



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Sixth Meeting of Advisory Committee

Guayaquil, 29 August – 2 September 2011

Advisory Committee Work Programme, 2012

Advisory Committee Chair & Vice-Chair

'This paper is presented for consideration by ACAP and may contain unpublished data, analyses, and/or conclusions subject to change. Data in this paper shall not be cited or used for purposes other than the work of the ACAP Secretariat, ACAP Advisory Committee or their subsidiary Working Groups without the permission of the original data holders.'

Advisory Committee Work Programme 2012

Advisory Committee Chair & Vice-Chair

A Work Programme for the triennium 2010-2012 was approved by the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP3, Resolution 3.4). This programme has been updated and amended by the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC6) to reflect the revised tasks in the work programmes of the Working Groups and other actions, as well as to reflect decisions taken during the course of AC6, particularly the decision to combine STWG and BSWG.

Recommendation

That the Advisory Committee endorses its work programme and defines actions/ areas to be prioritised in the allocation of funds and other resources during 2012.

Annex 1

Advisory Committee Work Programme 2012

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
1.1	Review the evidence supporting the specific status of the Wandering Albatross complex	TWG led by Convenor	2010	This will conclude the assessment process for all closely related sister taxa listed currently on Annex 1 of the Agreement. Completed 2010.
1.2	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2012	
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor (Secretariat)	2012	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data.
1.4	<i>Consider preparing a paper for peer-reviewed publication on albatross taxonomy</i>	<i>TWG led by Convenor</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>A scientifically accepted paper would state ACAP's position in the clearest possible way to the scientific community, but other ways might be easier. In particular influencing committees dealing with large parts of the planet such as South American Checklist Committee should be a priority.</i>
1.4a	Respond to queries on ACAP taxonomy	TWG	2011-2012	In early 2010, respond to CMS query.
1.5	Consider additional species for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2011-2012	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template. Balearic shearwater to be considered 2011-12.
2.1	To establish Working Group membership	Parties with assistance of Convenors	2011-2012	

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
2.2	Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP, request any outstanding data and incorporate changes	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	Parties to provide new or outstanding data
2.3	Improve data portal structure and queries	Science Officer, Convenors	Ongoing	Science Officer to facilitate modification of database as required
2.4	To review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation	Science Officer, Convenors	Ongoing	
2.5	<i>Trial approaches to accurately categorise global population trends</i>	<i>**WG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International</i>	<i>By end 2011</i>	<i>May require further data portal updates</i>
2.6	Update ACAP Species Assessments	**WG Convenors, Science Officer	Ongoing	
2.7	Translation of updates to Species Assessments, and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer, Spanish and French speaking Parties	Ongoing	May include contributions in kind from Spanish and French speaking Parties
2.8	Identity priority species or populations for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	
2.9	Identity priority species or populations for tracking studies	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	
2.10	Identity priority species or populations for conservation actions	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	
2.11	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
2.12	Develop, review and update best-practice guidelines to mitigate selected threats to breeding sites	**WG, Science Officer	Ongoing	.
2.13	Develop best-practice guidelines for monitoring of numbers and trends	**WG, Lead UK, Science Officer	By MoP4, AC7	Production of two documents (one by MoP4, other by AC7)
2.14	Review evidence for impacts of pathogens and parasites on ACAP species and effectiveness of mitigation measures	**WG, Science Officer, Lead Argentina	By AC7	Update review of pathogens and parasites. May need input from pathologists
2.15	Post web links on biological sampling guidelines following disease outbreaks	Science Officer, **WG	Ongoing	
2.16	<i>Produce centralised catalogue of plastic rings used on ACAP species and email contact list, and addresses of ringing authorities</i>	<i>Science Officer, **WG, Lead France.</i>	<i>By 2012</i>	
2.17	Showcase work of ACAP to International Albatross and Petrel Conference	**WG, Science Officer	August 2012	
2.18	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	**WG, Science Officer	As needed	
4.1	To maintain Seabird Bycatch Working Group membership	Parties with assistance of Convenor of SBWG	2010-2012	Chile, New Zealand, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Norway, Uruguay to nominate working group members and further interested Range States as observers.

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the interaction plan for ACAP and relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies to assess and minimise bycatch of albatrosses and petrels	SBWG and AC Secretariat	1) End Aug 2008 2) End Mar 2009 3) 4) and 5) 2010-2012	1) Agree initial plan and nominate first RFMO coordinators (AC). 2) Analysis of needs, coordination of work and report back on initial RFMOs (RFMO coordinators intersessionally with SBWG, AC and Parties, as described in AC4 Doc 56). 3) Attendance at selected RFMO meetings (AUD\$25). 4) Review of process and suggest any changes (SBWG). 5) RFMO by RFMO development of strategies for engagement (commenced by AC5).
4.3	Continue to review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	SBWG, AC, Parties and BirdLife International	2010-2012	Review status at AC5, AC7, AC9.
4.4	Complete reports on analysis of overlaps of distributions and albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP Secretariat	1) Oct 2008 2) 2011 3) 2011	1) Complete last of initial five reports (already funded) Completed by AC5 2) Analysis of information for remaining RFMOs including those managing trawl fisheries (by AC6) 3) Review if updated overlap analyses required (AC6) (AUD\$5).

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
4.5	Develop and keep under review materials (both generic and specific) to assist RFMOs and other relevant international and national bodies in reducing seabird bycatch and to maximise effective participation and consideration of issues relevant to ACAP	NZ / SBWG / UK UK/BirdLife	1) 2011 2) 2010-2012	1) Observer programme designs including protocols for the collection of seabird bycatch data, with consideration of analytical methods for assessing seabird bycatch to be examined first. Info paper from UK in 2011. 2) Summary of risk assessment methods and key contacts in this area. Priority decided inside the RFMO interaction plan. First draft paper considered at AC5. Further editorial work required to develop ERA toolkit. Ideal for 2010 Brisbane Tuna Commissions meeting
4.6	Review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird bycatch to assess and prioritise the risk of fishing operations on ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction. Linked to broader prioritisation process	SBWG and Parties	1) 2011 2) 2011	1) Commission initial report on knowledge of fisheries, status of any bycatch mitigation, knowledge of relevant seabird distribution for AC5. Note overlap with 4.4. NPOA seabirds also can be used. 2) Assess needs for waters subject to national jurisdiction and any capacity building requirements.
4.7	Define bycatch data requirements from Parties	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009-10	Requires a clear objective statement of purpose, terms of reference and timeline for the collection of bycatch data. Completed by AC5.
4.8	Collate information (metadata) on bycatch monitoring schemes and data held by each Party	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009	Requires development of a metadata survey form. Completed by AC5.

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
4.9	Develop a prototype bycatch data collection form with comprehensive instructions for completing the form.	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009-10	Completed by AC5.
4.10	Test and develop bycatch data collection form	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009-2010	A sample of Parties to test and evaluate the utility of the form and appropriateness of its questions based on the sample completed forms and revise as necessary. Approaching completion, but no formal evaluation yet.
4.11	Incorporate bycatch data collection form into standard Party reports	AC	2009-2010	See also Action 6.6.
4.11a	Analyse bycatch information from Party reports to determine if it can deliver the products required in evaluating bycatch	SBWG and Secretariat	By AC6 deadlines	Additional resources may be needed for this analysis (AUD\$10).
4.12	Create and maintain a bibliography of relevant bycatch information	BirdLife/SBWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	BirdLife producing report /database. To include both published and unpublished literature.
4.13	Complete tabular reviews and develop summary advice on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (demersal longline, pelagic longline, and trawl) Translations of mitigation fact sheets into relevant languages Maintain tabular reviews, summary advice and individual mitigation fact sheets	Leads: New Zealand (trawl), Australia (Pelagic LL), UK (Demersal LL), BirdLife (individual mitigation measures) BirdLife/SBWG Secretariat/BirdLife	2010 2011 2011-2012	Initial versions of each tabular review and summary advice completed by AC5. Individual mitigation fact sheets completed by AC5. (AUD\$18 included in 2009 programme) (AUD\$5 (for ind. fact sheets per year for 5 years))

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
4.14	Produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries	BirdLife/ Australia/ WWF Convenor SBWG	2010-2012	
4.15	Assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of FAO NPOA-Seabirds or equivalent	SBWG and Parties/ Range States	2010	FAO expert consultation including ACAP input scheduled for September 2008. Completed and published in March 2010.
4.15a	Review existing NPOA seabirds in light of new FAO Technical guidelines	SBWG, Leads: Convenor SBWG, Ben Sullivan	2011	
4.16	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea	Australia/ Brazil/ New Zealand/ Peru/ UK SBWG Needs a clear lead	2011	Review to describe current knowledge (much from unpublished literature) and causes of any deliberate take and to consider possible take reduction strategies.
4.17	Review results of any research funded by ACAP on seabird bycatch issues	SBWG	2010-2012	Draw conclusions and make recommendations to AC as appropriate.
4.17a	Review any other relevant mitigation research	SBWG	2010-12	Draw conclusions and make recommendations to AC as appropriate.
4.18	Maintain review of research needs and priorities for bycatch research and mitigation development	SBWG	2010-2012	Gill-netting to be examined in 2011.
4.19	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on WG activities	SBWG and AC	2010-2012	
4.20	Estimate mortality in previously unobserved fisheries in range of Waved albatross	Ecuador and Peru, BirdLife, AC, American Bird Conservancy	2012	Part of implementation from Waved Albatross Action Plan. Some ACAP-funded work started in 2010 (two projects total value: AUD\$41), original timescale unrealistic.
5.1	Develop strategy for capacity building	AC Chair, New Zealand, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, UK, WWF	2010	Utilising work on potential projects by Brazil and AC and including potential sources of funding.

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
5.2	Improve seabird data collection from observer programmes in South America	All South American Parties	2010-2012	Development of a South American seabird bycatch observers course, development of standard methodology (see also 4.5) and exchange of observers between Parties. AUD\$33 total grant in 2009. First stage of the programme completed in 2010 (workshop, Buenos Aires).
5.3	2 nd South American Fishers Forum	All South American Parties, Southern Seabird Solutions, WWF	December 2009	Some support would be welcome. Forum did not take place.
5.4	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC and Parties to consider	2010-2012	Capacity building in accordance with the needs identified by interested Parties in order to encourage implementation, particularly in Argentina, Ecuador France, Peru, South Africa, (Mozambique, Madagascar), Tristan da Cunha (UK), and EC external fisheries.
5.5	Technical Cooperation to train observers and develop an observers programme in Ecuador	Argentina, Ecuador, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy	2008 - 09	Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation.
5.6	Development of an observers programme in Peru	Peru, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy	2009	Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation.
6.1	Identify and prioritise conservation measures required for each species and by each Party to the Agreement	Secretariat, WG Convenors and <i>ad-hoc</i> group, lead New Zealand	2010-2012	An analysis of threats, data/knowledge gaps and population trends will be undertaken (Broadly complete by AC5). By AC6, data validation and finer-scale analysis will occur with integration into ACAP database (AUD\$10).

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
6.2	Develop and harmonise conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	WGs, AC (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Precise definition of what is needed difficult at this range.
6.2a	Draft the Amsterdam albatross National Action Plan	France (for review by AC)	2010-2011	Draft to be examined intersessionally by group led by Chair of Advisory Committee.
6.3	Implement conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	Parties, AC	2010-2012	Precise definition of what needed is difficult at this range.
6.4	Develop a system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	UK (lead), Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, USA, BirdLife	2011	Drawing on the prioritisation exercise information, considerations within Working Groups and earlier work for the AC, these are required to assess the effectiveness of the Agreement (Completed by 2010). By AC6, test a set of indicators based on available data and further consider high level indicators of gain in capacity/ resources by ACAP.
6.5	Review the effects of climate change on ACAP species	France, UK	2011	This may need updating at regular intervals.
6.6	Improve, in association with the Secretariat, guidance for the provision of information by Parties on the implementation of the Agreement	AC	Initial work by 2010 for agreement in 2011	Information on implementation provided by Parties is currently difficult to assemble and assess, and can prove onerous to Parties to provide. Good progress by 2010, finalisation by late 2010. Some database development required.

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
6.6a	Assist Secretariat and AC with provision of information on the agreed indicators and national reporting queries	Secretariat, WGs	Before AC6	Following 2010 data provision and database update, provide the Secretariat and AC with information as required to progress the agreed indicator and national reporting parameters that are relevant to status and trends (AUD\$10).
6.7	Review information provided by Parties on implementation of the Agreement and provide a report to MoP	AC	2011	This to carry out responsibilities under Article IX 6 d) of the Agreement.
6.8	Support database of relevant scientific literature	AC, lead: Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Much exists already in various places. Also relevant for several other actions e.g. 4.12, 4.13.
6.9	Develop a directory of relevant legislation	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Parties will need to supply information
6.10	Develop a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Requires input from AC and Parties
7.1	Budget matters	AC	2010-2012	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
7.2	Staff matters	AC	2010-2012	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
7.4	Oversight, advice and guidance of Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, chair and vice-chair	2010-2012	
7.5	Management of Advisory Committee work	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2010-2012	Regular teleconferences and email conversations