



Taxonomy Working Group Terms of Reference

Article IX 6 (b) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) requires the Advisory Committee to “endorse a standard reference text listing the taxonomy and maintain a listing of taxonomic synonyms for all species covered by the Agreement”. This reflects the current state of flux in the taxonomy of Procellariiformes and, in particular, of albatrosses.

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 terms of reference for the group are to:

1. establish a transparent, defensible and highly consultative listing process for the recognition of taxa of albatrosses and petrels listed under Annex 1 of the Agreement.
2. review the specific status of all taxa of albatrosses and petrels listed under Annex 1 of the Agreement;
3. collate and maintain a bibliographic database for published scientific papers relevant to the taxonomy of ACAP listed species;
4. develop and maintain a morphometric database of albatrosses and petrels to assist in taxonomic assessments and ensure long-term storage of valuable data in accordance with agreed data confidentiality arrangements;
5. report to the Meeting of Parties through the Advisory Committee on taxonomic assessments as appropriate.