

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>Wellington, New Zealand, 11 - 15 September 2017</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Small Grants and Secondment Programmes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Grants Sub-committee, Secretariat</i></b></p>
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### **SUMMARY**

The Advisory Committee Small Grants Programme was successfully applied and refined in 2008 to 2013. Since 2015 however issues have arisen that prevented the implementation of the Small Grants Scheme and this paper discusses some alternative approaches to enable the distribution of funding to conservation-related actions or capacity building.

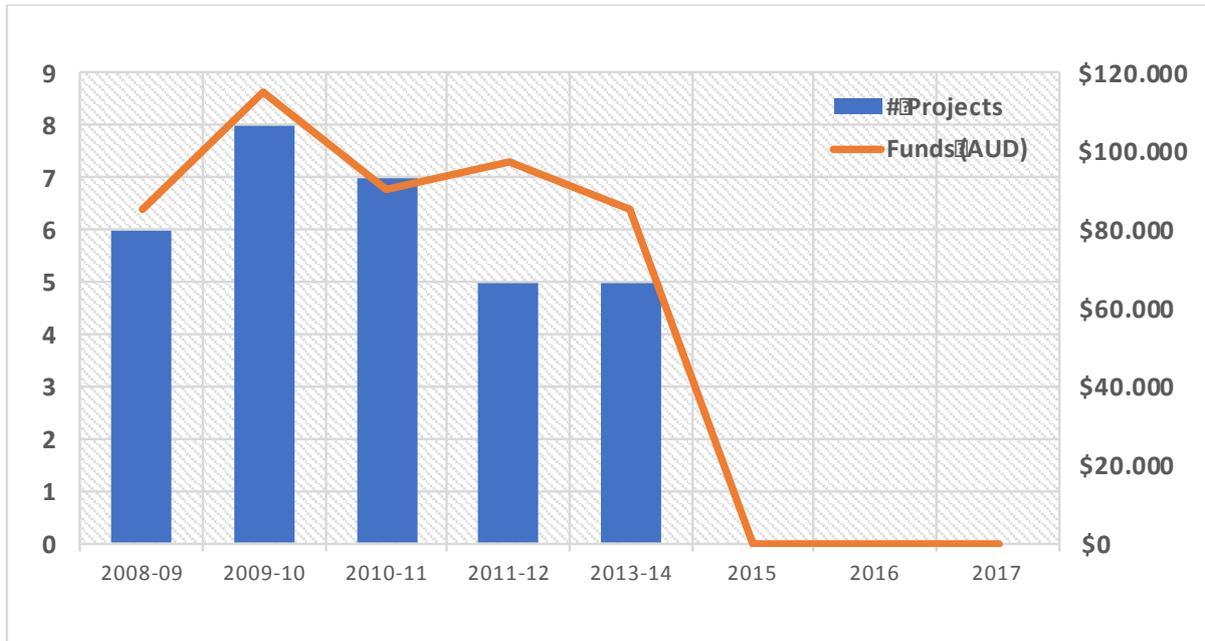
### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Advisory Committee is requested to:

1. Consider the approaches discussed in Section 3, and
2. Agree on an approach to progress the Small Grants and Secondment Programmes.

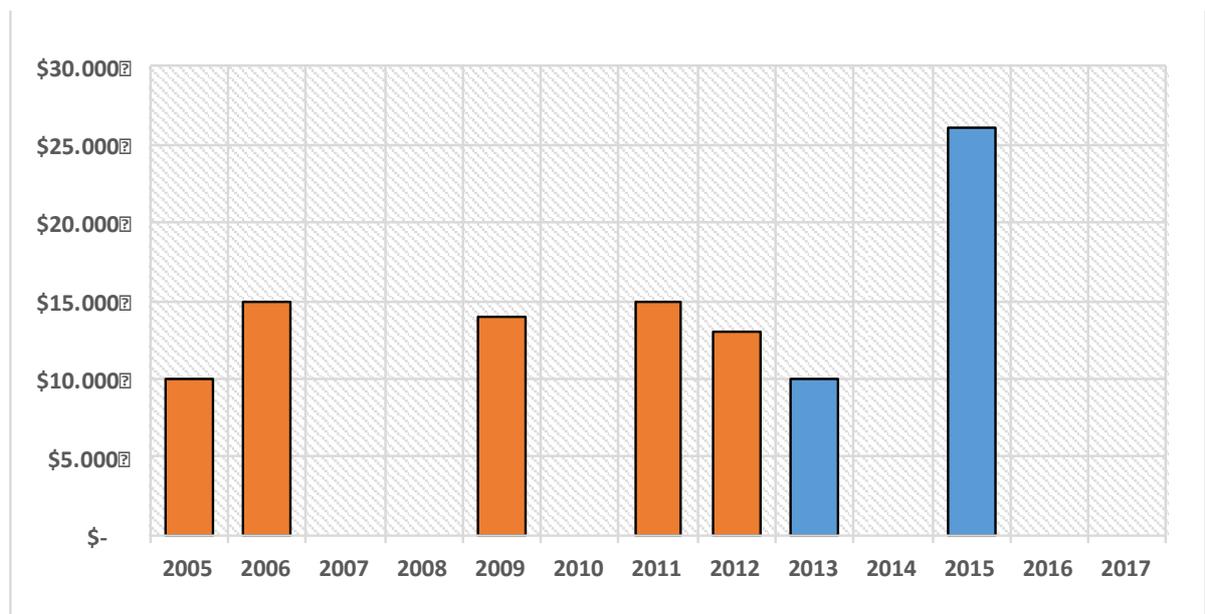
## **1. BACKGROUND**

In 2009, MoP3 adopted a procedure for allocating funding to the AC Work Programme ([MoP3 Final Report](#)). The Advisory Committee Small Grants Programme was successfully applied and refined in 2008 to 2013. The project applications received and granted have been presented to the Advisory Committee Meeting (see [AC7 Doc 16](#), [AC8 Doc 21](#), [AC9 Doc 14](#)). **Figure 1** shows the numbers of projects and total funding allocated over time.



**Figure 1. Number of projects and amount of funds allocated by the Advisory Committee Small Grants Programme since the adoption of the new scheme in 2008.**

In addition to the small grants, and in order to further build capacity in the Agreement, MoP4 approved a new approach to the Secondment Programme. The programme principles and criteria were further developed by the Advisory Committee (see [AC8 Doc 25](#), [AC9 Doc 14](#)). This approach followed the schedule of two calls every three financial years in line with the Small Grants programme. **Figure 2** shows the numbers of secondments and total funding allocated over time.



**Figure 2. Amount of funds (AUD\$) allocated to the Advisory Committee Secondment Programme. Orange bars indicate the secondments implemented by the Secretariat and blue bars under the new Advisory Committee Secondment Programme. All bars indicate a single secondment with the exception of 2015 when there were two secondments.**

In this paper, we present information regarding the implementation of both programmes, issues that prevented the implementation of the Small Grants Scheme since 2015 (and the secondments since 2016 onwards) and propose alternative approaches to better enable the distribution of funding to conservation-related actions or capacity building.

## **2. ISSUES PREVENTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SMALL GRANTS AND SECONDMENTS PROGRAMMES**

The Small Grant funding round undertaken in 2015 was not able to be implemented, as described in [AC9 Doc 14](#). Following AC9, Parties involved sought agreement on a methodology to progress the 2016 application round for the Small Grants and Secondment programmes. Despite these intersessional efforts and those of the Grants Sub-committee and the Secretariat, it was not possible to find an agreed method to progress the application round.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO DELIVER THE SMALL GRANTS AND SECONDMENT PROGRAMMES**

A revised approach for the delivery of the Small Grants and Secondment programmes could be considered to better allow disbursement of funds allocated to these programmes and enable the conservation actions and capacity building activities under these programmes to take place. In this section we present a range of alternative approaches for the delivery of the Small Grants and Secondment programmes for the consideration of the Advisory Committee. Note that these approaches are not necessarily exclusive; some approaches could be utilised in parallel. One or more of these suggested approaches could be used in the interim with review at MoP6. Proposed approaches are:

- a. Attempt to re-run a 2017 application round of the Small Grants and Secondment programmes as it stands,

*This approach would not require any change to the Small Grants and Secondment programme but risks a lack of agreement at the approval stage of the funding round. The benefit of this approach is that it may efficiently allow for support of the Small Grants and Secondment programmes in advance of the MoP.*

- b. Attempt to re-run the Small Grants and Secondment programmes, with applications eligible from Parties and those granted Observer status (following Rule 3 of the AC RoP) to attend the AC meeting immediately prior to the application round,

*This approach would limit the eligibility to a smaller number of Parties, Range States and Organizations, somewhat reducing the risk of a lack of agreement around each Small Grant funding round. However, it might exclude some desirable agencies from applying under the Small Grant programme.*

- c. Allocate additional funds by including more topics/tasks (with responsible group identified) as core projects in the AC Work Programme, that might otherwise be identified as possible Small Grant or Secondments,

*This approach may help support key projects that have been discussed and agreed at the previous Advisory Committee but it would not allow for smaller or more recently developed research proposals to be supported. It may also have*

*a side effect of many research or conservation projects being promoted at each Advisory Committee meeting.*

- d. Temporarily allow secondments to be arranged by the Secretariat with assistance from Grants Sub-committee,

*This approach may help support some Secondments in the interim until the full Small Grants and Secondment programmes can be re-established.*