

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fifth Meeting of the Parties <i>Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 4 - 8 May 2015</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Indicators to measure the Success of the Agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretariat</p>
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SUMMARY

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MoP4) approved the use and further development of a series of indicators for bycatch, breeding sites and population status and trends. Some indicators are currently in use while others continue to be under development. Two new tracking data availability indicators were proposed at AC8.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Meeting of the Parties:

1. approve the refined list of breeding sites and status and trend indicators, and two new indicators on tracking data availability; and
2. note the progress in relation to, and approve the continued development of, SBWG indicators.

1. BACKGROUND

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MoP4) approved the use and further development of a series of indicators for bycatch, breeding sites and population status and trends as recommended by AC6 in [MoP4 Doc 23](#) ([MoP4 Final Report](#), item 7.5). It was also recommended that updates to the existing interim ACAP indicator, the IUCN Red List Status of ACAP species, continue to be presented at each MoP.

Some indicators, including those proposed for breeding sites and population status and trends, could be constructed immediately with data available from the ACAP database. A number of candidate indicators relating to seabird bycatch were proposed, but it was noted that there was currently inadequate baseline information to populate these indicators, either because the data did not yet exist, or they were not yet available to the Secretariat.

Capacity building indicators are discussed separately in **MoP5 Doc 28**.

2. BREEDING SITES AND POPULATION STATUS AND TRENDS INDICATORS

AC7 noted the updated values for site condition and population status and trends indicators presented at MoP4 and the difficulties with the interessional work which attempted to hindcast as many of the indicators as possible to the start of the Agreement in 2004.

AC8 refined the set of the indicators presented at MoP4, which reduced redundancy by choosing one alternative out of several possibilities for a particular measurement, or better reflected management practices at breeding sites. Two new indicators on tracking data availability were also endorsed by AC8 (**ANNEX 1**). Now that the indicators are established, future reports can provide an analysis of this data.

As requested at MoP4, BirdLife International also presented the IUCN Red List Status of ACAP species. This was hindcast to 1988 (the first year for which Red List Index (RLI) data are available) for (i) the original ACAP species (southern hemisphere albatrosses, both *Macronectes* and all *Procellaria*), and (ii) all current ACAP species including Balearic Shearwater and the three North Pacific albatross species (**Figure 1**).

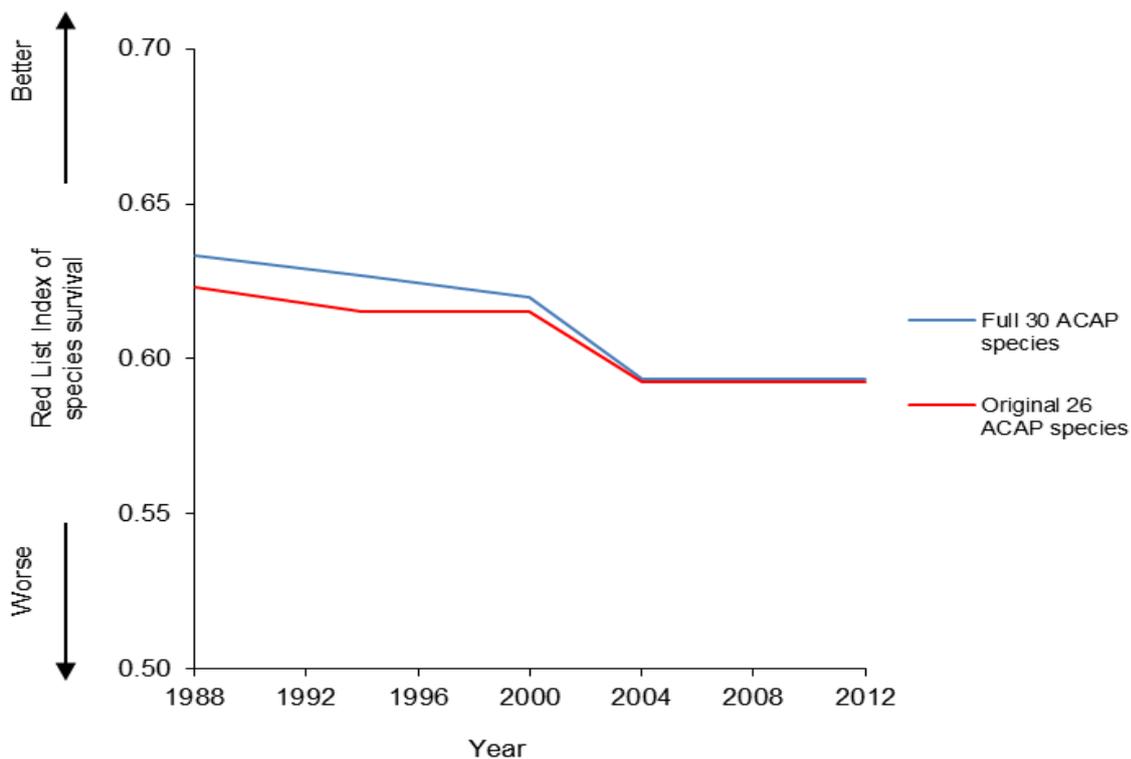


Figure 1. Red list indicators for ACAP species

Recent changes in the underlying data (compared to earlier versions provided to ACAP) include the down-listing of both Black-browed Albatross and Black-footed Albatross to Near Threatened, based on improved understanding of their population trends over the last few decades, rather than genuine improvements in status. Both are now estimated to have qualified as Near Threatened since 1988, and hence no longer drive the decline in RLI value.

The species driving the negative trends in the ACAP RLI are as follows:

<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Waved Albatross	Qualified for up-listing from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered in 2000-2004
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Tristan Albatross	Qualified for up-listing from Endangered to Critically Endangered in 1988-1994
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	Sooty Albatross	Qualified for up-listing from Vulnerable to Endangered in 2000-2004
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic Shearwater	Qualified for up-listing from Vulnerable to Endangered in 1994-2000, and from Endangered to Critically Endangered in 2000-2004

In addition, Grey-headed Albatross was up-listed in 2013 from Vulnerable to Endangered, but this was a consequence of improved knowledge rather than genuine deterioration in status. This affects the absolute value of the RLI, but not its trend during 1988-2012.

The flat line in recent years suggests that substantial changes in extinction risk since 2004 for the relevant species have not occurred (or have not yet been detected).

3. SEABIRD BYCATCH INDICATORS

MoP4 approved the use and further development of a set of State-Pressure-Response indicators, as recommended by AC6 in **MoP4 Doc 23**.

At AC7, it was noted that reporting on the progressive acquisition of relevant bird tracking data (S(1)) was being reported through the PaCSWG. The complexity and difficulties of assessing the remaining indicators were identified and an intersessional group was established to further develop and refine the proposed indicators, together with the related and required reporting needs.

AC8 noted the intersessional progress made and endorsed the following actions with regard to seabird bycatch indicators:

State (S)

1) Availability of data for definition of at-sea ranges of ACAP species

→ New indicator to be developed

2) Availability of bycatch data relevant to ACAP species

→ No longer suitable to measure progress towards establishing indicator P1 due to new approach developed. Once the approach is further developed by the intersessional group, a State indicator to measure the currency and accuracy of estimates being provided can be developed.

Pressure (P)

1) Bycatch rates and levels of ACAP species

- further intersessional work is needed to review and establish guidelines and advice on suitable methodologies to estimate these figures and the reporting requirements of Parties in order to measure progress against them.

Response (R)

1) Implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation within EEZs

- a change will be required to the ACAP reporting template to enforce a more categorical response. An appropriate template has been designed by the Secretariat and will be implemented for the next round of reporting.

2) Engagement with RFMOs on seabird bycatch issues

- Mechanism have yet to be developed to assess the degree of implementation of seabird conservation measures by tuna and other RFMOs.
- The development and implementation of methods to review the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation measures across tuna and other RFMOs is currently underway.
- The adoption of recommendations, including changes to bycatch mitigation measures, that arise from these reviews has not yet commenced.

3) Research and development for effective seabird mitigation measures

- the relevance of mitigation research reported to SBWG meetings to be assessed as a measure for this indicator. An initial population of this indicator will be presented for consideration at SBWG7.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS

A contact group is developing performance indicators for capacity building under the Agreement with participation by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, and New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Current progress on this task in is set out in **MoP5 Doc 28**.

ANNEX 1. BREEDING SITES, POPULATIONS AND TRACKING DATA INDICATORS

INDICATOR		2004		2008		2011		2014	
Breeding Sites		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
S1	Islands with alien species	51	18.9	50	18.5	48	17.8	47	17.4
P1	Sites with threats	59	10.0	59	10.0	59	10.0	59	10.0
R1	Sites with eradications or management actions to abate threats	14	2.4	15	2.5	15	2.5	13	2.2
R2	Sites with Biosecurity Protocol (Biosecurity Plan or Quarantine)	62	10.5	76	12.9	76	12.9	76	12.9
Populations									
S1 b)	Sites counted within last 10 years	247	41.8	282	47.7	286	48.4	240	40.6
S1 b)	Island Groups counted within the last 10 years (at least 50% of sites per Island Group counted)	80	56.7	78	55.3	81	57.5	75	53.2
S2	Island Groups where breeding numbers at at least 1 site (including part-sites) estimated annually within the last 9 or 10/10 years	27	19.2	31	22.0	34	24.1	33	23.4
S3	Sites (or part sites) with ongoing annual monitoring - demography	20	3.4	20	3.4	24	4.1	24	4.1
S4 b)	Island Groups – population trend increasing/stable over last 10 years	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Tracking									
S1	Island Groups with at least 15 tracks each from incubation, brood guard, post-guard chick rearing, non-breeding adults (from any island)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
S2	Island Groups with at least 15 tracks from juveniles/immatures (from any island)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Total Sites = 591, Total Islands = 270, Total Island Groups = 141, Taxa = 30 - *Diomedea amsterdamensis*, *Diomedea antipodensis*, *Diomedea dabbenena*, *Diomedea epomophora*, *Diomedea exulans*, *Diomedea sanfordi*, *Macronectes giganteus*, *Macronectes halli*, *Phoebastria albatrus*, *Phoebastria immutabilis*, *Phoebastria irrorata*, *Phoebastria nigripes*, *Phoebetria fusca*, *Phoebetria palpebrata*, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, *Procellaria cinerea*, *Procellaria conspicillata*, *Procellaria parkinsoni*, *Procellaria westlandica*, *Puffinus mauretanicus*, *Thalassarche bulleri*, *Thalassarche carteri*, *Thalassarche cauta*, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*, *Thalassarche eremita*, *Thalassarche impavida*, *Thalassarche melanophris*, *Thalassarche salvini*, *Thalassarche steadi*