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DEVELOPING A LISTING PROPOSAL FOR GADFLY PETRELS

(Prepared by New Zealand)

Summary:

This document informs the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Scientific Council of plans to develop a proposal to list gadfly petrel species on CMS Appendices I and II, for consideration at the 15th Conference of Parties; and encourages Range State Parties and other interested stakeholders to consider engaging in this process.

Gadfly petrels (species in the genera *Pterodroma* and *Pseudobulweria*) are a group of small migratory seabird species found in tropical and temperate regions of all ocean basins. Threats faced by gadfly petrels are predominantly land-based. According to the IUCN Red List, many are globally threatened.

Gadfly petrels are globally recognised as a group of species in need of further conservation action. Twenty-three gadfly petrel species meet the criteria for listing on CMS Appendices.

DEVELOPING A LISTING PROPOSAL FOR GADFLY PETRELS

1. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Scientific Council of plans to develop a listing proposal for gadfly petrels for consideration at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP 15); and to encourage Range State Parties and other interested stakeholders to consider engaging in this process.

Gadfly petrels

2. Gadfly petrels (species in the genera *Pterodroma* and *Pseudobulweria*) are a group of 39 small migratory seabird species found in tropical and temperate regions. Many are single-island endemic breeders, often nesting in very remote and inaccessible areas. While gadfly petrels are found in all ocean basins, many species breed in New Zealand and range throughout the Pacific region. According to the IUCN Red List, many are globally threatened.
3. While gadfly petrels include some of the rarest seabirds in the world including Chatham Island taiko, Fiji petrel and Beck's petrel, threats to these species are poorly understood. Gadfly petrels face extreme threat from invasive species, as well as other land-based threats such as habitat loss/alteration, and vulnerability due to limited numbers of known breeding sites. Climate change is expected to be a big threat to species breeding on low lying coral atolls with risks from sea level rise and more extreme storm events. Light pollution, both at sea and on land, is also a threat. A future risk to some species may be interactions with energy infrastructure such as offshore wind farms. Unlike many seabird species, fisheries interactions are not a major threat for the majority of gadfly petrels although some captures have been reported on surface longlines for the larger species.
4. For many gadfly petrel species, there is very little-known information. Although they are migratory and therefore rely on international cooperation for their conservation, most gadfly petrel species are not covered under any international instrument.
5. Both the CMS¹ and the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)² have highlighted gadfly petrels as a group of species in need of further conservation action.

CMS listing proposal for gadfly petrels

6. New Zealand, Australia and Birdlife International have begun initial scoping of a proposal to list gadfly petrels on CMS Appendices.
7. Four gadfly petrel species are already listed in CMS Appendices³. Twenty-three other gadfly petrel species meet the criteria for listing on CMS Appendices (see Annex). These species were included in [Resolution 14.20 Potential Avian Taxa for Listing](#), adopted in February 2024.

¹ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop14_doc.31.3_potential-avian-taxa-listing_e_0.pdf

² Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. 2017. Workshop on Pterodroma and other small burrowing petrels. Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee. Wellington, New Zealand, 11 – 15 September 2017. AC10 Doc 14 Rev 1.

³ *Pterodroma cahow*, Cahow, Bermuda Petrel (Appendix I - 1979); *Pterodroma phaeopygia*, Dark-Rumped Petrel, Hawaiian Petrel, Galapagos Petrel (Appendix I - 1979); *Pterodroma sandwichensis*, Dark-Rumped Petrel, Hawaiian Petrel, Uau (Appendix I - 1979); *Pterodroma atrata*, Henderson Petrel (Appendix I - 2005)

8. We plan to develop a proposal to list the 17 species found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. However, we are open to expanding the scope of the proposal to other regions if relevant CMS Parties are interested in engaging in the process and contributing relevant scientific information for species within their range.
9. Potential benefits of listing gadfly petrels on CMS Appendices are:
 - i. CMS Parties (133) would be legally bound to impose **protection measures** for Appendix I-listed gadfly petrels and their habitats, and to **cooperate** to improve the conservation status of Appendix II-listed species, including through international agreements such as ACAP;
 - ii. increased global **recognition** and international **awareness** of gadfly petrels and the threats they face;
 - iii. increased **research** and **knowledge sharing** of gadfly petrels and the threats they face, including emerging and future threats;
 - iv. increased **international cooperation** between States, including through inter-governmental organisations, to conserve the species and address threats;
 - v. an avenue for **capacity building** opportunities for developing country Range States; and
 - vi. a **basis for a Concerted Action** which would set out **conservation actions** for Range States.

Next steps

10. We envisage developing the listing proposal in late 2024/early 2025, consulting on the proposal in mid-2025, and submitting the proposal around September 2025 (depending on the submission deadline for COP15). Following COP15, we plan to develop a Concerted Action or multi-species action plan for agreement at COP16.
11. We encourage Range State Parties and other interested stakeholders to consider engaging in this process to develop a proposal to list gadfly petrels on CMS Appendices, in particular through sharing of scientific information for species that do not breed in New Zealand or Australia.
12. We anticipate establishing an informal working group to progress the drafting, review and submission of the proposed listing proposal. If you are interested in engaging in this work, please contact **Graeme Taylor, Department of Conservation, New Zealand**, gtaylor@doc.govt.nz.

ANNEX – GADFLY PETREL SPECIES FOR POSSIBLE LISTING ON CMS APPENDICES (Res. 14.20)

Species	Scientific name	Proposed Appendix	Ocean Basin	IUCN Conservation Status	Primary Breeding Location Bold=CMS Party	Primary Range State* <i>*Likely breeding visitor, non-breeding visitor or passage migrant</i> Bold=CMS Party	Secondary Range State/Vagrant* <i>*Presence uncertain or vagrant</i> Bold=CMS Party
Mascarene Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria aterrima</i>	I	Indian	CR (2018)	Réunion – France	Madagascar, Mauritius	Australia, India, Seychelles,
Beck's Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria becki</i>	I	Pacific	CR (2018)	Unknown, possibly New Ireland – Papua New Guinea	Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
Fiji Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi</i>	I	Pacific	CR (2018)	Gau - Fiji	Tonga	?
Jamaican Petrel	<i>Pterodroma caribbaea</i>	I	Atlantic	CR (2018)	Jamaica (presumed extinct)	Bahamas, Dominica, France (Guadeloupe)	
Magenta Petrel	<i>Pterodroma magentae</i>	I	Pacific	CR (2018)	Chatham Islands - New Zealand	Australia, Chile, France (New Caledonia, French Polynesia)	Cook Islands, Peru, UK (Pitcairn Islands),
Barau's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma barau</i>	I	Indian	EN (2018)	Réunion – France	Mauritius, Madagascar	Australia (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), Indonesia, France (French subantarctic islands); Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, UK (British Indian Ocean Territory)
Black-capped Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	I	Atlantic	EN (2018)	Hispaniola – Haiti; Dominican Republic	Bahamas, Costa Rica , Dominica, France (Guadeloupe, Martinique), Haiti, Nicaragua, UK (Bermuda), USA	Antigua and Barbuda , Barbados, Colombia, Cuba , France (French Guiana, St Martin), Grenada, Guyana, Honduras , Jamaica, Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten), Panama , St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, UK (Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands), USA (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands), Venezuela

Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>	I	Atlantic	EN (2019)	Gough - UK	Argentina, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa, UK (St Helena), Uruguay	
Zino's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma madeira</i>	I	Atlantic	EN (2018)	Madeira, Portugal	Portugal, Cabo Verde	Brazil, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal
Phoenix Petrel	<i>Pterodroma alba</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2020)	Phoenix and Line Islands, Malden - Kiribati; Marquesas, Hatuta'a; Hatu-iti – France ; Pitcairn - UK	Fiji, France (French Polynesia), Kiribati, Tonga	Cook Islands, France (Wallis and Futuna Islands), New Zealand , Niue, Samoa , Tuvalu, USA (American Samoa)
Trindade Petrel	<i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i>	II	Indian/Atlantic	VU (2018)	Trindade Islands – Brazil ; Round Island – Mauritius	Eastern USA	Argentina, Australia, France (Réunion), India, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Portugal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, USA (Puerto Rico)
Chatham Petrel	<i>Pterodroma axillaris</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	South East Island / Hokoreeroo / Rangatira Island; Pitt Island / Rangiauria / Rangiaotea; Chatham Island / Rēkohu / Wharekauri – New Zealand	Chile, Peru	Costa Rica, Ecuador
Collared Petrel	<i>Pterodroma brevipes</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Kadavu and Gau – Fiji ; Vanua Lava and Tanna -Vanuatu; Ta'ū -American Samoa; Raratonga - Cook Islands ; Â Makira - Solomon Islands	France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Samoa	Australia (Norfolk Island), France (Wallis and Futuna), Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand , Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, UK (Pitcairn Islands)
White-necked Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Macauley Island – New Zealand ; Phillip Island – Australia ; Vanua Lava – Vanuatu (<i>P. occulta</i>)	Cook Islands, Fiji, France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna Islands), Japan, Mexico , Niue, USA (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands)	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa , Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu
Cook's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Little Barrier / Hauturu, Great Barrier / Aotea and Codfish Island / Whenua Hou – New Zealand	Australia (Norfolk Island), Canada, Chile, Cook Islands, France (French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna Islands), Mexico , Niue, Peru, UK (Pitcairn Islands), USA (American Samoa)	Australia, Ecuador, Kiribati, France (New Caledonia), Samoa , Tonga, Tuvalu
Masatierra Petrel	<i>Pterodroma defilippiana</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Desventuradas Islands, San Ambrosio, San Félix and Juan Fernández Islands – Chile	Peru; UK (Ducie Is, Pitcairn Islands)	?
Desertas Petrel	<i>Pterodroma deserta</i>	II	Atlantic	VU (2018)	Desertas - Portugal	Brazil, Cabo Verde, Morocco, USA	Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Senegal, Spain, UK, Morocco

Juan Fernandez Petrel	<i>Pterodroma externa</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Alejandro Selkirk Island - Chile	Peru, France (French Polynesia), Mexico, USA (Hawaii)	Australia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France (Amsterdam Island), Japan, Kiribati, New Zealand, UK (Pitcairn Islands and Tristan da Cunha, Saint Helena)
White-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Australia; France (New Caledonia; Ravavae, Austral Islands, French Polynesia)	Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, France (French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna Islands), New Zealand, Niue, Peru, UK (Pitcairn Islands), Vanuatu, USA (American Samoa)	Kiribati, Samoa , Tonga, Tuvalu
Stejneger's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma longirostris</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2019)	Alejandro Selkirk Island - Chile	France (French Polynesia), Japan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, USA (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii and California)	Kiribati, New Zealand, Australia
Pycroft's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma pycrofti</i>	II	Pacific	VU (2018)	Poor Knights Islands, the Hen and Chicken Islands, the Mercury Islands, Ririwha, Cuvier Island, Mercury Islands, Ohinau Islands and Motuora Island - New Zealand	France (Wallis and Futuna Islands, French Polynesia), Kiribati, USA (Hawaii)	Papua New Guinea, Fiji , Nauru, Tonga
Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i>	II	Pacific	NT (2018)	Marquesas, Society, Gambier, French Polynesia and New Caledonia – France; Fiji; American Samoa	Australia, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Solomon Islands, USA (Guam)	Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France (Wallis and Futuna Islands), Guatemala, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Nauru, New Zealand , Nicaragua, Niue, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, UK (Pitcairn Islands), USA (Northern Mariana Islands)
Cape Verde Petrel	<i>Pterodroma feae</i>	II	Atlantic	NT (2018)	Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Santiago and Fogo – Cabo Verde	Senegal, Morocco	Ireland, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, UK, USA

Note, Range States for Atlantic species may not be completely accurate