Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Lima, Peru, 12 - 16 August 2024

Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group

Population and Conservation Status Working Group

Eighth Population and Conservation Status Working Group Meeting

Lima, Peru, 9 August 2024

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

This report outlines progress during the intersessional period against the Work Programme of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (hereafter PaCSWG or WG), agreed at the Thirteenth Meeting of the ACAP Advisory Committee (AC13) in 2023. The report also reflects discussions and recommendations resulting from the Eighth Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG8) held on 9 August 2024 in Lima, Peru.

2. WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCTION

The convenors thanked WG members and observers for attending the meeting and welcomed Johannes Fischer and Julie McInnes as new members of the WG. Current PaCSWG membership and PaCSWG8 meeting participants are listed in **ANNEX 1**.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The WG accepted the proposed agenda and meeting documents (**PaCSWG8 Doc 01 Rev 2** and **PaCSWG8 Doc 02**). Under Agenda Item 13 'Any Other Business', it was suggested that the WG consider the possibility of hybrid (virtual) participation for PaCSWG members in future meetings to enhance attendance and engagement. The Secretariat responded that there are currently no resources available to support hybrid meetings, making this option unfeasible at this time.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS

The Secretariat thanked breeding site editors for submitting population and breeding site data, and highlighted the importance of the data for progressing the work of the Agreement.

4.1 Updates and reviews of ACAP Species Assessments

The Secretariat reported on progress made in the update of the ACAP Species Assessments, noting the production of species distribution maps in collaboration with BirdLife International. Updated assessments for several species will be available on the ACAP website in the coming weeks.

PaCSWG8 noted that progress was much slower than originally planned and highlighted the importance of improving the communication between the Secretariat and the Species Assessments Coordinating Group throughout the review process to finalise the updates. The Coordinating Group should meet at least quarterly to track progress.

PaCWG8 reiterated the importance of the ACAP Species Assessments, and their wide application in a range of target audiences. The WG agreed that it would be desirable to turn the assessments into other more interactive products on the ACAP website in the future, in

addition to making them available as PDF files. Reference was also made to the importance of accessing high resolution maps in the assessments for presentations in RFMOs and other fora.

5. POPULATION STATUS AND TRENDS

5.1. Population trends of ACAP species

PaCSWG8 Doc 03 provided an update on the New Zealand large-scale monitoring and tracking programme with improved insights into trends and distribution, which was aimed at better understanding population dynamics, distributions, and trends of a range of species.

PaCSWG8 Inf 08 and **PaCSWG8 Inf 09** provided updates on the status of the Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* population at Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku, and of the Southern Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri bulleri* population at the Snares/Tini Heke, respectively, and **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 11** provided updates on Wandering *Diomedea exulans*, Black-browed *Thalassarche melanophris* and Grey-headed *Thalassarche chrysostoma* albatross population trends at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] based on surveys during the austral summer 2023/24, and the implications and priorities for conservation management. The steep population declines in all these taxa were attributed largely to bycatch in fisheries, which triggered discussion by PaCSWG8 about better approaches to communicate the conservation crisis facing ACAP species to key target audiences including RFMOs.

PaCSWG8 acknowledged the immense amount of work involved in collecting and analysing population count data for any ACAP species, including field and office work, and thanked those involved.

PaCSWG8 discussed the analysis and communication of population trends by the Agreement. The WG proposed that alternative approaches to communicating these trends should be considered and an array of products be prepared for different audiences (e.g. MoP, RFMOs). Targeted approaches are essential to communicate the conservation crisis facing ACAP species to those most directly involved in the activities that have significantly contributed to causing the crisis. PaCSWG8 commended New Zealand for the outstanding work presented in **PaCSWG8 Doc 03**, which provided a robust approach to analysing population trends and assessing threats. The new analysis method provided by New Zealand could potentially be replicated across all ACAP species, offering a consistent and comprehensive understanding of population trends. The WG encouraged the establishment of an intersessional group, led by New Zealand, to identify the most appropriate methods for determining population trends and applying those to ACAP species.

PaCSWG8 reviewed the current population trends (2005 to 2024) of ACAP species, and the level of confidence in the trend according to the accuracy and availability of data for the different populations (**Table 1**). The current trend of 26 species remained unchanged due to either lack of new data since the last review in 2021, or new data being available only for sites

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of 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.

with a relatively small proportion of the global breeding population. However, information was updated for four endemic New Zealand species based on papers submitted to PaCSWG8. The trend status of another two species remains to be confirmed with relevant data holders.

The trend for Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* was changed from stable to declining. Austral summer 2023/24 survey results suggest concerning population declines on Campbell Island, in the order -27% since 2005-2009. The level of confidence was changed from low to medium given the thorough survey methodology collectively equating to ~25% of the total population (see **PaCSWG8 Inf 08**).

The trend for the Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida* was reclassified from stable to declining, and the trend for the White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche steadi* was reclassified from unknown to declining, with a low level of confidence, based on the negative annual growth rates of the populations estimated in **PaCSWG8 Doc 03.**

The trend for Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* was changed from stable to unknown due to conflicting sources of evidence. With the consideration of the long-term decline in annual survival of the Snares population, stable was no longer considered appropriate (see **PaCSWG8 Inf 09**).

For Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* the trend remains unknown. *P. palpebrata* is a challenging species to census and there is very high annual variability in breeding numbers at different sites.

The WG noted that the use of scientific names in Table 1 reduced its usefulness for communication to some audiences. The AC chair indicated that he would examine the issue of using common names in the table, noting that there had not been agreement on which Spanish language name applied to each species.

Table 1. *2024 Summary of global IUCN status and current trends of ACAP species.*

IUCN Status 2024[1]	*Species*	Number of sites (ACAP)[2]	Single Country Endemic	Annual breeding pairs (last census) [3]	Current Population Trend 2005 - 2024[4]	Trend Confidence
CR	*Diomedea dabbenena*	1	UK	1,442 (2015-2021)	↓	High
CR	*Phoebastria irrorata*	2	Ecuador	9,615 (2001)	↓	Medium
CR	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	5	Spain	3,210 (2008-2013)	↓	High
EN	*Diomedea amsterdamensis*	1	France	66 (2023)	↑	High
EN	*Diomedea antipodensis*	6	NZ	7,440 (1995-2024)	↓	High
EN	*Diomedea sanfordi*	5	NZ	4,005 (2024)	↓	Low
EN	*Thalassarche carteri*	6		33,974 (1984-2016)	↓	High
EN	*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*	6	UK	27,254 (1974-2015)	↔	Low
EN	*Thalassarche chrysostoma*	29		81,579 (1982-2024)	↓	Medium

IUCN Status 2024[1]	*Species*	Number of sites (ACAP)[2]	Single Country Endemic	Annual breeding pairs (last census) [3]	Current Population Trend 2005 - 2024[4]	Trend Confidence
EN	*Phoebetria fusca*	15		12,069 (1974-2023)	↓	Very Low
EN	*Procellaria westlandica*	1	NZ	6,223 (2019)	↑	Low
VU	*Ardenna creatopus*	3	Chile	142,526 (2016-2022)	↔	Low
VU	*Diomedea epomophora*	4	NZ	7,935 (1989-2008)	↓	Medium
VU	*Diomedea exulans*	28		10,138 (1981-2024)	↓	High
VU	*Phoebastria albatrus*	2		1,137 (2002-2024)	↑	High
VU	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	73		1,242,090 (1984-2023)	↓	Very Low
VU	*Procellaria conspicillata*	1	UK	42,000 (2018)	↑	High
VU	*Procellaria parkinsoni*	2	NZ	6,970 (2016-2021)	↔	Low
VU	*Thalassarche eremita*	1	NZ	5,296 (2017)	↔	High
VU	*Thalassarche impavida*	2	NZ	24,338 (2020)	↓	Medium
VU	*Thalassarche salvini*	12	NZ	33,587 (1986-2020)	↓	Low
NT	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	17		729,186 (1982-2024)	↔	High
NT	*Phoebastria nigripes*	13		72,673 (1995-2024)	↑(tbc)	Medium
NT	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	71		15,975* (1954-2024)	?	-
NT	*Procellaria cinerea*	17		86,959# (1981-2018)	↓	Very Low
NT	*Thalassarche bulleri*	10	NZ	33,410 (1984-2023)	?	-
NT	*Thalassarche cauta*	3	Australia	15,005 (2015-2023)	↓ (tbc)	Low
NT	*Thalassarche steadi*	5	NZ	62,922 (2009-2017)	↓	Low
LC	*Macronectes giganteus*	119		48,540 (1958-2024)	↑	Medium
LC	*Macronectes halli*	50		18,559 (1973-2024)	↑	Medium
LC	*Thalassarche melanophris*	65		691,441 (1982-2024)	↑	High

* excluding Auckland estimates of 5,000 pairs – not reliable/supported

Incomplete global estimate - Prince Edward Islands numbers unknown

[1] ***CR*** *=Critically Endangered,* ***EN*** *= Endangered,* ***VU*** *= Vulnerable,* ***NT*** *= Near Threatened,* ***LC*** *= Least Concern.* The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2024-1. <www.iucnredlist.org>.

[2] ***Site:*** *usually an entire, distinct island or islet, or section of a large island*

[3] ACAP database. <data.acap.aq>. 9 August 2024.

[4] ***ACAP Trend:*** *↑ increasing, ↓declining, ↔ stable, ? unknown.* ***n.b. the overall trend for the species may not reflect particular regional or site trends.***

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PaCSWG recommends that the Advisory Committee:

1. Establish an intersessional group tasked with identifying and applying suitable methods for the analysis of population trends across a range of ACAP species and populations, and the incorporation of this task into the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028.

6. THREATS

6.1 Updates on management of land-based threats

AC14 Doc 17 is a draft paper summarising known and suspected threats affecting ACAP species at sea and at breeding sites, along with potential practices to avoid or mitigate these threats. The draft will be finalised following AC14, incorporating feedback from the Working Groups, and submitted to the Eighth Meeting of the Parties (MoP8).

PaCSWG8 Inf 07 described progress, challenges, and lessons learned from other baiting campaigns of relevance for the planned eradication of introduced house mice on Marion Island. This included information from baiting trials and the recent failure of baiting campaigns on Midway Island and Gough Island. Further trials will be conducted in 2025 examining the performance of baits and there will be a study of the distribution of mice in different habitats. Undertaking additional trials and recommended investigations will impact both the project's timelines and budget. Nevertheless, these adjustments are deemed not only justifiable but essential to better understand and mitigate project risks and optimise the likelihood of achieving a successful outcome in this once-off operation.

Mark Tasker gave an update on the investigations by RSPB into the recent failure to eradicate House Mice from Gough Island. An independent review had been established (and its work reviewed by an independent expert advisory group). Although the eradication programme likely killed nearly all the mice, it is now thought that complete eradication was unsuccessful because: 1) the bait application rate was insufficient for the (relatively) large mice and their high densities in some locations; and 2) there was competition for the bait from moorhens, and slugs and other invertebrates. Other possible factors included temporal gaps in aerial baiting due to weather conditions during the first bait application (and possibly undetected gaps due to high winds). Further, the higher per capita availability of alternative natural foods by the time the second (and subsequent) bait application commenced meant that even when bait was encountered, some mice chose to eat other food instead. Studies are also being conducted on potential resistance to the rodenticide within the mouse population.

PaCSWG8 welcomed these updates and the continued work to complete these important eradication programs. It also encouraged the submission of reports to the next meeting, so important lessons for the planning of eradication attempts are shared, including about unsuccessful programmes.

Information on all management responses to the land-based threats listed in the ACAP database is summarised in **ANNEX 2**.

6.2 Review of terrestrial threat prioritisation

AC14 Doc 18 is a draft paper on ACAP priority conservation actions for the next triennium (2026 - 2028) needed to progress the implementation of the Agreement and achieve a favourable conservation status for ACAP-listed species. This document will be finalised following AC14, and submitted by the Advisory Committee to MoP8 to reflect inputs, actions, and decisions taken during AC14.

6.3 Pollutants, including plastics and other marine debris

PaCSWG8 Inf 02 presented information on the ingestion of plastics by albatrosses and petrels in the southwest Atlantic.

PaCWSG8 Inf 04 described a study of mercury (Hg) contamination in breeding adults of five species nesting on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]. Females were more contaminated than males in all species, potentially due to differences in at-sea distributions and diet composition. Mercury concentrations varied by species and could reflect exposure to higher levels of contaminants in subtropical waters. Hg levels in Wandering *D. exulans* and Black-browed *T. melanophris* albatrosses had increased slightly in recent decades.

PaCSWG8 Inf 11 described a pilot study of the Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* to examine the effects of ingested plastic on chicks. The study determined suitable sampling methods and identified informative biomarkers of plastic exposure and toxicity. The study revealed negative toxic effects in young chicks, but these effects were no longer detectable shortly before fledging. The timing of fieldwork precluded an assessment of the effect of plastic ingestion on the duration of chick-rearing, but this could be part of future studies.

6.4 Pathogens, including HPAI H5N1

PaCSWG8 Inf 05 reported information on the presence of pathogens in archived samples from the Brazilian Seabird Stranding Network. Findings included the first record of *Babesia* spp. a hemoparasite, in a procellariiform species.

PaCSWG8 Inf 06 described three genera of haemosporidian parasites (hemoparasites or blood parasites), *Plasmodium, Haemoproteus*, and *Leucocytozoon*, in samples collected between 2013 and 2022 from 95 individuals of 14 species of stranded Procellariiformes from southern Brazil. Blood parasites were detected in some of the seabirds, probably due to transmission by mosquitos when the birds were alive on the beach. Rehabilitation facilities now ensure that birds taken into captivity are not exposed to mosquitos.

PaCSWG8 Inf 10 reported on the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b at Bird Island (54°00'S, 38°03'W). Confirmed cases were found in three seabird species: Wandering Albatross *D. exulans*, Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*, and Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua*. In total, 77 brown skuas, 38 gentoo penguins, and 58 wandering albatrosses were suspected to have died from HPAI infections. Several Southern Giant Petrels *M. giganteus* showed clinical signs of HPAI, but no mortalities were observed despite the high probability of exposure of numerous individuals that consumed seal carrion. The temporal pattern of mortality was rapid at first and then reached a plateau within a few weeks. Details of the management, risk, safety considerations, and ethical decisions regarding animal welfare and research were presented.

Megan Tierney provided a summary of an HPAI outbreak in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1]. Thousands of adult and chick Black-browed Albatrosses *T melanophris* died from HPAI, but only at one breeding site, where the deaths were patchy. HPAI was confirmed as the cause of death in Black-browed albatrosses *T melanophris* and other bird species in additional locations, but these were low in number. PaCSWG8 suggested that prior exposure or other unknown factors may explain the highly variable impacts by location and species. Prior exposure to low pathogenic influenza virus may afford some immunity, but the WG cautioned that because there are multiple different lineages in circulation, and these can change rapidly, continued vigilance is needed. Natural variation in species susceptibility as well as dose and route of exposure might likely also play a role.

A brief update about surveillance efforts for HPAI in the Galapagos, Ecuador was provided by Gustavo Jimenez. This work was motivated in part by a dead Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* found on the coast of Peru that tested positive for HPAI. Samples were collected from a variety of species from throughout the archipelago, totaling over 800 birds, of which 34 positive cases were identified.

PaCSWG8 Doc 04 summarised the work of ACAP's Intersessional Group on Avian Influenza. The group produced several products in a short time (see also **PaCSWG Doc 05**). Including a 'swift' disease risk assessment (DRA) of HPAI in ACAP species to identify albatross species that might be at greater risk at the global level. This assessment was conducted to inform a more comprehensive disease risk analysis that will be concluded in 2024-2025. The simplified version of the DRA method focused on the vulnerability component for a subgroup of species, the albatrosses (Diomedeidae) and was prepared in response to the acute concerns due to mass mortalities of Black-browed *T. melanophris* and Wandering *D. exulans* albatrosses in early 2024. This paper served as a basis for discussion and feedback from WG members and other experts, so that suggestions can be incorporated in the upcoming, more comprehensive DRA, which could be focused on the probability of an outbreak, depending on breeding-site characteristics. The intersessional group welcomes additional members, feedback on its proposals and meets virtually on a monthly basis.

PaCSWG8 discussions highlighted that researchers and other interested parties should consult the ACAP website for trustworthy information about HPAI cases in ACAP species and related guidelines (https://www.acap.aq/resources/disease-threats/avian-flu).

PaCSWG8 Doc 05 presented guidelines on working with albatrosses and petrels during the HPAI H5N1 panzootic, another product of the ACAP Intersessional Group on Avian Influenza. Sections include: 1) how to prepare for a potential outbreak; and 2) what to do during and following an outbreak. It was suggested to include a table on tiered PPE response to communicate the material in the guidelines to decision-makers in a more concise fashion. PaCSWG was invited to review and provide feedback on the recommendations formally presented by the intersessional group to ACAP in November 2023, and to assess whether further updates or additions are necessary.

6.5 Other threats

PaCSWG8 Inf 03 reviewed and synthesised current knowledge of the effects of wind on seabirds. Key research priorities were identified for advancing understanding of the effects of wind on seabird ecology and behaviour, including assessments of how wind modulates habitat

accessibility, which will be important for understanding how seabirds may be impacted by climate-driven changes to wind patterns and development of offshore wind farms.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PaCSWG recommends that the Advisory Committee:

1. Encourage research assessing the exposure to, and incidence and impacts of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment on ACAP species.
2. Encourage additional research on the distribution and impacts of parasites and pathogens on ACAP species.
3. Urge Parties to: 1) develop site-specific response plans; and 2) increase surveillance efforts for early detection of HPAI H5N1.

7. DATA GAPS

7.1. Review of key gaps in population data

Tables 2, 3 and 4 summarise current data availability and data gaps for populations of ACAP species. The Science Officer noted that these tables are drawn from information submitted by Parties and site custodians to the ACAP database and provide guidance on where more effort needs to be focussed to fill gaps in knowledge. The Science Officer thanked all data providers.

Recent data (last 10 years) on population size are unavailable for ten important populations at island group level (>5% of global breeding pairs) (**Table 2**). Two island group populations have been added to this list since PaCSWG7, Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* and White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* breeding on the Kerguelen Islands. The Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* breeding on the Antipodes was inadvertently omitted from the table at PaCSWG7 due to a data entry error. Data gaps for three island groups have since been filled for Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus,* White-chinned Petrel *P. aequinoctialis,* and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos.*

Recent information is also lacking for 18 populations at breeding sites holding >10% of global numbers for that species (**Table 3**). A Northern Giant Petrel *M. halli* population on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] (Northwest) has been added since PaCSWG7 because of updated population numbers increasing the proportion of total global pairs at the site to >10%. Two gaps have been filled: Southern Royal Albatross *D. epomophora* on Campbell Island, and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos* on Tristan da Cunha.

Data gaps remain largely for island groups or breeding sites that are logistically difficult to access and for species that are very challenging to census.

Breeding sites with demographic information are presented in **Table 4**. Five breeding sites with breeding success information were added for Buller's *T. bulleri*, Salvin's *Thalassarche*

salvini, Shy *Thalassarche cauta* and White-capped *Thalssarche steadi* albatrosses since PaCWG7. One site with adult survival information for Black-browed Albatross *T. melanophris* was also added. Data continue to be lacking on breeding success and adult and juvenile survival for Spectacled Petrel *Procellaria conspicillata,* on adult survival for the Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*, on juvenile survival for Salvin's *T. salvini* and White-capped *T. steadi* albatrosses, and on juvenile survival and breeding success for Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita*.

Recent progress on priority monitoring programmes identified by the WG for each ACAP species by region is summarised in **Table 5**. The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic likely continues to affect the resumption of some monitoring programmes.

Table 2. Island groups that comprise at least 5% of the species' total global breeding pairs, which have not been monitored at any site within the given island group in at least the last 10 years (since 2013) or the data are not yet available. Island groups added since PaCSWG7 are highlighted.

Jurisdiction	Island Group	Species	Population estimate for Island Group (annual breeding pairs)	% of known global population	Latest year of data at any site within Island Group*
Australia	Heard and McDonald Islands	*Macronectes giganteus*	3,500	7	2004
France	Crozet	*Procellaria cinerea*	2,000-9,000	7	2005
France	Kerguelen	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	4,000	25	1987
France	Kerguelen	*Macronectes halli*	1,495-1,745	9	2013
France	Kerguelen	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	186,000-297,000	19	2005
New Zealand	Antipodes Islands	*Procellaria cinerea*	60,147	70	2010
New Zealand	Campbell Islands	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	1,658	10	1996
South Africa	Prince Edward Islands	*Thalassarche carteri*	7,000	21	2009
United Kingdom	Gough	*Procellaria cinerea*	10,000-25,000	20	2001
United Kingdom	Tristan da Cunha	*Phoebetria fusca*	2,607-3,707	26	2010

* Including surveys of chicks

Table 3. Sites with >10% of species' global breeding pairs where population estimate has not been conducted in at least the last 10 years, or the data are not yet available (i.e. latest survey = 2013 or earlier) (excludes sites where part-site/study colony counts have been conducted). Sites added since PaCSWG7 are highlighted.

Jurisdiction	Island Group	Breeding Site	Species	Population Estimate at breeding site (annual breeding pairs)	% of total known global population	Survey Accuracy	Latest year of population data for the site or part-site
Chile	Islas Diego Ramirez	Isla Bartolome	*Thalassarche chrysostoma*	10,880	14	High	2003
Disputed	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]	Northwest	*Macronectes halli*	3,455	19	High	2007
Disputed	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]	Northwest	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	146,545	12	Medium	2007
Disputed	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]	Nunez	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	193,838	16	Medium	2007
France	Crozet	Ile de l'Est	*Phoebetria fusca*	1,300	11	Unknown	1984
France	Kerguelen	Golfe du Morbihan[#]	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	3,000-5,000	25		1987
New Zealand	Antipodes Islands	Antipodes Island	*Procellaria cinerea*	60,147	70	Medium	2010
New Zealand	Campbell Islands	Campbell Island	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	1,600	10	Low	1996
South Africa	Prince Edward Islands	Prince Edward Island	*Thalassarche carteri*	7,000	21	High	2009
South Africa	Prince Edward Islands	Prince Edward Island	*Diomedea exulans*	1,800	18	High	2009
South Africa	Prince Edward Islands	Prince Edward Island	*Phoebetria fusca*	1,210	10	High	2009
Spain	Balearic Archipelago	Cabrera	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	475	15	Low	2008
Spain	Balearic Archipelago	Mallorca	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	900	28	Low	2009
United Kingdom	Gough	Gough Island	*Procellaria cinerea*	10,000-25,000	20	Unknown	2001

Jurisdiction	Island Group	Breeding Site	Species	Population Estimate at breeding site (annual breeding pairs)	% of total known global population	Survey Accuracy	Latest year of population data for the site or part-site
United Kingdom	Tristan da Cunha	Nightingale	*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*	4,000	15	Low	2007
United Kingdom	Tristan da Cunha	Tristan da Cunha	*Phoebetria fusca*	2,000-3,000	21	Unknown	1974
USA	Hawaii	Laysan Island	*Phoebastria nigripes*	24,565	34	High	2012
USA	Hawaii	Laysan Island	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	134,835	19	Medium	2012

figure is for all Kerguelen

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sándwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas

Table 4: Availability of **demographic information** for all ACAP species (including data collected but not yet analysed). Sites added since PaCSWG7 are highlighted.

Species	Number of sites	Number of Island Groups	Adult survival data Sites	Juvenile survival data Sites	Breeding success data sites
Diomedea amsterdamensis	1	1	Plateau des Tourbieres	Plateau des Tourbieres	Plateau des Tourbieres
Diomedea antipodensis	6	4	Antipodes Island	Antipodes Island	Antipodes Island
			Adams Island	Adams Island	Adams Island
Diomedea dabbenena	2	2	Gough Island	Gough Island	Gough Island
Diomedea epomophora	4	2	Enderby Island	Campbell Island	Enderby Island
			Campbell Island		Campbell Island
Diomedea exulans	39	5	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island
			Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession
			Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Courbet Peninsula	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
			Marion Island	Marion Island	Marion Island
			Courbet Peninsula	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Albatross Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
					Prion Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
					Courbet Peninsula
Diomedea sanfordi	5	3	The Forty-fours	Taiaroa Head	The Big Sister
			Taiaroa Head		The Forty-fours
					The Little (Middle) Sister
					Taiaroa Head
Phoebastria albatrus	2	2	Torishima	Mukojima*	Torishima
			Mukojima*		Mukojima*
Phoebastria immutabilis	17	5	Midway Atoll	Midway Atoll	Midway
			Laysan Island	Laysan Island	Laysan
			French Frigate Shoals	French Frigate Shoals	French Frigate Shoals
			Kaua'i	Kaua'i	O'ahu

Species	Number of sites	Number of Island Groups	Adult survival data Sites	Juvenile survival data Sites	Breeding success data sites
			O'ahu	O'ahu	
Phoebastria irrorata	2	2	Isla Espanola	Isla Espanola	Isla Espanola
Phoebastria nigripes	15	4	Midway Atoll	Midway Atoll	Midway
			French Frigate Shoals	French Frigate Shoals	Laysan
			Laysan Island	Laysan Island	French Frigate Shoals
Phoebetria fusca	15	6	Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession
					Marion Island
					Gough Island
Phoebetria palpebrata	73	9	Ile de la Possession Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula	Macquarie Island Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula	Macquarie Island
					Ile de la Possession
					Campbell Island
					Marion Island
					Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
					Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula
Thalassarche bulleri	10	4	North-East Island	North-East Island	North-East Island
			The Little (Middle) Sister		Great Solander Island
					The Little (Middle) Sister
Thalassarche carteri	6	5	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux
Thalassarche cauta	3	1	Albatross Island (AU)	Albatross Island (AU)	Albatross Island (AU)
					The Mewstone
					Pedra Branca
Thalassarche chlororhynchos	6	2	Gough Island	Gough Island	Gough Island
			Tristan da Cunha		Inaccessible Island
					Tristan da Cunha
Thalassarche chrysostoma	29	8	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island

Species	Number of sites	Number of Island Groups	Adult survival data Sites	Juvenile survival data Sites	Breeding success data sites
			Campbell Island	Campbell Island	Campbell Island
			Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
			Marion Island		Marion Island
Thalassarche eremita	1	1	The Pyramid	No data	No data
Thalassarche impavida	2	1	Campbell Island	Campbell Island	Campbell Island
Thalassarche melanophris	65	14	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island
			Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula	Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula	Jeanne d'Arc Peninsula
			Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
			New Island		Saunders Island
			Steeple Jason		New Island
					Steeple Jason
					West Point Island
					Grave Cove, Dunbar
Thalassarche salvini	12	4	Toru Islet	No data	Proclamation Island
			Proclamation Island		
Thalassarche steadi	5	3	Auckland Island	No data	Auckland Island
			Disappointment Island		Disappointment Island
Ardenna creatopus	3	2	No data	Isla Mocha	Isla Mocha
				Isla Santa Clara	Isla Santa Clara
				Isla Robinson Crusoe	Isla Robinson Crusoe
Macronectes giganteus	123	26	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Isla Arce
			Marion Island		Isla Gran Robredo
			Ile de la Possession		Macquarie Island
					Ile de la Possession
					Laurie Island
					Nelson Island

Species	Number of sites	Number of Island Groups	Adult survival data Sites	Juvenile survival data Sites	Breeding success data sites
					Marion Island
					Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
					Gough Island
					Golden Knob (Elephant Cays)
					Sandy Cay (Elephant Cays)
					Steeple Jason
					Anvers Island
Macronectes halli	52	11	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
			Marion Island		Macquarie Island
			Ile de la Possession		Ile de la Possession
					Marion Island
					Courbet Peninsula
Procellaria aequinoctialis	78	8	Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession	Ile de la Possession
			Ile Haute	Ile Haute	Marion Island
			Antipodes Island		Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))[1]
					Ile Haute
Procellaria cinerea	16	9	Golfe du Morbihan	Golfe du Morbihan	Macquarie Island
					Marion Island
					Gough Island
					Golfe du Morbihan
Procellaria conspicillata	1	1	No data	No data	No data
Procellaria parkinsoni	2	1	Great Barrier Island	Little Barrier Island	Little Barrier Island
			Little Barrier Island	Great Barrier Island	Great Barrier Island
Procellaria westlandica	1	1	Punakaiki	Punakaiki	Punakaiki
Puffinus mauretanicus	5	1	Mallorca	Mallorca	Mallorca
			Ibiza	Ibiza	Cabrera

Species	Number of sites	Number of Island Groups	Adult survival data Sites	Juvenile survival data Sites	Breeding success data sites
					Menorca
					Ibiza

* Translocated population

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of 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.

Table 5. Summary of progress on **regional priority monitoring programmes**.

Priority monitoring programmes	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
ANTARCTICA: two species; 50 sites, two of unknown size	
(i) Resurvey Southern Giant Petrel at King George and Nelson Islands, South Shetland Islands	*None reported*
(ii) Maintain long-term population and productivity monitoring of Southern Giant Petrels at Signy Island, South Orkney Islands.	*Maintained all programmes*
ARGENTINA: one species (Southern Giant Petrel) at four sites, population size known for all sites but no recent breeding pairs trend data; no survival data; potential impact of introduced species at Isla de los Estados	
(i) Maintain population and productivity monitoring at Isla Arce and Isla Gran Robredo.	*None reported*
(ii) Resurvey the two sites at Isla de los Estados.	*None reported*
AUSTRALIA: eight species at 17 sites in three island groups; 18% of populations of unknown size.	
(i) Maintain long-term demographic, productivity or population monitoring at Macquarie Island (seven ACAP species) and Tasmania (Shy Albatross).	*Population monitoring maintained for six species at Macquarie Island (chick census only for LMA, NGP, no work on Grey petrels). Monitoring maintained for Shy Albatross.*
(ii) Resurvey Shy Albatross at Mewstone	*Aerial surveys pre-fledging.*
(iii) Resurvey Black-browed and Light-mantled Albatrosses at Heard Island.	*Planning underway for potential trip in 2025/26.*
(iv) Resurvey Black-browed Albatrosses at Bishop and Clerk Islands.	*No survey work. Investigating options for ship-based UAV surveys.*
CHILE: four species at 36 sites in nine island groups; no demographic data.	
(i) Begin long-term demographic monitoring of Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses at minimum of one island group.	*None reported*
(ii) Resurvey all island groups.	*None reported*
(iii) Re-survey Southern Giant Petrel at Isla Noir.	*None reported*
(iv) Survey Pink-footed Shearwater on Isla Mocha and on at least one of the islands in Juan Fernández archipelago	2016 Isla Mocha 2022 Juan Fernández Archipelago
(v) Initiate a long-term demogrpahic monitoring programme for Pink-footed Shearwater in at least one the island groups where it breeds	*None reported*
DISPUTED – SOUTH ATLANTIC: seven species at 232 sites; 34% of populations of unknown size; steep declines in Wandering, Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses, and White-chinned Petrel; possible decline in Light-mantled Albatross.	
(i) Maintain long-term demographic or productivity monitoring at Bird Island, South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] (seven ACAP species).	*Maintained all programmes*

Priority monitoring programmes	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
(ii) Maintain long-term population (3 species) and productivity monitoring (1 species) at Prion Island, South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] (three ACAP species).	*Maintained all programmes.*
(iii) Maintain White-chinned Petrel population monitoring at six sites at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1].	*Maintained at five sites. Demographic monitoring is planned to start at Bird Island in 2025/26*
(iv) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Black-browed Albatross ~~at two sites~~ in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1].	*Results from decadal island-group wide census conducted in 2017 published in grey literature.*
~~**(v)** Maintain long-term population monitoring of Black-browed Albatrosses elsewhere in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1].~~	
(vi) Resurvey Southern Giant Petrels at the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1].	*Annual monitoring at selected sites maintained. Decadal island-group wide census due in 2026*
(vii) Resurvey all Wandering Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross breeding sites at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] every 10 years	*Decadal survey of all Wandering Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross conduced in 2023-2024. Preliminary results available.*
(viii) Maintain long-term population and productivity monitoring of Northern and Southern Giant Petrels at Cumberland Bay, South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1].	*Maintained all programmes.*
ECUADOR: single endemic species (Waved Albatross) at two sites, declining; no juvenile survival data.	
(i) Survey all of Española, Galapagos Islands.	*Some broader surveys conducted but not yet synthesized\reported; developing drone methods*
(ii) Establish demographic monitoring in the interior colonies ('Colonia Central') on Española.	*None reported*
(iii) Establish long-term population and productivity monitoring at Isla de la Plata.	*Population surveyed and bands placed on 3 birds*
FRANCE: 12 species at 99 sites in three island groups; 20% of populations of unknown size; steep declines in Sooty Albatross and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross.	
(i) Maintain long-term demographic or population monitoring at Kerguelen (5 species).	
(ii) Maintain long-term demographic or population monitoring at Crozet (6 species).	
(iii) Maintain long-term demographic or population monitoring at Amsterdam Island (3 species).	
(iv) Resurvey; Sooty and Light-mantled Albatross at Ile de l'Est, Crozet and at Kerguelen; Northern and Southern Giant Petrels at Cochons and Ile de l'Est, Crozet; White-chinned Petrel at Possession Island, Crozet, and; Grey Petrel at Kerguelen	*No new surveys planned*

Priority monitoring programmes	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
JAPAN: three species; current trend, adult survival and productivity unknown for four populations.	
(i) Establish long-term demographic monitoring at all sites.	*None reported*
MEXICO: one species (Laysan Albatross) at four sites; no trend or demographic data.	
(i) Establish demographic monitoring at all sites	*None reported*
NEW ZEALAND: 16 species (10 endemic) including 98 populations; 27% of populations of unknown size.	
(ii) Survey Salvin's Albatross at Bounty Islands.	*All Bounty Islands were surveyed by drone in Jan 2024 and will be resurveyed in Oct 2024. Time lapse cameras have been maintained and project to fuse both data sources and provide robust population estimates has been initiated*
(iii) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Black Petrel at Great Barrier Island.	*Programme maintained*
(iv) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Antipodean Albatross at Adams Island, Auckland Islands.	*Programme maintained and full island survey initiated*
(v) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Buller's Albatross at the Snares~~, and resurvey Solander Islands.~~	*Programme maintained on Snares and Solander resurveyed*
(vi) Maintain population monitoring of White-capped Albatross at all sites in the Auckland Islands.	*Programme maintained at Disappointment Island*
(viii) Collate existing data on Light-mantled Albatross populations and survey at major breeding sites.	*Small sub-colony at Antipodes resurveyed with drones. Suitable tagging sites and nests for monitoring identified.*
(ix) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Antipodean Albatross at Antipodes Island	*Programme maintained and full island survey initiated*
(x) Survey Southern Royal Albatross at Campbell Island.	*~25% of population surveyed and a wide range of further research initiated (tracking, banding, and nest monitoring)*
(xi) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Westland Petrels at Punakaiki	*Programme maintained*
SOUTH AFRICA: 9 species including 17 populations; 18% of populations of unknown size; no survival data for 13 populations.	
(i) Maintain long-term population monitoring of Sooty and Light-mantled Albatrosses at Marion Island.	*None reported*
(ii) Survey White-chinned and Grey Petrels at Marion and Prince Edward Islands.	*None reported*
(iii) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Wandering and Grey-headed Albatrosses at Marion Island.	*None reported*
(iv) Maintain intermittent population monitoring	*None reported*

Priority monitoring programmes	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
SPAIN: 1 species in one archipelago (Balearics), five island groups within a main archipelago (Balearics).	
(i) Establish and maintain long term monitoring programmes in all the major island groups, including ongoing initiatives in Dragonera/Sa Cella (Mallorca group) and Conillera/Bosc (Ibiza). Ensure that these ongoing programmes collect the relevant information necessary to assess demographic trends.	*None reported*
(ii) Recover the available information collected in the last 12 years on behalf of the local administration	*None reported*
(iii) Update population information for the whole archipelago, and investigate the potential existence of unknown/not confirmed breeding sites	*None reported*
UNITED KINGDOM: 6 species including 16 populations on two island groups	
(i) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Tristan and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels at Gough Island.	*Maintained all programmes, but ringing discontinued at the end of 2021 due to licencing conditions.*
(ii) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross at Tristan and Nightingale islands.	*None reported*
(iii) Maintain intermittent population monitoring of Sooty Albatross at Gough Island.	*Nest monitoring and counts of coastal cliffs maintained.*
(iv) Maintain intermittent population monitoring of Spectacled Petrel at Inaccessible Island.	*None reported*
(v) Establish intermittent population monitoring of Sooty Albatross at Tristan Island.	*None reported*
(vi) Survey Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross at Tristan Island.	*None reported*
(vii) Maintain population and productivity monitoring in study plots of Grey Petrel at Gough Island.	*Study plot monitoring continued – breeding success only.*
(viii) Confirm breeding of Grey Petrel at Inaccessible and Tristan islands.	*None reported*
UNITED STATES: three species, 26 populations, all of known size; few demographic data.	
(i) Maintain long-term demographic monitoring at several sites.	
(ii) Survey the five breeding sites where not currently monitored, and at all sites at five-year intervals.	*None reported*
NORTH PACIFIC: two species at two sites; current population trends unknown; no survival data.	
(i) Confirm breeding and begin long-term population monitoring of Short-tailed Albatross at Minami-Kojima	*109-162 nesting pairs confirmed (Brothers et al 2022)*

[1]A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of 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.

7.2. Review of key gaps in tracking data

Recent progress in the priority tracking programmes identified by the WG for each ACAP species by region is summarised in **Table 6**.

Table 6. Summary of progress on **regional tracking priorities**.

	Tracking Priorities	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
ARGENTINA	**i)** Southern Giant Petrels (non-breeding adults and juveniles) at Isla Arce and Isla Gran Robredo.	*GPS Solar Powered loggers deployed in January 2022 (breeding seasons) on 10 adults from Isla Arce. Tracking included the last and the first months of the breeding and non-breeding periods, respectively.*
	ii) Southern Giant Petrels (breeding and non-breeding adults) at Isla Arce and/or Isla Gran Robredo.	
AUSTRALIA	Shy Albatross (juveniles) in Tasmania; juveniles of all albatross species at Macquarie Island.	*No progress*
CHILE	**i)** Juvenile and nonbreeding Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses at all island groups, and particularly at Diego Ramirez; tracking of adults during all breeding stages from Islands Groups other than Diego Ramirez;	*None reported*
	ii) tracking of Southern Giant Petrels at Isla Noir.	*None reported*
DISPUTED	**i)** All ACAP species at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1] at a site other than Bird Island.	
	ii) Light-mantled Albatross at Bird Island, South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]. Limited data suggest population decline.	
ECUADOR	**i)** Waved Albatross (juveniles) at Galapagos.	*None*
	ii) Waved albatross (breeding adults during the non-breeding season) at Galapagos.	*20 adults tagged in June 2024; tags may last through non-breeding season*
FRANCE	Grey-headed and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses at Crozet Islands, Grey-headed Albatross at Kerguelen	*None could be carried out*
JAPAN	Black-footed Albatross at Ogasawara Islands.	*None reported*

	Tracking Priorities	Progress since AC13 (May 2023)
NEW ZEALAND	**iii)** Light-mantled Albatross at key sites.	*9 sat tags deployed at Campbell and 8 still transmitting providing valuable insights, but tracking from Adams remains priority*
	iv) Satellite tracking of Southern Royal Albatross from Campbell	*35 sat tags deployed at Campbell, with 22 still transmitting. Another 15 are planned for 2024/25*
	v) Satellite tracking of Southern Buller's Albatross from Snares and Solander	*20 sat tags deployed at Solander and 9 at Snares. Deployment of 20 at Snares planned for 2024/25 and 2025/26 each*
	NEW 2024 Satellite tracking of juveniles of various taxa, including Gibson's, Northern Royal, Southern Buller's and Salvin's Albatross as well as Northern Giant, Black, and Westland Petrels	*Deployments planned in 2024/25 on 16 juvenile Gibson's and 16 Northern Royal Albatross as well as 10 Northern Giant and 12 Westland Petrel*
	NEW 2024 Satellite tracking of Grey-headed Albatross from Campbell Island	*Deployment on 10 individuals planned in 2024/25*
	NEW 2024 Satellite tracking of Northern Giant Petrel from Motuhara	*Deployment on 16 individuals planned in 2024/25*
	NEW 2024 Satellite tracking of Campbell Albatross from Campbell Island	
SOUTH AFRICA	Juveniles of all species at Prince Edward Islands (*Phoebetria* species higher priority).	*None reported*
SPAIN	**(i)** Balearic Shearwater juveniles (only pilot study with five birds) and adults in early stages of breeding period. Major effort required in Menorca, where taxonomic status uncertain, influenced by Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* (could affect bird movements).	*None reported*
	(ii) Tracking of birds captured at sea during breeding season, to assess connectivity with colonies and explore the possible existence of unknown colonies	*None reported*
	(iii) Tracking of birds bycaught alive by fishing vessels.	*None reported*
UK	Juveniles of most species at Gough and Tristan da Cunha.	*None reported*
USA	Black-footed Albatross at Laysan Island.	*None reported*

[1]A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PaCSWG recommends that the Advisory Committee:

1. Encourage 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.
2. Encourage ACAP Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking studies.
3. Encourage 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.

8. ACAP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

8.1 Review the agreed indicators for population status, breeding site condition and tracking data availability

The Pressure-State-Response indicators for ACAP species breeding sites, populations, and tracking data are presented in **AC14 Doc 16**. The Science Officer noted these will be updated early next year and reported to MoP8. The indicators analyse separately the original 26 species listed on Annex 1 of the Agreement in 2004, the 29 species listed in 2009, and the current 31 species.

PaCSWG8 noted that the information on breeding sites and populations is derived directly from the ACAP database and the tracking data are provided from the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database. The WG was encouraged to update these databases to ensure that the data available for the indicator analysis are as comprehensive and current as possible. The WG thanked BirdLife International for their contribution to updating the tracking data and Red List Index indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PaCSWG recommends that the Advisory Committee:

1. Encourage data-holders to submit their land-based indicators data to the Secretariat to enable the summary indicators to be reported accurately.
2. Encourage data-holders to submit their tracking data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database to enable the summary of indicators to be reported accurately.

9. BEST-PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

9.1 Updates to existing guidelines and resources

The guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing HPAI H5N1 outbreak (see PaCSWG8 Doc 05) were discussed under Agenda Item 6.4.

Guidelines on safe seabird rescue, handling, and recovery onboard purse seines, presented in SBWG12 as SBWG12 Inf 11 were also noted.

10. REVIEWS AND INFORMATION

PaCSWG8 Inf 01 reported on outcomes of an ACAP Secondment, which aimed to build capacity in using detection dogs for surveying burrowing seabirds. The secondment involved training with burrowing seabird and endangered species detection dog teams in New Zealand and the application of the insights and skills gained in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1].

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

11.1. Work Programme 2023 - 2025

The Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025 (**AC14 Doc 22**) was updated based on discussions during the meeting, for consideration by the Advisory Committee.

11.1. Work Programme 2026 - 2028

The proposed Advisory Committee Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium (**AC14 Doc 23**) was reviewed based on discussions during the meeting, for consideration by the Advisory Committee.

12. REPORTING TO AC14

This report was prepared for consideration by the Advisory Committee.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An item was raised and was discussed under Agenda Item 3.

14. CLOSING REMARKS

The PaCSWG Convenors and Vice-convenor thanked those present, and the authors of papers and rapporteurs, for their valuable contributions to the meeting. The Science Officer was thanked for her diligence and commitment to assisting the work of the Working Group during the intersessional period and at the meeting. PaCSWG members and observers, the

ACAP Secretariat and ACAP officials were thanked for progressing the work of the PaCSWG during the intersessional period. The Convenors also thanked the hosts, Peru. Sandra Hale and Cecilia Alal were also gratefully acknowledged for their interpretation services as were the sound technicians for their assistance. The group thanked the Convenors and Vice-convenor for chairing the meeting.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND NON-ATTENDING PaCSWG MEMBERS

PaCSWG8 MEETING PARTICIPANTS

PaCSWG Members	
Marco Favero	PaCSWG Co-convenor, Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras, CONICET-UNMDP, Argentina
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Marcela Uhart	University of California, Davis, USA

Advisory Committee Officials, Members, Representatives and Advisors	
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Regina Aguilar	Advisor, Peru
Eve Arbodela	Advisor, Peru
Jose Carlos Baez	Advisor, Spain
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Jairo Calderón	Advisor, Peru
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Observers	
Nigel Brothers	Humane Society International Australia
Gabriel Canani Sampaio	FURG/Projeto Albatroz, Brazil
Thomas Clay	Environmental Defense Fund
Tzung-Su Ding	Chinese Taipei
Dimas Gianuca	BirdLife International / SBWG Co-vice-convenor
Sea McKeon	American Bird Conservancy
Andrea Sánchez-Tapia	Global Fishing Watch
Giovanny Suárez Espín	American Bird Conservancy
Cristián Suazo	BirdLife International
Desmond Tom	Namibia
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Helen Wade	BirdLife International

ACAP Secretariat	
Christine Bogle	Executive Secretary
Wiesława Misiak	Science Officer
Bree Forrer	Communications Advisor

Interpreters
Cecilia Alal
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Carlos Zavalaga	University of Nagoya, Japan

ANNEX 2. ONGOING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THREATS AT BREEDING SITES OF ACAP-LISTED SPECIES

Island Group	Breeding site	Species	Nature of threat	Threat species	Current Threat Magnitude	Ongoing management actions or why no management response in place	Why management response was or was not effective	Additional comments
Tasmania	Albatross Island (AU)	*Thalassarche cauta*	Parasite or pathogen - Pathogen	(Avian pox virus)	Low	NRE Tas (formerly DPIPWE) conducted pilot investigation for management of disease and investigating methods to more robustly quantify the impact of the disease on the population.		Nature of disease that affects chicks is poorly understood. Avian pox virus has been detected - mortality of chicks is due to a combination of factors.
Tasmania	Pedra Branca	*Thalassarche cauta*	Habitat loss or destruction - Increased competition with native species	*Morus serrator* (Australasian gannet)	High	None.		Level of threat to be confirmed. Gannet populations are increasing, and this is evident at Pedra Branca. Number of albatross chicks produced annually has declined & inter-specific interactions observed. Cause & effect needs confirmation with current assessment being undertaken of gannet population size and status across its Tasmanian range. Extreme weather events (wave wash) also contributing to population decline.
Islote Albatros	Islote Albatros	*Thalassarche melanophris*	Predation by alien species	*Neovison vison* (American mink)	Low	Traps for removing all american minks have being implemented in the islet during breeding season 2015/16.		
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1]	New Island	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low	Some control of cats was initiated in 2014, and a number of individuals have been shot since then. Preparatory steps are being taken for an eradication programme of		Research carried out at New Island has shown that feral cats on New Island feed predominantly on Cottontail Rabbits, Black Rats and Thin-billed Prions (Quillfeldt et al. 2008). There is some evidence that Feral Cats prey on the

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Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[1]						the four invasive mammal species -including *Felis catis* – which threaten fauna and flora on New Island, Falkland Islands (*Islas Malvinas*). This feasibility study commenced in May 2022 and was concluded in March 2024. Next steps are being planned.		chicks of White-chinned Petrels, and existing, published information on the relatively small colony of White-chinned Petrels at New Island indicates it has remained stable since 1972 (Reid et al. 2007). It is recommended that updated figures should be sought for White-chinned Petrels at New Island.
	Steeple Jason	*Thalassarche melanophris*	Parasite or pathogen - Pathogen	*Avian Influenza* (Avian Influenza)	Low	Tiered response to risk of HPAI. Enhanced biosecurity measures.		Observed mortality of tens of thousands of adults (likely including pre-breeders) and thousands of chicks.
South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)[1]	Bird Island (SGSSI (IGSISS))	*Diomedea exulans*	Parasite or pathogen - Pathogen	*Avian Influenza* (Avian Influenza)	Low	Tiered response to risk of HPAI. Enhanced biosecurity measures.		Observed mortality of >60 adults (although that includes prebreeders).
Galapagos	Isla Espanola	*Phoebastria irrorata*	Parasite or pathogen - Parasite	(Mosquito)	Low	Se continua con los monitoreos de enfermedades en los cuadrantes. (Continued monitoring of vectors and affected individuals).		Mosquitoes biting is a known cause of egg abandonment.
Isla de La Plata	Isla de La Plata	*Phoebastria irrorata*	Human disturbance - Recreation/tourism		High	Durante la temporada de anidaciÃ³n se cierra el Sendero "Machete" para evitar el stress a los albatros. (During nesting, the tourist trail "Machete" is closed to tourists to avoid stressing birds).	Aumento del Ã©xito reproductivo. (Reproductive success improved).	Visitantes en el sendero "Machete" causa stress a los padres que pueden abandonar al nido, reduciendo su Ã©xito reproductivo.

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Isla de La Plata	Isla de La Plata	*Phoebastria irrorata*	Stress by alien species - Nest desertion		High	Control de la población mediante veneno (anticuagulante) en sitios sensibles	Se mantiene controlada la población lo que se manifiesta en el aumento del éxito reproductivo.	La rata produce stress a los padres que abandonan al huevo / polluelo y depreda a los huevos.
Amsterdam and St Paul	Ile Amsterdam	*Phoebetria fusca*	Parasite or pathogen - Pathogen	*Pasteurella multocida* (Avian cholera)	High			Historically principally linked to chickens
	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			As part of the current eradication plan, eradication is suspected; to be checked with the taaf administration
	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			
	Falaise d'Entrecasteaux	*Thalassarche carteri*	Parasite or pathogen - Pathogen	*Pasteurella multocida* (Avian cholera)	High			Historically principally linked to chickens
Crozet	Ile de la Possession	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low	rodenticide used annually on study colonies		
Kerguelen	Baie Larose	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			

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Kerguelen	Baie Larose	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Habitat loss or destruction - Habitat destruction by alien species	*Rangifer tarandus* (Reindeer)	Low			
	Baie Larose	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			
	Courbet Peninsula	*Diomedea exulans*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low	managed locally		Research carried out at Kerguelen has shown that feral cats on PÃ©ninsule Courbet affect breeding success and rate of population growth rate of wandering albatross (Barbraud et al. 2021,Blanchard et al. 2024).
	Courbet Peninsula	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			
	Courbet Peninsula	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low	mananged locally		
	Golfe du Morbihan	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
	Golfe du Morbihan	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Habitat loss or destruction - Habitat destruction by alien species	*Rangifer tarandus* (Reindeer)	Low			
	Golfe du Morbihan	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			eradicated on Chateau Island (2002) and on Australia Island (2005).

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Kerguelen	Golfe du Morbihan	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
	Golfe du Morbihan	*Procellaria cinerea*	Habitat loss or destruction - Habitat destruction by alien species	*Rangifer tarandus* (Reindeer)	Low			
	Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			
	Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
	Joffre Peninsula	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
	Joffre Peninsula	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			
	Joffre Peninsula	*Procellaria cinerea*	Habitat loss or destruction - Habitat destruction by alien species	*Rangifer tarandus* (Reindeer)	Low			
	Joffre Peninsula	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
	Joffre Peninsula	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low			

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Auckland Islands	Auckland Island	*Diomedea antipodensis*	Predation by alien species	*Sus scrofa* (Pig)	Low	A plan for an efficient, 10-year programme of work to remove pests from the island has been developed. The plan and timeline for each major project component is based on extensive field-trials and research. The work plan and a team of experts are ready to lead it as soon as funding is in place.		$3.6m has been announced to start the work in 2024 but a total of $84m is required
	Auckland Island	*Diomedea epomophora*	Predation by alien species	*Sus scrofa* (Pig)	Low			
	Auckland Island	*Thalassarche steadi*	Predation by alien species	*Sus scrofa* (Pig)	Low			
	Auckland Island	*Thalassarche steadi*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low			
Prince Edward Islands	Marion Island	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	Predation by alien species	*Mus musculus* (House mouse)	Low	Mouse eradication planned for winter 2027		Mice have been recorded preying on on all surface nesting albatrosses at Marion. Although the records/observations were initially (in the early 2000s) localised and infrequent, there is mounting evidence that the scale and extent of attacks is increasing, and is likely to continue doing so with ongoing and predicted changes in climatic conditions and warmer and drier conditions facilitating more favourable breeding for mice.

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Prince Edward Islands	Marion Island	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Mus musculus* (House mouse)	Low	Mouse eradication planned for winter 2027.		Dilley B, Schoombie S, Stevens K, Davies D, Perold V, Osborne A, Schoombie J, Brink C, Carpenter-Kling T, Ryan P (2017) Mouse predation affects breeding success of burrow-nesting petrels at sub-Antarctic Marion Island. Antarctic Science 30: 1-12
Balearic Archipelago	Cabrera	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	Low	No measures taken. Local government not prone to address actions to control cats, fear of social opposition.		Detected in Picamosques islet, along with Genet. Cat reported in one out of 6 breeding islets in Cabrera, affecting about 10% of the local population. No detailed information.
	Formentera	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	High	No detailed information, nor measures taken (except old eradication in a small islet, Espalmador). Local government not prone to address actions to control cats, fear of social opposition.		Present in 3 out of 5 colonies (plus erradicated in another) including the historically largest one of the species, which has apparently declined severely in recent years, affecting 89.5% of the current population in Formentera. Predation known, not quantified.
	Ibiza	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low	Attempts of erradication, but not systematic (dependent on low budget, no specific project)		Most islets have rat presence in varying densities, affecting 93% of the estimated population. There have been trials of eradication, apparently not completed - and/or no monitoring programme afterwards. Impact on breeding success, apparently not severe, at least for some islets (e.g. Conillera; higher impact in Bosc). Biomonitoring pilot study in Sa Conillera, Bosc and Espartar since 2022, detection of Rattus rattus in Bosc, pending of action by local managers

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	Mallorca	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low	Action recently taken in Dragonera by local administration. Erradication in 2011, and follow-up work ongoing.		Formerly present in 3 out of 4 colonies, recently erradicated in Dragonera (2012), with current monitoring. Also eradication projects in Conills and Malgrat, but not post-monitoring, probably present (?). Apparently low impact, no severe effects on breeding success.
Balearic Archipelago	Menorca	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Felis catus* (Cat)	High	Local government not prone to address actions to control cats, fear of social opposition.		Present in Mola de Maá, where the major colony of Menorca is located (75% of the local population). Predation was severe, on chicks and adults in the past (up to >20 adult corpses found in a single visit. but currently there does not seem to be predation (cats confirmed in the neighbourhood with camera traps, but none in the colony since installation of cameras in 2018). Also presence of marten (Martes martes), weasel (Mustela nivalis), with no evidence of predation.
	Menorca	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	Predation by alien species	*Rattus rattus* (Black (ship) rat)	Low	Some erradication trials in Mola de Mao (no success).		Present in almost all colonies (except Illa de l'Aire). Events of predation on eggs, but no apparent severe impact on breeding performance. Current work of monitoring with cameras.
Gough	Gough Island	*Diomedea dabbenena*	Predation by alien species	*Mus musculus* (House mouse)	High	The Gough Island Restoration Programme led by RSPB and Tristan da Cunha Island Council has now completed two all island bait drops to eradicate the mice. The UK Government, charitable foundations and private		Oppel et al (2021; PaCSWG7 Inf 07) used population monitoring and mark-recapture data to estimate the past population trajectory of the critically endangered Tristan albatross Diomedea dabbenena by accounting for unobservable birds at sea in an integrated population model. They then projected the future population

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						individuals have supported this £10.5 million. The mice eradication operation, originally planned for 2020, was delayed until June-August 2021 due to implications caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. While the programme was executed successfully, unfortunately mice were detected in December 2021. In 2023, RSPB initiated an investigation into why the eradication was unsuccessful. This investigation was undertaken by an independent panel of eradication, toxicology and mouse ecology experts to review all aspects of the Gough Island eradication attempt. Findings of the review were released in late 2023 and are summarised in the April 2024 addition of the RSPB's Island Restoration News: Gough and Henderson newsletter. The outputs of the review are currently being considered to help determine the best way forward for a future eradication attempt.		Trajectory of Tristan albatrosses for scenarios with or without predation by invasive house mice Mus musculus on Gough Island. Models indicated that eradicating invasive mice would lead to a two-fold increase in breeding success and a 1.8–7.6 times higher albatross population by 2050 than without this intervention – i.e. mouse eradication is necessary to halt the ongoing population decrease of the Tristan albatross.
Gough	Gough Island	*Procellaria cinerea*	Predation by alien species	*Mus musculus* (House mouse)	Low			An impact on this species has been assumed because House Mice are affecting Tristan Albatross and burrow-nesting, summer-breeding petrels. 60% of chicks failed (n=35 hatchlings) reported by Dilley et al 2015.
	Kaula	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	Human disturbance - Military action		High	The island is still used as a bombing range for military training.		The island is used by the U.S. Navy as a bombing range for non-exploding ordnance.

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Hawaii	Kaula	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Human disturbance - Military action		High	The island is managed by the U.S. military and is used as a bombing target during military training.		The island is used as a bombing range for non-exploding ordnance.
	Kure Atoll	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High	Propagation and planting of Scaevola sericea that encouragesdune growth and stabilization		Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis.
	Kure Atoll	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Habitat loss or destruction - Vegetation encroachment		Low	Ongoing eradication program using herbicide and manual control		
	Kure Atoll	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High	Propagation and planting of Scaevola sericea that encouragesdune growth and stabilization		Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis.
	Laysan Island	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High	Continue protection of the low Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to maintain healthy populaitons while initiating new colonies in the main Hawaiian islands.		Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis, especially in low-lying areas.
	Laysan Island	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High			
	Lisianski Island	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High			
	Lisianski Island	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High	Continue protection of the low Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to maintain healthy populaitons while initiating new colonies in the main Hawaiian islands.		Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis.

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Hawaii	Pearl and Hermes Reef	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High			Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis, especially in low lying areas.
	Pearl and Hermes Reef	*Phoebastria nigripes*	Natural disaster - Sea-level rise		High			Loss of nests by periodic inundation due to tidal surges, storms and tsunamis, especially in low lying areas.

[1]A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of 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.