

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>La Rochelle, France, 6 – 10 May 2013</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance Indicators</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Argentina</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties (Lima 2012) approved the use and further development of a series of performance indicators and also considered the development of capacity indicators. This document includes a draft exercise carried out by Argentina in order to assess the feasibility of a series of proposed indicators and start a debate leading to consider other possibilities. Article IV of the Text of the Agreement on Capacity Development was used as the basis to define indicators. Further to this Article, the proposed indicators include: (1) number of meetings/workshops/training sessions to which ACAP has provided technical or financial support, (2) number of meetings/workshops on capacity building pursuant to the ACAP, (3) specific training for onboard observer programmes. It is proposed that the baseline for further comparisons incorporate the state of affairs during the triennium prior to the ratification of the Agreement by each of the Members. Implementation of this indicator should not cause difficulties, as a considerable amount of the information required is being incorporated by the countries into the annual report submitted to the Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Assess the feasibility of implementing these indicators and the possibly to integrate them to those already adopted.
2. Commission intersessional work to enhance these indicators and explore others.
3. Identify the AC Members to be entrusted with such work.

1. BACKGROUND

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties (Lima 2012) approved the use and further development of a series of indicators for bycatch, breeding sites and population status and trends, pursuant to the AC6 recommendation in MoP4 Doc 23 (MoP Final Report, item 7.5). This document also discusses the development of capacity indicators such as those approved by the Convention on Biological Diversity (e.g. financial support from parties in furtherance of the Agreement's objectives.)

During AC6, the Parties recognised the potential value of those indicators, but emphasised the difficulties involved in their consistent assessment. Given that the Advisory Committee encouraged the Parties to submit proposals on potential capacity indicators, this document presents a draft exercise that Argentina carried out in order to analyse the viability of some proposed indicators and start a debate leading to consider further possibilities.

2. ANALYSED INDICATORS

Article IV of the Text of the Agreement on Capacity Development was used as the basis to define indicators. This article presents the various responsibilities in two levels, described in paragraphs 1 and 2. The first paragraph concerns the management of the Agreement, and the second paragraph focuses on the Parties' responsibilities.

ARTICLE IV Capacity Building

- 1 *“Effective implementation of this Agreement requires assistance to be provided to some Range States, including through research, training or monitoring for implementation of conservation measures for albatrosses and petrels and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of this Agreement.”*

Regarding this paragraph, it would be appropriate to discuss the levels of support, both technical and financial, received by the ACAP Parties and other Range States, and how this assistance has impacted on their internal management.

Indicator No. 1. Number of meetings/workshops/training sessions to which ACAP has provided technical or financial support.

Examples:

- Capacity Building: Onboard Observer Technical Training Programme by the Ecuador National Observer Programme: Ecuador, Argentina and BirdLife International (ACAP Project 08-11) Funding AUD 5,000
- Enhancement of data collection on seabird incidental mortality in onboard observer programmes in South America (ACAP Project 09-10.) Funding: AUD 23,000
- Conservation of albatrosses and petrels in Argentine trawl fisheries (ACAP Project 10-10.) Funding: AUD 14,100

ARTICLE IV
Capacity Building

2 *“The Parties shall give priority to capacity building, through funding, training, information and institutional support, for the implementation of the Agreement.”*

In this case, the following question could be posed: Since ratification of the Agreement, which capacity building processes have been implemented? What domestic/international funds managed by the different countries have been allocated to those processes?

Indicator No. 2. Number of meetings and workshops on capacity building pursuant to the ACAP

Examples:

- Training of observers on species recognition and on how to fill incidental mortality spreadsheets. National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero, INIDEP) 2011
- Workshop on Seabird Conservation – Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, SAYDS) 2007
- Workshop: Development of the National Plan for the Conservation of the Giant Petrel – SAYDS 2009
- Workshop: Follow-up of the National Action Plan for the Reduction of the Interaction between Birds and Fisheries in the Argentine Republic - SAYDS 2012
- Training and Communication Programme for fishing vessel crews to reduce bird bycatch in fisheries, 2011- present FVS-AA-INIDEP-CONICET

It is worth noting that isolated indicators do not provide the necessary information to assess performance. They only show the behaviour of the variable measured against a series of benchmarks. For the indicators under paragraph 2, the first analysis suggested is an estimate of the measures implemented during the three-year period before the Agreement was ratified by each country. This would be the baseline or benchmark to be used in subsequent trienniums after the ratification. In the case of Argentina, the exercise should consider the 2004-06 triennium as the baseline. In a way, an upward trend could be expected for the first years after ratification of the Agreement. Implementation of this indicator should not cause difficulties, as a considerable amount of the information required is being incorporated by the countries in the annual report submitted to the Advisory Committee (Section D.)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

These preliminary indicators are put forward to be discussed by the Advisory Committee. It is recommended that the Advisory Committee assess whether these indicators may be implemented and eventually incorporated to those already adopted. Should this be possible, it is recommended that the AC commission intersessional work to enhance these indicators and explore others. In this regard, it would be advisable to identify the AC Members to be entrusted with such work.