

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>Swakopmund, Namibia, 1 – 5 June 2026</i></p> <p><b>Secretariat Report</b></p> <p><b><i>Secretariat</i></b></p>
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### **SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of the Secretariat's operations during the first half of the 2026 financial year following the approach decided by the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Advisory Committee take note of the outcomes achieved by the Secretariat since MoP8 and, if appropriate, use this information to suggest amendments to the Secretariat's Work Programme (**AC15 Doc 15**).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6), the Secretariat prepares two financial reports per year, one in February covering the first six months of the financial year, and a full-year audited report in September. MoP6 decided that the most recent such report would be presented to the relevant session of the Advisory Committee or Meeting of the Parties.

During the six-month period (1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025) ACAP was represented at several meetings of Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCOs) and other international bodies. Over the six months the Secretariat continued to implement actions in the Advisory Committee and Secretariat Work Programmes. Preparations for AC15 got underway.

## **2. SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS**

The Secretariat's office remains at Level 2, 119 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

### 3. STAFFING

Staffing of the Secretariat remains at two full-time positions, the Executive Secretary and the Science Officer. Additional support to the Secretariat is provided by volunteers, consultancies and internships, as well as by Advisory Committee officials. John Cooper continued to contribute to some communications activities, as Emeritus Information Officer.

### 4. CONTRACTS/CONSULTANTS

*2M Language Services* continued to provide translation and interpretations services.

Web developers *Preflight* continued to host and administer the ACAP website.

*Diviv Group Pty Ltd* continued to provide database development services.

Sebastián Jiménez attended RFMCO meetings as an ACAP representative on a contractual basis.

### 5. SUPPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Secretariat liaised closely with Advisory Committee officials and members throughout the six-month period. The assessment process for the Small Grants Round launched in September 2024 was completed in November 2025, with applicants advised of the outcome of their request for funding in December 2025. Grants will be awarded to successful applicants in early 2026.

### 6. REPRESENTATION AT RELEVANT MEETINGS

The Secretariat and Advisory Committee officials represented the Agreement at several meetings during the period from July to December 2025.

#### **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources**

- 44th Scientific Committee and 44th meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR), Hobart, Australia, October 2025 hybrid (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person; Wiesława Misiak, Science Officer, in person; and Michael Double, Chair of the Advisory Committee, online).

#### **Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna**

- 20th Compliance Committee and 32nd meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Bali, Indonesia, October 2025 (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person).

#### **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**

- 21st Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Sète, France, September 2025 (Sebastián Jiménez, Co-convenor of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), in person).

- 28th Scientific Committee meeting of the IOTC, Shanghai, China, December 2025 hybrid (Sebastián Jiménez, Co-convenor of the SBWG, online).

#### **Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of the Sea Turtle**

- 22nd Scientific Committee meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of the Sea Turtle (IAC), November 2025 virtual (Marco Favero, Co-convenor of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), online).

#### **International Commission of the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas**

- Standing Committee on Research and Statistics of the International Commission of the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Madrid, Spain, September/October 2025 (Sebastián Jiménez, Co-convenor of the SBWG, in person).
- 29th ICCAT Commission meeting, Seville, Spain, November 2025 hybrid (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, online).

#### **South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation**

- 21st Scientific Committee meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), Swakopmund, Namibia, November 2025 hybrid (Megan Tierney, Co-vice convenor of the SBWG, online).
- 18th Compliance Committee and 22nd meeting of the SEAFO Commission, Swakopmund, Namibia, November 2025 hybrid (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, online).

#### **South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

- 13th Scientific Committee meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), Wellington New Zealand, September 2025 hybrid (Igor Debski, Co-convenor of the SBWG, in person; and Megan Tierney, Co-vice convenor of the SBWG, online).

#### **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission**

- 21st Scientific Committee meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Nuku'alofa, Tonga. August 2025 (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person).
- 21st Technical and Compliance Committee meeting of the WCPFC, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, September 2025 hybrid (Dimas Gianuca, Co-vice convenor of the SBWG, online).
- 22nd WCPFC Commission meeting, Manila, Philippines, December 2025 (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person).

#### **Other**

- Third Project Steering Committee meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project “Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (2022-2027)”, Rome, Italy, July 2025 (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person).
- 13th Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC), Perth, Australia, November 2025 (Jonathon Barrington, Executive Secretary, in person).

The attendance at RFMCO meetings reflected the priorities set out in ACAP's [RFMCO Engagement Strategy](#).

## **7. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

Attendance at the meetings outlined above provided opportunities for interaction in the margins with a range of delegations. In addition, the Executive Secretary made liaison visits to South Africa and Namibia. While in Cape Town, South Africa, the Executive Secretary met with ACAP's National Contact Point, and the representatives for the Meeting of the Parties and Advisory Committee, as well as the Emeritus Information Officer. While in Namibia to review potential venues for AC15, the Executive Secretary met with Graça D'Almeida and other officials in the Namibian Government in Windhoek, and Lizette Voges, Executive Secretary of the SEAFO Secretariat in Swakopmund.

MoP8 had asked the Secretariat to develop and conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with Global Fishing Watch (GFW). Productive exchanges have occurred between ACAP and GFW on the content of the MoU, including in the margins of the 22nd WCPFC Commission meeting in Manila.

## **8. RENEWAL OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

During the six-month period, the Secretariat commenced work on renewal of the Letter of Intent with the IOTC, which is due to expire in February 2026. Following consultations with the IOTC Secretariat we were advised that any future arrangement concerning the IOTC will now need to be negotiated directly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This work is underway, and approval will be sought from Parties to agree to the content of the proposed arrangement with the FAO (on behalf of IOTC) when developed.

Attached as **ANNEX 1** is a list of the status of ACAP's cooperation arrangements with other organisations (as at 31 December 2025).

# **ANNEX 1. Arrangements between the Secretariat and relevant international and national organisations and institutions**

	Adopted / Renewed	Duration	Expiry
<b>International organisations</b>			
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ( <b>CCAMLR</b> )	22 November 2024	3 years	21 November 2027
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna ( <b>CCSBT</b> )	6 December 2021	6 years	6 December 2027
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission ( <b>IOTC</b> )	23 February 2021	5 years	23 February 2026
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles ( <b>IAC</b> )	30 January 2023	Ongoing	—
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission ( <b>IATTC</b> )	15 May 2023	Successive periods of 6 years	Renewed automatically after 6 years unless Participants decide otherwise
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ( <b>ICCAT</b> )	2 September 2022	6 years	2 September 2028
South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation ( <b>SEAFO</b> )	6 December 2024	6 years	6 December 2030
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement ( <b>SIOFA</b> )	5 November 2024	6 years	4 November 2030
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation ( <b>SPRFMO</b> )	28 October 2014	Ongoing	—
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission ( <b>WCPFC</b> )	7 December 2007	Ongoing	—
<b>Government agencies</b>			
The Crown in the Right of Tasmania (Represented by the Department of State Growth ( <b>DSG</b> ), Australia)	21 January 2025	5 years from 1 February 2024	31 January 2029
<b>Institutions</b>			
Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine ( <b>UC Davis</b> )	25 May 2022	Ongoing	—