



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of the Parties

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**Report on the Implementation of the Agreement
on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
2004-2006**

Author: Advisory Committee

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS, 2004-2006

COMPILED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM REPORTS PROVIDED TO THE SECRETARIAT

This report has been compiled pursuant to Article X (j) and in fulfilment of Articles VII (1)(c) and IX (6)(d) of the Agreement. The information contained within the report has been obtained by the Secretariat from Parties pursuant to Article VII (1) (c) and Article VIII (10). As noted by the Parties at the 1st Meeting of the Parties (MOP), a key function of the Advisory Committee (AC) is to report to the MOP on the implementation of the Agreement. The key objectives for reporting on the implementation of the Agreement are to:

- provide information regarding the assessment of progress towards the objectives of the Agreement;
- gather information on lessons learned, including successes and failures, in order to conduct albatross and petrel conservation in the most efficient and effective manner; and
- provide a resource of material on albatross and petrel conservation.

Information was submitted to the Secretariat following the format of a revised version of AC1/Doc.15. Additional information regarding work on determining the status and trends of populations of albatross and petrel species listed under Annex 1 of the Agreement and a review of current taxonomy was provided by the Status and Trends Working Group and the Taxonomy Working Group, respectively, at AC2 and is not included in this document. The framework of this report closely resembles the Action Plan within Annex 2 of the Agreement. The AC2 developed and agreed to a more efficient protocol-based reporting system with precise questions, as envisioned by the Parties at MOP1 within Annex 10.

Executive Summary

Nine Parties and Range States submitted the information contained within this report. They comprise seven Parties (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom) and two Range States: Brazil, a signatory, and the United States, an observer. These data and a separate report describing some of the activities of BirdLife International detail a substantial amount of work being done to implement the Agreement. Although the United Kingdom did not include information on Antarctic territories and waters on the basis that these activities are coordinated through the Antarctic Treaty System, AC decided that in the future this information should be reported. Unless otherwise indicated, this report reflects activities carried out during the reporting period not to exceed December 2004 - May 2006. The information provided in this report is not meant to be exhaustive of that which is contained in the individual reports, but is rather a summary of reported activities with specific reference to the Action Plan, the AC Work Programme, and the Agreement, as appropriate. Specific examples of a few of the activities are included for illustration and for the purpose of information exchange. For detailed information about the various programmes and activities, the individual reports should be consulted. The relevant documents are as follows: New Zealand (AC2 Doc 24), the United States (AC2 Doc 25), Ecuador (AC2 Doc 26), South Africa (AC2 Doc 27), the United Kingdom (AC2 Doc 28), Australia (AC2 Doc 29), Brazil (AC2 Docs 30 and 37), France (AC2 Doc 33), BirdLife International (AC2 Doc 38), and Chile (AC2 Doc 39).

In an attempt to gauge the progress of Parties in implementing the Agreement, a brief assessment of Parties' reported actions in response to four major threats to seabirds was conducted. In most cases, the Parties that submitted information to the Interim Secretariat are addressing these four threats to some extent. It is not possible, however, to gauge ACAP Parties' total progress as only seven of ten Parties provided information for the preparation of this report. Of these seven, six reported taking actions to address fisheries bycatch, six reported efforts to minimise IUU fishing, four reported actions addressing non-native species, and five reported on efforts to address the threat pollution and marine debris in relation to seabird species. Although these data represent significant advances in individual nations' conservation efforts, there still exists a gap in information either on reported or in actual activities carried out by those that did not submit a report. It is essential that this gap be filled so that a full and accurate evaluation of the Parties' progress in implementation can be conducted. Likewise, more information on the relevance of certain efforts, such as enactment of national legislation and the findings of research and monitoring projects, must be provided before a robust evaluation of both policy and science needs can be made. It is also unclear given the current information what the most significant obstacles to fulfilling the obligations of the Agreement are for the various Parties, or whether other Parties may be of assistance in overcoming these obstacles, such as with technology transfer or other capacity-building efforts.

Although only six Parties submitted information regarding the conduct of research and monitoring activities, the amount of research being undertaken appears to be substantial. Although a wide suite of activities was reported, three primary categories of research emerged: 1) population assessment and monitoring; 2) fisheries bycatch and gear-related research; and 3) satellite tracking of seabird movements. Unfortunately, in many cases, the relevance of research findings is not clear, making assessment of research priorities and needs difficult.

These and other reporting gaps are likely due to a lack of specific guidance in the reporting process. For example, Parties were asked to provide a list of research activities, not the relevance of associated findings. Consequently, the information provided lacks the level of detail that would prove more suitable for analysis by the Interim Secretariat and for decision-making by the MOP. There are also a number of important issues contained within the Agreement that Parties are not specifically obliged to report on under the current reporting system, including capacity building and the importance of working with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to address the incidental capture of seabirds in commercial fisheries. It is for these reasons that revised guidance for the submission of information for this document has been agreed to and will be applied in the next reporting period.

Overview of Implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

<i>Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>

Seven Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Brazil, respectively) reported on proposed activities on a variety of topics over the next three years, with some of the details reported in other sections of the national reports. All eight nations reported on the development and implementation of one or more national-level plans and strategies to conserve seabird species. Three of the eight

indicated a desire to continue or expand key research activities, including seabird population monitoring and foraging patterns, as well as non-native predator eradication. All eight nations expressed an interest in carrying out activities to reduce the incidental capture of seabirds in commercial fisheries, including working through RFMOs and other international fora. In particular, Brazil reported on its efforts to organize the 1st South American Fishers Forum to Reduce the Incidental Capture of Seabirds to be held in December 2006, and its intent to provide seabird bycatch experts on the delegations of upcoming RFMO meetings. Two of the eight nations expressly communicated their continued supplemental support of the essential functions of Agreement and the Secretariat, including Australia's offer to continue hosting the interim Secretariat and the United Kingdom's offer a further £10,000 for the sponsorship of delegates at future MOPs.

Action Plan

Article VI of the Agreement sets forth an Action Plan for the achievement and maintenance of a favourable conservation condition for albatrosses and petrels. Progress in carrying out the Action Plan is to be assessed at each MOP, based on information provided to the MOP by the AC. As previously indicated, this document generally follows the outline of the Action Plan and contains information submitted by the Parties describing its implementation.

1. Species Conservation

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

Four Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, France, South Africa, and Brazil, respectively) submitted information regarding actions taken to address the threat of non-native species to seabirds under this heading, although additional information may be found in the Habitat Conservation section. Activities include the adoption of strict quarantine measures for specific species' breeding sites, efforts to assess the risk of exposure to non-native species for albatross chicks, the holding of a national workshop for discussing ways to prevent, control, and eradicate non-native species, and large-scale eradication projects. For example, Australia reported on the development of an eradication programme for Macquarie Island, where the presence of rabbits threatens the integrity of vegetation communities across the island, and therefore, threatens albatross and petrel breeding sites. The United Kingdom reported on successful eradication of non-native predators from islands previously used by white-chinned petrels, indicating that following eradication in some locations, natural re-colonisation of the species has occurred. France reported on a number of substantial and large-scale efforts to eradicate non-native species from important seabird breeding islands, including one island 2000 hectares in size, and another large eradication project funding partly by the European Development Fund.

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

Three Parties (Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom) reported information under this heading, including details of specific exemptions provided for the legal take of two Agreement species for indigenous cultural reasons (New Zealand) and complete protection for Agreement species (Australia), while the United Kingdom indicated that permits are issued for scientific

research that may affect seabirds. All other reports either did not include this section or indicated that no exemptions are allowed.

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

Two Parties (Australia and New Zealand) reported information on the use and trade of seabird parts, including a strict permitting process that allows for the use of seabird carcasses obtained through fisheries bycatch for indigenous cultural purposes (New Zealand) and total protection pursuant to CITES membership and obligations (Australia). All other reports either did not include this section or indicated no use and trade.

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

Five Parties and two Range States (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively) reported a substantial amount of information regarding the development and implementation of seabird conservation strategies and action plans. Some of the activities described are national in scale, including New Zealand's efforts to develop a national seabird strategy, whereas other efforts are regional or species-specific. For example, the United Kingdom reported on an international workshop held in March 2006 for the consideration of priorities for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in the South Atlantic. Discussions focused on the responsibilities and obligations of Parties and aimed to identify priorities for the management and conservation of albatross and petrel species, on land and at sea, in and around seabird colonies in the South Atlantic. Chile reported on its implementation of a variety of national and international initiatives, its endangered species legislation, and its role in several multi-lateral arrangements for biodiversity and migratory species protection. Many of the activities described also include research endeavours and priorities, including the development of plans that identify knowledge gaps, place seabird conservation in the context of larger biodiversity initiatives, and facilitate international cooperation on seabird research. One such effort, by the United Kingdom in Tristan da Cunha, includes involvement of the local community in conservation efforts and the establishment of monitoring protocols for key seabird species. To address seabird-fishery interactions, the threat of marine debris and predation by non-native species, Australia reported progress toward the implementation of existing, and the development and adoption of other threat abatement plans to address each of these issues.

<i>Emergency Measures</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	1.2		VIII (11) e)

There were no items reported under this heading.

<i>Re-establishment schemes</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	1.3		

One Party (New Zealand) reported the status of activities related specifically to seabird re-establishment schemes. New Zealand reported efforts to translocate Hutton's shearwater (not

an ACAP species) chicks, as a part of a larger programme to develop and apply techniques for translocating burrow- and surface-nesting seabirds to new sites in order to establish new breeding colonies.

<i>Any other conservation projects for ACAP species</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>

There were no items reported under this heading.

<i>Legal and policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	5.1 l)	3	

Information on this item was provided by seven Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil, respectively). Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa indicated that they had national and/or state and overseas territory legislation providing protection to either all or most seabird species onshore and within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), while Ecuador provided a list of specific measures that have been enacted to protect a number of sites important to seabirds. The United Kingdom indicated that in 2006 its ratification of the Agreement was extended to include its Overseas Territory of Tristan da Cunha. This territory adopted new environmental conservation legislation that meets the Agreement's obligations in early 2006. Brazil and Chile reported on the adoption of their National Plans of Action - Seabirds. Chile also noted domestic legislation that particularly prohibits the hunting of species within the Families Diomedidae and Procellariidae.

2. Habitat Conservation

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

All Parties and Range States that submitted reports included information regarding measures to implement protection and management of breeding sites, although the United Kingdom reported that information on this topic is being provided via the AC Working Group on Breeding Sites. Six nations provided detailed information that focused attention on efforts to eradicate non-native predators from key seabird breeding sites as a part of habitat-restoration activities. New Zealand and Brazil described the authorities by which important seabird sites were protected, while South Africa announced its nomination of the Prince Edward Islands, declared a Special Nature Reserve under domestic law, to both the Ramsar (Wetlands of International Importance) and World Heritage Conventions. Also of note, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States provided details on a number of intensive non-native predator eradication efforts, some of which are being carried out in large part by non-governmental organisations. France also reported on several large-scale eradication programmes, noting the monitoring of secondary mortality from poisoning and vegetation recovery as important for judging their success. Chile provided details about breeding sites for certain albatross species that have been designated as a part of new marine protected areas.

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

Four Parties (Australia, Chile, France, and the United Kingdom) reported activity under this heading, including recognizing the importance of appropriately managed fish stocks, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and ecosystem-based fisheries management. Australia noted that its *Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Giant-Petrels* requires that the dietary requirements of albatross and giant-petrel populations be taken into account when setting fisheries management arrangements (e.g., Total Allowable Catches) in fisheries that overlap with the foraging grounds of such seabird species.

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

Six Parties (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom) reported on actions related to the management and protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels. All six nations' submissions emphasized the establishment and continued monitoring of marine protected areas, some of which are associated with the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) conservation measures. Consistent with Australia's Ocean Policy, the South-east Marine Region Plan was released in 2004. This approach attempts to establish representative marine protected areas within large-scale offshore regions, the south-east marine region incorporating important foraging areas of shy albatrosses. This protected area would encompass more than 226,000 square kilometres of Australia's oceans and is expected to be designated as 13 protected reserves in late 2006 or early 2007. New Zealand and South Africa are also working to designate marine protected areas within their own and CCAMLR-regulated waters and have already closed a number of ecologically important areas to fishing activities that may impact seabirds. In another international effort, Australia, Chile, and New Zealand are co-sponsoring an initiative that seeks to fill a gap on the management of high seas areas in the South Pacific, as well as to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks and to protect biodiversity in the marine environment.

3. Management of Human Activities

Legal and policy instruments for environmental impact assessments	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.1		

Four Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, Ecuador, the United Kingdom and Brazil) reported on the status of legal and policy instruments for conducting environmental impact assessments, indicating that national policies and instruments are in place to protect important species, including seabirds. In some cases, CCAMLR regulations and the requirement for environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty apply.

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

Three Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, the United Kingdom, and the United States, respectively) reported on actions taken regarding environmental impact assessments carried out in relation to albatrosses and petrels. One environmental impact assessment was reported to cover fishery interactions with three albatross species in the North Pacific (not ACAP species), while two others were carried out for the purposes of assuring that seabirds were not adversely affected by exploration and development activities.

<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	

Six Parties, two Range States (Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States), and BirdLife International submitted information describing activities related to reducing the incidental mortality of seabirds in fisheries. A substantial amount of information was provided in fulfilment of this item, illustrating a high level of focus on this aspect of seabird conservation. Testing of bycatch mitigation measures, observer programmes, and working with RFMOs to address seabird bycatch were the predominant activities described under this heading, although only examples of actual measures employed are summarised here.

Chile, France, South Africa, and the United States reported substantial efforts to reduce seabird capture in longline fisheries. For example, France described extensive mitigation measures required for all vessels licensed to fish in the waters of its overseas territories, including offal discharge management, night setting, and the use of bird-scaring lines, among other things. Brazil also indicated that it requires seabird bycatch mitigation measures as a criterion for conferring permits for leased fishing vessels in Brazilian waters and that it is developing standard underwater setting device criteria in the building of new vessels under the Program for Renewing of the Brazilian Fishing Fleet. The United Kingdom reported that, based on the results of recent research efforts, the implementation of bird-scaring lines in a trawl fishery operating from one of its overseas territories resulted in a 90% decrease in seabird bycatch (mostly of an ACAP species). The United Kingdom also reported that BirdLife International's Global Seabird Programme has been working to strengthen the United Kingdom's input into the European Commission's position at RFMO and other meetings relevant to bycatch. The United Kingdom further noted that BirdLife International has prepared an information paper for AC2, entitled, "Opportunities for ACAP in making progress in the conservation of albatrosses and petrels through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations", to help target efforts under the Agreement into reducing seabird bycatch within key RFMOs. This document, in part, stemmed from BirdLife International's work in expanding its Procellariiform Tracking Database, which is used to analyse the overlap between albatross and petrel distribution and longline fishing effort.

<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	

Six Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States, respectively) submitted information regarding measures to combat IUU fishing. Efforts include domestic measures, such as improvements in satellite-based vessel monitoring systems, the institution of improved catch documentation schemes to improve the monitoring of trade in toothfish, as well as direct surveillance and apprehension of fishing vessels within nations' EEZs. France, in particular, described the use of a RADARSAT monitoring system to detect vessels fishing illegally in the waters of their overseas territories

and the use of the French Navy and a seized and refitted vessel to enforce fishing regulations, including the use of bycatch measures. These measures are believed to have resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of illegal vessels entering its EEZ. International participation in efforts to eliminate IUU fishing includes membership in the High Seas Task Force and the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network. Australia reported that it has committed AUS \$217.2 million over five years for fisheries surveillance and patrols in Australian waters around Heard and McDonald Islands. This initiative has already significantly reduced illegal fishing in that part of Australia's EEZ. Australia has also been working closely with countries such as France, South Africa, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to reduce IUU activities. South Africa noted the activities of its new deep-water fisheries protection vessel, the *Sarah Baartman*, which occasionally patrols sub-Antarctic waters, and three smaller fisheries protection vessels, which patrol continental waters to prevent IUU fishing.

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

Five Parties and two Range States (Australia, Chile, South Africa, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively) submitted information on minimizing the discharge of pollutants and marine debris. Submissions included information on the general authorities responsible for controlling marine pollution within nations' EEZs, with specific mention to nations' obligations under MARPOL, as well as information on regional activities. Some of the specific activities listed include an effort to prevent exposure to lead-based paint by chicks of the Laysan albatross (not an ACAP species) on Midway Island National Wildlife Refuge and marine debris clean-up efforts near seabird nests in South Africa. Other activities under this heading are more directly related to fishing efforts and include restrictions on discard of hooks and other measures required under CCAMLR regulations. Efforts by Parties and Range States in a variety of international fora, such as the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Marine Resources Conservation Working Group are also being undertaken.

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

Two Parties and one Range State (South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil, respectively) submitted documentation regarding activities under this heading. All three reporting nations have mechanisms in place to limit approach by tourists, scientific researchers, and/or petroleum exploration activities. In some cases, such measures are species-specific. In others, they are based on location, such as in South Africa in which case the Prince Edward Islands are a Special Nature Reserve, where no tourism is permitted.

4. Research and Monitoring

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

Six Parties, two Range States (Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively), and BirdLife International reported on ongoing research activities. A substantial amount of information was submitted under this section heading, with the United Kingdom reporting on 28 different ongoing research projects conducted in its overseas territories and France noting the continued progress of a 40-year old study of white-chinned and grey petrels on two of its overseas territories. Reported activities from all eight nations emphasized population assessment and monitoring, fisheries and gear-related research, and five nations' efforts to employ satellite tracking as a method to improve understanding of seabird habitat use, foraging patterns, and overall spatial distribution. Given the breadth of activities being conducted, several notable examples are briefly described below.

One example includes collaboration between Australia and the United Kingdom, whereby a whole-island census of wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses at an island group in the South Atlantic was conducted. This was the first time that all colonies of these three species of albatrosses had been surveyed using scientifically robust methodologies. Another collaborative example reported by Australia includes a multi-factorial seabird bycatch mitigation experiment on the Spanish method of demersal fishing (the dominant longline fishing practice in the CCAMLR Convention area). The experiment was conducted in collaboration with Chile and Argentina on a chartered fishing vessel. Australia intends to present the results of this effort to CCAMLR in 2006 along with recommended changes to the Conservation Measures pertaining to Spanish system vessels operating in the CCAMLR Convention area. The USA reported on Project GLOBAL (Global Bycatch Assessment of Long-Lived Species), an effort launched by Duke University and the Blue Ocean Institute to improve understanding of the patterns and implications of incidental bycatch of seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals, by integrating data on bycatch, fishing effort, and its associated oceanographic context on regional, ocean-wide, and global scales. Also of note is New Zealand's work to collaborate with stakeholders, including the fishing industry and non-governmental organisations to raise awareness and to test and employ appropriate seabird bycatch mitigation measures, both in New Zealand and Peru.

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

Six Parties and two Range States (Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively) submitted information regarding the placing of observers on fishing vessels to monitor the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels. Some of the activities described derive from routine fishery observer assessments and others are specifically designed to monitor seabird bycatch. Brazil and Chile reported nationally run observer programmes, one with observers from Projeto Albatroz, a Brazilian non-governmental organisation, which collects seabird bycatch data from both domestic and foreign longline vessels fishing in Brazilian waters. The United Kingdom reported on an effort at Tristan da Cunha, whereby plans to diversify fisheries and issue licenses to foreign longline vessels targeting pelagic and demersal fish species are underway. A previous study based on limited observer data suggested that the demersal fishery had little impact on seabirds. However, once observers were placed on vessels, a different picture emerged. Between January and May 2005, two observers recorded 650 great shearwaters (not an ACAP species), three sooty albatrosses, and one wandering albatross killed on 1.09 million hooks set. This average rate of 0.601 birds per 1000 hooks is 100 times more than that recorded from fishery log books, reinforcing the point that voluntary reporting greatly underestimates the bycatch of seabirds, as has been found globally with most similar voluntary schemes.

<i>National institutions (lists of authorities, research centres, scientists and nongovernmental organisations) involved in albatross and petrel conservation</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>

Five Parties and one Range State (Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Brazil, respectively) expressly contributed submissions under this heading, although mention of collaborations between governments and other entities were found in nearly all submissions. Lists of institutions, in some cases, were lengthy. As such, collaborations between national authorities and stakeholders seem to be widespread, including those between government agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and tourism agencies. For a full listing of institutions, the individual nation reports should be consulted. Although not explicitly called for under this heading, collaborations between governments and fishing industry participants were also apparent in some cases.

5. Collation of Information by the Advisory Committee

This section of the Action Plan outlines the information that should be contained within this report. Many of these items are populated by information submitted within the national reports. However, some of the topics will require additional time for implementation of the Agreement and/or additional information to be submitted by the Parties before completion, including the more comprehensive or overarching reviews of information. Discussion of priorities for reviews may be warranted, as well as an evaluation of the effectiveness of the revised reporting protocol.

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		

Five Parties and two Range States (Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively) submitted a wide variety of information for this section of the Report. Fisheries observers, vessel crews and captains, and tourists were some of the audiences targeted in the reported efforts. Among other things, the United States reported that the American Bird Conservancy published a public awareness document regarding seabird bycatch in Spanish, English, and Chinese languages. This document describes seabird bycatch in fisheries and provides solutions based on research by fishery and seabird experts. Australia and New Zealand noted their activities related to obligations under CCAMLR, including conducting vessel crew and captain briefings on seabird mitigation measures at the beginning of each fishing season. The United Kingdom's efforts focused on producing educational materials for its fishing fleet and for visitors to overseas territories. The United Kingdom also reported the appointment of an elementary school teacher, employed specifically to teach environmental education in some of their overseas territories, including one on where ACAP species breed. BirdLife International reported that it is developing an international team of bycatch mitigation instructors (the Albatross Task Force) to work with fishers and fisheries managers in global seabird bycatch 'hotspots'. This involves conducting at-sea trips and holding on-shore workshops with fishers and fisheries managers, beginning with two instructors deployed in South Africa and negotiations for the placement of additional

instructors in Brazil and Chile by the end of 2006. In addition, Chile, along with Brazil, is planning to hold the 1st South American Fishers Forum to Reduce the Incidental Capture of Seabirds to be held in December 2006. In addition, Brazil has published a volume of information regarding interactions between seabirds and pelagic and bottom longline fisheries. This document includes details of the foraging patterns for four seabird species in Brazilian waters as a part of its EEZ Live Resources Program.

<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		

Five Parties and two Range States (Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Brazil and the United States, respectively) reported on either planned or implemented activities related to the dissemination of information to the general public. Australia and the United States both indicated that they have regularly updated websites, which provide access to albatross and petrel conservation information; key policy documents such as recovery plans, threat-abatement plans and bycatch action plans; fishery effort data and reports on observer findings. Brazil, the United Kingdom, and BirdLife International noted their roles in the development of the Save the Albatross Campaign. This campaign produces media programmes, articles and reports focusing on albatross conservation, many of which have been broadcasted on television, in newspapers, magazines, radio, and Internet directed to the public in general. BirdLife International noted that the Volvo Ocean Race has adopted the Save the Albatross Campaign as its environmental partner, allowing issues of seabird conservation to reach a larger global audience. South Africa reported that a children's book is being written based on the wandering albatrosses of Marion Island that will deal with such issues as longline mortality and should serve to raise awareness of this issue.

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>
	7		

One Party (South Africa) submitted information expressly for this section of the report. However, a few items submitted under other headings have been placed here as they seem to be appropriate additions to the treatment of this topic. South Africa indicated that it has engaged in a collaborative at-sea research effort for albatrosses between the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, and the United Kingdom. Further collaborations on at-sea remote tracking are planned with Australia and Japan. South Africa also noted that Korean joint-venture longline vessels licensed to fish within South African waters carrying South African observers have experienced high levels of seabird mortality (especially of shy albatrosses and white-chinned petrels). Unfortunately, education and providing bird-scaring lines to these vessels has yet to reduce bycatch rates.

In terms of general implementation, the United Kingdom noted a number of financial and in-kind contributions it has made in support of the Agreement, including the secondment of a full-time person to the Interim Secretariat between October 2004 and August 2005, a donation of UK£45,000 to fund priority projects identified by the AC, including a project to count southern giant, northern giant, and white-chinned petrels in South Georgia. Brazil strongly encouraged the creation of a fund for implementing the Action Plan and providing technical assistance to develop conservation, management, and research in the least developed countries.

List of recent relevant publications (since the last report) including scientific and popular articles, videos, websites, pamphlets, manuals, identification guides etc.	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

A large number of relevant publications were provided in the submission of information by the Parties. A comprehensive list, including information on nations of origin, may be found in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1. Bibliography Submitted by the Advisory Committee (2004-2006)

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