



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

Valdivia, Chile, 12 - 15 June 2007

Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

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Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

Australia

Background

The Second Meeting of the Parties held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 13-17 November 2006 agreed to a final text of a Headquarters Agreement (Resolution 2.1, Annex 1 of the final report of MoP2) between the ACAP Secretariat and the Government of Australia. Resolution 2.1 provides that the Secretariat shall have the legal capacity to conclude the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Australia and authorises the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat to sign the Headquarters Agreement on behalf of the Secretariat.

Comment

The Government of Australia has a domestic and treaty-making process, which involves seeking a range of approvals prior to being able to formally sign the Headquarters Agreement. In addition to relevant Ministerial approvals and Executive Council approval, these procedures include seeking the agreement of each State and Territory Government to the taxation and other privileges proposed by the Agreement.

The Government of Australia is presently working through these requirements, and hopes to be in a position to sign the Headquarters Agreement late in 2007. As it is not appropriate to pre-empt any of these approvals, it is not possible, for the moment, to provide a firm indication of when this process will be complete.

The Government of Australia shares the desire of the other Parties to formally conclude the Headquarters Agreement and to establish the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity, and undertakes to keep Parties informed of progress on this matter.