

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Swakopmund, Namibia, 1 – 5 June 2026</i></p> <p>Review of ACAP Implementation Reporting</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP8) agreed that the Advisory Committee should undertake a review during the 2026–2028 triennium of the Agreement's implementation reporting requirements. This paper presents draft Terms of Reference, a timeline, and a proposed process for an Intersessional Group (IG) to review and develop recommendations to amend the current implementation reporting requirements. These recommendations will be considered at AC16 prior to submission to MoP9.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Note the direction from MoP8 to undertake a review of ACAP implementation reporting requirements during the 2026–2028 triennium.
2. Agree the scope, timeline, and draft Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Group.
3. Invite interested AC members to join the Intersessional Group (IG) and contribute to the review.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Under Article VII (1) c) of the Agreement, Parties are required to provide implementation reports to the Secretariat and Advisory Committee with 'particular reference to the conservation measures undertaken, in accordance with Article IX (6) d).'

Article IX (6) d) states:

The Advisory Committee shall] prepare a report to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties ... with particular reference to the Action Plan and the conservation measures undertaken. Each such report shall include a synthesis of such information as Parties are required to submit to the Committee through the Secretariat under Article VII (1) c) ..., but:

- i) *the format of such reports from the Committee shall be determined by the first session of the Meeting of the Parties and reviewed as may be necessary at any subsequent session of the Meeting of the Parties; and the nature of the information to be provided by the Parties shall be determined by the Committee at its first meeting, subject to any direction from the Meeting of the Parties, and reviewed as may be necessary at any subsequent meeting;...*

At early meetings of the Agreement considerable effort was made to develop and refine the reporting template. The general content of Party implementation reports was developed at AC1 ([AC1 Doc 15](#)) with minor amendments agreed at MoP2 ([MoP2 Doc 29](#), [MoP2 Final Report](#)) and AC3 ([AC3 Doc 27](#)). Recommendations to further amend the template were agreed at MoP3 ([MoP3 Doc 28](#)). These recommendations, later addressed at AC4 ([AC4 Doc 16](#)) and AC5 ([AC5 Doc 16](#)), stated that reporting should be able to be quantitative addressed, easily compiled, include status and trend, and seabird bycatch data and that reporting should be less complex.

While further minor amendments were identified at AC6, as part of the transition to web-based reporting ([AC6 Doc 16](#), [MoP4 Inf 5](#)), and later at MoP6 ([MoP6 Doc 19](#)), generally the overall content and utility of Party reports to progress the Agreement has not been reviewed in nearly two decades.

2. PAPERS TO AND DIRECTIONS FROM MOP8

The 'Summary Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement 2022–2024' ([MoP8 Doc 12](#)) indicated that only eight of thirteen Parties (62%) submitted implementation reports for the 2022–2024 triennium – the lowest response rate since reporting commenced. It also identified that reports could be improved if Parties provided additional detail, and that not all Parties submit reports in a timely manner. It also stated that these issues limited the conclusions that can be drawn about progress in implementing the Agreement.

Discussions at MoP8 reiterated the importance of implementation reporting but suggested there needs to be greater clarity around conservation actions and outcomes in addition to describing activities.

MoP8 agreed to the following request to the AC with a view to presenting a revised format for adoption at MoP9 (para 7.3.7):

...review the format of reporting on the implementation of the Agreement, with a focus on priority conservation actions, on land, at-sea and for High Priority Populations. This should capture activities undertaken under the Agreement, including those reported by Parties, and an assessment of the effectiveness of these activities in addressing the conservation priorities.

This review may prove to be timely given the recent changes to AC reporting to the MoP (see [AC13 Doc 17](#) and [MoP8 Doc 11](#)), including separate papers on status and trends ([MoP8 Doc 13](#)), threats ([MoP8 Doc 14](#)) and priority conservation actions ([MoP8 Doc 15](#)). Also, MoP8 initiated a review of ACAP's Action Plan (see **AC15 Doc 17**), which may also affect priorities for, and content of implementation reports.

A proposal for conducting this review, including draft Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Group, timeline, and outputs, is provided below.

3. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE, TIMELINE AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

3.1 Terms of Reference:

Objective

To review and revise the ACAP implementation reporting requirements to improve the utility of the reporting process for the Advisory Committee, Meeting of the Parties, and Parties.

Scope

The review will:

1. Assess the effectiveness of the current reporting format in identifying progress on ACAP conservation priorities, including priority at-sea actions, priority land-based actions, and actions for High Priority Populations.
2. Identify elements of the current reporting format that are no longer relevant, duplicative, or could be simplified without loss of important information.
3. Develop a revised reporting format that focuses on:
 - a) activities undertaken under the Agreement, including those reported by Parties
 - b) an assessment of the effectiveness of these activities in achieving the objective of the Agreement including addressing priority conservation actions on land, at sea, and for High Priority Populations
 - c) identification of gaps and opportunities for improved action.
4. Consider alignment with the parallel ACAP Action Plan review (**AC15 Doc 17**) to ensure reporting requirements are consistent with any revisions to the Action Plan structure.
5. Identify opportunities to simplify and streamline reporting to encourage higher Party participation.
6. Propose a revised reporting format and accompanying guidance for consideration by the Advisory Committee at AC16 and adoption at MoP9.

Process

7. The review will be led by an Intersessional Group (IG) convened by the Advisory Committee Chair, and in consultation with National Contact Points.
8. The IG will comprise interested Parties and the Secretariat, with input sought from ACAP Officers to ensure the revised format captures the information required by ACAP Working Groups.
9. A draft revised reporting format will be circulated to all National Contact Points for comment prior to AC16 and then, following input from AC16, will be submitted to MoP9.
10. The IG will consider the findings of the parallel ACAP Action Plan review to ensure coherence between any revisions to the Action Plan structure and the revised reporting requirements.

3.2. Timeline and Proposed Actions

Period	Activity	Output / Decision Point
Q4 2026	Establish provisional review framework and Intersessional Group.	IG agree the review approach.
Q4 2026	IG conducts analysis of current reporting format: effectiveness assessment, gap analysis, reporting challenges and reporting against priority conservation actions (MoP8 Doc 15).	Completed review and potential solutions to identified issues.
Q1–Q2 2027	Draft and consult revised reporting format, with input from Working Group Convenors and coordination with the parallel Action Plan review IG.	Draft circulated to National Contact Points for consultation.
Q2 2027	Prepare draft revised reporting format document for AC16.	Document submitted to AC16 deadlines.
Q3 2027	AC16 to consider draft revised reporting format document.	AC16 to provide feedback on draft format and guidance.
Q4 2027	Revise draft based on AC16 feedback; second consultation with NCPs if required.	Final draft prepared.
Q1 2028	Prepare final revised reporting format, guidance document, and decision paper including draft Resolution for adoption at MoP9.	Documents submitted to MoP9 deadlines.
Q2 2028	MoP9 consideration.	MoP9: adoption of revised reporting requirements by Resolution.