

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Eighth Meeting of the Parties <i>Dunedin, New Zealand, 19 - 23 May 2025</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Capacity building and outreach</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Secretariat, Advisory Committee Chair</i></p>
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SUMMARY

This report contributes to the Advisory Committee meeting its reporting requirements to the Meeting of Parties in accordance with Article IX(6) c), d) and f).

Since MoP7, the Agreement has continued to support capacity-building activities for ACAP Parties and others through financial and technical support for secondments, internships, projects, meetings, workshops, training and other activities. On the other hand, evolution in the number and range of capacity building events undertaken domestically by Parties could not be demonstrated. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that the performance indicator for domestic capacity building be removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Parties:

1. Continue their commitment to ACAP-assisted capacity building activities (including Small Grants and Secondments) which enable knowledge-sharing and strengthen international cooperation to conserve albatrosses and petrels.
2. Note difficulties encountered with collection of some capacity building indicators and agree to remove capacity building Indicator 2 which focuses on domestic activities.
3. Inform the Secretariat of updates to authorities, research centres, scientists and non-government organisations concerned with albatrosses and petrels.

1. CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS

Article IV of ACAP recognises the importance of capacity building to effectively achieve the Agreement's objectives. The Agreement states that Range States will need assistance through research, training or monitoring and in implementing conservation measures. As such, Parties have agreed to prioritise capacity building activities.

The Agreement's Action Plan also references capacity building activities in paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 stating that Parties shall:

'... cooperate with each other, the Secretariat and others with a view to developing training programmes and exchanging resource materials';

and

'...arrange for training programmes to ensure that personnel responsible for the implementation of this Action Plan have adequate knowledge to implement it effectively.'

A suite of indicators has been developed to collate and monitor capacity building activities by ACAP and its Parties. A contact group (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) developed two performance indicators for capacity building under the Agreement. These indicators are based on the 'State – Pressure – Response' approach that was endorsed by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties ([MoP6 Doc 21](#)):

INDICATOR 1 - RESPONSE

Number of meetings, workshops, training and other events **where ACAP has assisted technically or financially** to build capacities among Parties.

Key question addressed by this indicator

What technical and financial assistance has been provided to Parties (and Range States) to build capacity to facilitate the objective of the Agreement?

Target audience

Governmental agencies of ACAP Parties and Range States.

INDICATOR 2 - STATE

Evolution in the number and range of meetings, workshops, training and other capacity building events since the Party ratified the Agreement.

Key question addressed by this indicator

Since the ratification of the Agreement, which capacity building actions and/or processes have been carried out?

Target audience

Parties to the Agreement (environment and fishery management agencies) and NGOs.

The ACAP database has been collecting information from Parties and Range States on capacity building activities as part of their reporting to the Advisory Committee. Since 2011, Parties were asked to answer the following question (in annual report SECTION D: OTHER ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS), which addresses Indicator 2:

Question 3. Since the last report has the Party undertaken or funded any capacity building activities relevant to ACAP?

Additional information can be provided for each activity in this question: funding source, amount of assistance provided (or in-kind), funding recipients, purpose of activities funded (e.g. bycatch mitigation).

Following AC11 in 2019, another question was added to allow separate reporting on assistance obtained specifically from ACAP by each Party or Range State, which would address Indicator 1:

Question 4. Since the last report has the Party received any funding or technical assistance for capacity building from ACAP?

Further details can also be provided as for Question 3.

A large proportion of capacity building actions are implemented through the Small Grants and Secondments programmes (see [AC14 Inf 01](#)). Although projects funded by the Small Grants Scheme can include capacity building aspects in research, education, training and outreach, it is the ACAP Secondment Programme in particular that is aimed at capacity building within Parties, and which addresses Indicator 1. **Table 1** summarises assistance provided by ACAP since 2013 when the scope of the Secondment Programme was expanded. Between 0 and 6 actions per year were supported technically or financially (Small Grants and Secondments are not offered in all years). A total of \$174,661 was provided to Secondments between 2013 and 2025. Summaries of successful [Small Grants](#) and [Secondments](#) programmes are published on the ACAP website.

Table 1. Indicator 1: Number of meetings, workshops, training, and other events where ACAP has assisted technically or financially to build capacity among Parties and Range States. Participation/presentation refers to actions carried out by the Secretariat, Working Group convenors, vice-convenors, AC Chair and Vice-chair.

Year	Number of activities supported with a description of each activity	
2013	2	Jiménez Secondment Uruguay – UK (overlap of <i>Diomedea exulans</i> with pelagic longlines in southwest Atlantic)
		Small Grant 2013-20 - Four workshops on establishing capacity in South America to build knowledge on albatross and petrel health and prevent disease introduction - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru
2014	1	Participation/presentation: CCSBT Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group meeting, Tokyo, Japan.
2015*	2	Cortés Secondment Spain – ATF Chile (reducing petrel bycatch in artisanal fisheries)
		Serafini Secondment Brazil – UK (pathogen surveillance)

2016*	1	Participation/presentation: Common Oceans Tuna Project - Workshop on Effective Seabird Conservation in Tuna Fisheries, Suva, Fiji.
2017*	1	Participation/presentation: Common Oceans Tuna Project Regional Bycatch Pre-assessment Workshops: South Africa and Vietnam
2018	6	Paz Secondment Argentina – Chile (habitat selection of <i>Thalassarche malanophris</i> and fishing activity)
		Adasme Secondment Chile – NZ (Risk assessment of seabirds in South Pacific)
		Marquez Secondment Brazil – UK (priority areas for albatross conservation in relation to fisheries bycatch) (in progress)
		López Secondment Chile – USA (<i>Ardenna creatopus</i> - outreach, understanding threats and mitigation measures)
		Suazo Internship Chile - Secretariat/NZ (update of ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide, bilateral Chile – NZ collaboration on seabird bycatch matters)
		Participation/presentation: Common Oceans Tuna Project Seabird Bycatch Data Preparation Workshop Cusco, Peru
2019	4	Hernández Secondment Argentina – NZ (ERA of incidental mortality of seabirds in Argentine fisheries)
		Pereira Secondment Brazil – NZ (improving museum curatorial skills)
		Alemán Lucero Secondment Ecuador – Brazil (seabird rehabilitation and ID of pathogenic diseases) – not completed
		Participation/presentation: Common Oceans Tuna Project Final Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshop, Kruger National Park, South Africa
2020	0	
2021	1	Participation/presentation: CCAMLR e-group on net monitoring cables
2022	4	Quiñones Secondment Peru - New Zealand (mitigation techniques applicable to the artisanal longline fishery off Peru and integrated bi-national seabird distributions of Chatham, Buller's and Salvin's Albatrosses)
		Iwan Secondment Argentina – Australia (abordaje social de la problemática de la captura incidental de aves marinas en pesquerías comerciales de Argentina)
		Suazo Secondment Chile – Argentina (multi-fishery interactions of sympatric black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses from the Diego Ramírez Islands) – not yet completed
		Cordeiro Secondment United Kingdom – New Zealand (burrowing bird censuses using detection dogs)
2023	3	Expert Group Secondment IAPC7 - Training workshop offered to Parties representatives, and other relevant stakeholders, on the risks and biosecurity measures applied to ACAP Species in the context of the High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1)
		Participation/presentation: by SBWG Co-convenor in an Albatross Task Force workshop for fishers in Namibia
		Ongoing 2023 - 2025, supporting partner for CCSBT project under Common Oceans Tuna Phase 2, to improve implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

*Small Grants and/or Secondment Programmes were on hold 2015-2017

In addition, the Secretariat provides ongoing annual support (except in 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic) for postgraduate translation interns to spend a week in the ACAP Secretariat and develop translation skills in relation to albatross and petrel conservation vocabulary. Occasional in-kind support has also been offered to postgraduates by providing space at the Secretariat to complete ACAP species-related research reports or manuscripts for publication.

On the other hand, [MoP7 Doc 16 Rev 2](#) noted that collating information on Indicator 2 was problematic. From the Parties' responses to Question 3 in Section D of the annual report, most answers indicated that no capacity building activities relevant to ACAP took place in the previous year. Where Question 3 was answered in the affirmative, the specific number of capacity building events was not always itemised. **Table 2** summarises the number of capacity building activities for each Advisory Committee reporting year, starting with AC6 in 2011. Nevertheless, it was clear that Parties and Range States assigned resources to capacity building activities, and these were regularly highlighted in their triennial Implementation Reports to MoP, in Section 6, which addresses education and public awareness:

Question 6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers)?

However, the number of events was not always specified either.

Table 2. Indicator 2: Number and range of meetings, workshops, training, and other capacity building events since the Party ratified the Agreement. Collated from Question 3 of Annual Reports to AC – 'Has the Party undertaken or funded any capacity building activities relevant to ACAP?'

	2011	2013	2014	2016	2017	2019	2021	2023	2024
Argentina	0	2	2	1	-	1	1	1	0
Australia	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Chile	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	-	-
Ecuador	-	-	0	1	2	-	-	-	-
France	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	0	0	0	0	1	>1	0	6
Norway	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	2	0
South Africa	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	>1
Spain	-	-	1-2	>1	>1	0	0	0	>1
UK	0	5	2	2	2	2	-	>1	>1
Uruguay	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-

Question 3 in Section D of the annual reporting form is currently not fulfilling the objectives of capacity building Indicator 2. **MoP7 Doc 16 Rev 2** invited Parties to discuss suitability of the information collected, feasibility of submitting more quantitative information, and any further

actions that may be required but no progress was made at MoP7 in 2022, which was an online meeting.

The issue was discussed at AC14 and the Advisory Committee questioned whether capacity building was suitable as an indicator. The AC agreed that it is inter-Party capacity building that is of interest and recommended that a proposal be put to the Meeting of the Parties to discontinue Indicator 2 which focuses on domestic activities and is primarily based on responses to Question 3 in Parties' annual reporting to the AC (SECTION D: OTHER ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS).

2. AUTHORITIES, RESEARCH CENTRES, SCIENTISTS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS (ACTION PLAN 5.1.k)

The [ACAP website](#) provides a comprehensive list of links to various centres, institutions, organisations and websites concerned with albatrosses and petrels. Parties are encouraged to provide further updates to the Secretariat at any time.

3. REVIEWS OF EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMES AIMED AT CONSERVING ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS (ACTION PLAN 5.1.m)

The Parties have consistently reported on a range of programmes being undertaken, including education, training and outreach. However, no reviews of these programmes have been undertaken by the Advisory Committee. Collaboration between governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) was evident in many cases.

An international conservation education programme about albatrosses and petrels has been recently completed in consultation with ACAP seabird experts and added to the ACAP website. The programme, [Albatrosses and Petrels: Conservation Education Programme for Primary Schools](#), has been produced for use in primary schools (roughly for children aged 9-11) for four of ACAP's Parties - United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa - by aligning with their national school curricula, to assist in achieving Section 6 of ACAP's Action Plan: Education and Public Awareness. The programme was created in 2023 by Zoe Jacobs as part of her MSc in Conservation Ecology at Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom.