

 <p data-bbox="231 548 470 593">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="593 241 1385 336">Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Wellington, New Zealand, 11 – 15 September 2017</i></p> <p data-bbox="558 414 1327 459">Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy</p> <p data-bbox="539 542 1348 582"><i>Secretariat, AC Chair, Australia, United Kingdom</i></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SUMMARY

Parties have requested the Advisory Committee to give a high priority to capacity building in its work programme. In response, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee are working on developing a Capacity Building Strategy.

The strategy would provide guiding actions on capacity building. This would assist Parties and relevant stakeholders in building their capacity in research, administration, training and monitoring programmes that contribute to improved conservation of albatrosses and petrels. The strategy would assist in optimising, to the maximum benefit, use of ACAP's limited financial and human resources to achieve the purpose of the Agreement, and in raising the profile of ACAP's agenda with all Parties, Range States and observers.

This paper presents a revised version of the proposed strategy for the consideration of the Advisory Committee to be presented to MoP6.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Further refine and endorse the components of the Capacity Building Strategy outlined in this paper to be presented to MoP6 for adoption.

1. BACKGROUND

During MoP2, Parties requested the Advisory Committee to give a high priority to capacity building in its work programme. In response to this request, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee have taken a series of capacity building actions, such as the preparation of questionnaires and meeting papers, to identify capacity building needs and opportunities, and ways of making a more rational and efficient use of ACAP's limited human and financial resources (see [AC3 Doc 16](#), [AC4 Doc 26](#), [AC5 Doc 24](#)). A significant amount of human and financial resources have been spent by the Agreement on addressing capacity building matters, including the implementation in past years of the Small Grants and Secondment Programmes (see **AC10 Doc 20** and references therein).

The key components of an ACAP strategy on capacity building including its definition, objectives and principles for allocation of funding and delivery were outlined [AC5 Doc 24](#) and further developed in [AC6 Doc 26](#). In 2012, MoP4 endorsed the components of the strategy and recommended the completion of the strategy following inputs received during the meeting ([MoP4 Report](#)). Further, the completion of the capacity building strategy was formally tasked by MoP5 by including a specific action in the Advisory Committee Work Programme ([MoP5 Report](#)). Although the Secretariat and AC Chair presented a refined version of the strategy in 2016 ([AC9 Doc 18](#)), some AC Members expressed concerns with paragraphs relating to funding of the capacity building strategy.

This paper presents a revised version of the Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy for the consideration of the Advisory Committee (**ANNEX 1**). Once endorsed by the Advisory Committee, the proposed strategy would be presented to the Parties at MoP6 for adoption.

ANNEX 1

AGREEMENT'S CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

DEFINITION

Capacity building refers to the process of identifying obstacles/barriers, and enhancing the Agreement's effectiveness in improving the conservation status of ACAP species. Capacity building aims to address problems concerning policy, methods of implementation and the understanding of conservation issues, while considering the potential, limits and needs of the Parties concerned.

The capacity building strategy should be understood as a long-term, continually improving process that will be provided to Parties considering their potentials, limitations and needs.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this strategy is to provide the Agreement with a framework guiding actions on capacity building. The strategy assists Parties and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Range States, and observers) in building their capacity across research, administration, and training and monitoring programmes, leading to improved conservation of albatross and petrel species listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. The strategy helps by optimising, to the maximum benefit, the use of ACAP's limited financial and human resources to achieve the purpose of the Agreement and contribute in raising the profile of ACAP's agenda with all Parties, Range States and observers.

PRINCIPLES

Capacity building activities will be developed in line with the following general principles:

1. Assistance provided or received may include training, provision of information, institutional support, or funding in those cases where financial assistance would be needed to help the achievement of actions.
2. Capacity building is an ongoing process provided to individuals, communities, organisations, institutions, agencies or governments that will in many cases facilitate management of the relationship between sectors (public, private and community) in a way to guarantee the implementation of the Agreement.
3. Capacity building actions will be guided by the outcomes of the Agreement's prioritisation process and the priorities agreed by the Advisory Committee on an annual basis. The Advisory Committee will maintain flexibility to consider opportunities that might favour the development of certain actions not necessarily indicated as priority by the referred framework.
4. Capacity building is generally understood as a long-term process, although proposals contributing towards establishing systems and building capacities for continuing programmes (such as observer programmes) may be supported on the basis that those projects will work as triggers (seed funding) of long-term projects that will then be supported by the Parties involved.

5. The Advisory Committee will identify needs and capacities among Parties, and other relevant stakeholders.
6. The Advisory Committee will develop a capacity building network, through the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Grants Subcommittee, for the effective implementation of the strategy.

FUNDING AND DELIVERY

1. Capacity building actions will be primarily supported through funds and resources from the Agreement's Secretariat and the Advisory Committee. Any external funds from other organisations for capacity building would be considered in accordance with the Financial Regulations, particularly the arrangements set out in Regulation 7.2.
2. The Advisory Committee and the Secretariat will maintain flexibility and receptiveness when a Party (or other organisation) offering funds is interested in developing capacity building in an area that has not been prioritised within the Agreement.
3. The Agreement's Grant Scheme and Agreement's Secondment Programme are fundamental to the strategy, contributing to building capacities among ACAP Parties, Range States and other organisations.

GOVERNANCE

The Capacity Building Strategy will be subject to ongoing review by the Advisory Committee. The implementation of the strategy will be guided by the Grants Sub-Committee and the Secretariat, with support and endorsement from the Advisory Committee concerning the allocation of funds within the Advisory Committee Work Programme. This approach recognises that a large proportion of capacity building actions will be implemented through the Small Grants and Secondment programmes.