

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Sixth Meeting of Parties <i>Skukuza, South Africa, 7 - 11 May 2018</i></p> <p>Advisory Committee Report to the Sixth Meeting of Parties</p> <p>Advisory Committee, Secretariat</p>
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SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee is pleased to provide its report to MoP6. The Advisory Committee and its Working Groups have made excellent progress during the 2016-2018 triennium. The Advisory Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, provided expert advice to Parties, Range States and a range of Organisations on actions that can be taken to address threats to albatrosses and petrels, both at sea and on land. A substantial proportion of this information is readily accessible through the ACAP website including, but not limited to, conservation guidelines for the eradication of predators, and for biosecurity and quarantine; best practice advice for bycatch mitigation measures in longline and trawl fisheries; mitigation fact sheets developed in conjunction with BirdLife International; de-hooking guide; and a review of diseases and pathogens.

Now that effective mitigation measures have been identified for the key fishing activities known to result in the incidental catch of ACAP species, the challenge ahead is to have these mitigation measures used in those fisheries where seabird bycatch is occurring. Another key challenge is to obtain the fisheries data required to improve our understanding and management of seabird bycatch. In this context, the Advisory Committee has yet to standardise ways of using these data. As in the past triennium, one of the most difficult challenges will be the increasing size and complexity of the Agreement's agenda and the asymmetry with the growth of capacity. Such increased workload could be alleviated by the engagement of additional resources to undertake particular actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Meeting of the Parties:

1. Notes the progress, achievements and difficulties during the triennium.
2. Reviews and approves the proposed Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019-2021 (MoP6 Doc 15).
3. Reviews the development of performance indicators on capacity building detailed in MoP6 Doc 21.
4. Endorses the Capacity Building Strategy presented in MoP6 Doc 22.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report follows the structure agreed during MoP1 ([Resolution 1.5](#), Annex 1) and has been prepared for the Advisory Committee by the Chair and Vice-chair with the assistance of the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee was given the opportunity to review and comment on a draft of this report. These comments were taken into account in finalising the report.

1.1 Establishment of the Committee

The Committee was established at MoP1 (Hobart, Australia, 10 to 12 November 2004).

1.2 Election and appointment of Advisory Committee Officers

AC9 constituted the end of all Committee Officers' terms, so all positions required election. Mr Nathan Walker (New Zealand) was elected as Chair, and Mrs Tatiana Neves (Brazil) was elected as Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee.

Dr Anton Wolfaardt (United Kingdom) was re-elected as a Convenor, Dr Igor Debski (New Zealand) was re-elected as Vice-convenor, and Mr Sebastian Jimenez (Uruguay) was elected as Vice-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (thereafter, at AC10 Dr Igor Debski was elected as Co-convenor (alongside Dr Anton Wolfaardt), and Dr Juan Pablo Seco Pon (Argentina) was elected as Vice-convenor (alongside Mr Sebastian Jimenez) of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group).

Dr Richard Phillips (United Kingdom) and Dr Rosemary Gales (Australia) were re-elected as Co-convenors of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group. Dr Flavio Quintana (Argentina) was re-elected as Vice-convenor and Ms Patricia Serafini (Brazil) was elected as Vice-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group.

Mr Mark Tasker (United Kingdom) was elected as Convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group. Dr Mike Double (Australia) was elected as Vice-convenor of the Taxonomy Working Group.

The Committee thanked all past office holders for their work for the Agreement.

1.3 Members, Alternates, Observers and Experts

The lists of Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Observers and Experts in attendance at each of the meetings of the Committee in the triennium may be found in Annex 1 of the [AC9](#) and [AC10](#) reports.

1.4 Review of Rules of Procedure

The Committee established its Rules of Procedure (RoP) at AC1 and reviewed them at subsequent meetings. The [AC's Rop](#) were last amended at AC6 (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 29 August to 2 September 2011). At AC8, AC9 and AC10, the Advisory Committee continued discussions about amending Rule 20. An intersessional group is continuing these discussions.

1.5 Meetings and other correspondence since MoP5

After MoP5, AC9 was held in La Serena, Chile, from 9 to 13 May 2016, and AC10 was held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 11 to 15 September 2017. Meetings of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG 3 and PaCSWG4), and the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG7 and SBWG8) preceded AC9 and AC10, respectively.

There has been considerable formal and informal correspondence about the implementation of the Advisory Committee work programme. Informal meetings of the Advisory Committee's Officials (AC Chair and Vice-chair, Working Group Convenors) and the Executive Secretary were held on a regular basis to coordinate the intersessional activities of the Advisory Committee.

2. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.1 Activities of the Chair

During the reporting period, the Committee was chaired by Dr Marco Favero until January 2016. Since then, and until the election of Mr Nathan Walker to the role at AC9, Mr Mark Tasker was acting Chair of the Advisory Committee. Mrs Tatiana Neves took over from Mr Mark Tasker as Vice-chair following AC9.

2.1.1 Recruitment

On the 4th December 2017, the Executive Secretary submitted his resignation effective on the 30th November 2018 due to personal and family reasons (Circular 2017-10). The Chair and Vice-chair have been included in subsequent correspondence to Parties to form a Recruitment Subcommittee to seek a replacement Executive Secretary.

2.1.2 Budgets

The Chair was consulted by the Secretariat on a number of occasions on issues regarding management of the Agreement's budget. In all cases, agreement was reached.

2.1.3 Consultations with the Agreement Secretariat

The Chair conducted considerable correspondence and tele-conferencing with the Secretariat on a regular basis, and less frequently with other AC Officials. The Vice-chair maintained periodic correspondence with the Secretariat and others.

2.1.4 Other activities

The Chair, Vice-chair and other Committee Officials represented the Agreement at a number of meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Regional Conservation Bodies, and at relevant conferences and other international meetings.

2.2 Progress with Actions under Article IX of the Agreement

2.2.1 Provision of scientific, technical and other advice

A summary of progress against the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016-2018 ([Resolution 5.4](#)) is provided in **ANNEX 1**. The work programme has evolved considerably at AC9 and AC10 with new tasks added to reflect the increasing scope of work conducted by the Advisory Committee during this period. The work programme in **ANNEX 1** reflects those revisions.

The 2016-2018 work programme was used as the basis for developing the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019-2021 ([MoP6 Doc 15](#)).

Scientific and technical advice provided by the Advisory Committee is based in large part on the work produced by its Working Groups:

- Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) addresses land-based threats and conservation status of species listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement,
- Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) addresses at-sea threats for ACAP species,
- Taxonomy Working Group (TWG) addresses taxonomic issues relevant to the Agreement.

The Advisory Committee and its Working Groups made excellent progress during the last triennium. Key achievements since MoP5 are summarised below:

- a. Further development of the ACAP [database](#) to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups,
- b. Review of current population trends of ACAP species,
- c. Further identification of key gaps in tracking data,
- d. Use of the prioritisation framework to guide the work of the Agreement,
- e. Refinement of performance indicators for seabird bycatch and development of a reporting framework for use in future annual reporting,
- f. Further identification of preliminary performance indicators on capacity building, as an addition to the suite of indicators for seabird bycatch and land-based threats
- g. Ongoing review and update of the ACAP [species assessments](#),
- h. Effective implementation of a strategy to engage RFMOs and assist in the development and implementation of conservation measures relevant to ACAP species,
- i. Advice on effective mitigation measures that has been refined and promoted to relevant fisheries managers concerning those fishing activities known to cause significant incidental mortality to ACAP species,
- j. Progress achieved with the adoption of seabird conservation measures by relevant RFMOs, based on ACAP's best practice advice,
- k. The ongoing review of [bycatch mitigation best practice](#) advice documents for pelagic and demersal longline, and trawl fisheries,
- l. Progress in developing bycatch mitigation best practice advice for purse seine fisheries and artisanal/small scale fisheries, using a "toolbox" approach,
- m. Ongoing review of the BirdLife International - ACAP [mitigation fact sheets](#) that are aimed at fisheries managers to assist in reducing bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries—with the fact sheets available on the ACAP website in a number of relevant

languages. Reviews were completed on factsheets for line weighting and hook-shielding devices in 2017,

- n. Continued refinement of biosecurity, census, and eradication [guidelines](#) for ACAP seabird breeding sites and the hook-removal and Seabird Bycatch ID guides,
- o. Update of a review of diseases and pathogens in albatrosses and petrels,
- p. Development of translocation guidelines for surface and burrow nesting species, and field collection protocols for DNA dietary analysis of seabird scats.
- q. Consideration of best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species at a workshop held in the margins of AC10,
- r. Recommendations regarding a standard taxonomic list for the use of Parties and others when considering Albatrosses and Petrels not already included in Annex 1.

Other advice regarding the operation of the Agreement was developed in close collaboration with the Secretariat including, but not limited to:

- a. Developing a sponsorship policy to provide guidance on the financial support of delegates and experts to attend meetings of the Agreement ([MoP5 Doc 27 Rev 1](#)),
- b. Developing the triennial report on the implementation of the Agreement ([MoP6 Doc 11](#)),
- c. Implementing the ACAP Grant Scheme and ACAP Secondment Programme (see section 2.2.6),
- d. Further developing the Agreement's capacity building strategy ([MoP6 Doc 22](#)) according to the objectives, criteria and principles defined in [MoP4 Doc 18](#) and MoP4 Final Report).

2.2.2 Progress with standard reference text on taxonomy of species covered by the Agreement

A proposal to amend the nomenclature for *Ardenna creatopus* syn. *Puffinus creatopus* to remove the reference to *Puffinus creatopus* has been submitted for the consideration of MoP6 ([MoP6 Doc 14](#)).

AC10 considered a proposal by the Taxonomy Working Group ([AC10 Doc 22 Rev 1](#)) on the choice of a standard taxonomy to be used when considering new species for Annex 1 of ACAP. The Committee noted the potential difficulty resulting from other organisations (including CMS) using a different taxonomic system to ACAP; the potential issue for considering a new species for listing on Annex 1 that does not have an IUCN Red List category due to having a different taxonomy; and, use of common names in any listing when there may be multiple common names across the three working languages.

The recommendations endorsed by the Advisory Committee were as follows:

1. Parties referring to the taxonomy used by the International Ornithological Congress when bringing forward a proposal for adding new species to Annex 1 of the Agreement,
2. the existing ACAP taxonomy, and current mechanisms under the Agreement for considering proposals for new species, are not affected by the above recommendation,

3. amending Annex 1 to the Agreement to remove the *Puffinus creatopus* synonym, leaving only *Ardenna creatopus* as the nomenclature for that species (**MoP6 Doc 14**),
4. further work exploring harmonisation of taxonomic approaches.

2.2.3 Recommendations concerning the Action Plan and further research

A draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019-2021 has been prepared for the consideration of the Parties (**MoP6 Doc 15**).

2.2.4 Development of indicators to assess progress towards achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels

MoP5 approved a list of breeding sites and status and trend indicators, as well as indicators on tracking data availability, and noted progress concerning SBWG indicators (see [MoP5 Doc 20 Rev 1](#)). Following further discussion at AC10, the Committee recommends that MoP6 endorse the use of the capacity building indicators detailed in **MoP6 Doc 13**. The Committee has also requested all Parties and collaborating Range States to use the revised bycatch reporting template to provide bycatch information as part of the next round of annual reporting, so that further discussions to finalise the reporting template may take place at SBWG9.

2.2.5 Progress with collation of information under Section 5 of the Action Plan and identification of gaps in knowledge

A report on progress with implementation of the Agreement was produced using the web-based reporting system (**MoP6 Doc 13**). The information that Parties are required to provide is used further by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat in resources such as species assessments and reports on fisheries bycatch. This information will support the work of the Committee in future years.

2.2.6 Other Activities

The reports mentioned above and in the Advisory Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2021 (**ANNEX 1**) describe the activities of the Committee.

The Workshop on *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrels (the *Pterodroma* Workshop), was held on 10 September 2017, with the objective of advancing understanding of the best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species. The workshop report is included in **ANNEX 2**.

The Advisory Committee agreed to establish a contact group, led by the UK and New Zealand, to continue discussions intersessionally about *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrels.

The recommendations endorsed by the Advisory Committee in regard to the outcomes of the *Pterodroma* workshop were as follows:

1. The Advisory Committee should revisit and complete a revised prioritisation process as soon as possible.
2. Based on this prioritisation and other considerations, Parties may wish to bring forward further species for consideration as additions to Annex 1 of ACAP; the Meeting of Parties

might consider whether cases for addition should address the resource needs of such additions.

3. The Secretariat and Parties should improve links to existing international conservation efforts for land-based threats, particularly those working on eradication of invasive species.
4. Encourages the updating of, and possible additions to, ACAP conservation guidelines to ensure they adequately cover gadfly petrels and smaller Procellariiformes by the Working Groups.
5. The Population and Conservation Status Working Group and the Secretariat consider ways to improve the profile and uptake of the revised ACAP conservation guidelines to highlight that although they are focused on ACAP species, they also cover smaller Procellariiformes.
6. Explore ways to increase contact with experts on smaller Procellariiformes.

The ACAP Small Grants Scheme and ACAP Secondment Programme funding round undertaken in 2015 was not able to be implemented. Following AC9, Parties sought agreement on ways to progress the Small Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme. Despite these intersessional efforts and those of the Grants Sub-committee and the Secretariat, it was not possible to find an agreed way forward.

The Advisory Committee noted the importance of these programmes in delivering conservation actions and building capacity. Several Parties considered that the issue of the Small Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme is crucial and considered it to be the soul of ACAP's implementation as a collective effort by a group of countries interested in the conservation of migratory species they share, and believed that it should be considered a priority.

At AC10, the Advisory Committee agreed that in the next call for applications, and until the end of the next triennium in 2021, the Small Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme will only accept applications/nominations from Parties. The Secretariat shall copy the proposals to the Advisory Committee Members, when sending the proposals to the Grants Sub-committee for review. Call for applications for Secondments and Small Grants opened in December 2017, and selection of projects will be completed in April and June 2018, respectively.

2.3 Meetings of the Advisory Committee

Reports from the [Ninth](#) and [Tenth](#) Meetings of the Advisory Committee can be found on the Agreement's website.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Achievements

The Advisory Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, provided expert advice to Parties and a range of Organisations on actions that can be taken to address threats to albatrosses and petrels, both at sea and on land. A substantial proportion of this information is readily accessible through the ACAP website including, among other things, guidelines for designing burrowing petrel studies; conservation guidelines for the eradication of predators, and for biosecurity and quarantine; translocation guidelines; best practice advice for bycatch mitigation

measures in longline (both demersal and pelagic) and trawl fisheries; mitigation fact sheets developed in conjunction with BirdLife International; seabird bycatch ID guide and de-hooking guide; and a review of diseases and pathogens.

Further development of the ACAP database and implementation of the electronic reporting system will provide Parties and other users with increasing access to essential information for the effective implementation of the Agreement's Action Plan. As data are progressively added to this database it will allow the Agreement to conduct an analysis of its performance and, most importantly, identify the progress achieved and the needs required in different regions, and for individual Parties.

A very large proportion of the actions planned for the 2016-2018 triennium were accomplished. It is expected that the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups will continue to make good progress. Some key outcomes expected for the next triennium include:

1. Access will be available to better data from Parties and other fisheries managers on their fisheries and on levels of seabird bycatch that will allow improved evaluation of bycatch numbers for each ACAP listed species,
2. An expanded suite of indicators will be available to measure the success of the Agreement,
3. ACAP Grants Scheme and ACAP Secondment Programme will be fully implemented and delivering conservation benefits to ACAP species and capacity building,
4. ACAP Best Practice advice will be extended to include purse seine, and artisanal and small-scale fisheries and will be widely used by Parties, Range States and international organisations to guide management decisions in relevant fisheries,
5. Progress will be made with data acquisition and the review of the effectiveness of conservation measures in RFMOs and Regional Conservation Bodies.

3.2 Difficulties encountered and challenges for the next triennium

Now that effective mitigation measures have been identified for the key fishing activities known to result in the incidental catch of ACAP species, the challenge ahead is to have these mitigation measures effectively implemented, and reliably monitored in those fisheries where seabird bycatch is occurring.

Another key challenge is to obtain the fisheries data required to assess the level of implementation and effectiveness, as well as improving our understanding and management of seabird bycatch.

As noted in the last Advisory Committee report to MoP ([MoP5 Doc 09](#)), one of the most significant difficulties found in the past triennium, which will continue to be a challenge for the next one, was the increasing size and complexity of the Agreement's agenda and the asymmetry with the growth of capacity (both in terms of funds and human resources, also see comments in the review of the Secretariat on this matter in [MoP6 Doc 10](#)). This increasing workload could be alleviated by the engagement of additional resources to undertake particular actions.

The Advisory Committee is confident that the recommendations in this paper will assist MoP6 to continue to make progress towards achieving the objectives of ACAP and the Committee looks forward to serving ACAP/the Parties in the next triennium.

ANNEX 1. ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – 2018

Actions that have been completed or are no longer relevant are crossed out. New actions identified at SBWG8, PaCSWG4 and AC10 are highlighted in blue.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
			Time	Funds	
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review					
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	AUD 0 <i>Ensure that ACAP's Biblio is updated</i>
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0 <i>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</i>
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2016-2018	2 months	?
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2016-2018	0.5 week p.a.	AUD 0 <i>Development of papers as required, using species assessment template.</i>
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	1-2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0 <i>Provided advice recommendations regarding a standard taxonomic list to use by Parties when assessing the suitability of candidate species for inclusion in Annex 1, and for encouraging ongoing harmonisation with CMS and IUCN, including addressing synonyms in Annex 1.</i>

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
			Time	Funds	
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	2016-2018	8 weeks p.a.	AUD 0 Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders in June 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	2016-2018	12 weeks p.a.	AUD 0
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	2016-2018	3 weeks	AUD 5,000 (core) May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required. Reviewed at AC10.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG Convenors	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 4,000 (core) Costs for Birdlife to update maps. Complete current update for all species by May 2018 .
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (core)
2.6	Identify priority species or populations for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks pa	AUD 0 Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
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.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2017	1 week p.a.	AUD 1,000 (core)	Review at AC10
2.8	Identify and review priority species or populations for conservation actions.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Review at each AC Meeting. List PaCSWG documents which propose each Priority Population listing.
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge.	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation as required for AC10, paper to MoP6 .
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer, Lead Richard Phillips (UK), Anton Wolfaardt (UK), Marcela Uhart (UCD)	2016-2018	3 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	May include developing new disease outbreak guidelines. See 2.15 and 2.16. Pterodroma workshop recommendations.
2.11	Develop/update database of biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	Parties may also need to develop/implement biosecurity plans at breeding sites
2.12	Maintain centralised catalogue of plastic rings used on ACAP species and contact list, and addresses of ringing authorities	Science Officer, PaCSWG	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	
2.13	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	AUD 0	

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
2.14	Develop list of researchers/institutions/regional nodes for bycatch samples	PaCSWG, Lead Marcela Uhart (UCD), Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Flavio Quintana (Argentina), Richard Phillips (UK), Hannah Nevins (ABC)	2016-20172018	2 weeks	AUD 0	List developed and presented at PaCSWG4. To be further developed by 2018.
2.15	Develop guidelines to quantify the ingestion of plastics by albatrosses and petrels	Lead Marcela Uhart (UCD) , Patricia Serafini (Brazil), Marcela Uhart , Barbara Wienecke (Australia), Richard Phillips (UK)	By AC10	2 weeks	AUD 0	To include protocols for macroplastics and microplastics by 2018.
2.16	Develop guidelines for tissue sampling of dead birds	Marcela Uhart (UCD)	By AC10	1 week	AUD 0	Include link to faeces collection guidelines
2.17	Complete breeding sites accounts	PaCSWG, Lead John Cooper (Secretariat)	By AC11 AC10	5 weeks	AUD 0	
2.18	Review application of IUCN criteria to ACAP species	Barry Baker, Richard Phillips, Barbara Wienecke, Birdlife International, Rosemary Gales, Science Officer, Patricia Serafini, Johnathon Barrington, Graeme Taylor	Up to June 2018		AUD 0	Complete by June 2018

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
			Time	Funds	
2.19	Make available outreach resources on the ACAP webpage	Projeto Albatroz, Hannahrose Nevins, Verónica López, Science Officer	Ongoing		First materials including links and contacts by June 2018
2.20	Develop guidelines for biosecurity to mitigate disease transmission after outbreaks	Marcela Uhart, Anton Woolfaardt, Patricia Serafini, Barbara Wienecke			Complete by June 2018
3. Seabird Bycatch					
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO and CCAMLR engagement strategy interaction plan for ACAP (AC5 Doc 29) 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. Develop ACAP specific products on best practice bycatch data collection and reporting for presentation to RFMOs.	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	2016-2018	a) 18 weeks p.a. b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) AUD 30,000 p.a. (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 Progress reported at each SBWG meeting, and actions for the forthcoming period included in Annex 5 of the SBWG8 Report. HIGH

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.2	Update analysis of overlaps of distributions and albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP	2016-2017	4 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core)	Consider work and schedule of RFMO activities (e.g. seabird risk assessments and reviews of bycatch mitigation measures) Moved to Section 5
3.3	Continue to review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird bycatch to aid prioritisation of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction.	SBWG and Parties	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (grant)	Assess needs for waters subject to national jurisdiction and any capacity building requirements To facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch Consider possible link to conservation priorities, such as Wandering Albatross Moved to Section 5
3.4	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information.	BirdLife/SBWG Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Based on Endnote library 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 . Ongoing. LOW

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.5	Based on new information, update ACAP/BirdLife fact sheets on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (trawl, pelagic longline, demersal longline) Update fact sheet on branchline weighting for Pelagic LL fisheries; develop new fact sheets for Hook shielding devices. Develop a new fact sheet for the Modified Purse Seine.	SBWG/BirdLife - Trawl: New Zealand Pelagic longline: Australia Demersal longline: UK General: BirdLife	2016-2018	1 week per fact sheet	AUD 10,000 (core, for translation and for new factsheet)	Draft FSs for line weighting and hook-shielding devices developed using new format. Further modifications suggested at SBWG8 need to be addressed. Conversion of other fact sheets from old format to new will happen in a phased approach, prioritising the recently updated advice on bird scaring lines for demersal and pelagic longline fisheries, followed by other best practice measures, and finally the fact sheets for measures that are not considered best practice. HIGH
3.6	Investigate the barriers and drivers in the uptake of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures. (e.g. produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries, develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas/ for high priority populations).	SBWG/BirdLife, Secretariat	2016-2018	8 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core for publication and translation of materials)	Target audience is fisheries managers. May help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets (task 3.15). Possible secondment opportunity. SBWG8 agreed to pursue this action. Progress will be reported at SBWG9. HIGH

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.7	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea.	SBWG – lead Mark Tasker and Barry Baker	2016-2018	12 weeks	AUD 10,000 (grant)	<p>Review to describe current knowledge (much from unpublished literature) and causes of any deliberate take and to consider possible take reduction strategies.</p> <p>(Work on review of intentional killing in jigging fleets was planned in 2015).</p> <p>Potential for secondment or grant.</p> <p>No progress yet, but SBWG8 agreed to undertake this work and report back to SBWG9. MEDIUM</p>
3.8	Recommend priority actions to advance implementation of line-weighting in pelagic longline fisheries. Extend fly-back safety studies to consider hook tear-outs and 80 g weight if practicable.	SBWG	2016-2018	12 weeks	To be determined 10 000 AUD (core)	<p>Will be informed by output of research planned for 2015</p> <p>Close to completion. Results to be reported at SBWG9. HIGH</p>
3.9	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2017 (for MoP6)	1 week	AUD 5,000 (core)	<p>Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation.</p> <p>Possible workshop.</p> <p>In progress, to be completed by end of November for reporting to MoP6. MEDIUM</p>

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries, including research for these fisheries.	SBWG	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 0	<p>Follows on from development of the toolbox concept in 2015. Good opportunity for secondment.</p> <p>Good progress made and reported to SBWG8. Further work to expand toolbox mitigation options. HIGH</p>
3.11	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	<p>see also 3.10 (toolbox)</p> <p>Will liaise with external initiatives, but will keep a watching brief, and request Parties and others to provide updates on research relevant to ACAP species. LOW</p>
3.12	Assist other organisations or range states in bycatch research by facilitating collaboration with relevant experts	SBWG	2016-2018	ongoing	AUD 0	<p>This is a principle that underpins various aspects of our work, rather than specific action. Consequently, we suggest removing this as an action in the work programme for 2019-2021</p>
3.13	Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required	SBWG/ <i>Anton Wolfaardt, Igor Debski et al.</i> Secretariat	2016-2018	20 weeks	AUD 10,000 (grant)	<p>Possibility for continued secondments to build capacity</p> <p>Progress reported at SBWG8. Work continuing, and expecting all Parties to submit information using the reporting template for AC11. HIGH</p>

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.14	Develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high risk areas	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (core)	Funds for publication and translation of materials Combined with 3.6
3.15	Implement the strategy for directly engaging with fishing fleets on the need for implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures (links to the investigation on barriers and drivers of uptake)	SBWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	Strategy and mechanism development planned for 2015-2016 Links to barriers and drivers. Will be removed as a specific action in the WP for 2019-2021
3.16	Research actions for artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		To be determined	Dependent on progress of research strategy for artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries planned for 2015-2016 Combined with 3.10
3.17	Research actions for gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	Liaise with external initiatives Best addressed by liaising with external initiatives and keeping a watching brief. LOW
3.18	Extend revised format of review and best practice advice documents on bycatch mitigation to demersal longline and trawl fisheries	SBWG, Secretariat	2016-2018	4 weeks	AUD 0	Completed Updates to these will be taken up in new action 3.23
3.19	Development of mitigation advice for purse-seine fisheries	SBWG, Chile, Australia, ATF Chile, Lead Cristian Suazo and Barry Baker	2016-2017	4 weeks		Possible grant Using mitigation toolbox approach. Ongoing review will be progressed via leads. MEDIUM

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
3.20	Further development of best practice guidelines in the use of Electronic Monitoring for the assessment and monitoring of seabird bycatch	SBWG, Lead Nathan Walker	2016-2018	8 weeks	AUD 0	Possible secondment MEDIUM
3.21	Evaluate the factors that drive or limit success of NPOA-Seabirds in reducing the bycatch of seabirds – link to 4.1, 3.6 (drivers and barriers)	SBWG	2016-2018	20 weeks	AUD 0	Possible secondment Will be taken forward by the work being undertaken by Barry Baker and BirdLife. Outcomes, issues and potential resolutions should be presented to SBWG9, and will inform future actions. MEDIUM
3.22	Help facilitate and support collaborative seabird impact and risk assessments at various scales	SBWG	2017-2018			Encourage and help facilitate and support collaborative efforts to undertake seabird bycatch risk and impact assessments, including building capacity to undertake assessments. A number of initiatives currently underway. Progress will be reported at SBWG9, and inform further actions. HIGH

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
			Time	Funds	
3.23	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, Anton Wolfaardt Trawl: Amanda Kuepfer, Igor Debski	2017-2018		
4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work					
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	2016-2018	10 weeks	AUD 0
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties	2016		AUD 0
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	2016-2018		AUD 0

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments
			Time	Funds	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	2016-2018		AUD 0
4.5	Complete the work on drafting the capacity building strategy	Advisory Committee, Parties	2016-2018		AUD 0 Completed a draft and will provide draft of final strategy to MoP6
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	2017	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	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 0 PaCSWG and SBWG to draft template to facilitate reporting of progress.
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer	ongoing	1 week	AUD 0 Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	2016-2018	4 weeks	AUD 0 Review Seabird Bycatch ID guide and de-hooking guide. Possible secondment opportunity. See 5.15 for detail on Seabird Bycatch ID guide

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2016	3 weeks	AUD 0	
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 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	2016-2018	2 days p.a.	AUD 0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report. Agree triennial implementation report prior to MoP6.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2017		AUD 0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Review list of decisions by the Meeting of Parties in order to advise Parties on which decisions should be included in Party reports	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2016		AUD 0	
5.12	Develop a guide on removing entangled seabirds from nets	Australia, Secretariat, SBWG, PaCSWG	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 2,000 (Core)	Resources needed for graphic design. Possible secondment opportunity. Hasn't been progressed.

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
5.13	Update analysis of overlaps of distributions of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP	2016-2017	4 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core)	Consider work and schedule of RFMO activities (e.g. seabird risk assessments and reviews of bycatch mitigation measures). Moved from 3.2 Merged with 5.14
5.14	Continue to update analysis of overlaps of distributions of albatrosses and petrels with fisheries and to review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird 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.	SBWG, PaCSWG and Parties	2016-2018	16 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core) AUD 10,000 (grant)	Assess any capacity building requirements to facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch. Increase focus on ACAP Priority Populations and high-risk bycatch areas. Consider possible link to conservation priorities, including priority populations. Moved from 3.3
5.15	Update ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide	SBWG, PaCSWG, Secretariat and Parties	2017-2018		AUD 20,000 (Core)	Costs include per diem/travel for secondee, plus graphic design, printing and translation costs. HIGH
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	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-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	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2016-2018	18 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Regular teleconferences and email conversations

ANNEX 2. REPORT ON PTERODROMA WORKSHOP

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Wellington, New Zealand, 11 – 15 September 2017</i></p> <p>Workshop on <i>Pterodroma</i> and other small burrowing petrels</p> <p><i>Workshop Chair</i></p>
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SUMMARY

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.

The workshop supported ACAP increasing its role in international conservation actions for gadfly petrels, and in future perhaps the shearwaters, storm petrels and remainder of the Procellariidae. It was recognised that an increased role was constrained by resources and should be focussed on those species that would gain most from international conservation action. Overall these smaller species (both gadfly petrels and others) are affected predominately by land-based threats as opposed to the sea-based threats faced predominantly by the current ACAP species. ACAP may wish to revisit its prioritisation process to focus more on land-based threats.

There is a case for a limited number of additions to ACAP's Annex, but 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 addressing invasive species and other land-based pressures were encouraged. ACAP should consider more formal links to specialist groups, working in relevant fields, in order to stimulate further support and expertise.

The need to include social science and sustainable development issues into the design and execution of invasive eradication projects, especially on inhabited islands should be noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Advisory Committee should revisit and complete a revised prioritisation process as soon as possible
2. Based on this prioritisation, Parties may wish to bring forward further species for consideration as additions to the Annex; cases for addition should address the resource needs of such additions.
3. The Agreement should improve linkages to existing international conservation efforts for land-based threats, particularly those working on eradication of invasive species.
4. A portfolio of conservation guidelines for gadfly petrels and smaller Procellariformes would be a useful addition to ACAP guidance.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Terms of Reference

The one-day workshop was convened on 10 September 2017 in Wellington, New Zealand at the request of the Advisory Committee with the following aims:

1. To share information about current understanding of conservation threats to *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species, whether on land, at-sea, or generalised in nature;
2. To consider whether and to what extent international cooperation would assist in addressing these threats;
3. As relevant, to consider modalities for international cooperation; and
4. To prepare a report and recommendations for consideration at the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement in 2018.

The workshop was chaired by Mark Tasker (UK) with John Cooper, ACAP Information Officer acting as rapporteur, with 30 attendees.

1.2 Introduction

The workshop noted that a report on the workshop would be given to ACAP's 10th Meeting of its Advisory Committee, after which advice would be prepared for MOP6 in 2018. It was agreed that although the workshop was centred on gadfly petrels (genera *Pterodroma* and *Pseudobulweria*), it was likely that many of the outcomes would be relevant to the conservation of other small Procellariform species (including shearwaters, storm petrels and diving petrels).

2. STATUS AND CONSERVATION NEEDS OF PTERODROMA AND OTHER SMALL BURROWING PETREL SPECIES

2.1 Overview review

Karen Baird (Forest & Bird, New Zealand) presented a review paper entitled "Status, trends and conservation management needs of the *Pterodroma* and *Pseudobulweria* petrels" on

behalf of authors Ben Lascelles, Rocio Moreno, Maria Dias, and Cleo Small of BirdLife International. This review had been commissioned by ACAP.

Gadfly petrels are a complex group of 39 extant species found in tropical and temperate regions. Many are single-island endemic breeders, often nesting in very remote and inaccessible areas. All are migratory, with records of at least one species in over 100 countries; and occurring as a breeder or resident in 44 countries; 26 species visit 10 or more countries. The Global procellariform tracking database however only includes data from 17 species at present.

The analysis found that of the 39 species almost 67% are globally threatened by IUCN criteria with a further 10% Near Threatened. 58% of species have a decreasing population trend, eight species have a single subpopulation and seven species have population sizes of less than 250 mature individuals.

Common threats faced by gadfly petrels on land include introduced predators, habitat loss/alteration, and vulnerability due to limited numbers of known breeding sites. A pressure that is less well known comes from human lighting. Pressures at sea, if any, are generally poorly known, but unlikely to be significant. Conservation actions required were heavily weighted towards control of invasive species, with re-introduction, site protection and management, improved legislation, development of recovery plans and increased awareness and communication also being commonly required.

The paper (including its Annex) made several recommendations to improve knowledge of the group.

In discussion, the meeting reviewed conservation needs at sea and on land.

2.2 Bycatch and other at sea pressures

It was agreed that there were few records of at-sea interactions with fisheries. In a recent global review (Pott and Weidenfeld 2017), five species of gadfly petrel had been recorded by caught in drift gillnets, while one species (Grey-faced petrel) had been reported as bycatch in demersal and pelagic longline fisheries. In addition, one species (Tahiti petrel) had been reported entangled and released alive in the Australian Northern Prawn Trawl Fishery

It was noted that gadfly petrels are generally deep-water foragers in areas where fishing vessels had fewer observers to record incidences. Most gadfly petrels tend not to approach and compete for food behind fishing vessels, and were thus less likely to be caught. In addition, for the rarer gadfly petrels, fewer interactions with fisheries could occur and would be difficult to observe; even a very small bycatch rate could be detrimental to a small population of a species. Although it seemed unlikely that there were population level effects from bycatch, it was considered desirable to keep a 'watching brief' for any fishery interactions.

The attraction of strong-flying and generally ship-avoiding gadfly petrels to nocturnal squid jiggers with strong lighting was largely unknown, as were levels of attraction to other vessels, including well-lit cruise ships at night.

2.3 Land-based threats

The workshop noted that invasive predators had long posed the greatest threat to many species of gadfly petrel, and had likely driven some species to extinction in the past and was the driver behind the Critically Endangered status of several species. Several countries had already initiated eradication and control programmes. Eradication techniques are already

reasonably well-known and projects for eradication (whether for gadfly petrels or not) have been mostly implemented in developed countries, as opposed to developing countries. This pattern though reflects the distribution of important sites for gadfly petrels.

There is some deliberate take of gadfly petrels in some places, and disturbance by human activity has affected breeding distribution. The problem of attraction to land-based light, particularly by juveniles is widespread at breeding sites relatively close to seabird colonies. Habitat alteration from e.g. forestry, agriculture, urban development has also restricted potential breeding sites.

2.4 Widely spread threats and pressures

Climate change is affecting gadfly petrels in several ways, including through sea level rise leading to the loss of low-lying breeding sites. The effects of pollutants (aside from light) are unknown.

2.5 National knowledge of Pterodromas

Colin Miskelly on behalf of co-authors described New Zealand's database on the distribution and status of gadfly petrel colonies in New Zealand. This contains all known records of colony presence and colony size estimates for *Pterodroma* petrels in New Zealand. The database has 606 records of 11 species from 253 separate locations. There probably further sites to be discovered.

2.6 International conservation initiatives for Pterodromas

Hannah Nevins described the activities of the American Bird Conservancy with Hawaiian, Black-capped and Galapagos Petrels.

For the Hawaiian Petrel, it was noted that chick translocations into a secure fenced area on Kauai were about to go into their second year. Research and management activities were occurring in relation to predation by cats and from night-time collisions.

Black-capped Petrel work was at the level of searching challenging terrain and habitat for colonies in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Threats included habitat loss from deforestation and agricultural practices, introduced predators and night-time collisions.

For the Galapagos Petrel, a working group has undertaken at-sea satellite tracking and nest monitoring at four sites. There was a need to involve governmental authorities (Galapagos National Park) more formally.

Chris Gaskin concluded the presentations with a summary of the international Petrels in Peril initiative in Oceania. Parts of this initiative have moved forwards, especially those relating to very rare or unknown species. Species investigated included Fiji Petrel (no breeding site has been confirmed), Beck's Petrel (breeding sites also not confirmed but one bird, thought to be a non-breeder, has been caught at sea and satellite tracked), a "Coral Sea" storm petrel *Fregetta* sp. currently being described, Vanuatu Petrel, Polynesian Storm Petrel, Phoenix Petrel of Kiribati, Magnificent/Gould's Petrel, Tahiti Petrel and two undescribed storm petrels.

It was noted that there was still much basic science needed in even determining whether there were further species of Procellariiforms. Some species, such as some of those listed above, are still to be described taxonomically; others may be "cryptic" (two or more species currently classified as one).

In discussion, James Russel noted in relation to invasive eradication particularly on populated islands. In these circumstances, there is often public resistance to widespread killing to conserve other species. In these cases, downplaying the biodiversity goals, but emphasizing the social goals, such as better food supply and health is much more likely to be successful. This points to the need to take greater cognisance of social sciences when designing invasive eradication schemes.

2.7 Summary of threats and pressures

In summary, it was agreed that known or potential at-sea pressures did not rise to the level of those threats known to occur on land. The level of knowledge of some of the gadfly group is in some cases not even basic.

3. THE EXTENT TO WHICH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WOULD ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE THREATS TO GADFLY PETRELS

There was a wide-ranging discussion on areas where international co-operation could enhance national efforts to conserve gadfly petrels. These are summarised below along with evidence and points put forward during discussion.

3.1 Translocation across boundaries

Some conservation actions include translocation projects – examples include:

- a) ensuring that species nesting on low-lying islands subject in the short-term to the risk of inundation through weather events such as hurricanes, or longer-term through sea level rise, are provided with colonies on higher ground
- b) small dispersed populations, a characteristic of some gadfly species have also the risk of in-breeding. Translocation of chicks into denser colony areas will help ensure higher genetic diversification.

Both issues may require cross-boundary translocation. An example was given of Bonin's Petrel that breeds on very low islands in the north-west Hawaiian group, where the most suitable "high" island is Japanese.

3.2 Enhance flow of resources

Formal international recognition of a species as requiring conservation action may stimulate the flow of both national and international funds. An example of the Balearic shearwater was given, but here it is difficult to differentiate between the various listings of this species as to which listing was the most useful – or if multiple listings were more useful than a single listing.

3.3 Transfer of expertise

The current export of knowledge and skills on alien predator control and eradication from developed countries, such as New Zealand, to less developed countries, such as small island states, was one example of how international actions could be advantageous to addressing largely domestic threats.

In New Zealand, trained search dogs have helped in locating nests of widely dispersed species nesting in hidden places, for example Chatham Island Taiko/Magenta Petrel *P. magentae*. It is very difficult to carry out land-based management if breeding sites are unknown. In this

example, chicks were moved from isolated nests to a fenced sanctuary (currently supporting eight pairs with 30 chicks translocated). This will reduce genetic inbreeding in future generations. This experience with finding nests, along with the expert nest dog could be transferred between countries.

3.4 Raising of awareness and profile of issues around smaller petrels

This is related to the above and is of course not exclusive to international action. Fenced sanctuaries can have an educational role with local inhabitants.

4. WAYS IN WHICH ACAP MIGHT ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF GADFLY PETRELS

The workshop considered the advantages and disadvantages of several ways in which ACAP might further enhance the conservation of gadfly petrels. Many actions that ACAP Parties are already taking will have beneficial effects on these smaller petrels, but it was nevertheless recognised that more targeted efforts were required, especially in smaller developing nations that host breeding gadfly petrels. The issue of resources affects all options as they should all result in conservation action on the ground. There is wide concern over the risk of dilution of conservation efforts currently being undertaken by ACAP and its Parties by the addition of more conservation tasks, without the parallel addition of more resources.

4.1 Addition of gadfly petrel species to ACAP Annex 1

ACAP's existing prioritisation (for new species to add to Annex 1) process has tended to put *Pterodromas* at a relatively low priority along with other small petrels and shearwaters. This is because many are single State breeders and the threats tend to be on land and not at sea and therefore their conservation is a more national rather than international issue. This prioritisation process is due to be revisited, starting with a decision as to which global taxonomic treatment to follow in carrying out that process. Any additions to ACAP's Annex 1 requires a case to be made by a proposing Party – this case is a draft Species Assessment. Several options exist to identify which species might benefit most from listing by ACAP.

4.1.1 Follow CMS Appendix listing

Four *Pterodroma* gadfly petrels (Bermuda *P. cahow*, Galapagos *P. phaeopygia*, Hawaiian *P. sandwichensis*, Henderson *P. atrata*) and the Peruvian Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotii* are listed in CMS Appendix 1, which is meant to engender "concerted action". Appendix I species should be globally threatened and the nominating Party must explain what conservation activities that it plans to undertake for the listed species. The listed species appeared to be a relatively arbitrary selection, that perhaps is not very helpful for prioritization by ACAP. It was noted that for some of the five CMS listed species, little or no action had been taken by CMS Parties, whereas for others (e.g. Bermuda petrel) it was difficult to conceive what further action could be taken to conserve the species beyond the excellent national efforts, and therefore could see little advantage in listing by ACAP.

4.1.2 Select most urgent species following ACAP's prioritisation process

The prioritisation process aims to indicate which species are the most likely to benefit from international conservation action. The factors used in the reprioritisation could further emphasise some of the advantages of international conservation action outlined in section 3 of this report.

4.1.3 Following IUCN Red list

This list identifies the species in most urgent need of conservation action, but not necessarily the species that would benefit most from international conservation action – the example of the Critically Endangered Bermuda Petrel given above being a good case where there would be little gain from following this approach.

4.1.4 Add all species to ACAP

This option was not supported by the workshop as it would take a great deal of effort and would likely over-dilute existing resources.

All additions to ACAP's Annex 1 would take a minimum of four years from 2017. This is because the proposing Party would need first to submit their proposal for scrutiny to the Advisory Committee and its working groups for scrutiny, after which the Committee would advise the Meeting of the Parties. It is now too late for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) to be held in 2018; the subsequent session will be in 2021.

4.2 A third Annex to ACAP

This might be a way of listing smaller petrels for differing conservation actions. This though would require changing the Agreement's text, leading to new negotiation and would also be subject to international consensus, often through Parliaments. This process would likely take at least two three-year cycles of the Meeting of the Parties. If a proposed species was breeding only in a single State, it would also be important for that State to be fully involved in the process. This would be comparatively easy for existing ACAP Parties, perhaps less so for other States. The workshop did not recommend this process.

4.3 Develop a New Agreement or MoU for the smaller petrels

As with 4.2, this would take much negotiation and would of necessity involve a much wider range of States than are Party to ACAP. It would also be odd having an Agreement for Albatrosses and Petrels and then negotiating another Agreement/MoU for petrels. The workshop did not recommend this process.

4.4 Influence other agreements and international mechanisms

The possibility of involving existing regional initiatives was considered such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP: <https://www.sprep.org/>) for Oceania. SPREP (2009) has produced guidelines for managing invasive species within its area of interest.

The IUCN's Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species (emanating from the recent IUCN World Congress in Hawaii) <https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/invasive-species/honolulu-challenge-invasive-alien-species> has gathered together a large number of initiatives both by Governments and by NGOs such as Island Conservation and BirdLife International.

ACAP would need to assess how best to help and co-ordinate with such initiatives.

4.5 Produce a Pterodroma and smaller petrel conservation handbook or similar

ACAP at present has produced several guidelines and recommendations for land-based conservation actions for species currently on Annex 1 of the Agreement. These guides are often highly relevant to the conservation of smaller petrels, including gadflys. These guidelines

are though not targeted towards smaller petrels and some need refreshing in the light of changing understanding and experience. The guidelines could be revisited to improve their relevance to gadfly and smaller petrels and then perhaps bought together in a portfolio form. Further guidelines on topics more specific to the smaller petrels might include collision/grounding, light attraction, and nest finding. These would make any portfolio more complete.

4.6 Encourage expert groups interested in *Pterodromas* and other smaller petrels, and in land-based threats

A *Pterodroma* specialist group was formed some years ago, but following a high point at the last World Seabird conference the group appears to be in abeyance. There are also groups such as the IUCN's invasive species specialist group. ACAP could develop further links and perhaps nurture these groups in order to ensure wider interest and availability of expertise.

ACAP's Advisory Committee might consider the idea of a (smaller) Petrel and Shearwater Working Group. This could be valuable for sharing information and providing technical advice perhaps also to non-ACAP Parties.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The contributions both those authoring and/or presenting papers at the workshop was greatly appreciated, as was the ACAP Secretariat for its support. John Copper was thanked for acting as rapporteur. The attendees were all thanked for giving up their Saturdays, especially those coming to their first ACAP related meeting.

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SPREP 2009. Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific. A Pacific Strategy for Managing Pests, Weeds and other Invasive Species. Apoa: Secretariat of the Pacific Commission & Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. 20 pp.

[SPREP's members are American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.]

ATTENDEES

Karen Baird, Barry Baker, Jonathon Barrington, Karen Bourgeois, Nigel Brothers, John Cooper, Igor Debski, Marco Favero, Elizabeth Flint, Rosemary Gales, Chris Gaskin, Elisa Goya, Caroline Icaza, Mi Ae Kim, Verónica López, Wiesława Misiak, Colin Miskelly, Tatiana Neves, Hannahrose Nevins, Patricia Pereira Serafini, Richard Phillips, James Russell, Paul Sagar, Mark Tasker, Graeme Taylor, Nathan Walker, Claire Wallis, Richard Wells, Barbara Wienecke, Anton Wolfaardt.