



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of the Parties

Christchurch, New Zealand, 13 – 17 November 2006

Report of the Interim Secretariat

Author: **Secretariat**

Report of the Interim Secretariat

The following report provides Parties with information on action taken by the Secretariat since the first Meeting of the Parties (MoP1) in accordance with the directions of the MoP and the requirements of the Agreement and the Action Plan.

Action taken with Implementation of the Agreement

Articles VII(1)(C) and IX (6)(d)

Action taken with regard to preparation of the Report on the Implementation of the Agreement - Information submitted by the Advisory Committee to the Secretariat in accordance with Articles VII(1)(C) and IX(6)d) has been provided to the Parties through either direct correspondence, submission of meeting documents to the MoP, or by publication on the Agreement website.

Article X

The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- a) **to arrange and service the sessions of MoP ...and Advisory Committee (AC)** - In the two years since MoP1 the Secretariat has arranged and serviced two meetings of the Advisory Committee, two meetings of Advisory Committee Working Groups, and made preparations for the current Meeting of the Parties. As the Agreement becomes established the work undertaken by these meetings has increased significantly, with a corresponding increase in the workload of the Secretariat.
- b) **to execute the decisions addressed to it by MoP** - all decisions addressed to the Secretariat by the first Meeting of the Parties have been actioned. This included working with the Government of Australia to negotiate a headquarters Agreement and the development of draft staff regulations for consideration at MoP2, in accordance with Resolution 1.1;
- c) **to promote and coordinate activities under the Agreement** - in addition to providing support for the work of the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups the Secretariat continues to promote and coordinate the work of the Agreement through the ACAP website, by initiating and responding to correspondence and through representation at relevant meetings.
- d) **to liaise with non-Party Range States...and to facilitate coordination...**-the Secretariat has been active liaising with a number of non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations with a view to promoting a greater understanding of the Agreement and to encourage their participation in its work. This work continues and will, it is hoped, facilitate new States joining the Agreement. The Secretariat has also represented the Agreement at meetings of relevant committees of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) as well as providing briefing material for Parties representing ACAP at similar meetings. As well, the Secretariat has liaised with international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or

indirectly relevant to albatross and petrel conservation, including BirdLife International and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). As noted in MoP2 Info1 this had led to ACAP being invited to participate with BirdLife International in projects such as the 'Global Environmental Facility/UNDP Project Proposal to Increase the Sustainability of Southern Ocean Longline Fisheries' and to an offer from WWF to assist in convening a targeted workshop to better understand the threat to albatross conservation from invasive species on Southern Ocean islands, and the options and economics of addressing that source of threat.

- e) **to invite the attention of MoP to matters pertaining to ...this Agreement** - the Secretariat has prepared a number of papers for this meeting inviting the attention of the Meeting of the Parties to matters pertaining to the objectives of this Agreement. It has also consulted with Parties during the intersessional period on such issues. In order to facilitate this process, particularly during the intersessional period, the Secretariat has put forward paper MoP2 Doc19 for the consideration of the Parties.
- f) **to provide MoP with a report on its work** - this paper provides the Secretariat's report to the Meeting of the Parties on work undertaken by it since the last meeting.
- g) **to administer the Agreement budget** -the Secretariat has administered the 2005 and 2006 budgets for the Agreement with accountancy services continuing to be provided during this period by the Australian Government Antarctic Division. Since MoP1 four States have ratified the Agreement leading to a significant increase in the level of income available for implementation of the Agreement. The allocation of these additional funds has been undertaken with advice from the Advisory Committee, and from the Chair of the Advisory Committee during the intersessional period.
- h) **To provide information to the general public...and promote objectives of the Agreement** - the main vehicle for providing information to the general public about the Agreement and promoting its objectives has been the ACAP website. The Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee, Dr John Cooper, has made a valuable contribution in this regard by undertaking the duties of honorary News Editor and by encouraging the submission of articles of educational value.
- i) **to develop a system of performance indicators** - a system of performance indicators to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat has been submitted to this meeting (MoP2 Doc 17).
- j) **to collate information provided by Parties** - the Secretariat collated all information provided by Parties in accordance with Article VII (1) c), Article VIII (10) and IX(6)(d) and provided a synthesised report on the implementation of the Agreement for consideration at the second Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC2). The Secretariat assisted the Advisory Committee in the preparation of its report to the second Meeting of the Parties (MoP2) on the Implementation of the Agreement (refer MoP2 Doc 11).
- k) **to perform other functions** - the Secretariat has continued to perform other functions entrusted to it by or under the Agreement, for example those contained in the Agreement's financial regulations (refer MoP2 Doc10).

Article XI

2. The Secretariat shall consult and cooperate, where appropriate, with:

- a) **the Convention Secretariat...** The Executive Secretary met with staff from the Convention Secretariat earlier this year and had fruitful discussions on ways in which

the Secretariats can cooperate and assist each other, for example in information exchange. Mr Barry Baker, who convenes the Advisory Committee's Seabird Bycatch Working Group, has recently been appointed as CMS's Conference Appointed Scientific Counsellor for Bycatch. This provides an opportunity to further the close working relationship between the Convention and the Agreement, particularly with regards to coordinating resources and action on seabird bycatch issues.

- b) **the secretariats of other relevant conventions and international instruments** ... The Agreement Secretariat has established working relationships with a large number of other Secretariats with the purpose of advancing the objectives of the Agreement. These include the Secretariats of relevant regional fisheries management organisations and other international instruments/conventions, such as CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty.
 - c) **other organisations or institutions with competence** ... The Agreement Secretariat has also consulted and cooperated where appropriate with other organisations having competence in the field of conservation of albatrosses and petrels and their habitats, such as BirdLife International.
3. The Agreement Secretariat has not entered into any formal arrangements with any other organisation or institution.
 4. The Agreement Secretariat has provided information and data, where appropriate, to other bodies and issued invitations to them to attend relevant meetings of the Agreement.

Article XII

Amendment of the Agreement

3. The Secretariat has communicated with the Parties on one proposal to amend the text of Annex 1 to the Agreement. This proposal shall be considered at this Meeting of the Parties (refer MoP2 Doc 30).

Action Taken with Implementation of Action Plan

1.1.3 The Parties shall, where they consider it appropriate, co-operate to develop and implement conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses or petrels.

The Secretariat has co-ordinated the development, harmonisation and implementation of such conservation strategies through its support for the work of the Advisory Committee and by making such strategies available on the Agreement website.

1.3 Re-establishments and re-establishment schemes

The Secretariat has not been advised of any proposal for re-establishment schemes to be undertaken.

6.3 The Parties shall cooperate with each other, the Secretariat and others with a view to developing training programmes and exchanging resource materials.

The Secretariat provides access to an extensive range of resource material through the Agreement website.

7.4 The Secretariat shall regularly undertake a review of potential means for providing necessary resources (*viz* both funds and technical assistance) for the implementation of this Action Plan, and shall report on this to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Secretariat's review of potential means for providing resources for the implementation of this Action Plan focussed on sources other than the Agreement budget, as the review of the budget is the responsibility of the Parties. The Secretariat identified many potential sources of resources that could be used to assist with the implementation of the Action Plan. A number of these have been identified earlier in this report while others are addressed in separate meeting documents e.g. MoP2 Doc24, 'Agreement Budget 2007-2009'. It is expected that opportunities to obtain access to non-budget resources will continue to become available and it is recommended that these be actively sought in order to facilitate implementation of the Action Plan.

7.5 The Parties shall, either individually or through the Secretariat, draw the attention of any state which is not a Party to this Agreement to any activity undertaken by its nationals or vessels which affect the implementation of the Action Plan

The Secretariat has not been requested by any Party to take action in respect to this requirement of the Action Plan.