



RECOMMENDATION

1. That MoP4 endorses the definition and principles of capacity building stated in sections 2 and 3 of this document.
2. That MoP4 endorses the changes proposed in section 4 for the development of the Agreement's secondment programme.
3. That MoP4 notes that the Advisory Committee intends to develop, during the intersessional period, a capacity building strategy and present it to MoP5 for endorsement.

1. BACKGROUND

During MoP2, capacity building was identified as an issue of high priority for the Agreement and the Advisory Committee's work programme. In response to MoP's request, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee have taken a series of actions, such as the preparation of questionnaires and meeting papers, with the purpose of identifying both needs and opportunities. It is proposed to build on this work to develop a strategy on capacity building for the Agreement with the purpose of making more efficient use of ACAP's limited human and financial resources (see progress and actions described in [AC3 Doc 16](#), [AC4 Doc 26](#), [AC5 Doc 24](#), [AC6 Doc 26](#)).

Although actions on capacity building have not so far been conducted according to a specific long-term programme or strategy, it should be noted that a significant amount of human and financial resources has been spent by the Agreement to address capacity building matters. In the Secretariat's work programme, a number of secondments were conducted, not only with Agreement's funds but also with voluntary contributions (many of them involving secondees from South American Parties). Since 2008, a total of 23 conservation projects were funded by the Advisory Committee, 13 of which comprised capacity building aspects in research, education, training and outreach (see details in [AC6 Doc 23](#)). From a total of AUD\$ 363,063 granted to these projects during the period 2008-2010, almost 60% of the funds were allocated to some form of capacity building activity.

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[AC5 Doc 24](#) outlined the key components of an ACAP strategy on capacity building including key components such as its definition, objectives and principles for allocation of funding and governance. In AC5, the Advisory Committee recommended that the strategy be refined for further analysis in AC6, including making the definition of capacity building more inclusive and to consider how the collective capacity of the Agreement, the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups can be further improved.

2. DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES

Capacity building refers to the process of (a) identifying capacity-related obstacles/barriers to improved conservation outcomes for ACAP species and (b) enhancing the Agreement's capacity to improve the conservation status of ACAP species. The goal of capacity building is to provide practical solutions to problems related to a lack of capacity to implement the Agreement, including in areas such as policy, methods of implementation and the understanding of conservation issues. In developing solutions, consideration will be given to the potential, limits and needs of the Parties concerned. The capacity building strategy is expected to be a long-term, continual process that closely engages with stakeholders and considers their potential, limitations and needs.

The objective of the strategy will be to improve the capacity of Parties and possibly other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Range States, observers) in areas such as research, administration, training and monitoring programmes. Highest priority will be given to activities that will directly lead to improved conservation outcomes for albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. A strategy will help in maximising the benefits of ACAP's limited financial and human resources to achieve the purpose of the Agreement and contribute in raising the profile of ACAP's agenda with all Parties, Range States and observers.

The strategy is expected to include: (a) establishing principles; (b) identifying capacity-related obstacles / barriers to improved conservation outcomes; (c) developing capacity building solutions (e.g. training, secondments, information exchange) to these obstacles and barriers; (d) defining priorities that will guide the use of the Agreement's resources; and (e) specifying a process through which applications for financial assistance will be considered.

3. INTERIM PRINCIPLES

Until a capacity building strategy is developed and endorsed by MoP, capacity building activities will be consistent with the following interim principles:

3.1. the assistance provided or received may include training, information, institutional support, or funding;

3.2. capacity building actions may involve individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, agencies or governments and may facilitate management of the relationship between sectors (public, private and community);

3.3. capacity building actions will be guided by the outcomes of the Agreement's prioritisation process and the priorities agreed by the Advisory Committee, but may include some actions other than those identified as the highest priority; and

3.4. capacity building actions may contribute to building new systems or and building capacities for the continuation of existing programmes (such as observer programmes) where those actions will “seed” longer-term actions that will be supported by the Parties involved.

4. FUNDING AND DELIVERY

The Advisory Committee will identify capacity building needs and capabilities amongst the Parties and other relevant stakeholders. Through the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Grants Subcommittee, the Advisory Committee will develop a capacity building network for the effective implementation of the strategy.

ACAP capacity building actions will be supported through funds from the Secretariat (Appropriation 1), and the Advisory Committee (Appropriation 4) budgets. Voluntary contributions provided by Parties may also support secondments and training programmes. In these cases, Parties may offer funds for a specific project only.

Funds provided for capacity building activities by other organisations are another possibility that should be considered. BirdLife International’s Albatross Task Force offers an excellent example of a global initiative developed by an NGO to develop capacity in a number of ACAP Parties. In cases like this, where activities conducted by other organisations are relevant to the Agreement’s Action Plan, ACAP should, where practical, seek to co-ordinate its activities so as to optimise the use of resources.

Up until now, secondments supported by the Secretariat budget and voluntary contributions have been restricted to training or projects conducted in the Agreement’s headquarters in Hobart. However, provided there is adequate support in place, AC6 agreed that secondments in other Countries may also occur. This will broaden the possibilities for secondees and increase the scope of capacity building, also allowing in many cases, a more efficient use of resources. This change may require the Secretariat to coordinate, with the Advisory Committee, the implementation of secondment programmes and the development of mechanism to select candidates. Such mechanisms were not discussed at AC6 but could include (1) the identification of secondment opportunities by the Secretariat and Parties, an exercise that could be conducted annually through the Advisory Committee reporting process, and (2) a selection of secondees to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Advisory Committee in consultation with other AC Officials. This selection of candidates, along with the definition of duration and location of the secondment should be accompanied by an analysis of the Agreement’s capacities in terms of funds and other resources available within the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee.