



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Second Meeting of the Parties
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**Global Environmental Facility/UNDP project proposal to increase
the sustainability of Southern Ocean longline fisheries**

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In September 2004, the BirdLife Global Seabird (GSP) was approached by the United Nations Development Programme with a request to prepare a Project Concept to reduce seabird mortality in Southern Ocean¹ longline fisheries, as a measure to improve the sustainability of the region's fisheries². The proposal was targeted to the GEF Focal Area of Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Production Landscape Systems (BD2). The GSP developed the Concept but it was not submitted because of uncertainty surrounding the funding allocation for GEF 4. However, in early 2005, the GSP were again approached by UNDP to submit a similar proposal, this time under International Waters Focal Area³

Project Objective: *To change attitudes, behaviours and practices of fishing industry, fisheries management, markets and consumers (along the whole 'ocean to table' chain) to reduce seabird mortality in Southern Ocean longline fisheries to negligible levels.*

The project is consistent with GEF's *Water-based Operational Programme* (OP8), through the project's emphasis on reforming fisheries policies, plans and activities responsible for (or contributing to) the seabird bycatch problem achieved through the development and implementation of NPOAs; (enabling) activities in regional Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and in demonstration areas of the high seas of the Southern Ocean; provision of technical assistance and institutional capacity building; and promotion of sound science and technological innovations to achieve sustainable fisheries management. [See page 4-5 of the Concept for detail of GEF Operational Priorities and Strategic Objectives addressed by the proposal]. In summary, the proposal fits within two GEF strategic objectives, the first focuses on the implementation of international and national policy framework and the second on capacity building through increased skills and knowledge transfer.

In GEF terms 'International Waters' is defined as 'transboundary systems' in the EEZ sense, not the 'high seas'. However, there are triggers in their strategic development documents that enable us to extend their definition to include the 'high seas' and therefore more fully address fisheries sustainability, including bycatch in the RFMO environment. During the drafting of the Concept and in consultation with UNDP, we have identified a two-phased strategy to reduce seabird mortality and increase the overall sustainability of fisheries. Phase I (years 1-4) will focus on reducing seabird mortality by the increasing the uptake of mitigation measures using international policy instruments such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation International Plan of Action to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-S), support countries input into Agreement on the

¹ The Southern Ocean is defined as the region bounded by the Atlantic Ocean south of 20° South, Indian Ocean south of 30° south, Pacific Ocean south of 30° in the Western and Eastern Pacific Ocean, then north up the western coast of South America (Humboldt Current) to the equator and west to the Galapagos.

² **GEF eligible countries**

Argentina, Chile, Namibia, South Africa, Uruguay. Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru may be phased into the project at a later stage, depending on government support and the endorsement process.

Non-GEF eligible partners

Australia, France, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom

Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and strengthened input into Regional Fisheries Management Organisations as the key delivery mechanism.

During Phase I, we will also begin the process of identifying opportunities for improving the overall sustainability of fisheries by identifying a fishery suitable for a pilot study to investigate the feasibility of market and other economic mechanisms. This will create an opportunity to explore market forces, create strong links and partnerships, and will lead to Phase II of the project (years 5-10), which will focus on further developing market and financial incentives for sustainable fisheries and work toward raising the standard of fisheries to reach a level appropriate for certification processes, and role out pilot programmes and demonstration activities across the region.

We have recently finalised the Concept and application for Project Development Funds (PDF-B) with has a budget of US\$650,000 over a 18 months period, and these documents are currently being introduced to relevant governments to seek their endorsement. During the PDF-B period stakeholders will be invited to participate in the project design and identify those most relevant to the execution of the Full Project. Stakeholders will be represented through a Project Steering Committee, and the PDFB stage will include two stakeholder meetings.

PDF-B Funds will be used to commission a range on national reports on the structure on the fishing industry, reviews of policy and legal framework in support of sustainable fisheries, a detailed cost benefit analysis of the use of mitigation measures, and other studies. In addition to involvement in the developing the Full Project proposal for Phases I and II, the MSC will be commissioned to undertake a study on market mechanisms that promote fish from sustainable fisheries e.g. certification, tax incentives etc.

If we are successful in securing PDF-B funds and then full project funds, we would aim for a total budget of the project over 10 years of US\$29,000,000, including (Phase 1) a GEF grant of US\$5 million, which will supplement US\$8 million of co-financing with a predicted Phase 2 funding ratio of US\$6 million GEF: US\$10 million co-financing.

As the key international agreement addressing seabird bycatch in fisheries, we see the project as an excellent opportunity to support and strengthen Parties input into ACAP, and we feel that having the support of ACAP parties, with the Secretariat representing the Agreement on the Project Steering Committee, would greatly enhance the success of the project. We have secured the support of both the Marine Stewardship Council and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (Fisheries) as key strategic partners.