

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Lima, Peru, 12 – 16 August 2024</i></p> <p>Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2025</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Following a recommendation from the Advisory Committee, a Work Programme for the 2023 - 2025 triennium was adopted by the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7, [Resolution 7.4](#)). The Advisory Committee's Work Programme was updated and amended at the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC13) to reflect the revised tasks in the work programmes of the Working Groups and other actions, as well as decisions taken during the course of AC13 ([AC13 Report](#), Annex 4).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Review and update the 2023 - 2025 Work Programme, to reflect the revised tasks allocated to the Working Groups and other actions, as well as to reflect decisions taken during the course of AC14; and
2. Define priority actions/areas to be considered in the allocation of funds.

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. 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. New actions identified at SBWG11, PaCSWG7, joint WG meeting and AC13 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.
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.

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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	Ongoing	3 weeks	5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Review at AC14.
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. 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)	

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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.	0	Opportunity for secondments and small grants .
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2023 and 2024	12 weeks	0	
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. 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	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.

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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	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.
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (SBWG10 Doc 07 Rev 4 SBWG11 Doc 09) 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. (core) From 2025 37,500 p.a. 3,000 (core)	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)	Review and update the RFMO engagement strategy	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastian Jimenez. AC Intersessional Group.	AC14			Establish an intersessional group (see ANNEX 7). Engage with IAC (lead Marco Favero, Andres Domingo, Tatiana Neves, Brazil).

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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, 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.
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 (euro)	Using the toolbox approach. Costs for translation of advice document. and guidelines, plus guidelines design.

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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	10,000 15,000 (€€€, for translation, and for new factsheets)	

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3.7	Reporting on bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting format refined as required Intersessional review to refine indicators	Parties, SBWG, Secretariat Igor Debski to lead initially. AC Intersessional Group (see ANNEX 7).	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a. (€€€)	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?) Workshop pre SBWG11.
3.7 a)	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead. AC Intersessional Group				Establish an intersessional correspondence group to address key challenges (see ANNEX 7). Provide input into data workshops held by Parties if feasible. Develop guidelines on bycatch data analysis to complement existing data collection guidelines
3.8	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2023-2024	1 week	5,000 (€€€)	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.
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	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 . 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				Opportunity for secondments and small grants

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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 in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG Lead: Eric Gilman	Ongoing			Guidelines were developed in 2021. Task 3.1 (RFMO Engagement) will be an important mechanism for dissemination. Engage with IAC (see Task 3.1a)
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	Prepare a review of available information on the nature and extent of seabird bycatch associated with floated demersal longlines, and ways to increase the sink rate of this gear.	SBWG intersessional group	2023			Possible secondment

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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	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 seabird safe toolkit for the tuna supply chain by Southern Seabirds Trust	SBWG, BirdLife International	2024-2025			Share resources and provide expert advice.

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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
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 Priority Populations	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, AC, Parties	Ongoing	16 weeks	0	Intersessional group on Priority Populations to respond to requests by Parties e.g. the implementation of the Waved Albatross <i>P. irrorata</i> Action Plan.

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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	
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)
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. Intersessional group (see ANNEX 7) will develop a plan for the number and structure of AC related reports to MoP8.

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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.
5.12	Support for World Albatross Day	Secretariat, PaCSWG, SBWG, Parties	Ongoing		3,000 p.a (core)	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 Communication 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.

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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
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
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	