



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of the Parties

Bergen, Norway, 27 April – 1 May 2009

Format for Reports on Implementation of the Agreement

Author: Australia and the United Kingdom

Format for Reports on Implementation of the Agreement Australia and the United Kingdom

This paper discusses how well the current reporting template – used by each Party to report on implementation of the Agreement – meets the collective needs of Parties and the Advisory Committee. It concludes that improvements to the reporting process are warranted; explores some options for improvement and recommends that MoP3 agree to further intersessional work, including to develop and test a new national reporting template.

Background

The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to ACAP (MoP2), held in December 2006, discussed the format for Parties' reporting and, recognising the evolving needs of the Agreement, agreed to a new template for future reporting based on the reporting requirements of Annex 2. That template was part of MoP2 Doc 29 (copy at Attachment A) was a compilation of the many separate reporting obligations contained in the Agreement and the Action Plan and listed 21 separate topics for Parties to report upon.

The template agreed at MoP2, with minor refinements made at AC3, was used by most Parties as the basis for their reports to the fourth meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4). Those reports were later consolidated by the Secretariat (AC4 Doc 16 Rev 1). Discussion at AC4 by Parties and the Secretariat highlighted that, while there had been improved reporting using the template, some difficulties remained, including:

- because Parties' reports comprised mostly or wholly text:
 - it was difficult to quantitatively assess the actions to implement the Agreement and the effectiveness of those actions (AC4 Report paragraph 7.1.6); and
 - it was difficult for the Secretariat to consolidate individual reports into a single report that summarised the collective position of all Parties;
- the current template will need to be amended to include status and trend data, and seabird bycatch data required by AC Working Groups (AC4 Report paragraph 7.1.6); and
- the large number of topics and the format for answers meant reporting was complex and time consuming.

AC4 agreed that further development of the format and content of Parties' implementation reports was required and accepted offers by Australia, Chile and the United Kingdom to develop a revised reporting process for further discussion at MoP3 (AC4 Report paragraph 7.1.6).

Comments

Since AC4, a more detailed analysis of current reporting requirements has been conducted and has identified the following additional observations and considerations :

- it should be remembered that the primary purpose of supplying the information is, in accordance with Article VII.1.c. to enable the Secretariat to prepare a synthesised report on the implementation of the Agreement, with particular reference to the conservation measures undertaken, in accordance with Article IX (6) d);
- the purpose of the report compiled by the Secretariat is to measure overall progress towards achievement of goals, objectives and requirements agreed by the Parties to the Agreement, and not solely to provide a narrative of actions;
- in addition to fulfilling the reporting obligations of the Agreement, Parties' reports should integrate with the Advisory Committee's current work program, the priority and scope of which changes over time. Thus, as the Committee's work program changes over time, so will the information that the Secretariat will require to demonstrate progress in

implementing the Agreement. For example, a current high-priority task for the Committee is the development of a fisheries bycatch reporting process; as this work progresses it is likely that Parties will be asked to include bycatch data in their national reports;

- not all reporting obligations in the Agreement or Annex 2 require the same frequency of reporting because not all obligations are of equal priority and the status of some obligations changes much less frequently than others. For example, where practical, annual reporting might be very useful for a few topics (eg to determine trends in population levels and fisheries bycatch), while other topics could be reported, say, once every three years, or only if circumstances have changed (eg Parties' legislation to protect ACAP species);
- the topics in the current template are not necessarily good indicators of how effective the Agreement has been at achieving its objective to achieve a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. The Advisory Committee is presently working to develop suitable performance indicators;
- the current template encourages an "open text" style of answers, with the format of answers left to Parties to decide. This makes it difficult to compare different Parties' reports or to consolidate them into a whole-of-Agreement summary;
- open text responses can be lengthy and consequently time consuming for Parties to prepare. With so many topics to report on, Parties' reports have also been expensive to translate; translation of national reports to AC4 cost around AU\$24,000. While effective exchange of information between Parties is critical to the success of ACAP, it is important to ensure it is also cost-efficient; and
- any additional information which Parties deem may be useful – for example, to provide interesting lessons (both positive and negative) that others can learn from – may be provided voluntarily.

The above considerations reinforce the conclusion of AC4 that further improvements are needed on how Parties report and also provide some guidance on how that might be achieved.

Finally, it merits clarification that the information provided by Parties to the Secretariat should be primarily to enable it to prepare a synthesised report and that it is this synthesised report which is considered by the Advisory Committee as a document to be presented to the Meeting of Parties.

Options for improving the process for national reporting

There are several ways in which the process for national reporting, including the current reporting template, might be improved. Options include:

- revising the reporting template so that high priority topics are reported on more frequently – for a few topics, perhaps annually – and lower priority topics are reported on less frequently, possibly once every three years or only if circumstances have changed since they were last reported on;
- using direct questions on some topics that presently use "open text" responses. Direct questions include those with a simple yes/no answer, or that provide a choice of answers from a standard list (eg high/medium/low or increasing/stable/decreasing, etc) or seek quantitative data. Such reporting is used successfully for some parts of national reports for the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (examples at Attachment B);
- providing for the inclusion of specific questions related to priority tasks on the Advisory Committee's work program; for example, data relating to fisheries bycatch and performance indicators;
- online reporting/updating, of factual information, at annual/triennial or other appropriate intervals, to streamline and ease its presentation to the Secretariat and ensure that the

information is kept up to date. There would be merit in reviewing to experiences of the Indian Ocean Turtle Agreement (IOSEA) to see how useful and effective its adoption of online reporting has been, and to note the aims of the Convention on Migratory Species own SONAR project proposal;

- supplying data on population status and trends via a customised frontend to the ACAP database; using extracts from the ACAP database to provide Parties with the latest information held by ACAP and seeking information from Parties on only those aspects which have changed since the previous report; and
- the supplying of any additional “lessons learned” information in the form of concise free form text on a voluntary basis.

The benefits to be gained from such improvements include:

- that national reports would more closely relate to the priorities of the Agreement and the Advisory Committee's work program, and thus be a more effective source of information;
- that it would be easier to consolidate individual Parties' reports into a whole-of-Agreement report and to quantify progress; and
- that reports would be simpler, shorter and less workload for Parties while probably also being cheaper to translate

Any revision of the current national reporting template and guidelines would need to be co-ordinated and integrated with other tasks being undertaken by the Advisory Committee, particularly improvements to bycatch reporting and development of performance indicators for the Agreement. Given the expected timing of this other work and the need to test a revised template, it is expected that a revised reporting template may not be available to all Parties until some time in 2010-2011, and probably after AC5.

It is suggested that the most appropriate way to revise the national reporting template and guidelines would be for a small group of Parties to lead the work, in close consultation with the Advisory Committee, its Working Groups and those undertaking the intersessional work on bycatch reporting, performance indicators and priority setting. Ideally, subject to the progress of those other related tasks, the aim would be to develop a revised reporting template and have all Parties use it as the basis of their national reports to AC6, noting that the reports to AC6 will be the basis for the Advisory Committee's report to MoP4. However, given the expected timing of those tasks, an intersessional decision could be required between AC5 and AC6 to confirm the use of the revised template for Parties' reports to AC6, although this should not be problematic. The Advisory Committee would be expected to review progress at AC5 and AC6 with final consideration at MoP4.

Recommendation

It is recommended that MoP3 :

- affirm the importance of effective outcome oriented national reporting to fulfilling the aims of the Agreement and work of the Advisory Committee;
- endorse the view of AC4 that further development of the format and content of Parties' implementation reports is required;
- endorse in-principle the options and timeframe for improving national reporting, as presented in this paper; and
- agree to intersessional work by the Advisory Committee to review the reporting template and guidelines for national reporting, including developing and testing of any new template and the prioritising of reporting obligations so that the frequency of reporting is linked to the priority of the topic (ie high priorities are reported more frequently).



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of the Parties

Christchurch, New Zealand, 13 – 17 November 2006

Format for Reports on Implementation of Agreement

Author: Advisory Committee

FORMAT FOR REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Following the general framework of the Action Plan, all contributing reports should be accurate, up-to-date, and written with the purpose of identifying and facilitating opportunities for coordination and priority setting for future activities pursuant to the Agreement. As such, all entries should include information on the potential for cooperation and collaboration with Agreement Parties, Range States, and other participants.

In particular, responses should include specific information on the potential for technology transfer, information exchange, or capacity building that would facilitate or augment the described activities. Where a particular measure doesn't apply, this should be indicated. For example, if the control of invasive species for the protection of seabirds is not an issue of concern in your country, please indicate this rather than not reporting under this heading. Wherever there are obstacles or substantial challenges to full and effective implementation of the Agreement, such obstacles should be specified, as appropriate. Priority should be given to reporting on actions pertain directly to species of albatrosses and petrels listed under Annex I of the Agreement. Where activities related to non-listed species are described, the potential of those activities to produce substantial indirect benefits to Agreement-listed species through the development and testing of technology, scientific or management approaches, or other relevant activities, should be explained.

All reports should include:

Name of Party, Range State, or Other:

Designated Point of Contact:

Institution:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

1. Species Conservation

Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
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Briefly list major planned actions for carrying out the Agreement over the next three years. Specifically highlight particular themes, focuses, gaps, and challenges to completing fully such actions.

Measures to eliminate, control or prevent introduction of non-native species to breeding sites	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.4	3	III (1) b)

Briefly describe efforts to eliminate, control, or prevent the introduction of non-native species to the breeding sites of Annex I species, with specific reference to how the success or failure of such efforts would impact the long-term survival of one or more Annex I species.

Report on any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harming of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.2		III (3)

Provide a brief list of exemptions granted for the taking or harming of Annex I species in your country (as appropriate). Estimate the impact of such exemptions on the species and indicate how such exemptions are consistent with efforts to protect such species under the species conservation provisions of the Agreement.

Use and trade	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.1, 1.1.2		III (3)

Provide a brief list of activities related to the use and trade of Annex I species in your country (as appropriate). Estimate the impact of such use and trade, or the restriction of such use and trade, indicating how such activities are consistent with efforts to protect Annex 1 species under the species conservation provisions of the Agreement.

Single or multi-species conservation strategies / action plans	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.3		

Provide a brief description of single or multi-species conservation strategies or action plans focusing on Annex 1 species. Are such strategies and plans effective at conserving seabird species? What have the significant results been? What are the lessons learned from the implementation of such strategies and action plans?

Emergency Measures	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.2		VIII (11) e)

Have any emergency measures been authorized?

Re-establishment schemes	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.3		

Have you conducted any re-establishment schemes? For which species? What were the most important results of such schemes? Has an obvious benefit to at least one Annex 1-listed species been detected? What were the lessons learned?

Any other conservation projects for ACAP species	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

Briefly provide information on any other activities that you carried out for benefit or that have benefited Annex 1 species. What are the most substantial and transferable results of these activities?

2. Habitat Conservation

Measures (legal and policy instruments and actions) to implement protection and management of breeding sites including habitat restoration	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.1	3	III (1) a)

Provide a list including brief descriptions of the main elements of national legislation or other legal measures in your country (if applicable) that directly pertain to or could be applied to the habitat conservation provisions of the Agreement. Include information on how these measures are being specifically used in or could potentially contribute to the protection of breeding sites of Annex I species. Are existing measures adequate and/or effective for fulfilment of the Agreement? How so or how not?

<i>Sustainable management of marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	2.3.1 a)		

Provide a summary of whether the management of living marine resources under your authority (as appropriate) was carried out in such a way that provides sufficient food for Annex 1 species. How so? Were direct or indirect benefits achieved?

<i>Management and protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	2.3.2, 2.3.3	4	

Provide a brief description of the management and protection of important marine areas for or resulting in the benefit of Annex 1 species. Were these actions successful? In what ways? What were the most significant benefits?

3. Management of Human Activities

<i>Report on environmental impact statements related to albatrosses and petrels</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	3.1		

Provide a description of environmental impact assessments or equivalents conducted that directly pertain to Annex 1 species, their habitats, or significant food sources. Were any mitigation measures employed?

<i>Measures to reduce or eliminate incidental mortality in fisheries</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	3.2	6	

Describe activities related directly to reducing or eliminating the incidental mortality of Annex I species in fisheries. What are the greatest challenges or obstacles to the full realization of the potential for these actions?

<i>Measures to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	3.2 4	6	

Describe efforts conducted to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities that have direct consequences for protecting Annex 1 species from either direct or indirect harm from such fishing activities.

Measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (with reference to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL))	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.3.1 b), 3.3		

Describe activities related directly to the minimisation of pollutants and marine (including fisheries-derived) debris in or around important areas for Annex 1 species. How are such activities contributing to the conservation of Annex I species?

Measures to minimise disturbance in marine and terrestrial habitats	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.4		

Describe measures conducted to minimise disturbance in marine and terrestrial habitats as they directly apply to Annex 1 species. Provide any noteworthy details of the execution of such measures.

4. Research and Monitoring

Ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.1		

Provide a summary of more notable research activities and findings that may be noteworthy or of particular interest to other Agreement Parties, Range States, or participants. This may include substantial results, identification of major information gaps, or noteworthy results regarding shared species.

Observer programmes to monitor fisheries bycatch of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.2	5.1	

Describe actions taken to monitor fisheries bycatch of seabird species, specifically detailing techniques, technologies, or other aspects of such monitoring that may be of interest and/or use to other Parties, Range States, or participants.

6. Education and Public Awareness

<i>Dissemination of information / training for 'user audiences' e.g. scientists, fishermen, conservation bodies, and decision-makers</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	6.1		

Briefly describe actions taken in the dissemination of information/training for "user audiences". Have such materials been shown to be effective at furthering the goals of the Agreement?

<i>Dissemination of information to the general public</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	6.2		

Provide a brief description of activities undertaken to disseminate information to the general public regarding seabirds and seabird conservation. Have these activities increased public awareness of such issues and how has this contributed to your overall seabird conservation efforts?

7. Implementation

<i>Summarise progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>

Provide a summary of progress made to implement specific decisions made at previous Meetings of the Parties, in addition to those outlined generally in the Action Plan. How have these actions been integrated into larger seabird conservation efforts?

Extracts from National Reporting Template used by the
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1.2 Questions on specific Appendix I bird species

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I bird species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

<i>Species name</i> – Common Name(s)	
1	Please provide published distribution reference:
2a	Summarise information on population size (if known): increasing <input type="checkbox"/> decreasing <input type="checkbox"/> stable <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
2b	Summarise information on distribution (if known): increasing <input type="checkbox"/> decreasing <input type="checkbox"/> stable <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Indicate (with an 'X') and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available): Research <input type="checkbox"/> Identification and establishment of protected areas <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Education/awareness rising <input type="checkbox"/> Species protection <input type="checkbox"/> Control hunting / poaching <input type="checkbox"/> Species restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat protection <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
4	If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?
5	Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:
Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I birds in general:	

Extracts from National Reporting Template used by the
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

The tables below contain the list of all species listed in Appendix II.

New Parties which have acceded since COP8 in 2005 and Parties which did not submit a National Report in 2005 are requested to complete the entire form.

Parties that did submit a report in 2005 need only report information which has changed (e.g. new published distribution references and details concerning species added to Appendix II at COP8).

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	No information available	Published distribution reference
PROCELLARIIFORMES				
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea irrorata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea nigripes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea immutabilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea bulleri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea cauta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis conspicillata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	