



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of Advisory Committee

Brasilia, Brazil, 5 – 8 June 2006

**SECOND BRAZILIAN VOLUNTARY REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACAP ACTION PLAN**

Author: **Brazil**



PODER PÚBLICO FEDERAL

SECOND BRAZILIAN VOLUNTARY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACAP ACTION PLAN

Leandro Bugoni

University of Rio Grande – FURG and University of Glasgow

[*lbugoni@yahoo.com*](mailto:lbugoni@yahoo.com)

Tatiana Neves

Projeto Albatroz / Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources
– IBAMA

[*tneves@projetoalbatroz.org.br*](mailto:tneves@projetoalbatroz.org.br)

Leonardo Vianna Mohr

Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources – IBAMA

[*leonardo.mohr@ibama.gov.br*](mailto:leonardo.mohr@ibama.gov.br)

Onildo João Marini Filho

Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources – IBAMA

[*onildo.marini-filho@ibama.gov.br*](mailto:onildo.marini-filho@ibama.gov.br)

**Brasilia, Brazil
May 2006**

Note to the Parties

Considering that Brazil is close to ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels – ACAP, it is the country's desire, as a signatory nation to the ACAP, to provide this written report on the implementation of the Action Plan in Brazil as our duty with the conservation of the Procellariiformes and to inform the party nations on the progresses we have made.

1. Agreement and Action Plan Implementation

- The Permanent Committee of Management for Tuna Fisheries determined that the Scientific Sub-committee for Tuna Fisheries offered two new seats for bycatch experts in order to include the discussion about the solution for seabirds and sea turtle incidental captures by longline fisheries in Brazil.
- Implementation of the Working Group for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels under IBAMA. The group is under reorganization to become a permanent Committee and to include, among others, the Brazilian representatives at FAO, ICCAT and CCAMLR.
- Creation of Working Group to address conjunctly bycatch of seabirds, sea turtle and marine mammals with the mandate to elaborate guide lines for reduction incidental captures in fishing activities with special emphasis on threatened species.
- IBAMA defined albatrosses and petrels conservation actions and the implementation of National Plan of Action as a high priority issue. In order to reach this aim IBAMA has funded research activities by its specialized centre, contracted experts and is developing its partnership with Projeto Albatroz.
- The Ministry of the Environment and IBAMA organized a Workshop on Alien Invasive Species to discuss with the scientific community and other institutions ways to prevent, control and eradicate them in several areas of Brazil.
- Brazil strongly encourages the creation of a fund for implementing the ACAP Action Plan and means to provide technical assistance to further develop conservation and management research in the scientifically least developed countries.

2. Habitat Conservation and Restoration

- IBAMA is establishing a partnership with the Brazilian Navy to develop research and conservation activities with Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) at Trindade Island.

- The Brazilian Navy is still adopting effective measures to prevent the introduction of alien species in all oceanic islands managed by them.
- The National Museum of Rio de Janeiro has implemented a project to restore the native vegetation in a degraded field in the Trindade Island planting over a thousand saplings of *Columbrina glandulosa*.
- The conservation of breeding grounds located in oceanic islands is a high priority according to National Plan of Action-Seabirds Brazil.
- As a signatory of MARPOL Convention, Brazil has committed with the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.
- Limitation of tourism activities in the Itatiaia Islands (Espírito Santo state), where breeds the Brazilian endangered Audubon's shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri*.
- Insufficient research in the Brazilian territory does not make necessary to establish general procedures to avoid research disturbance. Still, IBAMA licenses specific research initiatives in accordance with Brazilian regulations.
- Brazilian Navy will provide logistical facilities for the development of researches on the petrels from Trindade Island.

3. Management of human activities

- Identification of the "Itaipava fishery" as an important cause of mortality for seabirds, including endangered species such as Yellow-nosed albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* and Spectacled petrel *Procellaria conspicillata*. A broad study of fishing methods, fleet, fishing grounds, and seabird species interactions was carried out on ports and by onboard observers. A scientific manuscript is currently being produced and a manuscript is available.
- Review of all bycatch data on longline fishery in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean with emphasis on Spectacled petrel have been produced and included in the RSPB Final Report for the project "Assessing the Conservation Status of Spectacled Petrel".
- Analysis of seabird bycatch and abundance during pelagic longline hauling, from a database 2000-2005. Results presented at the XXIV CCAMLR Meeting, Hobart, October, 24th to November, 4th, 2005.
- Submission for publication of a volume with the results of studies carried out under the EZZ Live Resources Program of Brazilian Government about seabirds distribution and abundance in south Brazil, interaction of seabirds with pelagic and

bottom longline fisheries and foraging behaviour of four main species of Procelariiformes in Brazil (Black-browed and Yellow-nosed Albatrosses and White-chinned and Spectacled Petrel)

- A MSc Thesis at Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande – FURG is in development for the study of interaction between seabirds, sea turtles and killer whales with the longline fisheries addressed to the determine the influence of abiotic factors on those interaction
- Establishment of partnership between seabirds conservation projects and the National Observers Program of Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fishing of the Presidency of the Republic (SEAP/PR) in order to promote capacity for the observers to collect data on seabirds interactions with longline fleets based on Brazilian northeastern and southern fishing harbors.
- The Brazilian Government has included mitigation measures as a criterion for conferring permits for leased fishing vessels in Brazilian waters.
- **Development of criteria for the adoption of underwater setting devices in the building projects for new vessels under the Program for Renewing of the Brazilian Fishing Fleet.**
- Environmental licensing of seismic activities related to petroleum prospection, including research activities regarding sea birds, as well as cetaceans and turtles.

4. Research and Monitoring

- Study on abundance, bycatch and genetic of the Spectacled petrel *Procellaria conspicillata* was performed in cooperation with Projeto Albatroz/Brazil, Federal University of Rio Grande/Brazil, RSPB/UK, and University of Cape Town/South Africa.
- Study on trophic structure of Procelariiform community off Brazil based on stable isotope signatures was initiated in cooperation between University of Glasgow and Projeto Albatroz.
- Study on Spectacled petrel movements will start in June 2006 with deployment of 3 satellite transmitters captured in Brazilian fishing grounds, aiming determined overlap with fisheries and displacement along the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean.
- Review of all historical records of albatross and petrels in Brazil was performed as part of a MSc Thesis at Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande – FURG. The study involved a review of data available in literature, museums in Brazil and other countries, from birds collected dead on the beaches and was addressed to find problems in identification of some species.

- Study on relevant offshore areas for seabird was initiated based on seabird abundance and bycatch data in order to create subsidies for further marine protected areas.
- A study will be performed along the current year on systematic of breeding petrels at Trindade Island (*Pterodroma* spp.) and at sea tracking using geolocators aiming to clarify specific status of the group and identify important feeding areas for breeding birds.
- Encouragement and education for the return to land of non-degradable wastes, including plastics, batteries, light sticks, and plastic packaging bands, produced by fishing activities.
- Several media programs, articles and reports focusing albatross conservation have been broadcasted on TV, newspapers, magazines, radio, and Internet directed to the public in general.

5. Education and Public Awareness

- Establishment of partnership between Projeto Albatroz and BirdLife International to develop the Albatross Task Force project in Brazil, aiming the introduction of mitigation measures in the Brazilian longline fleet throughout educational approach.
- Conclusion of a MSc. Thesis in Universidade de Aveiro – Portugal about studies developed on the Educational Program of Projeto Albatroz addressed to the “Awareness of fishermen from longline fishery for the seabirds mortality reduction in Brazil”. The thesis will be defended on June, 26th in Aveiro – Portugal with the participation of the Projeto Albatroz coordinator as one of the juries.
- Development of *Save the Albatross Campaign* in Brazil as part of the world campaign promoted by BirdLife International and supported by the Volvo Ocean Race. During the event in Rio de Janeiro, the Director of Fauna and Fishing Resources of Ibama, Dr. Rômulo Mello, participated at the campaign awarding the champion of leg between Wellington and Rio de Janeiro.

6. Bibliography

All publication cited and manuscripts will be available during the meeting.

Calabuono, F.I., C.M. Vooren. *In press*. Hábitos alimentares dos albatrozes *Thalassarche melanophris* e *T. chlorohychnos* e dos petréis *Procellaria aequinoctialis* e *P.*

conspicillata no sul do Brasil. In: Aves oceânicas da região sudeste-sul do Brasil. T. Neves, L. Bugoni, F. Olmos, C.M. Vooren and C.L.B. Rossi-Wongtschowski (Eds.). REVIZEE.

Neves, T.S., L. Bugoni, D. S. Monteiro, L. Nascimento, and F. Peppes. 2005. Seabird abundance and bycatch on Brazilian longline fishing fleet. Unpublished manuscript presented at the CCAMLR Meeting. Hobart, Australia, October 2005.

Neves, T., C.M. Vooren, L. Bugoni, F. Olmos and L. Nascimento. *In press*. Distribuição e abundância de aves marinhas no sul do Brasil. In: Aves oceânicas da região sudeste-sul do Brasil. T. Neves, L. Bugoni, F. Olmos, C.M. Vooren and C.L.B. Rossi-Wongtschowski (Eds.). REVIZEE.

Olmos, F., L. Bugoni, T. Neves, F. Peppes. *In press*. Aves oceânicas associadas a espinheleiros no Brasil. In: Aves oceânicas da região sudeste-sul do Brasil. T. Neves, L. Bugoni, F. Olmos, C.M. Vooren and C.L.B. Rossi-Wongtschowski (Eds.). REVIZEE.

Olmos, F., L. Bugoni. *In press*. Aves associadas a espinheleiros de fundo no sul-sudeste do Brasil. In: Aves oceânicas da região sudeste-sul do Brasil. T. Neves, L. Bugoni, F. Olmos, C.M. Vooren and C.L.B. Rossi-Wongtschowski (Eds.). REVIZEE.