



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Implementation of the ACAP Waved Albatross Plan of Action

Chair Advisory Committee, Ecuador, Peru

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Introduction

The purpose of the Waved (Galapagos) Albatross Plan of Action (WVAL POA) developed by the Governments of Ecuador and Peru, in collaboration with ACAP, is to provide managers, scientists, and stakeholders with a summary of the biology, status, and threats, together with actions needed to improve the conservation status of the species. The POA developed during 2007 and 2008 and adopted during AC4 (Cape Town) contains a comprehensive description of relevant actions and tasks needed to improve the conservation status of the species. The tabled actions were also prioritised and a list of stakeholders and timeframes included (refer to AC4 Doc 50 rev.4 for the full text of the POA).

In AC5 (Mar del Plata) AC5 Doc 20 was presented with the purpose of updating the Advisory Committee on all actions conducted since the adoption of the plan. That document also highlighted the number of organisations involved and the need for a revision of tasks and priorities set in the Plan of Action, considering that the large number of tasks originally considered of high priority precluded the identification of critical actions to be conducted when resources are limited. Consistent observations made by the Seabird Bycatch, Status and Trends, and Breeding Sites Working Groups, recognized the needs to (a) revise action priorities, (b) identify lead organizations for each action, (c) define steps needed to achieve the expected outcomes in the plan, and (d) explore mechanisms to enhance engagement with key stakeholders. The Advisory Committee endorsed the recommendation to include in the Advisory Committee Work Programme for the triennium 2013-2015, a task to perform a comprehensive review and update of the Plan of Action and to establish a steering committee to guide these processes (see items 20.2 and 20.3 of the AC5 Final Report).

The present document was drafted for the Advisory Committee with the purposes of (a) providing an update on actions relevant to the WVAL POA since AC5; (b) highlighting main areas where resources were allocated and could be allocated while the plan is revised; and (c) outlining the strategy to be followed for the review of the POA.

Actions undertaken and resources allocated

Table 1 provides the Advisory Committee with a full account of actions undertaken for the implementation of the POA since its adoption, along with an updated list of stakeholders. A general overview reveals actions have been concentrated on the first section, addressing interactions with fisheries. Actions dealing with the identification of fisheries where bycatch exists (task 1.1), investigations into artisanal fisheries (1.3), coordination with IATTC (1.4), and determination of best mitigation methods (1.5) are worth highlighting, particularly given the number of actions initiated since

2010. Education and training (1.10) and studies on at-sea distribution and behaviour of WVALs (4.4) were also tasks with a significant number of actions undertaken (Fig. 1). It is worth highlighting the large number of ‘high priority’ tasks in the POA, and the fact that a significant number of them have not had any action undertaken on them since the inception of the plan.

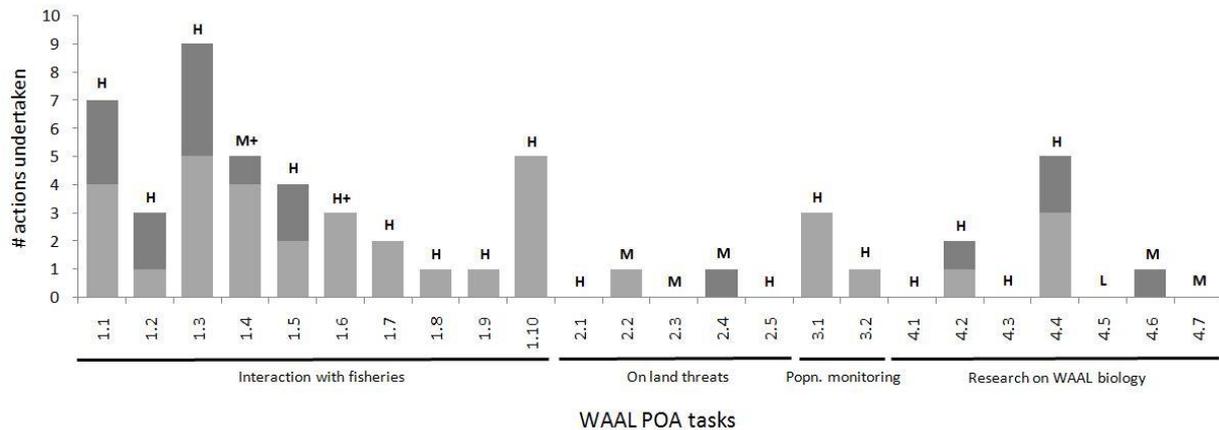


Figure 1. Number of actions undertaken for the implementation of the Waved Albatross plan of Action since its adoption in 2008. Actions are categorised by tasks and sections as per the POA (refer to Table 1 for details on task numbers). Darker sections of the bars represent actions initiated after AC5. Letters above bars (H= high, M= medium, L= low) refer to the priorities of individual tasks defined in the POA

Since 2008, the Agreement’s Advisory Committee funded eight projects for a total of AUD 138,863 distributed as follows: two projects in 2008 (ACAP 08-06 and ACAP 08-07), three in 2009 (ACAP09-02, ACAP09-04 and ACAP09-05) and three in 2010 (ACAP 10-01, ACAP 10-09 and ACAP 10-15). With the exception of ACAP09-02 dealing with land-based population studies, the other projects focused on determination, monitoring, and mitigation of seabird mortality associated with fisheries.

Besides the larger amount of resources allocated and people involved addressing at-sea threats, the efforts allocated in the study and resolution of land-based threats might be somewhat under-represented because of the (qualitative) way that actions undertaken are reported. Moreover, given the current format of the table, it is impossible to determine specific project objectives, whether tasks have been completed, and the effectiveness of the conservation actions undertaken, because only the actual actions and timeframes (often referred to as ongoing actions) are mentioned. Although some actions have been reported back to the Advisory Committee (particularly for projects funded by the AC), the large majority have an unknown status, with no examination of their effectiveness.

Outline of the strategy for the review of the POA and future implementation

According to AC5 Final Report, the review and update of the WVAL POA should be included as a task for the next triennium in the Advisory Committee Work Programme (see AC6 Doc 19). This includes the establishment of a Steering Committee to guide the process.

The Steering Committee should be composed of representatives of the Governments of Ecuador and Peru, including the Advisory Committee Members, and delegates from the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries, National Fisheries Institutes and relevant NGOs already involved in the implementation of the POA. One ACAP Advisory Committee Official will be also part of the Committee. Relevant NGOs and other Inter-Governmental Organisations actively engaged in the implementation of the Plan of Action will be invited in order to make the process inclusive.

Discussions for the creation of such a Committee and the review of the WVAL POA will take place intersessionally after AC6. MoP4 in Lima in 2012 may offer an excellent opportunity for a formal meeting to give final shape to the process.

The review of the WVAL POA should include: (1) re-defining tasks and actions, (2) re-evaluation of priorities, (3) examination of proposals for improving communication between stakeholders and engagement of organizations, and (4) identification of a process for an easy update of actions undertaken and outcomes achieved.

A refinement of the strategy outline will be conducted during a side event taking place in Guayaquil before the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Recommendations

1. That the Advisory Committee note the progress and resources allocated for the implementation of the Waved Albatross Plan of Action so far; and
2. That the Advisory Committee advises the Meeting of the Parties on mechanisms to be followed for the review and efficient implementation of the POA.

TABLE 1. Update of actions conducted for the implementation of the Waved albatross Plan of Action since its adoption in 2007.

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
1. Interactions with fisheries				
1.1 Determine and prioritise which fisheries require further research to understand the level of interaction with waved albatrosses.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE-SGMC Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE. Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, Equilibrio Azul, ProDelphinus, Apeco and fisheries unions.	2008-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 -2011. Industrial fishery explored in Peru (i.e., anchovy fishery and trawl fishery) [APECO]. • 2008-2011. Evaluation of seabird interactions with fisheries in southern Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul; ABC]. • 2010. National Fisheries Institute (INP) in Ecuador planning to explore fisheries in Southern Ecuadorian waters. • 2009. National census of fisheries and fishing gear [SRP, Ecuador]. • 2009-2010. Evaluation of evolving gear types and increase in mechanization in Peru [Pro Delphinus]. • 2010. Assessment of gillnet interactions in 19 ports, Ecuador-Chile [Pro Delphinus;Equilibrio Azul;Pacífico Laut]

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010-2011. Identification of fisheries interacting with albatrosses [BirdLife GSP, Ecuador].
<p>1.2 Develop an observer programme for the different fisheries and improve the quality of those already active.</p>	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, A&C</p>	Starting 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010-2011. Education material for observers developed in Peru [APECO]. • 2008-2011. Bird observations from artesanal fleets in southern Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul] • 2009-10. Workshops to train governmental seabird observers from different observer programmes in Ecuador [Ecuador, Argentina, BirdLife International, A&C].
<p>1.3 Continue studies on artisanal fisheries, their seasonality, gear, effort, fishing methods and areas, targeted species and bycatch including non targeted fish and wildlife</p>	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, Equilibrio Azul, ProDelphinus, Apeco and fisheries unions.</p>	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009-2010. Surveys conducted of fishermen landing in Paita, Chimbote, Pucusana, Ilo, Matarani and Morro Sama (Perú) [APECO]. • 2010. Surveys conducted between 8 to 17 S on board artisanal longline fishing vessels [APECO, Peru]. • 2009-2010. Analysis of new fishing gear and inclusion of weighted swivels and safe leads in artisanal longliners in Perú [Pro-Delphinus] • Onboard observer monitored fishing trips from Salaverry port, Peru [Pro-Delphinus] • 2008-2011. Observer monitored fishing trips in Southern Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul] • 2009. Studies in artisanal fisheries [INP, Ecuador]. • 2010-2011. Monitoring of artisanal fisheries with own observers in 35 ports throughout the year: registration of fishing effort, fishing gear, landings, targeted species, seasonality, fishing areas (IMARPE) • 2010-2011. Monitoring of artisanal hake fisheries (trips from Santa Rosa Port) with own onboard observers (A&C BirdLife GSP). • 2011. Surveys conducted in artisanal longline fishing vessels in Santa Rosa Port (Ecuador) [A&C GSP-ATF]. • 2011. Analysis of modified artisanal longline fishing vessels at Santa Rosa Port (Ecuador) [A&C GSP-ATF].
<p>1.4 Coordinate with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Secretariat of the Galápagos Agreement to continue and improve the monitoring of fisheries and to reduce bycatch</p>	MEDIUM / HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE RFMOs: IATTC, CPPS Others: FCD, Birdlife, PNG</p>	2008 – 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09. Work conducted with IATTC providing technical advice on Best Practice Technical Guidelines and the development of conservation recommendation adopted in 2010. • 2009. Draft MoU between IATTC and ACAP presented to the Commission and under evaluation. • 2009-10. Studies to determine the interaction of non target species with fisheries [INP, IATTC, BirdLife GSP-A&C &

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
				<p>PWF]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009-10. Training of observers from IATTC for the identification and reduction of incidental mortality [BirdLife GSP - A&C Ecuador] • 2010-2011. Coordination with IATTC Peruvian delegates endorsing the proposal of a CM on seabird conservation (IMARPE)
1.5 Where bycatch is found to occur, determine the best mitigation measures and ways of ensuring that mitigation is undertaken	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.</p>	2009 – 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009. Ongoing mitigation trials in mechanised artisanal longline fisheries in Peru and testing of effectiveness of weighted swivels and safe leads [Pro-Delphinus]. • 2010-2011. Mitigation experiments in gillnet fisheries, using lights as deterrents to birds [Pro Delphinus - NOAA] • 2010. Technical exchange between Ecuador and Peru to examine ongoing mitigation possibilities for WVAL bycatch [ABC- Equilibrio Azul-Pro Delphinus] • 2010-2011. Mitigation and line weighting trials in artisanal longline fisheries (Hake) in Santa Rosa Port (Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul and A&C GSP-ATF].
1.6 Continue studies to identify ports from which fishermen are deliberately catching waved albatrosses	HIGH+	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE - PNG Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.</p>	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010. Surveys conducted of fishermen landing in Paita, Chimbote, Pucusana, Ilo, Matarani and Morro Sama (Perú) [APECO]. • 2008-09. Ongoing studies on intentional catching of seabirds in fishing villages [Pro-Delphinus] • 2008-2009. Surveys to identify intentional catch of WVAL in Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul]
1.7 Integrate studies of the socio-economic and cultural background of fishermen communities.	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: FLA, Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.</p>	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09. Sociological and anthropological studies conducted in the Port of Salaverry, Peru [Pro-Delphinus] • 2009. Studies in fishing communities of Santa Rosa, la Libertad and Anconcito in Ecuador [FEMM-CI-MAE, Ecuador]
1.8 Consider the development of alternative economies for fishermen communities.	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, MINTUR, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.</p>	From 2008 In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative economic analysis of Peruvian artisanal gillnet and longline fisheries [Pro-Delphinus]
1.9 Provide information to fishermen to make clear that metal and plastic bird bands and electronic devices on birds have no refund value.	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF CIAT and fisheries unions.</p>	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials (Fleet radio broadcasts and SSS Fact sheets) produced and distributed to fishing ports and government agencies in Peru [Pro-Delphinus]
1.10 Promote the education and training of the fishing sector and coastal communities, including working with fishers unions, developing and distributing information leaflets and other	HIGH	<p>Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE, PMRC, DIGEIM - PEAMCO Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC,</p>	2008 - 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of educational and outreach materials in Peru [APECO including multimedia and logbooks, ProDelphinus; SSS]. • Production of educational and outreach materials in Ecuador

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materials.		Equilibrio Azul and fisheries unions.		[Equilibrio Azul] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops and production of educational fact-sheets to be used in South America with specific products for different Countries in the region [Pro-Delphinus, Southern Seabird Solutions NZ] 2009-10 Training workshops for fishermen (seabird identification) [BirdLife GSP-A&C Ecuador] 2009-10 Manual for the identification of seabird species and training for observers from INP, IATTC and SRP [BirdLife GSP, Ecuador]
2. On land threats				
2.1 Eradicate introduced predators on Isla de La Plata in order to improve conditions for the waved albatross population that breeds on the island.	HIGH	PNM in coordination with PNG	2009 - 2010	
2.2 Develop a monitoring programme for the changing vegetation on Isla Española	MEDIUM	PNG – FCD – CV (with collaboration of IGM, CLIRSEN)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008-09. Inventories of nesting albatrosses to measure future response to changes in vegetation and eventual experimental manipulations in the vegetation coverage [American Bird Conservancy; James Gibbs, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse]
2.3 Develop a monitoring programme for the changing vegetation on Isla de La Plata	MEDIUM	PNM – EA (with collaboration of IGM, CLIRSEN – Guides Association PNM)	Starting 2009	
2.4 Monitor mosquito populations on Isla Española annually and seasonally.	MEDIUM	Kate Huyvaert (Colorado State University) and Gustavo Jiménez (FCD) leading the project	Starting 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 to present – Attempt to collect mosquitoes during WVAL breeding season [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Gustavo Jimenez, FCD]
2.5 Re-examine tourist activity on Isla de La Plata.	HIGH	PNM – EA	Starting 2008	
3. Population monitoring				
3.1 Establish and undertake a monitoring programme for the waved albatross population on Isla Española	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV	Starting 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009 – Put in place monitoring protocols at Punta Suarez [Kate Huyvaert, CSU; Gustavo Jimenez, FCD; PNG] Ongoing - Continue long-term monitoring and analyses of survival, reproduction, population size and population growth in the waved albatross population on Española [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Dave Anderson, Wake Forest University; Gustavo Jimenez, FCD; PNG] 2008-09. Exploration of methods for a statistically robust survey of populations in the whole island [American Bird Conservancy] 2011 – Further explore methods (mark-resight, ratio estimators) to enumerate WVAL population on Espanola [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University]

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 – Initiate banding and regular monitoring program for vital rates at the interior Central Colony on Espanola [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; James Gibbs, SUNY ESF; PNG]
3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of waved albatrosses of Isla de La Plata	HIGH	PNM – USFQ (other assistant scientists)	Starting 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09 – Initiate banding and regular monitoring of vital rates on La Plata [Carolina Proano, IMPO; Equilibrio Azul; PNM]
4. Research on the biology of Waved albatrosses				
4.1 Determine if nesting habitat of waved albatross is limited on Isla Española.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV		
4.2 Determine if Galápagos tortoises have an impact on the reproductive success of waved albatrosses in Isla Española.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV	Starting 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-Preliminary study; rediscovered subpopulation in Central Colony; • 2010 – Initiate full scale study in Central Colony [James Gibbs, SUNY- ESF, Syracuse; Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; PNG; FCD]
4.3 Initiate dietary studies of waved albatrosses in breeding and foraging areas.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV – Contact IMARPE (Pro Delphinus as a potential collaboration, Subsecretaria de Pesca)	2009?	
4.4 Continue and extend studies on the distribution and behavior of waved albatrosses at sea.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV – EA – USFQ – PNM	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09 -Tracking of individuals during the breeding season to better understand how often and where they overlap with fisheries [Jill Awkerman, US EPA; Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Dave Anderson, Wake Forest University; and collaborators] • 2009-2011 - Study of WVAL at-sea relative abundance, distribution and behaviour around fishing vessels [Pro-Delphinus] • 2010-2011. WVAL at-sea distribution, seasonality, and behaviour near fishing vessels [Equilibrio Azul] • Ongoing - Seabirds at sea observations from IMARPE research cruises (two trips per year) with the objective of analysing seabird assemblages, their spatio-temporal patterns in abundance and distribution in relation to oceanographic conditions and distribution of prey. Database for the period 1998-2008 is currently under analysis [IMARPE, Peru] • 2010 – 2011. Study of WVAL at-sea relative abundance, distribution and behaviour around fishing vessels [A&C, GSP-ATF Ecuador] • 2010-2011 – WVAL at –sea distribution and foraging behaviour during the non-breeding season for reproductive individuals [Sebastian Cruz & Carolina Proaño, IMPO; Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Dave Anderson, Wake Forest

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
				University; FCD; PNG]
4.5 Assess the exposure of waved albatrosses to toxic chemicals.	LOW	PNG – FCD – CV	Every 5 years	
4.6 Identify and monitor the occurrence of infectious diseases and parasites of waved albatrosses during years with different climatic conditions.	MEDIUM	PNG – FCD – CV	Every 2 - 3 years	2010 – Collect ectoparasites from nests and adults during El Niño conditions [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University]
4.7 Conduct a Population Viability Analysis of the waved albatross population on Isla Española.	MEDIUM	PNG – FCD – CV	In progress	

ABBREVIATION LIST

A&C – Aves & Conservación, ABC – American Bird Conservancy, CI – Conservation International, CLIRSEN - Centro de Levantamientos Integrados de Recursos Naturales por Sensores Remotos, CPPS – Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, DIGEIM - Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos, DIGMER - Dirección General de la Marina Mercante y del Litoral, EA - Equilibrio Azul, FCD – Fundación Charles Darwin, FEMM – Fundación Ecuatoriana para el Estudio de Mamíferos Marinos, FFLA - Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, IATTC – Inter-american Tropical Tuna Commission, IGM – Instituto Geográfico Militar, IMARPE – Instituto del Mar del Perú, IMPO - Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, INP – Instituto Nacional de Pesca, MAE – Ministerio de Ambiente del Ecuador, MAGAP-SRP – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuicultura y Pesca, Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros, Ecuador, MINTUR – Ministerio de Turismo, PEAMCO - Programa de Educación Ambiental Marino – Costera, PMRC – Programa de Manejo de Recursos Costeros, PNG – Parque Nacional Galápagos, PNM – Parque Nacional Machanilla, PRODUCE - Ministerio de la Producción del Perú, SSS - Southern Seabird Solutions, New Zealand, USFQ – Universidad San Francisco de Quito, WWF – World Wildlife Fund.