



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
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2014 Implementation Report - Brazil

Brazil

Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-5 (2015)**Submitted by - Brazil****Coverage of report - Brazil****Highlights 2004-2014 and challenges remaining**

1. Please provide a summary of the Party's key achievements in improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels over the last decade (or the period since joining the Agreement).

One key achievement in improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels over the last decade in Brazil is the development of the National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (NPOA-Seabirds Brazil), which was developed to protect seabirds that breed in the Brazilian territory, as well as migratory species that occur along the Brazilian coast, coming from distant islands to forage. The NPOA-Seabirds was released in June 2006 and revised in 2012, under the coordination of the Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and the non-governmental organization Projeto Albatroz. The NPOA-Seabirds main objective is to contribute to the long term conservation of albatrosses and petrels interacting with fisheries in the Brazilian territory. It includes actions to guarantee the viability of their reproductive assemblages and to reduce seabird bycatch by longline fisheries to a minimum level. After 2012 full revision, the NPOA-Seabirds now have five main goals and 69 actions defined. The NPOA-Seabirds actions are based on the following strategic segments: research on the biology and behavior of seabirds and their relation to fisheries; research aiming improvement of the mitigation measures; environmental education focused on the fishers and their families; monitoring of seabird bycatch mitigation success by means of an on-board observers program; and publication of laws and regulations for the application of mitigation measures in order to promote the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in Brazil. Fisheries considered as a priority are those that use longline fishing. One of the NPOA-Seabirds main recommendations was the ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels - ACAP, which was done in June 2008 and took effect in December 2008. The NPOA also recommends measures, developed by specialists all over the world, to mitigate seabird bycatch in fisheries, including the use of bird scaring lines, the use of an appropriate line weighting regime

and the night setting. Based on those recommendations, the Brazilian government published, in 2011 a regulation introducing mitigation measures for the reduction of seabirds bycatch and establishing the mandatory use of both bird scaring line and line weighting regime by the vessels fishing with pelagic longline south of 20 ° S. Brazil also supported the proposal for the use of mitigation measures in South Atlantic tuna fisheries, which was presented at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and approved in 2011. Currently, Projeto Albatroz is developing research projects, as part of the Albatross Task Force (ATF) program, with the objective of adapting ACAP best practice mitigation measures to the Brazilian fisheries and testing new measures, such as the hook pod and the safe lead.

2. Please provide a brief summary of key challenges remaining for the Party in achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels in the coming years.

In the coming years, the main challenges for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in Brazil may be the wide implementation of ACAP and NPOA-Seabirds recommendations, as well as the development of on-board monitoring tools for the enforcement and data collection of seabird bycatch. There is also the need to carry out educational programs in order to raise awareness among fishers on the importance and correct use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, particularly the line weighting regime.

1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?

Yes

- The Brazilian Government has included mitigation measures as a criteria for conferring permits for leased fishing vessels in Brazilian waters. - ICMBio defined albatrosses and petrels conservation actions and the implementation of National Plan of Action as a priority issue. A review of research needs and priorities for bycatch research and mitigation development were incorporated in the NPOA-Seabirds Brazil after its revision in 2012. - Implementation of conservation strategies for particular species or groups of species of albatrosses and petrels are part of NPOA-Seabirds Brazil. This Action Plan implementation is monitored annually and its effectiveness every three years. - For several years

Brazil had a strong partnership between seabirds conservation projects (especially Projeto Albatroz) and the National Observers Program of Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries/MPA (PROBORDO) in order to promote training for the observers to collect quality data on seabirds interactions with longline fleets, as part of the strategy to develop capacity building. Discussions to improve seabird data collection from observer programmes in South America are still in progress, even though the PROBORDO is on hold since 2012. - Establishment of the 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. - 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 study of fishing methods, fleet, fishing grounds, and seabird species interactions has been carried out by Projeto Albatroz (on ports and by onboard observers). - The effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation measures was tested by Projeto Albatroz.

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?	Yes
	The NPOA-Seabirds Brazil was fully revised in 2012 and actions for the national implementation of the ACAP will carry on in the next three years, as planned in the NPOA-Seabirds Brazil's matrix.

2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels?	No
2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred?	No

- 2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans? Yes
Brazil published the National Plan of Action to Reduce de Incidental Capture of Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds/Brazil) in June of 2006. Since then, many action has been taken to accomplish the goals and actions related to this NPOA. Recently a detailed analysis was conducted to compile all actions developed and define the results reached. The results of this effort, conducted by Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio), is available online in order to demonstrate the outcomes of NPOA implementation in Brazil since 2012. Inspection and control of bycatch mitigation measures legally established in Brazil are among the main results, as well as educational efforts and political commitment to revise the legislation and to improve the mitigation methods use in the Brazilian industrial fleet.
- 2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels? Yes
The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Ministry of the Environment signed and published a law to enforce the use of mitigation measures to reduce the seabirds bycatch in long line fisheries. More detail about this measure can be found in item 2.6.
- 2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes? No
- 2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels? Yes
In April 15th 2011, the Brazilian government published a new regulation (Instrução Normativa Interministerial no. 04 de 15 de abril de 2011) signed by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to enforce the use of light torilines and the minimum weight of 60g placed no more than two meters from the hook for all pelagic long line vessel fishing authorized to operate south of 20° S. Additionally, that regulation obligates the vessels to maintain extra torilines to replace the original ones in case of entanglement, to maintain accommodations for on-board observers (whenever requested by fishing authorities) and to report all seabirds bycatch in the logbooks. The annex of that regulation presents the details of the toriline. The

original version of that regulation can be found in attachment.

1) normative instruction 04_2011.pdf (size 141062 bytes)

2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?

Yes

In 2006 it was created the National Program of Observers on Board (PROBORDO). In its Article no. 13, all activities that should be developed by the observers are listed, among then there is the report of incidental captures, which should be registered in spreadsheets provided by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Nowadays, the observer's coverage from PROBORDO is on hold. Nevertheless, all data collected in the last years are available in the Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) to help future studies about the level of seabirds bycatch in Brazil, and the environmental impact assessments. The law that create the PROBORDO is in attachment.

1) PROBORDO.pdf (size 319295 bytes)

2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1?

No

2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned?

Yes

There is an NGO (Instituto Albatroz) responsible for the development of Projeto Albatroz, created 20 years ago specifically focused on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels and the reduction of seabird bycatch on the Brazilian fisheries. Projeto Albatroz is sponsored by Programa Petrobras Ambiental (Petrobras Environmental Program) and works in conjunction with BirdLife International coordinating the Albatross Task Force Program in Brazil. It also maintain close interactions with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The main activities of Projeto Albatroz is the development of researches on the interactions of seabirds with fisheries, including quantification of their mortality due to fisheries activities. Projeto Albatroz also develops education and awareness programs for the fishermen and other audiences, and collaborate with the Brazilian Government for the implementation of policies, including the implementation of ACAP and

NPOA-Seabirds/Brazil.

3. Habitat conservation

- 3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration? No
There is no species listed on Annex I of ACAP breeding in the Brazilian territory.
- 3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? No
- 3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels? Yes
Many Brazilian marine protected areas, as Reserva Biológica Marinha do Arvoredo - REBIO Arvoredo, REBIO Atol das Rocas and Parque Nacional Marinho dos Abrolhos, are often used by albatrosses and petrels every year to foraging. In those protected areas, all types of fisheries are prohibited and birds are safe from bycatch capture. Regarding monitoring, most protected areas have already a complete list of albatrosses and petrels records within their boundaries, the assessment of the information on the abundance of such seabirds is available for some areas, as REBIO Arvoredo for example. There are, however, new propositions and conservation efforts underway regarding Brazilian marine protected areas planning.

4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? No

4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)? Yes

Many marine protected areas, as Reserva Biológica Marinha do Arvoredo - REBIO Arvoredo, Parque Nacional Marinho de Fernando de Noronha and Parque Nacional Marinho dos Abrolhos, have conducted environmental education initiatives to minimize marine debris production. Moreover, they also have conducted cleaning efforts within their boundaries. Brazilian legislation on industrial and domestic discharge of pollutants as well as for disposal of debris (CONAMA Resolutions) composes the Brazilian commitment on the prevention of pollution of the marine environment and are periodically checked by municipalities, state governments and federal government agencies.

4.3 Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats? Yes

Besides the new regulation that obliges the use of mitigation measures in longline fishery vessels (already mentioned in item 2.6) and the NPOA-Seabirds – Brazil, there are many other regulations/laws in Brazil to protect wildlife and endangered species. Such regulations affect albatrosses and petrels as well. Among them, the most important are the Official List of Brazilian Fauna Species in Risk of Extinction, which lists 6 albatrosses and 2 petrels from ACAP's Annex I, and the Environmental Crimes Law (Lei de Crimes Ambientais) Act no. 9.605 / 1998, which establishes sanctions against illegal environmental activities, including activities harmful to endangered species, as the mentioned species of albatrosses and petrels (in attachment).

1) Environmental Crimes Law.pdf (size 93838 bytes) 

5. Research programmes

5.1 Does the Party have any ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on? Yes

There are researches conducted by Projeto Albatroz under the umbrella of Albatross Task Force Program focused on the evaluation of mitigation measures . That Program was developed by BirdLife International and, in Brazil, is represented by Save Brazil. The main aim of such researches is to provide knowledge and address the lack of information on mitigation measures. In such regard, the research developed in 2009 compared the performance of two types of Torilines: the long streamer toriline, similar to the model used in Alaska and CCAMLR fishing areas, and the short streamers torilines, also known as light toriline, developed in Brazil and already in use in other countries. The results of that research can be found in attachment. During 2010, the tests undertaken in the Brazilian domestic fleet focused on the study of the performance of two branch lines weighting regimes: one using 60 g at 5,5 meters from the hook (as usually used by Brazilian fishermen), and the other one using 60 g attached at 2 meters from the hook. Aspects as seabirds attack rates, seabirds captures, sink rate and fishing production were studied. The results of that study were presented at WGSB/AC6. Projeto Albatroz worked on tests for the use of Hook Pods, in an activity regarding the Albatross Task Force Program in Brazil. That pod consists in a device that prevents seabirds from getting caught on baited hooks. It is attached to the branchline and protects only the hook barb. Safe Leads are also under scientific evaluation by the team of researchers of Projeto Albatroz at the present moment.

1) SCRS-10-057_Marques_et_al.pdf (size 505965 bytes)

5.2 Does the Party have any additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation? Yes

As already mentioned in item 2.9, in Brazil, there is a NGO created specially to the albatross and petrels conservation efforts. That NGO, called Projeto Albatroz, completed 20 years of work engaged into studies of the interaction between seabirds and the Brazilian fisheries. Also, the Instituto de Biologia e o Instituto de Ciências Biológicas da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande-FURG have been conducting researches related to diet, ecology, contamination, and at sea distribution of albatrosses and petrels in

Brazilian waters.

6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)? Yes

The instructors of Projeto Albatroz and Albatross Task Force Program have visited the ports of Santos-SP, Itajaí-SC, and Rio Grande-RS regularly to meet fishermen, promote discussions and provide information on the utilization of the toriline, in order to raise fishermen's awareness about seabirds conservation. Educational materials have been prepared specially for that public and distributed in the fishing terminals (examples attached). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture promoted training courses to scientific on-board observers (before PROBORDO suspension). During those courses, the observers were trained to identify seabirds species and to fulfill the on board spreadsheets, as defined by the National Program for Observers on Board (PROBORDO).

6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public? Yes

Actions for general public awareness raising have been taken in order to publicize the importance of the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in Brazil, especially by Projeto Albatroz. Those actions included public campaigns, public events, environmental education in schools, and divulgation in social medias (websites, facebook, twitter, blogs, youtube, flicker etc). Additionally, there were initiatives in the field of public relations in order to maximize the information on the Brazilian efforts related to seabirds conservation.

7. Other

Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, No

climate change
on albatrosses
and petrels?

8. Additional Comments

The present report was prepared by the experts of the Ministry of the Environment, with the support of the ICMBio and the NGO Projeto Albatroz.

Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

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