

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Eleventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee <i>Florianópolis, Brazil, 13 – 17 May 2019</i></p> <p>Outcomes from MoP6 relevant to the Advisory Committee Work Programme</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee Chair, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) was convened between 7 and 11 May 2018, in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa. The present document highlights outcomes of MoP6 relevant to the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee Work Programme. 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. Agenda items, such as the Advisory Committee Work Programme and the Secretariat Work Programme, are not addressed in detail in this document but are addressed in specific agenda items (and working documents) allocated for this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee is requested to take note of the outcomes of MoP6 relevant to its agenda and Work Programme, and take further action for addressing and implementing them along the current triennium.

Aside from actions allocated to the Secretariat or Advisory Committee, these actions are:

1. continued development of seabird bycatch indicators, and
2. continued focus on the three key priority areas identified by MoP5; i) improving the collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries, ii) implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in relevant domestic and high seas fisheries and iii) filling significant data gaps relating to population status and trends.

1. BACKGROUND

The Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) was convened between 7 and 11 May 2018, in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa, with Mr Ashley Naidoo (Department of Environmental Affairs) acting as Chair of the Meeting. This document highlights outcomes of MoP6 relevant to the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee Work Programme. For a full account of the meeting outcomes please refer to the [Report of the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties](#). The Advisory Committee Work Programme (**AC11 Doc 11**) and the Secretariat Work Programme (**AC11 Doc 12**) are addressed in detail under agenda items 14.1 and 5.2 respectively.

2. OPERATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

MoP6 considered **issues related to the implementation of Resolution 2.9** ([MoP6 Doc 23](#)). The document refers to an outcome in the review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat ([MoP6 Doc 10](#)), highlighting difficulties with the implementation of Resolution 2.9 due to inconsistencies in text between the three official languages of the Agreement. The Meeting of the Parties requested the Secretariat to work intersessionally to harmonise the translations of Resolution 2.9 following the guidance provided. The Secretariat advised that it would distribute the revised versions to Parties via a Circular to National Contact Points, which was sent on 8 November 2018.

A report on the **review of the effectiveness of the Secretariat** in facilitating the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement was presented to MoP6 (**MoP6 Doc 10**). The Review Body provided a number of recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Secretariat in achieving the Agreement's objectives, and to modify two of the 13 performance indicators (numbers 6 and 11) to enable a more quantified assessment. MoP6 adopted [Resolution 6.3](#) to modify performance indicators 6 and 11 in line with the recommendation from the Review Body.

MoP6 considered the **range of financial reports prepared by the Secretariat** over the course of each triennium, and agreed to reduce the number of reports in order to reduce redundancies. It was agreed that two financial reports for the financial year 1 July to 30 June will be prepared. The most recent financial report will be provided to the relevant Meeting of the Parties, and Advisory Committee meeting.

3. OPERATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MoP6 expressed its considerable appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Advisory Committee and its working groups in **implementing the previous AC Work Programme 2016 - 2018**, and for the many achievements during the past triennium ([MoP6 Doc 11](#)), as well as for the considerable work undertaken to prepare the AC Work Programme 2019 - 2021.

MoP6 noted that on the issue of seabird bycatch, mitigation measures have been introduced into many fisheries, but the major challenge is effective and consistent implementation of these measures. In addition, the collection and assessment of data relating to the levels of bycatch in fisheries that overlap with ACAP species remains a critical priority.

MoP6 noted the considerable workload of the Advisory Committee and the resources necessary for implementation of the AC Work Programme. MoP6 endorsed and adopted the AC Work Programme 2019 – 2021 ([Resolution 6.4](#)).

MoP6 considered the **report of the Pterodroma Workshop**, which ACAP held in September 2017 in association with AC10 ([Annex 2 of MoP6 Doc 11](#)). The objective of the workshop was to advance understanding about best approaches for international cooperation in the conservation of *Pterodroma* and other small burrowing petrel species. The workshop made a number of recommendations, the first of which is to revisit and complete a revised version of ACAP's criteria and prioritisation process for adding new species to Annex 1 of the Agreement.

MoP6 noted that there may be a case for a limited number of additions to Annex 1 of the Agreement, but such additions would increase the demand on resources; and if additions are considered it would be necessary to ensure sufficient resources are available, or could be obtained, to avoid dilution of existing conservation priorities and actions.

MoP6 noted that there are mechanisms that could be used to extend the conservation work of ACAP to *Pterodroma* species and other small burrowing petrels without having to list these species on Annex 1 of the Agreement.

4. OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Secretariat presented the **2015 – 2017 Report on Progress with the Implementation of the Agreement** ([MoP6 Doc 13](#)) compiled by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee. The report provides Parties with an overview of progress made with implementation of the Agreement since MoP5, and recommends a set of actions that should be undertaken in the next triennium to further the Agreement's objective. Section 1 of the document provides a summary of the information included in the Implementation Reports submitted by Parties. Information on implementation by four Parties, which was not presented at AC10, is provided in [MoP6 Inf 01](#), [MoP6 Inf 02](#), [MoP6 Inf 03](#), and [MoP6 Inf 04](#).

MoP6 agreed that the new format trialled in Section 1 of the report improves on the previous approach. Parties were encouraged to continue providing the Secretariat with suggestions for improvements to the reporting templates and presentation of the information at any time.

Section 2 of the document reported on items in Section 5.1 of the Action Plan regarding the conservation status of ACAP species and changes that have occurred since MoP5 in respect of population sizes and trends, identification of important breeding sites, review of at-sea distribution, and the identification and assessment of known and suspected threats affecting albatrosses and petrels, both on land and at sea.

Since MoP5, the IUCN Red List status of three ACAP species has changed, reflecting recent reviews by BirdLife International, the IUCN listing authority for birds. These species are the Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* and Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*, which have been uplisted to 'Endangered' and Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*, which has been downlisted to 'Least Concern'.

MoP6 noted that some progress has been achieved on the three priority areas identified at MoP5: i) improving the collection of data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries, ii) implementation of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in relevant domestic and high seas fisheries and iii) filling significant data gaps relating to population status and trends. However, it was also noted that much still needs to be done to address these three priority areas, which remain the key challenges for the Agreement. MoP6 agreed that addressing

these key challenges is essential for reaching the objectives of the Agreement, and endorsed the list of recommendations in **MoP6 Doc 13** to help achieve this aim.

The Secretariat advised that further work on the **criteria for listing and de-listing species** was deferred until the TWG completed its work on the choice of a standard taxonomy to be used when considering new species for Annex 1 of the Agreement. This work has now been concluded (**MoP6 Doc 11**) and the consideration of criteria for listing and de-listing species can now also recommence.

MoP6 considered the recommendation to **amend Annex 1 of the Agreement** to remove the *Puffinus creatopus* synonym, leaving only *Ardenna creatopus* as the nomenclature for the Pink-footed Shearwater ([MoP6 Doc 14](#)). MoP6 adopted [Resolution 6.1](#) by consensus the change to the nomenclature of the species.

The MoP considered the **Proposed Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement**, a suite of 'State-Pressure-Response' indicators in respect of breeding sites, population status and trends, and tracking data availability, as well as a summary of progress on the proposed seabird bycatch indicators ([MoP6 Doc 20 Rev 1](#)). MoP6 noted the progress made in applying breeding sites and status and trend indicators, as well as the indicators on tracking data availability, and approved the continued development of seabird bycatch indicators and the reporting required by Parties to populate them.

MoP5 requested the finalisation of the Agreement's Capacity Building Strategy. The Executive Secretary presented to the Parties progress made in the development of performance indicators on capacity building, including new indicators based on the Pressure-State-Response approach ([MoP6 Doc 21](#)), and a proposed new version of the Capacity Building Strategy ([MoP6 Doc 22](#)). MoP6 expressed its appreciation for the proposal and adopted the strategy.

The Executive Secretary introduced a report on the current status of **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with other organisations** and requested approval for the Secretariat to enter into negotiations for the renewal and development of new MoUs ([MoP6 Doc 24](#)). MoP6 adopted [Resolution 6.7](#) authorising the Secretariat to renew MoUs with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR, expiring in 2018) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC, expiring in 2020); as well as to continue the negotiations to finalise the MoU with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). MoP6 also authorised the Secretariat to enter into negotiations for the development of a MoU with the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) following the template in Appendix A of **Resolution 6.7**.

The MOP discussed **Bibliographic References** and agreed on a disclaimer to be added as a footnote to the cover page of scientific/academic papers issued by the Secretariat and its organs, that include references to disputed territories, and that are authored by entities other than the Secretariat and its organs; the Parties; the non-Party Range States; and observers (eg NGOs).

Under **Article VIII (15)** of the Agreement, the MOP adopted [Resolution 6.8](#), which enables any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels to participate as an observer by sending representatives to sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, with the understanding that this in no way affects the respective views of Parties about the legal status of any member economy of APEC whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels.