

 <p data-bbox="215 515 454 555">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="638 235 1404 336"><b>Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 -19 September 2014</i></p> <p data-bbox="542 403 1340 504"><b>Prioritising ACAP Conservation Actions – Update and Report to MoP5</b></p> <p data-bbox="622 593 1268 638"><b>Secretariat, SBWG, PaCSWG, AC Chair</b></p>
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### SUMMARY

Following intersessional updates to the data underpinning the framework for identifying ACAP conservation priorities, a revised list of current priority threats was generated.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee

1. Note the current priority threats identified, both land-based and at-sea;
2. Encourage Parties to implement relevant conservation actions identified by SBWG and PaCSWG;
3. Recommend to MoP5 that actions undertaken to address conservation priorities be specifically highlighted in the web-based MoP reports; and
4. Review the data underpinning the prioritisation framework prior to MoP6.

## 1. BACKGROUND

At MoP4, the Meeting of Parties noted that a framework for identifying conservation priorities has been completed and requested Parties, supported by the Advisory Committee at AC7 and at AC8, to 1) assess the highest priority threats, 2) determine what conservation actions are necessary to address them, and 3) to report back to MoP5 on progress made towards addressing these conservation priorities ([MoP4 Report](#), section 7.4.6).

MoP4 Doc 17 noted however that although the framework provides a robust basis for decision-making to set, monitor and report on progress against priority conservation actions for ACAP listed species, it should be used along with other information, and should defer to

more detailed threat information where it exists elsewhere, such as for some species populations and fisheries.

## 2. PROGRESS SINCE AC7

Prior to AC8, Parties, Range States and Observers were requested to suggest amendments to the existing data that produced a preliminary list of the highest priority at-sea conservation actions presented at MoP4. Not all Parties and Range States were able to provide data on their fisheries prior to AC8. Population trends in the at-sea framework and land-based threats have also been updated by the Secretariat based on information provided in Parties' annual reports and discussions with Working Group members prior to AC8.

An updated list of threats was produced for the consideration of the Advisory Committee.

### 2.1. Land-based threats

The framework for prioritisation of actions to address threats on land uses the list of threats in the ACAP database. The ACAP criteria stipulate that threats should only be listed if they are documented in a report or paper, or vouched for by an expert. The threat must be known or highly likely to cause an impact that would lead to a population decline, or be severely limiting expansion in numbers or distribution in a stable or slowly increasing population on an already occupied island. This excludes natural predation, and threats that cause the loss of some eggs, chicks or adults but have minimal impact at the population level. The vast majority of threats that meet these criteria are from introduced mammals or disease. Threats representing natural disasters (e.g. volcanic activity) were excluded from the prioritisation exercise.

The prioritisation takes account of the *Threat magnitude* (based on the Scope and Severity of the threat using standard ACAP criteria), *likelihood of success* (based on technical feasibility and not cost) of the management intervention that would be necessary to eliminate the threat, and an overall score based on the threat ranking algorithm (nb. variables in italics are used in the prioritisation scoring; see below). The data on population size and trend are taken from the ACAP database. Where the number of pairs at the site is unknown, the category value for *proportion of global population* (1-10%, 11-50% and 51-100%) was based on the size of the site. The prioritisation exercise excluded sites that represented <1% of the global population, although it is noted that these may be important regionally or represent valuable reservoir populations for species that breed at few sites. The *population trend* for the site is based on that reported for the island group, and if unavailable, for the nearest island group or for the global population. The *likelihood of success* of a particular management intervention is categorised as High (has worked in similar circumstances, i.e., island of comparable size and remoteness etc.), Medium (good evidence that it is feasible, but has not been achieved in similar circumstances), or Low or Unknown (never been attempted in similar circumstances or success doubtful).

The overall prioritisation score is based on three attributes (Vulnerability, Threat and Likelihood of success). The Vulnerability attribute is the product of the weighting given to this attribute/number of variables used, and the sum of the scores for the assigned categories of *global population size*, *proportion of global population at site* and *population trend*. The Threat attribute is the product of the weighting given to this attribute/number of variables used, and the assigned category of *current threat magnitude*. The Likelihood of success

attribute is the weighting given to this attribute/number of variables used, and the assigned category of *likelihood of success*. The analysis uses the following algorithm agreed at AC5.

#### Scores

*Global population size* (0-99=5, 100-999=4, 1,000-9,999=3, 10,000-99,999=2, 100,000+=1)

*Proportion of global population at site* (1-10%=2, 11-50%=3, 51-100%=4)

*Population trend* (Steep decline=5, Decline=4, Stable=2, Increase=1, Steep increase=1)

*Current threat magnitude* (High=5, Medium=3, Low=1)

*Likelihood of success* (High=5, Medium=3, Low or unknown=1)

#### Attribute weightings

Vulnerability=4, Threat=4, Likelihood of success=2.

A single score for each threat on each island was calculated as the sum of the prioritisation scores for all ACAP species present. A summary of the ranked threats is provided in ANNEX 1, with a brief explanation of the order. On this basis, the highest five priority actions with regard to “Habitat loss or destruction/predation by alien species” would be to remove Cats from Grande Terre (Kerguelen), House Mouse from Gough Island, Reindeer from Grande Terre (Kerguelen), and Cats from Formentera and Menorca. The highest priority action with regard to a Parasite or Pathogen would be to address the problem of Avian cholera at Ile Amsterdam. It is important to note that the prioritisation did not take account of the financial cost of the management action. In addition, the bulk of the costs would be associated with planning and mobilisation, and hence economies of scale are substantial if an eradication campaign targets more than one species on the same island(s), or more than one island in the same group.

## **2.2. At-sea threats**

[MoP4 Inf 06 Rev 1](#) details the procedure used to generate a list of priority populations and fisheries where at-sea threat should be addressed. 87 at-sea threats (c.7% of all records) were identified as the highest priority for conservation action at the cut-off score of 42 (out of possible 50), although because many of the threats affected multiple seabird species, combining them resulted in priority conservation actions to address threats to 28 seabird populations from 27 fisheries (ANNEX 2). It should be noted that these tables only include fisheries that have been reported on by Parties or Range States, and therefore the number of possible fisheries that could be assessed is likely to be higher than those currently included.

Although the fishery-specific threats were not discussed in any detail in the SBWG6, the SBWG Report (AC8 Doc 12 Rev 1) contains a number of recommended actions and priorities, including in the Work Programmes for the current and next triennium (AC8 Doc 16 Rev 2 and AC8 Doc 17 Rev 2), that are applicable to the threats listed in ANNEX 2.

## **3. NEXT STEPS**

In order to facilitate the reporting of Parties’ activities and progress in relation to conservation priorities, the web-based reporting system could be amended to link particular questions in the MoP report to the list of existing priorities. Alternatively, new questions targeting the priority lists could also be added to the reporting template.

The data which underpins the prioritisation framework will also need to be reviewed prior to MoP6 to account for any threat mitigation or management actions taken, new threats emerging, or for new species being added to Annex I of the Agreement.

## ANNEX 1. 2014 PRIORITIES FOR LAND-BASED CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Ranking of threats to ACAP breeding sites based on vulnerability of population, threat magnitude and likelihood of success of management action. Economy of effort would greatly reduce total cost for eradication campaigns for multiple threat species at the same island or island group (cells highlighted using the same colour). Analysis excludes sites with <1% of global breeding numbers.

Island	Threat	Rank	Explanation
<b>Habitat loss or destruction/predation by alien species</b>			
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	1	Threat to three ACAP populations
Gough Island	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	2	Threat to two substantial/large ACAP populations
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> (Reindeer)	3	Threat to two ACAP populations. High probability of eradication
Formentera	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	4	Major threat to substantial, declining population
Menorca	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	4	Major threat to substantial, declining population
Kerguelen (Grande Terre)	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	6	Threat to two ACAP populations. Medium feasibility of eradication
Cabrera	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Cabrera	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Formentera	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Ibiza	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Mallorca	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Menorca	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	7	Low threat to substantial, declining population
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	13	High feasibility of eradication
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black (ship) rat)	13	High feasibility of eradication
South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) <sup>1</sup>	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (Brown (Norwegian) rat)	15	Medium feasibility of eradication
Auckland Island <sup>a</sup>	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	16	Medium feasibility of eradication
Auckland Island <sup>a</sup>	<i>Sus scrofa</i> (Pig)	16	Medium feasibility of eradication
Marion Island	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	18	Medium feasibility of eradication
<b>Parasite or Pathogen</b>			
Ile Amsterdam	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> (Avian cholera)	1	Major threat to several ACAP species
Isla Espanola	Mosquito	2	Low threat. Low feasibility of action
Albatross Island (AU)	Avian pox virus	3	Low threat. Low feasibility of action.

<sup>1</sup> "A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas"

Island	Threat	Rank	Explanation
<b>Increased competition with native species</b>			
Pedra Branca	<i>Morus serrator</i> (Australasian gannet)	1	Threat to small population
<b>Human disturbance</b>			
Ibiza	Recreation/tourism	1	Low threat to substantial, declining population

<sup>a</sup> Management at this site would also benefit small breeding populations (<1% global) of other ACAP species affected by the same threat.

## ANNEX 2. 2014 PRIORITIES FOR AT-SEA CONSERVATION ACTIONS

**Table 1. Summarised by fishery.** Note that this table only includes fisheries that have been reported on by Parties or Range States, and therefore the number of possible fisheries that could be assessed is likely to be higher than those currently included.

Fishery method	Island Group populations
Angola Pelagic LL	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
Argentina Demersal trawl	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands
	Southern Giant Petrel Islas de los Estados & Observatorio
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
Australia Demersal LL	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
Australia Demersal trawl	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island
Australia Pelagic trawl	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
Australia Trawl	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
Brazil Demersal LL	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
Brazil Pelagic LL	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
Brazil Pelagic LL (Itaipava fleet)	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
CCSBT Pelagic LL	Antipodean Albatross Auckland Islands
	Black-browed Albatross Antipodes Islands
	Black-browed Albatross Campbell Island
	Black-browed Albatross Iles Crozet
	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
	Campbell Albatross Campbell Island
	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Grey Petrel All sites
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Crozet Island
	Northern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands
	Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet
	Sooty Albatross Prince Edward Islands

<sup>1</sup> “A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas”

Fishery method	Island Group populations
	Southern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross Iles Kerguelen
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
IATTC Pelagic LL	Laysan Albatross Central Pacific - Laysan
	Waved Albatross Islas Galapagos
ICCAT Pelagic LL	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha
	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Grey Petrel All sites
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
IOTC Pelagic LL	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Grey Petrel All sites
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Crozet Island
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Prince Edward Island
	Northern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands
	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
	Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet
	Sooty Albatross Prince Edward Islands
	Southern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
	Wandering Albatross Iles Kerguelen
Namibia Demersal LL	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha
	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island
Namibia Demersal trawl	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha
Namibia Pelagic LL	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
Namibia Pelagic trawl	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca
Peru Demersal LL	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
Peru Pelagic LL	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
	Grey Petrel All sites
SEAFO Demersal trawl	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>
Spain Demersal LL	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago
Spain Pelagic LL	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago
Spain Purse seine	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago
Spain Trawl	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago
SPRFMO Demersal trawl	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
UK (OT) Pelagic LL	Grey Petrel All sites



Fishery method	Island Group populations
WCPFC Pelagic LL	Antipodean Albatross Antipodes Islands
	Antipodean Albatross Auckland Islands
	Black-browed Albatross Antipodes Islands
	Black-browed Albatross Campbell Island
	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands
	Campbell Albatross Campbell Island
	Grey Petrel All sites
	Laysan Albatross Central Pacific - Laysan
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands

**Table 2. Summarised by Island Groups populations.** Note that this table only includes fisheries that have been reported on by Parties or Range States, and therefore the number of possible fisheries that could be assessed is likely to be higher than those currently included.

Island Group populations	Fishery method
Antipodean Albatross Antipodes Islands	WCPFC Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
Antipodean Albatross Auckland Islands	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha	Brazil Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	Namibia Demersal LL
	Namibia Demersal trawl
Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago	Spain Demersal LL
	Spain Purse seine
	Spain Pelagic LL
	Spain Trawl
Black-browed Albatross Antipodes Islands	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
Black-browed Albatross Campbell Island	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
Black-browed Albatross Iles Crozet	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	Namibia Demersal LL
	SEAFO Demersal trawl
Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
	Peru Pelagic LL
	Australia Pelagic trawl
	Peru Demersal LL
Campbell Albatross Campbell Island	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
Grey Petrel All sites	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
	Peru Pelagic LL
UK (OT) Pelagic LL	

Island Group populations	Fishery method
Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
	Australia Demersal trawl
Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Crozet Island	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Prince Edward Island	IOTC Pelagic LL
Laysan Albatross Central Pacific - Laysan	IATTC Pelagic LL
	WCPFC Pelagic LL
Northern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	Brazil Pelagic LL
	Argentina Demersal trawl
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	WCPFC Pelagic LL
	Australia Trawl
	Australia Demersal LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
	Namibia Demersal LL
	Namibia Pelagic LL
Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet	Namibia Pelagic trawl
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Sooty Albatross Prince Edward Islands	IOTC Pelagic LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Southern Giant Petrel Islas de los Estados & Observatorio	IOTC Pelagic LL
Southern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands	Argentina Demersal trawl
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Tristan Albatross Gough Island	IOTC Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	IOTC Pelagic LL
	Angola Pelagic LL
Brazil Demersal LL	
Wandering Albatross Iles Kerguelen	Namibia Demersal LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>	IOTC Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	Argentina Demersal trawl
Brazil Demersal LL	

Island Group populations	Fishery method
Waved Albatross Islas Galapagos	IATTC Pelagic LL
White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) <sup>1</sup>	Brazil Pelagic LL
	Brazil Pelagic LL
	CCSBT Pelagic LL
	ICCAT Pelagic LL