



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 -19 September 2014

2014 Implementation Report – South Africa

South Africa

Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-5 (2015)**Submitted by** - South Africa**Coverage of report** - South Africa**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).
 In 2013/14, BirdLife South Africa reassessed the conservation status of birds in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland (SLS), the previous assessment having been conducted in 2000. Of the nine ACAP species that breed at South Africa's Prince Edward Islands, two were classified as endangered (Sooty and Indian Yellow-nosed albatrosses) and seven as vulnerable (Wandering, Grey-headed, Light-mantled Albatross, Northern and Southern giant petrels, White-chinned and Grey petrels). A paper documenting the abundance and trends of the five albatross species and the two giant petrel species that breed at the Prince Edward Islands was published in 2009. A paper documenting numbers of white-chinned Petrels breeding at the Prince Edward Islands was published in 2012. The at sea distributions of adults Phoebetria species and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross were investigated through tracking studies (earlier information was available for Wandering and Grey-headed Albatross). Demographics parameters were established for several species and programs to determine some other parameters has been put in place. For some birds species, the risks of using poison to eliminate house mice at Marion Island was deemed substantial. A national plan of action for reducing the incidental of seabirds in Longline fisheries was implemented in 2008. South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries working with partners including BirdLife South Africa, made substantial progress in assessing and mitigating the by-catch of Albatrosses and Petrels in South Africa's fisheries.
2. Please provide a brief summary of key challenges remaining for the Party in achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation
 By-catch of seabirds by fisheries of other states and on high seas remains a major threat for South Africa's Albatrosses and Petrels. Observer coverage on some of South Africa's fishing fleets is limited. Assessment of the population of Grey Petrels at the Prince Edward Islands is difficult, as also the measurement of some demographic parameters for some species, e.g. the

status for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross which breed at the albatrosses and Prince Edward Island, a site that is visited irregularly. petrels in the Funding for research is limited coming years.

1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs? Yes
E.g. South Africa has contributed its annual subscription to the agreement, supported the objectives of the agreement at the RFMOs, continued monitoring of its albatross and petrel population, adopted a national plan of action to reduce seabirds by-catch and implemented best practice guidelines for by-catch mitigation in fisheries. .

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years? No

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? Not answered
South Africa adopted a policy on the Management of seals, Seabirds and shorebirds in 2007 and a national plan action for the reduction of by-catch in fisheries in 2008.

2.4 Has the Party No
taken any
emergency
measures
involving
albatrosses or
petrels?

2.5 Has the Party No
conducted any
re-establishment
schemes?

2.6 Has the Party Yes
introduced any
new legal or
policy
instruments for
species
protection of
albatrosses and
petrels?

Declaration of the Prince Edward Islands Marine
Protected Area in 2013.

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

An EIA was implemented prior to the construction of a
new base at Marion Island

2.8 Does the No
Party have any
species it would
like to submit for
addition to Annex
1?

2.9 Are there any No
other
conservation
projects for ACAP
species not
already
mentioned?

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

In 2004 enacted the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act which regulates access to special nature reserves. (The Prince Edward Islands were proclaimed a special nature reserve in 1995). |
| 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

Declaration of the Prince Edward Islands Marine Protected Area in 2013 |

4. Management of human activities

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? | Yes

An EIA was implemented prior to the construction of the new base at Marion Island |
| 4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and | Yes

Discharge by South Africa vessels is regulated by MARPOL |

marine debris
(MARPOL)?

4.3 Has the Party Yes

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

The Prince Edward Islands have been zoned and permits are required to enter different zones. Helicopter flights are restricted to a specific paths.

5. Research programmes

5.1 Does the No

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

5.2 Does the Yes

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

BirdLife South Africa and University of Cape Town

6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party Yes

conducted
training or
provided
information for
user audiences
(eg scientists,

BirdLife South Africa and WWF-SA conduct training of fishers

fishers, etc)?

6.2 Has the Party Yes
conducted
training or A national Marine week is held annually
provided
information to
the general
public?

7. Other

Does the Party No
have any new
information to
report on
research into
observed
impacts, or
mitigation of,
climate change
on albatrosses
and petrels?

8. Additional Comments

Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

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