

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Swakopmund, Namibia, 1 – 5 June 2026</i></p> <p>Listing of gadfly petrels on CMS Appendices I and II</p> <p><i>New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Chile</i></p>
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SUMMARY

Gadfly petrels are a group of highly migratory and endangered seabirds. ACAP has previously considered the best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of these species. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) adopted a proposal to list 26 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations on Appendices I and II of CMS. Listing on CMS Appendices will influence the scoring of suitability for potential listing of species on Annex 1 of ACAP. The CMS listing proposal document has collated a range of information on gadfly petrels, including the threats they face, although a Concerted Action to address these threats has not yet been developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint SBWG/PaCSWG and AC:

1. Note the listing of 26 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations on Appendices I and II of CMS.
2. Consider the CMS listing proposal document and identify any further actions that ACAP could take to improve the conservation status of these species, including the identification of actions that should be taken to address the threats to gadfly petrels.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gadfly petrel is an informal name given to a group of 39 small highly pelagic migratory seabird taxa found in tropical and temperate regions of all ocean basins, originally placed together in the genus *Pterodroma*. However, anatomical and genetic studies suggested that some species were more closely linked taxonomically to other seabird groups including *Bulweria* and several genera of shearwaters and these were split off into the genus *Pseudobulweria*.

As a group, gadfly petrels include some of the rarest, most endangered and poorly understood seabirds in the world. Gadfly petrels often breed in very remote and inaccessible areas and have large geographical ranges at-sea. Although poorly understood, gadfly petrels are at risk from multiple different threats on land and at-sea. A number of these threats are shared with species listed on Annex 1 of ACAP.

A workshop was held by ACAP on 10 September 2017 with the objective of advancing understanding about best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species ([AC10 Doc 14 Rev 1](#)). The workshop concluded that although there is a case for a limited number of additions to ACAP's Annex 1, such additions needed to ensure sufficient resources were available, or a strong commitment to obtain such resources, to avoid dilution of existing conservation actions. The refreshing and possible further branding of relevant conservation guidance would be a comparatively straightforward addition to ACAP's work programme. The creation of additional guidance on collision/grounding, light attraction, and nest finding was recommended. Improved links with other international initiatives, or specialist groups, addressing invasive species and other land-based pressures were encouraged. ACAP has achieved progress with some of these suggested actions, such as the development of relevant conservation guidelines.

2. LISTING OF GADFLY PETREL SPECIES ON CMS APPENDICES I AND II

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) adopted a [proposal to list 22 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations in the genus *Pterodroma* and 4 species of *Pseudobulweria*](#) on Appendices I and II of CMS. The listing proposal included detailed information on the migrations, biology, conservation status, threats and conservation management of gadfly petrels, amongst other things.

Listing on CMS Appendices will influence the scoring of suitability for potential listing of species on Annex 1 of ACAP ([AC14 Doc 11 Table 1](#)). The CMS listing proposal has also collated a range of information on gadfly petrels, including the threats they face, although a Concerted Action to address these threats has not yet been developed.

In light of CMS listing the Joint SBWG/PaCSWG and AC are invited to consider the proposal document and identify any further actions that ACAP could take to improve the conservation status of these species, including the identification of actions that should be taken to address the threats to gadfly petrels.