

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Workshop on <i>Pterodroma</i> and other small burrowing petrels</p> <p><i>Wellington, New Zealand, 9 September 2017</i></p> <p>Status, trends and conservation management needs of the <i>Pterodroma</i> and <i>Pseudobulweria</i> petrels</p> <p><i>Ben Lascelles, Rocio Moreno, Maria P. Dias, Cleo Small</i></p> <p><i>(BirdLife International)</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma* and *Pseudobulweria*) are a complex group of species found in tropical and temperate regions. Many are single-island endemic breeders, often found in remote areas. All are highly migratory, with record 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.

In 2016 ACAP¹ agreed to convene a workshop to advance understanding about best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species. This paper acts as an information paper for this workshop summarising current knowledge for the gadfly petrels contained within the 2017 IUCN Red List (IUCN 2017). In this paper we assess a) status and trends b) the severity and nature of threats to the group as a whole and c) identify conservation actions that are common between species. We also summarise data held within the Global Seabird Tracking Database and use the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) dataset to suggest key sites and jurisdictions for future action.

The analysis found that of the 39 extant species almost 67% are threatened (i.e. Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable, with one Possibly Extinct), with a further 10% Near Threatened and the remaining 23% Least Concern. 58% of species have a decreasing population trend, eight species have a single subpopulation and seven species have population sizes less than 250 mature individuals.

242 IBAs for these species have been identified in 36 countries and on the high seas; with Australia, Chile, Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia (both French Overseas Territories), New Zealand, and St Helena (UK Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension

¹ Decision 14.2-14.5 - www.acap.aq/en/documents/advisory-committee/ac9/2845-ac9-report/file

and Tristan da Cunha) each having 10 or more IBAs. Most IBAs qualify for a single species, though 34 IBAs (14%) qualify for two species and nine IBAs qualify for three species. The 30 IBAs so far identified for multiple species, those holding the only or main sub-populations of a species and those holding the largest number of individuals might reasonably form the basis for identifying sites of the highest priority for conservation actions.

Common threats on land were shown to be introduced predators, habitat loss/alteration, light pollution and vulnerability due to limited numbers of known nesting sites. Threats at sea, if any, are generally poorly known. Conservation actions required were heavily weighted towards control of invasive/problematic species, with re-introduction, site protection and management, improved legislation, development of recovery plans and increased awareness and communication all scoring for smaller numbers of species. We assessed 20 Multilateral Environmental Agreements highlighted as significant for seabirds under the United Nations World Ocean Assessment (2015); six have listed a total of 32 gadfly species. Species action plans exist for 19 species.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Countries with the greatest responsibility for conservation of gadfly petrels should include those that have three or more species breeding or resident (15 countries), are range states for 10 or more species (28), countries with 10 or more IBAs (7), those holding IBAs with large populations (4) or the only known sub-populations of species (9); see Table 5 and Figures 7 and 8.
2. Six MEAs have listed a total of 32 species and 19 species already have action plans. The Convention on Migratory Species currently only has four gadfly petrel species listed; however tracking data shows that all species migrate and would be eligible candidates for inclusion. This paper, or versions of it, could be submitted to a number of MEAs that already list gadfly species as priorities for action. This could include a call for review and update of species listed, formal recognition of threats, conservation needs and implementation of actions required to address declines.
3. Reviewing the datasets used in this paper revealed important data is needed to improve the comprehensive assessment of the group and comparisons between species. Key points noted include 1) assess threats and actions for Least Concern species 2) gather better data to define generation lengths, 3) submit additional tracking datasets to seabirdtracking.org, 4) further assessment of conservation actions 5) assess population trends for White-necked and Fea's (Cape Verde) Petrel, 6) further study of foraging habits and identification of key foraging locations, 6) assess potential impacts of threats (e.g. deep sea mining, which may affect food chains and attract petrels to lights) in offshore and high seas areas.