



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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ACAP Capacity Building Strategy

**Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, United Kingdom,
WWF, Secretariat, Chair Advisory Committee**

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ACAP Capacity Building Strategy

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1. Background

During MoP2, capacity building was identified as an issue of high priority for the Agreement. During that meeting, the Parties expressed a wish for the Advisory Committee to give a high priority to capacity building in its work programme. In response to MoP's request, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee have taken a series of actions, such as the preparation of questionnaires and meeting papers, with the purpose of identifying both needs and opportunities. It is proposed to build on this work to develop a strategy on capacity building for the Agreement with the purpose of making a more rational and efficient use of ACAP's limited human and financial resources (see progress and actions described in AC3 Doc 16, AC4 Doc 26, AC5 Doc 24).

Although actions on capacity building have not so far been conducted following a specific long-term programme or strategy, it should be noted that a significant amount of human and financial resources have been spent by the Agreement to date to address capacity building matters. In the Secretariat's work programme, a number of secondments were conducted, not only with Agreement's funds but also with voluntary contributions (many of them involving secondees from South American Parties). Since 2008, a total of 23 conservation projects were funded by the Advisory Committee, 13 of which comprised capacity building aspects in research, education, training and outreach (see details in AC6 Doc 23). From a total of AUD\$ 363,063 granted to these projects during the period 2008-2010, almost 60% of the funds were allocated to capacity building.

AC5 Doc 24 outlined the key components of an ACAP strategy on capacity building including key components such as its definition, objectives and principles for allocation of funding and governance. In AC5, the Advisory Committee recommended that the strategy be refined for further analysis in AC6, including making the definition of capacity building more inclusive and to consider how the collective capacity of the Agreement, the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups can be improved.

2. Definition and objectives

Capacity building refers to the process of (a) obstacles/barriers and (b) enhancing the Agreement's effectiveness in improving the conservation status of ACAP species. The goal of capacity building is to address problems related to policy, methods of implementation and the understanding of conservation issues, while considering the potential, limits and needs of the Parties concerned. The capacity building strategy should be understood as a long-term, continual process that will be provided to stakeholders considering their potential, limitations and needs.

The objective of the strategy should be to provide the Agreement with an outline that will guide its actions on capacity building in order to assist Parties and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Range States, observers) in, for example, research, administration, training and monitoring programmes, leading to the development and/or implementation of conservation measures for albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. This strategy will help in optimizing to the maximum benefit the use of ACAP's limited financial and human resources to achieve the purpose of the Agreement and contribute in raising the profile of ACAP's agenda with all Parties, Range States and observers.

The strategy should be to provide the Agreement with an outline that will guide its actions on capacity building, including: (a) establishing principles to guide the strategy; (b) identifying obstacles / barriers; (c) developing methods to enhance the ability to address these obstacles and barriers (e.g. training, secondments, information exchange); (d) defining priorities that will guide the use of the Agreement's resources; and (e) specifying a process through which applications for financial assistance will be considered.

3. Principles

Capacity building activities should be developed within a framework outlined by the following general principles:

3.1. The assistance provided or received may include training, provision of information, institutional support, or funding in those cases where financial assistance would be needed to help the achievement of actions.

3.2. Capacity building is an ongoing process provided to individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, agencies or governments that will in many cases facilitate management of the relationship between sectors (public, private and community) in a way to guarantee the implementation of the Agreement.

3.3. Capacity building actions will be guided by the outcomes of the Agreement's prioritisation process and the priorities agreed by the Advisory Committee on an annual basis. However, the Advisory Committee should have flexibility to cope with opportunities and political contexts that might favor the development of certain actions not necessarily indicated as top priority by the referred framework.

3.4. Although capacity building should be understood as a long-term process, proposals contributing towards putting systems in place and building capacities for continuing programmes (such as observer programmes) may be supported on the basis that those projects will work as triggers (seed funding) of long-term projects that will then be supported by the Parties involved.

3.5. The Advisory Committee will identify needs and capacities amongst the Parties and other relevant stakeholders. Through the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Grants Subcommittee the Advisory Committee will develop a capacity building network for the effective implementation of the strategy.

4. Funding and delivery

ACAP capacity building actions have been supported through funds from the Secretariat (Appropriation 1), and the Advisory Committee (Appropriation 4) budgets. Voluntary contributions provided by Parties have supported secondments and training programmes, and should be considered as another possibility, although the availability of these funds are generally uncertain. In these cases it should be taken into account that a Party offering funds might be interested in developing a project on a certain topic. The Advisory Committee or the Secretariat should be flexible and receptive in this regard.

One other point to be considered in relation to the secondments supported by the Secretariat budget and voluntary contributions is that, until now, the concept was restricted to trainings or projects conducted in the Agreement's headquarters in Hobart. The adoption

of a more flexible approach contemplating the possibility of developing secondments in other Countries may broaden the possibilities for secondees and increase the scope of capacity building, also allowing in many cases, a more efficient use of resources. The change in this concept will require the Secretariat to coordinate with the Advisory Committee the implementation of secondment programmes.

Funds provided by other Organisations are another possibility and should be thoroughly analysed. BirdLife International's Albatross Task Force offers an excellent example of a global initiative developed by an NGO's in developing capacities in a number of ACAP Parties. In cases like this, action conducted by other organizations and clearly dealing with the Agreements Action Plan should be coordinated in a way to optimize the use of resources, where practical.

5. Recommendation

- 4.1. That the Advisory Committee endorses the definition and principles of capacity building stated in this document.
- 4.2. That the Advisory Committee advises MoP4 on adopting the changes proposed for the development of secondment programmes.
- 4.3. That the Advisory Committee advises MoP4 on the principles for capacity building outlined in this document.