



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

**REPORT OF
THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Lima, Peru
12 - 16 August 2024*

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
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
BLI	BirdLife International
BMIS	Bycatch Mitigation Information System
BPA	Best Practice Advice
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
DOC	Department of Conservation (New Zealand)
EM	Electronic Monitoring
HPAI	High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza
HSI	Humane Society International (Australia)
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICG	Intersessional Correspondence Group
IMARPE	Instituto del Mar del Perú
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOC	International Ornithological Congress
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
NPOA	National Plan of Action
MoP	Meeting of the Parties (MoP1, MoP2 etc. refer to the first, second etc. Session of the Meeting of the Parties)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG1, PaCSWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the PaCSWG)
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG1, SBWG2 etc. refer to the first, second, etc. meetings of the SBWG)
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
RFMO(s)	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation(s)
RFMCO	Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
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
WG(s)	Working Group(s)
WG-IMAF	Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fisheries

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC14) to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in Lima, Peru, from 12 – 16 August 2024, with Dr Mike Double as Chair and Mrs Tatiana Neves as Vice-chair.
- 1.2 Eleven Parties were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK) and Uruguay.
- 1.3 In addition, two Range States, 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 Australia (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 welcoming speeches by Ambassador Elvira Velásquez Rivas Plata, Director General of Sovereignty, Limits and Antarctic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, and by Mr Edward Barriga Rivera, Director General of Research in Demersal and Coastal Resources, Peruvian Marine Research Institute.
- 1.7 Ambassador Velásquez welcomed all participants to AC14 and expressed her hope that the meeting would be fruitful. She stated that Peru was pleased to host AC14 and was committed to the objective of achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for ACAP-listed species, something which was essential to a healthy ecosystem. The situation was more urgent in view of the conservation crisis facing ACAP species and the triple global environmental emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- 1.8 Ambassador Velásquez praised ACAP's work in addressing this challenge through its comprehensive approach, including ongoing scientific research and population monitoring, as well as encouraging national and regional endeavours, capacity building and awareness-raising.
- 1.9 She noted that through its engagement with a range of international bodies, ACAP had managed to influence the adoption of seabird bycatch mitigation measures and other policies related to seabird conservation. ACAP's work was also highly relevant to new and emerging international agreements related to biodiversity conservation. Finally, she expressed Peru's gratitude for the assistance given to Peru in capacity building and the development of networks.
- 1.10 Mr Barriga brought greetings from the President of the Board of Directors of IMARPE (Instituto del Mar del Perú), Adm Jorge Paz Acosta, and others at IMARPE. He stated that the hosting of AC14 was a great event for Peru. Peru was committed to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels and aware of

the importance of these species. He expressed his best wishes to AC14 and his hope that it would be a successful meeting.

- 1.11 On behalf of the Advisory Committee, the AC Chair thanked Ambassador Velásquez and Mr Barriga for their words and good wishes for the meeting. The Chair commented that the main outcomes expected from the meeting were: to renew and update our Best Practice Advice; to prepare our Advisory Committee reports to the Meeting of the Parties; to develop recommendations on how to progress the work of the Agreement; to carefully consider the Advisory Committee Work Programme for the final period of the current triennium as well as for the coming triennium; and to discuss and update ACAP's Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCO) Engagement Strategy.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The draft agenda was adopted by the meeting and is provided in **ANNEX 3**.

3 RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Executive Secretary introduced **AC14 Doc 27** which proposed Amendments to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Committee. Rule 3.3 sets out a procedure to be followed by international bodies for requesting admittance as observers to Committee meetings, while Rule 3.5 sets out a procedure for non-international bodies. The timelines for the two procedures are different. This is not efficient, requiring duplication of effort on the part of the Secretariat and Parties, and allowing very little time for the non-international bodies to finalise their arrangements for attendance. This paper proposed that the timeline in Rule 3.5 be adjusted to that in Rule 3.3. The Advisory Committee agreed to this amendment and adopted the Rules of Procedure (**ANNEX 4**).

4 REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

- 4.1 Australia tabled the Report of the Depositary Government to the Agreement ([AC14 Doc 06](#)), which indicated that there had been no new accessions or notifications to the Agreement since its last report to AC13, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 22 – 26 May 2023.

5 ACAP SECRETARIAT

5.1 Activities undertaken in 2023 - 2024 intersessional period

- 5.1.1 The Executive Secretary introduced [AC14 Doc 07](#) which provided a report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the 2023 - 2024 intersessional period. 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 was the main focus of recent months. The Executive Secretary extended thanks for help received in this lengthy process from the AC Chair and Vice-chair, the Working Group convenors and Peruvian colleagues from IMARPE. Other key activities included the implementation of the 2023 Small Grants and Secondments round, representation at a range of meetings, and discussions on the renewal of cooperation arrangements.

- 5.1.2 Another task which dominated the Secretariat's work in the first half of 2024 was the preparation of the brochure to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Agreement. The Executive Secretary thanked Parties and Observers who contributed to this informative and beautifully illustrated document, which is available in all three ACAP languages, in print and in electronic format on the [ACAP website](#). The brochure summarises ACAP's achievements and ongoing challenges. These were highlighted as part of a keynote address by the Executive Secretary at the Seventh International Albatross and Petrel Conference in Ensenada, Mexico in May 2024.
- 5.1.3 The Executive Secretary provided administrative support to the Recruitment Sub-committee selected by MoP7 to carry out the process to recruit the new Executive Secretary, who would take up the position in July 2025.
- 5.1.4 The Secretariat, as well as the ACAP officials, represented ACAP at a large number of international meetings, which are listed in the Secretariat report and which are discussed in the Joint Working Group paper **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 04 Rev 1**. ACAP's engagement with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations is also discussed in **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03 Rev 1**, and in **AC14 Doc 20**, discussed under Agenda Item 14.
- 5.1.5 The Executive Secretary took the opportunity to make liaison visits to Ecuador and Peru before and after attendance at international meetings. Both visits provided the opportunity to hold roundtable meetings with representatives from a range of government institutions, coordinated by the AC members of those countries.
- 5.1.6 The Advisory Committee noted the substantial amount of intersessional work which took place and thanked the Secretariat for the report.
- 5.1.7 Australia noted that the MoU with the Tasmanian Department of State Growth was overdue for renewal. The Executive Secretary advised that the Department of State Growth had decided to alter the nature of the arrangement to better align with internal processes. As such, the draft cooperation arrangement needed to be renegotiated and comprehensively scrutinised by the Department's legal team, as well as studied carefully by the Secretariat. This had delayed the renewal of the MoU. The Department of State Growth had advised that the final version would soon be ready for the Secretariat to send to ACAP Parties and seek their approval.
- 5.1.8 Ecuador enquired about progress with any new accessions to the Agreement as a result of the Secretariat's attendance at international meetings. The Executive Secretary outlined engagement with non-Party Range States,

encouraging them to attend ACAP meetings and to consider joining the Agreement. This included discussions in the margins of meetings with colleagues from Republic of Korea, Japan, Mexico and others.

- 5.1.9 The Advisory Committee noted that both ACAP Parties and the Executive Secretary should be active in engaging non-Parties, to encourage accession to the Agreement.
- 5.1.10 Chinese Taipei stated that it was important to allow non-Parties and Observers to become Parties to the Agreement as they can strengthen engagement with RFMOs.
- 5.1.11 The Communications Advisor presented an update on the ACAP Communications Strategy in document [AC14 Doc 21](#). Communications were identified as critical to highlighting the conservation crisis facing ACAP species, as well as supporting and helping achieve ACAP's conservation objectives. The Strategy identifies ACAP's target audiences and the most effective communications channels and key messages to convey. It also provides a clear direction for ACAP's future communications approaches. Adequate resourcing and investment in communications are needed if the implementation of the ACAP Communications Strategy is to be effective.
- 5.1.12 The Advisory Committee thanked the Communications Advisor and Intersessional Communications Group for their work, and stressed that the Communications Strategy is for the whole Agreement. It should therefore be presented to the MoP and in future to the AC as a standalone agenda item rather than as part of the Secretariat agenda item.
- 5.1.13 Uruguay suggested that more effort needed to be made to highlight the contribution of cooperating Range States and organisations to the ACAP cause.
- 5.1.14 New Zealand echoed earlier comments about the importance of this work and recalled the Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit, which targets fisheries managers, and the social research that was undertaken to understand the requirements of this primary audience, noting there is high degree of willingness to share these resources.
- 5.1.15 Peru suggested it would be helpful to improve how key information is conveyed to the decision-makers within Governments and organisations.
- 5.1.16 Chile advised it is in the process of discussing a new fishing law and among the provisions incorporated there is one that seeks to ensure that the granting of fishing rights or licenses be associated with the obligation to know the conservation measures, including measures to avoid the bycatch of seabirds. In this way, it is expected that owners of fishing vessels, in addition to being responsible for paying fishing licenses, carry out an ecologically responsible activity that is compatible with the objectives of ocean conservation. Chile will report any progress in this matter at the next meeting.
- 5.1.17 The meeting discussed the focus of the Communications Strategy, and the role of national initiatives. It was noted that many Parties have not fully adopted ACAP Best Practice Advice (BPA) on mitigating seabird bycatch.

- 5.1.18 The Intersessional Communications Group updated its Terms of Reference (**ANNEX 7**) to reflect the next steps in implementing the Communications Strategy.

5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025

- 5.2.1 It was agreed that following the meeting, the Secretariat Work Programme for the current triennium (**AC14 Doc 24**) would be amended to align with changes to the 2023 - 2025 Advisory Committee Work Programme, to reflect any changes and additions requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat.

5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 - 2028

- 5.3.1 It was agreed that following the meeting, the Draft Secretariat Work Programme for 2026 - 2028 (**AC14 Doc 25**) would be amended to include any additional items requested by the Advisory Committee for action by the Secretariat in its 2026 - 2028 Work Programme. The amended Draft Secretariat Work Programme would be presented to MoP8 for approval.

6 AGREEMENT'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Financial Report

- 6.1.1 The Executive Secretary introduced the 2024 Provisional Financial Report ([AC14 Doc 08 Rev 2](#)) and confirmed that the audited financial statements for the 2024 financial year would be distributed to ACAP Parties in accordance with Financial Regulations 10.2 and 11.3. She noted that the provisional report was based on the most recent report presented to the Parties, which covered the period to the end of December 2023 and did not capture most of the expenditure related to the preparations for AC14, nor to the Small Grants payments made at the beginning of 2024.
- 6.1.2 As set out in Attachment 1 of the document, seven Parties had paid their contributions in full. Six Parties had outstanding payments. Parties that were more than one year behind in paying their budget contributions on the date of opening of AC14 were not eligible to vote at AC14.
- 6.1.3 The Executive Secretary highlighted voluntary contributions towards the AC Work Programme from Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, Chinese Taipei, and the UK, and expressed thanks for this valuable support.
- 6.1.4 The Executive Secretary highlighted the ongoing valuable help given to the Secretariat by the Tasmanian Government, through the Department of State Growth.
- 6.1.5 Several Parties advised the meeting that they were prioritising payments of their contributions and hoped to soon be in a position to pay them.

6.2 Agreement Budget 2026 - 2028

- 6.2.1 The Executive Secretary introduced a draft budget for the Agreement for the 2026 - 2028 triennium (**AC14 Doc 09**), prepared in accordance with Regulation 3.1 of the Finance Regulations. The Draft Budget includes a statement of the significant financial implications for the triennium in respect of proposed work programmes. It was based on zero real growth and, as it was based on a current assessment of inflation, the figures were likely to change in the final version put forward to MoP8. MoP7 had asked the Executive Secretary to prepare at least three versions of the Budget – one for zero nominal growth, one for zero real growth (inflation adjusted) and one for better than zero real growth (including costs above inflation). The Executive Secretary accordingly planned to prepare the requested three drafts for the MoP, plus an additional version with costs in between zero nominal growth and zero real growth.
- 6.2.2 In presenting the Draft Budget, the Executive Secretary stressed that the Financial Regulations assign no role to the Advisory Committee in the preparation of the Budget, but the MoP does regularly ask the Advisory Committee to review the proposed allocation of funds to the Advisory Committee Work Programme. The amounts assigned for AC meetings were also of interest to the Advisory Committee.
- 6.2.3 The Executive Secretary advised that if MoP8 chose a zero nominal growth budget scenario (continuing with contributions at 2021 level), all discretionary activities were likely to suffer a significant reduction in funding. Furthermore, any proposals for increased expenditure (beyond adjustments for inflation) from the Advisory Committee or from Parties were likely to require a better than zero real growth budget to be adopted by MoP8.
- 6.2.4 The Advisory Committee thanked the Executive Secretary for the Draft Budget.
- 6.2.5 The United Kingdom suggested that the Advisory Committee needs to stress the consequences of zero nominal growth and zero real growth budgets to the MoP, especially since, unlike for the current triennium, savings would no longer be available to supplement the 2026 – 2028 Budget.
- 6.2.6 The Advisory Committee noted that Advisory Committee meeting costs were largely fixed, with only the Work Programme allocation being discretionary. As Small Grants and Secondments are funded from the Work Programme allocation, they would be impacted the most by any shortfall in funding.
- 6.2.7 An intersessional group including Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the Executive Secretary was formed to consider these issues. It was agreed that the group should prepare a briefing paper for the AC Chair prior to MoP8. The paper will emphasise the value of Small Grants and Secondments, and describe the consequences for capacity building, and the Advisory Committee Work Programme, if anything less than a real growth scenario was to be adopted by MoP8.

7 OBSERVER REPORTS

7.1 Reports from Observers to AC14

- 7.1.1 Statements from Namibia, the USA, and Chinese Taipei described developments and activities which had occurred since AC13 and are attached as **ANNEX 10, 11 and 12** respectively.
- 7.1.2 Statements were also presented by BirdLife International and Humane Society International Australia, highlighting their collaboration with ACAP and congratulating the Agreement on its 20-year anniversary. Statements from these Observers are provided in **ANNEX 13 and 14** respectively.
- 7.1.3 AC14 welcomed the Observer statements and thanked the Observers for their participation in the meeting.
- 7.1.4 Australia (as Depositary Government) and South Africa expressed their appreciation for the participation of Observers who contribute valuable information on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, and were united in offering their support to Namibia with its process of acceding to the Agreement.
- 7.1.5 HSI acknowledged a voluntary contribution from Chinese Taipei to the Small Grants Programme which funded a HSI proposal on the development of a heavy hook for use in pelagic longline fisheries.

8 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 8.1 Argentina made a statement, which is provided in **ANNEX 15**.
- 8.2 The UK made a statement in response, which is provided in **ANNEX 16**.
- 8.3 The Science Officer presented the Draft Implementation Report [AC14 Doc 15](#). She explained that this report was drawn from information provided by Parties in their individual Implementation Reports, which are available as Information Papers. Very few Parties provided their Implementation Reports on time and only six were able to be included as Information Papers (reports by Argentina [AC14 Inf 02](#), Australia [AC14 Inf 03](#), Brazil [AC14 Inf 04](#), New Zealand [AC14 Inf 05](#), Peru [AC14 Inf 06](#) and the UK [AC14 Inf 07](#)). This meant that the summaries included in **AC14 Doc 15** were based on incomplete information. Several AC members stated that their reports were submitted too late or were almost finished and would be submitted soon. Some reported technical difficulties in the process and others had problems securing input from all their relevant government agencies.
- 8.4 The AC expressed disappointment at the incomplete availability of reporting, as this meant the summary of information was considerably less useful than it could be. The Secretariat requested that the outstanding reports be submitted as soon as possible. The AC Chair undertook to write to Norway and France (not represented at this meeting) to convey the same message. The Secretariat also reminded the meeting of the provision in [MoP5 Doc 27 Rev 1](#) (paragraph 2.1.2) that for an eligible Party to receive sponsorship to attend meetings it needs to have submitted its annual report for the previous year.

- 8.5 Argentina suggested that the report to MoP8 on implementation of the Agreement could include a reference to (and an online link to) the ACAP brochure celebrating 20 years since the entry into force of the Agreement. Uruguay commented that in celebrating the achievements of the Agreement and considering the input of each Party, the MoP should also acknowledge the considerable work of ACAP officials, most of whom are officials from the Parties.

9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE MEETING OF PARTIES

9.1 Advisory Committee Report to MoP8

- 9.1.1 This Agenda Item was considered under Agenda Item 9.3

9.2 Indicators to Measure the Success of ACAP

- 9.2.1 The Science Officer presented [AC14 Doc 19](#). This document summarised capacity building and outreach activities by Parties and the Secretariat against indicators agreed by MoP6. Question 3 in the annual reporting system was designed to assess the number of capacity building activities per year by Parties, but was not functioning well, because reporting was scarce and often did not reflect the true number of events. Conversely, a question in the triennial Implementation Report on a similar topic (training activities) did receive some useful reporting from Parties.
- 9.2.2 The document asked the AC to recommend to the MoP one of three possible approaches for addressing this problem:
- i) change Question 3 to a simple Yes/No question with no information collected about individual activities;
 - ii) remove Question 3 from the reporting form altogether;
 - iii) derive relevant information on capacity building indicators by amending an existing question on this topic in the triennial Implementation Report.
- 9.2.3 The Advisory Committee expressed a preference for the third proposal, but also questioned whether capacity building was suitable as an indicator, given that it was inter-Party capacity building that was of interest. Therefore, the AC agreed that capacity building indicators, which focus on domestic activities, could be removed.
- 9.2.4 The Science Officer also summarised the other information in **AC14 Doc 19**, which referred to capacity building activities undertaken by the Secretariat (see also **AC14 Inf 01** and discussion under Agenda Item 15.4 about the ACAP Small Grants and Secondments Programmes).
- 9.2.5 AC14 welcomed the way capacity building fostered both national capacity and international cooperation, enabling the sharing of knowledge and activities between ACAP Parties (and others) – a key strength of ACAP. Some good news stories could be presented to the MoP as examples of this dynamic.

Several current ACAP officials had benefitted from ACAP grants and/or secondments earlier in their careers.

9.3 Process for the review of AC reports to MoP

- 9.3.1 The AC Chair presented agenda items 9.1 and 9.3 together. He recalled that an intersessional group had been set up by AC13 to consider improvements to AC reporting to the MoP. The intersessional group proposed preparing several shorter papers each focused on specific issues. The combined content of these shorter papers was very similar to that which was previously included in a smaller number of very large papers. The new structure made it easier to get the message across in a more impactful way. The Chair thanked all who had participated in the intersessional group and contributed to the outcomes.
- 9.3.2 The papers were presented to the AC as drafts which would require further updates before presentation to the MoP. The updates would be carried out intersessionally. Outcomes from the current AC meeting would be added, and AC members would have a chance to propose any further changes. In addition to **AC14 Doc 15** and **AC14 Doc 19** discussed under Agenda Item 8 and 9.2 respectively, the documents presented were: [AC14 Doc 10](#); [AC14 Doc 16](#), [AC14 Doc 17](#), and [AC14 Doc 18](#).
- 9.3.3 The AC welcomed the new structure for AC reporting to the MoP and agreed that this would be helpful in drawing the MoP's attention to the urgency of the current conservation crisis facing ACAP species. It was suggested that ACAP's communications messages could also be woven into the reporting to the MoP in a more prominent fashion to further highlight the key messages and importance of this work. This was particularly important in conveying the importance of implementing Best Practice Advice in relation to seabird bycatch mitigation, and stressing the serious problem of lack of compliance even once mitigation measures were mandated. Other key messages that could be highlighted even more starkly included the numbers of breeding pairs lost from each population or species (through declines in numbers) and pinpointing some key actions for High Priority Populations. Specific examples could be drawn from papers presented to the Working Groups, for example **PaCSWG8 Doc 03**. The MoP should be alerted to emerging threats to ACAP species that risked getting worse over the coming triennium (for example, from HPAI and the potential impact of offshore wind farms), and the need to address these challenges. The AC recommended that ACAP's priority conservation actions should be emphasised at the MoP (and perhaps highlighted in summary form at the beginning of each relevant document). A key message needed to be that research was valuable, but it was essential that this be followed up by action at the political and policy levels. The consequences of lack of action, or insufficient action, needed to be presented starkly so as to be clear. Additional communications tools could be incorporated into the messaging (for example, graphics and case studies). There was agreement that some lists appended to documents were not necessary and the additional length of the documents made them less reader-friendly.

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), Mark Tasker, introduced the report of the TWG ([AC14 Doc 11](#)) and thanked the other members of the group for their continued engagement.
- 10.1.2 **AC14 Doc 11** reported on progress with: a photographic catalogue to attempt to improve field identification of the Wandering Albatross complex *Diomedea exulans sensu lato*; a sequence gap analysis for ACAP species along with evaluation of sequence availability for three commonly used markers for species detection; and updating non-ACAP Procellariiformes taxonomy to reflect the latest IOC checklist. TWG also undertook a third Assessment of Taxonomic Status of Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* and concluded that new evidence is not enough to support a split of this species (as the new evidence was based on a small sample size). One study indicated that Balearic *Puffinus mauretanicus* and Yelkouan *P. yelkouan* shearwaters were the same species, but the IOC had not taken a decision as yet.
- 10.1.3 Spain mentioned that experts on the Balearic Shearwater *P. mauretanicus*, who have been in contact with the Taxonomy Working Group, have submitted a reply for publication, presenting arguments against merging the two species.
- 10.1.4 The TWG Convenor also noted that most world lists now call Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* 'Snowy Albatross' to avoid confusion with the other three species (Tristan, Antipodean, Amsterdam) in the "Wandering Albatross" complex. Embracing this common name for *D. exulans* would have no legal consequences to the Agreement, as Annex 1 uses scientific names.
- 10.1.5 The Advisory Committee noted the progress of the TWG, thanked them for their intersessional work and maintaining vigilance across taxonomic literature, and thanked the Convenor for presenting the Working Group's report.
- 10.1.6 New Zealand advised of ongoing research into Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*, and confirmed there is confusion around Wandering albatrosses in bycatch reports with the common name often used for all wandering-type *Diomedea* albatross species. For example, it was noted that genetic identification revealed that it is the Antipodean Albatross *D. antipodensis* that is most frequently caught in Australian pelagic longline fisheries, and not *D. exulans*.

11 SEABIRD BYCATCH

11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

- 11.1.1 Argentina made a statement, which is provided in **ANNEX 17**.
- 11.1.2 The UK made a statement in response, which is provided in **ANNEX 18**.
- 11.1.3 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), Dr Sebastián Jiménez, introduced the report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Seabird

Bycatch Working Group (SBWG12) held from 5 to 7 August 2024. SBWG12 considered 19 Working Documents and 19 Information Papers. The report ([AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1](#)) outlined intersessional progress against the SBWG Work Programme, as well as discussions and advice resulting from SBWG12, including updated Best Practice Advice. The Co-convenor noted no Working Document had been presented about the Best Practice Advice definition and criteria, but that SBWG12 had stressed the importance of the criteria and a suggestion had been made to create a simpler, stand-alone, clearly explained document on the criteria.

11.1.4 The AC thanked the SBWG Convenors, Vice-convenors and the Secretariat for preparing this report, and took note of it when developing the AC Work Programme. The AC agreed to:

11.1.5 Seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries

- i. Endorse the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic and demersal trawl fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 2 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG12. Whilst the changes do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice, they include reference to various mitigation options under development for net monitoring cables, when the use of these cables cannot be eliminated.
- ii. Encourage implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries identified in Section 5.2 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**.

11.1.6 Seabird bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries

- i. Endorse the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of demersal longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 3 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**. These updates reflect the latest research presented to SBWG12. Whilst the changes do not make any substantive change to Best Practice Advice, they update research under development for floated demersal longlines and provide improved consistency.
- ii. Encourage implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in demersal longline fisheries identified in Section 6.2 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**.

11.1.7 Seabird bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries

- i. Endorse the updated review and Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds contained in ANNEX 4 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**. These updates provide improved clarity and consistency in the document and reflect the latest research presented to SBWG12. These changes include defining a sink rate criterion for best practice branch line weighting and providing further clarification around the use of weight attached to, or integrated into, the hook as well as weight materials.

- ii. Encourage implementation of the research priorities for bycatch mitigation in pelagic longline fisheries identified in Section 7.2 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**.
- iii. Encourage Parties and other stakeholders to collect additional estimates of seabird bycatch rates of alternative branch line weighting designs.
- iv. Note that the SBWG Convenors and leads for each gear type would convert all three advice documents to a more user-friendly and standardised format for consideration at SBWG13.

11.1.8 Artisanal and small-scale fisheries

- i. Note the further progress made to populate the seabird bycatch mitigation toolbox for artisanal and small-scale fisheries (**AC11 Doc 06 ANNEX 6**) and plans to complete the process during the next intersessional period, following which it would be made available on the ACAP website.
- ii. Note that the SBWG Convenors would combine all mitigation research priorities for consideration at SBWG13, which would align with the process of standardisation and improvement of the consistency amongst the Best Practice Advice documents for each fishing gear type.

11.1.9 Seabird bycatch mitigation in purse seine fisheries

- i. Endorse the updated Toolbox for seabird bycatch mitigation advice in purse seine fisheries presented in **SBWG12 Inf 12**, which would be reformatted as a bycatch mitigation resource on the ACAP website.
- ii. Note the achievements in the development of seabird bycatch mitigation measures for purse seine fishing operations and encourage Parties to conduct further experimental studies.
- iii. Note the potential to develop material in **SBWG12 Inf 11** into ACAP guidelines.

11.1.10 ACAP performance indicators: seabird bycatch data workshop

Regarding ACAP indicators and data collection:

- i. Prioritise the collection of simple Response data on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation in domestic and RFMO fisheries.
- ii. Encourage Parties to report detailed information on seabird bycatch where possible and, in particular, on seabird bycatch rates and total fishing effort.
- iii. Develop an ACAP-funded project to support data reporting concerning bycatch indicators.
- iv. Note that future workshops would benefit from simultaneous interpretation, which would require further resources in the ACAP Budget.

Regarding observer and electronic monitoring:

- i. Note that an intersessional process was planned to update ACAP data collection guidelines for both observer programmes and electronic monitoring.
- ii. Encourage Parties to collaborate and share data from Artificial Intelligence (AI) programmes that support improved bycatch mitigation identification.

11.1.11 FAO IPOA-Seabirds

- i. Encourage Parties to implement national or regional plans of action to address seabird bycatch and provide updates at each SBWG meeting.
- ii. Encourage those Parties who had not yet developed national plans to do so urgently.

11.1.12 Enhancing implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures

- i. Endorse ACAP promotion of the Seabird-Safe Toolkit, including through the ACAP website, to enhance efforts to adopt ACAP best practice mitigation measures.
- ii. Note the incorporation into the AC Work Programme of the study of the human dimension of bycatch and the uptake of bycatch mitigation measures. Such studies can help in communication aimed at increasing the uptake of mitigation measures.

11.1.13 Priority at-sea conservation actions: review of priority actions and report back on pre-meeting workshop

- i. Endorse the at-sea conservation priority actions identified for ACAP and ACAP Parties (ANNEX 5 of **AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1**).
- ii. Note the staged approach proposed to update the priority at-sea conservation actions, starting with Party and Range State and APEC Member Economy Observer fisheries, followed by non-Party fisheries and RFMO fisheries.
- iii. Request that Parties and Range State and APEC Member Economy Observers review and update the list of fisheries relevant to them to be used in the prioritisation framework, update the scores for each of these fisheries and identify further possible actions for ACAP or ACAP Parties for high priority fisheries.
- iv. Note the potentially serious fisheries interactions with seabirds in the unregulated high seas area of the southwest Atlantic.
- v. Encourage Parties and others to provide papers to SBWG describing fishing activity and any other relevant information on this area of the southwest Atlantic.

- 11.1.14 Tools and guidelines: mitigation factsheets
- i. Support the update of the remaining Mitigation Fact Sheets to the new simplified format in a phased approach in accordance with the prioritisation identified by SBWG12.
 - ii. Note progress with the updated Mitigation Fact Sheet on pelagic longline fisheries bird scaring lines (vessels <35m).
- 11.1.15 Points made by meeting participants during the presentation of the SBWG report are summarised below.
- 11.1.16 In regard to ACAP Best Practice Advice, there was discussion on how best to distinguish the latest version and clarify the changes between versions. The date could be more clearly highlighted at the top of the document and a summary of changes could be provided as an annex (perhaps separately to the main document). Convenors and gear leads will consider this during the planned intersessional work to update all three BPA documents to a more user-friendly and standardised format. This work will be conducted intersessionally and considered at SBWG13. A version control section and a clear description of the changes made each year would be incorporated in the proposed new format.
- 11.1.17 In relation to seabird bycatch mitigation in trawl fisheries, HSI observed that this BPA document was the first time that “continuous trawl” had been referred to specifically in this forum and noted that further information on seabird interactions in these fisheries might be available from CCAMLR. Marco Favero as the Co-convenor of the CCAMLR Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fisheries (WG-IMAF) commented that he would table ACAP’s BPA in WG-IMAF and seek relevant further information from CCAMLR on this continuous trawl fishery.
- 11.1.18 New Zealand was congratulated on its significant work related to floated demersal longlines, through the development of a “dropper float”, together with adjustments to line weighting and bird scaring lines.
- 11.1.19 AC14 noted that discussions on pelagic longline fisheries were one of the most important items in the SBWG agenda. The UK highlighted **SBWG12 Doc 10** as a particularly valuable paper, containing a figure that very clearly showed the benefits of using ACAP’s BPA, and this figure could be useful as a clear summary of the different outcomes if ACAP’s BPA is not implemented in full. The UK considered that the figure was useful because it conveyed two main messages – that ACAP BPA implementation secures the best results in mitigating seabird bycatch, and that using only two out of the recommended three measures is substantially less successful. Others considered that the figure might be too simple for use in communicating with ACAP’s key audiences, but that a short paper with similar graphics could be prepared and presented to, for example, the RFMOs currently undertaking reviews of their Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) on seabird bycatch mitigation (see Agenda Item 14). Australia stressed that the current reviews underway by tuna RFMOs (ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, and IATTC) covering three ocean basins presented a unique opportunity for ACAP to influence the

outcomes across a broad range of fisheries, with the potential to harmonise the relevant CMMs with each other and with ACAP BPA. There was agreement that the way to communicate ACAP's message depended on the audience (as also highlighted in the Communications Strategy, see **AC14 Doc 21** and paragraph 5.1.11). A simplified outline would be useful for more political audiences, while more detailed material is required for technical audiences.

- 11.1.20 New Zealand advised that, in leading the current review of the WCPFC's seabird measure, it had prepared advice for the WCPFC clearly conveying the uncertainties around some techniques under consideration (**WCPFC-SC20-EB-WP-11**). This advice was now available on the WCPFC website (<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/23054>). This could contribute to a range of products that communicate information on the effectiveness of bycatch mitigation methods to different audiences.
- 11.1.21 The increased focus (in the BPA) on sink rates was welcomed, and it was suggested that seeking CCAMLR's guidance on sink rate measurement guidelines might be useful, although it was also noted that CCAMLR's guidance (developed for demersal fisheries) might not be directly relevant for pelagic longline fisheries. There was agreement to establish an intersessional group to investigate the measurement of sink rates for pelagic longlines (see **ANNEX 7**).
- 11.1.22 As regards artisanal and small-scale fisheries, Peru commented that it was thanks to an ACAP small grant (and collaboration with New Zealand) that the research described in **SBWG12 Inf 14** had been possible, since it is the first onboard seabird bycatch mitigation project in the artisanal longline fisheries. As a further development of cooperation, IMARPE (Peru) had just signed a cooperation arrangement with New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) about the seabirds shared between the two countries. The UK commented that under this agenda item there were four excellent information papers **SBWG12 Inf 14**, **SBWG12 Inf 15**, **SBWG12 Inf 16**, and **SBWG12 Inf 17** that had all involved some degree of international cooperation. Referring to paper **SBWG12 Inf 09** about small scale Brazilian fisheries the UK stated it was interested in exploring a cooperation arrangement with Brazil, similar to those between New Zealand and Chile, and New Zealand and Peru. Brazil thanked the UK for its offer of collaboration. Brazil already has experts in the SBWG group, but hoped that it would be able to include others from the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Uruguay commented on existing regional cooperation arrangements, such as those between Brazil and Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. Close collaboration between Brazil and Uruguay also took place in ICCAT. Chile commented on the importance of giving attention to small-scale fisheries, which were sometimes neglected in research when in fact those fisheries could have a significant impact on seabird populations, especially in Chile, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. It was very important to include consideration of seabird bycatch mitigation in purse seine fisheries among ACAP's priorities.

- 11.1.23 Chile noted that it would like to increase its research into its purse seine fishery, which was a very important fishery for Chile and Peru. It often had low rates of seabird bycatch, but when it did have bycatch this could be catastrophic.
- 11.1.24 Discussion on the Seabird Bycatch Data Workshop highlighted that some participants found the workshop difficult because of the lack of interpretation. The AC Chair agreed that ACAP workshops should be inclusive and able to foster communication between all participants.
- 11.1.25 Under the agenda item on Enhancing Implementation of Best Practice Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures, AC highlighted the innovative paper (**SBWG12 Doc 18**) from an Argentinian researcher, written from a social science perspective, with research carried out in Australia thanks to an ACAP secondment. The paper gave ACAP new ideas about how to communicate ACAP's message to fishers and other stakeholders in the fishing industry. Another initiative highlighted under this agenda item was the Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit developed by Southern Seabird Solutions and Department of Conservation in New Zealand (see **SBWG12 Doc 14** and **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 12**). The USA commented that they had supported and co-sponsored the Toolkit in the APEC context and appreciated how it encouraged industry's uptake of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in pelagic longline fisheries.
- 11.1.26 Another issue covered by the workshop immediately preceding SBWG12 related to priority fisheries for conservation action for ACAP species. The AC warmly welcomed Namibia's advice that it would be able to provide some data on relevant fisheries very soon once the finalisation of Namibia's NPOA was completed. Chile reiterated that all purse seine fisheries need to be included in the assessment of priority fisheries. The AC Chair stressed that the table on priority fisheries for conservation actions was part of a package of reporting to Parties at MoP8. The Science Officer commented that a full update would need to be finalised by early 2025, if it was to be presented to MoP8. This timeline was considered too ambitious, but New Zealand suggested that in advance of MoP8 it may be possible to at least address omissions from the current list of fisheries and correct known errors.
- 11.1.27 The agenda item closed with an expression of appreciation for the enormously valuable efforts by the SBWG Convenors and Vice-convenors, both at the meeting and intersessionally.

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 A Vice-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Dr Megan Tierney, introduced the report of the Joint Meeting of SBWG12 and PaCSWG8 held on 8 and 9 August 2024 ([AC14 Doc 13](#)). She noted that Agenda Item 5 of the

report concerning coordination of activities relating to RFMOs will be presented separately under AC14 Agenda Item 14.

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 on cross cutting issues. The Joint Meeting was convened by PaCSWG Co-convenors Mrs Patricia Serafini and Dr Marco Favero, PaCSWG Vice-convenor Professor Richard Phillips, and SBWG Co-convenor Dr Sebastián Jiménez. In total 11 Working Documents, 16 Information Papers and one additional product were considered by the Joint Meeting under six agenda items, with 16 recommendations being put forward to the AC for their consideration.

12.1.3 The Advisory Committee considered the Joint Meeting's recommendations when developing the AC Work Programme. The Advisory Committee agreed to:

12.1.4 Overlap of birds and at-sea threats

- i. Support the development and use of tools for analysis of spatial overlap of seabirds and fisheries.
- ii. Encourage the development of ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessment analyses.
- iii. Encourage the provision of samples of known provenance for genetic assignment of seabirds caught in fisheries and submission of genetic data to appropriate data repositories.
- iv. Encourage Parties to improve knowledge of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to better understand impacts on seabirds, and provide ground-truthing data to assist Global Fishing Watch with remote detection of these fleets.
- v. Encourage researchers to conduct fine-scale tracking studies, particularly on species, populations, and age classes, where there are data gaps, to submit their data to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database, and to make the data available for seabird-fisheries overlap analyses and risk assessments.
- vi. Request the Secretariat to develop a cooperation arrangement with Global Fishing Watch, for presentation to the Meeting of the Parties.
- vii. Encourage Parties to share Vessel Monitoring System data, including with Global Fishing Watch, and make it publicly available.
- viii. Encourage Parties to implement measures to reduce risks to rafting albatrosses and petrels, including reductions or prohibitions on activities that may cause harm to ACAP species in waters adjacent to breeding colonies.
- ix. Encourage increased engagement with North Pacific Ocean Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and non-Party Range States in the region.

- 12.1.5 Offshore energy infrastructure developments and associated risks
- i. Endorse the establishment of an intersessional working group to develop guidelines for offshore wind farm developments and risk assessments (see **ANNEX 7**).
 - ii. Encourage Parties to further develop technologies that mitigate and monitor potential impacts of offshore windfarms on ACAP species and in particular, technologies that can determine flight height behaviours of albatrosses and petrels.
- 12.1.6 ACAP High Priority Populations
- i. Encourage Parties to take actions for the conservation of the ACAP High Priority Populations and ensure the effective implementation of any existing Action Plans for the populations or species.
- 12.1.7 Any other business
- i. Endorse the allocation of core funds in the Advisory Committee Work Programme to cover design and translation costs of the poster for fishing vessels to be alert for avian flu and safe when handling birds.
- 12.1.8 The AC strongly supported the need to take action for the conservation of the ACAP High Priority Populations (12.1.6. i) and to reflect this in the AC reporting to MoP8.
- 12.1.9 AC14 thanked Megan Tierney for presenting the Report on behalf of the Joint Meeting, Convenors and Vice-convenors.

13 POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

13.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group

- 13.1.1 The Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), Dr Marco Favero, introduced the report of the Eighth Meeting of the PaCSWG ([AC14 Doc 14](#)). This report outlined intersessional progress against the Work Programme of the PaCSWG, as well as discussions and advice resulting from the meeting of PaCSWG8 on 9 August 2024.
- 13.1.2 The Advisory Committee considered the PaCSWG8 recommendations when updating the AC Work Programme. The AC agreed to:
- 13.1.3 Population trends of ACAP species
- i. 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 (see **ANNEX 7**).
 - ii. Incorporate this task into the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028.

13.1.4. Threats

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

13.1.5 Data Gaps

- i. 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.
- ii. Encourage ACAP Parties and others to undertake the identified priority tracking studies.
- iii. 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.

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

- i. Encourage data-holders to submit data that inform ACAP's land-based indicators to the Secretariat to enable the summary indicators to be reported accurately.
- ii. 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.

13.1.7 The UK and South Africa suggested that the ACAP eradications guidelines should be reviewed in light of recent failed eradications, particularly of House Mouse. The AC agreed to add this specific task to the AC Work Programme.

13.1.8 Australia advised that a management voyage to Heard Island and McDonald Islands is planned for austral summer 2025/26. This will include matters concerning updating information on ACAP species at these locations.

13.1.9 South Africa stated that data from recent surveys on Prince Edward Island will be added to the ACAP database in the coming months.

13.1.10 The AC thanked the PaCSWG and its Convenors for their considerable work and report.

14 **ACAP ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS**

14.1 The Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Dr Sebastián

Jiménez referred the meeting to the report of the Joint Meeting of SBWG12 and PaCSWG8 ([AC14 Doc 13](#)) and the recommendations made under Agenda 5 of that report.

- 14.2 The Advisory Committee took note of Agenda Item 5 in **AC14 Doc 13** when updating the AC Work Programme. Based on recommendations from the joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 meeting, the AC agreed to:
- 14.3 Coordination of activities relating to RFMOs
- i. Endorse the proposed priority actions as set out in **SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03 Rev 2** and support the completion of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy for 2026 – 2028.
 - ii. Endorse, and propose to MoP8, the allocation of funding in the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028 to fully implement the priority actions.
 - iii. Request the Secretariat to develop a cooperation arrangement between the ACAP Secretariat and the Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front, for presentation to the Meeting of the Parties.
- 14.4 USA noted the updates on seabird-related steps in IATTC, regarding the Seabird Action Plan proposed by USA that was an outcome of the June Ecosystems and Bycatch Working Group meeting. USA expressed appreciation that ACAP and BLI will contribute substantially to this effort. The US delegation to ICCAT and WCPFC would be interested to work with ACAP Parties and others to take steps towards eventual updates of seabird mitigation measures in those RFMOs also.
- 14.5 The SBWG Co-convenor introduced [AC14 Doc 20](#) which outlines a revised ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations, developed by the intersessional correspondence group (ICG). He thanked the ICG and the Secretariat for undertaking this review. The ICG reviewed the aims of the current RFMCO Engagement Strategy and the theme-based format of the strategy; and developed an updated list of priority actions which are presented in ANNEX 1 of **AC14 Doc 20**.
- 14.6 The UK suggested that there are roles that ACAP Parties individually can do, and it would be good to provide individual actions to Parties and recognise that there are also collective actions.
- 14.7 The Advisory Committee noted that the strategy should guide the actions of ACAP, ACAP officials and NGOs, as well as Parties and the Secretariat.
- 14.8 The Advisory Committee noted that the Table 1 template in **AC14 Doc 20** would need to be completed for other RFMOs and conservation organisations and agreed to present the overarching Strategy to MoP8 for endorsement.
- 14.9 BLI thanked ACAP and the ICG for their work on the Strategy, and highlighted actions relating to ACAP Parties 'leading by example' in regards to transparency and effective reporting on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures and seabird bycatch.

- 14.10 The AC agreed that the following action for Parties be added to the Strategy: 'Influence increased transparency and effective reporting in regional fisheries management and conservation organisations by demonstrating high standards in mitigation measure implementation, monitoring and reporting; and seabird bycatch monitoring and reporting'.
- 14.11 HSI expressed particular concern about the CCSBT, whose management procedure allows for progressive increases of total allowable catch (TAC) of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT). This could result in progressively more albatrosses being caught, potentially an additional 1,900 birds per year and by 2029, a total of 20,900 annually by the fishery. In HSI's view, this needs to be brought to the attention of the MoP, as the conservation crisis will worsen unless a pause in progressive TAC increase occurs until adequately effective mitigation is implemented and proven to be implemented. Around 90% of fishing effort is unobserved in the CCSBT longline sector, obligated to only follow mitigation of overlapping RFMOs, whose measures are inadequate for higher latitudes.
- 14.12 The Advisory Committee reiterated that all ICGs (see **ANNEX 7**) are open to new members.

15 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee

- 15.1.1 The AC Chair advised that there were no papers submitted under this item and invited any comments. Australia sought views of others on the possibility of switching some funds from the Advisory Committee Work Programme from the 2019 - 2022 quadrennium to the future 2026 - 2028 triennium. At the request of the Chair, the Executive Secretary commented that, while the AC might decide to switch funds remaining from previous years to new activities in the AC Work Programme, and indeed had agreed at AC13 to do this with some funds remaining in the AC Work Programme for projects no longer in the current 2023 - 2025 Work Programme, the Appropriation for the Advisory Committee Work Programme had a special status in the Budget. Unlike the other appropriations, the AC Work Programme is accounted for on a cash basis, as expenditure and commitments are carried forward over subsequent years, to be drawn on for agreed tasks. It is not ACAP practice to remove funds from the AC Work Programme for other appropriations. The UK expressed its agreement with this practice, noting also that Appropriation 4 contained voluntary contributions to the Special Fund, whose use was determined by the requests of the contributor.
- 15.1.2 Australia noted Resolution 1.5 concerning the Advisory Committee, which had been adopted by MoP1, was now 20 years old. Australia suggested that MoP8 could be asked to request the AC to review the resolution during the next intersessional period with a view to developing an updated draft resolution for consideration by MoP9. The AC agreed with this suggestion.

15.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025

15.2.1 The 2023 - 2025 Advisory Committee Work Programme (**AC14 Doc 22**) was reviewed during the meetings of SBWG12, PaCSWG8, and the Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 meeting. It was further discussed by AC14. Bearing in mind that there were only 10 months remaining of financial year 2025, only a small number of additions and changes were made. An updated version of the AC Work Programme for the current triennium was agreed (**ANNEX 5**) as were the Terms of Reference for intersessional correspondence groups (**ANNEX 7**).

15.3 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028

15.3.1 A draft 2026 - 2028 Advisory Committee Work Programme (**AC14 Doc 23**) was discussed and amended during the meetings of SBWG12, PaCSWG8, and the Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 meeting. It was further discussed by AC14 and a final version was agreed for presentation to MoP8 (**ANNEX 6**). Significant changes from the AC Work Programme of the previous triennium included an increase in the amount allocated for engagement with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations, based on the actual expenditure in financial year 2024. The additional funds would allow engagement in the CMM review processes underway in four tuna RFMOs, which are priority actions in the RFMCO Engagement Strategy.

15.4 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme

15.4.1. The Science Officer presented [AC14 Inf 01](#), which summarised the grants and secondments awarded over the triennium, plus some that had been carried over from previous years (because of delays caused by the COVID pandemic). She thanked all the Working Group members who had reviewed grant applications, as well as the members of the Grants Sub-committee. Many of the papers presented to the Working Groups were the results of studies funded by ACAP grants and secondments. She commented that the grants awarded from the 2023 round were funded both from ACAP funds and generous voluntary contributions from Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, Chinese Taipei and the UK. She also noted that summaries of the projects were now being published on the ACAP website.

15.4.2 The AC highlighted the success of the Small Grant and Secondment schemes in capacity building, as well as seabird conservation research. Grant recipients (HSI, Peru and South Africa) expressed their thanks for grants received for projects completed or currently underway. Ecuador noted that one secondment awarded to an Ecuador applicant in 2019 had been delayed for various reasons for many years but should be able to get underway in the near future.

15.4.3 Calls for applications for the 2024 secondments and small grants round would be issued in September 2024.

16 LISTING OF NEW SPECIES

16.1 Proposals to list new species on Annex 1

- 16.1.1 There were no proposals for listing of species on Annex 1.
- 16.1.2 The Advisory Committee reiterated that any future proposals be presented to the Advisory Committee immediately after a Meeting of the Parties to allow sufficient time for consideration by Working Groups and the AC ahead of the following MoP.
- 16.1.3 The Secretariat recalled that guidelines for the listing process are available in [MoP5 Doc 21](#).

17 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF AC OFFICERS

- 17.1 The AC Chair advised the meeting that no AC posts are subject to election at this meeting. All the Committee officer positions will conclude at the end of AC15.
- 17.2 The Advisory Committee acknowledged the significant amount of work that all AC officials undertake for the Agreement and expressed thanks for their dedication.

18 EIGHTH MEETING OF PARTIES

18.1 Timing and Venue

- 18.1.1 The Executive Secretary advised the meeting that as previously noted, New Zealand would be the host of the Eighth Session of the Meeting of Parties, planned for 19 - 23 May 2025.

18.2 Draft Provisional Agenda

- 18.2.1 The draft provisional agenda for MoP8 (**AC14 Doc 26**), prepared by the MoP7 Chair, the AC Chair, and the Secretariat, was reviewed (**ANNEX 8**). The revised draft provisional agenda will be submitted to Parties for their comments in advance of MoP8.

19 FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19.1 Timing and Venue

- 19.1.1 The Executive Secretary advised that AC15 would be held in May 2026.
- 19.1.2 Namibia advised that Namibian authorities were considering the possibility of hosting AC15 and Namibia would keep the AC informed of the outcomes of those considerations.

19.1.3 Chinese Taipei commented that should no Party or Range State Observer offer to host AC15, then Chinese Taipei would like to explore the possibility of being the host.

19.1.4 The Advisory Committee welcomed the expressions of interest in potentially hosting AC15 and looked forward to receiving further information in due course.

19.2 Draft Agenda

19.2.1 A draft agenda for AC15 was reviewed by the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 9**) and will be forwarded to AC members for their consideration ahead of AC15.

20 OTHER BUSINESS

20.1 The AC representative of Argentina, Carmen Rivero, as Chair of the Recruitment Sub-committee for the selection of an Executive Secretary to take up the position in July 2025, announced that a selection had been made. Jonathon Barrington of Australia had been selected from a number of excellent candidates. The Sub-committee were confident that Jonathon Barrington was the best candidate and had the necessary qualities for the position. Carmen Rivero thanked the other members of the Sub-committee (Igor Debski, New Zealand and Mark Tasker, UK) for their participation in this undertaking and expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for the collaboration throughout the process, without which the subcommittee's task would have been significantly more challenging.

20.2 Jonathon Barrington expressed his gratitude to the Recruitment Sub-committee for their work and confidence in selecting him to take on the important ACAP Executive Secretary role and responsibilities. He indicated that it would be with some sadness that AC14 would be his last Advisory Committee meeting as Australia's representative and wished all Members the very best in continuing their work to achieve the objective of the Agreement.

20.3 AC14 warmly welcomed the selection of the Executive Secretary designate and wished him all the best for his assignment.

21 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21.1 The meeting adopted the report of AC14.

22 CLOSING REMARKS

22.1 In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked all AC members for their contributions to the excellent outcomes. He also thanked non-Party Range States, Namibia and the USA for their participation, as well as Chinese Taipei

as an APEC Member Economy participating as an Observer. He acknowledged NGOs BirdLife International and HSI who also made valuable contribution to the meeting, reflecting their active involvement in the Agreement. The Chair also expressed thanks to the Secretariat, to the host country (Peru), to the hotel and to the interpreters and technicians for their efforts. The Chair highlighted the following outcomes of the meeting: the review (and endorsement) of recommendations from the Working Groups; the consideration of reporting to the MoP and what it should contain; an important message to the MoP about the conservation crisis and the plight of some populations; promotion of a Communications Strategy and a Strategy for engagement with RFMCOs; the importance of adequate funding for the AC Work Programme.

- 22.2 The Vice-chair endorsed the Chair's comments, as did several delegations. She expressed her personal thanks and those of the Advisory Committee to the Chair for his professional steering of the meeting, as well as for his work and leadership in the past intersessional period.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

CHAIR	
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VICE-CHAIR	
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INTERPRETERS

Spanish ↔ English:	Ms Cecilia ALAL Dr Sandra HALE
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ANNEX 2. LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC14 Doc 01	Draft Meeting Agenda	2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 02 Rev 1	Annotated Draft Agenda	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 03	Meeting Schedule	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 04	List of Meeting Documents	2	AC Chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 05 Rev 1	List of Meeting Participants	2	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 06	Report of the Depositary Government on the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Canberra, 19 June 2001)	4	Australia
AC14 Doc 07	Secretariat Report	5.1	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 08 Rev 2	2024 Provisional Financial Report	6.1	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 09	Draft Agreement Budget 2026 - 2028	6.2	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 10	Draft Advisory Committee Report to MoP8	9.1	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 11	Report of the Taxonomy Working Group	10.1	TWG
AC14 Doc 12 Rev 1	Report of Seabird Bycatch Working Group	9.2, 11.1	SBWG
AC14 Doc 13 Rev 1	Report of Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	12.1	PaCSWG Convenors, SBWG Convenors
AC14 Doc 14 Rev 2	Report of Population and Conservation Status Working Group	13.1	PaCSWG
AC14 Doc 15	Draft Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2022 - 2024	8	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 16 Rev 1	Status of ACAP species, populations and breeding sites. Draft Report to MoP8.	9	Secretariat, Working Group Convenors, AC Chair
AC14 Doc 17	Threats to ACAP species and mitigation actions. Draft Report to MoP8.	9	Secretariat, Working Group Convenors, AC Chair
AC14 Doc 18	ACAP Priority Conservation Actions for 2026 - 2028. Draft Report to MoP8.	9	Secretariat, Working Group Convenors, AC Chair

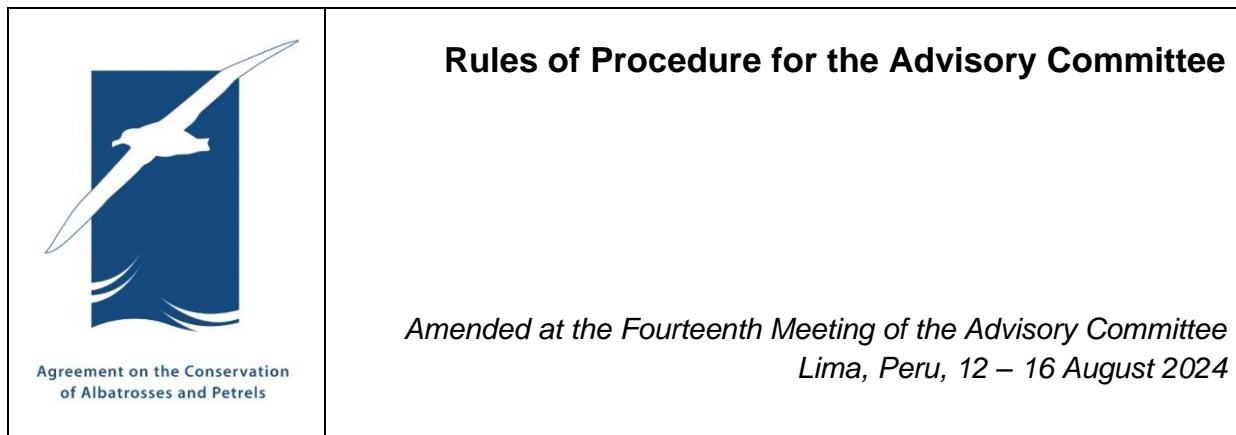
WORKING DOCUMENTS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC14 Doc 19	Capacity building and outreach. Draft Report to MoP8.	9	Secretariat, AC Chair, Vice-chair
AC14 Doc 20	ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations	14	Intersessional Correspondence Group
AC14 Doc 21	ACAP Communications Strategy update	5.1	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 22	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025	15.2	Advisory Committee, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 23	Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028	15.3	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 24	Secretariat Work Programme 2023 - 2025	5.2	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 25	Draft Secretariat Work Programme 2026 - 2028	5.3	Secretariat
AC14 Doc 26	Draft Provisional Agenda – MoP8	18.2	MoP Chair, AC Chair, Secretariat
AC14 Doc 27	Proposed amendments to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Committee	3	Secretariat

INFORMATION PAPERS			
Paper	Title	Agenda Item	Submitted by
AC14 Inf 01	Recent Small Grants and Secondment Programmes supported by the AC	15.4	Secretariat
AC14 Inf 02	2024 Implementation Report - Argentina	8	Argentina
AC14 Inf 03	2024 Implementation Report - Australia	8	Australia
AC14 Inf 04	2024 Implementation Report - Brazil	8	Brazil
AC14 Inf 05	2024 Implementation Report - New Zealand	8	New Zealand
AC14 Inf 06	2024 Implementation Report - Peru	8	Peru
AC14 Inf 07	2024 Implementation Report – United Kingdom	8	United Kingdom

ANNEX 3. AC14 AGENDA

AC14 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 2023 - 2024 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2023 – 2025 5.3 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028
6.	Agreement's Financial Matters 6.1 Financial Report 6.2 Agreement Budget 2026 – 2028
7.	Observer Reports 7.1 Reports from Observers to AC14
8.	Report on the Implementation of the Agreement
9.	Reporting to the Meeting of Parties 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 10.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
11.	Seabird Bycatch 11.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group
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.	Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels 13.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
14.	ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations
15.	Advisory Committee 15.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee

15.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 – 2025
15.3 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028
15.4 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
16. Listing of New Species
17. Election and Appointment of AC Officers
18. Eighth Meeting of the Parties
18.1 Timing and Venue
18.2 Draft Provisional Agenda
19. Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
19.1 Timing and Venue
19.2 Draft Agenda
20. Any Other Business
21. Adoption of Report.
22. Closing Remarks

ANNEX 4. RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**PART I****MEETINGS, DELEGATES, OBSERVERS, SECRETARIAT****Rule 1: Meetings**

1. The Advisory Committee (hereafter referred to as the 'Committee') shall meet annually, unless decided otherwise by the Committee or instructed by the Meeting of Parties, preferably in association with another event that would reduce the travelling costs of participants.
2. At each Meeting, the Committee shall decide on the date, location and duration of the next Meeting. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of these details not less than 120 days before the next Meeting.

Rule 2: Delegates

1. A Party to the Agreement (hereafter referred to as a "Party") shall be entitled to appoint one member to the Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee Member) and such other Alternative Representatives and Advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Parties shall submit the names of their Committee Member and Alternate Committee Members and Advisers to the Secretariat through their coordinating authorities prior to the start of each Meeting.
2. Subject to the provisions of Rule 13 paragraph 1, the Committee Member shall exercise the voting rights of that Party. In the Committee Member's absence, an Alternate Committee Member of that Party shall act in the Committee Member's place over the full range of functions.
3. The appointed Committee Member or Alternate Committee Member shall be available for consultation between Meetings.

Rule 3: Observers

1. All signatories to the Agreement, other States which are not Parties, any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in respect of Article VIII, paragraph 15 of the Agreement, the United Nations, any specialised Agency of the United Nations, any regional economic integration organisation, any secretariat of a relevant international convention, particularly regional fisheries management organisations, may send observers to Committee meetings, who shall have the right to participate but not vote.
2. Any international scientific, environmental, cultural or technical body concerned with the conservation and management of marine living resources or the conservation of albatrosses and petrels may request admittance to Committee meetings. Such participation may include the submission of information documents to the Secretariat for distribution at meetings and participation in the discussions of the Committee.
3. Written applications for attendance from such international bodies (described in paragraph 2) should be received by the Secretariat at least 90 days before the relevant meeting, and circulated forthwith by the Secretariat to Parties. Parties shall inform the Secretariat of their acceptance or rejection of all applications no less than 60 days before the meeting. An applicant shall be permitted to attend as a non-voting observer unless one third of the Parties that respond object to their application.
4. Any other scientific, environmental, cultural or technical body concerned with the conservation and management of marine living resources or the conservation of albatrosses and petrels may request admittance to Committee meetings. Such participation may include the submission of information documents to the Secretariat for distribution to the meeting and participation in the discussions of the Committee.
5. Written applications for attendance from such other bodies (described in paragraph 4) should be received by the Secretariat at least 90 days before the relevant meeting, and circulated forthwith by the Secretariat to Parties. Parties shall inform the Secretariat of their acceptance or rejection of all applications no less than 60 days before the meeting. An applicant shall be permitted to attend as a non-voting observer provided no objection is received.
6. Prior to the meeting, the names of representatives of observers shall be submitted to the Secretariat by the State, agency, organisation or body invited to attend.
7. Seating limitations and the financial capacity of the Secretariat may require that no more than two observers from any non-Party State or organisation be present at Meetings.

Rule 4: Secretariat

1. Unless otherwise instructed by the Parties, the Secretariat shall service the Committee.

**PART II
OFFICERS****Rule 5: Chair and other Officers**

1. The Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-chair, from among nominations made

by Committee Members, in accordance with Rule 12. Nominees shall be nationals of an ACAP Party. Should Committee Members wish to nominate a national of another ACAP Party, such nominations shall be in consultation with that Party.

2. After election, the Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee shall hold office until the end of the first Meeting of the Committee following the next session of the Meeting of Parties.

3. The Chair and Vice-chair may be nominated for re-election at the end of a term of office. The Chair and Vice-chair shall not normally hold office for more than three consecutive terms.

4. In so far as it is applicable, this rule shall apply mutatis mutandis to all appointments made by the Advisory Committee.

Rule 6: Presiding Officer

1. The Chair shall preside at all Meetings of the Committee.

2. If the Chair is absent or is unable to discharge the duties of Presiding Officer, the Vice-chair shall deputise.

3. In the event that both the Chair and the Vice-chair are absent or unable to discharge the duties of Presiding Officer, the appointed members present shall elect a Chair from amongst the Committee Members and their Alternate Committee Members for the duration of that Meeting.

4. If the Presiding Officer is a member of the Committee for whom no alternate has been appointed or an appointed alternate is not present, the Presiding Officer may vote.

PART III

RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE

Rule 7: Powers of presiding officer

1. In addition to exercising powers conferred elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall at Meetings:

- a) open and close the Meeting;
- b) direct the discussions;
- c) ensure the observance of these Rules;
- d) accord the right to speak;
- e) put questions to the vote and announce decisions;
- f) rule on points of order; and
- g) subject to these Rules, have complete control of the proceedings of the Meeting and the maintenance of order.

2. The Presiding Officer may, in the course of discussion at a Meeting, propose:

- a) time limits for speakers;
- b) limitation of the number of times the members of a delegation or an observer may

- speak on any question;
- c) the closure of the list of speakers;
- d) the adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion;
- e) the suspension or adjournment of any Meeting; and
- f) the establishment of discussion and drafting groups on specific issues.

Rule 8: Quorum

1. No Committee meetings shall take place in the absence of a quorum. A quorum for Committee meetings shall consist of four Committee Members or one-half of the Committee Members present at the meeting, whichever is the greater.

Rule 9: Right to speak

1. The Presiding Officer shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak, with precedence given to the Committee Members.
2. A Committee Member, advisor or observer may speak only if called upon by the Presiding Officer, who may call a speaker to order if the remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. A speaker shall not be interrupted, except on a point of order. The speaker may, however, with the permission of the Presiding Officer, give way during his speech to allow any participant or observer to request elucidation on a particular point in that speech.

Rule 10: Procedural motions

1. During the discussion of any matter, a Committee Member may call a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately, where possible, decided by the Presiding Officer in accordance with these Rules. A Committee Member may appeal against any ruling of the Presiding Officer. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the Presiding Officer's ruling shall stand unless a majority of the Parties present and voting decides otherwise. A delegate calling a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.
2. The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the Meeting:
 - a) to suspend the Meeting;
 - b) to adjourn the Meeting;
 - c) to adjourn the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion;
 - d) to close the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion.

Rule 11: Arrangements for debate

1. The Meeting may, on a proposal by the Presiding Officer or by a Committee Member, limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times anyone may speak on any question. When the debate is subject to such limits, and a speaker has spoken for the allotted time, the Presiding Officer shall call the speaker to order without delay.
2. During the course of a debate the Presiding Officer may announce the list of speakers, and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. The Presiding Officer may, however, accord the right of reply to any individual if a speech delivered after the list has been declared closed makes this desirable.
3. During the discussion of any matter, a Committee Member may move the adjournment of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, a Committee Member may speak in favour of, and a Committee Member of each of two Parties may speak against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote. The Presiding Officer may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this Rule.
4. A Committee Member may at any time move the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion, whether or not any other individual has signified the wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion for closure of the debate shall be accorded only to a Committee Member from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote. The Presiding Officer may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this Rule.
5. During the discussion of any matter a Committee Member may move the suspension or the adjournment of the Meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall immediately be put to the vote. The Presiding Officer may limit the time allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the Meeting.

Rule 12: Taking of Decisions

1. The Presiding Officer shall put to all Committee Members all questions, proposals and actions requiring decisions. Decisions shall be adopted by consensus or, if consensus cannot be achieved, by voting.

PART IV**VOTING****Rule 13: Voting**

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 2, paragraph 2, each Committee Member shall have one vote.
2. Parties which are one year behind in paying their budget contributions on the date of the first day of the Committee meeting shall not be eligible to vote unless the Meeting of Parties have agreed to allow those Parties to exercise their vote in accordance with Rule 20 (paragraph 2) of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of Parties.
3. The Committee shall normally vote by show of hands at a meeting, but any Committee

Member may request a roll-call vote. In the event of a vote between Meetings, there will be a postal or email ballot. Voting by email or postal voting shall be coordinated by the Secretariat.

4. At the election of officers, any Committee Member may request a secret ballot. If seconded, the question of whether a secret ballot should be held shall immediately be voted upon. The motion for a secret ballot may not be conducted by secret ballot.

5. Voting by roll-call or by secret ballot shall be expressed by "Yes", "No" or "Abstain". Only affirmative and negative votes shall be counted in calculating the number of votes cast by Committee Members present and voting.

6. If, during the course of a person being elected to a position, no candidate obtains the support of more than half of the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Presiding Officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

7. The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes and shall announce the result. The Presiding Officer may be assisted by the Secretariat.

8. After the Presiding Officer has announced the beginning of the vote, it shall not be interrupted except by a Committee Member on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Presiding Officer may permit Committee Members to explain their votes either before or after the voting, and may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Rule 14: Majority and voting procedures on motions and amendments

1. Decisions, within the limit of the power available to the AC, relating to rules of procedure and financial matters shall be adopted by consensus.

2. Any other decision taken by the AC shall be decided by a two thirds majority of the Committee Members present and voting with the exception of the election of officers which shall be undertaken in accordance with Rule 13.

3. If an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. If the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

PART V

LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Rule 15: Working languages

1. English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of any Committee meeting and working groups.

2. If requested by any Party, speeches made in any of the working languages shall, as feasible, be interpreted into another working language.

3. The official documents of the meeting shall be distributed in the working languages. Information papers will not normally be translated.

4. Interpretation services in a working language shall be provided at a Committee meeting where requested by a Party through the submission of a delegate registration form at least one month prior to the commencement of a Committee meeting.

Rule 16: Other languages

1. A speech may be made in a language other than a working language if the speaker provides for interpretation into a working language. Interpretation by the Secretariat into another working language may be based upon the first interpretation.
2. Any document submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by an accurate translation into one of the working languages.

Rule 17: Documents

1. The documents for each meeting of the Committee shall be distributed to the Parties in the working languages by the Secretariat at least 30 days before the opening of the Meeting. If documents are to be translated by the Secretariat, they shall be sent to the Secretariat by those submitting them at least 60 days in advance of the Meeting. Information papers will not normally be translated.
2. At the discretion of the Chair, in exceptional circumstances documents may be accepted after these deadlines, but not later than two weeks before the Meeting. Such documents shall be submitted in all working languages.
3. Wherever practicable, documents will be distributed electronically.
4. A draft agenda shall be adopted by the Advisory Committee for the next meeting. This shall be circulated by the Secretariat 120 days prior to the meeting with a request that any new items for the agenda be notified within 30 days. The Secretariat shall circulate the revised draft agenda at least 60 days prior to the meeting.

Rule 18: Record of the Meeting

1. Records of the Meeting shall be circulated to all Parties in the working languages of the Meeting.
2. Once adopted, amendments to the Records of the Meeting shall not be made without the approval of all Parties attending the meeting. Typographical and minor editorial changes may be made by the Secretariat. A record of any changes made must be maintained by the Secretariat.
3. The Committee and working groups shall decide upon the form in which their records shall be prepared.

PART VI

OPENNESS OF DEBATES

Rule 19: Committee meetings

1. Subject to seating availability, all Meetings shall be open to the public unless two thirds of the Parties present and voting at the Meeting decide that a session be closed to the public.

PART VII

WORKING GROUPS

Rule 20: Establishment of working groups

1. The Committee may establish such working groups as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions. It shall appoint a Convenor (or Convenors) and Vice-Convenor(s) of each working group and define its terms of reference. The Committee shall reconsider appointments at the first Meeting of the Committee following each session of the Meeting of Parties. It may also define the composition of each working group. The Convenor(s) may co-opt members to the working group.

2. As a general rule, meetings of working groups shall be limited to the Committee Members, Alternate Committee Members, their advisors, members appointed by the Committee and to members co-opted by the Convenor(s) of the working group.

Rule 21: Procedure

1. Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

ANNEX 5. 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, in particular, BirdLife International. 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 MoP7 and revised at AC13. New actions identified at SBWG12, PaCSWG8, joint WG meeting and AC14 are highlighted in blue font. Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. 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.)	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	≈ 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.	0	Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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.
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, Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000 (eure)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC14.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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 meeting. 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.
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 (core)	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.	05,000	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Funds for translation of HPAI handling guidelines for seabirds on vessels.
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2023 and 2024	12 weeks	0	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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, seabird-fisheries overlap analysis, spatially explicit fisheries risk assessments. 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, Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)	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. ii) Develop guidelines for offshore wind risk assessments - intersessional group
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 (reallocated to 2.10)	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.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (SBWG10-Dec-07-Rev-1 SBWG11-Dec-09 AC14 Doc 20) 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. (€) From 2025 37,500 p.a. 3,000 (€)	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)	Continue with the review and update of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastián Jiménez. Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7).	AC14 2024-2025		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, Megan Tierney, 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. Commence wider review of the structure of documents, including version control and documenting version changes.
3.2 a)	Sink rate testing advice	Intersessional Group (See ANNEX 7) Lead: Sebastián Jiménez	2024-2025			To provide guidance on adequate testing methodologies to demonstrate compliance with ACAP sink rate criterion.
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 (eero)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document or possible in-kind support from Parties. 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 Garcia Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	40,000 15,000 (core , for translation, and for new factsheets)	
3.5	Further pursue approaches to improve uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. Continue to develop and refine communication strategy and products to: <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 (now Task 5.13)	SBWG, PaCSWG Secretariat	Ongoing		5,000 (core) for a seconded/contractee to participate in the process	Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets. Scope of work dependent on ongoing investigation into enhancing implementation of mitigation measures. Possible secondment to investigate further specific communications areas and to supplement work of any part time consultant that the Secretariat might employ as communications adviser. Note cross over with PaCSWG, communication is important for these matters as well. How to make advice more user friendly to fisheries managers and policy makers to enhance use. (now Task 5.13)

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
	<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 Parties and others sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments 	Secretariat, SBWG			5,000 (€€€) for a secondee/contractee to continue to provide advice on the process	<p>Will require resources (possible secondment/small grant opportunity). ACAP should respond to relevant opportunities.</p> <p>Secretariat continue to engage, as required, consultant who has already provided advice on this process. A sub-group of SBWG will continue to pursue opportunities to engage with relevant schemes and will indicate when further input from the consultant would be helpful. Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the sub-group.</p>
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	<p>Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required</p> <p>Intersessional review to refine indicators</p>	<p>Parties, SBWG, Secretariat</p> <p>Igor Debski to lead initially. AC New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (see ANNEX 7).</p>	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (€€€€)	<p>Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) Workshop pre SBWG11.</p> <p>Commence work on refined (Response) indicators as endorsed by AC14.</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.7 a)	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead. AG New Intersessional Group established at AC14.				<p>Establish an intersessional correspondence group to address key challenges (see ANNEX 7).</p> <p>Possible Secondment.</p> <p>Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible.</p> <p>Commence work refining questions in seabird bycatch data reporting forms, as endorsed by AC14.</p> <p>Develop guidelines on bycatch data analysis to complement existing data collection guidelines</p> <p>Develop a plan and schedule for a wider project to support Parties and Range States with reporting.</p>
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG, Parties, New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (see ANNEX 7)	2023-2024 - 2025	1 week	5,000 (eure)	<p>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.</p> <p>Identify and score missing Party fisheries to enable a partial update for MoP8 if possible.</p> <p>Develop a plan and schedule for a wider update of the framework.</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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 Dimas Gianuca	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 . Distribute to SBWG intersessionally. Post updated toolkit on website before AC15. Before posting on website, include introductory text explaining the context, purpose and use of the advice. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1.a).
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	2024-2025			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 for data collection by observer programmes and in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Lead: Eric Gilman Igor Debski New Intersessional Group established at AC14 (same Group as under 3.7 & 3.8)	Ongoing			Guidelines were developed and last reviewed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination. Commence review, including provision of guidance on seabird bycatch estimation methods. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1a)

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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.
3.15	Further understand and mitigate the effects on seabird bycatch in Prepare a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and including ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG intersessional group	2023 2024-2025			Opportunity Possible for secondment and small grant

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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, Yann Rouxel	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 Disseminate Seabird-Safe Toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	2024-2025			Share resources and provide expert advice.
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

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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 High Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	0	Intersessional group on High 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. (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	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
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). <i>Will now focus on implementation of mitigation for SBWG indicators.</i>
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. <i>Intersessional group (see ANNEX 7) will develop a plan for the number and structure of AC related reports to MoP8.</i>
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.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a (€)	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 Communications 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.
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

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
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 and the Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7)
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 6. DRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026 - 2028

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, in particular BirdLife International. 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 bibliographic database updated with relevant taxonomy documents	TWG led by Convenor	Ongoing	0.5 week p.a.		Ensure relevant taxonomy papers are added to ACAP's bibliographic database
1.2	Continue to work on ways of visually separating similar ACAP taxa	TWG	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process and the identification of bycatch specimens
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric database	TWG led by Convenor	2026-2028	2 weeks		This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data
1.4	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2026-2028	1 month	5,000 (for database development)	Conduct a gap analysis of colonies/sites where there is insufficient genetic information
1.5	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	Ongoing	Variable, depending if there are proposals		Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.
1.6	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species and keep AC updated on relevant taxonomic issues	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)		
1.7	Maintain list of candidate species	TWG led by Convenor, AC	Ongoing	1-2 weeks p.a.		Attempt to resolve issues with prioritisation. Maintain in line with ACAP/IOC taxonomy.
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Update gaps in population, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	8 weeks p.a.		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.		
2.3	Assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required. Intersessional Group established at AC14.	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC16.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Species Assessments Coordinating Group to oversee updates	Ongoing	6 weeks p.a.	12,000	Costs for BirdLife to update maps. Reports on progress provided to each PaCSWG meeting. Working with Lead editors
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	15,000	Opportunity for secondments or in-kind support

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
2.6	Identify priorities for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Review at each AC Meeting
2.8	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation for AC16.
2.9	Update eradication guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer, UK, South Africa, USA, Mark Tasker	2026	3 weeks		Required in light of new insights gained from recent attempts to eradicate house mice from islands
2.10	Review and update Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5Nx panzootic	External experts, Lead Patricia Serafini	Ongoing			Guidelines for ACAP species offering broad recommendations to supplement local or regional risk management and biosecurity regarding the high-pathogenicity (HPAI) H5Nx avian influenza panzootic. Disease risk assessment for HPAI H5Nx for ACAP species to be carried out by the intersessional group.
2.11	Review and update other best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.		Opportunity for secondments and small grants .
2.12	Develop new guidelines	PaCSWG, Secretariat and experts as required (identify leads)	Ongoing	?	?	Opportunity for secondments and small grants . E.g colony management, acoustic monitoring. Review at each AC.
2.13	Consider emerging threats to albatrosses and petrels i) Offshore Wind Farm Infrastructure ii) chemical pollutants iii) marine plastic	PaCSWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	2026-2028		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.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
					i) Review availability of albatross and petrel flight height data. ii) Develop guidelines for offshore wind farm risk assessments (Intersessional Group established at aC14)	
2.14	Provide reports on intersessional activities and working group meetings to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2026 and 2027	12 weeks		
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMCO Engagement Strategy (AC14 Doc 20) with relevant bodies that manage international fisheries (RFMOs and others) . Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.	Parties, Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	70,000 p.a. (subject to review)	Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMCO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly). Several RFMOs are engaging in the review of seabird measures during the early part of the triennium. Reflects cost of attending two meetings per RFMO for six RFMOs, based on 2024 costs. Figure will be kept under review to reflect changing priorities based on progress in RFMO CMM reviews.
3.1.a	Continue to develop and refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO leads, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	3,000 (for translation)	These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes. Includes development and dissemination of resources
3.1.b	Continue the review, and update the RFMCO Engagement Strategy at each Joint WG meeting.	Leads: Dimas Gianuca and Sebastián Jiménez.	Ongoing			

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.2	Engage with other international bodies concerned with the conservation of species affected by fishing (e.g. IAC, CMS)	SBWG, Secretariat	Ongoing			In order to ensure as far possible any mitigation measures proposed for ACAP species do not adversely affect other species and to pursue mutual gains in species conservation.
3.3	Intersessional review of ACAP Best Practice Advice and Review documents for pelagic and demersal longline, trawl, and purse seine fishing gear	SBWG via leads – Pelagic LL: Sebastián Jiménez Demersal LL: Megan Tierney, Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: Igor Debski, Verónica Iriarte, Leandro Tamini Purse seine: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro	Ongoing		3,000 (for translation of purse seine document)	Complete review and restructure of advice documents to improve readability and consistency between documents; version control; and documenting changes made between versions. Present to SBWG13. Review evidence on the relative effectiveness, noting regional differences of different combinations of measures to support Best Practice Advice.
3.3.a	Sink rate testing advice	Intersessional group established at AC14. Lead: Sebastián Jiménez	2026			Complete guidance on adequate testing methodologies to demonstrate compliance with ACAP sink rate criterion. Present to SBWG13.
3.4	Identify and pursue new approaches to improve uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures.	SBWG, PaCSWG Secretariat	Ongoing			Aimed to help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets. Scope of work dependent on ongoing investigation into enhancing implementation of mitigation measures.
3.5	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: Dimas Gianuca, Javier Quiñones, Gabriel Canani	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 .

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.5.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
3.6	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.
3.7	Further understand and mitigate seabird bycatch of floated demersal longlines, including ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG Intersessional Group	2026-2028			Opportunity for secondment and small grant
3.8	Further development and assessment of pelagic longline branch line weighting or other priority research areas	SBWG				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.
3.9	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required. Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat, Intersessional Group established at AC14	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a.	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?). To support the reporting of response indicators. Possible secondment . Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Complete refinement of simple Response Indicators (SBWG13) Implement plan to support Parties and Range States to complete reporting requirements

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.10	Review and update the prioritisation framework data for at-sea threats	Parties and SBWG	MoP9	4 weeks	10,000 (contract to collate information from RFMOs and other States)	Use a staged approach to update the fisheries: 1) Parties and Range State and APEC Member Economy Observers to update information on their fisheries; 2) information on fisheries managed by RFMOs updated using publicly available materials and via MoUs; and 3) a further process would be needed for other States not presently interacting with ACAP. Opportunity for secondment or small grant .
3.11	Review of best practice guidelines for data collection by observer programmes and the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG, Intersessional Group established at AC14. Lead: Igor Debski	Ongoing			Complete initial review at SBWG13, including provision of advice on seabird bycatch estimation methods. Task 3.1 (RFMCO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination.
3.12	Model bycatch threat to seabird populations to communicate the extinction risk to ACAP Species.					Will require resources (possible secondment/small grant opportunity). ACAP should respond to relevant opportunities. Further investigate the human dimension of bycatch and mitigation as a relevant approach to increase the uptake of conservation measures.
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.

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.14	Continue to engage with certification schemes by providing information to sub-group to enable comment on individual fisheries assessments	Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing		5,000 (for secondee/ contractee to continue to advise on the process)	Secretariat continue to engage, as required, consultant who has already provided advice on this process. A sub-group of SBWG will continue to pursue opportunities to engage with relevant schemes and will indicate when further input from the consultant would be helpful. Secretariat will continue to receive notifications from fishery certification schemes and will share these as relevant with the sub-group.
3.15	Further development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance with seabird mitigation measures.	SBWG	Ongoing			Opportunity for secondments and small grants . Review current status of monitoring across key fisheries and undertake research on the development of technologies and techniques for monitoring compliance, including EM.
3.16	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 Garcia Safe handling of seabirds entangled in nets: Verónica Iriarte	Ongoing	1 week per fact sheet	15,000 (for translation, and for new factsheets)	

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
3.17	Develop guidelines for the safe removal of birds entangled in nets (purse seine, trawl, gillnet).	SBWG, Verónica Iriate, Cristián Suazo, Juan Pablo Seco Pon, Secretariat, Yann Rouxel	SBWG13	12 weeks	8,000	Standardise procedures and develop infographic guidelines. Costs for development of graphic images, guidelines design, and translation.
3.18	Disseminate Seabird-Safe Toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	Ongoing			Share resources and provide expert advice.
3.19	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.
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		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			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			

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators.	AC, Parties, Secretariat	Ongoing			Focus on capacity building between Parties, not on domestic activities. Reconsider capacity building indicators in light of discussions at MoP8.
4.5	Identify opportunities to build capacity when considering Small Grant and Secondment applications	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Small Grants sub-committee.	Ongoing			Small Grants and Secondments are a key way that ACAP advances capacity building between Parties and with others.
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	2027	4 weeks		Report to MoP9. See also Task 2.8 and 3.10.
5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species and High Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks		Intersessional group on High Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	Ongoing	4 weeks		
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife International and AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Requires reporting by Parties, collation of information by Secretariat
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2027	3 weeks		Examine ways to improve reporting of implementation of best practice mitigation measures by Parties.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds (AUD)		
5.7	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report and other reporting to MoP.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2027			In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement.
5.8	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	<p>Opportunities for small grants.</p> <p>Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch.</p> <p>Increase focus on ACAP High Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas.</p>
5.9	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	2026-2027	6 months	24,000 (BLI contract)	<p>Review tracking indicators at AC16.</p> <p>Support a BLI contract to identify gaps in tracking data coverage; to contact holders of tracking data that are not in the Tracking Database; and encourage them to submit their data, and to assist data holders with data submission. Any contract with BLI would include significant in-kind contribution.</p>
5.10	Develop ACAP guidelines for seabird-fisheries overlap and risk assessment analyses	SBWG and PaCSWG (Intersessional Group established at AC14)	AC15			See ToRs developed at AC14.
5.11	Increase understanding of the effects of climate change on albatrosses and petrels.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Parties, Science Officer	Ongoing			<p>Possible small grant opportunity.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cooperative and coordinated international responses are required to address critical research needs.</p>

Topic/ Task		Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
				Time	Funds (AUD)	
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a	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.	Ongoing		5,000 (contract for additional expertise)	Opportunities for secondment . Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communications Strategy.
5.14	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		
5.15	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Parties to supply further information, as available
5.16	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 days p.a.		Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
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.		Short-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		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.		
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.		

ANNEX 7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS 2024 – 2026

The following intersessional correspondence groups were established at AC14.

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
Review the ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations	14.5 – 14.12	3.1a	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	To complete the review of the RFMCO Engagement Strategy the Intersessional Group will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider including the Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front; 2. Define how the Strategy should guide the actions of ACAP, ACAP officials and NGOs, as well as Parties and the Secretariat; 3. Populate the agreed template for the individualized approaches with target outcomes for each regional fisheries management and conservation organisation included in ANNEX 1 of AC14 Doc 20; 4. Present the RFMCO Engagement Strategy to MoP8 for its consideration. 	MoP8
Advising MoP on AC Work Programme budget	6.2.7	NA	Marco Favero	Mike Double, Igor Debski, Mark Tasker, Secretariat, Australia, Argentina	To prepare a brief for the AC Chair for use at MoP8 the Intersessional Group will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss different potential scenarios for the ACAP 2026 - 2028 Budget and their impact on the work of the Advisory Committee; 2. Analyse alternative allocation of funds for the 2026 - 2028 triennium under different budget scenarios, and how this would affect the current implementation of conservation actions, including the organisation of Advisory Committee and Working Group meetings, and the implementation of RFMCO engagement strategy, small grants and secondment programmes, among others. 	MoP8

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
ACAP guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm developments	12.1.5.i	2.13	Helen Wade (BLI)	Mike Double (AC Chair), Patricia Serafini & Tatiana Neves (Brazil), Chile, New Zealand, Azwianewi Makhado (South Africa), Helena Moreno (Spain), United Kingdom, HSI, BLI, Gustavo Jiménez Uzcátegui (Charles Darwin Foundation), Australia	<p>To develop guidelines for Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) developments the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the principles and suggested best practice advice provided in SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 08; 2. Consider the applicability for ACAP species of existing OWF development guidelines and risk assessment methods (e.g. from the Northern Hemisphere); 3. Review methods that enable studies of flight height behaviours of ACAP species; 4. Review methods that enable studies of fine-scale distributions of ACAP species; 5. Review approaches to identify areas with high concentrations of seabirds (e.g. near breeding colonies, flight corridors, and migration routes); 6. Explore ways to coordinate the work of the ICG with the CMS Energy Task Force; 7. Develop draft ACAP guidelines for OWF development for consideration at AC15 or intersessionally. 	AC15
ACAP reporting on species status and trends	13.1.3.i	2.3	Johannes Fischer	Azwianewi Makhado/Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Patricia Serafini, Richard Phillips, Ana Carneiro, Megan Tierney, Mike Double, Tommy Clay	<p>To assess methods for analysing the status and trend of ACAP species the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the methodology used in PaCSWG8 Doc 03 for analysing population trends of ACAP species; 2. Refine the methodology and apply it to all ACAP species for which sufficient population count data are available. 3. Explore methodologies that incorporate unmonitored colonies in species-level trend estimates; 4. Document the final methodology in such a way as to facilitate easy updates to the analyses; 	PaCSWG9

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Investigate the potential to illustrate population trends spatially by integrating demographics with tracking data; 6. Develop a format to report trends, including the use of clear and easy to understand figures and graphics; 7. Report back to PaCSWG9 on the process, results, and provide recommendations for the integration of results into different ACAP products. 	
Measuring branch line sink rates	11.1.21	3.2.a	Sebastián Jiménez	Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Nigel Brothers, Gabriel Canani, New Zealand, Australia, BLI.	<p>To develop guidance on measuring sink rates in pelagic longline fisheries the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review available information on protocols for measuring sink rates in pelagic longline branch lines; 2. Develop ACAP guidelines for measuring sink rates of baited hooks in pelagic longline fisheries; and 3. Report back to SBWG13 and AC15. 	SBWG13
Reporting on Small Grants and Secondments to MoP8	6.2.7	NA	Marco Favero	Uruguay, UK, Brazil, Peru, AC Chair	<p>To develop a report on Small Grants and Secondments for MoP8 the Intersessional Group will assess:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The evolution of financial and human resources allocated by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat into both programmes; 2. The conservation impact of both programmes in terms of meeting documents, peer-review papers, advice and other products generated by grants and secondment recipients; 3. The impact of both programmes in the development and implementation of ACAP best practice; 4. The impact of the Small Grants and Secondment Programmes in terms of capacity building; and 	MoP8

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					5. The way both programmes improved the international collaboration between ACAP Parties, Range States and other organisations.	
Conservation Guidelines for working with albatrosses and petrels during the ongoing high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza panzootic	-	2.14	Patricia Serafini	New members: Azwianewi Makhado/Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Jennifer Chauca (Peru)	To continue to provide guidance on High Pathogenicity H5Nx Avian Influenza the Intersessional Group will: <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 H5Nx avian influenza] HPAI panzootic; 2. Recommend and prioritize 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 AC15. 	AC15
Seabird bycatch data reporting and indicators, guidelines and priority fisheries	11.1.10 & 11.1.13	3.7, 3.8, 3.11	Megan Tierney	Mark Tasker, Jonathon Barrington, Barry Baker, Mike Double, Igor Debski, Marco Favero, HSI, new members: Azwianewi Makhado/Makhudu Masotla (South Africa), Brazil, Tatiana Neves.	To progress reporting of bycatch data and the implementation of mitigation measures, and to further develop seabird bycatch response indicators the Intersessional Group will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, and if necessary, refine the Response Indicators on implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures within EEZs. 2. Review, and if necessary, refine the questions in the ACAP reporting form to ensure that: a) the correct type of data collected is collected to populate the Response Indicator on implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures; and b) the reporting format is as simple and streamline as possible for the data custodians of Parties and Range States to complete. 	AC15

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Prepare a costed scope-of-work for an ACAP Project to support Parties and Range States to report against the simplified Response Indicators. 4. Coordinate the review of the ACAP Observer and EM guidelines which is also to include the development of guidelines on bycatch estimation methods once data is collected. Initial focus of the guideline development is to be on methods for estimating bycatch rates. 5. Develop a process to support the staged approach agreed at AC14 for updating the priority fisheries for conservation action for ACAP species. Consider if elements of this process can be incorporated into the costed project scope-of-work to be developed under 3) above. 	
ACAP Communications Strategy	5.1.18	5.13	Bree Forrer	Marco Favero, Mark Tasker, Jonathon Barrington, Nigel Brothers, Veronica Lopez, Nicola Beynon, Stephanie Good and Cristian Suazo	<p>To continue the development and implementation of ACAP's Communications Strategy the Intersessional Group will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review at the end of each financial year, the current ACAP Communications Strategy to ensure audiences and messages are best prioritised to communicate the conservation crisis affecting ACAP-listed albatrosses and petrels, and proven ACAP solutions to address threats (i.e. seabird bycatch mitigation measures). 2. Review and prioritise ways to effectively communicate with priority target audiences, 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 audiences. 4. Develop ways of assessing the success of ACAP's communications, and report to MoP8 and AC15. 	MoP8, AC15

Intersessional Group	AC14 reference	2023 – 2025 AC Work Programme Topic/Task	Lead	Participants	Terms of Reference	Reporting timeframe
ACAP Species Assessments	NA	2.4	Patricia Serafini and Marco Favero	PaCSWG and TWG Convenors, AC Chair, Secretariat	<p>To deliver updated ACAP Species Assessments, the Intersessional Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Track progress on the production of the assessments; 2. Support the production when required; 3. Review the draft assessments; 4. Identify ways to improve the rate of production; 5. Identify approaches that will streamline future updates; 6. Assess alternative formats to pdfs; 7. Report on progress to MoP8 (as part of AC Report) and AC15. 	MoP8 and AC15

ANNEX 8. MOP8 DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Draft Provisional Agenda	
Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to ACAP	
1. Official Opening	
1.1	Official Opening and Opening Statements
2. Procedural Issues	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda
2.2	Amendments to the MoP Rules of Procedure
2.3	Establishment of Credentials Committee
3. Reports	
3.1	Report of Credentials Committee
3.2	Report of the Depositary
3.3	Reports of Observers
4. Operation of the Secretariat	
4.1	Report of the Secretariat
4.2	Secretariat Work Programme 2026 - 2028
4.3	Review of Staff Regulations
4.4	Review of Financial Regulations
4.5	Review of Effectiveness of the Secretariat
4.6	Recruitment of the Agreement's Executive Secretary
5. Operation of the Meeting of the Parties	
6. Operation of the Advisory Committee	
6.1	Report of the Advisory Committee
6.1.1	Advisory Committee reporting framework
6.2	Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028
7. Operation of the Agreement	
7.1	Report on Implementation of the Agreement
7.2	Criteria for listing and de-listing species in Annex 1
7.3	Proposed Amendment to Annex 1 - listing of new species
7.4	Identification of Priority Actions for Conservation Measures
7.5	Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement
7.6	Capacity Building
7.7	Communication Strategy
7.8	Arrangements with Other Organisations
7.9	Financial Report
7.10	Agreement Budget 2026 - 2028

7.11	Scale of Contributions
7.12	National Plans of Action
7.13	Accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement
8.	Provisional Date and Venue of the Ninth Meeting
9.	Other Business
9.1	Media Release
9.2	Participation at future Conferences
10.	Adoption of MoP8 Report
11.	Closing Remarks

ANNEX 9. DRAFT AC15 AGENDA

DRAFT AC15 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 2025 - 2026 intersessional period 5.2 Secretariat Work Programme 2026 – 2028
6. Agreement's Financial Matters	6.1 Financial Report
7. Observer Reports	7.1 Reports from Observers to AC15
8. Report from the Meeting of Parties relevant to AC	
9. Taxonomy of Albatrosses and Petrels	9.1 Report of the Taxonomy Working Group
10. Seabird Bycatch	10.1 Report of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group
11. Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups	11.1 Report of the Joint meeting of the Seabird Bycatch and Population and Conservation Status Working Groups
12. Population and Conservation Status of Albatrosses and Petrels	12.1 Report of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group
13. ACAP Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations	
14. Communications Strategy	
15. Advisory Committee	15.1 Operation of the Advisory Committee 15.2 Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 – 2028 15.3 Agreement Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme
16. Listing of New Species	
17. Election and Appointment of AC Officers	
18. Sixteenth 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 10. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – NAMIBIA

Namibia would once again like to thank ACAP's Secretariat for the invitation to attend the meeting as an observer state and extend genuine gratitude and appreciation to the Peruvian Government, IMARPE in particular for hosting the meeting.

Last year after reporting on AC13, the Directorate of Policy, Planning and Economics from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources requested for a Presentation from Directorate of Resource Management to present to the senior management. This presentation was presented to management. Thanks to Jonathon and Christine for providing information with regards to the accession process and as well as a presentation respectively. In addition, we arranged for Sebastian Jimenez (Co-convenor of the SBWG) to meet with officials from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources with regard to ACAP accession process, as he was there for Seabird Bycatch Data Management Workshop held in Swakopmund in September 2023. These are all efforts of information dissemination with regard to ACAP's conservation work.

The Namibian government is in the process of reviewing its National Plan of Action for Seabirds-reducing incidental catch of seabirds in its fisheries. This is spearheaded by the Albatross Task Force from Namibia Nature Foundation and the Benguela Current Convention (BCC). During the week of 19-23 August 2024, a comprehensive review process will take place involving all key relevant government departments and agencies, NGO's, other marine users and the fishing industry. The main objective is to create a comprehensive conservation framework for seabirds in Namibia and include all fisheries that are affecting all seabirds including albatrosses and petrels. Namibia already implements and complies with a range of seabird bycatch mitigation as they are party to international agreements and RFMO's such as SEAFO, ICCAT ATLAFCO, BCC, and CCAMLR. The common objective of these international agreements and RFMO's is sustainable use and conservation of living marine resources that are similar to ACAP's objectives.

ANNEX 11. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – USA

The United States thanks the Secretariat and ACAP Parties for organizing the 14th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of ACAP and particularly Peru for hosting this meeting. We look forward to the discussions on a range of seabird conservation topics with ACAP Parties and other Range States, APEC member economies, and other observers. We are interested in continuing to share information and collaborate on key issues related to seabird conservation, such as bycatch mitigation, eradicating non-native species in breeding habitats, and planning for climate change impacts.

To further information sharing, below are brief summaries of several activities in the United States that may be of interest to ACAP Parties and others:

Lehua Islet Eradications: The State of Hawaii declared Lehua Islet, Hawaii free of all introduced mammals in April of 2021. Rabbits were extirpated in 2006 and in 2009 an attempt to eradicate Pacific rats (*Rattus exulans*) failed. A subsequent attempt in 2017 using lessons learned from the first rat eradication went well but several sightings in the following months sparked a strategic mop-up effort. Intensive monitoring since then has led the State of Hawaii to conclude that the rats are finally gone. The colony will now serve as a safe haven for Laysan and black-footed albatrosses as well as other species of Hawaiian seabirds.

Mus musculus eradication attempt at Midway Atoll: The effort to eliminate house mice (*Mus musculus*) at Midway Atoll in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument concluded without success in August of 2023. Despite years of planning and efficacy trials as well as implementation completely according to plan, many mice survived. The team is evaluating all the factors that may have caused a failure. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) remains committed to the goal of restoring healthy ecosystem functions.

Wake Atoll rat eradication: Implementation of the second attempt to remove *Rattus exulans* as well as a recently introduced woodrat (*Neotoma albigula*) is underway at Wake Atoll. The aerial application of Brodifacoum rodenticide commenced in May 2024 and efficacy monitoring and mop-up is ongoing.

Invasive plant eradication at Midway: Eradication efforts for golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*), which hinders albatross breeding, is ongoing at Midway Atoll. The Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is cautiously optimistic that it can be eradicated from Eastern Island in 2-3 years with sustained effort. Continued work will focus more aggressively on the few areas on Sand Island where golden crownbeard continues to occur. Additional funding is being sought to complete the project.

Tagging of black-footed albatross: To investigate the distribution of black-footed albatross from understudied colonies, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge and USFWS personnel deployed 10 satellite-linked (Argos) transmitters and 20 archival geolocator (GLS) tags on adult black-footed albatross on Kamole (Laysan Island). Kure Atoll Conservancy deployed an additional 20 GLS tags on black-footed albatross on Holaniku (Kure Atoll). This project is part of a larger study to assess the vulnerability of the species to bycatch in the North Pacific. Additional tags will be deployed in 2025 and researchers will visit colonies in 2026 to retrieve remaining tags.

Bycatch data will be analyzed in collaboration with Hawaii Pacific University, and Tommy Clay at the Environmental Defense Fund. The Argos tracks can be viewed here: <https://portal.atn.ioos.us/#metadata/fb5237e6-06d7-481b-8f04-a18ad098669e/project>

Albatross demography study: The albatross demography study is a long-term collaboration between USFWS and U.S. Geological Service that has monitored reproductive success and survival of black-footed and Laysan albatross at Midway, Tern Island, Kilauea Point and Laysan Island since 2006. Recent milestones include the completion of cleaning and vetting of data, and the significant streamlining of data collection and submission. Albatross survival at Midway seemed stable with some annual variation, based on analysis of 18 years of capture-recapture data by Dr. Bill Kendall and Dr. Chris Malachowski. However, USFWS staff have concerns about the increase in heat-related deaths of adults and juveniles at Midway in recent years, although a rebound in nest success for both species this year is encouraging. Development of an integrated population model is underway that combines banding, reproductive success, and nest count data. Preliminary results of simulations show that overall, the model does a good job of tracking population size and structure, as well as vital rates.

Short-tailed albatross nesting on Midway: The short-tailed albatross pair at Midway recently fledged their fifth chick in six years. Using trail cameras, biologists have been documenting nest attentiveness and visitation rates and recording the interactions of returning juveniles with each other, their parents and their young sibling. A subadult fledged from Torishima is regularly visiting this site.

Planned survey work at Jarvis Island August 2024: Several USFWS staff will be visiting Jarvis island in the first visit by FWS staff in 6 years and the longest planned trip in decades. Howland and Baker will not be visited. Their goal is to conduct a rapid ecological assessment of the island during their 14-day stay there, including conducting vegetation surveys, ant surveys, bird surveys and crustacean surveys. They will also be collecting game cameras and automatic recording units that were deployed on the island during the most recent visit 6 years ago.

Climate change planning work: Work to create, protect and enhance high island breeding sites for seabirds in the Main Hawaiian Islands is ongoing to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise on their low-lying colonies in the Hawaiian Island chain. In 2023, construction of a 90-acre (36 hectare) predator exclusion fence was completed at **Mokio Preserve**, a coastal restoration site on Molokai, Hawai'i. Complete predator removal is expected by August 2024. Social attraction for Laysan albatross is ongoing and individuals have been seen flying past the site and landing within the site. Wedge-tailed shearwater nesting has markedly increased since fence completion. Funding is being sought to restore the habitat, attract nesting seabirds, and potentially translocate seabirds such as Laysan albatross to the preserve.

In late 2023, funding was awarded from the U.S. Department of Defense to build a 640-acre (259 hectare) predator exclusion fence at **James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge** located on the north shore of O'ahu, that would encompass coastal dunes, shrubland, and wetlands, and restore the area within it to a native condition to provide safe nesting habitat for waterbirds, seabirds, sea turtles, and Hawaiian monk seals. This fence will protect and provide room for expansion of the growing seabird colonies of ACAP species Laysan albatross and black-

footed albatross, as well as Tristram's storm-petrel and Bonin petrel and wedge-tailed shearwater. Many of these species were translocated to the Refuge in recent years.

Trilateral Bycatch Working Group: Mexican, Canadian, and U.S. representatives from government agencies, academia and NGOs have been meeting regularly as the Trilateral Bycatch Working Group since its creation in 2022 under the Trilateral Commission. The team has drafted a Trilateral Bycatch Working Group Strategy which outlines priority needs and actions to collaboratively reduce seabird bycatch across the three countries. One of the priority actions outlined in the Strategy is to make connections with the ACAP community to further our common goals of bycatch reduction.

Offshore wind development: Offshore wind development off the West Coast United States may cause impacts to ACAP species pink-footed shearwater, black-footed albatross and Laysan albatross and several other Procellariiformes through collision, avoidance, displacement and disturbance during construction, operations and decommissioning. Scientists and agency staff are working to understand the risks to birds and how they may be minimized or compensated for.

Hawai'i pelagic deep-set longline fishery: Effective on April 1, 2024, NOAA Fisheries now requires the use of tori lines in the Hawai'i pelagic deep-set (tuna) longline fishery for vessels stern-setting above 23° N latitude. Offal management best practices will also be taught to fishermen at an annually required Protected Species Workshop. Studies from 2019-2021 demonstrated that when tori lines are employed in lieu of blue-dyed bait and strategic offal discharge on deep-set longline vessels that set from the stern, albatross attempts are 1.5 times less likely, contacts are 4 times less likely, and captures are 14 times less likely. This action is intended to reduce seabird interactions while also streamlining fishing operations and management of this fishery by replacing the blue-dye requirement. See the tori line design specifications [here](#). This rule does not apply to shallow-set longline (swordfish) and side-setting vessel requirements. A pilot study testing the efficacy of paired tori lines as compared to night-setting with blue-dyed bait in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery is complete and results are forthcoming.

NOAA National Seabird Program: The NOAA National Seabird Program is meeting in September 2024 with partners to update its National Strategic Plan (2025-2030).

ANNEX 12. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei would like to express gratitude to the Republic of Peru and the ACAP Secretariat for organizing this meeting. This is the fourth Advisory Committee meeting in which Chinese Taipei has participated. After the tumultuous period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy is gradually recovering, which also signifies that conservation efforts for seabirds will become more closely connected through international collaboration. Once again, we are very much looking forward to participating in this in-person meeting.

We have been engaging with international and regional fisheries management organizations to better understand the global fisheries system. We recognize that a robust economic framework requires comprehensive conservation measures. As such, Chinese Taipei has long been committed to addressing the issue of seabird bycatch. As a member of various RFMOs, we continue to push for the implementation of mitigation measures, such as Tori lines, weighted branch lines, and night-setting.

We are also enhancing the execution of relevant research projects by collaborating with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International (BLI), organizing multiple seminars and compiling the Seabird Identification Guide to provide our observers with an additional tool for seabird species identification, thus improving our observer system.

We aim to continue investing in the development of international seabird bycatch mitigation measures and conservation actions. We also thank ACAP for providing a channel to contribute to the special fund, which has successfully supported the Nigel Brothers project. In the future, Chinese Taipei looks forward to continuously supporting ACAP's small grants program to contribute to global seabird conservation.

Chinese Taipei is determined and resolute in its seabird conservation efforts, actively engaging in dialogue with multiple parties, learning from participation in ACAP meetings, and seeking collaboration opportunities to advocate for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, as well as securing the long-term survival of global seabird species.

ANNEX 13. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

BirdLife International wishes to congratulate the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), its secretariat, and all the involved parties on the occasion of their first 20 years of commitment to the conservation of these seabirds.

Over these first two decades, significant efforts have been made to establish best fishing practices that ensure a reduction in incidental bird bycatch, as well as to gather and compile population data for the species covered by the agreement. These achievements are the result of the collective work of many secretariat officials, the involved parties, and experts who have dedicated their time, effort, and expertise to reaching the goals set forth so far.

BirdLife International is proud to have supported ACAP over these two decades, contributing to joint efforts within Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the development and testing of mitigation measures, and the collection of data on seabird distribution. The close alignment of BLs work with ACAPs over the last 20 years is reflected in BL also celebrating significant milestones this year, in the form of 20 years of the ATF and 20 years of the seabird tracking database. We celebrate this work undertaken with enthusiasm and close coordination with the ACAP.

We are all aware that there is still much work to be done. It is essential to continue improving the compliance of the best practices both in jurisdictional waters and in international waters. We must also enhance data reporting within each party and regional fisheries organizations (RFMOs). It is an opportunity for ACAP Parties to set the highest standard in RFMOs - to be an example to other Member States on seabird bycatch monitoring and reporting, and mitigation measure implementation. To ensure further progress, it is crucial for more nations to join the agreement to better achieve the objectives set by ACAP.

BirdLife International reiterates its commitment, as it has for the past 20 years, to collaborate in all tasks yet to be accomplished or improved, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to this work that aims to change the fate of our albatrosses and petrels, as well as the entire marine ecosystem that supports them.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to another 20 years of fruitful collaboration.

BirdLife International Marine Programme

ANNEX 14. STATEMENTS FROM OBSERVERS – HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

HSI would like to first acknowledge Executive Secretary Dr. Christine Bogle's final Advisory Committee Meeting attendance and express our sincere appreciation for her seven years of dedicated service to albatross and petrel conservation. Dr Bogle's tenure oversaw the 2019 declaration that albatross and petrels are experiencing a conservation crisis, followed by the creation of World Albatross Day in 2020, and the successful navigation of the pandemic and complexities of online meetings.

Today, seabird species and populations continue to decline due to fisheries bycatch despite the existence of simple and economically advantageous mitigation measures. Evidence presented in SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Inf 11 and PaCSWG8 Inf 08, 09 adds to our growing and grave concerns. Following HSI's recent overview of the Parties' adherence to Best Practice Advice (BPA) for bycatch mitigation (SBWG11 Doc 25), we urge Parties to prioritise the adoption of BPA in their own domestic fisheries. In that respect, we look forward to the New Zealand Government being the first Party to fully implement BPA in its pelagic longline fishery in 2024. We urge others to follow their lead. Without evidence of BPA implementation and reduced seabird bycatch from Parties, there can be little prospect of effective engagement with the non-Party fishing entities.

We look forward to discussions on a reinvigorated RFMO strategy (SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 03). We note that one immediate priority for the RFMO Engagement Strategy should be revision of CMM 2018-03 by the WCPFC (SC20 Agenda item 6.5.2) including the most recent AC advice concerning pelagic longline weighting and night setting.

The rapid expansion of offshore wind turbines in the southern hemisphere is poised to further exacerbate the albatross and petrel conservation crisis unless strong preventative action is taken immediately. ACAP must play a key and prompt role in demonstrating a proactive approach to this threat (SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 09), as limited mitigation options exist after the industry is established. Therefore, HSI encourages endorsement of SBWG12/PaCWG8 Recommendation to AC14 for the establishment of an intersessional working group. Also on new or emerging threats with cumulative consequences, HSI welcomed the attention of the Working Groups to H5NI pandemic situation, and advice provided to the Advisory Committee.

HSI wishes Parties a productive 14th AC meeting and is again appreciative of the opportunity to participate in these important proceedings as an observer.

ANNEX 15. STATEMENT FROM ARGENTINA REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 8

“El Gobierno argentino recuerda que la República Argentina al ratificar el Acuerdo sobre la Conservación de Albatros y Petreles (ACAP) rechazó la pretendida extensión territorial efectuada por el Reino Unido a las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur por constituir dichas islas y los espacios marítimos circundantes parte integrante del territorio nacional argentino.

El Gobierno Argentino confía en que ACAP constituye un foro donde convergen los mejores aportes científicos disponibles en el ámbito de la conservación de los albatros y petreles con el objetivo de disminuir las amenazas sobre estas poblaciones.

El Gobierno Argentino rechaza las referencias incorporadas en el documento "AC14 Inf 07: 2024 Implementation Report United Kingdom" a pretendidas autoridades de las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur y que se presente a mencionados archipiélagos detentando un status internacional que no poseen.

La presencia británica en dichos archipiélagos y los espacios marítimos circundantes constituye una ocupación ilegítima y es rechazada por la República Argentina, al igual que cualquier acto unilateral emanado de aquélla.

La República Argentina reafirma sus derechos de soberanía sobre las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur, Sandwich del Sur y los espacios marítimos circundantes, que son parte integrante del territorio nacional argentino y que, estando ilegítimamente ocupadas por el Reino Unido, las mismas son objeto de una disputa de soberanía entre ambos países, que ha sido reconocida por las Naciones Unidas.”

ANNEX 16. UNITED KINGDOM'S RESPONSE TO ARGENTINA'S STATEMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 8

“The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas of both of these territories. The UK is steadfast in its support for the right of self-determination for the Falkland Islanders. This legally binding right is enshrined in the UN Charter and in Article one of the two UN Covenants on human rights. The Falkland Islanders have as much right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development as any other peoples. The Falkland Islanders made clear their overwhelming wish to remain an overseas territory of the United Kingdom in a referendum in 2013.”

ANNEX 17. STATEMENT FROM ARGENTINA REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 11

“La República Argentina nota con preocupación que entre los documentos de trabajo se han encontrado un significativo número de documentos, donde se refieren a las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sándwich del Sur de manera incorrecta. Hemos establecido en este ámbito una Resolución (la Resolución 2.9) que nos ha permitido trabajar de manera seria y constructiva, priorizando la ciencia a través del conocimiento y el respeto, por sobre las diferencias de índole políticas.

Deseamos poder seguir contribuyendo al conocimiento en un marco de respeto, diálogo y trabajo mancomunado, sin perder de vista los intereses nacionales.

Instamos a todos los científicos parte de este Foro a seguir generando conocimiento en línea con lo establecido en la Resolución 2.9, a los fines de que la labor científica prime y siga jerarquizando este prestigioso Comité.”

ANNEX 18. UNITED KINGDOM'S RESPONSE TO ARGENTINA'S STATEMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 11

“The UK is confident that the Secretariat and other official parts of the Agreement have correctly applied Resolution 2.9 in the documents brought to the Advisory Committee. Resolution 2.9 does not apply to other documents.”