
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

Resolution 5.4

Advisory Committee Work Programme 2016 – 2018

Adopted by the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain,
4 – 8 May 2015

Recalling Article VIII(11)(d) of the Agreement, which required that the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties establish the Advisory Committee provided for in Article IX of the Agreement;

Further recalling Resolution 1.5 of the Meeting of the Parties on the establishment of the Advisory Committee which included a work programme for this Committee;

Noting that the eighth meeting of the Advisory Committee developed a work programme for the period 2016 - 2018 (AC8 Final Report, Annex 6) taking into consideration the outcomes of its meeting and the preceding meetings of the Population and Conservation Status, and Seabird Bycatch Working Groups;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Decides:

to approve the Advisory Committee Work Programme in Appendix A, subject to available funding.

RESOLUTION 5.4 APPENDIX A - ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016 - 2018

Topic/ Task	Responsible group	Time frame	Resources		Action detail/ comments	
			Time	Funds		
1. Taxonomy and Annex 1 review						
1.1	Keep the Taxonomy Working Group's bibliographic database updated	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	0.5 week per annum (p.a.)	AUD 0	
1.2	Continue the establishment of a morphometric and plumage database	TWG led by Convenor, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks	AUD 0	This will facilitate the taxonomic process, the identification of bycatch specimens, and the long-term storage of valuable data
1.3	Maintain a database of site-specific information on the availability of samples relevant to studies of population genetics of ACAP species	TWG	2016-2018	2 months	?	
1.4	Consider taxonomic issues relating to species proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Agreement	Parties and AC	2016-2018	0.5 week p.a.	AUD 0	Development of papers as required, using species assessment template.
1.5	Respond to queries on taxonomic issues relating to ACAP species	TWG led by Convenor	2016-2018	1-2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Advise regarding a taxonomic list to use for candidate species and encourage harmonising with CMS and IUCN
2. Information on status, trends and breeding sites						
2.1	Consider gaps in population, tracking, breeding site management, threats and regulatory protection data submitted to ACAP; request any outstanding data and incorporate changes	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	8 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Parties to provide new or outstanding data each year. Science Officer to issue reminders in June each year. Maximise use of existing data (could be suitable for secondments).

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2.2	Review and refine standardised queries and outputs for analysis and interpretation. Continue to improve data portal structure and queries.	Science Officer, Convenors, Vice Convenors, PaCSWG	2016-2018	12 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
2.3	Accurately assess and update global population trends	PaCSWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International with other experts as required	2016-2018	3 weeks	AUD 5,000 (core)	May require further data portal updates. Consider alternative approaches as required.
2.4	Update ACAP Species Assessments	Science Officer, PaCSWG Convenors	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 4,000 (core)	Costs for Birdlife to update maps.
2.5	Translate updates to Species Assessments and ACAP guidelines into Spanish and French	Science Officer	2016-2018		AUD 10,00 (core)	
2.6	Identify priority species or populations for monitoring of numbers, trends and demography	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	2 weeks pa	AUD 0	Review and update priorities and reflect on progress against priorities and provide reports to each AC Meeting.
2.7	Review availability of albatross and petrel tracking/distribution data to ensure representativeness of species/age classes. Prioritise gaps and encourage studies to fill gaps.	PaCSWG, AC, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2017	1 week p.a.	AUD 1,000 (core)	Review at AC10
2.8	Identify and/or review priority species or populations for conservation actions	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Review at each AC Meeting
2.9	Review and prioritise the threats to breeding sites and identify gaps in knowledge	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Annual updating of priorities by Parties, re-run prioritisation as required.
2.10	Review and update best-practice guidelines	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	3 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
2.11	Develop/update database of biosecurity plans for ACAP breeding sites	PaCSWG, Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	Parties may also need to develop/implement biosecurity plans at breeding sites

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2.12	Maintain centralised catalogue of plastic rings used on ACAP species and contact list, and addresses of ringing authorities	Science Officer, PaCSWG	2016-2018	1 week	AUD 0	
2.13	Provide reports on activities to AC meetings	PaCSWG, Science Officer	As needed	12 weeks	AUD 0	
3. Seabird Bycatch						
3.1	Continue to implement the RFMO interaction plan for ACAP (AC5 Doc 29) and review at each SBWG meeting. Relevant Parties to engage and assist RFMOs and other relevant international bodies in assessing and minimising bycatch of albatrosses and petrels	Individual RFMO co-ordinators, Secretariat, SBWG and AC	2016-2018	a) 18 weeks p.a. b) 18 weeks p.a. c) 2 weeks p.a.	(a+b) AUD 30,000 p.a. (core)	a) Travel etc costs for attendance at selected RFMO meetings (less if Party can contribute directly) b) RFMO co-ordinator activities c) Review of process and recommend changes (SBWG) Includes development and dissemination of resources
3.2	Update analysis of overlaps of distributions and albatrosses and petrels with fisheries managed by RFMOs	BirdLife / ACAP	2016-2017	4 weeks	AUD 10,000 (core)	Consider work and schedule of RFMO activities (e.g. seabird risk assessments and reviews of bycatch mitigation measures)
3.3	Continue to review and utilise available information on foraging distribution, fisheries and seabird bycatch to aid prioritisation of actions to reduce the risk of fishing operations to ACAP species in waters subject to national jurisdiction.	SBWG and Parties	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (grant)	Assess needs for waters subject to national jurisdiction and any capacity building requirements To facilitate regional coordination to better assess bycatch Consider possible link to conservation priorities, such as Wandering Albatross

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3.4	Maintain bibliography of relevant bycatch information	BirdLife/SBWG Science Officer	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Based on Endnote library Includes both published and unpublished literature Replace working papers with published papers where possible Submission of information from Parties and others encouraged
3.5	Based on new information, update ACAP/BirdLife fact sheets on mitigation measures for fishing methods known to impact albatrosses and petrels (trawl, pelagic longline, demersal longline)	SBWG/BirdLife	2016-2018	1 week per fact sheet	AUD 5,000 (core)	Costs are for translation. Leads – Trawl: New Zealand Pelagic longline: Australia Demersal longline: UK General: BirdLife
3.6	Produce report on lessons from mitigation success stories in commercial fisheries	SBWG/BirdLife	2016-2018	3 weeks	AUD 5,000 (grant)	Target audience is fisheries managers. May help inform the development of future strategies for engagement with fishing fleets (task 3.15). Funds are for production/ translation.
3.7	Prepare review of knowledge on deliberate take/killing of ACAP species at sea	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (grant)	Review to describe current knowledge (much from unpublished literature) and causes of any deliberate take and to consider possible take reduction strategies. (Work on review of intentional killing in jigging fleets is planned in 2015). Potential for secondment.
3.8	Recommend priority actions to advance implementation of line-weighting in pelagic longline fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		To be determined	Will be informed by output of research planned for 2015
3.9	Review and update the prioritisation framework for at-sea threats	SBWG	2017 (for MoP6)	1 week	AUD 5,000 (core)	Analysis and update of data relating to threats and mitigation. Possible workshop.

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3.10	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in artisanal, small scale and recreational fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 0	Follows on from development of the toolbox concept in 2015
3.11	Further development of best practice advice for mitigation in gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 0	
3.12	Assist other organisations or range states in bycatch research by facilitating collaboration with relevant experts	SBWG	2016-2018		?	
3.13	Development of bycatch indicators and associated data, methodological approaches and reporting required	SBWG/ Anton Wolfaardt, Igor Debski <i>et al.</i>	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (grant)	Possibility for continued secondments to build capacity
3.14	Develop the flagship species approach to raise the profile of seabird bycatch, bycatch mitigation and other conservation measures in fisheries in high-risk areas.	SBWG	2016-2018		AUD 10,000 (core)	Funds for publication and translation of materials
3.15	Implement the strategy for directly engaging with fishing fleets on the need for implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures	SBWG	2016-2018		?	Strategy and mechanism development planned for 2015
3.16	Research actions for artisanal, small-scale and recreational fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		To be determined	Dependent on progress of research strategy for artisanal, small-scale and recreational fisheries planned for 2015
3.17	Research actions for gillnet fisheries	SBWG	2016-2018		?	

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4. Capacity building, New Parties, Organisation of Work						
4.1	Provide assistance and capacity building to ensure drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds	AC, Parties and BirdLife to consider	2016-2018	10 weeks	AUD 0	Capacity building in accordance with the needs identified by interested Parties in order to encourage implementation, particularly in Ecuador, France, Peru, South Africa, (Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Madagascar), Tristan da Cunha (UK), and EC external fisheries
4.2	Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP	AC, Parties, Secretariat	2016		AUD 0	Initial work carried out at AC7, further work intersessionally, work with lead Parties and Secretariat as needed. Consider implications of addition of pink-footed shearwater to Annex 1 of the Agreement.
4.3	Consider Working Group structure and function, including role and participation of members and experts	WGs, AC	2016-2018		AUD 0	
4.4	Populate and measure capacity building indicators	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, UK	2016-2018		AUD 0	
4.5	Complete the work on drafting the capacity building strategy	Advisory Committee, Parties	2016-2018		AUD 0	Provide draft of final strategy to MoP6
5. Indicators, priorities, reviews and collective conservation action						
5.1	Review data inputs to breeding sites and at-sea prioritisation frameworks agreed at MoP4, revise conservation priorities and identify actions required to address these priority threats.	WG Convenors and WGs	2017	4 weeks	?	

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5.2	Review existing Action Plans (for National Plans, when asked by relevant Party), and advise on new Action Plans for ACAP species	WGs, AC, Parties	2016-2018		AUD 0	
5.3	Review, refine and standardise criteria to include new species on Annex 1.	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Science Officer		1 week	AUD 0	Develop delisting criteria. Update scores as needed.
5.4	Review and update any publications not already specified in the Work Programme	PaCSWG, SBWG, TWG, Secretariat	2016-2018	3 weeks	AUD 0	
5.5	Implement system of indicators for the success of the ACAP Agreement	Parties, Secretariat, BirdLife and AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	
5.6	Review ACAP performance indicators	PaCSWG, SBWG Convenors, Science Officer and BirdLife International	2016	3 weeks	AUD 0	
5.7	Manage database of relevant scientific literature	Secretariat	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
5.8	Manage directory of relevant legislation	Secretariat	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Parties to supply further information, as available
5.9	Manage a list of authorities, research centres, scientists and non-governmental organisations relevant to ACAP	Secretariat	2016-2018	2 days p.a.	AUD 0	Parties and AC to supply further information, as available
5.10	Review information and drafts of triennial implementation report. Agree triennial implementation report prior to MoP6.	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2017		AUD 0	In accordance with Article IX 6 (d) of the Agreement
5.11	Review list of decisions by the Meeting of Parties in order to advise Parties on which decisions should be included in Party reports	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	2016		AUD 0	

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6. Management of AC work, secretariat oversight and liaison, and interaction of ACAP bodies						
6.1	Consider and advise on budget matters as needed	AC	2016-2018	2 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.2	Consider and advise on Staff matters as needed	AC	2016-2018	1 week p.a.	AUD 0	Shorter-term advice provided by the AC Chair
6.3	Oversee, advise and guide Secretariat in relation to database, web portal	Convenors, Chair and Vice-chair	2016-2018	6 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	
6.4	Manage work of Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice-chair and Convenors	2016-2018	18 weeks p.a.	AUD 0	Regular teleconferences and email conversations