


Pacific Seabird Action Plan



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



THEMES	OBJECTIVES
1. Research and Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data is collected, centralised and accessible. 2. Knowledge on seabird breeding, population, trends, diet and foraging distributions, ecosystem impacts, and threats is improved.
2. Climate Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerable seabird breeding sites are protected. 2. Seabird conservation is incorporated into nature-based solutions to build ecosystem resilience.
3. Ecosystems and Habitat Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical habitat for seabirds are protected. 2. Prioritise marine areas for protection to align with seabird foraging and migration hotspots.
4. Threat Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce direct and indirect land-based threats to seabirds. 2. Reduce marine-based threats to seabirds, including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
5. Cultural Significance and Value	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional knowledge, stories and customs about seabirds and their place in the cultural landscape is recorded and is incorporated accordingly into seabird related actions. 2. Traditional knowledge informs management systems.
6. Legislation, Policy and Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislation, policy and management plans include measurable outcomes for seabird conservation.
7. Ecotourism and Livelihoods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seabird related marine-based eco-tourism contributes to the local economy. 2. Restored seabird colonies improve local fisheries.
8. Capacity Building and Collaboration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity at national and community level for monitoring and management of seabird populations is increased. 2. National, regional and international collaboration is enhanced.

Research and Monitoring Actions:

1. Data is collected, centralised and accessible.

2. Knowledge on seabird breeding, population, trends, diet and foraging distributions, ecosystem impacts, and threats is improved.

- Identify existing datasets on Pacific seabirds, update and expand the Regional Seabird Colony and Tracking Database and ensure access through SPREP's Pacific Environment Portal.
- Promote **access and data submission to the portal** amongst members and partners.

- **Survey known colonies for population estimates and confirm colony status of suspected breeding sites.**
- Develop projects to **locate breeding locations** for species currently unknown.
- Identify priority species for **tracking projects** to determine at sea foraging distribution and migration
- Identify **priority species and sites for demographic and diet studies.**
- Assess colony-scale threats.
- Develop and publish a guide on standardised research and monitoring methodology.
- Encourage **Pacific island nationals to undertake post graduate studies on seabird conservation/management**

Climate change Actions:

1. Vulnerable seabird breeding sites are protected.

Investigate options for protection and/or mitigation of risks to species breeding on low-lying islands at risk from rising sea level and storm events.

2. Seabird conservation is incorporated into nature-based solutions to build ecosystem resilience.

Develop **evidence-based management plans incorporating seabird conservation to build ecosystem resilience** in both terrestrial and near-shore/coral reef environments.

Ecosystems and Habitat protection Actions:

1. Critical habitats for seabirds are protected.

2. Prioritise marine areas for protection to align with seabird foraging and migration hotspots.

- Identify and/or **restore suitable alternative seabird habitat.**
- Nationally protect these areas and/or **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, and target for protection through national/regional planning processes.
- **Develop capacity within local communities to undertake and monitor conservation management and restoration work.**
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes take account of seabird breeding sites and flyways.
- **Implement the Conservation and Management Plan of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** for seabirds and their habitats.

- **Identify priority marine areas for protection** using information from seabird tracking projects.
- Develop a network of dynamic marine protection zones for key seabird foraging areas.

Threat Reduction Actions:

1. Reduce direct and indirect land-based threats to seabirds.

- Control or **eradicate invasive alien species**
- Seabird and egg **harvest levels are appropriate** under traditional or legislative frameworks to promote recovery of depleted and declining populations.
- **Infrastructure and industry to take account of seabird attraction to lights**
- Investigate potential **stressors on seabird populations** that can contribute to outbreaks of disease.

2. Reduce marine-based threats to seabirds, including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

- **Enforce regulations** around seabird by-catch in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)
- Undertake **port-based outreach with fishing vessels** on required conservation and management measures for mitigation of seabird by-catch
- **Monitor the effectiveness of provisions within RFMOs**
- Investigate potential **indirect effects from fisheries on seabird populations**
- Monitor the nature and **incidence of plastic ingestion** in seabirds
- Quantify the **impacts of lights on seabirds** attracted to vessels and marine structures operating at night and develop methods of mitigation.

Cultural Significance and Value Actions:

1. Traditional knowledge, stories and customs about seabirds and their place in the PI cultural landscape are incorporated appropriately.

- **Work with traditional knowledge holders** to understand historical and current distribution of seabirds, long-term trends, and potential for restoration.
- **Preserve and protect the traditional knowledge** and values associated with seabirds
- Artists and artisans within the region to incorporate the significance of Pacific seabirds within their work

2. Traditional knowledge informs management systems

Integrate cultural practices, values and knowledge associated with seabirds into management plans, national policies and legislation.



Legislation, Policy, and Management Actions:

1. Legislation, policy and management plans include measurable outcomes for seabird conservation

- **Legislative mechanisms for conservation are reviewed** to assess where seabird conservation actions can be applied within existing frameworks and identify gaps.
- **Integrate seabird conservation into regional and international initiatives including the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS)**

Ecotourism and Livelihoods Actions:

1. Seabird related marine-based ecotourism contributes to the local economy

2. Restored seabird colonies improve local fisheries

- Review marine-based tourism including **economic benefits/value** and level of interest in the region's seabirds
- Identify **opportunities to support wildlife tourism** for seabirds at the community level
- Encourage tour operators to **train and employ PI nationals** as nature guides, and as boat drivers with respect to seabirds
- **Pacific island nationals to start and run marine wildlife ventures**

Collaborate with fishers to develop adaptive fishing practices where seabird restoration is occurring to demonstrate impacts on nearshore and reef fish productivity.

Capacity Building and Collaboration


Actions:

1. Capacity at national and community level for monitoring and management of seabird populations is increased.

2. National, regional, and international collaboration is enhanced.

- **Build skills and knowledge** in mapping, recording and monitoring of seabird populations, and participate in conservation programmes
- Develop **practical training modules** and/or workshops for survey methods
- Investigate options for providing **scholarships in marine science and social science relating to Pacific seabird ecology**
- Develop workshop programmes for **effective research, conservation, and management** drawing on expertise from throughout the region.
- Develop **in-country capacity to monitor existing harvesting** of seabirds to ensure sustainability.

- Encourage the **transfer of knowledge and expertise** about seabirds between projects through exchange opportunities for conservation workers
- Establish a **Pacific seabird expert advisory group**
- Enhance international cooperation for the protection of Pacific seabirds through the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).



Breakout group questions:

Are there any significant gaps or changes you would like to see in the Seabird Action Plan?

What are your greatest needs in terms of training and capacity building to undertake seabird conservation work?

Which seabird species in your countries are most at threat and what are the greatest threats to those species. How would you go about finding out?