



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of the Parties

Bergen, 27 April – 01 May 2009

Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2010 - 2012

Author: Advisory Committee

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The following Work Programme was developed by the Advisory Committee during its Fourth Meeting (AC4) held in Cape Town between the 22nd and 25th of August 2008 (see Annex 8, Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Committee). Tasks shown in an *italicized* font are ongoing tasks from the current work programme that are due to be completed by 2010.

The Work Programme includes indicative costs (in AUD\$'000) for specific tasks or actions. It should be noted that only amounts to be funded from the Advisory Committee's Work Programme (appropriation no. 4) have been shown. Significant levels of financial and staffing resources will be required from other sources to undertake the work programme, primarily from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Officials, but also from Parties, Ranges States and NGOs. In order that Parties can be provided with a complete picture of the resource requirements for the work programme estimates have been included of the staffing resources required for each task. The hours shown do not include time spent by the Parties or other organisations, but is a reflection of the amount of time that AC Officials and the Secretariat will spend on these tasks.

A process for the allocation of funds to the AC work programme was implemented for the first time at AC4 (refer AC4 Doc 53). It was agreed to work intersessionally to refine this process, particularly for use during the intersessional period in those years in which an Advisory Committee meeting is not held.

Recommendation:

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to approve the following work programme for the Advisory Committee for the 2010 - 2012 triennium.

Draft Advisory Committee Work Programme 2010-2012

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Resources		Action detail
				Time	Funds	
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Review the evidence supporting the specific status of the Wandering Albatross complex	TWG led by Convenor	2010	1 week	AUD \$0	This will conclude the assessment process for all closely related sister taxa listed currently on Annex 1 of the Agreement
1.2	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2010-2012	0.5 week	AUD \$0	
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor (Secretariat)	2010-2012	2 weeks	AUD \$0 ^(a)	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data
1.4	Consider preparing a paper for peer-reviewed publication on albatross taxonomy	TWG led by Convenor	2010	2 weeks	AUD \$0	A scientifically accepted paper would state ACAP's position in the clearest possible way to the scientific community, but other ways might be easier
1.5	Consider additional species for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2010-2012	0.5 week	AUD \$0	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template. Spain to develop document on Balearic shearwater for AC5
2. Status and trends						
2.1	Consider gaps in status and trends data submitted to ACAP and request any outstanding data (including from SCAR). Continue to update population data	STWG (Secretariat)	a) <i>End 2009</i> b) 2010-2012	3 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	a) <i>All outstanding existing data to be incorporated into database.</i> b) Parties to provide new population data
2.2	Incorporate all feedback received into the draft species assessments, and incorporate missing data	STWG Convenor (with species authors) (Secretariat)	2010-2012	12-16 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	Feedback from AC4 and incorporate data that are currently missing

2.3	Provide advice to CEP regarding census methods for Antarctic southern giant petrels	STWG, (Secretariat)	End 2008	2 weeks	AUD \$0	CEP requested review and advice on census methods prior to their 2009 meeting
2.4	Supply data and validate ACAP database	STWG Convenor and members (with data holders) (Secretariat)	2010-2012	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	Liaise with Secretariat
2.5	Finalise Species Assessments for all ACAP species	Species Assessment Coordinating Group, STWG Convenor, (Secretariat)	End 2009	8 weeks	AUD \$0	This to include updating population trends with 2008 data and any new species added to Annex 1
2.6	Translation of Species Assessments into Spanish and French	STWG (Secretariat)	2010	6 weeks	AUD \$8,000	Includes contributions in kind from Spanish and French speaking Parties
2.7	Reconsider selection of RFMOs whose boundaries are included on distribution maps in Species Assessments	SBWG STWG	2010	2 weeks	AUD \$5,000	Further maps, if required, would need to be commissioned from BirdLife
2.8	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on STWG activities	STWG and AC	2010-2012	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	
3. Protection of Breeding Sites and Status of Non-Native Species						
3.1	Revise the database lists and structures	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	This needed to ensure compatibility with other databases and enable update of Species Assessments
3.2	Complete, review and update data submission from Parties	BSWG	2010-2012	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0 ^(b)	
3.3	Compile and help maintain list of introduced mammals and eradications from ACAP breeding sites	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	4 weeks 2010 2 weeks 2011 2 weeks 2012	AUD \$0	This will inform analysis of past and current risks
3.4	Compile and maintain list of former (recent) breeding sites of ACAP species and their characteristics	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	3 weeks 2010 1 week 2011 1 week 2012	AUD \$0	This will enable consideration of further mitigation of land-based pressures and potentially restoration of range

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3.5	Assess the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	3 weeks pa	AUD \$0	
3.6	Develop, review and update best-practice guidelines to mitigate selected threats to breeding sites, including biosecurity	BSWG Biosecurity lead UK	2010-2012	3 weeks	AUD \$0	
3.7	Review evidence for impacts of pathogens and parasites on ACAP species and effectiveness of mitigation measures	BSWG, lead France, Ecuador, Argentina	2010	3 weeks	AUD \$0	Initial colony threats analysis indicates this to be an issue at some colonies
3.8	Consider criteria for prioritisation of internationally important breeding sites	BSWG	2010-2012	1 week	AUD \$0	BirdLife InternationalL to progress analysis of IBAs for later consideration by WG
3.9	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on BSWG activities	BSWG and AC	2010-2012	2 weeks	AUD \$0	N/A
4. Seabird Bycatch						
4.1	<i>To consolidate Seabird Bycatch Working Group</i>	<i>Parties with assistance of Convenor of SBWG</i>	<i>End of September 2008</i>		<i>AUD \$0)</i>	<i>Brazil, Ecuador, France, Norway, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and further interested Range States to nominate working group members</i>

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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	1) End Aug 2008 2) End Mar 2009 3) 4) and 5) 2010-2012	1) completed 2) 10 weeks 3) 18 weeks per annum 4) 3 weeks 5) 5 weeks per annum	AUD \$0 AUD \$0 AUD \$30,000 per annum AUD \$0 AUD \$0	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 (may be less if Party can contribute directly) 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	1 week per annum	AUD \$10,000	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	1) Oct 2008 2) 2011 3) 2011	1) 2 week 2) 4 weeks 3) 1 week	AUD \$5,000 AUD \$10,000	1) Complete last of initial five reports (already funded) 2) Analysis of information for remaining RFMOs including those managing trawl fisheries (by AC6) 3) Review if updated overlap analyses required (AC6)

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4.5	Develop 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 Convenor with other SBWG consultation to review needs (Secretariat)	1) 2010 2) 2010-2012	1) 2 weeks 2) 1 week	AUD \$40,000	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. 2) Summary of risk assessment methods and key contacts in this area. Priority decided inside the RFMO interaction plan.
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. Link to broader prioritisation process	SBWG and Parties	1) 2010 2) 2011	1) 8 weeks 2) 2 weeks	AUD \$0	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. (AUD \$0) 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)	2009-10	2 weeks	AUD \$0	Requires a clear objective statement of purpose, terms of reference and timeline for the collection of bycatch data
4.8	<i>Collate information (metadata) on bycatch monitoring schemes and data held by each Party</i>	<i>SBWG (lead USA)</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2 weeks</i>	<i>AUD \$0</i>	<i>Requires development of a metadata survey form</i>
4.9	Develop a prototype bycatch data collection form with comprehensive instructions for completing the form.	SBWG (lead USA)	2009-10	2 weeks	AUD \$0	

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4.10	Test and develop bycatch data collection form	SBWG (lead USA)	2009-2010	10 weeks	AUD \$0	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
4.11	Incorporate bycatch data collection form into standard Party reports	AC	2009-2010	0.5 week	AUD \$0	
4.12	Create and maintain a bibliography of relevant bycatch information	BirdLife/SBWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	1 week pa	AUD \$0	BirdLife producing report /database by end of 2008. To include both published and unpublished literature
4.13	Maintain information fact sheets on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (demersal longline, pelagic longline, trawl). Maintain individual mitigation fact sheets (BirdLife/ACAP)	Leads: New Zealand (trawl), Australia (Pelagic LL), UK (Demersal LL), BirdLife (individual)	2010-2012	1 week per fact sheet	AUD \$0	Initial versions of each gear review completed by AC5 Individual mitigation fact sheets by AC5)
4.14	Produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries	BirdLife/ Australia/ Convenor SBWG	2010-2012	3 weeks	AUD \$0	
4.15	Assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of FAO NPOA-Seabirds or equivalent	SBWG and Parties/ Range States	2010	3 weeks	AUD \$13,000 (paid already)	FAO expert consultation including ACAP input scheduled for September 2008
4.16	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea	Australia/ Brazil/ New Zealand/ Peru/ UK/ WWF/ SBWG	2010	4 weeks	AUD \$0	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	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0	Draw conclusions and make recommendations to AC as appropriate

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4.18	Maintain review of research needs and priorities for bycatch research and mitigation development	SBWG	2010-2012	2 weeks	AUD \$0	
4.19	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on WG activities	SBWG and AC	2010-2012	1 week	AUD \$0	
4.20	Estimate mortality in previously unobserved fisheries in range of Waved albatross	Ecuador and Peru, BirdLife, AC, American Bird Conservancy	2010	4 weeks	AUD \$20,000	Part of implementation from Waved Albatross Action Plan
5. Capacity building						
5.1	Develop strategy for capacity building	AC Chair, New Zealand, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile	2010	4 weeks	AUD \$0	Utilising work on potential projects by Brazil and AC and including potential sources of funding
5.2	Improve seabird data collection from observer programmes in South America	All South American Parties	2010-2012	6 weeks	AUD \$50,000	Development of a South American seabird observers course, development of standard methodology (see also 4.5) and exchange of observers between Parties
5.3	<i>2nd South American Fishers Forum</i>	<i>All South American Parties, Southern Seabird Solutions, WWF</i>	<i>December 2009</i>	<i>10 weeks</i>	<i>AUD \$0</i>	<i>Some support would be welcome</i>
5.4	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC and Parties to consider	2010-2012	10 weeks	AUD \$0	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

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5.5	<i>Technical Cooperation to train observers and develop an observers programme in Ecuador</i>	<i>Argentina, Ecuador, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy</i>	<i>2008 - 09</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>	<i>AUD \$0</i>	<i>Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation</i>
5.6	<i>Development of an observers programme in Peru</i>	<i>Peru, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>	<i>AUD \$10,000</i>	<i>Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation</i>
6. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
6.1	Identify and prioritise conservation measures required for each species and by each Party to the Agreement	WG Convenors and <i>ad-hoc</i> group, lead New Zealand	2010-2012	4 weeks 2010 1 week pa 2011 & 2012	AUD \$0	An analysis of threats, data/knowledge gaps and population trends will be reported
6.2	Develop and harmonise conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	WGs, AC (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Unknown weeks	AUD \$ (?)	Precise definition of what is needed difficult at this range
6.3	Implement conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	Parties, AC	2010-2012	unknown weeks	AUD \$ (?)	Precise definition of what needed is difficult at this range
6.4	Develop a system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	New Zealand, UK	2010	2 weeks	AUD \$0	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
6.5	Review the effects of climate change on ACAP species	France, UK	2011	4 weeks	AUD \$0	This may need updating at regular intervals
6.6	Support database of relevant scientific literature	AC, lead: Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	12 weeks	AUD \$ (?)	Much exists already in various places. Also relevant for several other actions e.g. 4.12, 4.13.

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6.7	Develop a directory of relevant legislation	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	12 weeks		Parties will need to supply information
6.8	Develop a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	12 weeks		Requires input from AC and Parties
7. Management of AC work, secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
7.1	Budget matters	AC	2010-2012	2 weeks pa	AUD \$0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
7.2	Staff matters	AC	2010-2012	1 weeks pa	AUD \$0	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	6 weeks pa	AUD \$0	
7.5	Management of Advisory Committee work	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2010-2012	18 weeks pa	AUD \$0	Regular teleconferences and email conversations

- (a) Requires secretariat support and funding as part of Data Portal development
- (b) Indicates role to be achieved by secretariat science officer