



## **Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

### **Sixth Meeting of Advisory Committee**

*Guayaquil, 29 August – 2 September 2011*

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### **Advisory Committee Work Programme**

### **Advisory Committee Chair & Vice-Chair**

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## **Advisory Committee Work Programme**

*Advisory Committee Chair & Vice-Chair*

A Work Programme for the triennium 2010-2012 was approved by the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP3, Resolution 3.4). This programme is detailed in Annex 1 and includes tasks (in grey colour) completed during the period 2009-11.

The Advisory Committee's Work Programme will be updated and amended at the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC6) to reflect the revised tasks in the work programmes of the Working Groups and other actions, as well as to reflect decisions taken during the course of AC6.

### **Recommendation**

That the Advisory Committee endorses its work programme and defines actions/ areas to be prioritized in the allocation of funds and other resources during 2012.

Annex 1

Advisory Committee Work Programme 2010 - 2012

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
1.1	Review the evidence supporting the specific status of the Wandering Albatross complex	TWG led by Convenor	2010	This will conclude the assessment process for all closely related sister taxa listed currently on Annex 1 of the Agreement. Completed 2010.
1.2	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2010-2012	
1.3	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor (Secretariat)	2010-2012	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	2011	A scientifically accepted paper would state ACAP's position in the clearest possible way to the scientific community, but other ways might be easier. In particular influencing committees dealing with large parts of the planet such as South American Checklist Committee should be a priority.
1.4a	Respond to queries on ACAP taxonomy	TWG	2011	In early 2010, respond to CMS query.
1.5	Consider additional species for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2010-2012	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template. Spain to develop document on Balearic shearwater. Draft prepared by Secretariat in 2008.
2.0	To maintain Status and Trends Working Group membership	Parties with assistance of Convenor of STWG	2010-2012	New Zealand, any interested Range States (particularly of North Pacific species).
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) End 2009 b) 2010-2012	a) All outstanding existing data to be incorporated into database. b) Parties to provide new population data.
2.1a	Ensure population data consistent and accurate with other databases	STWG Convenor, Secretariat and BirdLife International	2011	Work with BirdLife International in particular.

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2.1b	Resolve part-site monitoring data to assist with generation of database queries and revision of analyses of status and trends	STWG, BSWG convenor and Secretariat	Before AC6	Science officer to facilitate modification of database and STWG and BSWG convenor to work with Science officer to ensure appropriate generation of queries. (AUD\$ included at 2.2a).
2.2	Incorporate all feedback received into the species assessments, and incorporate new data and update species assessments	STWG Convenor (with species authors) (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Updating species assessments with reference to conservation status and numbers.
2.2a	Add data portal improvements relating to ongoing population monitoring and mark-recapture studies	Secretariat and STWG Convenor	2010	Science Officer to facilitate modification of database to include entry of ongoing status of monitoring and mark-recapture studies (AUD\$5).
2.3	Provide advice to CEP regarding census methods for Antarctic southern giant petrels	STWG, (Secretariat)	End 2008	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	Liaise with Secretariat.
2.5	Finalise Species Assessments for all ACAP species	Species Assessment Coordinating Group, STWG Convenor, (Secretariat)	End 2009	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	Secretariat, Spanish and French speaking Parties, STWG	2012	Includes contributions in kind from Spanish and French speaking Parties. All but two Spanish and nearly all French translations completed by AC5 (AUD\$8).
2.6a	Analyse ACAP population database to determine those that meet threshold criteria based upon proportions of global population size	STWG and Secretariat	2011	Following 2010 provision of population data to the database to provide analyses of locations of ACAP populations that meet various threshold criteria.
2.7	Reconsider selection of RFMOs whose boundaries are included on distribution maps in Species Assessments	SBWG STWG	2011	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	
3.0	To maintain Breeding Sites Working Group membership	Parties with assistance of Convenor of BSWG	2010-2012	New Zealand, any interested Range States (particularly of North Pacific species).

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3.1	Revise the database lists and structures	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	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	Largely completed (response still required from Chile, New Zealand, Norway and for the north Pacific species). Published data from southern giant petrels breeding sites in Antarctica added to database.
3.3	Compile and help maintain list of introduced mammals and eradications from ACAP breeding sites	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	This will inform analysis of past and current risks. Largely completed (response still required from Chile, New Zealand, Norway and for the north Pacific species).
3.4	Compile and maintain list of former (recent) breeding sites of ACAP species and their characteristics	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	This will enable consideration of further mitigation of land-based pressures and potentially restoration of range largely completed (response still required from Chile, New Zealand, Norway and for the north Pacific species).
3.5	Assess the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge	BSWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Threats and knowledge gaps are highlighted in Species Assessments. No known substantive change in threats since AC3, hence no formal update carried out.
3.6	Develop, review and update best-practice guidelines to mitigate selected threats to breeding sites, including biosecurity	BSWG Biosecurity lead UK	2010-2012 Biosecurity completed 2010	First editions of all best-practice guidelines for species/sites on original Annex 1. Review of needs for North Pacific albatrosses required.
3.7	Review evidence for impacts of pathogens and parasites on ACAP species and effectiveness of mitigation measures	BSWG, lead France, Ecuador, Argentina	2011	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	BirdLife International to progress analysis of IBAs for later consideration by WG. Update of document on Important Bird Areas for ACAP species provided by BirdLife International for AC5.
3.9	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on BSWG activities	BSWG and AC	2010-2012	

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4.1	To maintain Seabird Bycatch Working Group membership	Parties with assistance of Convenor of SBWG	2010-2012	Chile, New Zealand, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Norway, Uruguay to nominate working group members and further interested Range States as observers.
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  Secretariat	1) End Aug 2008 2) End Mar 2009  3) 4) and 5) 2010-2012	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 (AUD\$25). 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	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  Secretariat	1) Oct 2008 2) 2011  3) 2011	1) Complete last of initial five reports (already funded) Completed by AC5 2) Analysis of information for remaining RFMOs including those managing trawl fisheries (by AC6) 3) Review if updated overlap analyses required (AC6) (AUD\$5).

	Topic/Task	Responsible group	Timeframe	Action detail
4.5	Develop and keep under review 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 / UK  UK/BirdLife	1) 2011  2) 2010-2012	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. Info paper from UK in 2011. 2) Summary of risk assessment methods and key contacts in this area. Priority decided inside the RFMO interaction plan. First draft paper considered at AC5. Further editorial work required to develop ERA toolkit. Ideal for 2010 Brisbane Tuna Commissions meeting
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.  Linked to broader prioritisation process	SBWG and Parties	1) 2011  2) 2011	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. 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), [Science Officer]	2009-10	Requires a clear objective statement of purpose, terms of reference and timeline for the collection of bycatch data. Completed by AC5.
4.8	Collate information (metadata) on bycatch monitoring schemes and data held by each Party	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009	Requires development of a metadata survey form. Completed by AC5.
4.9	Develop a prototype bycatch data collection form with comprehensive instructions for completing the form.	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009-10	Completed by AC5.
4.10	Test and develop bycatch data collection form	SBWG (lead USA), [Science Officer]	2009-2010	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. Approaching completion, but no formal evaluation yet.
4.11	Incorporate bycatch data collection form into standard Party reports	AC	2009-2010	See also Action 6.6.

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4.11a	Analyse bycatch information from Party reports to determine if it can deliver the products required in evaluating bycatch	SBWG and Secretariat	By AC6 deadlines	Additional resources may be needed for this analysis (AUD\$10).
4.12	Create and maintain a bibliography of relevant bycatch information	BirdLife/SBWG (Secretariat)	2010-2012	BirdLife producing report /database. To include both published and unpublished literature.
4.13	Complete tabular reviews and develop summary advice on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (demersal longline, pelagic longline, and trawl)  Translations of mitigation fact sheets into relevant languages  Maintain tabular reviews, summary advice and individual mitigation fact sheets	Leads: New Zealand (trawl), Australia (Pelagic LL), UK (Demersal LL), BirdLife (individual mitigation measures)  BirdLife/SBWG  Secretariat/BirdLife	2010  2011  2011-2012	Initial versions of each tabular review and summary advice completed by AC5.  Individual mitigation fact sheets completed by AC5.  (AUD\$18 included in 2009 programme)  (AUD\$5 (for ind. fact sheets per year for 5 years))
4.14	Produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries	BirdLife/ Australia/ WWF Convenor SBWG	2010-2012	
4.15	Assist in the preparation, adoption and implementation of FAO NPOA-Seabirds or equivalent	SBWG and Parties/ Range States	2010	FAO expert consultation including ACAP input scheduled for September 2008. Completed and published in March 2010.
4.15a	Review existing NPOA seabirds in light of new FAO Technical guidelines	SBWG, Leads: Convenor SBWG, Ben Sullivan	2011	
4.16	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea	Australia/ Brazil/ New Zealand/ Peru/ UK SBWG Needs a clear lead	2011	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	Draw conclusions and make recommendations to AC as appropriate.
4.17a	Review any other relevant mitigation research	SBWG	2010-12	Draw conclusions and make recommendations to AC as appropriate.

	<b>Topic/Task</b>	<b>Responsible group</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Action detail</b>
4.18	Maintain review of research needs and priorities for bycatch research and mitigation development	SBWG	2010-2012	Gill-netting to be examined in 2011.
4.19	Provide and consider annual reports to AC on WG activities	SBWG and AC	2010-2012	
4.20	Estimate mortality in previously unobserved fisheries in range of Waved albatross	Ecuador and Peru, BirdLife, AC, American Bird Conservancy	2012	Part of implementation from Waved Albatross Action Plan. Some ACAP-funded work started in 2010 (two projects total value: AUD\$41), original timescale unrealistic.
5.1	Develop strategy for capacity building	AC Chair, New Zealand, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, UK, WWF	2010	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	Development of a South American seabird bycatch observers course, development of standard methodology (see also 4.5) and exchange of observers between Parties. AUD\$33 total grant in 2009. First stage of the programme completed in 2010 (workshop, Buenos Aires).
5.3	2 <sup>nd</sup> South American Fishers Forum	All South American Parties, Southern Seabird Solutions, WWF	December 2009	Some support would be welcome. Forum did not take place.
5.4	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC and Parties to consider	2010-2012	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.
5.5	Technical Cooperation to train observers and develop an observers programme in Ecuador	Argentina, Ecuador, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy	2008 - 09	Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation.
5.6	Development of an observers programme in Peru	Peru, BirdLife International, American Bird Conservancy	2009	Part of Waved Albatross Action Plan implementation.

	<b>Topic/Task</b>	<b>Responsible group</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Action detail</b>
6.1	Identify and prioritise conservation measures required for each species and by each Party to the Agreement	Secretariat, WG Convenors and <i>ad-hoc</i> group, lead New Zealand	2010-2012	An analysis of threats, data/knowledge gaps and population trends will be undertaken (Broadly complete by AC5). By AC6, data validation and finer-scale analysis will occur with integration into ACAP database (AUD\$10).
6.2	Develop and harmonise conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	WGs, AC (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Precise definition of what is needed difficult at this range.
6.2a	Draft the Amsterdam albatross National Action Plan	France (for review by AC)	2010-2011	Draft to be examined intersessionally by group led by Chair of Advisory Committee.
6.3	Implement conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels	Parties, AC	2010-2012	Precise definition of what needed is difficult at this range.
6.4	Develop a system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	UK (lead), Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, USA, BirdLife	2011	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 (Completed by 2010). By AC6, test a set of indicators based on available data and further consider high level indicators of gain in capacity/ resources by ACAP.
6.5	Review the effects of climate change on ACAP species	France, UK	2011	This may need updating at regular intervals.
6.6	Improve, in association with the Secretariat, guidance for the provision of information by Parties on the implementation of the Agreement	AC	Initial work by 2010 for agreement in 2011	Information on implementation provided by Parties is currently difficult to assemble and assess, and can prove onerous to Parties to provide. Good progress by 2010, finalisation by late 2010. Some database development required.
6.6a	Assist Secretariat and AC with provision of information on the agreed indicators and national reporting queries	Secretariat, WGs	Before AC6	Following 2010 data provision and database update, provide the Secretariat and AC with information as required to progress the agreed indicator and national reporting parameters that are relevant to status and trends (AUD\$10).

	<b>Topic/Task</b>	<b>Responsible group</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Action detail</b>
6.7	Review information provided by Parties on implementation of the Agreement and provide a report to MoP	AC	2011	This to carry out responsibilities under Article IX 6 d) of the Agreement.
6.8	Support database of relevant scientific literature	AC, lead: Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Much exists already in various places. Also relevant for several other actions e.g. 4.12, 4.13.
6.9	Develop a directory of relevant legislation	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Parties will need to supply information
6.10	Develop a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Argentina, UK (Secretariat)	2010-2012	Requires input from AC and Parties
7.1	Budget matters	AC	2010-2012	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
7.2	Staff matters	AC	2010-2012	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	
7.5	Management of Advisory Committee work	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2010-2012	Regular teleconferences and email conversations