



CCAMLR

Friday, 12 April 2002

COMM CIRC 02/20

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Attendance of BirdLife International as an Observer at CCAMLR-XXI

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

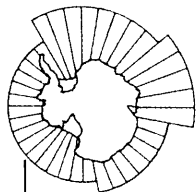
Dr D. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.

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CIRCULAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COMM CIRC 02/20
SC CIRC 02/06

12 April 2002

Attendance of BirdLife International as an Observer at CCAMLR-XXI

The Secretariat has received a request from BirdLife International indicating their interest in attending the Twenty-first Meetings of the Commission and the Scientific Committee. From the attached, it is clear that BirdLife International has contributed much to the global action on mitigation measures to reduce seabird mortality resulting from longline fishing and in the formulation of the recent Albatross Agreement. Such work is of direct interest to both the Commission and Scientific Committee.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit Members' views on the matter in good time for the formal issuing of invitations to CCAMLR-XXI. Comments should be forwarded to the Secretariat by 15 May 2002.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.



Together for birds and people

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Our Ref: lc-miller-ccamlr

Thursday, 04 April 2002

Dr Denzil Miller
Executive Secretary
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
PO Box 213
North Harbour
Tasmania
7002

Dear Dr Miller

As the leading authority on the status of the world's birds, their habitats and the threats to them, BirdLife International has been developing important work on the conservation of seabirds worldwide. Many species of albatrosses and petrels are currently threatened by incidental by-catch mortality in longline fisheries, particularly in the southern oceans. The conservation measures adopted by the Commission to reduce incidental catches within your area of application reflect the severity and the seriousness of the problem at hand. In 1997 BirdLife International started a global campaign to reduce seabird by-catch and to facilitate the implementation of appropriate measures for responsible and less damaging fisheries. In this regard, BirdLife International works in collaboration with national governments and with IGOs such as ICCAT, FAO, CCSBT, and OSPAR as well as with several UN-related conventions (CBD, CITES, Bonn). Our professional and successful relationship with CCAMLR is also well documented.

We particularly welcome the groundbreaking work done by CCAMLR on providing guidance to other regional fishery organisations on environmental research and on by-catch legislation development. BirdLife International is also aware of the progress made by other regional fisheries management organisations towards responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources, and the indirect influence the progress at CCAMLR had on the decision made by the RFMOs to address by-catch issues. Our responsibility remains however to ensure that FAO member states and members to the RFMOs continue to address seabird bycatches and we therefore believe that we do have an important role to play by attending their meetings, as observers, and taking part in their discussions.

BirdLife International would therefore welcome the opportunity of participating in the next Scientific Committee annual meeting as well as the Commission annual meeting. The person(s) who will most probably represent our organisation in that meeting will be Leon-David Viljoen, BirdLife Seabirds Programme Co-ordinator, Deon Nel, Seabird Biologist, both based at BirdLife South Africa, and Barry Weeber, Senior Researcher at the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. Mr Viljoen's contact details are as follows:

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BirdLife International's strength lies in its ability use its Partnership structure to bridge a wide variety of opinions and opinion formers. We draw upon our Partner's in-country ability to lobby for support and thereby assist in taking decision-making through to the implementation phase. Through our active involvement with RFMOs we hope to provide a wide audience for issues that are consistent to our own objectives. The sharing of knowledge and the building up of expertise may play an essential role towards that goal and will be of mutual benefit to both our organisations and, ultimately, to the marine environment as a whole.

We hope to be able to contribute to this end.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rands," with a comma at the end. The script is cursive and fluid.

Dr Michael Rands
Director & Chief Executive
BirdLife International

BirdLife International

Mission Statement

The BirdLife International Partnership strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity through working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

What is BirdLife International?

BirdLife International is a Partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations (consisting of Partners, Partners Designate and Representatives) with a special focus on birds who, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the issues and problems affecting bird life. The Partnership works together on shared priorities, policies and programmes for conservation action, exchanging skills, achievements and information, growing in ability, authority and influence. BirdLife International promotes sustainable living as a means of conserving birds and all other forms of biodiversity.

BirdLife International is working in more than 100 countries. BirdLife International is a national force in 64 countries and territories where there is a Partner or a Partner Designate organisation and has Representatives in a further 36 countries. BirdLife demonstrates the value of birds and how, through the linkage from birds to habitats to people, BirdLife can make a difference to the quality of life on earth. Birds are beautiful, inspirational and international. By focusing on bird species and the sites and habitats on which they depend, BirdLife International can make the world a better place for all biodiversity and people.

BirdLife's aims

- to prevent the extinction of any bird species
- to maintain and where possible improve the conservation status of all bird species
- to conserve sites and habitats important for birds
- through birds, to help conserve biodiversity and maintain the quality of life on earth

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL: FISHERIES WORK

1. Fisheries and marine objectives of BirdLife International

BirdLife International campaigns nationally and internationally for management of fisheries compatible with sustainable development, implicit in which is the incorporation of environmental objectives. Effective input into the review of the Common Fisheries Policy, culminating in 2002, is an over-arching focus of our current work. For example, in the context of the EU Agenda 2000 discussions,

BirdLife International lobbied for linking the deployment of structural funds in the fisheries sector much more explicitly to sustainable development and to environmentally-friendly fishing practices. More generally, priority objectives are:

- **development of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approach to fisheries management**
- **support for a shift of emphasis from controlling outputs (landings) to controlling inputs (fishing effort); a more flexible approach to the suite of measures for the latter, including No-Take Zones as appropriate**
- **minimisation of impacts of fishing activities/gears on seabirds and other marine wildlife**
- **best practice and mitigating measures for reducing seabird bycatch by longlining in the north-east Atlantic and globally**
- **promotion of local fisheries management which delivers better stewardship of the marine environment in inshore waters**
- **development of site safeguards for seabirds and other wildlife in the marine environment; support for a network of Marine Protected Areas**
- **establishment of a Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries agreements between the EC and third (especially developing) countries**

2. BirdLife International: key fisheries contacts and areas of work

BirdLife International develops and advocates changes in policy and practice based on best available science and reasoned argument. In pursuit of this, we engage with fishery biologists, managers, advisory and focus groups on issues of key importance. In the Southern Oceans, these are mainly as follows:

- **National Governments and their advisors**
- **CCAMLR**
- **SADC, Mercosur**
- **Fishing industry and their representative organisations**
- **Fisheries scientists (international and national organisations)**

BirdLife South Africa, our partner in that country, has been acting as host partner of the Global Seabird Conservation Programme (see below). In this framework, a number of experts from different countries in the Atlantic area have put together a UNDP GEF project proposal to be deployed in such countries as South Africa, Namibia, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. The aims of the project are to reduce seabird by-catch in longline fisheries and, by so doing, contribute to the conservation of a number of threatened albatross and petrel species.

At the same time, SEO/BirdLife, our partner in Spain, is also actively involved in the conservation of seabirds by lobbying national and regional fisheries authorities, collaborating with the fishing sector and raising awareness in the general public. The Spanish representative also plays an important role in helping build capacity among the South American partners as their large fisheries are often closely linked with that country.

Framework for addressing global issues

In the wider global context, in 1997 we launched the BirdLife International Seabird Conservation Programme, initially focussing on longlining issues. Information on the Programme, which is co-ordinated by BirdLife South Africa, can be found on its web site: www.birdlife.com/seabirds or on www.savethealbatross.org.za

The current objectives of the programme are:

- To facilitate existing - and promote new - initiatives to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds by fisheries, particularly in respect of longlining
- To establish a network of BirdLife partners and others to influence global and regional policies affecting seabirds
- To examine the practicability of addressing bird conservation issues at a global level, taking seabirds as a model and recognising the difficulties in regulation and enforcement in international waters

Under this Programme, advocacy on longlining is being pursued through various conventions and agreements, notably FAO, CCAMLR and CCSBT. In FAO, the former co-ordinator of the BirdLife programme, Mr John Cooper, was invited to be a member of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and wrote one of the main technical background papers for the FAO-IPOA to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fisheries.

One of the biggest achievements of the campaign so far is the adoption by the international community of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). This Agreement, which falls under the Bonn Convention, was adopted in February 2001 in Cape Town and was opened for signature in June 2001 in Australia. To date, seven countries have already signed the Agreement (Brazil, France, the UK, Chile, Peru, Australia and New Zealand), which will come into force once it has been ratified by five nations. ACAP is centred on the southern oceans, where most of the endangered species occur, but it was purposefully left open to the possibility that one day it will become the tool for the conservation of large seabirds worldwide. ACAP incorporates an Action Plan which sets mitigation measures to be adopted on board the fishing vessels in order to reduce seabird mortality.

3. BirdLife International's relationships with other IGOs and NGOs

The wide respect BirdLife International commands as the world authority on bird conservation based on sound science has made BirdLife a key player in international fora. BirdLife is a member of IUCN and has observer status on the IUCN Board. BirdLife has also been an observer at all the key Conventions and international

agreements affecting the protection and conservation of biodiversity, notably CITES, Bonn, Berne, Ramsar, and CBD.

In the marine area, BirdLife International has observer status at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the North Sea Conference and the OSPAR Convention.

BirdLife International has long-established contacts with, especially, DG Fisheries and DG Environment. In 1998 and 2000 we responded in detail to the Commission's questionnaire on the CFP review. As an active member of the Contact Group between the Commission and international-based environmental and developmental NGOs working on fisheries issues in Europe, we have been consulted by the Commission on a number of key issues in the run-up to the CFP review. We have also participated in a European coalition of NGOs charged with co-ordinating advocacy to the EU on CCAMLR.

BirdLife International liaises with a number of other NGOs on marine issues, most notably with WWF.

For further information, contact:

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