



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Third Meeting of Advisory Committee**

*Valdivia, Chile, 19 – 22 June 2007*

---

**Report of the Interim Secretariat**

Author: **Secretariat**



## Report of the Interim Secretariat

The following report provides the Advisory Committee with information on action taken by the Interim Secretariat since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee. An overview is provided of the Secretariat's operations during this period followed by a detailed report on tasks that the Secretariat is required to perform in accordance with the requirements of the Agreement and the Action Plan. It is proposed that future reports be provided in accordance with the 2007 – 2009 Secretariat work plan, approved at MoP2.

### Overview of Operations

The Secretariat continues to operate in an interim capacity pending implementation of the Headquarters Agreement by the Australian Government. In addition to maintaining the ongoing operation of the Secretariat office and management of the Agreement's budget the major activities of the Secretariat over the past year have involved providing support to ACAP meetings (MoP2, AC3, the waved albatross workshop and Status and Trends and Seabird Bycatch Working Group meetings) and with furthering the objectives of the Agreement at relevant international meetings (six in total).

Two memorandums of understanding (MoU) have been negotiated by the Secretariat, one with the Government of Tasmania for the provision of office facilities and support and the second, still to be finalised, with the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission.

The Secretariat has also initiated contact with a number of non-Party Range States with a view to facilitating their participation in the Agreement, as well as coordinating the Agreement's activities with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.

### Staffing

The Executive Secretary remains the only full-time employee in the Interim Secretariat.

Barry Baker has been engaged on a consultancy basis to undertake the work of ACAP technical/scientific officer in a part-time capacity. Barry's appointments as Scientific Councillor on Bycatch with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and as Convener of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group, provides a high level of synergy with the work of this position and offers potential budgetary savings in travel costs, where these can be shared with the CMS.

Deleted: Councillor

Diane Erceg has been engaged on short-term contracts to provide specialist meeting support for AC2 and MoP2 and has been responsible for surveying Parties on ways to further develop capacity building in support of the objectives of the Agreement.

John Cooper (South Africa), vice-chair of the Advisory Committee, continued in his role as ACAP's honorary news editor and information officer.

Nicole Le Boeuf completed her secondment to the Secretariat following MoP2. In addition to providing key support for the organisation and conduct of AC2 and MoP2, Nicole took responsibility for the synthesis of Parties' reports on implementation of the Agreement into a single report for consideration at AC2 and subsequently by MoP2.

Marcelo Garcia from the Subsecretaria de Pesca, Chile has been on secondment to the Secretariat for three months commencing on 19 March. Marcelo has played a key role in preparations for the waved albatross workshop and AC 3 and has also assisted with capacity building initiatives of benefit to Chile.

The second Meeting of the Parties was supported by a large number of staff from the Government of New Zealand, but in particular by Stephanie Rowe and Danica Devery-Smith.

Although not a staff member, the role of Mark Tasker in his position as Chair of the Advisory Committee needs to be acknowledged, as he has provided invaluable advice and guidance to the Secretariat through-out this period.

The operation of the Interim Secretariat would not have been possible without the assistance of the Governments of Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States in providing staff to support the operation of the Interim Secretariat, both in Hobart and at meetings organised by ACAP.

## 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 past year since AC2 was held the Secretariat has arranged and serviced the second Meeting of the Parties and provided support for: a workshop to develop an action plan for the waved albatross; two meetings of Advisory Committee Working Groups; and the current Advisory Committee meeting. 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

Deleted: ;

continues to promote and coordinate the work of the Agreement through the ACAP website, which has recently been redesigned to make it easier to access information; 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 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs, FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats Network, as well as providing briefing material for Parties representing ACAP at similar meetings. As well, the Secretariat has liaised with many of the international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to albatross and petrel conservation.
- e) **to invite the attention of MoP to matters pertaining to ...this Agreement** - the Secretariat has prepared a number of papers for MoP2 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.
- f) **to provide MoP with a report on its work** - the Secretariat's reported to the Meeting of the Parties on the work undertaken by it since the last meeting (MoP2 Doc 8) as well as providing quarterly reports on its activities.
- g) **to administer the Agreement budget** -the Secretariat has administered the 2006 and 2007 budgets for the Agreement with accountancy services during 2006 being provided by the Australian Government Antarctic Division. Since 1 January 2007 these services have been provided by the Department of Economic Development, Government of Tasmania. Norway has recently ratified the Agreement and in accordance with the decision taken at MoP2 contributions made by Norway in 2007, 2008 and 2009 will be allocated to the Advisory Committee Work Programme. A summary of the funding currently available to the Advisory Committee is provided in AC3 Doc 9.
- 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 was agreed to at MoP2 (Annex 11 of the MoP2 Final Report refers).
- 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

Deleted: .

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 last 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 and has been appointed on a consultancy basis to provide technical assistance to the Secretariat, 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 FAO, CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty. The Executive Secretary attended the First Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-1) in March this year and gave a presentation to the meeting on the work of the Agreement. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was prepared in the margins of this meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with the purpose of establishing a formal mechanism for the exchange of expertise and information on issues related to seabird bycatch.
- 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 and other relevant non-governmental organisations.
3. The Agreement Secretariat has agreed on a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Tasmania for the provision of accommodation and office services for the Secretariat. As mentioned above, it has also commenced negotiation of a MoU with the WCPFC. This has been sent to National Contact Points for their information and advice.
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 was considered at second Meeting of the Parties (refer MoP2 Resolution 2.5).

## 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 has consulted with Parties to identify initiatives, such as training programs, that can encourage capacity building (refer AC3 Doc 16). It has recently established a scientific literature database (refer AC3 Doc 21) providing information on over 1,000 publications relevant to the Agreement's objectives and commenced work on a directory of authorities, research centres, scientists and NGO organisations relevant to ACAP (refer AC3 Doc 20).

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 reported to MoP2 on action taken to provide resources for implementation of the Action Plan. 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.

### Action Required:

The Interim Secretariat has achieved an extensive work programme since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee. Over the past two years the Interim Secretariat has been responsible for the organisation and support of four international meetings, approximately one every six months, as well as providing support for four working group meetings and a workshop. This has necessarily consumed much of the Secretariat's energy and resources. It is proposed to use the extended break before the next meeting to focus the Secretariat's resources on supporting the implementation of the Advisory Committee's work programme. The Advisory Committee's guidance is sought in identifying priorities for the Secretariat in this regard.

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm, Space After: 0 pt, Don't keep with next

Formatted: Don't keep with next

Formatted: Don't keep with next