

Benguela Current Forage Fish Workshop

2 - 4 November 2020 – Online via GoToMeeting

Date: 9 November 2020

MEETING REPORT

1. Introduction

The aim of the workshop was to develop and agree on a set of recommendations for the management of the Benguela Current's forage fish resources and their fisheries so as to ensure their long-term sustainable use as a critical food resource for seabirds.

The expected output of the workshop was a report to the Benguela Current Commission containing the workshop's proceedings and recommendations. The meeting was held remotely and attended by government representatives and national experts from South Africa (AEWA Contracting Party), Angola, Namibia (AEWA Range States), the Benguela Current Commission, BirdLife South Africa, invited international experts and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (see participants list: document BCFF Inf. 4 rev1).

2. Opening and Welcome

Dr AB Makhado from South Africa's Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries opened the meeting and welcomed participants on behalf of the host government. Ms TR Gottlieb welcomed participants on behalf of the Benguela Current Commission, Dr AM McInnes on behalf of BirdLife South Africa and Ms N Mikander on behalf of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

3. Presentation of the Chair

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat presented Mr WH Oosthuizen from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries as the Chair of the workshop.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair and UNEP/AEWA Secretariat presented the agenda (document BCFF 1 rev.1). There were no requests for changes to the agenda or for any other business.

Decision: *The agenda was adopted with no changes.*

5. Background Information

Participants were provided with overviews on the status, abundance, trends and ecology of the AEWA-listed Benguela Current seabird species and their prey (i.e. forage fish within the Benguela Current including but not limited to sardine, anchovy, horse mackerel and rock lobster) in each of the Range States (Angola, Namibia and South Africa). Invited experts provided synopses on the management of forage resources to account for food requirements of seabirds and other top predators, and indicators for forage resource management that may be derived from seabirds, for UK, USA and more generally. In addition to the background information provided, presenters made suggestions for topics to be included in the workshop recommendations.

All background documents from the meeting are available on the [AEWA website](#).

5. Development of Recommendations to the Benguela Current Commission

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat facilitated a discussion on the possible content of the recommendations on the basis of which a first draft was prepared and circulated to workshop participants at the end of day two. The draft text was then discussed and revised during the day three of the workshop.

Decision: The workshop agreed on recommendations (Annex I), which are suggested to be implemented as a matter of urgency by the national governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, as appropriate, under the auspices of the Benguela Current Commission, AEWA and the AEWA Benguela Coastal Seabird International Working Group.

6. Next steps

The Chair outlined the envisaged next steps in the process. Dr AB Makhado, as Chair of the Benguela Current Commission's Top Predator Working Group, will present the recommendations to the Benguela Current Commission on behalf of South Africa.

A follow-up meeting will be organized either online or face-to-face to take stock of progress made on the implementation of the recommendations in approximately one year.

Workshop participants will shortly receive the draft meeting report and the draft final participants list for review from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. Participants will also receive the final recommendations as well as pdf versions of the workshop presentations.

7. Meeting closure

The Chair closed the meeting thanking, once again, everyone for their support and contributions.