



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourth Meeting of Advisory Committee

Cape Town, South Africa, 22 – 25 August 2008

Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

Author: Australia

Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Australia and the ACAP Secretariat

Submitted by: Australia

Background

The Second Meeting of the Parties held in Christchurch, New Zealand (13-17 November 2006) agreed to a final text of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Australia and the ACAP Secretariat (Resolution 2.1, Annex 1 of the final report of MoP2). That meeting also authorised the Executive Secretary of the interim Secretariat to sign the Headquarters Agreement on behalf of ACAP Parties.

At the third meeting of the Advisory Committee in Valdivia, Chile (12-15 June 2007), Australia provided information to Parties on implementation of the Headquarters Agreement (AC3 Doc 8) and committed to keep Parties informed of progress.

Parties will recall Australia's advice on 15 January 2008 that, following the Australian federal election in November 2007 and subsequent change of Australian Government, the requirements of Australia's Constitution and treaty making processes meant that it was necessary to recommence action to allow Australia to ratify the Headquarters Agreement. As a consequence, Australia advised ACAP Parties that the completion of Australian ratification of the Headquarters Agreement would be delayed.

Progress

Since the last Australian progress reports, ratification actions have proceeded smoothly. A significant milestone will be reached on Monday 23 June 2008 when the Agreement is to be signed on behalf of ACAP Parties by Mr Warren Papworth, Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat and by Dr Anthony Press, Director of the Australian Antarctic Division on behalf of the Australian Government.

Following the signing of the Headquarters Agreement, there are several further actions remaining to be taken by Australia before its treaty ratification process will be concluded and the Headquarters Agreement enters into force, probably late in 2008. Australia wishes to assure ACAP Parties that these actions will be undertaken as quickly as possible and that Australia will continue to keep Parties informed of progress.