5,000	0
2013-17	AC Interse	Assessing conservation Status of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross on Gough Island	General	10,695	4,000	6,695
2013-20	AC Interse	Establishing capacity in South America on albatross and petrel health and to prevent disease introduction	General	20,000	20,000	0
2013-23	AC Interse	Reducing incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels in trawl fisheries in the Argentine Sea.	General	10,000	10,000	0
SF1-28	France	Voluntary contribution for RFMO Engagement Strategy	SF1-28	24,451	24,330	121
2014-01	AC8 Core	Task 2.13a - Translation of best-practice guidelines for monitoring trends of sooty and light-mantled albatrosses and white-chinned petrels	General	1,000	0	1,000
2014-02	AC8 Core	Task 3.1 - Implementation of RFMO interaction plan	General	30,000	30,000	0
2014-03	AC8 Core	Task 3.22 - Review and update advice documents on bycatch mitigation methods for industrial fisheries	General	1,000	0	1,000
2014-04	AC8 Core	Task 3.23 - Further research on sink rates of different line weighting regimes	General	10,000	0	10,000
2014-05	AC8 Core	Task 3.29 - Investigate safety issues related to the use of different line weighting options	General	15,000	16,526	-1,526
2016-01	MoP5	Task 3.1 - Implementation of RFMO interaction plan	General	30,000	30,000	0
2017-01	MoP5	Task 3.1 - Implementation of RFMO interaction plan	General	30,000	30,000	0
2017-02	AC9 Core	Task 3.8 - Extend flyback studies to 80g weights and tear-outs	General	10,000	10,000	0
2017-03	AC9 Core	Task 3.5 - Update fact sheet on line weighting PLLF and develop new fact sheets for HSDs	General	10,000	12,550	-2,550
2017-04	AC9 Core	Task 2.4. Update ACAP Species Assessments		4,000	0	4,000

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2017-05	AC9 Core	Task 2.5. Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French		10,000	0	10,000
2017-07	AC9 Core	Task 5.13 Update analysis of overlaps of distributions of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	General	10,000	0	0
2017-08	AC10 Core	Task 3.6 Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures	General	10,000	0	10,000
2017-09	AC10 Core	Task 5.12 Develop a guide on removing entangled seabirds	General	2,000	0	2,000
2017-10	AC10 Core	Task 5.15 Update ACAP Seabird Bycatch ID guide	General	20,000	7,681	10,243
2017-11	AC10 Core	Task 5.14 Continue to update analysis 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 jurisdictions and those managed by RFMOs	General	10,000	0	10,000
SF1-29	New Zealand	Voluntary contribution for sponsorship of AC10	SF1-29	22,284	22,375	-92
SF 1-30/31	MoP5	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie & Kent - flybacks	SF 1-30/31	14,729	14,729	0
2018-01	MoP5	Task 3.1 - Implementation of RFMO interaction plan	General	30,000	30,000	0
ACAP 2018-02	AC10 Interses	Prevalence and magnitude of plastic exposure (macro and microplastics and select chemical compounds) in albatrosses and petrels off the shores of Argentina and Brazil	General	20,000	20,000	0
ACAP 2018-03	AC10 Interses	Global review of nature and extent of trawl net captures	General	12,000	12,000	0
ACAP 2018-04	AC10 Interses	Comprehensive Review of the Bi-national Plan of Action for the Critically Endangered Waved Albatross (<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>)	General	10,800	10,800	0
ACAP 2018-05	AC10 Interses	Hookpod for seabirds and sea turtles: Looking towards a multi-taxa approach for reducing bycatch in pelagic longlines	General	36,205	36,205	0
ACAP 2018-07	AC10 Interses	First conservation diagnosis of the Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> in Ibiza	General	20,000	20,000	0
ACAP 2018-10	AC10 Interses	Assessing the overlap between threatened pelagic seabirds and trawl fisheries operating in northern Patagonian Shelf	General	12,000	12,000	0
SF1-32		Voluntary contribution NZ for RFMO strategy	SF1-32	7,000	7,000	0


Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2019-01	MoP6	Task 3.1 Implementation of RFMO engagement strategy	General & SF1-32	37,000	37,000	0
SF1-33	MoP6	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy	SF1-33	6,492	6,492	0
SF1-34	MoP6 inter	FAO voluntary contribution	SF1-34	22,419	22,087	332
2020-01	MoP6	Task 3.1 Implementation of RFMO engagement strategy	General	30,000	30,000	0
2019-02	MoP6	Task 3.4 Update fact sheets	General	13,000	5,135	7,865
2019-03	MoP6 Core	Task 2.5 Translate updates to species assessments etc	General	13,000	0	13,000
2019-04	MoP6 Core	Task 2.4 Update species assessments, maps	General	4,000	0	4,000
2019-05	MoP6 core	Task 3.1 translate BPA on data collection etc for RFMOs	General	3,000	0	3,000
SF1-35	NA	SPC Contract - Seabird ID Guide for WCPO	SF1-35	18,382	20,291	-1,909
2020-02	AC11 Core	Task 3.5 Engage with certification schemes	General	5,000	4,569	431
2021-01	MoP6	Task 3.1 Implementation of RFMO engagement strategy	General	30,000	30,000	0
2020-03	AC11 Core	Task 3.7 Development of bycatch indicators	General	10,000	4,464	5,536
ACAP 2019-01	AC Intersess	Estimating encounter with fisheries and mortality risks of juvenile wandering and Amsterdam Albatrosses	General	10,000	9,940	60
ACAP 2019-06	AC Intersess	Factores influyentes en la mortalidad de la pardela balear <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> por la contaminación lumínica	General	18,000	18,000	0
ACAP 2019-08	AC Intersess	Development of a bird-scaring line compliance monitoring device	General	18,370	18,370	0
ACAP 2019-10	AC Intersess	Colaborando para el desarrollo de medidas de mitigación de las capturas accidentales de pardela balear y otras aves marinas en el Mediterráneo español	General	19,000	19,000	0
ACAP 2019-12	AC Intersess	Demographic monitoring, at-sea movements, and scavenging behaviour in the Balearic shearwater	General	20,702	20,702	0
ACAP 2019-14	AC Intersess	Examining the efficacy of the 'snatch block' in reducing seabird bycatch in Southern Cone trawl fisheries	General	22,224	13,131	9,093
ACAP 2019-15	AC Intersess	Complete population survey of Waved Albatross <i>Phoebastria irrorata</i> on Española Island, Galapagos	General	26,000	26,012	-12
SFI-36	MoP6 inter	Voluntary contribution Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy	SFI-36	9,376	9,376	0
SFI-37	France	Voluntary contribution France - project French Polynesia	SFI-37	24,738	0	24,738
2021-02	Int trans Sec	Internal transfer from Appropriation 1		8,788	6,700	2,088
2021-03	IC2020	WAD related publicity		3,000	1,368	1,632

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
ACAP 2020-01	AC Intersess	An Electronic Monitoring system to assess the operational performance and compliance of use of the Underwater Baitsetter	General	11,000	11,000	0
ACAP 2020-03	AC Intersess	Pilot study: Non-invasive disease monitoring of Albatrosses and Petrels	General	25,100	25,100	0
ACAP 2020-15	AC Intersess	Estimating interactions with fishing vessels and their demographic impact on sooty albatrosses	General	11,500	0	11,500
ACAP 2020-18	AC Intersess	Integrating an onboard observer program and remote tracking data to evaluate the interactions between the small-scale longline fisheries and adult Chatham albatrosses in their wintering grounds off Peru.	General	19,430	19433	-3
ACAP 2020-- 19	AC Intersess	Sub-lethal effects of plastic ingestion in albatrosses and petrels: the Southern Giant Petrel as case study	General	18,500	18551	-51
ACAP- 2020-16	AC Intersess	Generating LiDAR spatial data to improve the population estimate of Pink-footed Shearwaters on Isla Mocha, Chile	General	8,000	0	8,000
ACAP 2020-20	AC Intersess	Developing an epigenetic DNA ageing method for petrels (family: Procellariidae)	General	8,312	8312	0
ACAP 2020-09	AC Intersess	Winter fine-scale movements of Black-browed Albatrosses and encounters with fishing vessels	General	12,600	12,600	0
ACAP- 2020-11	AC Intersess	Effects of delayed mouse eradication on conservation status and population viability of Tristan Albatross on Gough Island	General	23,400	23,400	0
SF1-38	New Zealand	Voluntary contribution infographic AA	Special	456	456	0
2022-01	AC Intersess	Task 3.1 Implementation RFMO Strategy (includes carryover of funds from previous years)	General	79,815	79,815	0
SF1-39	New Zealand	Voluntary contribution infographic NRA	Special	500	0	500
2022-02	Int trans Sec	Internal transfer from Appropriation 1	General	30,000	0	30,000
2022-03	AC12 (core)	Task 3.5 develop comms strategy and products	General	5,000	0	5,000
2022-04	AC12 p.a	Task 5.12 WAD publicity	General	3,000	1,368	1,632
2022-05	AC12 core	Task 3.9 translate BPA for artisanal etc	General	2,000	0	2,000
2023-01	MoP7 core	Task 2.3 Assess & update global pop trends	General	5,000	0	5,000
2023-02	MoP 7 core	Task 2.4 Update species assessmts (maps)	General	4,000	0	4,000
2023-03	MoP7 core	Task 2.4 Translate species assessmts	General	12,000	0	12,000
2023-04	MoP7 core	Task 2.7 review tracking & distrib data	General	1,000	0	1,000
2023-05	MoP7 core p.a	Task 3.1 RFMO engagement strategy	General	102,379	25,146	77,233

Proj No.	Authority	Project Description	Fund	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance
2023-06	MoP7 core	Task 3.1 refine BPA on data collection etc for RFMOs	General	3,000	0	3,000
2023-07	MoP7 core	Task 3.3 further development mitigation advice purse seine	General	3,000	0	3,000
2023-08	MoP7 core	Task 3.4 - Update fact sheets	General	10,000	0	10,000
2023-09	MoP7 core	Task 3.5 further specific comms tasks	General	5,000	0	5,000
2023-10	MoP7 core	Task 3.5 further contractee re engagement cert schemes	General	5,000	0	5,000
2023-11	MoP7 core p.a	Task 3.7 contractee bycatch indicators	General	10,000	0	10,000
2023-12	MoP7 core	Task 3.8 prioritisation framework at sea threats; workshop	General	5,000	0	5,000
2023-13	MoP7 core	Task 3.9 translate dev/update BPA for artisanal etc	General	2,000	0	2,000
2023-14	MoP7 (core)	Task 5.11 update analysis overlap with fisheries	General	10,000	0	10,000
2023-15	MoP7 (grant)	Task 5.11 update analysis overlap with fisheries	General	10,000	0	10,000
Total Advisory Committee Work Programme Funding				2,865,164	2,373,779	479,309

Advisory Committee Secondment Programme Reconciliation at 31 December 2022

Date	Authority	Project Description	Allocated	Expenditure	Balance
2013	MoP4	S Jimenez (Uruguay - UK)	11,600	11,600	0
2014	MoP4	V Cortes 2014-04 (Spain - Chile)	11,070	11,070	0
2015	MoP4	P Serafini 2015-05 (Brasil - UK)	13,000	13,000	0
2018	MoP5/AC	J Paz 2018-01 (Argentina - Brazil)	9,050	9,050	0
2018	MoP5/AC	L Adasme 2018-02 (Chile - New Zealand)	8,200	8,200	0
2018	MoP5/AC	C Marquez 2018-03 (Brasil - UK)	16,900	16,900	0
2018	MoP5/AC	V Lopez 2018-04 (Chile-USA)	6,926	6,926	0
2019	MoP6/AC	M Hernandez S2019-01 (Argentina-NZ)	10,373	10,373	0
2019	MoP6/AC	A Pereira S2019-02 (Brazil-NZ)	10,700	2,801	7,899
2019	MoP6/AC	R Alemán Lucero S2019-03 (Ecuador-Brazil)	4,540	4,621	-81
Totals			102,359	94,541	7,818

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Report of the Taxonomy Working Group <i>Taxonomy Working Group: Mark Tasker (Convenor), Mike Brooke, Theresa Burg, Mike Double, Julie McInnes, Andrea Polanowski, Peter Ryan, Paul Scofield, Alan Tennyson</i></p>
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SUMMARY

A summary of progress by the Taxonomy Working Group is provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Taxonomy Working Group recommends that:

1. The taxonomic treatment of both Buller's *Thalassarche bulleri* and Short-tailed *Phoebastria albatrus* Albatrosses should not change despite additions to the evidence on the taxonomy of the two species.
2. Advisory Committee provide guidance over the consequences of a potential change in accepted taxonomic treatment of Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* as either synonymous with Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan* or a sub-species of Yelkouan Shearwater.
3. Advisory Committee members nominate further experts to the Taxonomy Working Group.
4. Advisory Committee take note of TWG's progress and comment if required.

1. MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome three new members since the twelfth meeting of the Advisory Committee: Theresa Burg (Canada), Julie McInnes (Australia) and Andrea Polanowski (Australia). We thank Paul Scofield for his input over earlier years. Geoff Chambers has continued to assist the Working Group on an ad hoc basis. The Taxonomy Working Group would be happy for further experts to be nominated.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) was asked to carry out the following actions in the past (2019-21, extended to 2022) triennium.

1. Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated.
2. Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database.
3. Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species.
4. Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement.
5. Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species, including maintenance of a species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

2.1. BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE

There is not a separate ACAP bibliographic database for taxonomy issues, though all members have their own databases or access to resources. The Secretariat maintains a searchable database of references accessible via the data portal (<https://data.acap.aq>) that includes many relevant taxonomic sources. TWG has supplied suitable references to the Secretariat for uploading. TWG has considered how a very large bibliography developed by the late John Warham covering all albatrosses and petrels could be made available for ACAP use, but has yet to solve technical difficulties (and corrections needed) in translating to modern software.

2.2. MORPHOMETRIC AND PLUMAGE DATABASE

A pilot database of samples from dead birds was established a few years ago using Australian information, but this database has not been developed further. TWG notes that if a central database of morphometrics were to be established, there would be a need to ensure standardisation of methods for conducting measurements as there is evidence of considerable variation between scientists carrying out such measurements. TWG agree that it would be very useful to have a catalogue of standardised images of known-age and sex birds from various populations, ideally tracking the same individuals over time, so that it might finally be possible make some headway on field identification of difficult taxa, for example *Diomedea dabbenena* and *D. antipodensis* in relation to *D. exulans*.

Peter Ryan is in the process of analysing several hundred known age and sex (inferred in some cases) photographs of *D. dabbenena* from Gough (age range 3-39). Older males probably can be told from *D. exulans* based on a combination of mostly white tail and relatively dark upperwing. Older birds also lack any vermiculations in the tail feathers, unlike many *D. exulans* (so presence of vermiculations excludes *dabbenena*, but does not necessarily confirm *exulans*). It would particularly be useful to get similar images (known age and sex) from *gibsoni* and *antipodensis*.

2.3. GENETIC SAMPLES DATABASE

Following a lack of progress on the issue in the past, the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) decided at AC9 that ACAP should just produce a list of nodes/contact institutions that people could use to find samples/dead birds. This became Task 2.14 in the AC Work Programme. It is unclear to TWG if this task should be dropped from TWG's work given that it has been taken over by PaCSWG.

2.4. ADDITIONS TO ANNEX 1

There have been no proposals for addition to Annex 1.

2.5. QUERIES ON TAXONOMIC ISSUES

2.5.1. IOC Updates

Following the adoption of the IOC standard taxonomy by ACAP, TWG has followed developments published by the IOC (see worldbirdnames.org).

The following changes have been considered since the start of 2018.

1. A proposed split of Whenua Hou Diving Petrel from South Georgia Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus* based primarily on slight phenotypic differences (Fischer *et al.* 2018). This proposal was not accepted at present and the taxon is being treated as a subspecies (*whenuahouensis*) of *georgicus* pending vocal and genetic diagnoses.
2. A proposed split of Pacific Fulmar [*Fulmarus rodgersii*] from Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* based primarily on deep mtDNA divergence and minor morphological differences was not accepted.
3. The Oceanodroma storm petrels have been merged into Hydrobates.
4. A proposed split of Kermadec Storm Petrel [*Pelagodroma albiclunis*] from White-faced Storm Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* based on consistent differences in plumage and tail morphology (Gill *et al.* 2010) was not accepted.
5. The English name of *Pterodroma defilippiana* was changed from De Filippi's Petrel to Masatierra Petrel.
6. The English name of *Hydrobates hornbyi* was changed from Hornby's Storm Petrel to Ringed Storm Petrel.
7. New Caledonian Storm Petrel *Fregetta lineata* was recognised as a resurrected and redescribed species, distinct from the other taxa within *Fregetta*, based on biometrics and limited phylogenetic analysis (Cibois *et al.* 2015; Robertson *et al.* 2016; Bretagnolle *et al.* 2022). The species was added to the IOC list after Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregatta tropica*.
8. A proposed split of MacGillivray's Prion *Pachyptila macgillivrayi* from Salvin's Prion. MacGillivray's Prion was accepted based on bill morphology and other more subtle morphological differences, supported by genetic analysis (HBW/BirdLife; Harrison *et al.* 2021; Masello *et al.* 2022). MacGillivray's Prion follows Salvin's Prion *Pachyptila salvini* on the IOC list.

2.5.2 Second Assessment of Taxonomic Status of Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

Northern and Southern Buller's Albatrosses

The taxonomic status of this pair of taxa was evaluated by the Taxonomic Working Group in 2006 (Double, 2006). At that time, Northern Buller's was sometimes referred to as Pacific Albatross. For convenience, this summary refers to Northern (Pacific) Buller's as *platei* and Southern Buller's as *bulleri*.

Recent taxonomic history

Robertson and Nunn (1998) proposed that the subspecies *Thalassarche bulleri platei* (Murphy 1936) breeding on the Chatham and Three Kings Islands and those breeding on the Solander and Snares Islands (*T. bulleri bulleri*) should be treated as distinct species (*T. platei* and *T. bulleri* respectively). *T. platei* has been referred to as *T. sp. nov.* because Robertson and Nunn (1998) suggested the type specimen for *T. platei* is in fact a juvenile *T. bulleri*; however evidence to support this view has not been published.

Primary publications or reviews of data relevant to the taxonomy of Northern and Southern Buller's Albatrosses

1. Nunn *et al.* (1996) only included DNA sequence data from *bulleri* but provided convincing justification for the placement of Buller's Albatrosses in the genus *Thalassarche*. Similarly, no molecular data for *platei* were presented in Nunn and Stanley (1998).
2. Robertson and Nunn (1998), in justification for the recognition of two species, state "In the case of *T. bulleri* breeding is two months later at The Snares and Solander Islands than at the Chatham Islands (*T. platei*) and incubation stints are about three times the length." No primary data sources were cited to justify these assertions.
3. Tickell (2000) summarised data available for *bulleri* and *platei* (but no primary sources were cited) and showed that all measurements overlap considerably. To our knowledge no statistical analyses of morphometric data have been published for these taxa.
4. van Bekkum *et al.* (2006) found no genetic structure between four colonies of Southern Buller's albatross (*bulleri*), three colonies on Snares Is and one on Solander Is, despite high natal philopatry.
5. Chambers *et al.* (2009) systematically examined the genetic evidence supporting ACAP's taxonomic treatment of all albatrosses and supported the view that *bulleri* and *platei* are one species.
6. Wold *et al.* (2018) sampled mitochondrial DNA from breeding Buller's albatrosses (26 *platei* and 47 *bulleri*). A high degree of genetic differentiation was found, allowing great confidence in assigning samples from bycaught Buller's albatross to the two taxa.
7. Wold *et al.* (2021) sampled 13 *platei* and 40 *bulleri* and analysed the whole genome. Results showed two distinct clusters indicating limited gene flow between the two taxa (and no population structure in *bulleri*).

Assessment of diagnosability (ANNEX 1; Section 3)

Based on data provided in the studies described above:

- A. Same age/sex individuals of *bulleri* and *platei* cannot be distinguished by one or more qualitative differences.
- B. Same age/sex individuals of *bulleri* and *platei* cannot be distinguished by a complete discontinuity in one or more continuously varying characters.
- C. Same age/sex individuals of *bulleri* and *platei* cannot be distinguished by a combination of two or three functionally independent characters.

Decision

These taxa fail to meet any of the diagnosability criteria described in ANNEX 1 to this paper. We therefore recommend that these taxa do not warrant specific status. TWG continues to recommend that these taxa are recognised as subspecies.

Comments

Very few comparative data are available for these taxa and the molecular data on their own does not justify the recognition of these taxa as species. To our knowledge no comparative morphometric data and quantitative plumage descriptions are currently available. To facilitate taxonomic decisions a detailed quantitative comparative analysis of morphometric and plumage (adult and subadult) data for these taxa would be valuable. TWG notes that Howell and Zufelt (2019) treat the two taxa as separate species on the basis of head colour and bill differences, but this is not primary literature, nor is it peer reviewed.

References

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2.5.3 Assessment of Taxonomic Status of Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus*

Recent taxonomic history

Short-tailed Albatrosses *Phoebastria albatrus* breed primarily on two island groups: Torishima and Senkaku. The species has long been considered monophyletic, but recent research has shown differences between the populations breeding on the two island groups.

Primary publications or reviews of data relevant to the taxonomy of Short-tailed Albatross

1. Eda and Higuchi (2012) noted mitochondrial DNA haplotype frequencies differ between the Torishima and Senkaku Island birds. There are also ecological and morphological differences between the Torishima and Senkaku Island albatrosses and they proposed a taxonomic re-examination of the two albatross taxa is required through comparative studies of ecological and ethological traits.
2. Eda *et al.* (2016) noted that several un-ringed birds in subadult plumage have been observed breeding on Torishima. Since almost all birds hatched on Torishima over the previous 25 years had been ringed, the natal site of the un-ringed birds was suspected to be the Senkaku Islands. The proportion of pairs containing ringed and un-ringed birds was significantly lower than if the birds had mated randomly, indicating assortative mating, but that there was incomplete pre-mating isolation between birds from the two island groups. They concluded that the two groups are likely to be hybridizing.
3. Eda *et al.* (2020) examined the morphological differences between immigrants from the Senkaku Islands to Torishima (Senkaku-type) and native birds on Torishima (Torishima-type). The immigrants were identified genetically as it is currently not possible to visit the Senkaku Islands. There were some significant differences in morphological characteristics between males of the two taxa. In general, Torishima-type birds were larger than Senkaku-type birds, whereas Senkaku-type birds had relatively longer beaks. Sample sizes were small however and insufficient to analyse female differences statistically.

Assessment of diagnosability (ANNEX 1; Section 3)

Based on data provided in the studies described above:

- A. Same age/sex individuals of Senkaku-type and Torishima-type cannot be distinguished by one or more qualitative differences.
- B. Same age/sex individuals of Senkaku-type and Torishima-type cannot be distinguished by a complete discontinuity in one or more continuously varying characters.
- C. Same age/sex individuals of Senkaku-type and Torishima-type cannot be distinguished by a combination of two or three functionally independent characters.

Decision

These taxa fail to meet any of the diagnosability criteria described in ANNEX 1. We therefore recommend that these taxa do not warrant specific status.

Comments

Assessment of the two types of Short-tailed Albatross is undoubtedly hampered by low sample sizes and the inability to visit the Senkaku Islands. It remains possible that further research might demonstrate that the two types represent two sub-species, but the morphometric

discrimination is not great and the assortative mating is incomplete and likely reflects the known differences in timing of courtship/breeding in the two populations.

References

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2.5.4 Balearic *Puffinus mauretanicus* and Yelkouan *P. yelkouan* Shearwaters

Obiol *et al.* (2023) conducted a comprehensive genetic analysis of the *Puffinus* shearwaters of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. They found that current taxonomies are not supported by genomic data and propose a more accurate taxonomy by integrating genomic information with other sources of evidence. With particular relevance to ACAP, they found no support for the split of Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) and Yelkouan Shearwater (*P. yelkouan*) into two different species and propose that these two Mediterranean taxa should be considered as conspecific. Taxonomic precedence would then make the Balearic Shearwater a sub-species (or sub-population) of Yelkouan Shearwater. If this analysis is accepted, this presents a difficulty for ACAP as Article 1.1 states “This Agreement shall apply to the species of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 to this Agreement”, in other words Annex 1 should list species, not separate sub-species or populations. Guidance on this issue is requested from the Advisory Committee.

3. OTHER ISSUES

3.1 WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN CHECKLISTS (WGAC)

The International Ornithologists’ Union (IOU) has formed the Working Group on Avian Checklists (WGAC) with the aim of bringing together the three main global bird taxonomies (IOC, eBird/Clements and BirdLife/Birds of the World) to produce and maintain on the IOU website an open-access global checklist of birds (the IOU Global Checklist), intended to serve as the benchmark reference for all taxa of the class Aves.

It will classify the Aves from class to subspecies based on up-to-date, corroborative information on the phylogeny of birds and the differentiation of species and subspecies. It will also provide authors and references to the original description of all taxa of all ranks covered by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). Type localities for species and subspecies, and type taxa for all ranks from subgenus to superfamily will be specified. Sources for taxonomic and nomenclatural decisions also will be referenced. Although English names for species will be drawn primarily from the IOC World Bird List, modifications to better align with preferences of checklist committees of individual continents, such as the North American Checklist Committee (NACC) and South American Checklist Committee (SACC)

will also be incorporated. Geographic distributions will synchronize with those in the Birds of the World project. Ultimately, type data and deposition for species-group names and synonyms are planned for inclusion as well.

The WGAC is split into two teams. One, the taxonomic team, is responsible for all classificatory decisions and for the geographical distribution of species-group taxa. This team comprises leading avian systematists specializing in different avifaunal regions around the globe. The other team includes experienced bibliographers who provide authors, dates, references to original publications of names, type data and nomenclatural explanations.

The final checklist will produce more than just a hierarchical list of species and recommended names. It will provide, through its detailed fields and connections to external references, the basic information for all ornithology – professional ornithologists, citizen scientists, conservationists and students – to draw on the full record of diversity of earth's birdlife.

As of 10 June 2022 (the latest publicly available update), the WGAC Taxonomic group had finalised decisions on the taxonomic treatment of 165 families with 13 more being worked on. These 178 families cover 5585 species-level taxa that have been finalized, or just over half (50.4%) of the species list for the world. Albatrosses and petrels have yet to be considered but it is understood informally that the Diomedidae (6 issues), Hydrobatidae (1 Issue) and Procellariidae (8 issues) will be reviewed during May 2023 with results available a month or two later. eBird/Clements and IOC have begun adopting WGAC decisions with upcoming revisions of those taxonomies in order to facilitate the full transitioning to the IOU Global Checklist soon after the first public release. BirdLife also plans to adopt many of these decisions but is moving carefully due to their responsibility for the IUCN Red List and their own Data Zone. It was anticipated that at least another year will be needed to complete the remainder of the taxonomic work. Subspecies are not being assessed in detail at this stage, but a draft list currently includes 19896 subspecies.

It is expected that the IOU Global Checklist will eventually supersede the IOC World Bird List, at which point we recommend adopting the Global Checklist for non-ACAP listed species. TWG will consider and make recommendations if differences arise between the Global Checklist and the taxonomy of Annex 1 of ACAP.

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ANNEX 1. FROM TWG REPORT, AC2 DOC 11.

GUIDELINES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES BOUNDARIES AMONG TAXA LISTED BY THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS (ACAP)

TAXONOMIC WORKING GROUP OF ACAP

1. Introduction

Resolution 1.5 of the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to ACAP provides for the establishment by the Advisory Committee of a Working Group on the taxonomy of albatross and petrel species covered by the Agreement.

The objective of this Working Group (WG) is to establish a transparent, defensible and highly consultative taxonomic listing process. The Scientific Meeting (MOP1; ScM1; Section 4.3) stated that "...given the importance that species lists have upon conservation policy and scientific communication, taxonomic decisions must be based on robust and defensible criteria. It is important to resolve differences in a scientific and transparent manner with appropriate use of peer-reviewed publications."

The guidelines to identify species boundaries among taxa listed by ACAP are listed below. These guidelines are largely based on those presented by Helbig *et al.* (2002). This document should not be considered an original piece of work, but an adaptation of the guidelines presented by Helbig *et al.* (2002).

It is worth recalling the following paragraph written by Helbig *et al.* (2002) when reading these guidelines:

"No species concept so far proposed is completely objective or can be used without the application of judgement in borderline cases. This is an inevitable consequence of the artificial partitioning of the continuous processes of evolution and speciation into discrete steps. It would be a mistake to believe that the adoption of any particular species concept will eliminate subjectivity in reaching decisions."

2. Species concepts

Helbig *et al.* (2002) adopt the General Lineage Concept (GLC: de Queiroz 1998; de Queiroz 1999) a concept very similar to the Evolutionary Species Concept (ESC: Mayden 1997) but stresses that "differences between concepts are largely a matter of emphasis" and that the tenets of other common concepts such as the Biological Species Concept, the Phylogenetic Species Concept (PSC: Cracraft 1983) and the Recognition Species Concept are largely encompassed by the GLC.

The General Lineage Concept defines species as:

"...population lineages maintaining their integrity with respect to other lineages through time and space; this means the species are diagnosably different (otherwise we could not recognize them), reproductively isolated (otherwise they would not maintain their integrity on contact) and members of each (sexual) species share a common mate recognition and fertilization system (otherwise they would not be able to reproduce)."
(Helbig *et al.* 2002)

Helbig *et al.* (2002) state that to produce a practical taxonomy for West Palaearctic birds the species definition must only include taxa “for which we are reasonably certain that they will retain their integrity no matter what other taxa they encounter in the future.”

The WG considers this criterion difficult or impossible to apply to predominantly allopatric taxa such as procellariiform seabirds. The WG therefore restricts its considerations to only the first of the two questions posed by Helbig *et al.* (2002) in order to delimit species.

They were:

1. Are the taxa diagnosable?
2. Are they likely to retain their genetic and phenotypic integrity in the future?

By adopting this strategy, the WG applies the less stringent GLC (de Queiroz 1998; de Queiroz 1999) and ESC (Wiley 1978) which recognise species that are currently maintaining their integrity but “do not require species to maintain their integrity in the future” (Helbig *et al.* 2002).

Below we list a set of guidelines the WG will use to decide if taxa are diagnosable and if they therefore warrant specific status.

3. Guidelines to identify species (Diagnosability)

3.1. Taxon diagnosis is based on characters or character states. Characters used in diagnosis must be considered, or preferably shown to have a strong genetic (heritable) component and not likely to be the product of environmental differences. Characters known to evolve rapidly in response to latitude must be considered less informative e.g. morphometrics, timing of breeding and moult patterns.

3.2 In the assessment of diagnostic characters, the WG, whenever possible, will only consider primary data published in peer reviewed journals. Conclusions drawn by such studies must be supported by appropriate statistical analyses. Once established the Taxonomy WG will aim to maintain the stability of the ACAP List of Taxa. Modifications to the List will only be considered when a study published in a peer-reviewed journal suggests change.

3.3 As stated by Helbig *et al.* (2002), taxa are diagnosable if:

A) “Individuals of at least one age/sex can be distinguished from the same age/sex class of all other taxa by at least one qualitative difference. This means that the individuals will possess one or more discrete characters that members of the other taxa lack. Qualitative differences refer to presence/absence of a feature (as opposed to a discontinuity in a continuously varying character).”

B) “At least one age/sex class is separated by a complete discontinuity in at least one continuously varying character (e.g. wing length) from the same age/sex class of otherwise similar taxa. By complete discontinuity we mean that there is no overlap with regard to the character in question between two taxa.” To detect a discontinuity, the number of individuals compared should be based on sound judgement.


C) “If there is no single diagnostic character, we regard a taxon as statistically diagnosable if individuals of at least one age/sex class can be clearly distinguished from individuals of all other taxa by a combination of two or three functionally independent characters.” Body measurements are not considered independent characters.

A useful example here is the one presented by Helbig *et al.* (2002). *Larus michahellis* and *L. armenicus* “can be distinguished by a combination of wing-tip pattern, darkness of mantle and mtDNA haplotypes, although none of these characters is diagnostic on its own.”

3.4 Because of the difficulties assessing reproductive isolation in allopatric taxa, Helbig *et al.* (2002) apply more stringent criteria to allopatric than sympatric taxa. They suggest that allopatric taxa should be recognised as species only if “they are fully diagnosable in each of several discrete or continuously variable characters relating to different function contexts, e.g. structural features, plumage colours, vocalisations, DNA sequences, and the sum of the character differences corresponds to or exceeds the level of divergence seen in related species that exist in sympatry.”

4. References

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 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Following a recommendation from the Advisory Committee, a Work Programme for the 2023 - 2025 triennium was approved by the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7, [Resolution 7.4](#)). The Advisory Committee's Work Programme will be updated and amended at the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC13) to reflect the revised tasks in the work programmes of the Working Groups and other actions, as well as to reflect decisions taken during the course of AC13.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Groups and the Advisory Committee:

1. Review and update the Work Programme approved by MoP7, and
2. Define priority actions/areas to be considered in the allocation of funds under the grant and secondment schemes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

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 reflect 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	2023-2025	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	2023-2025	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	Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.
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. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

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, BirdLife International	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.	0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders 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 AC14.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG leads	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		12,000 (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	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000 (core)	Review at AC14
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)	
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, Ed Melvin to help Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer, Igor Debski	Ongoing			
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries. Formalise ACAP Advice document for the purse seine mitigation advice. This advice document will include introductory and explanatory text, and will be made available on the ACAP website. Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse-seine and trawl).	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help) Jonathon Barrington, Cristián Suazo, JP Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 (core)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document and guidelines, plus guidelines design.
3.4	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG, BirdLife International, Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	10, 000 (core, for translation, and for new factsheets)	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.7	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (core)	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) Workshop pre SBWG11.
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2023-2024	1 week	5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible workshop . i) revise the framework for future use at SBWG11, taking account of risk assessment initiatives recently completed or currently underway. ii) update for MoP8.
3.9	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries. Make advice (toolboxes) available on ACAP website and facilitate dissemination of advice.	SBWG, Lead: Jeff Mangel	Ongoing		2,000 (core, for translation)	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for secondment . Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice.
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks	0	Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for the SBWG11, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Lead: Eric Gilman	Ongoing			Guidelines were developed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	Ongoing	20 weeks	0	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales.	SBWG	Ongoing			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments – secondment opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress reported at SBWG9, and will inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	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 a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG intersessional group	2023			Possible secondment
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 International 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	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC	Ongoing		0	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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	2024	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	Intersessional group on Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
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.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	0	
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat (HSI to assist by providing paper)
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	3 weeks	0	Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
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

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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	2024		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions, and interactions, 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.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a (core)	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g competitions etc.
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	

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p> <p><i>Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The following Work Programme for the ACAP Secretariat for the 2023 - 2025 triennium has been approved by the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7 [Resolution 7.2](#)). The Work Programme is based on the functions assigned to the Secretariat under the Agreement and on specific tasks assigned to it by the Meeting of the Parties and the Advisory Committee. This paper should be read in conjunction with AC13 Doc 13 'Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2025' and AC13 Inf 01 'Agreement Budget 2023 – 2025'.

Should AC13 identify additional tasks for inclusion in the Secretariat's Work Programme, the table will be amended and forwarded to Parties for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee is requested to:

1. Review the proposed 2023 - 2025 Work Programme for the Secretariat;
2. Add or amend tasks to the Work Programme in relation to the requirements of the Advisory Committee's Work Programme.

SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1	SUPPORT FOR MoP, AC & WG MEETINGS			AC13 + WGs		AC14 + WGs		MoP8		
1.1	Undertake meeting arrangements.	Article X.a								
	▪ selection of venue		Exec Secretary	3	3,682	3	3,778	3	3,876	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, Contract	35		35	1,500	35	1,500	Cost for assistance with Budget preparations
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary,	10		10		5		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20		10		
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
	▪ 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	6,312	8	6,476	8	6,644	4 days per meeting, airfares

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ travel for meetings		Contract	4	3,156	4	3,394	4	3,482	Airfares
	▪ attendance at meeting		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	32	7,890	32	8,095	16	4,416	Accommodation and allowances
	▪ attendance at meeting		Contract	12	7,364	12	7,555	6	4,416	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		
	▪ 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, Comms Contract	90		90		90		
	▪ maintain/update website links and publications		Sci & Info Officers, Comms Contract	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ management of ACAP Facebook page		Info Officer, Comms Contract	5		5		5		
	▪ preparation of scientific material		Sci Officer, Comms Contract	10		10		10		
2.4	Update and maintain the ACAP website	Article X.h	Sci Officer & Contracts	20	8,416	20	8,635	20	8,860	
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)	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20				
2.6	Prepare a report on Secretariat activities for AC and MoP meetings	Article X f)	Exec Secretary	2		2		2		
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, Sci Officer	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, Sci Officer			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)								


Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<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	5,260	25	5,397	25	5,537	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	31		31		31	4,000	Cost for map updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French 	AC WP Task 2.5	Sci Officer & Contract	3	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	
	<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				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new guidelines for priority issues 	AC WP Task 2.12	Sci Officer	2		2		2		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
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 (SBWG10 Doc 07) 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. <p>Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting and present to RFMOs.</p>	AC WP Task 3.1	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Contracts	70	30,000	70	30,000	70	30,000	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMO Interaction Plan.
					1,000		1,000		1,000	Translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse-seine and trawl) 	AC WP Task 3.3	Sci Officer	5	1,000					Design and translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures. 	AC WP Task 3.4	Sci Officer	5		5	10,000	5		Design and translation costs.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further pursue approaches to improve the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. Continue to develop and refine communication strategy and products to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Reinvigorate advice ⇒ Communicate with different audiences (e.g. presentations, videos, other multi-media) to include success stories and information aimed at overcoming impediments to implementation Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species. Continue to engage with certification schemes, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Contributing to reviews of standards on bycatch considerations to encourage these to be informed by ACAP advice. ⇒ Providing information to Parties and others to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments 	AC WP Task 3.5	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary, Contracts	10		10		10		<p>Possible secondment to investigate further specific communication areas and to supplement work of any part-time consultant that the Secretariat might employ as communications adviser</p> <p>Secretariat to continue to engage as required consultant who has already provided advice on this process.</p> <p>Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the SBWG sub-group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting of bycatch indicators and associated data, refine methodological approaches and reporting as required 	AC WP Task 3.7	Sci Officer, Contract	20	10,000	20	10,000	20	10,000	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
	<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)								

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	▪ 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		
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, Comms Contract	2		2		2		Parties to supply further information as available
3.13	Support for World Albatross Day	AC WP Task 5.12	Info Officer, Comms Contract	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	Funds for developing, producing and distributing WAD material
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	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	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		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
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	10,520	15	10,704	15	11,075	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
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	15,780	10	16,190	10	16,611	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	Compilation of the triennial implementation report.	Article IX 6 d)	Sci Officer, Exec Sec			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		

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Outcomes from MoP7 of relevance to the Advisory Committee</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) was convened online between 9 and 13 May 2022. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Australia. This document highlights the outcomes and decisions of MoP7 of relevance to the Advisory Committee and its Work Programme. Its structure follows that of the MoP7 meeting report.

Of note to the Advisory Committee, the Parties agreed:

- to a zero nominal growth budget supported by a one-off draw down of \$550,000 in savings from the General Fund.
- to give priority to implementing ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy during 2023 – 2025.
- to endorse the Advisory Committee's list of conservation priorities to address at-sea and land-based threats.

The Parties also expressed their concern that the headline indicators were continuing to show a declining status of ACAP-listed species and were urged to report [to ACAP] on time, to address the conservation crisis and demonstrate global leadership through the use of ACAP best-practice.

RECOMMENDATION

The Advisory Committee is requested to act, in the current 2023 - 2025 triennium, to address and implement the agreed Resolutions, endorsed recommendations and other outcomes of MoP7 relevant to the Advisory Committee's agenda and its Work Programme.

1. BACKGROUND

The Seventh Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) met online between 9 and 13 May 2022 and was hosted by Australia. The meeting was opened by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC. Gaia Puleston from the Australian federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) chaired the Meeting. This Session was originally scheduled to be held in 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An intersessional decision-making process was held by

correspondence in 2020 (for the Advisory Committee) and 2021 (for the MoP) to make essential decisions and to extend the Budget and Work Programmes of the 2019 - 2021 triennium to a quadrennium (2019 - 2022).

This document highlights outcomes of MoP7 relevant to the Advisory Committee and its Work Programme. For a full account of the meeting outcomes please refer to the [Report of the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties](#). The Advisory Committee Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 13**) and the Secretariat Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 14**) are addressed in detail under agenda items 14.1 and 5.2 respectively.

2. PROCEDURAL ISSUES

The Parties agreed to reduce the timeframe for intersessional voting from 45 to 30 days. This decision ([Resolution 7.1](#)) amended Rule 24(3) of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of Parties.

3. OPERATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Executive Secretary presented the Secretariat Report ([MoP7 Doc 07](#)) which highlighted the Secretariat's focus on organising virtual meetings of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups in August-September 2021 and MoP7 in May 2022. The Secretariat and AC officials also continued representing the Agreement at many international meetings in accordance with the RFMO Engagement Strategy. This report noted the outstanding contribution to ACAP by John Cooper on his retirement as ACAP's honorary Information Officer and the engagement of Bree Forrer, as part-time Communications Adviser to the Secretariat.

MoP7 noted the activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the quadrennium (2019 - 2022), thanked the Secretariat for its work, and acknowledged the significance of the assistance provided by the Tasmanian Government.

The MoP adopted Resolution 7.2 on the Secretariat Work Programme acknowledging that budgetary restrictions might prevent complete implementation of the Work Programme.

Parties supported the extension of the Executive Secretary's contract for a further 2.5 year and the Chair and Parties thanked Dr Bogle for all her work to date and her flexibility in adapting to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MoP7 thanked Argentina, New Zealand and the UK for nominating their AC members to participate in the Recruitment Subcommittee which will undertake the recruitment of a new Executive Secretary towards the end of Dr Bogle's extended term.

4. OPERATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the AC presented the Report of the Advisory Committee for the 2019 - 2022 quadrennium ([MoP7 Doc 09](#)). The key activities summarised in this report included the review of ACAP's expert advice; communication and advocacy of ACAP advice; development of indicators of the success of the Agreement; and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Agreement. Communication and advocacy activities included ACAP's engagement with RFMOs and CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), and the launching of World Albatross Day on 19 June 2020.

The report highlighted ACAP's engagement with RFMOs, including a new emphasis on compliance and monitoring, and participation in the review of seafood certification schemes. It also highlighted the conservation crisis facing ACAP species and the need for greater capacity

in the Secretariat to communicate this issue and raise awareness of the availability and value of ACAP advice.

The Chair of the AC noted that the Advisory Committee continued to recommend that Parties, Range States, RFMOs and others promote and implement best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures; improve the collection and reporting of seabird bycatch data; and implement priority monitoring and tracking studies and schemes to eradicate detrimental non-native species at breeding sites of ACAP species.

MoP7 specifically considered ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy ([SBWG10 Doc 07 Rev 1](#)) and recognised the need to give priority to implementing this strategy during 2023 – 2025.

MoP7 endorsed the 2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme ([Resolution 7.4](#)).

5. OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

5.1 Implementation

The Secretariat presented the [2018 – 2021 Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement \(MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1\)](#). The report provides a summary of the information included in the individual Implementation Reports submitted by Parties. The document also reports on the conservation status of ACAP species and changes that have occurred since MoP6.

The report emphasised that the challenges ahead for implementing the Agreement remain unchanged since MoP6: improving the collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries; implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in domestic and high seas fisheries; and filling significant data gaps relating to population status and trends.

MoP7 noted progress with the implementation of the Agreement but expressed concern that only half the Parties provided their implementation reports on time. Parties were urged to report on time, to address the conservation crisis and demonstrate global leadership through the use of ACAP best-practice advice.

MoP7 endorsed all the recommendation in **MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1** (see APPENDIX 1).

5.2 Listing of new species to Annex 1

No proposals were submitted by Parties to MoP7 for the listing of new species on Annex 1 of the Agreement.

5.3 Identification of Priority Conservation Actions

The Secretariat reported on the update of the conservation priorities to address land-based and at-sea threats and thanked all Parties for their Implementation reports and acknowledged the valuable input of non-Party Range States in contributing their data to this process.

The review of at-sea threats identified a number of fisheries and seabird populations as priority targets for action by the Agreement. RFMO-managed fisheries impact many populations of ACAP-listed species and this highlights the importance of ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy.

MoP7 also [endorsed the current list of conservation priorities to address at-sea and land-based threats](#) impacting ACAP-listed species (**MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1**, Table 6 and 9).

5.4 Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement

The Secretariat presented a suite of 'State-Pressure-Response' indicators in respect of breeding sites, population status and trends, tracking data availability, and capacity building ([MoP7 Doc 16 Rev 2](#)).

The Red List Index (RLI) indicated a deterioration in the status of ACAP species since 1988 for the 26 species originally listed on Annex 1 in 2004, as well as the 31 species currently listed.

The seabird bycatch indicators continue to be unpopulated due to scarcity of suitable data being submitted to the Secretariat, and lack of agreement on how to utilise the data that is available.

Two capacity building indicators approved at MoP6 were investigated for the first time, but are inconclusive. It appears that Parties find it difficult to report the information in the format envisaged and more work will be required to be able to use these indicators.

MoP7 welcomed the planned workshop on seabird bycatch data to be held before AC13, and expressed concern the Agreement was not yet able to populate the at-sea indicators.

MoP7 urged Parties and cooperating Range States to report the data required to populate the seabird bycatch indicators.

The MoP endorsed the recommendations in **MoP7 Doc 16 Rev 2** (see APPENDIX 1) and encouraged Parties and cooperating Range States to continue to invest in eradication of feral species from ACAP islands, in population monitoring and tracking programmes, as well as in comprehensive management plans for breeding sites of ACAP species.

Parties expressed their concern that the headline indicators were continuing to show a declining status of ACAP-listed species

5.5 Arrangements with other organisations

Since MoP6 the Secretariat had entered into two new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) – one with the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and one with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). An intersessional resolution adopted by correspondence in 2021 ([Resolution 6.11](#)) authorised the Secretariat to renew or amend existing arrangements between this Agreement and a number of other organisations. In accordance with this Resolution, the Secretariat renewed its arrangements with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), with CCAMLR and with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). The Secretariat was currently engaged in discussions about renewing arrangements with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Centre (UC Davis).

MoP7 expressed its appreciation for the significant progress made in implementing the various arrangements and noted the benefits that had been achieved from them in advancing the Agreement's objectives.

5.6 Agreement budget 2023 - 2025 and Scale of Contributions

The MoP agreed to a zero nominal growth budget supported by a one-off draw down of \$550,000 in savings from the General Fund to support the work of the Agreement in the 2023 – 2025 triennium and adopted [Resolution 7.5](#).

The MoP adopted the Scale of Contributions for the 2023 - 2025 triennium in [Resolution 7.5](#).

5.7 National Plans of Actions

MoP7 welcomed the progress reported on the development and implementation of regional and National Action Plans by Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand and Uruguay.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Australia noted that the Agreement will have been in force for 20 years on 19 June 2024 and proposed that the Secretariat prepare, in consultation with Parties, an updated document on ACAP's Achievements in the First Twenty Years 2004 - 2024.

The MoP expressed support for the proposal, with Ecuador and the UK indicating their willingness to be involved in this initiative.

APPENDIX 1. RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED BY MOP7 FROM THE AC'S IMPLEMENTATION AND INDICATOR REPORTS (MOP7 DOC 10 REV 1, MOP7 DOC 16 REV 2).

MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1 Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2018 - 2021


That Parties, and, where appropriate, participating non-Party Range States and APEC Member Economies, continue to:

- i. address at-sea threats, especially those associated with high priority fisheries (see Table 6), and informed by ACAP best practice advice for mitigating seabird bycatch;
- ii. address high priority land-based threats in accordance with the conservation priorities (see Table 9);
- iii. ensure that appropriate mechanisms are established/maintained to identify and robustly assess seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries, and to monitor the implementation of effective bycatch mitigation strategies;
- iv. actively support and participate in the ACAP process to enhance implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation strategies;
- v. review, based on the information provided by the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the efficacy of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used in the fisheries that they manage, and explore the performance of new mitigation technologies and related safety and other operational issues;
- vi. monitor and provide information on the fisheries that they manage, and the associated seabird bycatch, as part of annual reporting to the Advisory Committee, to enable the assessment and reporting of performance indicators on seabird bycatch;
- vii. support the collection and provision of seabird bycatch data by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Conservation Bodies (RCBs) that they are members of;
- viii. support their priority population monitoring programmes, including the maintenance of long-term monitoring (see AC12 Doc 11);
- ix. implement best practice monitoring practices that include censuses of breeding sites conducted at a minimum of 10-year intervals, and annual monitoring of population trend and demography at a minimum of one representative site for each island group;
- x. conduct priority tracking programmes to enable a better understanding of at-sea distribution of albatrosses and petrels (see AC12 Doc 11);
- xi. update the ACAP database on an ongoing basis to maintain the currency of information underpinning analyses;
- xii. support the allocation of funds for the operation of the Advisory Committee to enable its effective operation, taking into account the growth in the complexity and number of matters it now addresses;
- xiii. provide the necessary resources for the conduct of the research and conservation programmes identified by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups; and
- xiv. engage in domestic processes to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement.

MoP7 Doc 16 Rev 2 Indicators to measure the Success of the Agreement

That the Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Reflect on the success of the Agreement as measured by the IUCN Red List Index, breeding site condition, population status and trends, and tracking data availability indicators;
- ii. Encourage Parties and cooperating Range States to continue to invest in eradication of feral species from ACAP islands, in population monitoring and tracking programmes, as well as in comprehensive management plans for breeding sites of ACAP species;
- iii. Discuss any further action required in relation to the capacity building indicators, and
- iv. Urge Parties and cooperating Range States to report the data required to populate the seabird bycatch indicators.

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Identification of conservation actions to booster the implementation of the MoU between ACAP and IAC</p> <p><i>IAC Scientific Committee (Victoria González Carman, Heriberto Santana, Javier Quiñones, Leslie Bustos, Jennifer Suarez, Victor Chocho), IAC Secretary (Verónica Cáceres) & PaCSWG Co-convenor (Marco Favero)</i></p>
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SUMMARY

In 2016 the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) to facilitate the cooperation between the Secretariats of both organisations. The Memorandum was recently renewed in 2023 and the IAC Scientific Committee tasked a working group to develop a strategy to assist in its implementation. Potential areas of collaboration include electronic monitoring, the identification of important areas for seabirds and sea turtles, bycatch mitigation in artisanal and small-scale fisheries, and the generation of advice for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. The document presents the interest demonstrated by the IAC in bringing the MoU with ACAP to another level, with substantial conservation actions supporting what it is stated in the Memorandum. Following the example of the IAC, the Advisory Committee may consider the inclusion in the ACAP Advisory Committee Work Programme the collaboration with IAC SC working group, taking into consideration the discussions with the IAC Scientific Committee, and advise on further steps to booster the implementation of the MoU between both organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee take into consideration the discussions with the IAC Scientific Committee and advise on further steps to booster the implementation of the MoU between both organisations.

1. BACKGROUND

In 2016 the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). The MoU was signed to facilitate the cooperation between the Secretariats of both organisations '*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*'.

In 2021 the IAC Scientific Committee tasked a working group to develop a strategy to assist the implementation of the MoU, with Scientific Committee members from Argentina (coordinator), Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru in the group. The approach was either for both organisations to work together to improve results in areas relevant to both agendas (e.g. collaboration with RFMOs), or for one of the organisations to progress in certain areas/topics by taking advantage of the experience already available in the other organisation (e.g. ACAP advice on electronic monitoring, IAC experience in artisanal and small-scale fisheries and application of models such as EASI-FISH to assess vulnerability of data limited bycatch species to fisheries).

The MoU was originally signed for a period of six years and recently renewed in 2023 with both organisations demonstrating interest in identifying conservation tasks that would booster the collaboration. This document specifically describes the discussions around the 19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC19) held in November 2022 to develop such a plan of action.

2. TOWARDS IDENTIFYING AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST

Following is a brief description of areas of interest identified by the IAC Scientific Committee (SC) during recent meetings in discussions with ACAP representatives and the IAC Secretariat.

2.1. Electronic Monitoring

The IAC agreed to make progress undertaking a review of literature relevant to the use of electronic monitoring (EM) systems to monitor sea turtle interaction with fisheries, taking advantage of information compiled in the ACAP advice (SBWG10 Doc 14 Rev 1, ACAP Guidelines on Electronic Monitoring Systems for Fisheries). IAC SC interest in these matters are clearly linked with the updated Resolution on Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles adopted in 2022 [Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7](#) urging Parties to improve the collection of quantitative data on sea turtle interaction with fisheries through, for example, the implementation of EM programs. This review of literature is currently in progress. So far, it remains unclear what kind of tangible collaboration may occur but there is potential for discussing approaches leading to the promotion and development of EM in a way that would be beneficial at a multi-taxa level.

2.2. Important geographic areas

Discussions during the meeting indicated some lack of clarity regarding the final purpose of the task on identifying geographic areas of common interest, in particular regarding what conservation actions would take place once those areas are identified. Although this action

wasn't left behind, it may need further brainstorming to have a better understanding of the final goal.

2.3. Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

In recent meetings there were references to the interest demonstrated and progress made by ACAP to develop mitigation advice for artisanal and small-scale fisheries in the form of a mitigation toolbox ([Mangel et al. 2017 SBWG8 Doc 16](#)). The experience that the IAC has (particularly the expertise held by the SC) may be of value for ACAP in developing approaches allowing a better understanding of social and technical issues in such fisheries, including data collection (methods and forms) and bycatch mitigation, among others.

2.4. Collaboration with RFMOs

Finally, and in a way linking some of the points above, there were multiple discussions on possible mechanisms to jointly improve the collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), in particular the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). Although some areas like bycatch mitigation might result more challenging (not impossible), issues like the need of improving observer coverage, the merit of revising and eventually refining observer protocols, and the building of capacities in observer programs to improve data quality might be easier and quick to be implemented through the joint submission of meeting papers. That strategy has the potential of gaining critical mass for the consideration of relevant issues at a multi-taxa level. In addition, IAC SC has collaborated with IATTC in a paper on “vulnerability status and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the east pacific leatherback turtle stock using the EASI-FISH approach”. This was done as a way of testing the effectiveness of sea turtle conservation management measures included in IATTC resolution C-19-04. The IAC experience in data sharing among many nations of both conventions, and testing bycatch mitigation methods with a model approach could be something of interest to ACAP regarding the lessons learned from such collaboration. This was referenced at previous IAC SC meetings as the value that IAC has showed at building strong technical partnerships with RFMOs.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This document presents the interest demonstrated by the IAC in bringing the MoU with ACAP to another level, with substantial conservation actions supporting what is stated in the Memorandum. Following the example of the IAC, the Advisory Committee may wish to consider including in the ACAP Advisory Committee Work Programme the collaboration with IAC SC working group, taking into consideration the discussions with the IAC Scientific Committee, and advise on further steps to booster the implementation of the MoU between both organisations.

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Opportunities to enhance Advisory Committee reporting to the Meeting of the Parties</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Reporting by the Advisory Committee to sessions of the Meetings of Parties (MoP) is guided by the Articles of the Agreement, MoP Resolutions, and MoP decisions. Since the reporting format was first determined for the Advisory Committee (Resolution 1.5, 2004), the number, structure and complexity of reports linked to the subject matter listed in Annex 1 to Resolution 1.5, have changed, and significantly. Recognising, that Article IX (6) d) i) anticipates that the Advisory Committee will keep its reporting arrangements under review, and noting that the Agreement will have been in force for 20 years in 2024, it is timely that the Advisory Committee should undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP.

Should the Advisory Committee agree to a review, then an intersessional working group of Committee members, guided by Terms of Reference drafted and agreed at AC13, could progress the review and report to AC14.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee agrees to initiate a review of Advisory Committee reporting to MoP.

1. BACKGROUND

Reporting by the Advisory Committee to sessions of the Meetings of Parties (MoP) is guided by the Articles of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), MoP Resolutions, and MoP decisions.

Article VIII (12) of the Agreement states, among other things, that:

At each of its ordinary sessions, the Meeting of Parties shall:

- a) consider reports, advice and information from any of its subsidiary bodies;*
- b) consider actual and potential changes in the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels, and the habitats important for their survival, as well as the factors that may affect them;*
- c) review any difficulty encountered in the implementation of this Agreement; ...*

The Advisory Committee reports to the MoP, as a subsidiary body under the Agreement. Article IX (6) a)–c) provides instructions to the Advisory Committee about reporting to the MoP:

The Committee shall:

- a) provide scientific, technical and other advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Secretariat, to the Parties;*
- b) endorse a standard reference text listing the taxonomy and maintain a listing of taxonomic synonyms for all species covered by the Agreement;*
- c) make recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out;*

Further, Article IX (6) d) indicates, among other things, that:

The Committee shall:

d) prepare a report to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties after the first on the implementation of the Agreement, with particular reference to the Action Plan and the conservation measures undertaken. Each such report shall include a synthesis of such information as Parties are required to submit to the Committee through the Secretariat under Article VII (1) c), and an assessment of the status and trends of albatross and petrel populations, but:

- i) the format of such reports from the Committee shall be determined by the first session of the Meeting of the Parties and reviewed as may be necessary at any subsequent session of the Meeting of the Parties; and the nature of the information to be provided by the Parties shall be determined by the Committee at its first meeting, subject to any direction from the Meeting of the Parties, and reviewed as may be necessary at any subsequent meeting; ...*

At its first session in 2004, the MoP adopted [Resolution 1.5](#) on the establishment of the Advisory Committee. Annex 1 to the Resolution provides the format expected for Advisory Committee reports to the MoP. Paragraph 6 of the Resolution also states that the MoP agrees:

'that the Advisory Committee review the reporting format detailed in Annex 1 during the intersessional period and if required submits a revised report format for adoption by the Meeting of Parties using the intersessional voting procedures of the Meeting of the Parties.'

2. CURRENT REPORTING TO MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES

In the nearly twenty years since Resolution 1.5 was agreed, the number, structure and complexity of reports presented by the Advisory Committee or linked to the subject matter listed in Annex 1 to Resolution 1.5 have changed, and significantly. At MoP7, essentially three reports covered this information; these were:

[MoP7 Doc 9 Advisory Committee report to the MoP](#)

[MoP7 Doc 10 Implementation report to the MoP](#)

[MoP7 Doc 16 Indicators to measure the success of the Agreement](#)

While the format of the Advisory Committee report (MoP7 Doc 9) mostly follows that stipulated in Annex 1 to Resolution 1.5, the content of several sections as identified in Annex 1 is now presented in the separate Implementation and Indicator reports (MoP7 Doc 10, MoP7 Doc 16).

3. REVIEW OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTING

Recognising the expectation stated in Article IX (6) d) i), and noting that the Agreement will have been in force for 20 years in 2024, it is timely that the Advisory Committee should undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP.

A review would provide confidence that the Advisory Committee is providing information and recommendations in a manner most suited to MoP sessions and wider audiences. For example, currently the Implementation Report is a large and complex document covering many somewhat disparate reporting obligations, some retrospective, some prospective. At MoP7 this report was 37 pages and included 63 sections and 33 figures and tables. Like the Advisory Committee and Indicator Reports, the Implementation Report covers many important issues concerning the success of the Agreement yet, arguably, the information, if presented differently could be more approachable, impactful and influential.

Importantly, the three Advisory Committee reports are information-rich and are the product of reporting obligations under the Agreement, as well as many years of careful consideration by the Advisory Committee, its Working Groups, the Secretariat and instructions from the MoP. Accordingly, a wholesale review of the specific content of these reports may not be appropriate. Rather, a review may:

- consider whether all the reporting against Section 5.1 of the Action Plan remains necessary and adequate and if reporting against all items is required at each MoP.
- assess and revise the Committee reports, to ensure the questions remain relevant, they are well structured and approachable, deliver information succinctly, avoid duplication of information or topics, aggregate related issues, and provide clear, well-justified recommendations.


Advisory Committee reporting should also aim to facilitate greater engagement within both the Advisory Committee and the MoP. While revised reporting formats must be tailored for the MoP audience, the reports could also serve to enhance within-Party communications, as well as engagement with other organisations and the public.

4. CONCLUSION

The Advisory Committee, its Working Groups, the Secretariat, other experts and agencies develop a large body of information aimed at informing the MoP and Parties to the Agreement. It is a considerable challenge to deliver this large body of technical information and recommendations in a manner that is best suited to the MoP.

With the approaching 20-year anniversary of the Agreement entering into force and noting Article IX (6) d) i) it is timely for the Advisory Committee to review its reporting to the MoP with a focus on ensuring the information is delivered in a format that is effective, efficient, informative and influential.

Should the Advisory Committee agree to a review, then an intersessional working group of Committee members, guided by Terms of Reference drafted and agreed at AC13, could progress the review and report to AC14.

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023</i></p> <p>Meeting Schedule</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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Provisional Schedule, Thirteenth Meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (AC13)		
Time	Agenda item / Activity	Venue
SUNDAY 21 May		
18.00 – 20.00	Heads of Delegation Meeting	Plenary room
MONDAY 22 May		
08.30 – 09.00	Registration	Plenary foyer
09.00	1. Official Opening	
09.30 – 10.30	Coffee break	Business Lounge
10.30	1. Housekeeping	
10.45	2. Adoption of the Agenda	
11.00	3. Rules of Procedure	
11.30	4. Report of the Depositary	
11.40	5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022/23 intersessional period	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	Business Lounge
14.00	6.1 Financial Report	
14.30	8. Report from the Seventh Meeting of the Parties	
15.00	10.1 Report of Taxonomy Working Group	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	Business Lounge
16.00	14. Listing of new species	

Provisional Schedule, Thirteenth Meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (AC13)		
Time	Agenda item / Activity	Venue
16.15	13.1 Advisory Committee reporting to the MoP	
16.45	13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme	
17.30	Adjourn	
19.00	UK welcome event	Dynamic Earth
TUESDAY 23 May		
09.00	11.1 Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	Business Lounge
11.00	11.1 Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group (continued)	
11.30	11.2 Report from Workshop on bycatch data collection	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	Business Lounge
14.00	12.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break	Business Lounge
16.00	9.1 Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	
17.30	Adjourn	
WEDNESDAY 24 May		
09.00	13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2025	
09.15	5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 – 2025	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	Business Lounge
11.00	7.1 Reports from Observers attending AC13	
11.45	7.2 Implementing the UN High Seas Treaty: Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal	
12.15	16.1 AC14 timing and venue	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	Business Lounge
14.00	16.2 AC14 Draft Agenda	

Provisional Schedule, Thirteenth Meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (AC13)		
Time	Agenda item / Activity	Venue
14:30	17. Other Business	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break	Business Lounge
16.00	15. Election and appointment of AC Officers	
16.30	Adjourn	
THURSDAY 25 May		
	Review of draft AC13 Report Excursion	See Meeting Circular 4
FRIDAY 26 May		
09.00	18. Adoption of Report	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	Business Lounge
11.00	18. Adoption of Report (continued)	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	Business Lounge
14.00	18 Adoption of Report (continued)	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	Business Lounge
16.00	18. Adoption of Report (continued)	
17.15	19. Closing Remarks	
17.30	Close of Meeting	



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

**REPORT OF
THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Edinburgh, United Kingdom
22 - 26 May 2023*

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
AKP	Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
ATF	Albatross Task Force
AUD/\$	Australian Dollars
BLI	BirdLife International
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HSI	Humane Society International
IAC	Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOC	International Ornithological Congress
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA-Seabirds	International Plan of Action-Seabirds
MFM	Mouse Free Marion
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPOA-Seabirds	National Plan of Action – Seabirds
NZ	New Zealand
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
(t)RFMO	(tuna) Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TWG	Taxonomy Working Group
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

USA	United States of America
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WGs	Working Groups

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC13) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 22 – 26 May 2023, with Dr Mike Double as Chair and Mrs Tatiana Neves as Vice-chair.
- 1.2 Ten Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand (NZ), Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK) and Uruguay. Apologies were received from Ecuador, Norway and France.
- 1.3 In addition, three Range States, Canada, Namibia, and the United States of America (USA), and one APEC member economy, Chinese Taipei, participated as Observers.
- 1.4 BirdLife International (BLI) and Humane Society International (HSI) attended the meeting as Observers.
- 1.5 The list of participants is provided in **ANNEX 1**. The list of meeting documents and information papers is provided in **ANNEX 2**.
- 1.6 The meeting opened with a welcoming speech by Dr Will Lockhart, Deputy Director, International Biodiversity and Wildlife, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- 1.7 Dr Lockhart noted that the UK was delighted to be hosting the Advisory Committee meeting for the first time, and the first in-person ACAP meeting since 2019. He noted it also felt fitting that the meeting was commencing on World Biodiversity Day. Dr Lockhart acknowledged the large volume of valuable work that was being carried out across the world to protect albatrosses and petrels but that many populations were still in deep crisis. As such, he noted that there was more we could and should be doing to further support the conservation of these iconic species, and that the UK was committed to working with everyone to support that work.
- 1.8 Dr Lockhart outlined that domestically, there was a large body of work underway across the UK and its Overseas Territories to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels that feed or breed in these areas; from aiming to eradicate rodents and protecting breeding colonies, to implementing strong bycatch mitigation measures.
- 1.9 More widely, the UK was committed to spending £3 billion (GBP) by 2025 to protect nature internationally – through bilateral aid, contributions to multilateral aid programmes, or by helping generate new, sustainable and innovative forms of nature finance, including by working with businesses to ensure that they better price their dependencies on nature.
- 1.10 Taking note of the outcomes from discussions at the Working Group meetings, Dr Lockhart emphasised the importance of communicating the message that more must be done, and further actions needed to be identified as to how collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) could be strengthened, together with data collection

and analysis so that the scale of bycatch and other pressures on ACAP species could be better understood and mitigated. He also stressed the need to drive our broader governments to ensure they were living up to their commitments under the Agreement and that collectively we were doing our best to implement the best practices developed. He noted this would be critical to the success of the Agreement.

- 1.11 Mr Mark Tasker (UK Advisory Committee Member and Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group) also extended a warm welcome to all participants at AC13 and acknowledged the efforts of Defra, and especially Ms Elizabeth Biott and Mr Kristopher Blake, for organising the meeting. Having been involved with ACAP since its inception, he reminded everyone that the key objective of the Agreement was to conserve albatrosses and petrels, and there remained much work to achieve this. He urged everyone to keep this uppermost in their minds as the meeting proceeded over the coming week.
- 1.12 On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the AC Chair thanked Dr Lockhart and Mr Tasker for their words and good wishes for the meeting. The Chair urged all participants in the Advisory Committee to contribute towards a successful outcome from this meeting and progress with ACAP's objectives.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The UK suggested an additional item concerning amendments to the Rules of Procedure to be discussed under Agenda Item 17. The Advisory Committee agreed, and with this addition, the Agenda was adopted (**ANNEX 3**).

3 RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The AC adopted the current Rules of Procedure for this meeting.

4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

- 4.1 Australia, in its role as Depositary, presented its report ([AC13 Doc 07](#)). The report noted there had been no new accessions to the Agreement since the most recent report of the Depositary government (of 1 February 2022) circulated as [MoP7 Doc 06](#) at the Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, which took place as a virtual meeting from 9 to 13 May 2022.

5 ACAP SECRETARIAT

5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary provided a report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the 2022 - 2023 intersessional period ([AC13 Doc 06](#)) and noted that [AC13 Inf 03](#) would be considered under Agenda Item 12, to reflect the extensive discussion on ACAP's Communication Strategy under that agenda item.

- 5.1.2 The Secretariat provided support for a range of tasks in the Advisory Committee Work Programme. The planning and organisation of the current Advisory Committee and Working Group meetings were the main focus of recent months. Other key activities included the 2022 Secondments Programme round, representation at a range of meetings, and renewing a number of cooperation arrangements. The Executive Secretary reported that the new Communications Adviser was now well established in her part-time role. She also noted that the Secretariat had entered into a new translation and interpretation contract with 2M Language Services. The Secretariat was pleased to have been able to recommence its internship programme for translation students for the first time in three years.
- 5.1.3 The Secretariat and AC officials participated in a range of meetings of RFMOs, CCAMLR and conservation organisations with which ACAP has cooperation arrangements. Since the period covered by the report, ACAP was also represented at the 11th SPRFMO Commission meeting, the ICCAT SC-ECO meeting, the IOTC 3rd Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems, and the IOTC Commission.
- 5.1.4 The Executive Secretary reported that ACAP was a non-implementing partner alongside BLI in the Seabird Project led by the CCSBT (Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna) and funded under the second phase of the FAO's Common Oceans (Areas beyond National Jurisdiction) programme. The project is now underway and seeks to improve capacity of CCSBT Members to monitor and assess seabird bycatch and includes objectives on improved educational training and use of automated monitoring systems.
- 5.1.5 The Executive Secretary highlighted two liaison visits: to Madrid to strengthen the Secretariat's relationship with the Spanish National Contact Point and other colleagues, and to Lisbon to encourage Portugal's interest in ACAP.
- 5.1.6 The AC welcomed advice from the Secretariat that it had renewed Cooperation Guidelines with ICCAT and signed renewed MoUs with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles(IAC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Discussions to renew the MoU with the Tasmanian Government had also been taking place over recent months.
- 5.1.7 The renewed cooperation arrangement with the IAC provides many common areas of interest such as use of electronic monitoring and mitigating bycatch in small-scale fisheries, and opportunities for collaboration such as providing jointly-prepared documents to RFMOs.
- 5.1.8 The Advisory Committee welcomed the ongoing support of the Tasmanian Government, and asked the Secretariat to write a letter of thanks to the Department of State Growth.
- 5.1.9 The AC also noted that Mr John Cooper had retired from his position as Honorary Information Officer (continuing as Emeritus Information Officer) and asked the AC Chair to write a letter to him on behalf of the AC, to thank him for his dedication and many years of service.

- 5.1.10 The Advisory Committee thanked the Secretariat for its Report and the additional updates provided.

5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025

- 5.2.1 The Executive Secretary noted that the 2023 – 2025 Secretariat Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 14**) was adopted by Parties at MoP7. It was agreed that, following the meeting, the Secretariat Work Programme would be amended in line with the AC Work Programme to reflect any changes and additions requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat in the current triennium (**ANNEX 5**).

6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Financial Report

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary noted that MoP6 had directed the Secretariat to reduce its financial reporting to two reports per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year (to 31 December), and a full-year (1 July to 30 June) audited report in September. The most recent of those reports would then be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of Parties.
- 6.1.2 The Executive Secretary presented the interim financial report for 2023 ([AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1](#)), including information on income and expenditure for Appropriations 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as a summary of closing cash balances as at 31 December 2022 and a summary of outstanding contributions at 13 April 2023.
- 6.1.3 Parties' contributions for 2023 were due on 1 January. As at the end of April, the 2023 contributions from six Parties were still outstanding. Three Parties were in arrears for more than a year (see Attachment 1 of **AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1**).
- 6.1.4 The Executive Secretary advised the meeting that MoP7 had decided on a zero nominal growth budget, with additional one-off allocations included from savings. This had resulted in the allocation for AC13, together with the one-off addition, being of a similar amount to the allocation for a meeting in 2021, with no provision to cover inflation in the intervening period. In addition, some estimates in the 2021 allocations had been insufficient even at the time (for example, for interpretation costs). She thanked the UK hosts for providing a voluntary contribution of \$130,000 to cover the shortfall for the current meeting (with any unspent funds to go to the Small Grants Programme) but noted that the triennial budget would not be enough to fund the full range of activities at AC14 normally covered. This meant there would be a need for additional funds from voluntary contributions or else some normally funded activities would not receive funding.
- 6.1.5 The AC asked the Secretariat to continue to manage effectively the triennium Budget in accordance with the instructions of the MoP in [Resolution 7.5](#) and

the Agreement's Financial Regulations, including Regulation 4.5 (if required). The AC asked the Executive Secretary to prepare an early indicative AC14 budget once meeting details were known, and to distribute this to the National Contact Points, appealing to them for extra support for the meeting, for example, by sponsoring their own delegates.

- 6.1.6 The Advisory Committee noted the AC Chair and the Secretariat would continue to follow the instructions of the Meeting of the Parties (in [MoP5, Doc 27 Rev 1](#)) in determining prioritisation of sponsorship of relevant delegates, and noted that the Chair and Secretariat would emphasise strict adherence to the meeting deadlines as instructed by the MoP.
- 6.1.7 The Executive Secretary noted that funding for the AC Work Programme (WP) for 2022 - 2023 had benefited from voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei and Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy, to the value of \$20,000 and \$28,000 respectively. She also noted that an additional \$28,000 could be made available from historical tasks that no longer appear in the current Advisory Committee Work Programme if the AC agreed to reassign those funds to activities in the current triennium (either to projects or to the Small Grants Programme).
- 6.1.8 The Advisory Committee expressed their appreciation and thanks for the voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei and Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy, and agreed to re-allocate \$28,000 from historical WP tasks to the 2023-2025 Advisory Committee WP.
- 6.1.9 The Advisory Committee requested the Grants Sub-committee to divide equally the funding available for the 2023 and 2024 Small Grants calls, and to do the same for the 2023 and 2024 Secondment rounds.
- 6.1.10 The Advisory Committee thanked the Executive Secretary for her detailed presentation of the status of finances as they related to the AC.

7 OBSERVER REPORTS

7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13

- 7.1.1 Canada, Namibia, the USA and Chinese Taipei reported on developments and activities during the intersessional period, commenting on both domestic and regional activities. In the case of Namibia, information was provided on Namibia's progress towards acceding to the Agreement. Statements from these Observers are provided in **ANNEX 8 to 11**.
- 7.1.2 Statements were also presented by BirdLife International and Humane Society International, highlighting their collaboration with ACAP and their views on ACAP priorities for the future. Their observer statements can be found in **ANNEX 12 and 13** respectively.
- 7.1.3 AC13 welcomed the observer statements and thanked the Observers for their participation in the meeting. Some delegations responded to Namibia's update by offering assistance, as relevant and at the appropriate time, in encouraging

the Namibian government to consider accession to ACAP. Australia (as Depositary) offered to help with the process of accession when that was drawing near.

7.1.4 Chile thanked both Canada and the USA for their cooperation in relation to the Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*.

7.1.5 AC13 expressed deep appreciation of the extensive and productive collaboration between BirdLife International and ACAP over many years.

7.2 Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal

7.2.1 [AC13 Inf 04](#), provided by BirdLife International, discussed a potential proposal for promoting a Marine Protected Area in the Tasman Sea, in the context of the recently agreed draft text (but not yet adopted) of the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*.

7.2.2 BirdLife International noted that this Agreement had been under negotiation for over 20 years and would be adopted in June 2023, with ratification then required from 60 signatories before the Agreement would enter into force. The Agreement included a provision whereby Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) could be designated in the high seas, which could provide support for conservation efforts for ACAP-listed species. BirdLife International was working on developing a proposal for an MPA in the Tasman Sea, as described in **AC13 Inf 04**. Other potential sites of notable interest included the Emperor Seamounts in the North Pacific and the Walvis Ridge in the southeast Atlantic. *The Agreement* deferred management of fishing activities to RFMOs; accordingly, BirdLife International was interested to know how ACAP Parties might engage in such discussions within RFMOs.

7.2.3 Australia and BirdLife International encouraged ACAP Parties to consider early ratification of the Agreement.

7.2.4 New Zealand thanked BirdLife International for drawing the AC's attention to this significant development and noted its relevance to ACAP's work, especially for the PaCSWG and its work on distribution data for ACAP-listed species (since identifying areas for MPAs may use this information).

8 REPORT FROM THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

8.1 The AC Chair presented [AC13 Doc 15](#), which reported on outcomes of MoP7, in particular on issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee's work. The AC Chair noted that MoP7 had been held online, hosted and chaired by Australia. MoP7 adopted five resolutions, including the Advisory Committee Work Programme for 2023 - 2025.

8.2 In reporting to MoP7, the Advisory Committee continued to recommend that Parties, Range States, RFMOs and others promote and implement best

practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures; improve the collection and reporting of seabird bycatch data; and implement priority monitoring and tracking studies and schemes to eradicate detrimental non-native species at breeding sites of ACAP species. The AC report highlighted ongoing challenges for implementing the Agreement. MoP7 noted progress with the implementation of the Agreement but expressed concern that only half the Parties provided their implementation reports on time. MoP7 also expressed concern about ACAP's headline indicators, which showed a continuing decline in the status of ACAP-listed species. Parties were urged to address the conservation crisis affecting albatrosses and petrels and demonstrate global leadership through the implementation of ACAP Best Practice Advice to reduce seabird bycatch. In addition, the MoP gave priority to implementing ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy during 2023 – 2025.

- 8.3 [AC13 Inf 01](#) provides a copy of the Budget adopted by MoP7 for the 2023 - 2025 period. The Parties adopted a zero nominal growth budget supported by a one-off draw down of \$550,000 in savings from the General Fund.
- 8.4 Commenting on the Budget, the AC noted the importance of ensuring adequate funding for the work of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups (see also discussion of Budget-related issues under Agenda Item 6.1).
- 8.5 The AC agreed to act, in the current 2023 - 2025 triennium, to address and implement the agreed Resolutions from MoP7, and endorsed recommendations and other outcomes of MoP7 relevant to the Advisory Committee's agenda and its Work Programme.

9 POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group

- 9.1.1 The Co-convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), Mrs Patricia Pereira Serafini and Dr Marco Favero, introduced the report of the Seventh Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC13 Doc 09](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of PaCSWG7 held on 19 May 2023 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.
- 9.1.2 The Advisory Committee took note of the report when updating the AC Work Programme and agreed the following advice based on recommendations from PaCSWG7:
- 9.1.3 Updates and reviews of ACAP Species Assessments:
- (i) Endorsed the re-establishment of the Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee the updates of the ACAP Species Assessments.
 - (ii) Ensured that adequate financial resources are made available for this important work.

9.1.4 Threats:

- (i) Endorsed and encouraged support for the Mouse Free Marion ([MFM](#)) Project, which aims to achieve a more favourable conservation status for Marion Island and its globally important seabirds, including eight ACAP-listed species.
- (ii) Encouraged research assessing the exposure to, and incidence and impacts of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment on ACAP species.

9.1.5 AC13 reiterated the importance of the MFM project.

9.1.6 Review of key gaps in population data:

- (i) Encouraged ACAP Parties and Range States responsible for breeding populations of ACAP species to implement the priority monitoring programmes to increase current knowledge of their population size, trends and demography.
- (ii) Encouraged ACAP Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking studies.
- (iii) Encouraged data-holders to submit their tracking data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database to enable multi-species analyses of overlap between ACAP species and fisheries.

9.1.7 Best practice guidelines and other online resources:

- (i) Noted that the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak will be updated on an ongoing basis as new information becomes available.

9.1.8 AC13 agreed to form an ACAP Avian Influenza Expert Group on epidemiology, disease risk assessment and management to further advise ACAP on this matter. The group will include invited experts from several countries and be responsible for compiling up-to-date information, revising ACAP guidelines, and communicating risks to decision makers and stakeholders within ACAP (see **ANNEX 7**).

9.1.9 AC13 thanked Patricia Serafini for the rapid response during the intersessional period regarding this significant threat to seabirds.

9.1.10 AC13 discussed the ever-changing Avian influenza risk to seabird species and highlighted the upcoming breeding seasons may see an increase in mortalities at breeding sites.

9.1.11 The AC endorsed the revised PaCSWG Terms of Reference provided in ANNEX 3 of **AC13 Doc 09**.

9.1.12 The AC Chair thanked PaCSWG and its Convenors for their considerable work and Report.

10 TAXONOMY OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group

- 10.1.1 The Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) Mr Mark Tasker presented the Report of the TWG ([AC13 Doc 10 Rev 1](#)). He thanked Working Group members for their work, noting that the Terms of Reference for the WG remain unchanged since AC12.
- 10.1.2 The TWG Convenor welcomed two new members to the WG, Ms Alice Pereira, (Brazil) and Dr Natalie Forsdick (New Zealand).
- 10.1.3 Based on recommendations from the TWG, AC13 agreed that the taxonomic treatment of both Buller's *Thalassarche bulleri* and Short-tailed *Phoebastria albatrus* Albatrosses should not change despite additions to the evidence on the taxonomy of the two species.
- 10.1.4 New Zealand advised that data had been collected on the morphometrics of *T. bulleri* and on the plumage of Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* breeding on the Antipodean and Auckland Islands. A whole-genome analysis for Antipodean Albatross was also reported to be underway. This information will further inform the taxonomic treatment of these species.
- 10.1.5 AC13 discussed the possible future change in accepted taxonomic treatment of ACAP-listed Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* as either synonymous with Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan* or a sub-species of Yelkouan Shearwater that might follow from a recent scientific publication.
- 10.1.6 The Committee noted advice from Australia that species, subspecies or populations could be listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. Article I (1) of the Agreement was to be read together with Article I (2)(a) that further defines the terms 'albatross' and 'petrel'. Read together, the terms 'albatross' and 'petrel' in Article I (1) of the Agreement could refer to a species, subspecies or population of the albatross or petrel. This was relevant to possible future approaches to the listing in Annex 1 to the Agreement of Balearic Shearwater *P. mauretanicus*.
- 10.1.7 The Advisory Committee agreed to await the outcome of deliberations by the taxonomic committee (IOC), followed by ACAP for species not on Annex 1, before considering any consequences for Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 10.1.8 The AC thanked the TWG for their work and adopted their Report.

11 SEABIRD BYCATCH

11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

- 11.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Sebastián Jiménez, introduced the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG11) held from 15 – 17 May 2023,. This report ([AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1](#)) outlined intersessional progress against the SBWG Work Programme, as well as discussions and advice resulting from SBWG11.

11.1.2 The AC thanked the SBWG Convenors, Vice-convenors and the Secretariat for preparing this report, agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the SBWG, and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:

11.1.3 Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic and demersal trawl fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 2 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries identified in Section 5.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.4 Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries identified in Section 6.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.5 Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

- (i) Endorsed the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 4 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG11, but do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice.
- (ii) Encouraged implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries identified in Section 7.3 of **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**.

11.1.6 Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

- (i) Noted the important findings on bycatch in Brazilian small-scale fisheries described in **SBWG11 Inf 22** and requested that Brazil continue this important monitoring initiative and work urgently towards reducing bycatch in these fisheries.
- (ii) Encouraged further intersessional work to populate the seabird bycatch mitigation toolbox for artisanal and small-scale fisheries to reflect the updates provided to SBWG11 and report back to future meetings.

- 11.1.7 Monitoring techniques for seabird bycatch and mitigation use
- (i) Encouraged further collaboration between Parties on using genetic techniques for the identification of bycaught seabird specimens.
 - (ii) Agreed to elevate ACAP's focus on the implementation and monitoring to the same priority level as Best Practice Advice development.
 - (iii) Encouraged further work among Parties to adopt, or develop and implement, technologies and techniques to assess fisheries compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- 11.1.8 FAO IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds
- (i) Encouraged collaboration among Parties to establish and implement regional plans of action to address seabird bycatch, where relevant.
- 11.1.9 Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs
- (i) Endorsed the continued implementation of the current RFMO Engagement Strategy, as updated in **SBWG11 Doc 09**.
 - (ii) Endorsed the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group (**ANNEX 7**) to:
 - (a) review the aims of the current RFMO engagement strategy with a view to updating them as necessary;
 - (b) review the theme-based format of the strategy and decide whether a different format might be preferable;
 - (c) develop an updated list of priority actions concerning advocacy, communications and education to be reviewed on a rolling basis; and
 - (d) report back to SBWG12 and AC14.
- 11.1.10 Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures
- (i) Endorsed and encouraged support for the development of an evidence-based information toolkit by Southern Seabirds Trust for the tuna vessel-to-market supply chain.
 - (ii) Recognised that currently few ACAP Parties and tRFMOs implement the ACAP Best Practice Advice in full and that inadequate reporting in MoP Implementation Reports submitted by Parties makes it difficult to accurately assess the level of uptake of Best Practice Advice.
 - (iii) Considered the range of reporting by Parties and how that might be improved to yield more transparent and robust reporting of Best Practice Advice implementation and bycatch reporting.
 - (iv) Recognised that ACAP participation in the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard review process contributed to substantial improvements to a new version of the standard. The new standard includes requirements on information, management and outcomes for seabird bycatch.

- (v) Encouraged continued ACAP engagement with fishery certification processes.
- 11.1.11 Tools and guidelines
- (i) Supported the update of the remaining Mitigation Fact Sheets to the new simplified format in a phased approach in accordance with the prioritisation identified by SBWG11.
 - (ii) Welcomed development of guidance on safe handling of seabirds in purse seine fisheries (reported in **SBWG11 Doc 14**) and encouraged development of guidelines for other fishing gears.
- 11.1.12 During the presentation of the SBWG report, a number of points were made by delegates regarding particular recommendations; these are summarised below.
- 11.1.13 In relation to seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl and demersal longline fisheries, New Zealand noted the continued challenges in developing effective mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch, e.g. net entanglements in trawl nets remained a substantial issue, as did sink rates of baited hooks on floated demersal longlines. New Zealand was pleased to see the work being progressed by the SBWG on advancing the research on bycatch mitigation methods across the different fisheries to address these challenges, and encouraged uptake of the recommendations presented by SBWG, particularly for floated demersal longlines in small-scale fisheries.
- 11.1.14 AC13 acknowledged the slow progress in advancing mitigation measures for floated demersal longlines in small-scale fisheries. This is related to difficulties in getting researchers and observers onboard vessels, and AC13 recommended Parties be encouraged to help facilitate access to vessels in these small-scale fisheries.
- 11.1.15 The SBWG Co-convenor Dr Jiménez noted there had been additional evidence presented on the use of lasers as a seabird bycatch mitigation tool and the likely damage they could cause to the eyes of seabirds (**SBWG11 Doc 11**) but that they continued to be used in several fisheries globally. The SBWG advice guidelines for trawl, demersal longline and pelagic longlines fisheries were updated to clearly state that the use of high energy lasers should be strongly discouraged.
- 11.1.16 Chile highlighted that through the legal instruments used to regulate their fishing activities, they had now been able to make mitigation measures mandatory in all their trawl fisheries (**SBWG11 Inf 15**) and that this was possible through the evidence and guidance provided by ACAP on best practice and research into effective mitigation measures. Chile noted that the work by the SBWG was critical in being able to demonstrate that lasers, which had been used in their fisheries as a voluntary bycatch mitigation measure, were not effective and should not be used. Chile was very pleased to see this updated advice being included in the ACAP Best Practice Advice.
- 11.1.17 The AC noted there had been substantive discussion at SBWG11 on how to strengthen the message that the combined use of the three mitigation

measures – night setting, branch line weighting, and bird scaring lines – is the most effective way to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fisheries, and welcomed the work by SBWG11 to provide greater clarity, justification and consistency on this point across the Best Practice Advice guidelines for demersal and pelagic longline fisheries.

- 11.1.18 New Zealand suggested that including this improved clarity on the combined use of the three best practice methods in material presented by ACAP to RFMOs might help to encourage stronger adoption of these mitigation measures.
- 11.1.19 The UK highlighted the need to consider how best to communicate amended ACAP Best Practice Advice noting that provision of small or continual changes can lessen their effect.
- 11.1.20 AC13 noted there had been continued discussion at SBWG11 on the divergence between the ACAP Best Practice Advice recommending use of night setting, branch line weighting and bird scaring lines, and the approaches adopted by RFMOs where the use of only two out of three best practice measures is required. AC13 acknowledged the recommendation by SBWG that intersessional work be undertaken to review the range of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used by RFMOs, and to review evidence on the relative effectiveness (noting regional differences), of different combinations of two out of three best practice mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch.
- 11.1.21 The UK highlighted the importance of the first available evidence presented in **SBWG11 Inf 22** on the impact of small-scale fisheries using surface longlines. New Zealand also noted that it would be timely to identify research priorities in the SBWG programme of work to develop measures that could be included in the mitigation toolbox for these fisheries.
- 11.1.22 Recognising these small-scale fisheries were often composed of very large fleets whose activities overlapped with the at-sea distribution of ACAP species, but that they needed adapted seabird bycatch mitigation measures, AC13 encouraged Parties and Range States to:
- i) research the effects on seabirds of small - scale pelagic fisheries, particularly where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats; and
 - ii) develop mitigation measures to reduce any impact these small-scale fisheries may have on ACAP and other seabird species.
- 11.1.23 The Advisory Committee noted the discussion in SBWG11 on non-compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures in a large number of fisheries on both the High Seas and in some EEZs, including those of ACAP Parties (**SBWG11 Inf 24**). In order to address this 'compliance crisis' and elevate ACAPs focus on the implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures, AC13 recommended that the SBWG:
- i) when refining the Pressure-State-Response indicators on seabird bycatch, consider how the Response indicators could be enhanced to provide a reliable measure of compliance; and

- ii) amend the relevant standing item on their agenda to invite submission of papers on this topic and provide feedback to the AC.
- 11.1.24 AC13 offered congratulations to Argentina and Uruguay for progressing the bilateral Regional Action Plan to reduce the interaction of seabirds with fisheries operating in the Treaty Area of Río de la Plata and its Maritime Front; and to Chile for progressing their National Plan of Action – Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds).
- 11.1.25 AC13 was particularly pleased to learn that the Chile NPOA-Seabirds had included best practice advice for trawl fisheries, and welcomed the news that Chile was also working closely with the Albatross Task Force (ATF) to develop effective mitigation measures which could be applied across the purse seine fleet. Chile noted that these mitigation measures would be incorporated into the NPOA-Seabirds once available.
- 11.1.26 AC13 also recalled the Ecuador-Peru Action Plan on the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* as another good example of bilateral action plans that had been developed under ACAP. AC13 noted that they would welcome the update offered from Peru once the review of the current strengths and challenges of the Action Plan was completed.
- 11.1.27 The AC extended sincere gratitude to all the RFMOs that are working on reducing seabird bycatch in their fisheries. In particular, the AC noted that at the recent (May 2023) meeting of the ICCAT Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, it was agreed to start a revision process of ICCAT Recommendation 11-09. AC13 offered congratulations to the ACAP representative and BLI who presented the proposal for review to the Sub-committee.
- 11.1.28 The AC also noted recent decisions by the following RFMOs to update and/or review their seabird-related measures: IATTC, IOTC, SIOFA, SPRFMO, WCPFC.
- 11.1.29 AC13 expressed its serious concern regarding the apparent low implementation level of ACAP Best Practice Advice on seabird bycatch mitigation by Parties. AC13 also noted the challenges in extracting information to accurately assess uptake of mitigation measures from the current format of the MoP Implementation Reports. Therefore, AC13 recommended the questions within MoP Implementation Reports be considered in the intersessional work on ACAP seabird bycatch indicators (see 11.2.3).
- 11.1.30 The AC thanked those SBWG members who had contributed to the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard review, and in particular the substantial input from BirdLife International to this process. The AC noted that this review had led to substantial improvements to the standard and recognition of the need for protection of seabirds in the certification process.
- 11.1.31 BirdLife International welcomed the development of the toolkit for tuna vessel-to-market supply chain by the Southern Seabirds Trust and the New Zealand Department of Conservation (NZ DOC). BLI noted that it had been developing some similar materials and offered to work with Southern Seabirds and NZ

DOC to ensure outputs were consistent and complementary in advice and content.

- 11.1.32 The Co-convenor of the SBWG recognised that progress in all these tasks was only possible due to the considerable preparatory work during the intersessional period by numerous working group members, authors of papers and other participants, and the Secretariat, as well as the work of the translators, which enhances communications between members. The Co-convenor extended his gratitude for these contributions.

11.2 Report from the Workshop on Bycatch Data Collection

- 11.2.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Dr Igor Debski, introduced the report of the Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop held on 14 May 2023, immediately prior to SBWG11. This report (Section 11.1, **AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1**) outlines the potential actions that ACAP could take to address identified challenges faced by Parties in reporting data to inform the current Pressure indicators on seabird bycatch, as well as areas for where and how the current Pressure-State-Response indicators could be refined. It was noted that some of these indicators could be populated and reported upon after relatively simple refinement, while others may need more work.

- 11.2.2 AC13 recognised the importance of this workshop for progressing the Agreement and being able to measure whether ACAP's objectives were being achieved. It was noted that it would be particularly valuable if indicators demonstrating the success of ACAP could be presented in 2024, which marks the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement.

- 11.2.3 The AC thanked the SBWG Convenors, Vice-convenors and the Secretariat for preparing this report, agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the SBWG, and took note of this advice when developing the AC Work Programme:

- (i) Endorsed the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to discuss key challenges in data collection and reporting (see **ANNEX 7**).
- (ii) Encouraged Parties to hold a workshop between their fisheries data specialists, managers and those responsible for reporting to ACAP to improve data flow to ACAP.
- (iii) Endorsed ACAP support of these workshops, such as through provision of expert advice, where feasible, and encouraged Parties to share their experiences with other Parties to maximise lessons learned.
- (iv) Conduct an intersessional review to refine the State-Pressure-Response indicators so they can be better implemented by ACAP Parties and provide improved visibility on the use of Best Practice Advice (see **ANNEX 7**).

- 11.2.4 Further, AC13 encouraged submission of relevant seabird data from Range States and APEC member economies to the ACAP Data Portal and to contribute to the intersessional activities approved by the AC.

- 12 JOINT MEETING OF THE SEABIRD BYCATCH AND POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS WORKING GROUPS**
- 12.1 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups**
- 12.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group, Dr Marco Favero, introduced the report of the Joint Meeting of SBWG11 and PaCSWG7 held on 18 May 2023. It was highlighted that the report of the meeting ([AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1](#)) included recommendations concerning the Communications Strategy, and noted that those would be discussed together with **AC13 Inf 03** (see 12.1.16 - 12.1.23).
- 12.1.2 The report covered the discussions and recommendations from the joint meeting, which was held to optimise interactions between the two working groups, as recommended by AC11. The joint meeting was convened by SBWG Co-convenors, Drs Debski and Jiménez, SBWG Vice-convenors Drs Seco Pon and Gianuca, PaCSWG Co-convenors Mrs Patricia Serafini and Dr Marco Favero, and PaCSWG Vice-convenor Professor Richard Phillips.
- 12.1.3 The Advisory Committee agreed the following advice based on recommendations from the Joint Meeting and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:
- 12.1.4 Review of tracking studies for risk assessments
- (i) Use the information on time spent in different national and high seas areas, and in RFMOs and CCAMLR areas to develop a targeted engagement strategy to promote the conservation of the ACAP High Priority Populations.
 - (ii) Encouraged Parties and the Secretariat to engage with Angola, Namibia, and also the Benguela Current Commission, given the importance of their waters for ACAP High Priority Populations.
 - (iii) Encouraged development of tools for assessing interim, quantitative population objectives for Favourable Conservation Status, and identifying regional management units for ACAP-listed species, starting with the High Priority Populations.
 - (iv) Encouraged the use and contributions to development of user-friendly tools for spatial analysis of seabird-fisheries overlap at species and population levels.
 - (v) Encouraged the further development of ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap analysis.
- 12.1.5 Offshore energy infrastructure developments and associated risks
- (i) Recognised the potential adverse effects of offshore wind farm (OWF) infrastructure on albatrosses and petrels.
 - (ii) Recognised the importance of undertaking and sharing research to improve the understanding of the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on albatrosses and petrels.

- (iii) Requested that Parties and Observers supply information relating to the effects of offshore wind farm development on ACAP species or other similar seabirds to the Secretariat.
- 12.1.6 Brazil commented that there were many recent proposals for OWF development in Brazil. Brazil had produced a [book chapter](#) in 2022 on this issue addressing potential impacts, recommendations for OWF licensing, and implications for conservation of seabirds and shorebirds..
- 12.1.7 New Zealand also reported strong interest in OWFs; since much of this discussion related to spatial planning, evidence on bird distribution was essential.
- 12.1.8 Australia advised that several OWF declaration areas are being proposed in its jurisdiction and current work is considering environmental impact assessment approaches for OWFs and the monitoring of effects including cumulative effects. Australia considered that sharing knowledge about OWF among ACAP Parties was important to inform the conservation of ACAP species.
- 12.1.9 Chile suggested that ACAP could develop a document to help guide assessments prior to OWF approvals.
- 12.1.10 ACAP High Priority Populations
- (i) Encouraged the use of, and contribution to, the further development of tools and guidelines to address spatial analysis of seabird-fisheries overlap, at ACAP High Priority Population level, especially for RFMOs and CCAMLR.
- (ii) Requested that Parties use the draft reporting template for High Priority Populations (ANNEX 2, **AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1**) and implement it at the next meeting of the Working Groups and AC14 in 2024.
- 12.1.11 South Africa remarked that populations not currently considered High Priority Populations may also be impacted by fisheries. A population of Indian Yellow-nosed albatrosses *Thalassarche carteri* on Prince Edward Island was an example of a small population not well understood and which might well be adversely affected by fisheries or under other threats.
- 12.1.12 There was some discussion on the High Priority Population criteria. The UK pointed out that the criteria had been debated thoroughly at the time of development and if there were any changes to these then PaCSWG would need to reassess all populations.
- 12.1.13 List of candidate species
- (i) Noted the need to further refine the criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species for inclusion on Annex 1.
- (ii) Noted that from now on, the Taxonomy Working Group, in consultation with other Working Groups, will lead on updating the weighted list of species for inclusion on Annex 1, including further intersessional work to refine the criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species.

- 12.1.14 The AC endorsed a recommendation that a joint meeting of SBWG12 and PaCSWG8 precede AC14 to further discuss cross-cutting issues.
- 12.1.15 AC13 thanked Dr Favero for presenting the Report on behalf of the Joint Meeting, Convenors and Vice-convenors.
- 12.1.16 The Secretariat presented **AC13 Inf 03** and recalled that the development of a Communications Strategy had emerged from AC11, with an initial focus on improving communication about bycatch mitigation. After AC11, New Zealand had provided in-kind assistance to the Secretariat in the form of a communications specialist, who prepared some initial guidance on a Communications Strategy and review, which had been presented intersessionally to the Advisory Committee in 2020 and then discussed at AC12. As a result of these initial discussions, a proposal was included in the AC report to MoP7 and included in the Budget for 2023 - 2025 for the part-time contracting of a Communications Adviser for ACAP.
- 12.1.17 The Communications Adviser (Ms Bree Forer) asked AC13 to recognise the invaluable communications work of Mr John Cooper (former Honorary Information Officer and now Emeritus Information Officer) and acknowledged his support. She also thanked the Secretariat for their warm reception and support, and noted that it had been extremely useful for her to be at this AC meeting to hear from the working groups and meet everyone. She noted that **AC13 Inf 03** provided a framework for a Communications Strategy and this AC meeting had identified additional details that were needed.
- 12.1.18 Argentina stated that, as an Information Paper, **AC13 Inf 03** was not translated into Spanish, which for such an important paper was disappointing. If available in Spanish, these kinds of papers would be useful for distribution to interested groups domestically.
- 12.1.19 AC13 requested that papers addressing the Communication Strategy in the future be presented as working papers.
- 12.1.20 Based on recommendations from the Joint Meeting, the Advisory Committee agreed the following advice on communication and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme:
- (i) To enhance communication with specific audiences, especially RFMOs and fisheries, developing dedicated material on conservation status and highlighting the responsibilities of these management bodies for addressing the conservation crisis for the ACAP High Priority Populations.
 - (ii) To create a group within ACAP to improve communication of the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels, and to further refine and implement the communication strategy (see **ANNEX 7**).
- 12.1.21 The UK suggested that possibly two separate groups would be needed, one focused on communications with fishers and fisheries stakeholders, and one on a more general audience. Alternatively, two sub-groups could be formed in due course.

- 12.1.22 Chile expressed the view that there were three important communications areas; Parties, RFMOs, and general public. Before establishing groups, the AC needed to identify what the ambition for each should be.
- 12.1.23 New Zealand reminded the AC that the Work Programme includes urgent tasks on Seabird Bycatch communications products and that these should run in parallel with the activities of the communication group.

13 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13.1 Advisory Committee Reporting to the Meeting of the Parties

- 13.1.1 The AC Chair presented [AC13 Doc 17](#), which proposed a review of how the Advisory Committee reported to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP). The AC Chair referred to the various reports presented to the MoP and the ACAP instruments which established the framework for such reporting, including the Agreement and Resolution 1.5 (2004). Since 2004, the number, structure and complexity of reports had changed significantly. Furthermore, Article IX (6) (d) (i) envisaged that the Advisory Committee would keep its reporting arrangements under review. The Chair accordingly proposed that the AC undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP. He further suggested that the Advisory Committee establish an intersessional working group of Committee members, guided by Terms of Reference drafted and agreed at AC13, which would progress the review and report to AC14.
- 13.1.2 The AC agreed that such a review would be valuable. Several delegations (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, and UK) agreed to take part in the intersessional group (see **ANNEX 7**).
- 13.1.3 New Zealand noted that outcomes from SBWG11 about reporting on bycatch mitigation would be relevant to this group's work.
- 13.1.4 The AC agreed that, if possible, a period of intersessional consultation with the AC would be followed by seeking AC approval of the approach in advance of AC14.

13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025

- 13.2.1 The 2023 - 2025 Work Programme (**AC13 Doc 13**) was reviewed during the meetings of SBWG11 and PaCSWG7, and was further discussed by AC13. Completed actions were noted and further actions were decided upon. Some actions were amended to better describe the topic or task. A number of possible opportunities for small grants or secondments were also noted. An updated version of the AC Work Programme for the current triennium was agreed (**ANNEX 4**) as were the Terms of Reference for the intersessional correspondence groups (**ANNEX 7**).
- 13.2.2 The AC Work Programme provides indicative costs and time required to complete the tasks. AC13 noted that 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. It was noted that these staffing resources are, in most cases, provided *pro bono*.

13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme

- 13.3.1 The Secretariat advised that a successful round of Secondments was held in 2022 - 2023. [AC13 Inf 02](#) summarises these proposals, as well as progress with recent Small Grants and Secondments which are yet to be completed. Many projects continued to be delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several projects contributed to discussions at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, and the joint WG meeting, highlighting the value of both schemes. In the last 10 years, 69 applications for Small Grants were assessed during four funding rounds, with 30 proposals awarded a total of \$490,809. Many projects included considerable in-kind support. Over this period, 11 of 13 Parties forwarded applications for funding.
- 13.3.2 The AC highlighted the success of both the Small Grant and Secondment schemes in terms of capacity building as well as seabird conservation research.
- 13.3.3 Calls for applications for both programmes are usually held following an AC meeting. Two more calls for applications are envisaged in the current triennium, in 2023 and 2024 (see 6.1.9).

14 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES

- 14.1 The AC Chair reported that no proposals had been submitted to list new species in Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- 14.2 AC13 noted the potential listing of some gadfly petrels under CMS.

15 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF AC OFFICERS

- 15.1 The AC Chair reminded the meeting that all the Committee officer positions concluded at the end of the current meeting, but some were eligible to be considered for re-election. Elections would be required to elect officers for the next period, which would conclude at the end of the AC meeting after the Eighth Meeting of Parties (AC15). He asked in turn for nominations:
- 15.2 Co-convenors: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Chile nominated Mrs Patricia Pereira Serafini (Brazil), and the UK nominated Dr Marco Favero (Argentina), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.3 Vice-convenor: Population and Conservation Status Working Group: Argentina nominated Professor Richard Phillips (UK), who was elected unopposed.

- 15.4 Co-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Australia nominated Dr Igor Debski (New Zealand), and Brazil nominated Dr Sebastián Jiménez (Uruguay), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.5 Vice-convenors: Seabird Bycatch Working Group: Peru nominated Dr Dimas Gianuca (BirdLife International) and Australia nominated Dr Megan Tierney (UK), who were both elected unopposed.
- 15.6 Convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: South Africa proposed Mr Mark Tasker (UK), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.7 Vice-convenor, Taxonomy Working Group: the UK proposed Dr Alan Tennyson (NZ), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.8 Vice-chair, Advisory Committee: Uruguay nominated Mrs Tatiana Neves (Brazil), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.9 Chair, Advisory Committee: New Zealand nominated Dr Mike Double (Australia), who was elected unopposed.
- 15.10 On behalf of the outgoing SBWG Co-viceconvenor, Dr Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Argentina conveyed a message that Dr Seco Pon regrets that other commitments prevented him from standing again as SBWG Vice-convenor, but that he remains a member of the SBWG and hopes to have the opportunity to hold another AC officer post in the future.
- 15.11 AC13 congratulated all the elected AC officials on their appointments and thanked the out-going official for his contribution to ACAP's work.

16 FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

16.1 Timing and Venue

- 16.1.1 Peru offered to host AC14 in late August – early September 2024, in its capital, Lima.
- 16.1.2 The Advisory Committee thanked Peru and warmly welcomed this offer.

16.2 Draft Agenda

- 16.2.1 A draft agenda for AC14 was reviewed by the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 6**) and will be forwarded to AC members for their consideration ahead of AC14.

17 OTHER BUSINESS

- 17.1 The UK indicated that an amendment to Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure (concerning Meeting Documents), drawn up in consultation with the Chair and Australia, would be circulated for consideration and possible adoption intersessionally.

- 17.2 AC 13 recalled that World Albatross Day is celebrated on 19 June each year in commemoration of the signing of the Agreement in 2001. The theme for 2023 is plastic pollution.
- 17.3 AC 13 noted that MoP7 agreed to develop a publication celebrating ACAP's Achievements in the First 20 Years 2004–2024. Work on the publication is being coordinated by Australia, Ecuador, the United Kingdom, and the Secretariat. It will closely align with the earlier publication celebrating ACAP's Achievements in the First Ten Years 2004 – 2014.
- 17.4 AC 13 noted that the [7th International Albatross and Petrel Conference](#) (IAPC7) will be held in Ensenada, Mexico, 20 – 26 May 2024. IAPC last met in 2016.

18 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

- 18.1 The meeting adopted the report of AC13.

19 CLOSING REMARKS

- 19.1 The Chair thanked all delegations, including Observers, for their input to the Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings. He summarised some key outcomes from AC13:
- (i) A revised Advisory Committee Work Programme and Secretariat Work Programme.
 - (ii) Outcomes from MoP7 noted.
 - (iii) Establishment of six intersessional groups on: AC reporting to the MoP; bycatch indicators; bycatch data, ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy; ACAP's Communication Strategy; and H5N1 avian influenza.
 - (iv) Endorsement of updates to Best Practice Advice on Seabird Bycatch.
 - (v) Close consideration of bycatch data needs.
 - (vi) Greater emphasis on compliance with ACAP's Best Practice Advice for bycatch mitigation and the potential need for other indicators to enable more confidence in compliance with mitigation measures.
 - (vii) The re-establishment of the Species Assessments Coordinating Group.
 - (viii) Discussion of emerging threats, especially OWFs and avian influenza.
 - (ix) A draft agenda and venue for AC14 (Peru).
 - (x) Renewal of the appointment of the current officials occupying most of the Convenor and Vice-convenor positions, with new appointees to one SBWG Co-viceconvenor position and to the TWG Vice-convenor position.
 - (xi) Renewal of the mandates of current holders of the positions of Chair and Vice-chair.

- 19.2 The Chair thanked everybody who had taken part in and supported the meeting: the Working Group convenors and Vice-convenors, the Secretariat, the technical assistant, the interpreters, the catering, reception and security officials at the venue, and everyone else involved in meeting organisation. He welcomed the new appointees to ACAP positions, and thanked the Vice-chair for agreeing to stay on. He highlighted the sterling assistance by UK colleagues in hosting the meeting.
- 19.3 The Vice-chair expressed her thanks and those of all the delegations to the Chair for his excellent steering of the meeting.
- 19.4 The Chair closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 02	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 04	List of Meeting Documents	2	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 05	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 06	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 07	Report of Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC13 Doc 08 Rev 1	2023 Interim Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 09	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	9.1	PaCSWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 10 Rev 1	Report of Taxonomy Working Group	10.1	TWG
AC13 Doc 11 Rev 1	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	11.1	SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 12 Rev 1	Report of Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	12.1	PaCSWG Convenors, SBWG Convenors
AC13 Doc 13	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025	13.2	Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair
AC13 Doc 14	Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025	5.2	Secretariat
AC13 Doc 15	MoP7 outcomes relevant to the Advisory Committee Work Programme	8 & 13	Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat
AC13 Doc 16	Identification of conservation actions to booster the implementation of the MoU between ACAP and IAC	5.1 & 13.2	IAC Scientific Committee, IAC Secretary, PaCSWG Co-convenor
AC13 Doc 17	Opportunities to enhance Advisory Committee reporting to the Meeting of the Parties	13.1	Advisory Committee Chair

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC13 Inf 01	Agreement Budget 2023 - 2025	8 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 02	Small Grants and Secondment Programmes supported by the AC	13.3	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 03	ACAP communication strategy update	5 & 13	Secretariat
AC13 Inf 04	The Tasman Sea as a candidate High Seas Marine Protected Area	7.2	BirdLife International

ANNEX 3. AC13 AGENDA

AC13 AGENDA	
1.	Opening Remarks
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
3.	Rules of Procedure
4.	Report of the Depositary
5.	ACAP Secretariat 5.1 Activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025
6.	Agreement’s Financial Matters 6.1 Financial Report
7.	Observer Reports 7.1 Reports from Observers to AC13 7.2 Implementing the UN High Seas Treaty: Tasman Sea Marine Protected Area Proposal
8.	Report from the Seventh Meeting of the Parties
9.	Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels 9.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
10.	Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels 10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
11.	Seabird Bycatch 11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group 11.2 Report from workshop on bycatch data collection
12.	Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups 12.1 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
13.	Advisory Committee 13.1 Advisory Committee reporting to the MoP 13.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 13.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
14.	Listing of New Species
15.	Election and Appointment of AC Officers

16. Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee 16.1 Timing and Venue 16.2 Draft Agenda
17. Other Business
18. Adoption of Report
19. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

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. The Work Programme was adopted by MoP6. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, joint WG meeting and AC13 are highlighted in blue font. Any responsible groups or subgroups identified for specific tasks remain open to additional participants.

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.)	∅	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	2023-2025	2 weeks	∅	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	2023-2025	2 months	≈ 5,000	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.	∅	Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.	∅	Encourage ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN. Maintain species reference table with scientific and common names across multiple languages.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
1.6	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritization. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOC taxonomy. Criteria and scoring for the weighted list of candidate species will be further refined intersessionally via correspondence.
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, BirdLife International	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.	0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders 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 AC14.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG leads Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee updates	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	4,000 10,000 (core)	Costs for BirdLife to update maps, possible design update Reports on progress provided to each PaCSWG. Working with Lead editors
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing		12,000 14,000 (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.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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. (now task 5.15)	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000 (€€€)	Review at AC14
2.8	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Review at each AC Meeting
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 AC14.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.	0	Opportunity for secondments and small grants.
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2023 and 2024	12 weeks	0	
2.12	Develop new guidelines for priority issues	SG Subcommittee PaCSWG, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing	?	?	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . E.g colony 'management', acoustic monitoring, remote sensing. Review at each AC.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic iv) light pollution	PaCSWG	Ongoing	?		Opportunity for secondments and small grants. Develop ways to assess, model, monitor, and mitigate impacts including cumulative impacts on seabirds. Provide relevant information to the bibliographic database. i) Review availability of albatross and petrel flight height data.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
2.14	Maintain the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing		5,000	Create expert group (see ANNEX 7). Guidelines to cover disease risk assessment for ACAP species, colony risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak. Translation costs included under Task 2.5.
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (SBWG10-Doc-07 Rev 4 SBWG11 Doc 09) 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. Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	a) 18 weeks p.a. b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) 30,000 p.a. (euro) From 2025 37,500 p.a. 3,000 (euro)	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. Translation costs. These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes.
3.1 a)	Review and update the RFMO engagement strategy	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastian Jimenez. AC Intersessional Group.	AC14			Establish an intersessional group (see ANNEX 7). Engage with IAC (lead Marco Favero, Andres Domingo, Tatiana Neves, Brazil).

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
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, Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer Igor Debski, Verónica Iriarte , Leandro Tamini	Ongoing			Improve consistency between documents. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences, of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice.
3.3	Further development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries. Formalise ACAP Advice document for the purse seine mitigation advice. This advice document will include introductory and explanatory text, and will be made available on the ACAP website. Finalise ACAP guidelines for removing entangled seabirds from nets (purse seine and trawl). (now Task 3.18)	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help) Jonathon Barrington, Cristian Suazo, JP Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 (core)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document. and guidelines, plus guidelines design.

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) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures.	SBWG, BirdLife International, Secretariat. Leads: Bird scaring lines: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal longline line weighting: Barry Baker Trawl cable, including net monitoring, mitigation: Marcelo García Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	40,000 15,000 (€€€ , for translation, and for new factsheets)	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.6	Make available and disseminate ACAP advice on improving safety when hauling branch lines during pelagic longline operations.	SBWG, RFMO Leads	Ongoing			Note studies done with 40, 45 and 60g, not presently feasible to test 80g. Completed
3.7	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat Igor Debski to lead initially. AC Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7).	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (€€€)	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) Workshop pre SBWG11.
3.7 a)	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead. AC Intersessional Group				Establish an intersessional correspondence group to address key challenges (see ANNEX 7). Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Develop guidelines on bycatch data analysis to complement existing data collection guidelines
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2023-2024	1 week	5,000 (€€€)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible workshop . i) revise the framework for future use at SBWG11, taking account of risk assessment initiatives recently completed or currently underway. ii) update for MoP8.
3.9	Further development/update of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries. Make advice (toolboxes) available on ACAP website and facilitate dissemination of advice.	SBWG, Lead: Jeff Mangel	Ongoing		2,000 (€€€, for translation)	Continued development of the toolbox to provide advice on mitigation options available for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Good opportunity for secondment . Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1.a).

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.9 a)	Understand and mitigate the effects on seabirds of small-scale pelagic fisheries, in particular where the mainline is attached directly to surface floats	SBWG				Opportunity for secondments and small grants
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries.	SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks		Through liaison with external initiatives. It is anticipated that the first step of this process will be a comprehensive literature review of all gillnet mitigation research across taxa to be compiled for SBWG11, and that ACAP Parties contribute towards this work, as appropriate.
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Lead: Eric Gilman	Ongoing			Guidelines were developed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1a)
3.12	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds	SBWG	Ongoing	20 weeks		Completed
3.13	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales.	SBWG	Ongoing			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments – secondment opportunity. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress reported at SBWG9, and will inform further actions.
3.14	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information (Also see Task 5.7)	SBWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		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.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.15	Prepare a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG intersessional group	2023			Possible secondment
3.16	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing		10,000	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Review current status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.
3.17	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG	2024-2025			Opportunity for secondments and small grants Includes assessment of the effectiveness of weighted hook designs, and use of non-toxic alternatives to lead when adding weight to the hook.
3.18	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG, Verónica Iriate, Cristián Suazo, Jonathon Barrington, Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat	Ongoing	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.19	Support the development of an evidence-based seabird safe toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	2024-2025			Share resources and provide expert advice.

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 International	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, Secretariat	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	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, 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	2024	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	Intersessional group on Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1. (now Task 1.6)	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week	0	Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed (TWG lead).
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks	0	
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.	0	Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat (HSI to assist by providing paper)
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2024	3 weeks	0	Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.
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 and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2024		0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement. Intersessional group (see ANNEX 7) will develop a plan for the number and structure of AC related reports to MoP8.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.11	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions, and interactions, 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 and CCAMLR.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties, BirdLife International	Ongoing	16 weeks	10,000 (grant)	Opportunities for small grants. Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP High Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a (cost)	Developing, producing and distributing WAD materials e.g. logo, posters, brochure. Support other means of promoting WAD, e.g competitions etc.
5.13	Enhance the communication of the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP's effective solutions	Lead Communications Advisor. AC Intersessional Group (See ANNEX 7).			5,000 for a seconded/contractee to participate in the process	Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communication Strategy for AC14.
5.14	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Parties, Science Officer	Ongoing			Possible small grant opportunity. Support research and monitoring into the effects of climate change on life history, breeding behaviour and success, breeding habitat condition, and disease prevalence, etc. Identify ways to increase the resilience of albatrosses and petrels to these effects. Cooperative and coordinated international responses are required to address critical research needs.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.15	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	2024	1 week p.a.	1,000	Review tracking indicators at AC14
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. SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

The Work Programme was adopted by MoP7. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, joint WG meeting and AC13 are highlighted in blue.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1	SUPPORT FOR MoP, AC & WG MEETINGS			AC13 + WGs		AC14 + WGs		MoP8		
1.1	Undertake meeting arrangements.	Article X.a								
	▪ selection of venue		Exec Secretary	3	3,682	3	3,778	3	3,876	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, Contract	35		35	1,500	35	1,500	Cost for assistance with Budget preparations
	▪ co-ordination of meeting documents		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary,	10		10		5		
	▪ drafting of implementation report		Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20		10		
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
	▪ coordination with service provider		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	5		5		5		
	▪ posting of documents		Sci Officer	5		5		3		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
1.5	Support & operation of meetings	Article X.a								
	▪ travel for meetings		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	8	6,312	8	6,476	8	6,644	4 days per meeting, airfares
	▪ travel for meetings		Contract	4	3,156	4	3,394	4	3,482	Airfares
	▪ attendance at meeting		Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	32	7,890	32	8,095	16	4,416	Accommodation and allowances
	▪ attendance at meeting		Contract	12	7,364	12	7,555	6	4,416	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		
	▪ 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, Comms Contract	90		90		90		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain/update website links and publications 		Sci & Info Officers, Comms Contract	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management of ACAP Facebook page 		Info Officer, Comms Contract	5		5		5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of scientific material 		Sci Officer, Comms Contract	10		10		10		
2.4	Update and maintain the ACAP website	Article X.h	Sci Officer & Contracts	20	8,416	20	8,635	20	8,860	
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;								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review data, liaise with stakeholders, amend database, collate information and draft consolidated reports 	Article VII (1) c); Article VIII (10)	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary			20				
2.6	Prepare a report on Secretariat activities for AC and MoP meetings	Article X f)	Exec Secretary	2		2		2		
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, Sci Officer	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, Sci Officer			2		1		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
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	5,260	25	5,397	25	5,537	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	31		31	10,000	31	4,000	Cost for map updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French 	AC WP Task 2.5	Sci Officer & Contract	3	4,000	3	4,000 6,000	3	4,000	
	<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 5.15	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		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide reports on activities to AC meetings 	AC WP Task 2.11	Sci Officer	30		30				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new guidelines for priority issues 	AC WP Task 2.12	Sci Officer	2		2		2		
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 (SBWG10 Doc 07 SBWG11 Doc 09) 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. Review and update RFMO engagement strategy. Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting and present to RFMOs. 	AC WP Task 3.1, 3.1 a)	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer, Contracts	70	30,000	70	30,000	70	30,000 37,500	Attend all relevant meetings as per RFMO Interaction Plan.
					1,000		1,000		1,000	Translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise ACAP Develop guidelines for the safe removal of seabirds removing entangled in nets (purse-seine, and-trawl, gillnet) 	AC WP Task 3.3 3.18	Sci Officer	5	4,000		8,000			Design and translation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) line weighting safety practices 2) updated advice on bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 3) fact sheets dealing with ACAP Best Practice measures. 	AC WP Task 3.4	Sci Officer	5		5	40,000 15,000	5		Design and translation costs.

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further pursue approaches to improve the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. <p>Continue to develop and refine communication strategy and products to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Reinvalidate advice ⇒ Communicate with different audiences (e.g. presentations, videos, other multi-media) to include success stories and information aimed at overcoming impediments to implementation <p>Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.</p> <p>Continue to engage with certification schemes, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Contributing to reviews of standards on bycatch considerations to encourage these to be informed by ACAP advice. ⇒ Providing information to sub-group Parties and others to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments 	AC WP Task 3.5	Sci Officer, Exec Secretary, Contracts	10		10		10		<p>Possible secondment to investigate further specific communication areas and to supplement work of any part-time consultant that the Secretariat might employ as communications adviser</p> <p>Secretariat to continue to engage as required consultant who has already provided advice on this process.</p> <p>Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the SBWG sub-group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting of bycatch indicators and associated data, refine methodological approaches and reporting as required 	AC WP Task 3.7	Sci Officer, Contract	20	10,000	20	10,000	20	10,000	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information 	AC WP Task 3.14	Sci Officer	5		5		5		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
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		
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, Comms Contract	2		2		2		Parties to supply further information as available
3.13	Support for World Albatross Day	AC WP Task 5.12	Info Officer, Comms Contract	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	Funds for developing, producing and distributing WAD material
3.14	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels	AC WP Task 5.14	Sci Officer							

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
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	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	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	10,520	15	10,704	15	11,075	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
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	15,780	10	16,190	10	16,611	Airfares, accommodation, allowances
4.5	Facilitate the accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Article X d), k), AC WP 4.2	Exec Secretary	5		5		5		Work with lead Parties and other Parties as needed.
4.6	Compilation of the triennial implementation report.	Article IX 6 d)	Sci Officer, Exec Sec			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		

Task No.	Topic/Task	Mandate	Officer	2023		2024		2025		Action/Details
				Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	Time (days)	Funds (AUD)	
5.2	Support secondments programme to aid capacity building	MoP2	Exec Secretary, Sci Officer	10		10		10		

ANNEX 6. DRAFT AC14 AGENDA

DRAFT AC14 AGENDA	
1. Opening Remarks	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Rules of Procedure	
4. Report of the Depositary	
5. ACAP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Activities undertaken in 2023-2024 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 – 2025 5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028
6. Agreement's Financial Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Financial Report 6.2 Agreement Budget 2026 – 2028
7. Observer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Reports from Observers to AC14
8. Report on the Implementation of the Agreement	
9. Reporting to the Meeting of Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1 Advisory Committee Report to MoP8 9.2 Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP 9.3 Process for the review of AC reports to MoP
10. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
11. Seabird Bycatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group
12. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
13. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
14. Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee 14.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2025 14.3 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028 14.4 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme

15. Listing of New Species
16. Election and Appointment of AC Officers
17. Eighth Meeting of the Parties 17.1 Timing and Venue 17.2 Draft Provisional Agenda
18. Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee 18.1 Timing and Venue 18.2 Draft Agenda
19. Any Other Business
20. Adoption of Report
21. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS 2023 – 2025

The following intersessional groups were established at AC13.

Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
AC Reporting to the MoP Intersessional Group	13.1.4	5.10	AC Chair, AC Vice-chair	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, UK, HSI	<p>Recognising the expectation stated in Article IX (6) d) i) of the Agreement, and noting that the Agreement will have been in force for 20 years in 2024, the Advisory Committee (AC13) agreed to undertake a review of its reporting to the MoP.</p> <p>The Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a plan for the number and structure of AC-related reports to future MoPs so the reports: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. communicate issues effectively and succinctly; b. are well structured; c. avoid duplication of information or topics; d. aggregate related issues; e. recommendations are presented with supporting text. <p>While revised reporting formats must be tailored for the MoP audience, the reports should ideally be appropriate for wider consumption to enhance within-Party communications, as well as engagement with other organisations and the public.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Seek feedback from the AC intersessionally on the planned approach on the number and structure of AC-related reports to the MoP. 3. In close collaboration with the Secretariat, implement the revised approach to AC-related reports to the MoP and submit the draft papers to AC14. 	Intersessional consultation with AC, AC14
Bycatch data and reporting Intersessional Group	11.2.3	3.7a)	Megan Tierney	Call for participants	<p>The Intersessional Group will discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing guidance on methods, possibly a data collection and analysis toolbox; 2. How to address barriers to lack of capacity and guidance; 3. Estimating confidence intervals as well as total bycatch and bycatch rates; and 4. Developing a range of cases studies to inform discussion on capacity limitations and to contribute to the development of possible solutions to Party- specific priorities. 	AC14

Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Bycatch indicators Intersessional Group	11.2.3	3.7	Igor Debski to lead initially	Mark Tasker, Jonathon Barrington, Barry Baker, Mike Double, Igor Debski, Marco Favero, HSI	The Intersessional Group will: Conduct an intersessional review to refine the State-Pressure-Response indicators so they can be better implemented by ACAP Parties and provide improved visibility on the use of Best Practice Advice.	AC14
RFMO Engagement Strategy Intersessional Group	11.1.9	3.1a)	Dimas Gianuca, Sebastián Jiménez	BLI, Marco Favero, Mark Tasker, Megan Tierney, Secretariat, Andres Domingo, HSI, Patricia Serafini, Mi Ae Kim, Tatiana Neves, Jonathon Barrington, Jose Carlos Baez	Recognising that MoP7 had given great priority to successful engagement with the RFMOs, and noting the SBWG11 recommendation 2 from item 14.1, the Advisory Committee agreed undertake a review of the RFMO Engagement Strategy. The ICG will: 1. review the aims of the current RFMO engagement strategy with a view to updating them as necessary; 2. review the theme-based format of the strategy and decide whether a different format might be preferable; 3. develop an updated list of priority actions concerning advocacy, communications and education to be reviewed on a rolling basis; and 4. report back to SBWG12 and AC14.	AC14
ACAP Communication Strategy Intersessional Group	12.1.11	5.13	Bree Forrer	UK, Brazil, others TBC	In its 13th Meeting the ACAP Advisory Committee decided on the creation of an intersessional group to enhance the communication of the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels and of ACAP effective solutions. This would be achieved through supporting the Communications Advisor in the refinement of the Agreement's Communication Strategy. The Intersessional Group will: 1. Identify and prioritise audiences to communicate the conservation crisis that albatross and petrel species listed in Annex 1 are facing and proven ACAP solutions (ie. seabird bycatch mitigation measures); 2. Recommend and prioritise ways of effectively communicating with various audience segments, including the production of targeted communications materials (such as advice products, presentations, other media) as well as taking account of success stories; 3. Develop and recommend implementation of specific actions for highest priority target audiences; 4. Develop ways of assessing the success of the ACAP communications; 5. Report to AC14.	AC14

Intersessional Group	AC13 reference	AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
High Pathogenicity H5N1 Avian Influenza Intersessional Group	9.1.8	2.14	Patricia Serafini	Helen Baker, others TBC	<p>In its 13th Meeting, the ACAP Advisory Committee decided on the creation of an intersessional group of experts on epidemiology, disease risk assessment and management to be formed that could advise ACAP on issues related to the ongoing high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak.</p> <p>The ICG will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile up-to-date information and revise the ACAP guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak; 2. Recommend and prioritise ways of effectively communicating the risk to decision-makers and stakeholders within ACAP, including advice products; 3. Prepare further documents and disease risk assessments, as necessary; 4. Report to AC14. 	As needed, AC14

ANNEX 8. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CANADA

Thank you to the ACAP Secretariat, meeting participants, and our hosts in Edinburgh.

Mexico, the United States, and **Canada** have been working together under the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, as part of the recently formed Trilateral Seabird Bycatch Working Group. This Working Group will present a proposed work plan and seek the endorsement of the Migratory Birds Working Table co-chairs at the trilateral meetings in June, 2023. Proposed short term actions, to focus initial efforts, include:

- Develop an inventory of existing actions that address seabird bycatch within each country.
- Develop an inventory of needs (e.g., scientific knowledge, data, etc.) for each country, and identify which needs may benefit from tri-national collaboration.
- Identify where best practices have already been developed (e.g., ACAP best practice for bycatch mitigation in longline fisheries) and identify other fisheries of interest.
- Several other work plan actions have been proposed, including to identify international agreements and mechanisms for involvement, with an initial focus on strengthening engagement with ACAP, recognizing my (Dr. Caroline Fox) presence as Observer at ACAP follows years of engagement by Mr. Ken Morgan, on behalf of Canada.

In Canada, seabird research and monitoring is diverse, with seabird bycatch concerns, including those for albatrosses and petrels, recognized in all three oceans (Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic). Recent efforts include but are not limited to: (1) an intensive seabird at-sea survey program initiated in the Pacific region in 2020 is due for completion in 2024, this compliments efforts to provide seabird distribution and abundance information in Atlantic and Arctic regions; (2) predictive modelling for Pink-footed Shearwater occurrence in the Pacific region has recently been completed, and similar efforts for Great and Sooty Shearwaters are ongoing in Atlantic region; (3) an analysis of demersal longline groundfish fishing effort data and associated seabird bycatch in the Pacific region, spanning 2012-2021 is underway; and (4) in Atlantic region, areas with high bycatch risk are being identified by overlaying fishery landings with seabird densities weighted by their vulnerability to bycatch in different fishery sectors. We hope to share findings soon and are working to advance conservation priorities.

ANNEX 9. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NAMIBIAACAP accession progress

1. ACAP ratification was tabled in the National Assembly and Parliament.
2. However, due to top management reshuffling or top-leadership transition, the ministry had 3 different ministers to date and the accession process was affected by this staff turnover. The process is still with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, under the Directorate of Policy Planning and Economics (PPE) and it is not clear that the issue was taken further for Parliament approval and ratification by the previous ministers.
3. Provide another motivation to the new minister to take the ratification process to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) to prepare an instrument of deposit and provide the agreement with the depository, for Namibia to accede to ACAP.

Ratifying to ACAP will increase conservation efforts of seabirds in Namibia through collaboration and engagement with party states, range states, observer states and other international organizations. ACAPs high priority populations and the endangered seabirds, especially Cape gannets (*Morus capensis*) can benefit from ACAP best practice seabird-bycatch mitigation measures as this species populations are affected by fishing activities. Namibia is involved in other conservation work regionally with South Africa and Angola through the Benguela Current Commission (BCC). The BCC Top Predator Working group focuses on the conservation of seabirds, seals and turtles. There are various key actions needed such as creating awareness, training, education, improve reporting, compliance and reviewing and updating the current seabird bycatch regulations to ensure bycatch is kept at a minimum into the future. Therefore, joining ACAP can help Namibia achieve some of the above-mentioned actions.

ANNEX 10. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – USA

The United States thanks the Secretariat and ACAP Parties for organizing and hosting this 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of ACAP. We are pleased to engage in discussions on the range of seabird conservation topics with ACAP Parties and other Range States, APEC member economies, and other observers. We particularly would like to work with all of you on advancing implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures across the range of fisheries where bycatch of threatened seabirds occurs.

In the United States, we were able to make some recent progress on actions that are relevant to the conservation of ACAP species. We highlight some of those below that may be of interest to AC13.

After several years' delay, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Island Conservation have commenced the *Mus musculus* eradication project at Midway Atoll, the largest albatross colony in the Northern hemisphere, and plan to do aerial applications of brodifacoum bait starting in July of this year. Plans to eradicate the remaining *Rattus exulans* at Wake Atoll in 2024 are proceeding.

Planning for climate change resilience and adaptation has accelerated in the Pacific Islands with actions proposed and being implemented for resisting, accepting, and directing change. Land managers are protecting existing seabird colonies by reducing all threats and accelerating the restoration and creation of alternate sites of higher elevation by installing predator-proof fencing, removing non-native predators, employing social attraction, and translocating eggs and chicks to help establish new colony sites. On Oahu, three of four Procellariiform species translocated have now recruited at the site and are now producing young. Black-footed Albatrosses were most recently translocated and those cohorts are now returning to prospect. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are now breeding there as well, attracted by the other species. The other two species translocated are Tristram's storm-petrel and Bonin petrel.

Progression of the previously reported albatross data management collaboration between USFWS and U.S. Geological Survey has proceeded to data analysis. Demographic patterns for Tern Island albatross populations were reported at the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in February 2023 by Colorado State University postdoctoral student Chris Malakowski. These results document trade-offs between Black-footed and Laysan albatross related to rates of survival and reproduction. As part of this project, reproductive success monitoring data is being vetted and will support development of an integrated population model to be initiated this year.

A previously reported USFWS project to identify and prioritize seabird translocation projects in Hawaii and the tropical Pacific Islands was completed in March 2023. Priorities for seabird colony creation, using habitat restoration, translocation, and social attraction, were determined from interviews with representatives of state, federal, and private land management and conservation organizations. The report informs agencies and partners about options for potential future seabird colony creation to offset the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and other threats to seabird colonies. The unpublished report is available on request; publication is pending.

United States/Canada/Mexico Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral) was established in 1995 to more effectively address conservation priorities of continental significance and boost the collaborative efforts of the three countries. Following discussions during the 2021 Trilateral meeting, a Seabird Bycatch Working Group was formed under the Migratory Birds Working Table to foster collaboration and explore shared priorities among the three countries regarding seabird bycatch. The initial goals given to the Bycatch Working Group included (a) discussing the impact of seabird bycatch in each country: what is known, where are gaps, and steps to reduce bycatch, and (b) identifying a plan for how the Trilateral can help address this issue.

In 2022, the Trilateral Seabird Bycatch Workgroup identified many short-term actions in common among the three countries, including: developing an inventory of needs for each country, prioritizing actions that would benefit from Trilateral engagement, identifying existing best practice resources for fisheries, and identifying international agreements and mechanisms for involvement (e.g., strengthening collaboration and engagement with ACAP). The Workgroup is drafting a workplan that identifies achievable actions with timelines and has sought feedback from the Migratory Birds Working Table on the Workgroup's scope and potential for involvement of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in seabird bycatch issues of interest to all three countries.

The Migratory Birds Working Table is also discussing marine debris and especially plastic pollution, and its impacts on seabirds, as a topic that warrants trilateral focus. The United States looks forward to working with the governments of Canada and Mexico in this forum to explore the potential for trilateral collaboration to increase understanding on this issue.

At its December 2021 meeting, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council took final action and recommended regulatory amendments to replace blue-dyed thawed bait and strategic offal discharge measures required for stern-setting, deep-set longline vessels with a new tori line requirement. The Council also recommended implementing best practices training on offal management as part of the annual protected species workshop required for all fishing vessel operators. This recommendation is the result of NMFS collaboration with the fishery management council and the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA) on the design, development, and field trials of tori lines, and the use of electronic monitoring technology to monitor effectiveness, in response to higher rates of Black-footed Albatross interactions.

Cooperative research conducted in 2019-2021 provided the basis for the change to the use of tori lines, as well as help determine the regulatory specifications for the tori lines. Albatrosses were 14 times less likely to be captured on a baited hook, with zero albatross captures when tori lines were deployed, compared to sets deployed with blue-dyed fish bait. The Council additionally recommended tori line regulatory specifications to ensure the tori lines will produce similar results to the lines tested in the studies. The regulatory package is currently under development and the planned effective date of the new regulation is November of 2023. The HLA has received funding to provide each deep-set longline vessel with at least one tori line that meets specifications and this date allows for the successful roll out of tori lines while ensuring the action is in effect at the start of the season where we begin see higher albatross catch rates. An experimental fishing permit has also been issued to the HLA to test tori lines in the shallow-set longline fishery.

ANNEX 11. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei expresses gratitude to United Kingdom and the Secretariat for hosting and organizing this meeting. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous two meetings had to be held virtually. We are pleased that we are finally able to join an in-person meeting this year, and appreciate the opportunity to participate and learn from other Parties.

We have long been committed to achieving a balance between fisheries and ecological conservation. For instance, we have actively collaborated with international organizations such as BirdLife International and the Taiwan Wild Bird Federation on experimental tori lines mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch, produce seabird identification manuals, and provide observer training. We have also regulated our national fishing vessels to comply with the mitigation measures prescribed by regional fishery management organizations. Additionally, last year, we donated to the ACAP Special Fund to support small grants programme related to seabird bycatch, contributing to seabird conservation.

Domestically, we have been conducting research on the Mien-hua and Huaping Isle Wild Animal Protected Area, with a particular focus on monitoring the breeding sites of the Streaked Shearwater. In 2022, we launched the Chinese Crested Tern Conservation Plan, which mobilizes various government agencies to implement conservation actions for this critically endangered species. We are also conducting conservation status assessments on three seabird species, including the vulnerable Streaked Shearwater, Swinhoe's Storm Petrel, and the declining and endangered Aleutian Tern. Through domestic legal regulations, we aim to protect these species effectively.

Chinese Taipei is steadfast in its commitment to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels. We eagerly anticipate deepening our international exchange and cooperation with ACAP, in order to maximize our contributions to the conservation of seabirds.

ANNEX 12. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

BirdLife International is grateful to the ACAP Secretariat, Parties and the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland for the arrangements of a successful in-person meeting in 2023, and the opportunities this provides for in-depth discussion on the important business treated under the two Working Groups and Advisory Committee.

We welcome the addition of the Joint meeting of the Working Groups, which enabled and facilitated the discussion of important topics of relevance for the conservation of seabird species listed under ACAP Annex 1. BirdLife gives special thanks to the Secretariat staff, Convenors and Co-Convenors for their continued efforts to coordinate activities to further the objectives of the Agreement.

Through the network of partners and collaborating organisations that together constitute BirdLife's Marine Programme, we continue to make progress in areas that are directly relevant to the Agreement, some of which have been presented to the Working Groups.

BirdLife hosts the Seabird tracking Database which provides an important resource to facilitate seabird conservation initiatives. We encourage submission of additional albatross and petrel tracking data to help increase the representativeness of species and age classes within the database.

Our grass roots activities continue to bridge the gap between best practice scientific advice and practical implementation through the efforts of the Albatross Task Force teams in Argentina, Chile, Namibia and South Africa. We are particularly encouraged by the increasing use and emphasis of remote electronic monitoring technologies in recent years, with the associated additional confidence this provides in terms of compliance with bycatch mitigation measures. Under new initiatives, we have expanded grass roots engagement to facilitate the transfer of lessons learnt in Albatross Task Force teams to distant water fleets. This work is only possible thanks to a strong collaborative spirit between the governments, industry and NGOs involved.

In Europe and Central Asia the Marine Task Force is replicating the grass roots approach through projects in multiple fisheries, but also going further through leadership in advocacy on marine spatial plans in response to the rapid expansion of offshore energy in the region. In West Africa through our local Partners we have provided dedicated fishery observer capacity building initiatives, to build greater understanding of the characteristics and scale of bycatch in the region and initiate conservation projects on colony management.

Our policy advocacy at the tuna RFMOs in collaboration with several ACAP Parties and the Secretariat continues to support opportunities to revise and update seabird conservation measures, to take into consideration ACAP Best Practice Advice. This process is critical to the successful achievement of the objectives of the Agreement and are grateful for the positive collaboration and endeavours over recent months. We note, however, that suitable data submission to the Secretariat and the tuna RFMOs continues to thwart appropriate evaluation of progress toward improved practices in high-risk fisheries. We encourage Parties to prioritise improvements in the data submission process and welcome the data management workshop as a positive process to facilitate this.

Furthermore, BirdLife has contributed toward the initiation of the FAO-funded Common Oceans 2 project, which we were pleased to see commenced in 2023. The seabird project element is being led by the Commission on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and represents an important mechanism for capacity building and progress on compliance with conservation measures by tuna fleets in the Southern Ocean. We look forward to liaising with Parties of the Agreement as part of that process.

An important element that is emerging through ACAP discussions is the engagement with the seafood supply chain and certification schemes. BirdLife has collaborated with Sustainable Seafood Partnerships to provide guidance on seafood supply chain audits of major retailers in the UK and US and contributed toward the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship Endangered, Threatened and Protected species strategy. Our team has also engaged closely with the development of the new standard 3.0 of the Marine Stewardship Council, which demonstrates potentially important additional requirements that we hope will benefit seabird populations once incorporated into certification assessments and re-assessments.

Finally, BirdLife submitted an information paper on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, which provides an instrument through which Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can be designated in areas beyond national jurisdiction which, given the importance of the high seas as habitat for the seabirds listed in Annex 1, has the potential to support conservation efforts for these species. BirdLife welcomes continued input from Parties on the development of plans toward promoting the Tasman Sea as a potential MPA under the BBNJ agreement and is grateful for the positive discussions already held. Furthermore, BirdLife encourages Parties to consider early ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

ANNEX 13. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Humane Society International/Australia would like to thank Parties to ACAP for the opportunity to participate in the Advisory Committee meeting once again, and for your ongoing collective efforts to conserve albatross and petrels.

Despite these efforts, we remain alarmed by the high albatross and petrel mortality rates in many of your domestic fisheries, and in fisheries on the high seas. We share the strong view expressed at this meeting that it is time to concentrate efforts less on refining Best Practice Advice, and much more on ensuring it is implemented.

Universal implementation of ACAP's recommended mitigation measures, in all relevant fisheries, is the best strategy for reducing albatross and petrel fishing mortality. Attempts at species specific bycatch mitigation risk being an unhelpful distraction from this goal.

With a focus on implementation, HSI Australia was pleased to contribute to Document 25 presented to the SBWG, which analysed poor Party and tuna RFMO uptake of ACAP's recommended best practice mitigation and the reasons for this. We are pleased the AC has asked the SBWG to look at how Party reporting can be improved to provide more transparent and robust disclosure of Best Practice implementation. We also look forward to assisting with the development of a revised strategy to persuade RFMOs to adopt ACAP's best practice advice, and to do so with urgency.

For our part HSI will continue to advocate strongly for seabird bycatch mitigation at the CCSBT, which we regularly attend. We are contributing funds for trials of the Procella hook in New Zealand and we stand ready to support stronger advocacy with tuna supply chains. We will remain an active stakeholder in Australia's Threat Abatement Plan for Longline Fishing and its National Plan of Action for Seabirds.

Lastly, HSI notes with concern the ominous portents in information papers presented to this meeting. One documenting the impacts extreme weather events have had on black-browed albatross colonies. And another outlining the threat of Avian Influenza. With these alarm bells sounded, it is more essential than ever that fisheries bycatch mitigation succeeds, so that we can give albatross and petrel populations the resilience they will need to withstand worsening environmental and climate disruptions.