



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourth Meeting of Advisory Committee

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**PERU'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

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AND PETRELS**

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1. Species Conservation

1.1 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
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- Adopt and implement at national level (with all involved government and non-government organizations) the Plan of Action for the Conservation of the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria errorata* listed in ACAP, jointly prepared by Ecuador and Peru.
- Work in coordination with various stakeholders (Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Division of Maritime Sovereignty, Trans-Border Waters and Antarctic Matters], the Department of Fisheries, Peru's Instituto del Mar, the National Institute of Natural Resources, the National Directorate of Captaincies and Ports, participating NGOs, such as the Peruvian Association for the Conservation of Nature (APECO) and PRODELPHINUS, fishing companies, artisanal fishermen, amongst others) in the establishment of a National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Peru's Seabirds, with a priority on the most threatened species listed in Annex 1 of the ACAP Agreement and on the basis of experience gained in the development of a Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross. It is thus expected to have a tool which will enable the efficient coordination of conservation actions and efforts and avoiding duplication of efforts, with a priority on conservation needs in Peru.
- Direct specific efforts to the regulation of the new and increasing activity of birdwatching in Peru, with albatrosses in Peruvian waters as an attraction. Further, to standardise the imposition of sanctions in respect of all breaches to national laws protecting those species listed in Annex 1.
- Coordinate efforts between participating organizations in the monitoring of artisanal trotline fisheries and other types of artisanal fisheries. It will be necessary to obtain a better estimation of bycatch levels of albatrosses and petrels during fishing operations, for which it will be required to compile all information gathered throughout the Peruvian coastline. We will thus be able to determine which species are the most affected, which locations are the most critical; and seasons during which more interactions occur, amongst others.

To date, Peru does not have accurate estimates of bycatch levels of albatrosses and petrels occurring in artisanal fisheries. Whilst a certain level of efforts exists, mostly on the part of NGOs who undertake estimations at certain locations, sampling levels continue to be very low and unrepresentative for the entire Peruvian coastline. We have

equally not yet implemented an Onboard Observer Program, which would be of great importance. One difficulty encountered is that artisanal fisheries are fairly complex, both in relation to the number of vessels and the mobility of the fleet and they could continually be changing fishing areas and fishing gear, relative to the availability of resources.

- Improve knowledge on distribution, seasonality and use of habitats for these seabirds, with a view to identifying areas of high concentration or frequent use and which could be relevant monitoring or conservation locations, taking into account areas of high interaction with the fisheries.
- Develop environmental education programs and improve dissemination on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels aimed at artisanal and industrial fishermen, as well as the public at large.

1.2 Measures to eliminate, control or prevent introduction of non-native species to breeding sites	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.4	3	III (1) b)

In Peru there is no reported nesting of species listed in Annex 1.

1.3 Report on any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harming of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.2		III (3)

Currently, two species listed in Annex 1 are protected under Peruvian legislation (the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* and the Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita*). Through Supreme Decree No 034-2004-AG (of September 2004) the 'Classification of Threatened Species' was adopted in Peru and establishes that the National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA) may grant exemptions to the prohibition of hunting, capture, possession, transport or exportation for commercial purposes of all specimens, products and sub-products of threatened species. Likewise, scientific collection is permitted by the INRENA (subject to the favourable opinion of national or international scientific institutions) on the proviso that research contributes to the species conservation, and when this is of interest and benefit to the Nation.

1.4 Use and trade	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.1, 1.1.2		III (3)

In 2006, artisanal fishermen reported targeted catches of Waved Albatrosses at the Port of Salaverry, north of Peru, during out-to-sea

fishing operations [Awkerman et al. (2006)]. Of 19 voyages, only 3 reported targeted catches of Waved Albatrosses for the consumption of the fishermen. Whilst the fishermen state that this is not a new practice, we do not have any quantitative information which may allow an impact assessment. However, the presumption may be that such activities take place in a very localised fashion.

In 2007, APECO carried out research on the use and trade of albatrosses for direct consumption, through the application of surveys and onboard observers in artisanal and industrial fishing vessels in Paita, Chimbote and Salaverry. Although no albatross catches were reported when the observers were onboard the vessels, the surveyed fishermen stated that they occasionally caught seabirds for feeding purposes, particularly if fish catches were not abundant. This information was collected through surveys, but a catch index has not yet been determined and it has not been possible to identify more accurately which species are affected. It is the opinion of PRODELPHINUS that more caution can now be observed on the part of fishermen, particularly as they are better informed in relation to the conservation status of albatrosses and in relation to the impact its consumption may have on the species.

Another associated economic activity is Seabird Watching. At least two companies offer tours for birdwatching purposes and have periodic and scheduled trips with several months ahead. The cost of tours vary from 100 to 135 US dollars per person. Vessels travel 25 miles away from the coast and tours may have a duration of up to 6 hours. This type of activity is not yet regulated and an evaluation of the interaction of this activity with the habitats of birds becomes necessary.

In the Bi-National Workshop on the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross (held in 2007 in Lima), some fishermen reported the use of albatross feathers caught incidentally as a decoy for tuna catches.

1.5 Single or multi-species conservation strategies / action plans	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.3		

- ACAP's Secretariat, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, organised the First Bi-National Workshop on the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross, held in Lima on 5-6 June 2007.
- This workshop had a broad attendance of all sectors (public institutions, non-government organizations and artisanal fishermen). It was evident that there exists an information gap on seabird bycatch in Ecuadorean fisheries and it was therefore recognised that it became necessary to hold a second workshop in Ecuador to address this issue.
- Peru will take part in the Second Bi-National Workshop on the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross, with a view to achieving consensus on the final drafting of the Plan of Action and with the aim of defining those

activities focusing on the implementation of said plan both in Peru and Ecuador.

- To date, Peru does not have a National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Seabirds in Peru. We recognise, however, that this is both a necessary and important document.

APECO has established a marine and coastal conservation program and undertakes projects and activities for research and conservation of incidental and targeted catch of seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles. Work is being carried out with artisanal and industrial fishermen, providing them with information on the conservation status of the species, they will be involved in research and taught how to release species which have been caught incidentally and information will also be provided to them in relation to existing prohibitions on the capture of these species. Further, PRODELPHINUS organises monthly visits to all major ports where it works, and during which talks are given on the conservation of seabirds, particularly those species listed in ACAP.

Given the importance attached to this issue, the process of development of a National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Seabirds in Peru must be conducted by a government agency which will produce a foundation document to be discussed by all other participating institutions and researchers, with the aim to ensure a participatory process and thus obtain an effective tool for all sectors alike, and in tune with the country's reality. This process must also enlist the reinforcement of experts on albatross and petrel conservation.

The main difficulty in the attainment of this goal is that government institutions do not have the necessary technical staff with full-time availability, at least for a period of two months, for the preparation of the foundation document. One possible solution would be to procure all necessary funds in order to appoint a consultancy for the development of said document. The development process of the National Plan of Action would otherwise take too long a time.

1.6 Emergency Measures	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.2		VIII (11) e)

Peru is committed to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross, however, no emergency measures have yet been authorized for the conservation of species listed in Annex 1.

1.7 Re-establishment schemes	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.3		

Peru has not carried out any re-establishment schemes in relation to species listed in Annex 1.

1.8 Any other conservation projects for ACAP species	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

PRODELPHINUS, through a number of projects associated with other marines species (turtles, cetaceans, etc.) addresses related issues on seabird conservation

2. Habitat Conservation

2.1 Measures (legal and policy instruments and actions) to implement protection and management of breeding sites including habitat restoration	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.1	3	III (1) a)

In Peru no nesting of species listed in Annex 1 has been reported.

2.2 Sustainable management of marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.3.1 a)		

Peru complies with all directives of the Antarctic Treaty and CCAMLR. Further, Peru participates in the krill biomass assessments through the 'Biology and Ecology of Major Pelagic Communities in the Branfield Strait and surrounding areas of Elephant Island' project, which seeks to implement an ecosystemic approach in Antarctic research.

2.3 Management and protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.3.2, 2.3.3	4	

Peru is a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific and also adheres to the directives of international agreements which aim to protect the marine environment, such as, avoiding pollution caused by oil spillage and the prohibition of drift-net fishing. Pollution monitoring is equally undertaken by the various agencies responsible for the monitoring of the marine environment.

Peru is currently in the process of implementing the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East

Pacific of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, through a National Multi-Sectoral Commission.

3. Management of Human Activities.

3.1 Report on environmental impact statements related to albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.1		

Peru has recently seen a higher level of interest over the exploration and exploitation of hydro-carbons along the Peruvian coastline and on the continental shelf. A large part of the northern and central coast is the subject of exploration and exploitation contracts. Peruvian legislation establishes the obligation to undertake environmental impact assessments for these activities. The assessments cite the presence of some species of seabirds in the exploration areas and report the presence of albatrosses; however, they do not take into consideration the potential impact on seabirds, although they do address in greater detail the potential impact over sea mammals.

3.2 Measures to reduce or eliminate incidental mortality in fisheries	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.2	6	

With the aim of promoting the use of fishing gear and methods which are highly selective and in order to diversify fishing gear, so as to slowly decrease the fishing power over coastal and demersal populations, the *Instituto del Mar del Perú* (IMARPE) is currently undertaking a project which seeks to gather information on fishing gear as a prerequisite to the monitoring of the interaction with the fisheries.

Upon signing a Cooperation Agreement between Southern Seabird Solutions of New Zealand and the IMARPE, both institutions committed themselves to jointly work in the development and promotion of appropriate fishing practices which are safer for seabirds in the Peruvian fishing fleet. The primary goal of this Agreement is to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels in Peruvian and New Zealand waters.

The main activities carried out within the framework of this Agreement are:

- Visit of a New Zealand fisherman (Dave Kellian), expert on mitigation techniques on seabird bycatch and of an official from the Department of Conservation of New Zealand (Dr. Eduardo Villouta), February-March 2006.
- Inter-institutional workshops: government sector, NGOs and fishermen unions, with the aim of publicizing the problem of albatross and petrel bycatch during fishing activities.

- Four workshops for the promotion of mitigation measures on seabird bycatch in longlines aimed at artisanal fishermen in ports with a larger number of longline vessels in Peru, such as Paita, Lima, Pucusana and Ilo.
- Dave Kellian took part in an experimental voyage on a longline vessel in order to observe the Peruvian reality in the interaction of albatrosses and petrels with longline fisheries and to determine which mitigation measures are the most appropriate ones for our own fisheries.
- Visits to ports in order to exchange experiences with fishermen (Paita, Callao, Pucusana, Ilo, Morro Sama).

Peru has not officially adopted mitigation measures for the mortality of albatrosses and petrels, however, many fishermen have adopted on a voluntary basis mitigation measures such as the addition of weights for a quicker sinking of bait.

Tuna Fishing Ordinance No. 032-2003-PRODUCE establishes in section 3.2 that tuna, sea birds and turtles and dolphins are by association to be protected.

There have been no instances of breaches in relation to the bycatch of seabirds during fishing operations. (Fishing legislation classifies as a breach the taking of legally protected species; however, this would apply to hydro-biological resources only and not so to seabirds).

3.3 Measures to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.2 4	6	

The National Plan of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing is currently pending approval. It incorporates all applicable national and international fishing management guidelines, including the one on fisheries using longlines.

A core function of the Directorate-General on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (DIGSECOVI) is to record any breaches to existing fishing management measures through its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Program; however, as no breaches have been recorded in relation to seabirds during fishing operations, DIGSECOVI does not currently undertake any control activities in this regard.

3.4 Measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (with reference to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL))	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.3.1 b), 3.3		

Peru is a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and thus complies with its resolutions and applies its guidelines. The Directorate-General of Captaincies and Coast Guard Services (DICAPI) is the maritime authority responsible for compliance with such agreements. DICAPI is also the agency responsible for the final disposal of marine debris.

3.5 Measures to minimise disturbance in marine and terrestrial habitats	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.4		

In relation to species listed in Annex 1, the land habitat is not within the jurisdiction of Peru.

4. Research and Monitoring

4.1 Ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.1		

IMARPE carries out Assessment Surveys of Pelagic Resources during two seasons (summer and spring), Oceanographic Surveys, Anchovy Eggs and Larvae Assessment Surveys and Special Surveys for the Assessment of Changes in the TSM, during which seabird sightings occur, including albatrosses and petrels. Thus, studies take into account the composition, distribution and relative abundance of these species, allowing a better understanding of the presence of albatrosses and petrels in Peru. An outcome of this are the spatial distribution maps and use of the habitat, associated not only to oceanographic variables but also to acoustic variables of the swarms of Peruvian anchovy, this being the main prey of predator species in Peru and thus allowing a better understanding of the foraging behaviour of these species.

Results obtained so far have provided information in relation to:

- A total of 29 species of albatrosses and petrels have been recorded in Peru during seabird sightings recorded in the Pelagic Resources Research Surveys carried out by IMARPE (7 species of albatrosses and 22 species of petrels).

- In general terms, the abundance of albatrosses and petrels during the winter-spring season is greater than during the summer-autumn season.
- The most abundant species along the Peruvian coastline are: the Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) and the Grey Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*). Three species: *Thalassarche salvini*, *Procellaria aequinoctialis* and *P. Parkinsoni* are considered to be frequent.

Phoebastria irrorata, *Thalassarche eremita*, *Thalassarche salvini*, *Pterodroma phaeopygia*, *Pterodroma cooki*, *Procellaria parkinsoni*, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, *Puffinus griseus* and *Puffinus creatopus* are considered to merit special attention as the most vulnerable ones, in light of not only their conservation status but also because of their abundance along Peru's coasts.

APECO has set out a Marine and Coastal Conservation Program and carries out a number of conservation and research projects and activities associated with the incidental bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles. The problem is identified and quantifies jointly with the fishermen, whom are made aware of the conservation status and fishermen are involved in research and are also taught how to release species which have been caught incidentally. Fishermen are also informed of any existing prohibitions on catches of the species. Both artisanal and industrial fishermen take part in these activities.

During 2007, two NGOs undertook research on these matters.

APECO carried out a survey among artisanal fishermen using longlines and curtain nets in four ports of Peru. At three of these ports, 10% of fishermen using curtain admitted to targeted catches of 'birds' for direct consumption and sale. 26% of fishermen described birds as Waved Albatrosses. APECO also implemented an Onboard Observer Program in longline vessels in the north of Peru.

PRODELPHINUS continued its program recording the mortality of albatrosses and petrels and reported some species listed in Annex 1, within the interactions of artisanal fisheries, identifying information gaps on the behaviour of the birds in relation to fishing vessels, this information being necessary if mitigation measures are to be designed to decrease the incidental bycatch of these birds.

4.2 Observer programmes to monitor fisheries bycatch of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.2	5.1	

IMARPE has a number of programs in place to monitor both artisanal and industrial fisheries. Although it has not yet implemented an Onboard Observer Program to estimate incidental bycatch of seabirds, due to budgetary constraints, capacity available at other programs are made use of. Thus, observers have been trained so that they can record interactions seabirds.

Through its 'Data Collection System for Artisanal Fisheries in the Peruvian Coastline' IMARPE records all landed and traded products at selected locations. Currently, there are 33 landing coves which have been sampled and it is estimated that 80% of the total landings have been covered. The methodology used is direct surveys of artisanal fishermen on catches and effort of this economic activity through permanent field observers or research officers (in Spanish, 'TCI' or '*técnicos científicos de investigación*') at each port and/or selected cove, covering the greatest number of fishing business days each month (between 15 and 25 days), depending on the size of the ports and/or sampled coves (large, medium or small, taking into account the number of vessels and the volume of landings). Daily data are recorded on the catches per vessel, species, fishing area and gear, in pre-determined formats, almost at a census level between 06:00 and 18:00 hours in most cases however subject to the time of tide in other cases; as this is the time when the largest number of vessel arrivals takes place.

Data are treated under strict quality controls and entered into an ad-hoc software program developed with the use of Visual Fox-Pro, with an ORACLE 8i platform under the name of IMARSIS. Currently there are approximately 4.5 million records kept which increases, on a yearly average, by 390.000. This implies having to process approximately 1.068 records per day (with 30 field per record). The system allows for fast digitalization, correction and report preparation depending on pre-established breakdowns and also has a control and auditing system which validates any information entered.

In 2008, it is expected that, within this program, the monitoring of landings of incidental bycatch of seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals will be implemented for artisanal fisheries. Training workshops are have already been held in relation to the recording of seabirds, with special emphasis on these species (including those listed under Annex 1) so as to allow a better estimate of the mortality caused by the fisheries.

There is also a monthly program with 'sea outings on commercial vessels using selected gear', the main goal being to measure the fishing effort and the magnitude of discharge by artisanal fisheries. This is useful for a better monitoring of incidental catches on the part of these fisheries. As of this year, special emphasis will be given to seabirds.

Through the Fishing Logbook Program, IMARPE places observers on board industrial vessels who are responsible for recording of all interaction events with seabirds, with special attention to threatened species such as albatrosses and petrels. Scientific officers at IMARPE observe the activities of the various industrial fleet and report, albeit anecdotally, interactions with albatrosses and other bird species. This program provides information regarding interaction events (presence and incidental bycatch) of some of the species listed in Annex 1.

APECO has developed an Onboard Observer Program on Longline Vessels which ran from November 2006 to February 2008 in the north of Peru. During this period, no incidental bycatch was recorded in respect of more than 390.000 hooks.

PRODELPHINUS has placed observers on board longline vessels and artisanal vessels in some ports in the north and south of Peru and has obtained preliminary results regarding the estimates of incidental bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.

5. Education and Public Awareness

<i>5.1 Dissemination of information / training for 'user audiences' e.g. scientists, fishermen, conservation bodies, and decision-makers</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	6.1		

The 'Ministerio de la Producción' (Department of Fisheries) has been implementing the 'Artisanal Fisheries Outreach Program' together with regional governments, IMARPE and APECO. The purpose of the program is, through outreach participants, to promote artisanal fishery activities with awareness, advice and training actions for the benefit of all agents at the same locations where these activities take place; the goal is for all fishermen to enhance their organization and revenue levels on the basis of a sustainable exploitation of the fishing resource and conservation of the environment. The so called 'outreach fisherman' or 'outreach agent' is a professional who has been trained in fishing sciences and whose role is to provide members of the artisanal fishery community awareness and information sessions and theoretical and practical training, amongst other activities.

Within the module on 'Good Fishing Practices', outreach agents undertake awareness activities in the same coves where the fishermen are located in order to preserve fishing resources and protected species such as seabirds, with special emphasis on those birds which are in critical status of conservation, such as albatrosses and petrels. They explain the importance of conservation, current legislation, the reasons why reducing incidental bycatch is important and mitigation measures. Leaflets and flyers are also distributed within the community. Furthermore, information and awareness sessions have proven that, in most cases, various sectors within the community take part, thus seizing the opportunity to commit the whole community to cooperate with dissemination endeavours.

This outreach program will continue in 2008, for a duration of seven months, with awareness activities in all artisanal fishery communities for the benefit of conservation of albatrosses and petrels throughout the entire coastline. To this end, a team of 16 outreach agents has been set up and all of them have been trained by and are under the supervision of the Regional Coordination offices in each jurisdiction.

APECO carries out environmental education campaigns to avoid targeted catches of seabirds by the artisanal fishery communities. Further,

PRODELPHINUS prepared in 2007 eleven types of support material for their environmental education program to be used at coastal fishing ports. This material has been partially given to PRODUCE, at the request of the Artisanal Fisheries Directorate. This material is also expected to be given by PRODUCE to the various ports which PRODELPHINUS can access. This synergy directly favours compliance with ACAP and the conservation of species listed in Annex 1.

Last year, PRODELPHINUS also organised close to 38 workshops at fishing ports, for the benefit of 283 artisanal fishermen, maritime authorities within DICAPI and local authorities alike. A number of resources were called upon to promote the conservation of seabirds, such as printed materials, radio publicity (at the Port of Ilo), a mural at the Port of Salaverry and posters or banners which were placed strategically during all sessions given by the NGO at certain ports.

To date, the efficacy of these activities remains untested in relation to the attainment of the goals originally set out.

5.2 Dissemination of information to the general public	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	6.2		

APECO publicizes the features and activities of the 'Captura de Albatros y Petreles' Project through its website and other media. Last year, PRODELPHINUS organised workshops aimed at artisanal fishermen at 33 fishing ports of the Peruvian coastline and developed dissemination and education materials. It also organised by agreement with the *Universidad Nacional de Trujillo* a course on seabirds. The science students who attended this course gained 3 credit points for the course. This will encourage research in the short and medium term at a local level on the issue of seabirds in the provinces and other regions of Peru.

6. Implementation

Summarise progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

Peru has actively participated in the organization of the First Workshop to develop the Plan of Action for the Conservation of the Waved Albatross, as well as in the preparation of its report.