



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of Advisory Committee

Brasilia, Brazil, 5 – 8 June 2006

Report of the Secretariat

Author: **Secretariat**

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This report details the activities of the Secretariat since the first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

ACTION REQUIRED

The Advisory Committee is invited to note the report of the Secretariat.

Overview of the activities of the ACAP Secretariat

Since the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to ACAP, the Secretariat has focussed on implementing the resolutions of this Meeting and preparing for the first meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1). Other work has involved liaison with Parties, Signatories, Range States and others; and keeping the public up-to-date on ACAP matters through the ACAP website (www.acap.aq).

Staffing of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is currently staffed by one full time post (Warren Papworth, on secondment from the Australian Antarctic Division) with part-time assistance from other staff from the AAD (Barry Baker). The Secretariat has recently been joined by Ms Nicole Le Boeuf, on secondment from United States of America — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). Ms Le Boeuf will work with the Secretariat in a part-time capacity from May to November 2006. This secondment is funded by the United States of America.

Input of staff time from the AAD to the Agreement between MOP1 and AC1 is not charged to the Agreement budget over and above the amount allocated in the Budget approved at the 1st Meeting of Parties. As advised in the report to the 1st meeting of the Advisory Committee, this situation is not sustainable in the long term, with the current limited budget for Secretariat Staff a potentially significant restraint on the future progress of the Agreement.

Negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement

The first Meeting of Parties (MOP1) adopted Resolution 1.1, requesting the Interim Secretariat to work with the Government of Australia to negotiate a headquarters agreement (HQA). During the intersessional period a key focus of the Secretariat work has been in the development of this Agreement.

Following extensive consultations with Australia, the Secretariat forwarded a first draft of a HQA to all ACAP Parties' for their consideration. Parties were asked to provide their comments to the Secretariat by 17 March 2006. This was later than the date agreed at AC1, however it took longer than originally anticipated to prepare the first draft.

The draft HQA was generally well received by most Parties. Those parties that have responded have indicated that there are no areas of substantive disagreement, and that the conclusion of a final draft can be achieved intersessionally through email correspondence.

Liaison with Parties, Signatories, Range States and others

Significant areas of work have involved:

- Negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement with the Australian Government, and liaison with Parties on this matter.
- Updating Parties, Signatories, Range States and Observer bodies on progress with the implementation of the Agreement
- Establishing official contact points with new Parties to the Agreement
- Providing advice and information to Signatories and Range States who are moving towards ratification of the Agreement
- Liaising with Parties who have agreed to act as observers on behalf of ACAP at international meetings (see section on promotion of the Agreement below)
- Maintaining and updating ACAP contacts (liaising with diplomatic posts and relevant embassies as appropriate)
- Attending the 6th Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (ERSWG – CCSBT)

Implementation of the Action Plan

Significant areas of work have involved:

- Providing assistance to Working Groups with the establishment of databases and other forms of data management;
- Promoting education and public awareness of the Agreement through the website and through contact with the public, other International Organisations and Governments.

Liaison with the Advisory Committee and preparation for AC2

This area of work has involved:

- Establishing dates for AC 2, arranging venue and facilities
- Working with the Chairs of the Working Groups on Status and Trends, Breeding Sites, and Taxonomy, to arrange workshops and reports for the meeting
- Preparing an agenda for AC 2 in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair
- Putting in place the arrangements for the meeting (hire of venue, arrangement of interpretation etc)
- Preparing Secretariat papers for AC 2 and liaising with authors of other papers
- Arranging travel and financial assistance for Working Group Chairs to attend the meeting;

Promotion of the Agreement

The Secretariat has continued to promote ACAP extensively in international fora to engender support for the Agreement. Since MOP1 this has been achieved mainly through provision of briefings to Parties who have agreed to act as observers to the Agreement at other International Meetings (Annex 7 of the MOP1 report refers). This has included providing briefing on links between ACAP and the Antarctic Treaty to the Australian Delegation to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and Committee for Environmental Protection.

Representation at meetings of other international Fora

Barry Baker represented ACAP at the 8th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in November 2005. All travel and accommodation costs for this trip were met by the Australian government.

Warren Papworth attended the 6th Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (ERSWG – CCSBT in February 2006.

ACAP Website

The Agreement website (www.acap.aq) has been in existence since April 2004. It provides valuable information on albatross and petrel conservation issues; the text of the Agreement; official documents from the Meetings of Parties and the Advisory Committee; contact details of Parties and the Secretariat; a news page with details of new developments; links to associated sites; and an image gallery. Many of these webpages and documents are available in the official ACAP languages of Spanish and French as well as English. Most sections of the website can be accessed by Parties and the general public (two secure pages have been created for members of the AC Working Groups) and the site is updated regularly by the Secretariat. Dr John Cooper (South Africa) recently agreed to undertake the role of news editor on the website.

The ACAP website is currently hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division but it is likely that it will be transferred to the Tasmanian State Government as progress is made towards the establishment of a permanent Secretariat for the Agreement. The domain name has recently been transferred to the Tasmanian State Government.

Preparations for the Second Meeting of Parties

The Secretariat has assisted New Zealand, the host Government for the second Meeting of Parties (MoP), in its preparations for MoP 2. Preparations are well advanced for this meeting.