

 <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>Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2026 - 2028</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

An Advisory Committee Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium will be submitted to MoP8 in 2025. This is a draft of that work programme seeking comments and eventual endorsement from the Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee review the Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme for the 2026 - 2028 triennium and suggest amendments as appropriate.

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. 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 per annum (p.a.)		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	2026-2028	2 weeks		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	2026-2028	2 months	5,000 (for database development)	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.		Respond to proposals (using species assessment template) submitted by Parties.
1.5	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.

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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 prioritisation. 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	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	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. 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	
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.
2.8	Identify and review High Priority Populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		Review at each AC Meeting

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2.9	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.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	Ongoing	3 weeks p.a.		Opportunity for secondments and small grants .
2.11	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2026 and 2027	12 weeks		
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, 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.
2.14	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		5,000	Guidelines for ACAP species offering broad recommendations to supplement local or regional colony 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. Translation costs included under Task 2.5.

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3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR Engagement Strategy for ACAP (AC14 Doc 20). Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.	Individual RFMO coordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	Ongoing	18 weeks p.a.	37,500 p.a.	Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly). Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG). Includes development and dissemination of resources.
3.1.a	Refine ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting, and present to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO coordinators, Secretariat, SBWG	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.	3,000 (for translation)	These guidelines will also be relevant for national (Party) observer programmes.
3.1.b	Review and update the RFMO engagement strategy at each Joint WG meeting.	Lead Dimas Gianuca and Sebastian Jimenez.	Ongoing			Engage with IAC (lead Marco Favero, Andres Domingo, Tatiana Neves, Brazil).
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: Ed Melvin, Juan Pablo Seco Pon Trawl: 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.	SBWG, via leads: Cristian Suazo, Joanna Alfaro (Jonathon Barrington to help)	Ongoing	4 weeks	3,000 (for translation)	Using the toolbox approach.

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3.4	Continue to update Mitigation Fact Sheets using new simplified format in a phased approach: 1) bird scaring lines for pelagic and demersal LL, and 2) 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)	
3.5	Further pursue 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.a	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
3.5.b	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.

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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.	Ongoing	20 weeks	10,000 p.a.	Need for contract support as this is a key element of work (0.25 FTE?)
3.7.a	Improve bycatch data collection and reporting.	Megan Tierney to lead.				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	2026-2028	1 week	5,000 (for workshop)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. i) revise the framework at SBWG13 or SBWG14 (possible workshop), taking account of risk assessment initiatives recently completed or currently underway. ii) update for MoP9.
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 3.1.b)
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				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				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		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				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		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

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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			
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	Ongoing			
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
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		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.
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.

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5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	Ongoing	2 weeks p.a.		
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	Ongoing	1 week p.a.		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.		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	2027			In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement.
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	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	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.			5,000 (contract for additional expertise)	Opportunities for secondment . Review, develop and implement ACAP's Communication Strategy.

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5.14	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>
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	2027	1 week p.a.	2,000	Review tracking indicators at AC16
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.		