



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Third Meeting of the Parties**

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**Towards the Development of a Capacity Building Strategy  
for the Agreement on the Conservation for Albatrosses  
and Petrels**

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## **Towards the Development of a Capacity Building Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation for Albatrosses and Petrels**

### **1- Background**

In Article IV, the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) addresses capacity building by saying that *“the effective implementation of the Agreement requires assistance to be provided to Parties and Range States for the implementation of conservation measures for albatrosses and petrels and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions”*. Moreover, the same article states that *“Parties shall give priority to capacity building, through funding, training, information and institutional support, for the implementation of the Agreement”*. In relation to this concept, words like education and technical training, among others, are repeatedly referred to in the text of the Agreement and its Action Plan.

During the Second Meeting of the Parties, Capacity Building was identified, among others, as an issue of high priority for the Agreement. During that meeting, the Parties expressed a wish for the Advisory Committee to prioritize capacity building in its work programme. In response to MoP’s request, the Secretariat of the Agreement requested Parties (through their National Contact Points) to identify both needs and opportunities for capacity building, by answering a series of questions relating to capacity building in the context of ACAP. The main purpose of the questionnaire was to offer talking points to aid discussion on capacity building during AC3 (see AC3 Doc. 16). The seven questions aimed to identify (a) the potential value of capacity building to ACAP; (b) opportunities for capacity building initiatives between Parties and as an Organization, and (c) possible approaches to developing capacity building initiatives in ACAP. In response to the questionnaire, the Parties put forward some useful initiatives for Capacity Building including developing a network of suitably trained scientists

and policy-makers, maintaining adequate training of observers onboard fishing vessels and raising awareness of ACAP and National Plans of Action – Seabirds (NPOA) between governments and fishing industries. It was also suggested by Parties that one or two chairs/officers might be appointed to interact with Parties and coordinate development of a Capacity Building strategy. Other than isolated initiatives of differing magnitude, and the document drafted by the Secretariat for AC3 (see AC3 Doc. 16), the clearest response from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee to the Meeting of the Parties' request was a secondment, financially supported by New Zealand, involving Mrs. Tatiana Neves (Projeto Albatros, Brazil) who explored the potential of developing capacity building projects in South America (AC4 Doc. 26). However, the process for the development of a long-term capacity building strategy was not revisited until AC4.

## **2- What is capacity building?**

Despite capacity building being often referred to, it was clear from the discussions at meetings that there was confusion and/or disagreement about what it means. Hence, an agreed definition of this term and its adoption by Parties to the Agreement is essential to allow the drafting of clear objectives and methodologies for a strategic, long-term programme. This issue was considered at AC4 where the following definition, elaborated in AC4 Doc. 26, was taken into account: *“Capacity Building means assistance to Parties or Range States for research, administration, training and monitoring for implementation of conservation measures for seabird habitat through funding, training, provision of information and institutional support. Such assistance is an ongoing process that will be provided to individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, agencies or governments and will facilitate management of the relationship between sectors (public, private and community) in a way to guarantee the implementation of the Agreement”*.

The definition above comprises actions in areas such as: (a) the development of systems for collecting, analyzing and exchanging data; (b) the exchange of information regarding adoption and enforcement of legislative and other management approaches; (c) the implementation of education and awareness programmes; (d) the design and implementation of comprehensive programmes for public information; (e) the development and implementation of training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats; and (f) the exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge.

However, in view of the disagreement on the definition of capacity building during the Advisory Committee meetings, it remains critical that a definition of capacity building is agreed that will provide a framework for actions undertaken by the Agreement.

### **3- Why do we need a Capacity Building strategy?**

According to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) capacity building *encompasses the country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities*. The concept was also adopted by CMS in its strategy recently presented to its Conference of Parties (CMS COP Doc. 30). A question is, why is capacity building needed, and particularly why does the Agreement need a capacity building strategy? To date, work on capacity building has been largely *ad-hoc*, matching the Agreement's short term needs with available opportunities (see appendix A). However, a strategic approach will (1), allow the development of a long term Capacity Building programme to be analyzed, agreed, and endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties for implementation by the Advisory Committee, and (2) make a rational and more efficient use of ACAP's limited human and financial resources.

#### **4- Key components of the Capacity Building strategy**

A proposed ACAP strategy, planned to be presented and endorsed by the Advisory Committee at AC5 (otherwise intersessionally), will cover (a) the definition of capacity building, (b) its objectives, (c) a set of principles that will define priorities for areas to be covered and actions undertaken, (d) its methods, (e) funding and (f) governance. Following the interest demonstrated by the Parties, the strategy will be drafted and presented in AC5 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. If MoP considers it necessary, it will then be forwarded to Parties for intersessional approval.

Updated information is required from our Parties and Observers on their needs for capacity building, as well as on the assistance they can provide to others with capacity building. This information will be critical for drafting the terms of reference, priorities and methodologies of the capacity building strategy. In terms of the identification of fundamental actions, the prioritization process recently commenced by the Advisory Committee will be essential in feeding the capacity building strategy. In relation to the identification of capacity building needs and resources, the Chair of the Advisory Committee will conduct a survey among Parties, Range States and Observers, seeking information on the needs and capacities of the members of the ACAP family. The survey will update and enlarge the database established from the responses to the questionnaire sent to Parties before AC3 (AC3 Doc. 16).

A long-term programme on Capacity Building will certainly need to define the way in which the strategy will be led and directed, either by an ACAP Official, AC member or a body specifically designated to define the actions. Among other critical components to be addressed by the strategy and discussed in AC5 will be its funding, either through internal or external funding, or a combination of both.

**5- Recommendation**

That the Meeting of the Parties endorses the process recently commenced for the development of a Capacity Building strategy for the Agreement, in accordance with the steps outlined in this document.

**APPENDIX A - Capacity Building projects conducted by ACAP since MoP2**

Project	Year	Objective	Responsible	Document	Cost	Funded by
Secondment	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a methodology to determine the extent to which seabird bycatch and/or mortality occurs as a result of trawl fishing operations, with particular reference to the Chilean trawl fishery;</li> <li>Identification of capacity building initiatives that would be of benefit, both to the Agreement and to Chile; and</li> <li>Assisting with preparations for AC3.</li> </ul>	Marcelo Garcia (Chile)	Report submitted to Government of Chile	AUD 15,000	ACAP
ACAP Waved Albatross Plan of Action	2007/08	To develop the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross	Ecuador, Peru, Advisory Committee	AC4 Doc 50 (WAAL POA), AC3 Doc 28 (workshop Lima 2007), AC4 Doc 20 (workshop Guayaquil 2008)	AUD 62,000	ACAP (AUD 52,000, Commonwealth (\$10,000))
Secondment: Capacity Building in South America	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compiling all relevant information from South American nations regarding the conservation of seabirds in the ACAP context and to identify criteria to prioritize actions and capacity building in these countries or regions.</li> <li>Identify tasks and opportunities for capacity building in South America that address the implementation of ACAP;</li> </ul>	Tatiana Neves (Brazil)	AC4 Doc 26	AUD 23,000	New Zealand (AUD13,000), ACAP (AUD10,000)
Secondment: Assessment of the merits of the inclusion of the three Northern Hemisphere Species of Albatross under the Annex 1	2008	To coordinate and assist with the preparation of documentation to aid the Advisory Committee in assessing the merits of listing the three Northern Hemisphere species of albatross under the Agreement	Ken Morgan (Canada)	AC4 Doc 44, AC4 Doc 45, AC4 Doc 46	AUD 35,000	ACAP (AUD 10,000), in kind contribution by Ken Morgan (AUD 25,000)
Technical training for observers	2009	To strengthen observer programs and assist the personnel of organizations and agencies in Ecuador with jurisdiction on the area, through the development of a technical training program seeking to improve the assessment of incidental by-catch of seabirds in Ecuadorian fisheries.	Ecuador, Argentina, BirdLife International	AC4 Doc 54	AUD 17,240	BirdLife (AUD 12,240), ACAP (AUD 5,000)