



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Development of a Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Action Plan

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Development of a Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Action Plan

Objective

This paper examines the need for a strategic plan, both to provide a temporal reference for implementation of the action plan (Annex 2) and as an aid for making decisions on the best use of available resources.

Background

The authors of the Agreement provided an excellent foundation to guide the work of the Parties and the Secretariat. Article II(1) provides a clear and succinct objective for what we are to achieve and the Action Plan (Annex 2), contains a comprehensive list of the tasks and actions to be taken to achieve this objective.

The text of the Agreement does not, appropriately, provide a temporal reference for when these tasks are to be undertaken, or identify the resources required to achieve them. This is not practical in a document of this nature, given the complexity and breadth of the actions to be undertaken. The Advisory Committee and Secretariat's Work Programmes both have temporal references, however they are limited to a three year time-frame and do not provide an overarching, whole of Agreement, perspective. For example, they do not include actions that are specifically the responsibility of the Parties.

The identification of milestones and the setting of time-frames to complete tasks are useful for focussing our attention on how we are to achieve our goals. It can also assist us in making decisions on the allocation of our limited resources, both capital and human. It is suggested that the development of a strategic plan would be a useful mechanism for achieving this.

It is proposed to utilise existing information e.g. from the action plan, the Advisory Committee's work programme and the conservation prioritisation process, to develop the strategic plan. Using existing information would limit the amount of additional work involved in preparing a strategic plan.

Action Proposed

If Parties agree that there is merit in developing a strategic plan to aid them in the implementation of the Action Plan it is proposed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Committee's Officials, examine ways in which a strategic plan could be developed, and prepare a paper for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its next meeting.