

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>La Rochelle, France, 6 - 10 May 2013</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report to the Advisory Committee on MoP4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>AC Chair, AC Vice-chair, Secretariat</i></b></p>
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## SUMMARY

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties was convened between 23 and 27 April 2012 at Lima, Peru. The present document highlights relevant outcomes of MoP4 that the Advisory Committee may wish to note and/or action. For a full account of the meeting outcomes and to reference the points addressed herein please refer to the full report of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of the Parties. This document is organised in sections addressing matters concerning the operation of the Secretariat, the operation of the Advisory Committee, and the operation of the Agreement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Recommendation 1**

Provide advice to the Executive Secretary and Parties on the strategy to follow in order to encourage the accession of new Parties.

### **Recommendation 2**

Implement the framework developed to identify conservation priorities, defining what conservation actions are necessary to address them.

### **Recommendation 3**

Further develop and implement during the triennium the indicators to measure the effectiveness of the Agreement.

### **Recommendation 4**

Note what Parties agreed in terms of data provision, implementation of bycatch measures, implementation of long-term population monitoring programmes and priority tracking programmes, as well as addressing high priority threats.

### **Recommendation 5**

Reinforce the commitment on the expected outcomes for the AC highlighted by the MoP4, as well as the above referred actions.

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MoP4) was convened between 23 and 27 April 2012 at Lima, Peru, with Ambassador Nicolas Roncagliolo Higuera (Peru) acting as Chair of the Meeting. The present document highlights relevant outcomes of MoP4 that the Advisory Committee may wish to note. For a full account of the meeting outcomes and to reference the points addressed herein please refer to the [full report of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of the Parties](#).

This document is organised in three sections addressing matters concerning the operation of the Secretariat, the operation of the Advisory Committee, and the operation of the Agreement.

## 2. OPERATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Parties noted that the current contract of the **Science Officer** would conclude in 2013 and determined that the loss of this position would seriously undermine the work of both the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee. MoP4 decided to appoint Dr Wieswava Misiak to the Science Officer position on an **ongoing, full-time** basis.

Parties also noted that the current contract for the Executive Secretary would finish in May 2013 and that consideration was required on whether the Parties wished to extend this contract for a further four years, or to re-advertise the position. Parties decided by acclamation to the **re-appointment of Mr Warren Papworth to the position of Executive Secretary**, for a second four year term.

The Secretariat introduced the proposed **Work Programme for the Secretariat** for the triennium 2013 - 2015 (see AC7 Doc 17). A number of additional tasks resulting from discussions at the meeting were included in the work programme. Parties adopted Resolution 4.2 on the Secretariat work programme acknowledging that budgetary restrictions might limit complete implementation of the agreed work programme.

## 3. OPERATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Meeting of the Parties congratulated the Advisory Committee on the progress it had achieved in implementing the Agreement and adopted Resolution 4.4 on the **Advisory Committee Work Programme** (see AC7 Doc 15).

The MoP4 report highlights the **expected outcomes for the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups for the next triennium**, including: (1) improvement in the collation of data from Parties and other fisheries managers, (2) refinement and use of a suite of indicators on the performance of the Agreement; (3) periodical review and update of the best practice mitigation measures, as well as their implementation in both domestic and high seas fisheries; and (4) achieving a significant reduction in the data gaps relevant to the status and trends of ACAP species.

The Parties and observers discussed the merits of prioritising the countries which they and the Executive Secretary should approach, or enter into dialogue with, to encourage their accession to the Agreement, notwithstanding that all parties should take all opportunities to

do so. It was decided to **request the advice of the Advisory Committee at AC7** on which non-Parties were of highest priority for engagement. This issue is addressed in AC7 Doc 22.

#### 4. OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

MoP4 concluded that during the last triennium all **impediments to the implementation** of the Agreement identified at MoP3 were **substantially addressed**. This section also identified the following key outcomes for the next triennium: (1) improvement in the quality of seabird by-catch data and fishing effort provided by the Parties; (2) implementation of best practice mitigation measures for domestic and high-seas fisheries; and (3) filling data gaps relevant to the population status and trends of ACAP species.

Spain proposed the amendment of Annex 1 of the Agreement to list the **Balearic shearwater** (*Puffinus mauretanicus*). The proposal was widely supported and the listing of this new species was adopted by consensus (see MoP4 [Resolution 4.1](#)).

The framework developed by the Advisory Committee to identify **land-based and at-sea conservation priorities** was introduced to the Parties. The Meeting of Parties agreed that the results of the framework should be used as a tool to guide the future work of ACAP and Parties and to prioritise actions to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. MoP4 requested Parties, supported by the Advisory Committee at AC7 and at AC8, to assess the highest priority threats, determine what conservation actions are necessary to address them and to report back to MoP5 on progress made towards addressing these conservation priorities.

Parties noted the progress made towards the identification of suitable **indicators to measure the effectiveness of the Agreement**. Parties agreed that indicators proposed for breeding sites and population status and trends can be constructed and used immediately with data available from the ACAP database. Candidate indicators relating to seabird bycatch were proposed, but it was noted that there is currently inadequate baseline information to populate these indicators, either because the data do not yet exist, or they are not yet available to the Secretariat.

MoP4 endorsed the components of the **strategy on capacity building** developed by the AC, as well as the proposed changes for the Agreement's secondment programme, including the joint coordination of these activities between the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee.

Parties endorsed Advisory Committee recommendations in the implementation report and agreed, subject to the availability of resources, to (a) **provide data** on seabird bycatch to the Secretariat and establish bycatch observer programmes; (b) review the efficacy of seabird **bycatch mitigation** measures used in fisheries; (c) **provide resources** for the conduct of the research programme identified by the AC Working Groups; (d) continue current long-term **population monitoring programmes** and implement the priority population monitoring programmes; (e) conduct priority tracking programmes; (f) address **high priority at-sea and land-based threats** in accordance with the conservation priorities; and (g) update the **ACAP database** on an ongoing basis; among other tasks.