



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RESOLUTION 6.3*

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ALBATROSS CONSERVATION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting (Cape Town, 10-16 November 1999)

Reflecting, as the current millenium draws to a close, that, owing to the impact of less than fifty years of human activities, the albatrosses of the Southern Ocean are one of the most threatened families of migratory animals across their migratory range;

Recognizing that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II of the Convention;

Noting that one species of Southern Hemisphere albatross is listed in Appendix I and ten species in Appendix II of the Convention;

Recalling that, at its eighth and ninth meetings, the Scientific Council unanimously supported both the importance of and the urgent need for an Agreement to provide a framework for cooperative actions that would benefit Southern Hemisphere albatrosses;

Noting that Southern Hemisphere albatrosses are highly migratory species and frequently move in and between national jurisdictions and interact with fishing vessels on the high seas;

Aware that, for a number of albatross species, the size of populations and trends are insufficiently known to determine their current status;

Noting that a major threat to the populations of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses arises from longline fishing activities;

Recalling that the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources has adopted conservation measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds, particularly albatrosses;

Recalling that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries was adopted in 1999;

Aware that albatrosses also face continuing threats from human disturbance, pollution, introduced predators, disease and the effects of climate change;

Acknowledging that most Range States of breeding populations are taking action to conserve albatrosses within their national jurisdictions but that, owing to the highly migratory nature of albatrosses, additional international cooperative action is required;

Concerned that, without action to reduce or mitigate threats to albatrosses, many populations, and potentially some species, are at risk of extinction;

* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 6.4.

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* Parties which are Range States to take action to identify the status of populations and determine the nature and scope of threats to those populations of albatrosses within their national jurisdictions;
2. *Requests* that Parties with breeding sites of albatrosses within their national jurisdictions cooperate on the development of an Agreement for the conservation of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses;
3. *Recommends* that all Range States of albatrosses participate actively in the development and successful conclusion of an Agreement for the conservation of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses;
4. *Notes* that preliminary discussions have taken place concerning the evaluation of appropriate conservation actions and the population status of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses;
5. *Accepts* Australia's offer to initiate further discussions in early 2000 with all Parties which are Range States, with a view to the development of an Agreement;
6. *Requests* all States whose vessels are undertaking fishing activities within the waters of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, to implement the Commission's conservation measures;
7. *Encourages* all relevant States to implement the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; and
8. *Invites* the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council to review progress and propose any appropriate urgent actions required to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.