



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
Interim Secretariat provided by the Australian Government

First Meeting of Advisory Committee
Hobart, Australia, 20 – 22 July 2005

Agenda Item No .19
ACAP/AC1/Doc.19
United Kingdom

Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to ACAP

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Issue

The possibility of the United Kingdom hosting the 2nd Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Background

At the first Meeting of Parties in Hobart, Australia, from 10-12 November 2004, the United Kingdom offered to consult with its authorities with a view to making an offer to host the second session of the Meeting of the Parties in late 2006.

Consideration

The UK has looked at the arguments for hosting the second meeting of parties and has concluded that it would not be prudent to make a formal offer.

The interest that HRH The Prince of Wales has expressed in albatross and petrel conservation was seen as a good argument for the UK to host the meeting, particularly in view of the media interest that could be generated if his participation could be secured. However, it is felt that this is outweighed by ACAP's focus being on southern hemisphere species where the majority of parties are located.

The costs of bringing delegates to the UK could be disproportionately expensive, in comparison with holding the meeting in the southern hemisphere. In addition to this, it might look odd to host an event in the northern hemisphere for an Agreement that is directed at the conservation of species predominantly to be found in the southern hemisphere.

It is also felt that holding the meeting in the UK would mean that any opportunity to link it with another taking place on a related issue, such as a CCAMLR meeting, which happened for the first ACAP Meeting of Parties, would be lost. It is also thought that there would be no opportunity for delegates to visit and witness any practical conservation action for ACAP species if the meeting is held in the UK.

Finally, although the involvement of HRH The Prince of Wales is seen as attractive from a media perspective, the UK believes his involvement, to some lesser degree, could still be secured. As such, ACAP would not lose the potential for media interest that would be generated by him.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, the UK has decided that it would be prudent for the second Meeting of Parties to be held at a location somewhere other than the UK. It has therefore decided not to make a formal offer to host the meeting.