



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS AND ITS INTERACTION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a multilateral agreement that seeks to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels globally (<http://www.acap.aq/en/acap-agreement>), especially the 31 species currently listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement (see Table 1 for those species distributed in the SEAFO area). In addition to individual nations taking measures to protect albatrosses and petrels, international cooperative action is also required. Albatrosses and petrels are susceptible to threats operating throughout their very large foraging ranges, which extend across national boundaries and into international waters. Consequently, international cooperation on albatross and petrel conservation is critical to enhance the prospects for effective conservation measures across their ranges. One of the main objectives of ACAP is to facilitate the international co-ordination required to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

An important component of this international action is related to fisheries bycatch, and the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Large numbers of ACAP-listed species are incidentally caught in fisheries managed by RFMOs, and fisheries bycatch represents the most significant threat facing albatrosses and petrels. Many species are also threatened at their breeding sites by introduced predators, diseases, habitat loss or human disturbance. ACAP has and continues to develop and update broad ranging advice in respect of albatross and petrel conservation. This advice, and associated resources, include best practice guidelines to assist ACAP Parties, Range States and international organisations in addressing these threats. Advice on bycatch issues, developed by the Agreement's Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the pre-eminent expert body on seabird bycatch mitigation, has been a central element in the interaction of ACAP with RFMOs. ACAP's engagement with RFMOs includes the submission of papers to, and attendance of, scientific, technical and other

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meetings to collaborate on the adoption and implementation of seabird conservation and management measures that take into consideration ACAP resources (e.g. best practice advice on seabird bycatch mitigation, bycatch mitigation fact sheets, seabird bycatch identification guide, species assessments). ACAP has formal MoUs with a number of other RFMOs (including ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, CCSBT, SPRFMO, and most recently SIOFA) and CCAMLR to help facilitate collaboration with the respective organisations (Table 2), and we believe these MoUs have been mutually beneficial to all involved.

2. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SOUTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION (SEAFO)

Engagement with RFMOs is an important component of ACAP's strategy to mitigate and reduce the bycatch of seabirds. At each of its meetings, the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG, a subsidiary body to the Agreement's Advisory Committee) routinely reviews and updates actions listed in ACAP's RFMO engagement strategy.

Article X (d) of the Agreement calls upon the ACAP Secretariat to liaise with international organisations whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels. In order to enhance the cooperation and information exchange with relevant organisations, ACAP has signed Memoranda of Understanding or Cooperation Agreements with a range of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), as well as other Conservation Bodies (Table 2).

Following discussions during the last meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the Agreement's Advisory Committee recognised the value of engaging with the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). In May 2017, during the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, ACAP Parties formally authorised the ACAP Secretariat to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with SEAFO using a text already discussed among both Secretariats ([DOC/SC/11/2018](#)).

We believe that that the formalisation of this interaction through the proposed MoU will be of mutual benefit for both organisations.

TABLE 1. 2017 Summary of conservation status of ACAP species with significant distribution in SEAFO waters (for additional information see ACAP [MoP6 Doc 13](#)).

SPECIES	IUCN ¹ Status 2017	Number of sites ACAP ²	Breeding (B) Feeding (F)	Annual breeding pairs ³	Population Trend (1996 -2016) ⁴
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i> Tristan albatross	CR	1	B-F	1,108 (2015-2016)	↓
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> Northern royal albatross	EN	5	F	5,135 (2017)	?
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i> Indian yellow-nosed albatross	EN	6	F	35,073 (1984-2015)	↓
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i> Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	EN	6	B-F	33,650 (1974-2011)	↔
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i> Grey-headed albatross	EN	29	F	83,999 (1982-2017)	↓
<i>Phoebastria fusca</i> Sooty albatross	EN	15	B-F	12,096 (1974-2017)	↓
<i>Diomedea exulans</i> Wandering albatross	VU	28	F	8,149 (1981-2017)	↓
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i> White-chinned petrel	VU	73	F	1,257,568 (1984-2015)	↓
<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i> Spectacled petrel	VU	1	B-F	14,400 (2010)	↑
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> Light-mantled albatross	NT	71	F	10,637 (1954-2017)	?
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i> Grey petrel	NT	17	B-F	75,565 (1979-2017)	↓
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i> Shy albatross	NT	3	F	14,683 (2015-2017)	↓
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i> White-capped albatross	NT	5	F	95,917 (2009-2015)	?
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i> Southern giant petrel	LC	119	B-F	47,716 (1958-2017)	↑
<i>Macronectes halli</i> Northern giant petrel	LC	50	F	10,691 (1973-2017)	↑
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> Black-browed albatross	LC	65	F	688,230 (1982-2017)	↑

¹ CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-3. <www.iucnredlist.org>.

² Site: usually an entire, distinct island or islet, or section of a large island

³ ACAP database. <data.acap.aq>. September 2018.

⁴ ACAP Trend: ↑ increasing, ↓ declining, ↔ stable, ? unknown. The overall trend for the species may not reflect particular site or regional trends.

TABLE 2. Current ACAP cooperation arrangements with RFMOs and other Organisations.

Name of Organisation	Arrangement	Start-End Dates
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	Memorandum of Understanding	Nov 2015 – 2018
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	Memorandum of Understanding	Oct 2015 - 2021
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Memorandum of Understanding	Jun 2015 - 2020
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	Memorandum of Understanding	Jul 2017 - 2023
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)	Memorandum of Understanding	Dec 2016 - 2022
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	Guidelines for Cooperation	Mar 2016 - 2022
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	Memorandum of Understanding	Oct 2014 - open
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	Cooperation Arrangement	Dec 2007 - open
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	Memorandum of Understanding	Oct 2018 - 2024