



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Committee

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**REPORT ON THE SECOND WORKSHOP ON THE WAVED
ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria irrorata*) PLAN OF ACTION
Guayaquil, Ecuador, 5-6 May 2008**

Ecuador – ACAP’s Advisory Committee

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The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), together with the Government of Ecuador and the Government of Peru have developed a Plan of Action which identifies actions needed to improve the conservation status of the Galapagos/Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*), a species listed as Critically Threatened in the Red List of Threatened Species of the IUCN (2007).

This Workshop on the development of the Plan of Action (POA) corresponds to the second stage of a process which commenced with the elaboration of a first draft and its initial debate during the first workshop held in Lima, Peru in the year 2007 (AC3 Doc 28). The current and now updated version of the POA (AC4 Doc 65) presents a list of recommended actions together with a compilation of all existing information on the biology of and threats to the Waved Albatross.

The main aim of the workshop was to inform the debate and to reach consensus on the Plan of Action for the Waved Albatross, with special emphasis on the 'Recommended Actions' section, with a view to examining the next implementation stage of said actions.

This Second Workshop was held in the city of Guayaquil, in Ecuador and was attended by representatives of the Agreement, the governments of Peru and Ecuador, of industry and the Ecuadorean fishing community, as well the scientific community of Ecuador and Peru and local and international NGOs. A list of participants is attached in Annex A.

The workshop commenced with a welcoming address by the Minister of the Environment of Ecuador, Marcela Arguiñaga Vallejo (a lawyer), who thanked ACAP and Aves & Conservación for their efforts in holding the workshop. The Minister highlighted the importance of the workshop and expressed her wishes for the goals to be successfully achieved. Dr Marco Favero, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of ACAP, then thanked the Government of Ecuador through the Ministry of the Environment for their attendance, hospitality and support given to the workshop. Dr Favero also thanked representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador and to members of Aves & Conservación for their support and assistance provided to the workshop. Gabriela Montoya (Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador) accepted to co-chair the meeting with Dr Marco Favero. The agenda was adopted subject to some amendments (Annex B) and the workshop was formally opened.

During day one of the workshop and part of day two presentations were heard with a view to update and cover areas where information gaps existed in the POA on population demography and biology of the Waved Albatross and the fisheries of Ecuador and Peru. Debate centred mainly on the estimations of adult survival of the Waved Albatross species, the range of activity of this species at sea, aspects pertaining to the fisheries in Ecuador and the importance and robustness of existing data on incidental by-catch. Following is a list of presentations made at the workshop:

Demographic indicators of population decrease in the Waved Albatross (Dave Anderson, Jill Awkerman, Kate Huyvaert). Using current data with life rates and a model of stochastic matrix, conclusions of previous studies are confirmed in relation to a population decrease (λ lesser than 1) in recent years. Previous comparisons on the recent population size suggest that the reproductive population has been decreasing between 1994 and 2001 (two censuses). A new census conducted in 2007 shows an ongoing decrease in the breeding population size and the magnitude of this decrease was consistent with that projected in the modelling. Decrease in the mortality of adults resulting from fisheries would appear to be the most efficient measure to stabilise this threatened species. Based on past and current demographic models some very preliminary estimates were carried out on the relationship between specimens taken from the population vs. time of extinction (population understood as = 10 specimens). This analysis would indicate that the species could become extinct in less than 100 years with an additional capture of between 50 (in the worst case scenario upon the basis of current models) and 400 (in the best case scenario on the basis of the model dating back to the 60s) specimens per year. This information shed light on the magnitude of the problem and the relevance the capture of a few dozen albatrosses could have on the species.

Current status at Isla Española, past and present conservation problems (Washington Tapia, Department for Ecosystems Management, Galápagos National Park). This presentation described the general characteristics of native and introduced species at Isla Española, amongst which were those considered emblematic and which present serious conservation risks, as is the case of the Waved or Galápagos Albatross, giant turtles and the cactus of the *Opuntia* genus, amongst others. Permitted uses, regulations and management approaches undertaken for the Galápagos National Park were described, highlighting an ecosystem approach which prioritises the functional role of species, seeking the restoration of the ecological integrity of the ecosystem.

Current status of fisheries in Peru and their interaction with seabirds (Elisa Goya, IMARPE). This presentation provided details on the fisheries in Peru. There is currently no industrial longline fishing fleet in operation and the artisanal longline fleet is (increasingly) highly variable both in terms of space and time. Throughout the coasts of Peru, a total of 29 species of albatrosses and petrels have been recorded during observations made by IMARPE of the research surveys of pelagic resources. At-sea distribution varies depending on the season and on the oceanographic conditions, this information having been incorporated into the POA. Efforts have been undertaken to estimate the incidental by-catch of birds in artisanal fisheries. Results from surveys suggest that the incidental by-catch of albatrosses could present a significant problem even though, to date, onboard observers in these monitoring trips have recorded no incidental by-catch of Waved Albatrosses. Other indications of capture have been obtained through the recovery of bands. The presentation also provided details of the current conservation efforts undertaken by the Government of Peru and NGOs.

Sustainable fishing initiatives in Ecuador (Gabriela Cruz, Chair of FENACOPEC). The National Federation of Fishing Co-operatives in Ecuador (FENACOPEC) is a collective of the artisanal fishing sector of all coastal provinces in Ecuador. FENACOPEC's main aims are currently the regulation and legalisation of the artisanal sector as well as the conduct of a census of fishermen, amongst other

aims. This presentation flagged the absence of incidental by-catch events in the continental or inland artisanal fisheries. In this context, it was emphasised that the vessels involved in the marine turtle protection program have onboard observers and they have not recorded any capture. It was requested that a responsible management approach contemplate the socio-economic variables of the community of fishermen.

Sustainable fishing initiatives: Under-Secretariat for Fishing Resources, (Ramón Montaña, MAGAP). This presentation provided details of the main objectives pursued by the Under-Secretariat of Fishing Resources in relation to the artisanal fishing sector. It was reported that in Ecuador, artisanal fishing is aimed at tuna and clarification was made of the fact that Ecuador is a member of the Pacific RFMO (Regional Fisheries Management Organization) and an active member pursuing the creation of a new RFMO in the South Pacific.

Monitoring of the Waved/Galápagos Albatross (Gustavo Jiménez-Uzcátegui, Charles Darwin Foundation). This paper provided an overview of the general aspects of the biology of these seabirds and of the various problems and threats they face. In relation to the problem of incidental fishing, information was presented regarding the number of specimens of Waved Albatrosses caught on the basis of age class, colony of origin, observation site and type of fishing gear involved. The extent of available information was discussed as well as the difficulties presented for analysis segmented by age or locations when total sampling sizes are limited, particularly in view of the characteristics of the incidental mortality data in the fisheries.

Preliminary assessment of incidental fishing of the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* in artisanal fisheries at Santa Rosa, Santa Elena, Ecuador (Andres Baquero – Equilibrio Azul, Jessica Hardesty-ABC). This paper presented the results of a pilot project carried out in April 2008 with the aim of gathering information on the incidence of seabirds, in particular Waved Albatrosses, in the artisanal fisheries at Santa Rosa. Results obtained from 155 surveys indicate the existence of incidental fishing in surface longlines and in bottom mesh. Limitations of the results were discussed in terms of the limited sampling size, temporal annotation and methodology used. Difficulties associated with the sighting of onboard observers were also raised by the paper.

Status report of the Inter-American Commission on Tropical Tuna (Martin Hall, Inter-American Commission on Tropical Tuna – (IATTC). Available information on sightings of albatrosses obtained by IATTC observers between 1997 and 2007 was presented, including maps with abundance of seabirds superimposed on the fishing effort (obtained together with the WWF between 2003 and 2007). The paper highlighted the existence of information concentrating on the coast of Peru and west of the Galapagos Archipelago but that there is no adequate representation close to the islands, nor in waters adjacent to the southern coast of Ecuador and north of Peru, frequently used by the Waved Albatross as a foraging area. In 540 trips monitored by the regional program on marine turtles, no incidental catch of waved albatrosses was recorded. This lack of incidence would be linked to the inherent characteristics of the fishing gear in these vessels (night and side setting carried out from small vessels with the use of fresh bait). Information gaps were acknowledged in areas such as bottom longlining fleet or mesh nets, as well as information gaps in relation to the industrial Asian fleet. Similarly, the paper indicated that the sampled fleet may present significant local gaps.

Activities during the second day focused on the debate of and elaboration upon the Recommended Actions in the POA (AC4 Doc 65, Annex A). In terms of work modality, participants worked in groups and debated the terms of reference of each recommended action in the Plan, they defined their respective priorities and timelines and identified all stakeholders needed to develop each recommended action, as well as potential sources of funding (or committed funding, where available). During the closing plenary, recommended actions were agreed upon and ensuing steps to be taken were defined following the conclusion of the current stage of development of the POA.

The Government of Peru and the Government of Ecuador agreed to present the POA at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee (the AC4) and to adopt it in order to commence its implementation stage as per timelines established. In this regard, ACAP accepted the commitment to jointly work with governments to procure and manage necessary funds ensuring an effective implementation of the recommended actions.

To close the meeting, Gabriela Montoya, a representative of the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador thanked ACAP for conducting the workshop which was of benefit to the Ecuadorean fishing sector and also thanked Peruvian participants for providing an avenue for reaching consensus on the Plan of Action. Ms Montoya also thanked Aves & Conservación for all efforts undertaken to hold the workshop as well as other representatives of the Ministry of the Environment for the logistic assistance provided. The members of the Peruvian Delegation and representatives of the Ecuadorean fishing sector also expressed they welcomed the possibility to participate at the workshop.

Finally, Dr Marco Favero, representing ACAP, thanked all participants for their efforts in informing the debate surrounding the POA and for consensus reaching on the recommended actions contained in the Plan.

List of Participants
2° Workshop on the Waved Albatross Plan of Action

- Ministry of the Environment (Ecuador)**
1 Marcela Aguiñaga Vallejo (Minister of the Environment)
2 Gabriela Montoya
3 Manfred Altamirano
4 Manuel Bravo
5 Frida Pin
6 Giovanna Mariani
- ACAP**
7 Marco Favero
8 Rocío Mariano-Jelicich
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ecuador)**
9 Viviana Chiriboga
- MAGAP- Under-Secretariat for Fishing Resources (Ecuador)**
10 Ramón Montaña
- National Directorate of the Merchant Navy –DIGMER (Ecuador)**
11 Leonardo Saenz
- Under-Secretariat for Environmental Management (Ecuador)**
12 Olga Quevedo Pinos
13 Nelson Zambrano
- National Fisheries Institute –INP (Ecuador)**
14 Carmen Cabanilla
15 Walter Ruiz
- Fishing Resources Management Program –PMRC (Ecuador)**
16 Eduardo Molina
- Antarctic Institute of Ecuador – INAE (Ecuador)**
17 Cpt. Hernán Moreano
- Naval Oceanographic Institute –INOCAR (Ecuador)**
18 Gladys Torres
- Tuna Fishermen’s Association of Ecuador –ATUNEC (Ecuador)**
19 Luigi Benincasa
- Recynter (Ecuador)**
20 David Delgado
- Galápagos National Park –PNG (Ecuador)**
21 Sixto Naranjo
22 Washington Tapia
23 Eduardo Espinoza
- Machalilla National Park (Ecuador)**
24 Vicente Alvarez
25 Alegría Plaza
- Charles Darwin Foundation (Ecuador)**
26 Gustavo Jiménez
27 Tui de Roy
- Participatory Management Board GLPS (Ecuador)**
28 Manuel Bernales
- San Francisco de Quito University (Ecuador)**
29 Sebastián Cruz

- 30 Carolina Proaño
Birdlife International
- 31 Esteban Frere
Conservation International
- 32 Xavier Chalen
Aves & Conservación (Ecuador)
- 33 Sandra Loor-Vela
- 34 José Samaniego
- 35 Olaf Jahn
American Bird Conservancy
- 36 Jessica Hardesty
Equilibrio Azul (Ecuador)
- 37 Andrés Baquero
- 38 Jodie Darquea Arteaga
Natura Foundation
- 39 Raúl Carvajal
Ecuadorean Foundation for Marine Mammals Research –FEMM
- 40 Benito Haase
WWF
- 41 Pablo Guerrero
Wild Aid
- 42 Godfrey Merlen
Wake Forest University (USA)
- 43 Dave Anderson
- 44 Jill Awkerman
Colorado State University (USA)
- 45 Kate Huyvaert
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission – IATTC
- 46 Martin Hall
Instituto del Mar del Peru –IMARPE (Peru)
- 47 Elisa Goya
- 48 Carlota Estrella
- 49 Martín Salazar
Directorate of Artisanal Fisheries (Peru)
- 50 Ana María Seminario
**Paracas National Park,
Natural Resources Institute (Peru)**
- 51 Patricia Saravia Guevara
- Artisanal or Industrial Longline Fishing Sector of Ecuador**
- 52 Gabriela Cruz (Chair of FENACOPEC)
- 53 Abigail Loor
- 54 Augusto Lopez
- 55 Eduardo Jaramillo
- 56 Ovidio Quiñonez
- 57 Genny M. Espinal B.
- 58 Luis Limón
- 59 Pablo Estupiñán
- 60 Jesús Arguello
- 61 Esteban Usey

- 62 Lenín Morales
- 63 José Andrade
- 64 Lindon Buenaño
- 65 Wilson Revelo
- 66 Simón Rodríguez

Final Agenda

Second Workshop on the Waved Albatross Plan of Action

Sunday 4 May

17h00	Participants arrive at Grand Hotel Guayaquil, and Best Western Hotel Doral
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First day- Monday 5 May

08h00	Welcome Address (by Marcela Aguiñaga, Minister of the Environment).
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08h15	Registration and distribution of workshop materials
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09h10	Opening Remarks: Dr Marco Favero, Chair of the Advisory Committee of ACAP. Election of Chair of the Workshop and adoption of the agenda.
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09h30	Presentation of the Second Bi-National Plan of Action of ACAP for the Waved Albatross: Aims, methodology and structure (Gabriela Montoya, Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador).
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9h40	Introduction of Participants (Jorge Samaniego, Aves & Conservación)
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10h00	COFFEE BREAK
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10h15 – 10h35	Demographic indicators of Waved Albatross population decrease (Dave Anderson, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University)
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10h35 – 10h55	Current status at Isla Española, past and present conservation problems (Washington Tapia, Ecosystems Management Department, Galápagos National Park).
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10h55 – 11h15	Current status of fisheries in Peru and their interactions with seabirds (Estela Goya, IMARPE).
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11h30 – 12h45	Discussion in Plenary. Contents of information sections of the Plan of Action: biology and conservation, threats and previous management actions.
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12h45 - 14h15	LUNCH
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14h15 – 14h35	Sustainable fishing initiatives: FENACOPEC (Gabriela Cruz, FENACOPEC).
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14h35 – 14h55	Monitoring of the Waved Albatross (Gustavo Jiménez-Uzcátegui, Charles Darwin Foundation).
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14h55 – 15h15	Brief assessment of the incidental fishing of the Waved Albatross (<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>) in artisanal fisheries at Santa Rosa, Santa Elena. Ecuador (Jessica Hardesty, American Bird Conservancy; Andrés Baquero, Equilibrio Azul).
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15h15 – 15h35	Progress report on the IATTC (Martin Hall, IATTC).
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- 15h35 – 15h50** COFFEE BREAK
- 15h50 – 17h15** Discussion in Plenary: Contents of presentations made by the fishing sector. Data availability on information gap areas in the document (longline fisheries and nets in Ecuador and fisheries in international waters, etc.).
- 17h15 – 17h30** Recap and end of activities

<i>Second day – Tuesday 6 May</i>
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- 08h30 – 09h00** Sustainable fishing initiatives: Under-Secretariat for Fishing Resources, (Ramón Montaña, MAGAP)
- 09h00 – 09h30** Associated presentation by Dr Jill Awkerman at the request of participants during the discussion in plenary on day 1
- 09h00 – 10h00** Composition of Working Groups (WG) for the parallel analysis of the 'Recommended Actions' section of the Plan of Action. Identification of priority actions. Appointment of WG facilitators.
- 10h00** COFFEE BREAK
- 10h30 – 13h00** WG1: Analysis of recommendations on the interactions with the fisheries. WG2: Analysis of recommendations on the interactions on land, monitoring and research. Expected outcome: presentations in plenary and written reports with comments regarding the recommendations.
- 13h00 -14h30** LUNCH
- 14h30 – 16h45** Plenary: Presentation of results of WG1 and WG2 and discussion of contents presented.
- 16h45** COFFEE BREAK
- 17h00 – 17h30** Discussion in Plenary: Identification of priority actions for the conservation of the Waved Albatross. Strategies for the adoption and implementation of Recommended Actions in Peru and Ecuador. The role of ACAP in the implementation process
- 17h30 – 18h00** Establishment of consensus and commitments. Future Steps
- 18h00 – 18h30** Final conclusions and close of meeting