



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Update of IUCN Red List for ACAP Species

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SUMMARY

The 2008 update of the IUCN Red List has resulted in three changes to the status of ACAP listed species.

- Tristan albatross (*Diomedea dabbenena*) has been uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered
- Waved albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) is now classified as Critically Endangered
- Buller's albatross (*Thalassarche bulleri*) has been downlisted from Vulnerable to Near Threatened

In total, eighteen of the 22 species of albatross are listed as threatened with extinction, together with four of the seven species of petrel listed under ACAP.

INTRODUCTION

As the listing authority for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, BirdLife International has recently reviewed the status of bird species for the 2008 Red List.

Red List Criteria are used to quantify extinction risk and assign species to one of three globally threatened categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable). Species that fall slightly below the 'Vulnerable' threshold, or are likely to trigger this in the near future, are classed as Near Threatened. Information on each species is circulated to experts for comment and the threat to each species is evaluated in terms of its population trend and rate of decline, geographic range, and degree of population fragmentation, in accordance with standardised criteria.

RESULTS OF THE REVIEW

Table 1 shows the updated IUCN status of ACAP listed species. The criteria that trigger each species' threat status are listed. Definitions of the IUCN Red List criteria can be found at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/terms/criteria.html>, however the shaded cells in the columns 'population decline', 'geographic range' and 'population size' indicate the broad categories that trigger each species' threat status. Threats identified as driving population decline of individual species are listed in Table 1. The number of species affected by each threat category and the severity of that threat for all 29 ACAP species are shown in Figure 1.

Albatrosses

Of the 22 species of albatross, 18 are classified as at risk of extinction (four Critically Endangered, six Endangered and eight Vulnerable) with the remaining four species classified as Near Threatened

- Population decline is a trigger in the classification of 12 of the 22 species of albatross. This includes current and historic declines.
- Restricted range and number of breeding locations is a trigger for 10 of the 22 species of albatross
- Population size is a trigger in the classification of one species, Amsterdam albatross (*Diomedea amsterdamensis*)

Petrels

Of the seven species of petrel listed under ACAP, four are classified as Vulnerable and three as Near Threatened.

- Population decline (current and/or historic) is the trigger in the classification of one of the seven species of petrel, white-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)
- Restricted range and number of breeding locations is a trigger for three of the seven species of petrel

Changes in threat status

The 2008 Red List update resulted in the reclassification of three ACAP listed species.

Waved albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) have been up-listed to Critically Endangered on the basis of evidence of recent decline in adult survival, coupled with the extremely small breeding range of the species, which is largely restricted to a single island.

Tristan albatross (*Diomedea dabbenena*) have been up-listed to Critically Endangered due to their extremely small breeding range, largely restricted to a single island, and projected population decline in excess of 80% over three generations. For Tristan albatross, the effect of fisheries bycatch on adult survival is exacerbated by low fledging success, caused by predation of chicks by introduced mice.

One species, Buller's albatross (*Thalassarche bulleri*), has been downlisted from Vulnerable to Near Threatened due to the stable breeding population of these birds. Although restricted to a small area, the breeding population is spread over a number of islands making it less likely that this species will be highly threatened in the short term due to human activities or stochastic events.

Threats identified

Of the current threats facing albatrosses and petrels, fisheries bycatch is listed as a key (medium or high) threat to 20 species, and a low threat to a further eight, of the 29 species listed by ACAP. Invasive species are listed as a key threat to six species, and a low threat to a further 13 species, and disease is listed as a key threat to two species, and a low threat to a further species.

Table 1. IUCN status and threats of albatrosses and all ACAP-listed petrel species. Key to threats: F – Fisheries bycatch, HD – Human disturbance, IS – Invasive species, D – Disease, P – Pollution, CW – Climate change and freak weather events, V – Volcanic eruptions. Capital letters indicate medium or high impact threats, lower case letters indicate low or unknown impact threats.

Species	Status	Criteria	Population decline	Geographic range	Population size	Threats identified
Amsterdam Albatross <i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	CR	B2a+b(v); C2a(ii)				F, IS, D, hd
Chatham Albatross <i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	CR	B2a+b(iii)				CW, f, hd
Tristan Albatross <i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	CR	A4a,d,e				F, IS, cw
Waved Albatross <i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	CR	B2a+b(v)				F, CW, hd, is, p
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	EN	B2a+b(v)				F
Black-browed Albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	EN	A4b,d				F
Black-footed Albatross <i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	EN	A3b,d				F, is, p, cw, v
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	EN	A4b,d,e				F, D
Northern Royal Albatross <i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	EN	A4b,c,d; B2a+b(iii,v)				F, is, cw
Sooty Albatross <i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	EN	A4b,d				f, hd, is, d
Antipodean Albatross <i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	VU	D2				f, is
Campbell Albatross <i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	VU	D2				f
Grey-headed Albatross <i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	VU	A4b,d				F, cw
Laysan Albatross <i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	VU	A4b,d				F, hd, is, p
Parkinson's Petrel <i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	VU	D2				HD, is
Salvin's Albatross <i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	VU	D2				F, CW
Short-tailed Albatross <i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	VU	D2				F, V, cw
Southern Royal Albatross <i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	VU	D2				F, is
Spectacled Petrel <i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	VU	D2				F, IS, hd
Wandering Albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i>	VU	A4b,d				F, p
Westland Petrel <i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	VU	D2				f, hd, is
White-chinned Petrel <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	VU	A4b,c,d,e				F, is

Species	Status	Criteria	Population decline	Geographic range	Population size	Threats identified
Buller's Albatross <i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	NT					f, is, cw
Grey Petrel <i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	NT					F, IS
Light-mantled Albatross <i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	NT					F, is
Northern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes halli</i>	NT					f, is
Shy Albatross <i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	NT					IS, f
Southern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	NT					F, hd, p
White-capped Albatross <i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	NT					F

Figure 1. Threats to the 29 species of albatross and petrel listed under ACAP

