



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fifth Meeting of Advisory Committee

Mar del Plata, Argentina, 13 – 17 April 2010

Report on the implementation of the Waved Albatross Action Plan

Chair Advisory Committee, Ecuador, Peru

Report on the implementation of the Waved Albatross Action Plan

Chair Advisory Committee, Ecuador, Peru

The purpose of the Action Plan for Waved (Galapagos) Albatrosses 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 goal is to increase public awareness of the urgent conservation needs of waved albatrosses and to promote specific management, research, and education actions that will minimise human impact, prevent further population declines, and secure the future of this species (refer to AC4 Doc 50 rev.4 for the full text of the Plan of Action).

The Plan of Action developed during the years 2007 and 2008 and adopted during the Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4) in Cape Town contains a comprehensive table with a description of actions and tasks needed to improve the conservation status of the species. In the same table, those actions are prioritised and a list of stakeholders and timeframes are included.

In the present document, the table is revisited in order to provide the Advisory Committee with a description of actions undertaken since the publication of the Plan of Action, and to provide an overview of the extent to which the Plan of Action has been implemented. Also, the list of stakeholders has been updated to include in this review all Organisations currently engaged in the Plan of Action.

Recommendation

That the Advisory Committee review the actions undertaken and the degree of implementation of the Plan of Action keeping in mind the resources already allocated by different stakeholders and future human and financial resources allocated by the Agreement.

That the Advisory Committee review progress made with implementation of the Plan of Action, taking into consideration measures that are planned for implementation in future years and, if appropriate, provide advice on ways in which implementation of the Action Plan can be improved.

1. Fisheries interactions

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
2.1.1 Determine and prioritise which fisheries require further research to understand the level of interaction with waved albatrosses.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE. Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, Pro-Delphinus, APECO, Equilibrio Azul and fisheries unions.	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09. New fisheries explored in Peru (i.e. gillnets) [APECO – Pro-Delphinus]. • 2009. New fisheries explored in southern Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul]. • 2010. National Fisheries Institute (INP) in Ecuador planning to explore fisheries in Southern Ecuador. • 2009. National census of fisheries and fishing gear [SRP, Ecuador]. • 2010. Identification of fisheries interacting with albatrosses [BirdLife GSP, Ecuador].
2.1.2 Develop an observer programme for the different fisheries and improve the quality of those already active.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, A&C, Pro-Delphinus, APECO	Starting 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009. Education material for observers developed in Peru [APECO - Pro Delphinus-SSS]. • 2009-10. Workshop to train governmental seabird observers from different observer programmes in Ecuador [Ecuador, Argentina, BirdLife International, A&C]
2.1.3 Continue studies on artisanal fisheries, their seasonality, gear, effort, fishing methods and areas, targeted	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009-10. Surveys conducted in artisanal longline fishing vessels in Paita, Chimbote, Pucusana y Ancón (Perú) [APECO].

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
species and bycatch including non targeted fish and wildlife		Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, Pro-Delphinus, APECO, Equilibrio Azul and fisheries unions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009-10. 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] • 2009-10. Surveys conducted in artisanal longline fishing vessels in Santa Rosa, Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul] • 2009. Studies in artisanal fisheries [INP, Ecuador].
2.1.4 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	MEDIUM / HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER, PRODUCE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE RFMOs: IATTC, CPPS Others: FCD, Birdlife, PNG	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 measures (not adopted yet by the Commission). • 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 & PWF] • 2009-10. Training of observers from IATTC for the identification and reduction of incidental mortality [BirdLife GSP - A&C Ecuador]
2.1.5 Where bycatch is found to occur, determine the best mitigation measures and ways of ensuring that mitigation is undertaken	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE DIGMER Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, Pro-Delphinus, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.	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]
2.1.6 Continue studies to identify ports from which fishermen are deliberately catching waved albatrosses	HIGH+	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE - PNG Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, Pro-Delphinus, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008-09. Ongoing studies on intentional catching of seabirds in fishing villages [Pro-Delphinus]
2.1.7 Integrate studies of the socio-economic and cultural background of fishermen communities.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: FLA, Birdlife, SSS, Pro-Delphinus, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.	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 Anconito in Ecuador [FEMM-CI-MAE, Ecuador]
2.1.8 Consider the development of alternative economies for fishermen communities.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, MINTUR, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, Pro-Delphinus, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC and fisheries unions.	From 2008 In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative economic analysis of Peruvian artisanal gillnet and longline fisheries [Pro-Delphinus]
2.1.9 Provide information to fishermen to make clear that metal and plastic bird bands and electronic devices on birds have no refund value.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, Pro-Delphinus, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF CIAT and fisheries unions.	2008 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials (fleet radio broadcasts- SSS Fact sheets) produced and distributed to fishing ports and government agencies in Peru [Pro-Delphinus]
2.1.10 Promote the education and training of the fishing sector and coastal communities, including working with fishers unions, developing and distributing information leaflets and other materials.	HIGH	Political: MAGAP-SRP, MAE, PMRC, DIGEIM - PEAMCO Technical: INP, PMRC, IMARPE Others: Birdlife, SSS, FCD, ABC, CI, WWF, IATTC, Pro-Delphinus, APECO, Equilibrio Azul and fisheries unions.	2008 - 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of educational and outreach materials in Peru [APECO - ProDelphinus] • Production of educational and outreach materials in Ecuador [Equilibrio Azul] • 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

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
2.2.1 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	
2.2.2 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]
2.2.3 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	
2.2.4 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 – Collect mosquitoes during breeding season [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Gustavo Jimenez, FCD]
2.2.5 Re-examine tourist activity on Isla de La Plata.	HIGH	PNM – EA	Starting 2008	

3. Population monitoring

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
2.3.1 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 - continued long-term monitoring and analyses of survival, reproduction, and population size in the waved albatross population on Española [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; Dave Anderson, Wake Forest University; FCD; PNG] 2008-09. Exploration of methods for a statistical robust survey of populations in the whole island [American Bird Conservancy]
2.3.2 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

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
2.4.1 Determine if nesting habitat of waved albatross is limited on Isla Española.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010-Initiate full scale study on vegetation-tortoise-albatross interactions [James Gibbs, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse; PNG; FCD; Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; other collaborators]
2.4.2 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 on vegetation-tortoise-albatross interactions [James Gibbs, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse; Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University; PNG; FCD; other collaborators]
2.4.3 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?	
2.4.4 Continue and extend studies on the distribution and behaviour of waved albatrosses at sea.	HIGH	PNG – FCD – CV – EA – USFQ – PNM	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008-10. Tracking of individuals during the breeding season to better understand how often and where they overlap with fisheries [Jill Awkerman, US EPA; Kate Huyvaert,

ACTIONS/TASKS	PRIORITY	STAKEHOLDERS	SCHEDULE	UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS
				Colorado State University; Dave Anderson, Wake Forest University; and collaborators] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of WAAL at-sea relative abundance, distribution and behaviour around fishing vessels [Pro-Delphinus] • 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]
2.4.5 Assess the exposure of waved albatrosses to toxic chemicals.	LOW	PNG – FCD – CV	Every 5 years	
2.4.6 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 – Collect ectoparasites from nests and adults during El Niño conditions [Kate Huyvaert, Colorado State University]
2.4.7 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, 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, Acuacultura 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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to all Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations mentioned in the above report for undertaking actions for the implementation of the Plan of Action and providing valuable information for the completion of this review.