

 <p data-bbox="229 542 469 582">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="574 250 1385 291">Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p data-bbox="871 309 1388 344"><i>Lima, Peru, 12 – 16 August 2024</i></p> <p data-bbox="769 421 1120 461">Secretariat Report</p> <p data-bbox="855 537 1037 573"><i>Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

As decided by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, this report draws on the most recent Secretariat six-monthly report, to provide an overview of the Secretariat's operations during the first half of the 2024 financial year. The report is updated with some information about activities early in the 2024 calendar year. During the eleven month period (1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024), ACAP was represented at several meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international bodies. The Secretariat continued to implement actions in the Advisory Committee and Secretariat Work Programmes. One secondment and eight grants were awarded. The Secretariat devoted a considerable amount of time to working with ACAP Parties to produce a booklet commemorating 20 years since the entry into force of the Agreement. Much of the first half of calendar year 2024 was spent on preparations for AC14.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee take note of the outcomes achieved by the Secretariat since AC13 and, if appropriate, use this information to suggest amendments to the Secretariat's Work Programme 2023-2025 (**AC14 Doc 24**) and the Draft Secretariat Work Programme 2026-2028 (**AC14 Doc 25**).

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6), the Secretariat prepares two reports (together with accompanying financial reports) per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year, and a full-year audited report in September. MoP6 decided that the most recent such report would be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of the Parties. Accordingly, this document draws on the six-monthly report (to 31 December 2023) but also includes some information about the Secretariat's activities up to 31 May 2024. **AC14 Doc 08** provides a provisional financial report for the 2024 financial year.

During the ten month period (1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024), ACAP was represented at several meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international bodies. Over the ten months the Secretariat continued to implement actions in the Advisory Committee and Secretariat Work Programmes. This included a Secondments and a Small Grants round.

2. SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS

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

3. STAFFING

Staffing of the Secretariat remains at two full-time positions, the Executive Secretary and the Science Officer. Additional support to the Secretariat is provided by volunteers, consultancies and internships, as well as by Advisory Committee officials. John Cooper continued to contribute to some communications activities, as Emeritus Information Officer. Five translation students spent a week in the Secretariat office in February 2024, preparing translations of ACAP products into Spanish, Korean and Chinese.

4. CONTRACTS/CONSULTANTS

Bree Forrer continued to provide Communications Advisor services.

2M Language Services continued to provide translation services.

Sebastián Jiménez attended RFMO and other meetings as an ACAP representative on a contract basis.

Web developers *Preflight* continued to host and administer the ACAP website.

Wombat Data Solutions continued to provide database development services.

Marco Favero provided assistance on a contract basis with preparation of a draft ACAP budget.

5. SUPPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Secretariat liaised closely with Advisory Committee officials and members throughout the six-month period. A Secondments round and a Small Grants Round were launched in September 2023. One secondment was awarded in December 2023 and eight grants were awarded in early 2024.

The Secretariat provided administrative advice to the recruitment sub-committee on the process for recruitment of a new Executive Secretary (to take office in July 2025) – see ACAP-ANCP Circulars 2023-06 and 2024-01.

6. COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Communications-related activities during the period under review included the preparation and publication on the ACAP website of a brochure about ACAP's achievements during the twenty years since the entry into force of the Agreement. The 7th International Albatross and Petrel

Conference (IAPC7) in Ensenada, Mexico, provided an opportunity to highlight the brochure as a record of ACAP's work over twenty years. Bree Forrer chaired the intersessional group on a Communications Strategy (see **AC14 Doc 21: Update on ACAP Communications Strategy**). Preparations began for the celebration of World Albatross Day on 19 June, with a theme of "Marine Protected Areas".

7. REPRESENTATION AT RELEVANT MEETINGS

The Secretariat and AC officials represented the Agreement at a number of meetings during the period from July 2023 to May 2024. This included:

- Dimas Gianuca, Co-vice convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), represented ACAP at the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC 19) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), in Palau, in August 2023. Dimas also attended, online, the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) in September 2023.
- The Executive Secretary participated in the First Project Steering Committee meeting of the FAO project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (2022-2027)" – also known as ABNJ Common Oceans Tuna Project, Phase 2. The meeting was held in Rome in July 2023. In October 2023, she attended the 18th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC18) and 30th Annual Meeting of the Extended Commission and Commission (EC30) of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), held in Busan, Korea. In December 2023, Christine attended the 20th meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC 20) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. In January 2024 she attended online the first meeting of the FAO's COFI Subcommittee on fisheries management. In January she also attended the 12th meeting of the Commission (COMM 12) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) in Manta, Ecuador, and in February took part in the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. In May Christine was invited to be a keynote speaker at the 7th International Albatross and Petrel Conference in Ensenada, Mexico.
- In September 2023, Megan Tierney, Co-vice convenor of the SBWG, attended the 11th meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Scientific Committee (SC11), in Panama. In November she attended, online, the 20th Commission meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). Megan Tierney and Igor Debski represented ACAP online at a meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee in March 2024.
- In September 2023, Sebastián Jiménez, SBWG Co-convenor, represented ACAP at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) 19th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB19), in La Réunion. In September Sebastian also attended, online, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). As an invited ACAP representative, Sebastian took part in a workshop in Namibia organised by the Albatross Task Force, in September 2023. Sebastián Jiménez and Mark Tasker took part (separately) in two online meetings (in February and March) of the IOTC Intersessional Working Group on Reviewing IOTC Regional Observer Scheme

Minimum Data Fields. Sebastián also represented ACAP at the ICCAT Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SC-ECO) in Madrid, Spain, in May.

- In October 2023, Igor Debski attended, as an invited expert, the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Together with the Executive Secretary and the Science Officer, Igor attended the 42nd^t meeting of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee (CAML-42). The Executive Secretary and the Science Officer also attended the 42nd meeting of the Commission (SC-CCAMLR-42).
- In November 2023, Mark Tasker represented ACAP at the 28th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna, which he attended online.
- In February 2024, Patricia Serafini (Co-convenor, Population and Conservation Status Working Group - PaCSWG) took part in an online CCSBT SEFRA workshop.
- In March 2024, Igor Debski took part in the CCSBT's inception workshop on electronic monitoring, related to its project under the FAO Common Oceans programme Phase 2.

The attendance at RFMO and CCAMLR meetings reflected the priorities for ACAP's RFMO engagement strategy (see **Joint Working Group Docs 03 and 04**, and **AC14 Doc 20**).

8. AC14 PLANNING

Preparations for the 14th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC14) and its working groups got underway, in consultation with Advisory Committee officials and Peru colleagues. Two AC14 Circulars (about AC14 deadlines and arrangements) were issued and one ACAP ANCP Circular (ACAP-ANCP Circular 2022-01 on sponsorship of delegates). Planning included a visit to Lima by the Executive Secretary and the Advisory Committee Vice-chair to look at the proposed meeting venue and discuss logistics, assisted by Peru's representative to the ACAP Advisory Committee, Elisa Goya, and Maria Andrea Meza, both from the Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE) .

9. ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTIES AND NON PARTIES

The Executive Secretary undertook two liaison visits in early 2024: one to Quito, Ecuador (taking advantage of travel to an RFMO meeting in Ecuador) and one to Lima, Peru, as mentioned above. In Quito she met with the National Contact Point for ACAP Juan Diego Stacey, the then AC Member for Ecuador, Danny Guarderas, together with their colleagues. In Lima, the Executive Secretary and the Advisory Committee Vice-Chair had meetings at IMARPE, including with the Chair of the Consejo Directivo of IMARPE, Contralmirante Jorge Paz Acosta. The visit to Peru also included engagement with a range of senior Peruvian officials at a lunch hosted by Ambassador Maria Elvira Velásquez Rivas-Plata, Directora General de Soberanía, Límites y Asuntos Antárticos of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a round table meeting with representatives of Peruvian government institutions involved in ACAP-related activities, including fisheries and national parks management bodies. The meeting was chaired by ACAP's National Contact Point in Peru, Carlos Gerardo Briceño Salazar, Director de Asuntos Marítimos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There were also opportunities to engage in the margins at RFMO and other meetings with a range of contacts from various countries and organisations. In particular, the CMS COP 14 was attended by almost all ACAP Parties, in many cases with the ACAP National Contact Points as members of the delegations. The IAPC7 conference in Mexico was an opportunity to engage with ACAP's National Contact Point for Mexico, Humberto Berlanga.

10. ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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

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

Title	Adopted / Renewed	Duration	Expiry
International organisations			
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	9 November 2021	3 years	9 November 2024
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	6 December 2021	6 years	6 December 2027
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	23 February 2021	5 years	23 February 2026
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)	30 January 2023	Ongoing	—
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	15/16 May 2023	6 years,	15/16 May 2029 (but will be renewed automatically unless the Participants decide otherwise)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	2 September 2022	6 years	2 September 2028
South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)	11 December 2018	6 years	10 December 2024
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	26 November 2018	6 years	25 November 2024
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	28 October 2014	Ongoing	—
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	7 December 2007	Ongoing	—
National organisations			
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Arts (DEDTA), now Department of State Growth (DSG), Tasmania, Australia	1 February 2013	10 years	31 January 2023 (Renewal under discussion with Dept of State Growth)
Institutions			
Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine (UC Davis)	25 May 2022	Ongoing	—