

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Implementation Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

2016-2020



Acknowledgements

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Wandering albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*) at Hercules Bay, South Georgia. Ian Haywood

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This document serves as a tool to guide the work of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and is not legally binding.

SUMMARY

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a multi-national treaty which seeks to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for species of albatross and petrel that are listed in its Annex 1. The United Kingdom (UK) ratified ACAP in 2004, including on behalf of the UK South Atlantic Overseas Territories. Twelve of the 31 species currently listed by the Agreement breed in the UK South Atlantic Overseas Territories. The Agreement and its Action Plan describe the actions that Parties shall progressively implement. The Agreement's Action Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement) is divided into seven specific but related activities: i) species conservation, ii) habitat conservation and restoration, iii) management of human activities, iv) research and monitoring, v) collation of information, vi) education and public awareness, and vii) implementation.

This Plan summarises the current status of ACAP-related work at South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), and provides a prioritised programme of future work. Under its National Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020, GSGSSI has committed to achieve these objectives in order to meet the (UK and SGSSI) obligations of the Agreement. This document is an updated version of the 2010 ACAP Action Plan for SGSSI and covers the period 2016-2020. Each of the main sections of the plan includes an overview of current work being conducted, a list of ACAP requirements which have been drawn from the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan, a list of recommended actions corresponding to each requirement, and a list of previously completed actions. A summary of the recommended actions, their priority rating, and key stakeholders is provided in Appendix 1.

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1. INTRODUCTION

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a UK Overseas Territory (OT) in the South Atlantic Ocean. The island of South Georgia is situated approximately 1,450 km south-east of the Falkland Islands and 1,900 km east of the southern tip of South America. Mainland South Georgia and its offshore islands comprise a land area of 3,755 km². It is mountainous, with the majority of land over 1,000 m above sea level. Approximately 60% of the land is permanently covered with snow and ice. Figure 1 shows the extent of SGSSI and its Maritime Zone, as well as features of its Marine Protected Area.

SGSSI is administered by the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI): a small team based in Stanley, Falkland Islands, and three Government Officers, working on rotation, at King Edward Point (KEP), South Georgia. GSGSSI is financially self-sufficient with annual revenue of around £6 million. This is derived from fishing licences, tourist landing fees, and the sale of stamps and commemorative coins. Revenue is primarily spent on environmental management, fisheries research and protection, and government administration.

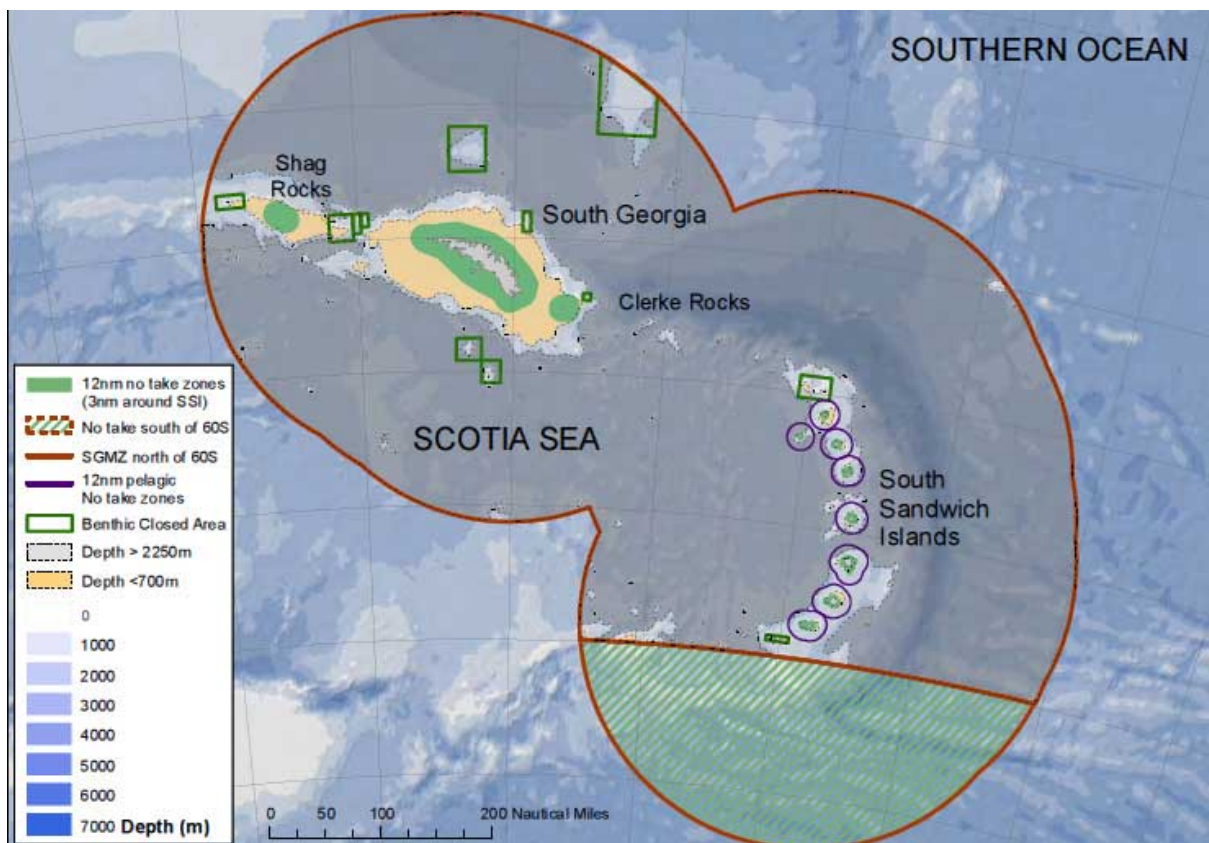


Figure 1: Map of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands. The land mass of SGSSI is shown, along with the 200 nautical mile Maritime Zone boundary (red line). No-take zones (green), no-take zone outwith the MPA (green hatched), and various zones where certain fishing practises are prohibited (blue line, green box, grey and yellow shading) are all shown.

There is no resident human population on South Georgia although there is a settlement at King Edward Point that hosts the administration of the island, a scientific base operated by

the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), and a museum run by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). Approximately 13 personnel are resident at King Edward Point in the winter months, but in the summer months that number can double. A second BAS base is situated on Bird Island, off the north-western tip of mainland South Georgia. It has a complement of four personnel in the winter months and up to 10 in the summer months.

The main activities within SGSSI are fishing, tourism and science. Approximately 7,000 tourists visit SGSSI each year. Cruise ship operators are all members of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) and landings are limited to designated Visitor Landing Sites. A range of science activities are also routinely carried out on South Georgia. A particular emphasis is placed on the monitoring of seabirds, seals and fish stocks, providing information that is useful for the continued sustainable management of the marine environment.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) came into force in 2004 (Cooper *et al.*, 2006). The main objective of the Agreement is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels that it lists in Annex 1 (Anon, 2006). The UK, including on behalf of its South Atlantic Overseas Territories¹ (SAOTs), ratified the Agreement in 2004, soon after it came into force. The UK SAOTs are particularly important for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels. Collectively, they are breeding range states to 12 of the 31 species covered by the Agreement, three of which are endemic to the UK SAOTs. For most of these species the SAOTs host significant proportions of the global breeding population, and SGSSI is no exception.

The ACAP Agreement, together with its Action Plan (<http://acap.aq/en/acap-agreement/206-agreement-on-the-conservation-of-albatrosses-and-petrels/file>), describes a number of conservation measures that contracting Parties need to implement to improve the conservation status of these threatened seabirds. A workshop was held in the Falkland Islands in 2006, at which the main tasks and actions required to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels in the South Atlantic were discussed and assessed. Following the workshop, a report was published setting out the objectives and tasks for each of the UK SAOTs (Falklands Conservation, 2006).

This document, the 2016 ACAP Plan for SGSSI, was written to meet the ACAP requirements and thus contribute to the ultimate objective of the Agreement, which is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. It follows on from the 2010 ACAP Plan for SGSSI (Wolfaardt and Christie 2010) which was a result of the aforementioned 2006 workshop and report. Each of the main sections of the plan includes an overview of current work being conducted, a list of ACAP requirements which have been drawn from the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan (AP), a list of recommended actions corresponding to each requirement, and a list of previously completed actions.

There are also links to the relevant GSGSSI legislation and management plans. A summary of the recommended actions, their priority rating, organisations involved in implementing these actions, and funding information is provided in Appendix 1. Although this plan deals

¹ Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, British Antarctic Territory and the Tristan da Cunha group of islands.

specifically with ACAP-listed species, the activities will often respond to wider biodiversity issues, and will be implemented as part of broader programmes. It is likely also that these actions will benefit a wider range of species beyond those listed by ACAP. This plan focuses on SGSSI, but also encourages complementary action in other areas, particularly on the High Seas, and the jurisdictional waters of other countries, where albatrosses and petrels from SGSSI are known or thought likely to be killed. It is important to note that the primary objective of this plan is the conservation of ACAP species and habitats, and it is possible that something which is a low order priority for ACAP species may be a high order priority for other components of the islands' biodiversity.

A number of organisations and individuals undertake ACAP-related work at SGSSI. The main purpose of this plan is to serve as a tool to guide the coordinated and efficient implementation of best-practice actions and work that contributes effectively towards fulfilling the objectives of ACAP.

1.1. The structure of ACAP

ACAP is currently ratified by 13 countries. The Advisory Committee (AC) of ACAP provides expert advice and information to ACAP Parties, the Secretariat and others. The AC has three Working Groups: the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG), the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) and since 2011, the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG). Although the work of the Agreement is facilitated and supported by the Secretariat, it is the Parties, non-Party Range States and non-government organisations (NGOs) that are responsible for driving the collective work of the Agreement. The UK is Party to ACAP and requires input and collaboration from its relevant Overseas Territories (such as SGSSI) to fulfil its obligations to ACAP.

2. ACAP SPECIES AT SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

Seven of the 31 listed ACAP species breed on SGSSI. For all of these species, SGSSI hosts significant proportions of the global breeding population, including the largest populations for four of the seven species (Table 1; for a full list of species in Annex 1 of ACAP see Appendix 2). This, together with the unfavourable conservation status and declining populations of most of these species, highlights the significant importance of SGSSI for albatross and petrel conservation.

This ACAP Plan provides the overarching framework to guide action to benefit all seven ACAP species on SGSSI. Complimentary to this Plan, individual conservation action plans have been produced for three of these species: black-browed, wandering, and grey-headed albatross.

Table 1: ACAP-listed species breeding on South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, SGSSI population estimate, relative size of the population in global terms, current (2016) IUCN status, and SGSSI population trends. Trends taken from *Poncet et al. (2017), **BAS unpublished data (full-island surveys of Bird Island only in 2005/06 and 2015/16), and * Martin et al (2009)**

Species	SGSSI population estimate (IUCN 2016)	Global importance	IUCN status (2016)	Recent trend
Wandering albatross (<i>Diomedea exulans</i>)	1,600 pairs	2 nd largest	VU	-1.8% per annum*
Light-mantled albatross (<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>)	5,000-7,500 pairs	Largest	NT	Unknown
Grey-headed albatross (<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>)	47,700 pairs	Largest	EN	-5.1% per annum*
Black-browed albatross (<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>)	56,000 pairs	3 rd largest	NT	-1.8% per annum*
Southern giant petrel (<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>)	5,500 pairs	2 nd largest	LC	-1% per annum (Bird Island only)**
Northern giant petrel (<i>Macronectes halli</i>)	4,500 pairs	Largest	LC	+2% per annum (Bird Island only)**
White-chinned petrel (<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>)	773,150 pairs	Largest	VU	-2% per annum***

LC – Least Concern, NT – Near Threatened, VU – Vulnerable, EN – Endangered

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, CONSERVATION LISTINGS AND PLANS

3.1 Legislation

In 1985 SGSSI became a United Kingdom Overseas Territory (South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Order 1985), separate from the Falkland Islands. A Maritime Zone of 200 nautical miles from the coastline of SGSSI was proclaimed in 1993 to enable the conservation and management of the waters, habitats and natural resources of this zone (Proclamation (Maritime Zone) No. 1 of 1993). The Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance (2000), with amendments in 2003 and 2004, provides a framework for the issuing of fishing licences, enforcement and penalties.

In 2011 GSGSSI replaced previous legislation with the more modern and holistic Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011), followed by the Wildlife and Protected Areas (Amendment) Ordinance 2013. This legislation provides for the protection and restoration of wildlife and habitats on land and at sea, prohibits the introduction of non-native species and provides for the designation of protected areas.

Following on from the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) further legislation was enacted to declare the first Marine Protected Areas in SGSSI. The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established in February 2012 under the Marine Protected Areas Order 2012. This sustainable use MPA encompasses over 1 million sq km and features a number of IUCN Category 1b No-take Zones. Additional spatial and temporal protection measures were extended through the Marine Protected Areas Order 2013 (Figure 1.1). See the Marine Protected Area Management Plan v2.0 (GSGSSI, 2013) for full details.

A set of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) were identified in the Plan for Progress (Pasteur and Walton, 2006), but these have not been formally designated. Provision for declaring terrestrial SPAs was included in the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011). Although the existing legislation provides a high level of protection for all species and habitats, it has been identified as a priority in the SGSSI strategy 2016-2020 to establish a suite of terrestrial protected areas. This is also a key target under the Convention on Biological Diversity (see section 3.3).

3.2 Management strategies

The activities of GSGSSI are guided by overarching strategy documents which cover five year periods. The current Strategy (GSGSSI, 2015) was launched in late 2015. It provides a framework to guide the future direction of SGSSI over the period 2016-2020 and takes account of recent advances such as the rodent and reindeer eradication projects and the declaration of the MPA. The headline strategy is “world-class environmental management underpinned by the highest standards of governance”.

A key commitment under the 2016-2020 Strategy, and an obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (see section 3.3), is to produce a National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which provides detailed plans and timeframes as to how GSGSSI will go about

meeting its strategic objectives including those pertinent to ACAP. The Biodiversity Action Plan for South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands 2016-2020 (GSGSSI, 2015) was published in late 2015.

The SGSSI Environment Charter was signed jointly by the GSGSSI and the UK Minister for Overseas Territories in September 2001. The Environment Charter outlines the environmental management commitments of the UK Government and the GSGSSI. The Environment Charter provides some guiding principals that both the UK Government and GSGSSI work to.

3.3 International plans and agreements

The management of SGSSI is informed by a number of International Treaties or Agreements. The most significant of these in relation to ACAP responsibilities include the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS) of which ACAP is a daughter agreement, and CAMLR (Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources). The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) provides guidance for the conservation of the Southern Ocean (where conservation includes rational use) and provides for the regulation of fisheries activities in the Southern Ocean waters, including around SGSSI, by means of Conservation Measures and resolutions. These include seabird bycatch mitigation measures. The Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance (2000) and subsequent amendments give effect to the obligations of GSGSSI under CCAMLR. It should be noted that whilst CCAMLR management practices set a minimum standard for fisheries management in the region, in some cases GSGSSI domestic requirements are more stringent and require a higher standard.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was extended to SGSSI in 2015. The CBD was signed by the UK in 1992 and ratified in 1994, but that ratification did not include SGSSI. The extension was undertaken by the UK Government at the request of GSGSSI after it had demonstrated that there were sufficient laws and policies in place to enable the Territory to implement and comply with its obligations under the Convention.

3.4 The application of ACAP requirements to work conducted on SGSSI

The following chapters are set out according to the actions that ACAP has identified as necessary to improve the conservation status of ACAP species (taken from the ACAP Agreement, most recently amended at MoP5). Each outlines the current status of work on SGSSI, how these actions apply to SGSSI, what is currently being done to meet these requirements, and the work that needs to be done within the lifetime of this Plan. Some of these required actions will be ongoing or annual and maintained at the current levels (labelled 'ongoing'). Other actions will need to be implemented or considered for action (labelled 'new'). Some actions appear more than once as they fulfil more than one of the requirements listed. See Appendix 1 for the combined table of actions taken from each of the following chapters.

These chapters reflect the relevant objectives from the SGSSI Biodiversity Action Plan, in particular those on collaboration and knowledge sharing, multi-lateral environmental agreements (as ACAP is), and managing invasive alien species. Complimentary to this ACAP Plan are the new individual Conservation Action Plans for black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross. The majority of actions in the three species plans reflect, and in some cases expanded upon, the actions in this Implementation Plan.

4. BREEDING SITES

The obligations relating to the conservation of breeding sites encompass broadly the protection and active management of these sites, including the management of non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels, minimising the risk of introducing non-native species, minimising human disturbance associated with tourism and research, and managing breeding site habitats, including the restoration of sites where appropriate.

An ACAP database has been developed for information on breeding sites (general information on site characteristics, ownership, threats and management), as well as information relating to the status and trends of populations breeding at the sites. Parties are required routinely to submit their data, which is then collated, analysed and reviewed to assess the status of breeding sites, threats, their management, and the performance of the Agreement. Data updates are provided by means of a data portal (<http://data.acap.aq/>).

There has been some debate about what constitutes the spatial definition of a breeding site. For consistency and compatibility with other ACAP data (e.g. status and trends data), a hierarchical approach has been used to define each site (Island Group, Breeding Island, Breeding Site). In the case of SGSSI, each island is listed as a breeding site, and the mainland is split into seven regions (Appendix 3). The finalisation of a definitive site list is important for the purposes of standardisation and comparisons across different sites or island groups.

This database also includes a list of threat criteria, which are used to assess the scope (proportion of population affected) and severity (intensity) of threats at each breeding site. The threat criteria are restricted to those affecting ACAP species at the breeding site (i.e. not those occurring at sea), and are only included/assessed if the threat has been documented in some way at the site in question, and is likely to have a negative impact (population decline in the next decade) on an ACAP species. Potential or suspected threats are therefore not included. The list of threats for SGSSI breeding sites is included in Appendix 4.

The database will be updated regularly as new evidence becomes available regarding a particular threat. Additionally a list was compiled at AC5 by ACAP Parties of breeding sites with introduced vertebrates (see below), so even though the mere presence of alien vertebrates may not constitute a threat, their presence at each breeding site will be documented by way of this list, which will be maintained by the PaCSWG.

4.1 Current status of the management of ACAP breeding sites at South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

The key environmental objective under the SGSSI strategy 2016-2020 is to 'Conserve the Territory's environment, minimise human impacts and, where practicable, restore native biodiversity and habitats'. This underpins the environmental ambition of SGSSI and puts conservation of flora and fauna, including ACAP species, at the heart of Government activities.

4.1.1 Protection status of ACAP breeding sites and species

Breeding sites and species are protected through two complimentary mechanisms. The first is through management of visitor activities and site access through a system of permits. Tourist landings are restricted to a limited number of sites which are primarily around the northern coast line. At sensitive breeding sites (e.g. Prion Island), there is a site-specific management plan which outlines measures which must be taken to avoid disturbance of wildlife. The second is through the provisions of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) that disturbance, killing, capture or export of native fauna (including all ACAP species) and flora is prohibited. Any exemption to this prohibition requires a permit from GSGSSI, which will only be granted following an environmental assessment procedure and, where animal handling is involved, an ethical review process.

Although the above two mechanisms provide an overall high level of protection for ACAP species and breeding sites, there is provision under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) to designate SPAs if the flora, fauna, habitats or other features render it of significant conservation or ecological importance or if it is of high scientific interest. SPAs designated in this way would require a specific management plan that outlined the conservation objective for the area and the circumstances under which access would be granted. Possible terrestrial SPAs within the Territory were identified in the Plan for Progress (2006), although these were not designated in law. However, given the significant management interventions and subsequent environmental change that has taken place since the SPAs were identified, and the development of more sophisticated systematic conservation planning tools, a more up to date analysis is required. The requirement for progressing this work and designating terrestrial protected areas has been identified as a high priority in the overarching SGSSI Strategy. Breeding sites for ACAP listed species could be candidates for this designation, having already been formally identified (under ACAP) as requiring special attention. It is essential that these are incorporated into the protected area planning process.

4.1.2 Measures to eliminate, control or prevent the introduction of non-native species to breeding sites

The SGSSI Biodiversity Action Plan has been used to inform actions within this Plan. Relevant to this chapter are the requirements of BAP Objective 6 *'Effectively manage existing invasive alien species and work along the entire Biosecurity continuum to deliver best practise Biosecurity protocols, post-border monitoring and emergency response measures.'*

Norway rats and house mice

Norway rats *Rattus norvegicus* were accidentally introduced to South Georgia on multiple occasions by sealers approximately 200 years ago. They occupied the entire northern and south-west coast line and there was concern that the retreat of glacier fronts, which were thought to serve as barriers, may facilitate the spread of rats to areas where they were so far absent. The main impact of rats on ACAP species is predation of burrow-nesting white-chinned petrels *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (Appendix 4). Rats also cause some damage to the vegetation (South Georgia Heritage Trust. 2009)

House mice *Mus musculus* were thought to be introduced to the mainland through the same means as Norway rats. The population that was present was small and localised, being restricted to the Nunez Peninsula and the coastline from Shallop Cove to Cape Rosa, both on the south coast. There have been occasional reports of house mice away from this area indicating that they may have been more widespread (Black et al. 2012). Although there is no evidence that house mice impact any ACAP species at South Georgia currently, they are known to be a significant threat to albatrosses at Gough Island, where they prey on Tristan albatross and other seabird chicks (Angel and Cooper, 2006).

GSGSSI conducted a feasibility study to assess the implications of a Norway rat eradication programme (Christie, 2007) and the eradication programme commenced in 2011. Following methodologies that had successfully been used on other islands, the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) used helicopters to spread brodifacoum based poison bait across the affected areas. The first phase of the operation was restricted to the Thatcher, Mercer and Greene Peninsulas and was intended as a trial phase. Following a period of intense monitoring in which no sign of rodents was detected the decision was made to roll out the project to the rest of the island. In austral summers of 2013 and 2015 the remaining area was baited. Over the course of the project 100,000 hectares of the island has been baited, using three helicopters, approximately 300 tonnes of bait, a team of experts, and at a total cost of £7.5million (South Georgia Heritage Trust, 2015).

GSGSSI have a network of monitoring devices which are checked annually for the presence of rodents. SGHT are planning a monitoring phase for 2017-18 to investigate the success of the baiting phases. Given the high winter mortality of rodent populations, the size of the island and difficulties in accessing remote sites, it may be some years before it is known if the project has been successful. Nevertheless, early indications are positive and there have been anecdotal indications of increased numbers of breeding birds at sites which had rodents.

Reindeer

Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus* were introduced to South Georgia by Norwegian whalers as a source of recreational hunting and as a reminder of home from the early 20th century, and were present as two separate herds, one at Barff / Royal Bay, and the other around the Busen Point / Husvik area. The main impact of reindeer was through their trampling and heavy grazing, which negatively impacted the terrestrial biodiversity of affected areas. The primary impact of reindeer on ACAP listed species was through the degradation of tussac habitat which undermined the quality of nesting habitat for white-chinned petrels. As was the case with rats, it was thought that the receding glacier fronts would allow the movement of reindeer into areas that were previously unaffected by their activities.

GSGSSI produced a discussion document regarding the future management of reindeer on South Georgia (Christie 2010). Following a period of consultation with experts and stakeholders GSGSSI made the decision in 2010 to remove reindeer from the island. The eradication was carried out in two phases. During the first phase in January-February 2013, the 2,000-strong herd of reindeer in the Busen area was removed using a combination of herding, corralling and ground shooting. The eradication team included marksmen and Sami

reindeer herders. 1,500 animals were also shot by marksmen in the Barff Peninsula in preparation for phase two. All carcasses were removed from the Busen area as otherwise they would provide a food source for rodents during the second phase of the rodent eradication project which took place immediately afterwards. In early 2014 a further 3,100 reindeer were shot in the Barff Peninsula. In January 2015 a further 47 individuals were shot in the Barff area and in January 2016 a single lone male was shot in the Busen area. Monitoring will continue to ensure that no animals remain. In total the project cost in excess of £2 million (GSGSSI, 2016).

Biosecurity

Considering the huge amount of resources that have been invested in managing invasive species in the Territory, biosecurity a high priority for GSGSSI.

Non-native species can enter South Georgia through a range of pathways including ships, cargo and personnel. As such procedures and policies are in place across the entire biosecurity continuum that limit the opportunity for non-native species to get to the Territory pre-border or during transit, as well as procedures for post-border monitoring and incursion response.

Full details of GSGSSI biosecurity interventions are found in the Biosecurity Handbook which is reviewed and updated annually. Adherence to biosecurity policies is enforced through a permitting system and ultimately enshrined in law under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011 and amendment 2013) and any breach may be treated as criminal offence.

4.1.3 Measures to minimise disturbance at ACAP breeding sites

All visits to SGSSI are strictly managed. The visitor policy of GSGSSI is to encourage responsible tourism to South Georgia, so as to increase awareness of the global importance of the islands, and generate revenue to improve the environmental management of the islands, whilst ensuring that any disturbance to wildlife is minimised. Tourist landings may only be made at one of the approved visitor sites, and after a permit has been granted by GSGSSI. GSGSSI may, at its discretion, require an approved observer on vessels, particularly on those that are visiting for the first time, to ensure that the required standards are being met. GSGSSI works closely with the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), and expects all visitors to adhere to the standards detailed in the IAATO bylaws and guidelines. GSGSSI previously commissioned a survey to assess compliance of tourists and tour operators with prescribed policies and conditions for visits to South Georgia. Results from this survey were used to provide feedback to IAATO and the tourist industry. A number of additional mechanisms are used by GSGSSI to manage tourism. These include:

- *Closure of landing sites* – if required, GSGSSI will close landing sites to tourists. For example, Albatross Island, a previous tourist landing site, has been closed to tourists since the 2004/05 season because of observations and concern about disturbance caused to nesting albatrosses. Other sites, such as Prion Island, are temporarily closed to avoid disturbance during the fur seal breeding season (November to

January), which coincides with the egg-laying and early incubation period of wandering albatross at this site.

- *Managing visitor impacts* – GSGSSI have erected and maintain a boardwalk at Prion Island to manage visitor impacts on the local flora and fauna, including nesting wandering albatross, southern giant petrels and burrowing petrel species. GSGSSI funds annual surveys and monitoring of albatrosses and petrels at Albatross and Prion islands.
- *Site-specific Visitor Management Plans* - these have been prepared for the most popular approved visitor landing sites and a number of overland walks, and are available on the GSGSSI website.
- *Post-visit reports* – required from all cruise ships, yachts, expeditions and military vessels and helicopters for all visits outside Grytviken / King Edward Point and Bird Island.
- *Control of visitor numbers* – GSGSSI reserves the right to restrict the overall number of visitor numbers if necessary.

Non-tourist operations are also strictly managed through a permitting system which includes an environmental assessment element. This is intended to be scalable and commensurate with the potential impacts of the activity so small projects are not held up in unnecessary bureaucracy and large projects are subject to an appropriate level of external scrutiny to ensure the highest standards of environmental sustainability are upheld.

- *Regulated Activities Permits* are needed for any activity which would not normally be undertaken during a normal visitor landing. The application procedure is tiered depending on the scope of the proposed activity but at all levels some form of environmental assessment is required in which measures to minimise disturbance must be outlined.
- *A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment* is required for any major infrastructure development or expansion of existing activities in the Territory. Where appropriate this will be externally reviewed.
- Aircraft operations are generally not permitted at South Georgia. In circumstances where flights are authorised a *flight avoidance map* (which detail areas where low flying is prohibited) and briefing system is in place;

4.2 ACAP requirements for breeding sites, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

Completed actions from the 2010 Implementation Plan are listed here, under the appropriate requirement. Not all requirements from ACAP are listed under the completed actions list, unless there were relevant actions included in the previous Plan. All requirements from ACAP are listed under the planned actions list. This applies in all the following chapters.

4.2.1. Summary of completed actions:

3. Prevent introductions, eliminate or control non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels (Art III, 1b; AP 1.4).

- Reindeer eradication was completed in 2013-15.

- Baiting work to eradicate rats and mice was completed in 2011-15.

8. *Contribute UK information to the Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the action plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:*

- identification of internationally important breeding sites;*
 - reviews of the status at breeding sites of introduced animals, plants and disease-causing organisms known or believed to be detrimental to albatrosses and petrels;*
 - reviews of the nature of, coverage by, and effectiveness of, protection arrangements for albatrosses and petrels;*
 - identification of gaps in information as part of the above reviews, with a view to addressing these in future priorities.*
- Work to spatially depict all currently known ACAP breeding sites in the South Georgia GIS has been completed.

9. *Population and Conservation Status Working Group. Submit data on each breeding site (this includes information on presence of introduced species); initiate studies to fill gaps in knowledge.*

- Annual breeding monitoring of albatross and petrel species has been conducted at Albatross and Prion islands since the 1990s and sporadically beforehand. Additionally, impacts of visitor disturbance on the nesting birds at Prion Island has been monitored for several years. Monitoring has shown that the boardwalk on Prion Island has not had any significant negative impact on the nesting birds, therefore it may be that monitoring of visitor disturbance can be discontinued. However, the studies on these islands provide the only other long-term dataset (apart from Bird Island) in the Territory, and as such the annual breeding monitoring should continue (see Section 5).

4.2.2. ACAP requirements for breeding sites and associated planned actions:

I) Conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats that are of importance to albatrosses and petrels (Art III, 1a).

- Currently no relevant planned actions.

II) Protect breeding sites; develop and implement management plans for those sites (AP 2.2.1).

- Ongoing: maintain management of tourism and other human activities impacting on breeding sites at SGSSI, in accordance with current policy.*
- New: In accordance with the SGSSI Strategy, include ACAP breeding sites in the protected area planning process and formally designate these sites as SPAs, and publish Management Plans for each.*

III) Prevent introductions, eliminate or control non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels (Art III, 1b; AP 1.4).

- a) Ongoing: Monitor for the presence of reindeer and remove any individuals that are located.
- b) Ongoing: Maintain monitoring programme for rodents, and update and refine as required.
- c) Ongoing: Maintain monitoring programme on the breeding success of birds in areas where rodents and reindeer have been eradicated. This programme will provide information on the speed and size of the recovery. Review and update the programme as necessary.
- d) Ongoing: Maintain, monitor and strengthen the current biosecurity policy preventing the introduction of pests and diseases, especially in respect of rodents and avian diseases, to and within SGSSI.
- e) Ongoing: Update annually the SGSSI biosecurity handbook and ensure all visitors and service providers are compliant with the policies outlined within. Review provisions at the sites from which vessels and/or cargo transshipping to SGSSI are moored, especially at King Edward Point, South Georgia and (in collaboration with Falkland Islands Government) Stanley, Falkland Islands.
- f) New: Consider producing biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites where merited, such as those where outbreaks of avian cholera have occurred.
- g) New: Develop and implement contingency plans that set out rapid response remedial actions that should be implemented in the event of the a disease outbreak.

IV). Minimise and prevent disturbance from tourists and researchers (AP 3.4).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to support and strictly manage tourism at SGSSI.
- b) Ongoing: Ensure that all non-standard visitor activities e.g. science, are preceded by an appropriate environmental assessment

V) Prohibit the deliberate taking of, or harmful interference with, albatrosses and petrels, their eggs, or their breeding sites. Exemptions are possible, but any Parties granting such exemptions shall submit full details of them to the Secretariat (Art III 2).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to strictly implement the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance and ensure visitors are compliant with the wildlife code of conduct

VI). Develop and implement measures to prevent, remove, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects of activities that may influence the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels. These to include appropriate use of environmental impact assessment (Art III 1c; AP3.1).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to assess impacts on ACAP species arising from planned activities on SGSSI. Implement appropriate measures to mitigate any adverse impacts that may arise. Periodically review the assessment process.

VII) Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels (Art III 1d).

- a) Ongoing: Continue with Albatross and Prion Island monitoring programme to determine efficacy of boardwalk on Prion Island

VIII) Contribute UK information to the Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded

upon in the action plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:

- e. identification of internationally important breeding sites;*
 - f. reviews of the status at breeding sites of introduced animals, plants and disease-causing organisms known or believed to be detrimental to albatrosses and petrels;*
 - g. reviews of the nature of, coverage by, and effectiveness of, protection arrangements for albatrosses and petrels;*
 - h. identification of gaps in information as part of the above reviews, with a view to addressing these in future priorities.*
- a) Ongoing: Utilise new information as it becomes available to assess additional breeding sites for South Georgia, and if necessary refine the formal list of ACAP breeding sites.
 - b) Ongoing: Utilise new information as it becomes available to ensure that all ACAP breeding sites are correctly spatially depicted in the South Georgia Geographical Information System (GIS).
 - c) Ongoing: Maintain a list of islands and parts of islands from which ACAP species are known to have bred in the past, but have since been extirpated.
 - d) Ongoing: Continue to ensure that the reporting requirements of ACAP are met for each breeding site. Include in the threat reporting non-native mammals and their current status: eradicated or extant, or in the case of rodents, post-baiting monitoring.

5. STATUS AND TRENDS OF POPULATIONS

The UK has an obligation to monitor the status and trends of ACAP-listed species breeding at each of its Overseas Territories, and thus contribute to the overall assessments of the conservation status of each species.

ACAP's Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) is responsible for collecting, collating and updating demographic and population data for each ACAP-listed species and to produce assessments of the status and trends of each species. Parties are required to submit status and trend and other data to a relational ACAP database that integrates and curates status and trends, breeding sites and taxonomy data. In addition to facilitating the coordinated storage and management of these data, the database is also used for the ACAP Species Assessments, the framework for which is built in to the ACAP database. The ACAP Species Assessments aim to collate the most recent scientific information on population status and trends, distribution, threats, as well as any conservation measures that are in place for the 31 albatross and petrel species currently listed under the Agreement. The usefulness of the ACAP database as a management tool is dependent on the timely provision of updated data from the breeding range states (or data holders) to the ACAP Secretariat so that it can be incorporated into the database and used in analyses. The information collated in the database can also be used for the purposes of education and public awareness. The Species Assessments are available online (<http://www.acap.aq/acap-species>), and will be routinely updated as new material becomes available.

BirdLife International maintains the IUCN Red List for Birds (updated annually), and, in the Data Zone of its website, Species Factsheets for all globally threatened species (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/index.html>). These are valuable tools and are consulted (and the data contained therein used) extensively by scientists, managers and the general public. It is important to ensure that the factsheets of all UK SAOT ACAP species are reviewed annually for accuracy, and those proposals relevant to changes in the IUCN conservation status are initiated, disseminated, or responded to, as appropriate.

5.1 Current activities relating to monitoring the status and trends of ACAP-listed species at South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

When considering the monitoring of ACAP listed species, it is useful to distinguish between annual monitoring of study plots and intermittent much larger-scale censuses of entire islands or archipelagos. Both forms of monitoring take place at South Georgia. The bulk of the demographic monitoring is conducted by BAS at Bird Island, complemented by monitoring work at King Edward Point, and at Albatross and Prion islands. The only ACAP species breeding on the South Sandwich Islands is southern giant petrels.

5.1.1 Censuses of populations

Near-complete (archipelago-wide) surveys of the breeding populations of wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatross were conducted in 2014/15 by GSGSSI, except for wandering albatross at Annenkov Island. These surveys were completed using a

combination of photography and ground-counts. The previous archipelago-wide survey of all these species at South Georgia was conducted in 2003/04 by GSGSSI, BAS, and other co-workers (Poncet *et al.*, 2006). Southern and northern giant petrels and white-chinned petrels were surveyed in 2005/06 and 2006/07 (Martin *et al.*, 2009). The final ACAP species (light-mantled albatross) has never undergone a full census on South Georgia.

Whole-island counts of approximately decadal nature were initiated by BAS at Bird Island in 1976/77 and repeated in 1989/90 for black-browed albatross and grey-headed albatross. The latter also involved counts in 1977/78 and 1990/91 to take better account of the demipopulations in this species (Prince *et al.*, 1994) where adults tend to breed every two years instead of annually. Most of the large colonies of each species at Bird Island have been counted at five yearly intervals since the mid 1970s (Croxall *et al.*, 1998, Prince *et al.*, 1994). BAS currently conducts annual surveys of nesting wandering albatrosses at Bird Island, and undertakes decadal counts of the whole of Bird Island for nesting black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses and southern and northern giant petrels.

GSGSSI conducts annual monitoring of breeding numbers of wandering albatross, northern and southern giant petrels, and previously of light-mantled albatross, at Albatross (from two study areas) and Prion islands. Light-mantled albatross are considered to be biennial breeders when successful. Unsuccessful breeders may attempt to breed again in the following year. Inter-annual variation in breeding populations at individual colonies is high, leading to substantial annual fluctuations in numbers, including within the study area at Bird Island. A minimum of 40-50 nests would need to be monitored to determine a reliable long-term trend but there are no accessible sites which have this many nests.

5.1.2 Monitoring of study plots

BAS conducts comprehensive annual demographic studies at Bird Island of banded birds to determine adult and juvenile survival rates, individual reproductive success and population trends for wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses (1975/76-present), northern and southern giant petrels (2000/01-present), as well as annual monitoring of population trends and productivity for light-mantled albatrosses (2002/03-present). In 2007/08 BAS re-started a programme to monitor, once every five years, white-chinned petrel population trends from study plots at Bird Island.

In addition to the annual counts of all wandering albatross nests at Albatross and Prion islands (see above), GSGSSI, with South Georgia Surveys, monitors productivity of all nests at Prion Island (1998/99-2002/03, 2005/06-present). This work has also been used to monitor potential tourism impacts at Prion Island and fur seal impacts at Prion and Albatross islands (see also section 4.2).

Using these long-term data from Bird Island, BAS are currently investigating the respective roles of climate and fisheries variables in driving the decline in numbers of black-browed, wandering and grey-headed albatross at South Georgia, and other demographic parameters.

5.2 ACAP requirements for status and trends of populations, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

5.2.1 Summary of completed actions:

2. Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- Archipelago-wide census was completed in 2014/15 for wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatross, except for wandering albatross at Annenkov Island.
- Full island census on Bird Island for black-browed albatross was completed in 2013/14, and for northern and southern giant petrels was completed in December 2015.
- Photo-survey monitoring of black-browed, grey-headed albatross was conducted at selected sites in 2014.
- The last survey work on the South Sandwich Islands of nesting southern giant petrels was conducted in 2011.

3. Prepare the UK report to the ACAP Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all the points as expanded upon in this Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report assessments and reviews of the status of populations of albatrosses and petrels, including an assessment of population trends of the species, especially those in poorly known areas and of species for which few data are available.

- Data has been submitted to the ACAP co-ordinator as and when requested, in order to contribute to the annual UK ACAP report.

5.2.2 ACAP requirements for status and trends of populations, and associated planned actions:

The monitoring of the status and trends of ACAP-listed species at SGSSI is important in order to determine if management measures both at breeding sites and at sea are achieving their objectives. The monitoring strategy should ideally include a combination of annual monitoring of breeding numbers (one survey during incubation) and productivity (one chick count shortly before fledging) of representative (selected) study colonies, comprehensive demographic studies at a sample of study colonies to assess adult and juvenile survival, recruitment and other demographic parameters that help identify the underlying causes of population trends, and complete archipelago censuses much less frequently – once every 10 years. ACAP species are long-lived, and in order for monitoring programmes to contribute useful information on the status and trends of ACAP species and possible reasons for population changes, they need to be of a long-term nature. For certain species (light-mantled albatross, southern and northern giant petrels and white-chinned petrel), intensive monitoring is problematic due to logistical challenges and/or the sensitivity of the species – including nesting habitat - to disturbance. The monitoring strategy for South Georgia should be to maintain the current monitoring effort (complete archipelago censuses once every 10 years and population monitoring of selected/representative sites annually or once every five years), identify and fill current gaps, and institute additional demographic studies if monitoring of population trends at sites away from Bird Island indicate different trends to those shown at Bird Island.

All species

I). Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels (Art III 1d).

- a) New: Publish action plans for black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross.
- b) New: Formally submit and present a paper on the 2014/15 survey of wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses at South Georgia (Poncet et al. submitted) to the ACAP Population and Conservation Status Working Group (September 2017).
- c) New: Assess outcomes from the research project (once completed) investigating the influence of climate and fisheries variables on black-browed, wandering and grey-headed albatross demography, and refine policies and conservation plans accordingly.

II). Prepare the UK report to the ACAP Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report assessments and reviews of the status of populations of albatrosses and petrels, including an assessment of population trends of the species, especially those in poorly known areas and of species for which few data are available.

- a) Ongoing: Submit all data when requested to ACAP and BirdLife International, in order to contribute to updates of the BirdLife International Species Factsheets (as part of the IUCN Red List process) and the ACAP Species Assessments.
- b) Ongoing: Submit all data to the ACAP Co-ordinator as and when requested, in order to contribute to the annual UK ACAP report.

Wandering albatross

III). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography at Bird Island
- b) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of breeding numbers at Albatross and Prion islands and productivity at Prion Island.
- c) Ongoing (longer term): Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census.
- d) New: If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island (Albatross or Prion islands) indicates more rapidly declining populations than at Bird Island, consider initiating a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change.
- e) New: Conduct a survey of wandering albatross breeding at Annenkov Island within the next three years possibly including the use of remote sensing technologies.

Black-browed albatross

IV) Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island.

- b) Ongoing: Maintain photo-survey monitoring of population trends at selected (representative) colonies on a five-yearly basis, or more frequently if feasible.
- c) Ongoing (longer term): Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census.
- d) New: If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island indicates more rapidly declining populations elsewhere, initiate a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change.

Grey-headed albatross

V). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island.
- b) Ongoing: Maintain photo-survey monitoring of population trends at selected (representative) colonies on a five-yearly basis, or more frequently if feasible.
- c) Ongoing (longer term): Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census.
- d) New: If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island indicates more rapidly declining populations elsewhere, initiate a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change.

Light-mantled albatross

VI). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and productivity at Bird Island.
- b) New: Identify sites that could feasibly undergo a census once every five years.
- c) New: Investigate methods for an archipelago-wide census to assess overall population size.

Northern giant petrel

VII). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island.
- b) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends at Albatross (from study plots) and Prion islands (whole island). These are the only islands apart from Bird Island for which long-term data are available.
- c) New: If monitoring of population trends indicates that the Albatross and Prion island populations differ from the Bird Island population, consider initiating a second long term demographic study.

Southern giant petrel

VIII). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island.
- b) Ongoing: Maintain annual monitoring of population trends at Albatross and Prion islands. These are the only islands apart from Bird Island for which long-term data are available.
- c) Ongoing (longer term): Conduct a census of populations at the South Sandwich Islands.
- d) New: If monitoring of population trends indicates that the Albatross and Prion island populations differ from the Bird Island population, consider initiating a second long term demographic study.

White-chinned petrel

IX). Undertake relevant research and monitoring (AP 4.1).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain monitoring of population trends at Bird Island every five years.
- b) New: Establish annual monitoring of demography at Bird Island. This would need appropriate design to distinguish movements between burrows from mortality, and monitoring protocols that involve minimum disturbance.
- c) New: Investigate methods for an archipelago-wide census.
- d) Ongoing: Continue to monitor population changes in areas which had reindeer and rats

6. FORAGING RANGE AND AREAS

Albatrosses and petrels face several threats, both on land and at sea. Chief amongst these is fisheries related mortality. It is important to acquire data on foraging ranges and key foraging areas within these ranges for all ACAP species so that the spatial and temporal overlap between the distribution of these species and fishing effort can be assessed, and used to inform the better management of seabird-fisheries interactions.

The Global Procellariiform Tracking Database, developed and maintained by BirdLife International as a repository for all albatross and petrel tracking data, is an important international tool for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels (BirdLife International, 2004). All researchers collecting albatross and petrel tracking data are encouraged to contribute these data to the database so that they can be used for regional analyses, especially to determine overlap between seabird distribution and fisheries effort. BirdLife International and others have already used these data for conservation purposes, especially relating to assessments for Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs), demonstrating the importance of these data in conservation tools (e.g. BirdLife International 2006; Phillips and Small 2007; Taylor and Small 2008). It should be noted that access to these data is subject to the approval by the dataholders.

6.1 Current work on foraging ecology at South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Over the years, BAS has been at the forefront in the development and implementation of a diverse range of foraging ecology research including tracking of at-sea distribution and activity, provisioning rates, and diet assessment by conventional means and through the use of stable isotope analysis.

Tracking work has been carried out on all seven of South Georgia's ACAP species throughout the year (i.e. during the breeding and non-breeding seasons). This work forms part of the ongoing BAS research programme at Bird Island. Although not all species are tracked every year, BAS are continuously using and supplementing their long-term tracking archive to investigate at-sea distribution, habitat preference, overlap with fisheries and other foraging parameters. All processed tracking data for ACAP species are submitted routinely by BAS to the Global Procellariiform Database. These data have already been used in a range of regional assessments of seabird-fisheries interactions, especially in the tuna RFMOs.

No tracking work on southern giant petrels has taken place at the South Sandwich Islands, and whilst it would be useful to obtain tracking data, there are logistical challenges associated with such work. Additionally, southern giant petrels are currently a species of Least Concern, and there are other species and gaps in the tracking data which would be of higher priority to ACAP.

Diet sampling has been conducted by BAS on black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses annually (by sampling stomach contents), on wandering albatross (by sampling pellets) intermittently, and previously on white-chinned petrels, as part of dedicated studies at Bird

Island (Phillips, 2006). Sampling of northern and southern giant petrels had not been carried out for many years, until it was undertaken in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The diet sampling work is used to provide information on prey species, foraging behaviours and the extent to which these ACAP species rely on or utilise discards from the fishing industry. A pilot study was conducted prior to the programme being implemented, and this showed no deleterious impacts on the subsequent survival or fledging mass of the chicks sampled. In a recent review of methods used to analyse albatross diets, Bird Island was identified as one of the Key Dietary Monitoring Sites for black-browed, wandering and grey-headed albatrosses (McInnes et al. 2016).

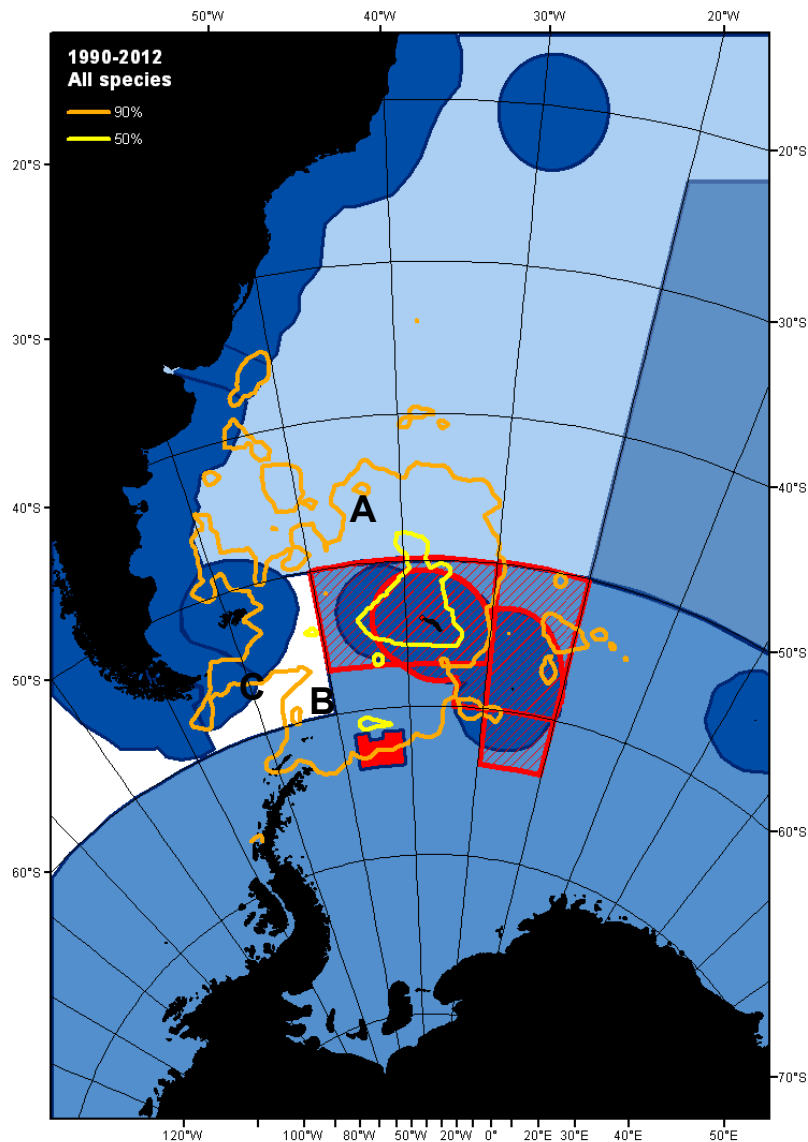


Figure 2: 90% (orange) and 50% (i.e. core areas; yellow) kernel density contours for the seven ACAP species at South Georgia tracked during the breeding season (in 1991-2012) overlaid on EEZs (dark blue), MPA (dark red), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (light blue), GSGSSI or CCAMLR (red hatched) jurisdiction, or no mandatory fisheries reporting and management agreement (white). Map and information supplied by BAS.

A study (Tancell et al, 2013) has recently been conducted investigating the distribution of seabirds around SGSSI, using at-sea survey and tracking data for all ACAP species breeding on the Territory. The data was provided by BAS. The project investigated the oceanographic and biological drivers of seabird distribution (e.g. bathymetry, oceanographic and fishing effort), and resulted in the identification and delineation of foraging hotspots that should be considered for special protection and management intervention. The study found that the SGSSI Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was important year-round, including periods when fishing is currently permitted, and that the Falkland Islands EEZ was important particularly for wandering albatrosses during incubation (mid December to March) (Figure 2). It also indicates that the CCAMLR Marine Protected Area at the South Orkney Islands currently protects very little habitat used by these species during the breeding season. An area directly to the north of the existing MPA is, however, highly used. A small proportion of the area of greatest use by these species overlaps with a region not currently under the jurisdiction of any management body (including RFMOs and national jurisdictions). This area was amongst those of greatest importance to wandering albatrosses during incubation (late December to early March) and grey-headed albatrosses during incubation (mid October to late December).

With funding from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) a study was undertaken by BAS and GSGSSI in 2010-11 (BAS, 2012) to determine the spatial overlap between the winter krill fishery and the distribution of foraging predators and fish larvae in South Georgia waters. The project focused on the potential interactions between higher predators, such as marine mammals and seabirds including ACAP species, and the krill fishery at South Georgia, as well as the possible interactions this fishery may have with other fish stock through the by-catch of larval fish. This work formed part of a larger programme of marine studies that led to the establishment of an MPA in the South Georgia Maritime Zone.

6.2 ACAP requirements for foraging and range areas, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

6.2.1 Summary of completed actions:

4. Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels (at sea) (Art III 1d).

- Existing tracking data for all seven ACAP species breeding at South Georgia has been analysed to identify gaps in knowledge and identify where further work may be necessary. This was done with reference to stage of breeding cycle (prelaying exodus, incubation, brooding, chick-rearing) and status (sex, breeding/nonbreeding adult, juvenile, fledgling etc) and by breeding site.
- A pilot study on diet sampling was conducted prior to the full programme being implemented.
- As part of the diet sampling programme, northern and southern giant petrels were sampled in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

6.2.2 ACAP requirements for foraging and range areas, and associated planned actions:

I). Conserve and, where feasible and appropriate restore, those (marine) habitats, which are of importance to albatrosses and petrels (Art III, 1a).

- a) New: Developing cross-territory collaboration with Falkland Island research to better understand areas of importance for ACAP species at sea in the wider region.
- b) On going: support for new projects and initiatives designed to better understand albatross and petrel ecology and interactions with human activities.

II). Develop management plans for important areas at sea (AP 2.3.2).

- a) New: SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed. Recommendations resulting from this review will be highlighted in the MPA Management Plan 2018-2022 including a strategy for implementation.

III). Develop and implement measures to prevent, remove, minimise or mitigate the adverse effects of activities that may influence the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels (at sea). These include appropriate use of environmental impact assessment (Art III 1c; AP 3.1).

- a) New: SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed. Recommendations resulting from this review will be highlighted in the MPA Management Plan 2018-2022 including a strategy for implementation.
- b) Ongoing: All activities are preceded by an environmental assessment which is proportional to the likely impact

IV). Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels (at sea) (Art III 1d).

- a) Ongoing: Continue BAS remote-tracking programme at Bird Island, systematically updating and filling gaps in a prioritised manner.
- b) Ongoing: Ensure all tracking data are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database.
- c) Ongoing: Seek opportunities (BAS) to collaborate with researchers and institutions involved with tracking work on ACAP species at other sites and thus contribute to regional and global assessments and/or reviews of albatross and petrel distribution and overlap with fisheries. Refer to the three SGSSI individual species Conservation Action Plans for detailed actions for tracking studies to analyse the spatio-temporal overlap of SGSSGI birds and fishing effort.
- d) Ongoing: Continue the diet sampling programme at Bird Island. Consider a wider diet sampling programme at other locations.
- e) New: Consider the spatial gaps that have been identified in the tracking data (i.e. sites other than Bird Island where tracking would be useful), and attempt to fill these if considered priorities. See also the SGSSI black-browed, wandering, and grey-headed albatross Conservation Action Plans.

V). *Contribute to the UK report to the Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee and to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically, the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:*

- a) reviews to characterise, on the best available evidence, the foraging range (and principal feeding areas within this range) and migration routes and patterns, of populations of albatrosses and petrels;*
 - b) reviews of data on the distribution and seasonality of fishing effort in fisheries which affect albatrosses and petrels;*
 - c) identification of information gaps as part of the above reviews, with a view to addressing these in future priorities.*
- Ongoing: Ensure all tracking data are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database and to ACAP.
 - Ongoing: Submit all data to the ACAP co-ordinator as and when requested, in order to contribute to the annual UK ACAP report.

7. FISHERY-RELATED ISSUES

The management of seabird-fisheries interactions, particularly the reduction of incidental mortality of seabirds in longline and trawl fisheries, is critical for ACAP in achieving its objectives. The waters around South Georgia are especially important for albatrosses and petrels, with colonies at approximately 50 locations on mainland South Georgia and the offshore islands including the South Sandwich Islands. Given the wide-ranging nature of albatrosses and petrels, fisheries activities in waters beyond those managed by GSGSSI pose a significant threat to populations that breed on South Georgia, particularly during migration and when not breeding. The management of these threats – both on the high seas and in the jurisdictional waters of other nations – requires concerted international action.

7.1 Background to fisheries-related issues at South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

A territorial sea of 12 nautical miles around SGSSI has been enforced since 1989 by The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) Order 1989. In response to the development of an unregulated fishery in waters beyond the 12 nautical mile territorial zone, and as a conservation measure to support the implementation of CCAMLR, a Maritime Zone of 200 nautical miles (Figure 1.1) was proclaimed around SGSSI in 1993. Since then, increased patrolling and a number of successful arrests of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels has vigorously deterred IUU fishing. GSGSSI charters a dedicated vessel, the *Pharos SG*, which patrols the Maritime Zone throughout the year.

The fisheries around SGSSI are regulated through measures set by GSGSSI, which include those set by CCAMLR and additional more precautionary domestic policy. The main aim of the GSGSSI fisheries policy is 'To manage SGSSI fisheries to the highest international standards of operation, stewardship and sustainability' (GSGSSI and FCO, 2015). The area covered by CCAMLR is divided into a number of different management units, or 'statistical areas' (Figure 7.1). The Maritime Zone around SGSSI falls within CCAMLR Subareas 48.3 (South Georgia), 48.4 (South Sandwich Islands), and extends into Subarea 48.2 (Figure 7.1). Only CCAMLR notified scientific fishing activity is permitted to take place in subarea 48.2, or any area south of 60°S in 48.4..

The sustainable management of SGSSI fisheries is underpinned by fisheries research and assessment carried out on behalf of GSGSSI by BAS and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (Cefas). Cefas provides advice to GSGSSI on fisheries assessment and management issues. BAS carries out applied fisheries research on commercial species at King Edward Point. Data from this research are used by Cefas for stock assessment analysis and population modelling, the results of which are used by GSGSSI to inform the setting of fisheries catch limits.

CCAMLR conducts a risk assessment of all fisheries to minimise the deleterious effects of fisheries activities on seabirds, and assigns a risk rating for each Subarea (Waugh *et al.*, 2008). Subarea 48.3 currently has a risk rating of five (SC-CAMLR, 2008), the highest on the scale, and one which requires strict compliance with a number of legally binding seabird bycatch Conservation Measures. Compliance with these measures is monitored by a

combination of CCAMLR scientific observers, GSGSSI scientific observers, GSGSSI compliance officers, and Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Officers. Subareas 48.2 and 48.4 have risk ratings of four (average to high) and three (average) respectively (SC-CAMLR, 2008).

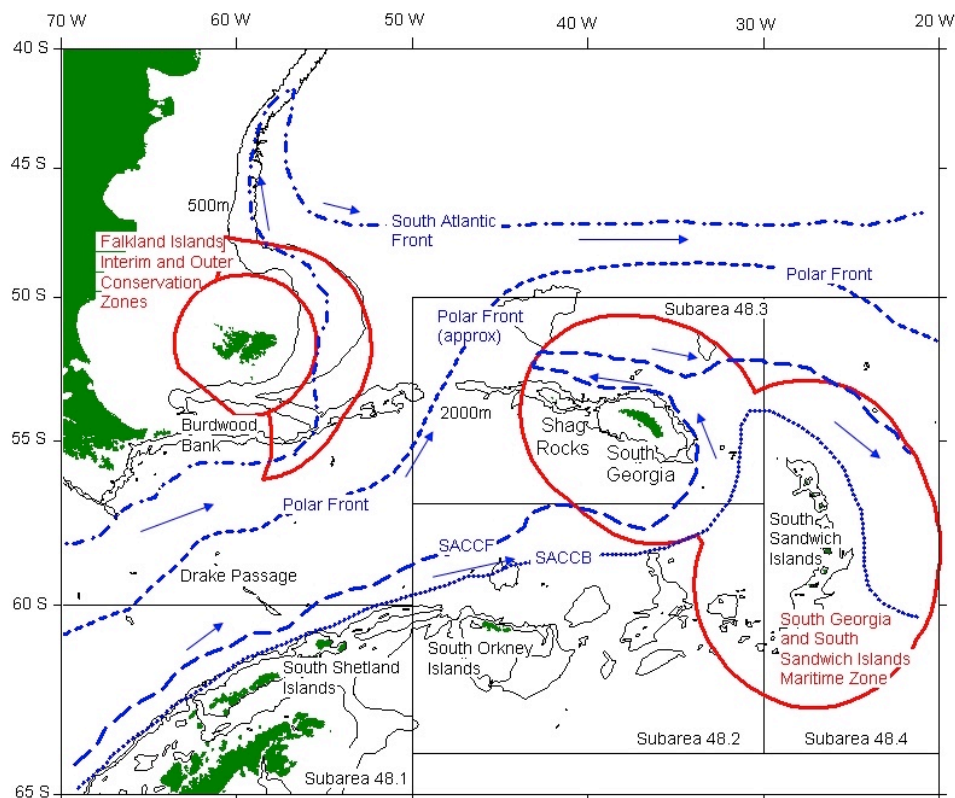


Figure 3: Location of the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone in relation to the CCAMLR Subareas.

7.1.2 Current management and seabird bycatch mitigation measures

All Parties to ACAP are required to submit annually seabird bycatch and associated fisheries data by means of an online reporting template. Data are reported per fishery, which for GSGSSI are the following:

- i) demersal longline fishery for Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides*,
- ii) trawl fishery for Antarctic krill *Euphausia superba*, and
- iii) trawl fishery for mackerel icefish *Champscephalus gunnari* in CCAMLR 48.3.

Patagonian toothfish

CCAMLR requires all vessels fishing for toothfish to have 100% coverage by an international observer while the vessel is fishing in GSGSSI jurisdictional waters. Seabird bycatch rates in this fishery have been reduced from unacceptably high levels in the mid 1990s to virtually zero in the period 2004 to 2013. This was due largely to the prescription by CCAMLR of a range of mandatory bycatch mitigation measures that have been implemented with co-operation and support from the fishing industry. The annual bycatch rate remained at virtually zero until 2014 when 74 white-chinned petrels were caught in one single mortality event on a single longline set during the season extension of 6-16th April 2014. CCAMLR

have highlighted that this was a single incident, demonstrating the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures (SC CAMLR Report 33, 2014). This event resulted in a reduction of the fishing season by 2 weeks at the start of the season.

In the first two weeks of the toothfish 2015/16 fishery season in 48.3, 28 white chin petrel mortalities were recorded by CCAMLR observers, the majority, 23, occurring on 28th April. The mortalities occurred across two vessels operating in different areas of 48.3 and were as a result of direct interactions with the fishing gear during line setting. Both vessels were operating within compliance. Concurrently, there were a larger than normal number of non-fatal bird strikes on another vessel, with the majority again occurring on 28th April.

Although reasons for these mortalities are not clear at this time, a number of explanations are being investigated, including 1) a chance occurrence due to late season migration; 2) nutrition-related stress; 3) correlations with lunar phase or weather patterns, or 4) a combination of these factors.

All recovered birds were frozen and will be analysed by a specialist for nutritional condition in addition to usual data collection, and a report will be presented.

Management of hooks in this fishery is strictly monitored. GSGSSI require operators to mark hooks that uniquely identify their vessel. Monitoring of marine debris and fishing gear associated with seabird nests and adults has been carried out annually by BAS scientists at Bird Island since 1993/1994 and at Albatross and Prion Island by GSGSSI in collaboration with South Georgia Surveys. GSGSSI are currently working with CCAMLR in expanding this program in all Antarctic longline fisheries.

Antarctic krill

GSGSSI has introduced enhanced observer requirements beyond those prescribed by CCAMLR by requiring all vessels fishing for krill to have an international or GSGSSI observer for at least part of the period the vessel is fishing in GSGSSI jurisdictional waters. Seabird bycatch is at zero in this fishery, and has been for many years.

Mackerel icefish

CCAMLR requires all vessels fishing for icefish to have 100% coverage by an international observer while the vessel is fishing in GSGSSI jurisdictional waters. Seabird bycatch is historically low in this fishery, and has been at virtually zero since 2010.

Marine Stewardship Council

Two GSGSSI fisheries have been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as well managed and sustainable:

- The toothfish fishery was certified in March 2004 and recertified without conditions in 2009 and 2014.
- The icefish fishery was certified in October 2010 and recertified in 2016.

International Plan of Action-Seabirds

BirdLife International completed an International Plan of Action-Seabirds (IPOA-S) assessment of the seabird bycatch associated with the toothfish, icefish and krill fisheries around GSGSSI (Varty *et al.*, 2008). The assessment confirmed previous findings that seabird

bycatch in all three fisheries is negligible, and that there is consequently no need currently to develop a National Plan of Action-Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds) for these fisheries. The report highlights that the reduction of seabird bycatch in the toothfish fishery provides a model of best practice in seabird bycatch management of use to other fisheries and administrations. This presents an opportunity for GSGSSI to share its knowledge and experience with others, as stated as Objective 2 in the SGSSI Biodiversity Action Plan (SGSSI BAP).

Seabird bycatch

In spite of the ongoing successes in reducing seabird bycatch within the SGSSI Maritime Zone to negligible levels, many of the South Georgia albatross and petrel populations are in decline (Table 2.1).

Sustained declines of these populations have almost certainly resulted from incidental mortality in longline and trawl fisheries operating outside the SGSSI Maritime Zone (Figure 7.2, using the example of wandering albatross), particularly during migration and when not breeding. Consequently, the main conservation challenges for these species breeding at SGSSI relate to reducing seabird bycatch, particularly:

- outside the SGSSI Maritime Zone (especially as a result of IUU fishing in other parts of the CCAMLR area), and
- to the north of the CCAMLR region.

GSGSSI has a considerable amount of expertise in fisheries management and seabird bycatch mitigation. It would be very useful to share this knowledge and work collaboratively (SGSSI BAP Objective 2). This can be achieved via ACAP by influencing fishing companies, governments, and authorities working in these relevant waters, in order to improve decision making and provide best practise advice, as outlined in the following paragraphs by the ACAP RFMO strategy.

7.1.3 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, International Commissions, ACAP, and collaborative working

The ability to assess and monitor impacts of fisheries on seabird populations is dependent on the quantity and quality of data collected by observer programmes within RFMOs, and this remains an important area to address. ACAP's SBWG suggests that the development and implementation of methods to assess and review the effectiveness of mitigation regulations is also urgently required.

ACAP's SBWG works to assess negative interactions between fisheries activities and albatrosses and petrels. The SBWG and ACAP's Advisory Committee (AC) have developed (and maintain) technical information and bycatch mitigation factsheets to assist Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), and other relevant international and national bodies to reduce seabird bycatch.

- Updates and amendments to this technical information should be utilised by GSGSSI to update the SGSSI fisheries license obligations and mitigation requirements

The SBWG and AC developed a strategy to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant bodies on this issue. The ACAP RFMO engagement strategy aims to facilitate a coordinated approach amongst ACAP Parties to improve seabird conservation measures within RFMOs.

ACAP representatives have been appointed to coordinate engagement at a significant proportion of RFMO meetings. Collaborative working by ACAP and others engaging with RFMOs has resulted in the adoption and implementation of a range of bycatch mitigation measures.

It is the UK, and not GSGSSI, who is party to RFMOs. As such, the UK represents SGSSI and other UKOTs within these RFMOs. Linkages must be maintained through joined-up action from the UK Government and ACAP with RFMOs to ensure progress. GSGSSI can contribute to and benefit from the ACAP RFMO strategy through the annual provision of their data and sharing of knowledge and expertise, in accordance with SGSSI BAP Objective 2.

ACAP has formalised engagement with certain RFMOs and relevant bodies through the signing of MoUs. Of note for GSGSSI (Figure 4) are:

- The existing MoUs with CCAMLR and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),
- A MoU with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), which ACAP has developed, continues to progress.

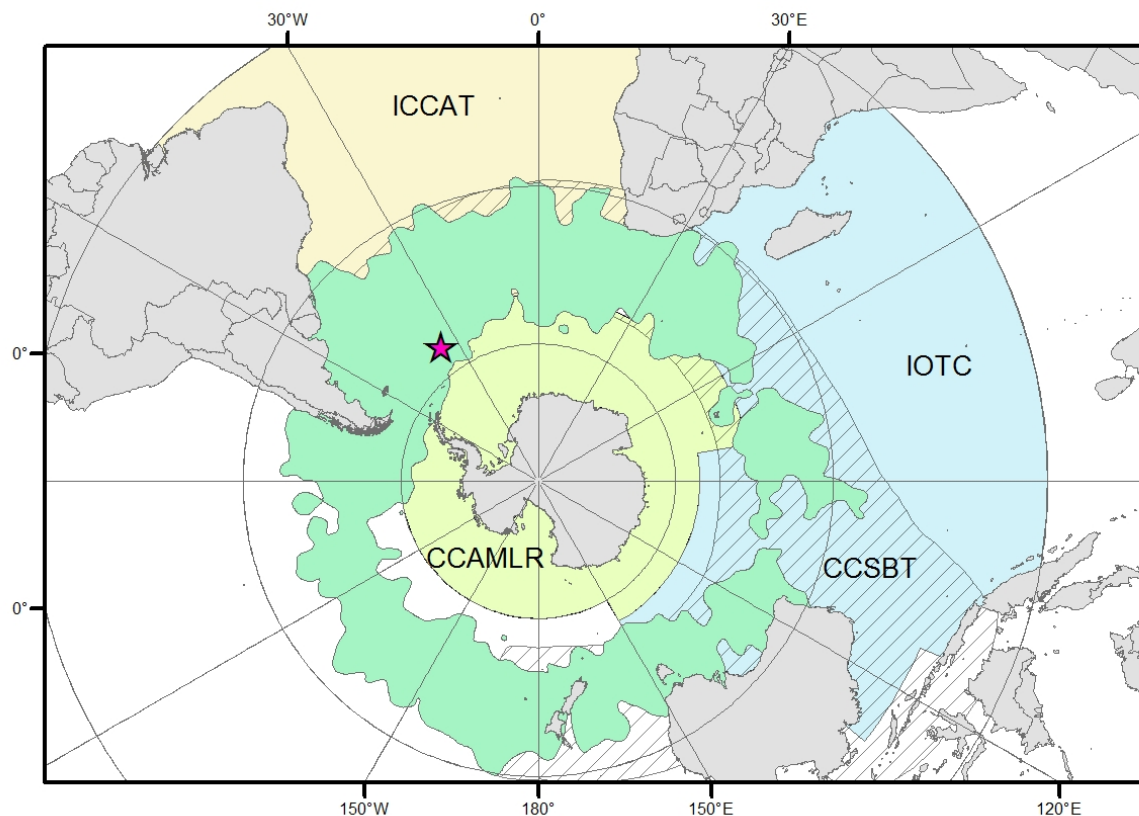


Figure 4: Distribution of wandering albatross from South Georgia during the non-breeding period (green) in relation to the most relevant RFMOs and fisheries management areas with which they overlap. SGSSI (red star), CCAMLR (pale green), CCSBT (hatched lines), ICCAT (yellow), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (blue). Bird distribution data are from, and map compiled by, British Antarctic Survey.

7.1.4 Additional at-sea issues

The EU Action Plan for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Fisheries was adopted in November 2012 (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/seabirds/consultation_document_en.pdf). The plan, which was informed by the FAO Best Practice Technical guidelines, is important for SGSSI and the other UKOTs, as it applies to EU flagged vessels fishing outside the EU, including areas in the southern ocean where SGSSI birds forage. However, in April 2013 the EU Council of Ministers failed to endorse the implementation of the Community Plan of Action. Given the importance of EU flagged vessels (including distant water fleets, such as those in the southern ocean) for ACAP species, securing the support of the EU Council and subsequent implementation of the plan is an important step towards reducing seabird bycatch associated with EU vessels, wherever they operate.

Bird strike is a phenomenon that can occur as a result of birds being attracted to artificial lights on ships and vessels, resulting in a collision with the vessel. This can result in physical injury or mortality. Poor visibility conditions, such as fog or snow, can exacerbate incidents of bird strike. Bird strikes are recorded by some (but not all) vessels operating in the waters of SGSSI. GSGSSI generally receive these records via the post-visit reports that vessels make, and details include the location and time of the incident, weather conditions, the bird species involved, and numbers of dead birds and/or numbers of birds released alive.

SGSSI policy for the prevention of marine pollution is based on Annex IV (Prevention of Marine Pollution) of the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, and all vessels in the SGSSI Maritime Zone have to comply with MARPOL regulations.

- Compliance is monitored by a combination of CCAMLR observers, South Georgia fisheries observers, and GSGSSI officers.
- GSGSSI is presently investigating the possibility of limiting the transport and use of heavy fuel oil in SGSSI waters, and the extent to which this could be included in the revised conservation legislation.

The number of passengers allowed onboard vessels visiting SGSSI is currently restricted to 500. The aim of this policy is to restrict the size of vessels in SGSSI waters and thus reduce the extent and severity of potential impacts, such as oil spillage, should an accident occur.

7.2 ACAP requirements for fisheries-related issues, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

7.2.1 Summary of completed actions:

- ACAP have developed and implemented an RFMO engagement strategy. The UK (with SAOTs represented) actively participated in this work.
- ACAP has successfully engaged with CCSBT and seabird conservation measures have been adopted (although these are not binding).

7.2.2 ACAP requirements for fisheries-related issues and associated planned actions:

A multi-pronged approach is required to eliminate or minimise bycatch of SGSSI albatrosses and petrels. This approach includes work being done directly by GSGSSI, the work done directly by ACAP, the work that all SAOTs including SGSSI contribute to via the UK, and the collaborative work to encourage and influence RFMOs. It is important that GSGSSI and CCAMLR maintain rigorous management and monitoring of the various fisheries within Subareas 48.3 and 48.4, as well as collaboration on the entire CCAMLR area to ensure full compliance with conservation and other measures and so prevent increases in bycatch levels. As most mortality is now taking place north of the CCAMLR area, it is especially important that organisations and countries responsible for fisheries management in these areas are encouraged and assisted by ACAP and GSGSSI to reduce and ultimately eliminate seabird bycatch. In this respect, the success of the CCAMLR model can be used as a case study of effective adaptive management of the seabird bycatch problem.

Many of the planned actions that have been identified below are collaborative or would require GSGSSI to provide or share data / information as part of the UK. GSGSSI, as with the other SAOTs, contribute to the work of ACAP as part of the UK, therefore the contribution of SGSSI data is necessary for the whole UK picture. Collaboration and knowledge-sharing is Objective 2 in the GSGSSI Biodiversity Action Plan.

I). Develop management plans for important areas at sea (AP 2.3.2).

- a) New: SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed (see actions in Section 6.2). Recommendations resulting from this review will be highlighted in the MPA Management Plan 2018-2022 including a strategy for implementation.

II). Ensure sustainability of marine living resources that provide food for albatrosses and petrels (AP 2.3.1 a).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to monitor and review the fisheries catch limits for krill, an important food source for SGSSI birds (see Section 6.1).

III). Take appropriate operational, management and other measures to reduce or eliminate the mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting incidentally from fishing activities (AP 3.2.1).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality.
- b) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch.

IV). Adopt measures agreed in other fora for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea].

- a) Ongoing: Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality.
- b) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch.

V). Help to ensure others adopt measures agreed in other fora for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea]. Take all measures to eliminate IUU fishing (AP 3.2.2).

- a) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy.
- b) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs.
- c) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties (and EU members) to improve bycatch data collection and reporting by relevant RFMOs of which the UK/EC are members or associated parties.
- d) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird bycatch within their own EEZs.
- e) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch.
- f) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies operating in adjacent South Atlantic waters to encourage proper implementation of seabird bycatch measures. Companies fishing in the High Seas of the SW Atlantic, embarking from the Falkland Islands, provide an opportunity for such engagement.
- g) New: Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area.

VI). Support the implementation of the actions elaborated in the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, which complement the objectives of this Agreement (Art III 1h).

- a) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy.
- b) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs.
- c) Ongoing: Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality.
- d) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird bycatch within their own EEZs.

- e) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch.
- f) Ongoing: Work with fishing companies operating in adjacent South Atlantic waters to encourage proper implementation of seabird bycatch measures. Companies fishing in the High Seas of the SW Atlantic, embarking from the Falkland Islands, provide an opportunity for such engagement.
- g) New: Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area.

VII). Tackle/avoid pollution (AP 2.3.1 b).

- a) New: Produce a standardised template and record incidents of oiled birds at colonies or at sea.
- b) New: Investigate options to ban or further regulate the carriage of heavy fuel oil in SGSSI MZ

VIII). Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea] (Art III 1d).

- a) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy.
- b) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs.
- c) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird bycatch within their own EEZs.
- d) New: Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area.

IX). Collect reliable and verifiable data on interactions with fisheries (AP 4.2).

- a) Ongoing: GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties (and EU members) to improve bycatch data collection and reporting by relevant RFMOs of which the UK/EC are members or associated parties.
- b) Ongoing: Collect longline hooks and snoods from albatross nests at Bird Island to ascertain their origin
- c) Ongoing: GSGSSI to collaborate with CCAMLR and others as necessary to expand the programme of using marked fishing hooks to all Antarctic longline fisheries.
- d) Ongoing: GSGSSI to provide information to assist with the update of ACAP / BirdLife bycatch mitigation factsheets.
- e) New: Review the information that is currently collected by the GSGSSI scientific fisheries observers, and review how this data is utilised by GSGSSI.
- f) New: Review the information on incidents of bird strike that is currently requested from vessels operating in SGSSI waters, make improvements to and standardise the information collected, and oblige all vessels to complete these reports.

X). Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the

Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:

- a. identification and assessment of known and suspected threats affecting albatrosses and petrels [at sea];*
 - b. identification of existing and new methods by which these threats may be avoided or mitigated;*
 - c. reviews, and updating on a regular basis, of data on the mortality of albatrosses and petrels in, inter alia, commercial, and other relevant fisheries;*
 - d. reviews of data on the distribution and seasonality of effort in fisheries which affect albatrosses and petrels;*
 - e. reviews of the nature of, coverage by, and effectiveness of, protection arrangements for albatrosses and petrels [at sea].*
- a) Ongoing: Ensure that the seabird bycatch reporting requirements of ACAP are met. Determine the most efficient method of obtaining the relevant data from CCAMLR (where all SGSSI bycatch and observer data are held) for ACAP reporting purposes.
 - b) Ongoing: GSGSSI to provide information to assist with the update of ACAP / BirdLife bycatch mitigation factsheets.

8. DATA ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT

ACAP requires Parties to contribute to the development and implementation of systems for collecting, analysing and curating a range of data, as well as exchanging information. The ACAP Secretariat has developed a relational database and online reporting templates for the submission of data on breeding sites, population status and trends, seabird bycatch and associated fisheries information, all of which are accessed by means of a web portal (<http://data.acap.aq/>). The centralised storage and management of these data is a requirement of the Action Plan of the Agreement, and enables regular monitoring and review of the collective success of Parties in addressing the main objective of the Agreement (i.e. to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels). These data and information are also used for the compilation of ACAP Species Assessments, and for education and public awareness purposes. Parties are required to update data at least annually. The web portal can be used to update data throughout the year, but a deadline is set by the Secretariat prior to each Advisory Committee meeting so that Party Implementation Reports incorporate the most recent data.

The ACAP Action Plan requires the Advisory Committee to review and update regularly data on mortality of albatrosses and petrels in commercial and artisanal fisheries (Action Plan 5.1 (f)). Bycatch trends for ACAP species will serve as a performance indicator of the Agreement. Consequently, Parties are required to submit these data, in a standardised manner, to the ACAP Secretariat as part of their annual reporting (see Section 7).

8.1 Current status of ACAP data management at South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

The South Georgia Geographical Information System (GIS) was commissioned by GSGSSI and developed by BAS Mapping and Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC). The South Georgia GIS is a spatial management tool, a component of which is available online to the public to learn more about the geography and environment of South Georgia. The databases within the GIS are now used by GSGSSI as the central storage mechanism for all environmental and cultural-historical data of South Georgia. Much of the albatross and petrel data collected by BAS and SGS have already been incorporated into the South Georgia GIS.

A consortium of MRAG (UK) and CapFish (South Africa) provide scientific observers to GSGSSI. All fisheries-related data (fishing effort, observer coverage, seabird-fisheries interactions) are stored in a GSGSSI data portal maintained by BAS, analysed by GSGSSI science partners, BAS and Cefas, and provided data to CCAMLR and ACAP on an annual basis and/or as required.

The current list of ACAP breeding sites for SGSSI is made up of 46 separate sites, 39 of which comprise islands or island groups, and the remaining seven comprise the different regions of the mainland of South Georgia (Appendix 3).

8.2 ACAP requirements for data acquisition and management, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

8.2.1 Summary of completed actions:

3. Collaborate to develop systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information (Art V a).

- South Georgia GIS was built, and the portal delivered via the South Georgia website.
- SGS have produced a set of wildlife and habitat survey protocols which provides a useful template for the ongoing collection of population and breeding data. This is used to guide the collection and curation / management of population status and trends and breeding sites management and threat data, to ensure that methods are standardised and compatible with the South Georgia GIS.
- All historical and recent data on albatrosses and petrels (together with associated habitat data) has been incorporated into the South Georgia GIS.

8.2.2 ACAP requirements for data acquisition and management, and associated planned actions:

I. Collect reliable and verifiable data on interactions with fisheries (AP 4.2).

- a) Ongoing: Utilise the formal protocols produced for the collection and management of data to ensure that methods are standardised and compatible with the South Georgia GIS.
- b) Ongoing: Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI.
- c) Ongoing: Continue to supply data on seabird bycatch as required for ACAP reporting.

II). Exchange information and results from albatross and petrel, and other relevant, conservation programmes (Art III 1g).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to routinely submit all albatross, petrel and associated habitat data into the South Georgia GIS, and ensure any outstanding data is also identified and submitted.
- b) Ongoing: Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI.
- c) Ongoing: Maintain the bibliographic database of published research (scientific papers and reports) carried out at SGSSI.

III). Collaborate to develop systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information (Art V a).

- a) Ongoing: Continue to routinely submit all albatross, petrel and associated habitat data into the South Georgia GIS, and ensure any outstanding data is also identified and submitted.
- b) Ongoing: Utilise the formal protocols produced for the collection and management of data to ensure that methods are standardised and compatible with the South Georgia GIS.

- c) Ongoing: Maintain the bibliographic database of published research (scientific papers and reports) carried out at SGSSI.

IV). Exchange information regarding adoption and enforcement of legislative and other management approaches to conservation of albatrosses and petrels (Art V b).

- a) Ongoing: Share expertise with ACAP and other ACAP Parties, as requested.

V). Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:

- a) assessments and reviews of the status of populations of albatrosses and petrels, including an assessment of population trends of the species, especially those in poorly known areas and of species for which few data are available;*
 - b) reviews, and updating on a regular basis, of data on the mortality of albatrosses and petrels in, inter alia, commercial, and other relevant fisheries;*
 - c) reviews of data on the distribution and seasonality of effort in fisheries which affect albatrosses and petrels;*
 - d) reviews of the status at breeding sites of introduced animals, plants and disease-causing organisms known or believed to be detrimental to albatrosses and petrels; identification of gaps in information as part of the above reviews, with a view to addressing these as future priorities.*
- a) Ongoing: Ensure that updated population status and trends and breeding site management data are submitted to ACAP on a regular (ideally annual) basis.
 - b) Ongoing: Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI.
 - c) Ongoing: Continue to supply data on seabird bycatch as required for ACAP reporting.

9. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Dissemination of information and targeted training and awareness programmes are crucial to promote and support the objectives of ACAP. It is also important that efforts in this area are coordinated, and that information, lessons learnt and experience are exchanged and shared between ACAP Parties and other target audiences to maximise the benefits of education and awareness building initiatives.

9.1 Current status of education and awareness work at South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

As there is no resident population, education and awareness initiatives are targeted at visitors (including temporary research and management staff) and fishers. The GSGSSI website (www.gov.gs) is updated regularly with information, reports and news stories, and contains resources aimed at increasing general awareness of the importance of South Georgia, as well as providing guidelines and information for those visiting the islands (e.g. information for visitors booklet, site-specific visitor management plans, biosecurity requirements etc). The South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Strategy 2016-2020, and the Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020 have both been published on the website. Once complete, the individual Conservation Action Plans for black-browed, wandering, and grey-headed albatross will also be available on the website. The South Georgia GIS is available online as a visualisation tool, enabling the public to make use of an interactive map with information about a broad range of physical and biological features, including the distribution of distinct albatross and petrel colonies.

Staff members of GSGSSI deliver annual presentations to IAATO on tourist management policies, and also hold an annual fisheries science meeting with industry representatives. ACAP meetings present opportunities for GSGSSI staff to present new research, to collaborate and contribute to work as appropriate, participate in discussions, and to share knowledge (as per Objective 2 of the SGSSI BAP). A book on South Georgia fisheries including issues of seabird conservation was published in 2004 (Agnew, 2004). A Visitor's Guide to South Georgia: Second Edition, which highlights the key conservation issues, was published in 2012 (Poncet and Crosbie, 2012), and is made available to all visitors. A consortium of MRAG and CapFish are responsible for the fisheries observer programme at SGSSI, and carry out comprehensive training programmes and workshops for prospective observers.

The BAS website (www.bas.ac.uk) provides general information about South Georgia and Bird Island, as well as updated details of research programmes and findings, which feature regularly in the UK press, and in high-profile scientific journals. Public awareness of, appreciation and support for SGSSI and their conservation values are further promoted by the SGHT (www.sght.org), the South Georgia Association (www.southgeorgiaassociation.org), educational films, media coverage, exhibitions and books. GSGSSI and all of the above organisations maintain active Twitter accounts for highlighting wildlife and other island initiatives and news.

The use of remote technologies are often used to raise awareness of wildlife to wider audiences. This can be particularly useful in raising awareness to the general public, most of

whom would otherwise not see species which exist in extreme or remote locations, such as those found on SGSSI. There is an opportunity here for GSGSSI to consider the use of such technologies, e.g. webcams, to highlight the threats faced by ACAP species at SGSSI. This would raise the profile of GSGSSI and the work being conducted, and raise interest in conservation efforts.

9.2 ACAP requirements for education, previously completed actions, and planned actions for this current period

9.2.1 Summary of completed actions

None

9.2.1 ACAP requirements for education and associated planned actions:

I) Exchange information and results from albatross and petrel, and other relevant, conservation programmes (Art III 1g).

- a) Ongoing: Promote the objectives of ACAP through the fora and mechanisms available.
- b) New: GSGSSI staff are encouraged to attend ACAP meetings to present work being conducted.
- c) Ongoing: Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia).
- d) New: Promote the three individual species Conservation Action Plans on the GSGSSI and ACAP websites.
- e) New: Promote the work achieved through the three individual species Conservation Action Plans (as well as this ACAP Plan).

II) Undertake exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge (Art V f).

- a) New: GSGSSI staff are encouraged to attend ACAP meetings to present work being conducted.
- b) Ongoing: Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia).
- c) New: Promote the work achieved through the three individual species Conservation Action Plans (as well as this ACAP Plan).

III). Ensure the existence and appropriateness of training for, inter alia, the implementation of conservation measures (Art III 1e)

- a) Ongoing: Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia), including for training of scientific observers in those countries.

IV). Develop and implement training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting albatrosses and petrels (Art V e).

- a) Ongoing: Continue the fisheries observer training programme and workshops.

V). Develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of albatross and petrel conservation issues (Art III 1f).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.
- b) Ongoing: Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes.

VI). Implement education and awareness programmes for users of areas where albatrosses and petrels may be encountered (Art V c).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.
- b) Ongoing: Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes.

VII). Design and implement comprehensive programmes for public information in relation to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels (Art V d).

- a) Ongoing: Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.
- b) New: Consider the installation of webcam(s) at an albatross colony or colonies, to raise public awareness and education.
- c) Ongoing: Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes.

VIII). Promote the objectives of this Agreement and develop and maintain coordinated and complementary working relationships with all relevant international, regional and subregional bodies.

- a) Ongoing: Promote the objectives of ACAP through the fora and mechanisms available.

IX). Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the action plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report:

- a) *reviews of education and information programmes aimed at conserving albatrosses and petrels.*
- a) Ongoing: Ensure all information on education and awareness raising initiatives are submitted to ACAP on a regular (ideally annual) basis.

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The progress of this Implementation Plan should be reviewed midway through the current period to ensure continued communication among parties and ongoing assessment of the efficacy of actions directed at addressing threats. This will allow the Implementation Plan to be updated in response to review results, and for further refinement of actions and priorities, thus ensuring an adaptive management approach.

Additionally, periodic reviews will be conducted to enable GSGSSI (as well as other SAOT governments) and associated researchers to provide feedback on their ACAP-related activities. This review process will be conducted prior to ACAP Advisory Committee meetings, allowing enough time to collate the necessary information and prepare the UK ACAP Implementation Report.

Given the range of individuals and organisations involved in ACAP-related work at SGSSI, the review process will be conducted via email. The UK ACAP Coordinator will solicit the necessary inputs from stakeholders, together with representatives of GSGSSI. This will be circulated to all stakeholders for further inputs and finalisation. A revision of the Implementation Plan should be carried out once every five years.

There are no formal ACAP requirements for monitoring

11.1 Previously completed actions and planned actions for this current period

10.1.1 Summary of completed actions:

- The 2010 version of the Implementation Plan has been reviewed and a revised version produced in 2016 (this Plan).

10.1.2 Planned actions:

- Utilise a standardised template for the periodic review of the Implementation Plan that links with the progress indicators being developed by ACAP, with inputs from all stakeholders, in order to prepare the UK report to the Secretariat.
- Review progress of the Implementation Plan midway through the period, to review results and refine actions and priorities in order to update the Plan. Carry out a full revision of the Plan every five years.

11. CAPACITY

Soon after the UK ratified ACAP it was realised that there was an urgent need to coordinate better the work and reporting requirements of ACAP, both between the relevant OTs and also between the OTs and metropolitan UK. The ACAP coordinator post was thus established to help ensure a greater level of strategic engagement on cross-territory and international issues, to assist with the planning and implementation of ACAP work, to take responsibility for the reporting requirements, and thus contribute to the UK fulfilling their obligations in respect of ACAP, and indeed to biodiversity conservation objectives more broadly. The post is supported by funds from UK and OT government departments, and is based in the Falkland Islands. Funding for the post, which has since expanded in scope to include both ACAP and more general nature conservation work, has currently been committed up until September 2017. The ACAP Project Steering Group, which includes OTs and UK government departments, has highlighted the importance of the post and expressed their wish that it continues. However, many UK government departments are currently facing substantial reductions in their budgets, and the future of many programmes are uncertain at the present time.

11.1 Previously completed actions and planned actions for this current period

11.1.1 Summary of completed actions:

- GSGSSI provide an annual contribution toward the total cost of the ACAP post and project.
- An MoU exists between GSGSSI and JNCC for the ACAP Co-ordinator post for the period April 2015-March 2017.

11.1.2 Planned actions:

- a) Secure funding to ensure the duties of the ACAP co-ordinator post are fulfilled and where possible enhanced.

12. RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNDING AND PRIORITISATION

A range of organisations and individuals undertake ACAP-related work at SGSSI. This plan covers the full range of ACAP work and serves to ensure that this work is properly integrated. GSGSSI, together with the UK Government, have overall responsibility for meeting the ACAP objectives. GSGSSI will never have sufficient resources to carry out (or fund) all of the actions listed in this plan themselves. A distinction is made in Appendix 1 between three different types of actions and funding:

Actions already underway which form part of core ongoing work;
Priority actions which are currently or will be funded or implemented project funding
External work – these are actions/projects, for which at the moment there is no funding available, but which have been identified as important actions.

Priority ratings (**High, Medium, Low**) for actions in Appendix 1 are based on the following principles:

- a) links to the UK's main formal obligations of reporting to ACAP should be afforded High priority;
- b) the main focus now should be on species of worst conservation status and on actions most likely to promote improvements to conservation status;
- c) the need to focus on at-sea issues as these are the most important, the most difficult and will likely take the longest;
- d) Data and information compilation and related exercises should not be afforded High priority, unless directly related to a) above or are an essential precursor for crucial conservation action.

It is important to note that the primary objective of this plan is the conservation of ACAP species and habitats, and it is possible that something which is a Low order priority for ACAP species may be a High order priority for other components of the islands' biodiversity.

It should also be noted that priority ratings may change as more information about the population status of each species, or the threats which face them become available.

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14. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee of ACAP
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
AP	Action Plan of the ACAP Agreement
BAS	British Antarctic Survey
CAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCBST	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FCO	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GSGSSI	Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
IAATO	International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA-S	International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (recent guidelines have extended this to cover also trawl and potentially gillnet fisheries)
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee, statutory advisor to the UK Government
MoP	Meeting of the Parties of ACAP
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PaCSWG	Population and Conservation Status Working Group of ACAP's Advisory Committee
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SAOT	South Atlantic Overseas Territory (of the UK)
SBWG	Seabird Bycatch Working Group of ACAP's Advisory Committee
SGS	South Georgia Surveys
SGSSI	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
TWG	Taxonomy Working Group of ACAP's Advisory Committee

UK

United Kingdom

Appendix 1: Summary of planned actions, priority ratings, scheduling and possible funding arrangements for the South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands ACAP Implementation Plan

Refer to section 4-9 for details of the ACAP requirements. Section 12 gives details on how the priority ratings and funding categories were derived.

	Action	Importance	Timeframe	Lead organisation and possible funding
4.	BREEDING SITES			
I)	<i>Conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats that are of importance to albatrosses and petrels</i>			
	No relevant planned actions			
II)	<i>Protect breeding sites; develop and implement management plans for those sites</i>			
a)	Maintain management of tourism and other human activities impacting on breeding sites at SGSSI, in accordance with current policy	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	In accordance with the SGSSI Strategy, include ACAP breeding sites in the protected area planning process and formally designate these sites as SPAs, and publish Management Plans for each	LOW	2016-2020	GSGSSI
III)	<i>Prevent introductions, eliminate or control non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Monitor for the presence of reindeer and remove any individuals that are located.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Maintain monitoring programme for rodents, and update and refine as required.	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Maintain monitoring programme on the breeding success of birds in areas where rodents and reindeer have been eradicated. This programme will provide information on the speed and size of the recovery. Review and update the programme as necessary	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI

d)	Maintain, monitor and strengthen the current biosecurity policy preventing the introduction of pests and diseases, especially in respect of rodents and avian diseases, to and within SGSSI	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
e)	Update annually the SGSSI biosecurity handbook and ensure all visitors and service providers are compliant with the policies outlined within. Review provisions at the sites from which vessels and/or cargo transhipping to SGSSI are moored, especially at King Edward Point, South Georgia and (in collaboration with Falkland islands Government) Stanley, Falkland Islands	MEDIUM	Annual	GSGSSI
f)	Consider producing biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites where merited, such as those where outbreaks of avian cholera have occurred	LOW-MEDIUM	2017	GSGSSI
g)	Develop and implement contingency plans that set out rapid response remedial actions that should be implemented in the event of the a disease outbreak	MEDIUM	2020	GSGSSI
IV)	<i>Minimise and prevent disturbance from tourists and researchers</i>			
a)	Continue to support and strictly manage tourism at SGSSI.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Ensure that all non-standard visitor activities e.g. science, are preceded by an appropriate environmental assessment	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
V)	<i>Prohibit the deliberate taking of, or harmful interference with, albatrosses and petrels, their eggs, or their breeding sites. Exemptions are possible, but any Parties granting such exemptions shall submit full details of them to the Secretariat</i>			
a)	Continue to strictly implement the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance and ensure visitors are compliant with the wildlife code of conduct	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
VI)	<i>Develop and implement measures to prevent, remove, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects of activities that may influence the conservation status of albatrosses and</i>			

	<i>petrels. These to include appropriate use of environmental impact assessment</i>			
a)	Continue to assess impacts on ACAP species arising from planned activities on SGSSI. Implement appropriate measures to mitigate any adverse impacts that may arise. Periodically review the assessment process	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
VII)	<i>Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Continue with Albatross and Prion Island monitoring programme to determine efficacy of boardwalk on Prion Island	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI / SGS
VIII)	<i>Contribute UK information to the Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties)</i>			
a)	Utilise new information as it becomes available to assess additional breeding sites for South Georgia, and if necessary refine the formal list of ACAP breeding sites	LOW	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Utilise new information as it becomes available to ensure that all ACAP breeding sites are correctly spatially depicted in the South Georgia Geographical Information System (GIS).	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Maintain a list of islands and parts of islands from which ACAP species are known to have bred in the past, but have since been extirpated.	LOW	Ongoing	GSGSSI
d)	Continue to ensure that the reporting requirements of ACAP are met for each breeding site. Include in the threat reporting non-native mammals and their current status: eradicated or extant, or in the case of rodents, post-baiting monitoring	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
5	STATUS AND TRENDS OF POPULATIONS			
	All species			
I)	<i>Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels</i>			

a)	Publish action plans for black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross	HIGH	2017	GSGSSI
b)	Formally submit and present a paper on the 2014/15 survey of wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses at South Georgia (Poncet et al. submitted) to the ACAP Population and Conservation Status Working Group (September 2017)	MEDIUM	2017	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
c)	Assess outcomes from the research project (once completed) investigating the influence of climate and fisheries variables on black-browed, wandering and grey-headed albatross demography, and refine policies and conservation plans accordingly.	HIGH	2018	BAS, GSGSSI
II)	<i>Prepare the UK report to the ACAP Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the Action Plan and any other relevant points. Specifically the Advisory Committee aims to include in its report assessments and reviews of the status of populations of albatrosses and petrels, including an assessment of population trends of the species, especially those in poorly known areas and of species for which few data are available</i>			
a)	Submit all data when requested to ACAP and BirdLife International, in order to contribute to updates of the BirdLife International Species Factsheets (as part of the IUCN Red List process) and the ACAP Species Assessments	MEDIUM	Ongoing	ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
b)	Submit all data to the ACAP Co-ordinator as and when requested, in order to contribute to the annual UK ACAP report.	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
Wandering albatross				
III)	<i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>			
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography at Bird Island	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS

b)	Maintain annual monitoring of breeding numbers at Albatross and Prion islands and productivity at Prion Island.	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI / SGS
c)	Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census	HIGH	2025	GSGSSI
d)	If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island (Albatross or Prion islands) indicates more rapidly declining populations than at Bird Island, consider initiating a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change	MEDIUM	As required	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
e)	Conduct a survey of wandering albatross breeding at Annenkov Island within the next three years possibly including the use of remote sensing technologies	MEDIUM	BY 2020	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
Black-browed albatross				
IV)	<i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>			
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Maintain photo-survey monitoring of population trends at selected (representative) colonies on a five-yearly basis, or more frequently if feasible	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
c)	Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census	HIGH	2024	GSGSSI
d)	If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island indicates more rapidly declining	MEDIUM	As required	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL

	populations elsewhere, initiate a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change			PARTNER
Grey-headed albatross				
V)	<i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>			
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Maintain photo-survey monitoring of population trends at selected (representative) colonies on a five-yearly basis, or more frequently if feasible	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
c)	Conduct and report on a full or partial census once every 10 years. Consider the possibility of selecting representative sites around the Territory as an alternative to a full archipelago-wide census	HIGH	2024	GSGSSI
d)	If monitoring of population trends at any of the sites away from Bird Island indicates more rapidly declining populations elsewhere, initiate a second long-term demographic study to diagnose the underlying causes of the population change	MEDIUM	As required	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
Light-mantled albatross				
VI)	<i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>			
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and productivity at Bird Island.	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Identify sites that could feasibly undergo a census once every five years	MEDIUM-HIGH	2020	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
c)	Investigate methods for an archipelago-wide census to assess overall population size	MEDIUM-HIGH	2020	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER

Northern giant petrel				
VII) <i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>				
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends at Albatross (from study plots) and Prion islands (whole island). These are the only islands apart from Bird Island for which long-term data are available	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI/SGS
c)	If monitoring of population trends indicates that the Albatross and Prion island populations differ from the Bird Island population, consider initiating a second long term demographic study	MEDIUM	As required	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
Southern giant petrel				
VIII) <i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>				
a)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends and demography, and census of all colonies every 10 years at Bird Island	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Maintain annual monitoring of population trends at Albatross (from study plots) and Prion islands (whole island). These are the only islands apart from Bird Island for which long-term data are available	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI/SGS
c)	Conduct a census of populations at the South Sandwich Islands.	MEDIUM	2021	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
d)	If monitoring of population trends indicates that the Albatross and Prion island populations differ from the Bird Island population, consider initiating a second long term demographic study	MEDIUM	As required	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
White-chinned petrel				
IX) <i>Undertake relevant research and monitoring</i>				

a)	Maintain monitoring of population trends at Bird Island every five years	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Establish annual monitoring of demography at Bird Island. This would need appropriate design to distinguish movements between burrows from mortality, and monitoring protocols that involve minimum disturbance	HIGH	2020	BAS
c)	Investigate methods for an archipelago-wide census	MEDIUM-HIGH	2020	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNER
d)	Continue to monitor population changes in areas which had reindeer and rats	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
6.	FORAGING RANGE AND AREAS			
I)	<i>Conserve and, where feasible and appropriate restore, those (marine) habitats, which are of importance to albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Developing cross-territory collaboration with Falkland Island research to better understand areas of importance for ACAP species at sea in the wider region	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
b)	Support for new projects and initiatives designed to better understand albatross and petrel ecology and interactions with human activities	MEDIUM	Ongoing	
II)	<i>Develop management plans for important areas at sea</i>			
a)	SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed. Recommendations will be highlighted in the revised MPA Management Plan 2018-2022, including a strategy to implement recommendations.	HIGH	2018	GSGSSI
III)	<i>Develop and implement measures to prevent, remove, minimise or mitigate the adverse effects of activities that may influence the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels (at sea). These include appropriate use of environmental impact assessment</i>			

a)	SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed. Recommendations will be highlighted in the revised MPA Management Plan 2018-2022, including a strategy to implement recommendations.	HIGH	2018	GSGSSI
b)	All activities are preceded by an environmental assessment which is proportional to the likely impact	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
IV)	<i>Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels (at sea)</i>			
a)	Continue BAS remote-tracking programme at Bird Island, systematically updating and filling gaps in a prioritised manner	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Ensure all tracking data are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database	MEDIUM	Ongoing	BAS
c)	Seek opportunities to collaborate with researchers and institutions involved with tracking work on ACAP species at other sites and thus contribute to regional and global assessments and/or reviews of albatross and petrel distribution and overlap with fisheries. Refer to the three SGSSI individual species Conservation Action Plans for detailed actions for tracking studies to analyse the spatio-temporal overlap of SGSSGI birds and fishing effort	MEDIUM	As appropriate	BAS
d)	Continue the diet sampling programme at Bird Island. Consider a wider diet sampling programme at other locations	LOW	Ongoing	BAS
e)	Consider the spatial gaps that have been identified in the tracking data (i.e. sites other than Bird Island where tracking would be useful), and attempt to fill these if considered priorities. See also the SGSSI black-browed,	MEDIUM-HIGH	As appropriate	BAS

	wandering, and grey-headed albatross Conservation Action Plans			
V)	<i>Contribute to the UK report to the Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee and to each session of the Meeting of the Parties). The report should cover all above points as expanded upon in the Action Plan and any other relevant points</i>			
a)	Ensure all tracking data are submitted to the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database and to ACAP	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
b)	Submit all data to the ACAP co-ordinator as and when requested, in order to contribute to the annual UK ACAP report	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS, GSGSSI
7.	FISHERY-RELATED ISSUES			
I)	<i>Develop management plans for important areas at sea</i>			
a)	SG MPA is being reviewed in 2018, where efficacy of all marine management tools to protect all species, habitats and ecological processes across all marine activities will be assessed (see actions in Section 6.2). Recommendations will be highlighted in the revised MPA Management Plan 2018-2022, including a strategy to implement recommendations.	HIGH	2018	GSGSSI
II)	<i>Ensure sustainability of marine living resources that provide food for albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Continue to monitor and review the fisheries catch limits for krill, an important food source for SGSSI birds (see Section 6.1).	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, CEFAS
III)	<i>Take appropriate operational, management and other measures to reduce or eliminate the mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting incidentally from fishing activities</i>			
a)	Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, FISHING

	to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch			INDUSTRY
IV)	<i>Adopt measures agreed in other fora for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea]</i>			
a)	Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, FISHING INDUSTRY
V)	<i>Help to ensure others adopt measures agreed in other fora for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea]. Take all measures to eliminate IUU fishing</i>			
a)	GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
b)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
c)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties (and EU members) to improve bycatch data collection and reporting by relevant RFMOs of which the UK/EC are members or associated parties	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
d)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR

	bycatch within their own EEZs			
e)	Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, FISHING INDUSTRY
f)	Work with fishing companies operating in adjacent South Atlantic waters to encourage proper implementation of seabird bycatch measures. Companies fishing in the High Seas of the SW Atlantic, embarking from the Falkland Islands, provide an opportunity for such engagement	HIGH	Ongoing	FIG
g)	Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, EXTERNAL PARTNERS
VI)	<i>Support the implementation of the actions elaborated in the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, which complement the objectives of this Agreement</i>			
a)	GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy.	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR
b)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR
c)	Continue to monitor and annually review bycatch mitigation measures within SGSSI waters, and amend these as necessary to prevent and reduce seabird mortality	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
d)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR

	bycatch within their own EEZs			
e)	Work with fishing companies that operate in SGSSI and CCAMLR waters to ensure that successful mitigation of seabird bycatch by their vessels in these waters is complemented by the same measures when these and other vessels operate in other areas where there are risks of seabird bycatch	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, FISHING INDUSTRY
f)	Work with fishing companies operating in adjacent South Atlantic waters to encourage proper implementation of seabird bycatch measures. Companies fishing in the High Seas of the SW Atlantic, embarking from the Falkland Islands, provide an opportunity for such engagement	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, FIG
g)	Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area.	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, EXTENAL PARTNERS
VII)	<i>Tackle/avoid pollution</i>			
a)	Produce a standardised template and record incidents of oiled birds at colonies or at sea	LOW-MEDIUM	2017	GSGSSI
b)	Investigate options to ban or further regulate the carriage of heavy fuel oil in SGSSI MZ	MEDIUM	2017	GSGSSI
VIII)	<i>Initiate or support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels [at sea]</i>			
a)	GSGSSI to contribute when requested to the ACAP RFMO engagement strategy	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with EU ACAP Parties (France, Spain) on seabird-fisheries interactions and seabird bycatch mitigation in RFMOs	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate,	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI

	as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties to reduce seabird bycatch within their own EEZs			
d)	Collaborate with other countries/organisations to help reduce bycatch and IUU fishing in areas outside of the SGSSI Maritime Zone and the CCAMLR Convention area.	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
IX)	<i>Collect reliable and verifiable data on interactions with fisheries</i>			
a)	GSGSSI to contribute and collaborate, as required, to assist the UK's work with other ACAP Parties (and EU members) to improve bycatch data collection and reporting by relevant RFMOs of which the UK/EC are members or associated parties	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Collect longline hooks and snoods from albatross nests at Bird Island to ascertain their origin	HIGH	Ongoing	BAS
c)	GSGSSI to collaborate with CCAMLR and others as necessary to expand the programme of using marked fishing hooks to all Antarctic longline fisheries	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
d)	GSGSSI to provide information to assist with the update of ACAP / BirdLife bycatch mitigation factsheets	LOW-MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
e)	Review the information that is currently collected by the GSGSSI scientific fisheries observers, and review how this data is utilised by GSGSSI	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI, BAS, CEFAS
f)	Review the information that is currently collected by the GSGSSI scientific fisheries observers, and review how this data is utilised by GSGSSI	LOW-MEDIUM	2017	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR, BAS
X)	<i>Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties).</i>			
a)	Ensure that the seabird bycatch reporting requirements of ACAP are met. Determine the most efficient method of obtaining the relevant data	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR

	from CCAMLR (where all SGSSI bycatch and observer data are held) for ACAP reporting purposes			
b)	GSGSSI to provide information to assist with the update of ACAP / BirdLife bycatch mitigation factsheets	MEDIUM-HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
8.	DATA ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT			
I)	<i>Collect reliable and verifiable data on interactions with fisheries</i>			
a)	Utilise the formal protocols produced for the collection and management of data to ensure that methods are standardised and compatible with the South Georgia GIS.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Continue to supply data on seabird bycatch as required for ACAP reporting	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
II)	<i>Exchange information and results from albatross and petrel, and other relevant, conservation programmes</i>			
a)	Continue to routinely submit all albatross, petrel and associated habitat data into the South Georgia GIS, and ensure any outstanding data is also identified and submitted	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Update the bibliographic database of published research (scientific papers and reports) carried out at SGSSI	LOW	Ongoing	GSGSSI
III)	<i>Collaborate to develop systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information</i>			
a)	Continue to routinely submit all albatross, petrel and associated habitat	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI

	data into the South Georgia GIS, and ensure any outstanding data is also identified and submitted			
b)	Utilise the formal protocols produced for the collection and management of data to ensure that methods are standardised and compatible with the South Georgia GIS	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Maintain the bibliographic database of published research (scientific papers and reports) carried out at SGSSI	LOW	Ongoing	GSGSSI
IV)	<i>Exchange information regarding adoption and enforcement of legislative and other management approaches to conservation of albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Share expertise with ACAP and other ACAP Parties, as requested	MEDIUM	Ongoing	ALL
V)	<i>Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties</i>			
a)	Ensure that updated population status and trends and breeding site management data are submitted to ACAP on a regular (ideally annual) basis	HIGH	Annual	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
b)	Request that all researchers (data holders) conducting research and monitoring activities on albatrosses and petrels at SGSSI make this information available to GSGSSI	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
c)	Continue to supply data on seabird bycatch as required for ACAP reporting	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO-ORDINATOR
9.	EDUCATION AND AWARENESS			
l)	<i>Exchange information and results from albatross and petrel, and other relevant, conservation programmes</i>			
a)	Promote the objectives of ACAP through the fora and mechanisms available.	MEDIUM	On going	GSGSSI
b)	GSGSSI staff are encouraged to attend ACAP meetings to present work being	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI

	conducted			
c)	Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia).	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR
d)	Promote the three individual species Conservation Action Plans on the GSGSSI and ACAP websites	MEDIUM	2017 and Ongoing	GSGSSI
e)	Promote the work achieved through the three individual species Conservation Action Plans (as well as this ACAP Plan).	LOW- MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
II)	<i>Undertake exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge</i>			
a)	GSGSSI staff are encouraged to attend ACAP meetings to present work being conducted.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia).	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR
e)	Promote the work achieved through the three individual species Conservation Action Plans (as well as this ACAP Plan).	MEDIUM	2017 and Ongoing	GSGSSI
III)	<i>Ensure the existence and appropriateness of training for, inter alia, the implementation of conservation measures</i>			
a)	Share expertise and collaborate with other SAOTs and other countries whose jurisdictional waters are important for South Atlantic albatrosses and petrels (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, South Africa and Namibia), including for training of scientific observers in those countries	HIGH	Ongoing	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR
IV)	<i>Develop and implement training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting albatrosses and petrels</i>			

a)	Continue the fisheries observer training programme and workshops.	HIGH	Annually	GSGSSI
V)	<i>Develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of albatross and petrel conservation issues</i>			
a)	Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
VI)	<i>Implement education and awareness programmes for users of areas where albatrosses and petrels may be encountered</i>			
a)	Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
VII)	<i>Design and implement comprehensive programmes for public information in relation to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels</i>			
a)	Maintain the profile of SGSSI (e.g. through IAATO) as critical sites for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
b)	Consider the installation of webcam(s) at an albatross colony or colonies, to raise public awareness and education	LOW-MEDIUM	2018	GSGSSI, BAS
c)	Collaborate with other Parties and organisations in the development and implementation of regional and international education and awareness programmes	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
VIII)	<i>Promote the objectives of this Agreement and develop and maintain coordinated and complementary working relationships with all relevant international, regional and subregional bodies</i>			

a)	Promote the objectives of ACAP through the fora and mechanisms available.	MEDIUM	Ongoing	GSGSSI
IX)	<i>Contribute to UK report to Secretariat (to the Advisory Committee to each session of the Meeting of the Parties).</i>			
a)	Ensure all information on education and awareness raising initiatives are submitted to ACAP on a regular (ideally annual) basis	HIGH	Annually	GSGSSI, ACAP CO- ORDINATOR

Appendix 2: Species listed in Annex 1 of ACAP

Common name	Scientific name	IUCN Status (2016)
Amsterdam albatross	<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	Critically Endangered
Antipodean albatross	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Vulnerable
Tristan albatross	<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Critically Endangered
Southern royal albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Vulnerable
Wandering albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Vulnerable
Northern royal albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Endangered
Short-tailed albatross	<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Vulnerable
Laysan albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Near Threatened
Waved albatross	<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Critically Endangered
Black-footed albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Near Threatened
Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	Endangered
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Near Threatened
Buller's Albatross	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Near Threatened
Indian yellow-nosed albatross	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Endangered
Shy albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Near Threatened
Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Endangered
Grey-headed albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Endangered
Chatham albatross	<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Vulnerable
Campbell albatross	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Vulnerable
Black-browed albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Near Threatened
Salvin's albatross	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Vulnerable
White-capped albatross	<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	Near Threatened
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Least Concern
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Least Concern
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Vulnerable
Grey petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Near Threatened
Spectacled petrel	<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	Vulnerable
Black petrel	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Vulnerable

Appendix 3: ACAP breeding sites at South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

The species codes are as follows: BBA – black-headed albatross, GHA – grey-headed albatross, LMA – light-mantled sooty albatross, NGP – northern giant petrel, SGP – southern giant petrel, WA – wandering albatross, WCP – white-chinned petrel. Protection status: SPA – areas which have been identified as potential Specially Protected Areas, although these have not yet been enforced in law.

Island/Breeding site	Island Size (ha)	Protection status	ACAP species	Remarks
SOUTH GEORGIA				
Albatross Island	114.8	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Annenkov Island	1325	SPA	WA, BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Anvil Stacks	5.7	SPA	WCP	Two sites combined
Bernt	4.7	SPA	GHA, LMA, WCP	
Bird Island	467.9	SPA	WA, GHA, BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Bjornstadt Bay Island	1.3	SPA	LMA, WCP	Two sites combined
Cape Vakop Island	5	SPA	LMA, WCP	Two sites combined
Clerke Rocks	50	SPA	BBA	Made up of three islands
Cooper Island	424.3	SPA	BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Crescent Island	10.9	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, WCP	
Grass Island	25.6		LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	Rats have recently been eradicated
Green Island	67.2	SPA	BBA, LMA, WCP	
Hall Island	17	SPA	BBA, LMA, WCP	Made up of four islands
Harcourt Island	30.7		LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	Rats have recently been eradicated
Hauge Reef	23.3	SPA	LMA, NGP, WCP	Made up of three islands
Hogs Mouth Rocks	2.7	SPA	LMA	
Inner Lee Island	15.7	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Invisible Island	13.5	SPA	WA, LMA, SGP, WCP	
Jomfruene	4.3	SPA	GHA, WCP	Made up of three islands
Kupriyanov islands	22.9	SPA	WA, LMA, SGP, NGP, WCP	Made up of five islands
Low Rock Point island	5.6	SPA	BBA, LMA	
Main Island, Willis Island	45.3	SPA	GHA, BBA, LMA, WCP	
McCarthy Island	21.4	SPA	LMA, NGP, WCP	
Mollymawk Island	12.6	SPA	WA, LMA, SGP, WCP	
Outer Lee Island	10	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
Petrel Island	11.3	SPA	WA, LMA, WCP	
Pickersgill Islands	20.4	SPA	LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	Made up of five islands
Prion Island	50.2	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	Made up of two islands
Proud Island	9.7	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, WCP	
Right Whale Rocks	1.9	SPA	LMA, WCP	Made up of two sites
Saddle Island	103.3	SPA	WA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	Rats have recently been eradicated
Samuel Islands	18.7	SPA	WA, LMA, SGP, WCP	Made up of two islands
SkrapSkerries	9.9	SPA	LMA, WCP	
Skua Island	12.4	SPA	WA, LMA, SGP, WCP	
Sorn	2.9	SPA	LMA	
SG mainland - Barff			LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
SG mainland - Cumberland			NGP, SGP	
SG mainland - Northwest			WA, GHA, BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
SG mainland - Nunez		SPA	WA, BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	rat free areas designated SPA
SG mainland - Salvesen			LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	
SG mainland - South Coast		SPA	WA, BBA, LMA, NGP, SGP, WCP	rat free areas designated SPA
SG mainland - Stromness			NGP, SGP, WCP	

Island/Breeding site	Island Size (ha)	Protection status	ACAP species	Remarks
Tern Island	5.2	SPA	LMA, WCP	
The Guides	8.3	SPA	WCP	Made up of four islands
Trinity Island	82.3	SPA	GHA, BBA, LMA, WCP	
Verdant Island	6.7	SPA	NGP, WCP	Made up of three islands
Welcome Islands	37.8	SPA	LMA, BBA, WCP	Made up of three islands
Wirik Bay Island	5.6	SPA	LMA, WCP	
SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS				
Candlemas Island	950		SGP	
Bellingshausen Island	140		SGP?	Breeding still to be confirmed
Visokoi Island	2750		SGP?	Breeding still to be confirmed
Zavodovski Island	1400		SGP	

Appendix 4: Assessment of threats identified at ACAP breeding sites of South Georgia

Threats are included in the ACAP database when they have been identified as having a real and measurable impact upon the ACAP species listed at certain breeding sites. As such, rats and reindeer are deemed only to be a real threat to white-chinned petrels at SGSSI.

Breeding site	Key species	Nature of threat	Threat sub-category	Threat species	Scope of threat	Severity of threat	Threat magnitude (scope x severity)	Current management action
Harcourt Island	White-chinned petrel	Predation by alien species	Predation by alien species	Norway Rat	High (affects 11-100% of pop'n)	Low (likely 1-10% reduction of pop'n within 10 years)	Low	Baiting phase completed. Monitoring will continue in 2017-18.
Saddle Island*	White-chinned petrel	Predation by alien species	Predation by alien species	Norway Rat	High (affects 11-100% of pop'n)	Low (likely 1-10% reduction of pop'n within 10 years)	Low	Baiting phase completed. Monitoring will continue in 2017-18.
South Georgia (mainland)	White-chinned petrel	Habitat loss / destruction	Habitat destruction by alien species	Reindeer	High (affects 11-100% of pop'n)	Low (likely 1-10% reduction of pop'n within 10 years)	Low	The final known individuals have been removed, and reindeer are considered eradicated. Monitoring will need to continue 2016-17.
South Georgia (mainland)	White-chinned petrel	Predation by alien species	Predation by alien species	Norway Rat	High (affects 11-100% of pop'n)	Low (likely 1-10% reduction of pop'n within 10 years)	Low	Baiting phase completed. Monitoring will continue in 2017-18.

* added following the discovery of Norway rats at Saddle Island in 2006