



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 .15
ACAP/AC1/Inf.8
South Africa

Notification to SADC (Southern African Development Community) states of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and solicitation of their support for the Agreement

SADC Regional Symposium on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Issue

Notification to SADC (Southern African Development Community) states of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and solicitation of their support for the Agreement.

Discussion

At the first Meeting of Parties in Hobart, Australia, from 10-12 November 2004, the Republic of South Africa was requested to nominate a representative to attend the SADC Regional Symposium on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS), from 1-2 February 2005. This was not achieved but South Africa's Mr Marcel Kroese was approached to circulate participants of five follow-up workshops arranged by SADC on MCS that were held in May 2005 the document listed as Annex 1 and a copy of the Agreement. Mr Kroese undertook to do so. The five workshops related to issues concerning shared stocks of small pelagic fishes, hakes, highly migratory fishes, prawns and rock lobsters. They were attended by participants from Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania.

Annex 1

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, or ACAP, is a multilateral agreement which seeks to conserve albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to albatross and petrel populations. ACAP has been developed under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

The Agreement is the first multilateral agreement which seeks an integrated and holistic approach to albatross and petrel conservation throughout the Southern Hemisphere. It seeks to promote, cooperate in, and support research relating to these birds. Actions identified in the Agreement's Action Plan include the exchange of information on mitigation measures aimed at protecting these birds from fishing practices; monitoring and managing seabird populations; monitoring conservation measures and their effect on breeding and habitats; and introducing effective scientific and administrative programs.

Development of the Agreement commenced in 1999. This Agreement was concluded rapidly and required only two meetings to develop the text for the Agreement. These meetings, held in Hobart, Australia, and Cape Town, South Africa, were attended by 16 countries and five international organisations. ACAP was opened for signature in June 2001 in Canberra, Australia. To date there are 11 signatories - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom. Of these, Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom have also ratified ACAP.

The Agreement entered into force on 1 February 2004 and the first meeting of the parties (MOP1) was convened between 10-12 November 2004 in Hobart, Australia. At the meeting, it was requested that South Africa bring the Agreement of the South African Development Community. A copy of the Agreement is appended.

Much needs to be done to ensure ACAP becomes an effective mechanism to assist in eliminating threats to albatrosses and petrels, both at sea and on land, and ensuring that population declines are reversed. There are a number of important range states which need to accede to the ACAP. The Agreement is in its infancy and needs to establish a permanent Secretariat and Advisory Committee to guide the future work of ACAP. The Action Plan, established by Article VI of the Agreement, needs to be developed and implemented, and priority needs to be given to capacity building in range states which currently require training, information and institutional support to ensure the implementation of the Agreement.