



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Global Procellariiform Tracking Database update

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Global Procellariiform Tracking Database update

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Abstract

This document describes recent developments in the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database. The database has been moved onto an online web portal improving the profile of the data and its uses. Links have also been improved with data and data owners and, due to their continued and generous support over one thousand data tracks, representing 17 species, have been added to the database in the past year. A key use of the database in 2010-2011 has been to input to identification of marine Important Bird Areas (marine IBAs) and the CBD's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and this focus will continue in the run up to CBD COP 11.

Database now online

In summer 2010 the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database (GPTD), which is managed by BirdLife International, was moved to an online web portal, located here www.seabirdtracking.org. The move to a live website was undertaken with the primary aim of improving links between data owners and their data, but also aimed to improve its management, its profile, and provide a clearer process for external researchers to request collaboration and access to the data. The website is a work in progress, with further functionality in development. However, it has already proven useful in fielding a number of requests (both from research and commercial interests) and has facilitated the submission of a considerable amount of new data.

New data submitted

With the launch of the online portal we have been contacting data owners with data outstanding to encourage their support and to upload their tracking datasets. Although we have only targeted specific data so far, owners of tracking data have been hugely supportive and this has already been very successful.

Since January 2011, 1,646 new tracks from 17 new species have been added to the database; 1134 of these tracks are for ACAP species, representing 11 species. These include data for three new ACAP species: Black Petrel (tracked year round from Great Barrier and Little Barrier Island, submitted by Elizabeth Bell, Wildlife Management International Ltd), Grey Petrel (tracked year round from Antipodes Islands, from David Thompson and Leigh Torres, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) and Salvin's Albatross (tracked year round from Snares, also from David Thompson and Leigh Torres, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research). This means that the database now hosts data on every ACAP species. In addition, new datasets for White-capped and Chatham Albatross have been added which fill breeding stages gaps which were previously missing and have allowed for a more complete understanding of their distribution.

Links to ACAP database and remaining data gaps

As well as working toward a better way to manage the data, we have also been working with ACAP secretariat staff to link the tracking data to the ACAP colonies register; Appendix 1 illustrates this for ACAP Island Groups. As the table shows, although all ACAP species are

represented to some degree, the coverage in terms of breeding sites and life history stages are still incomplete.

Tracking data showing movements during incubation, brooding, post guard and non-breeding are available from all Tristan, Antipodean, Chatham, White-capped, Shy Albatross, and Black Petrel colonies holding >1% of their global population. Coverage is not as complete for Black-browed and Wandering Albatross. However, as Appendix 1 shows, some data are available at every Island Group holding >1% of their global population, meaning that an entire estimate of distribution may be possible by proxy.

Major remaining data gaps are as follows: **Southern Giant-petrels** are poorly represented, of the 28 sites holding >1% of global population only 6 have any tracking data. Similar paucity of data exists for **Light-mantled Albatross**, tracked from only two of seven >1% colonies, and **Northern Giant-petrel**, tracked from only three of 18 colonies of >1% population.

Prominent gaps exist in temporal coverage for some species: currently no breeding data are available for **Spectacled Petrel** at all, only Post-guard data are available for **Short-tailed Albatross**, and only incubation distribution is available for **Amsterdam Albatross**. For three species breeding data are available but non-breeding data are absent; **Campbell Albatross**, **Waved Albatross** or **Westland Petrel**. These life-history gaps result in an incomplete knowledge of the distribution of these birds.

At South Georgia and the Prince Edward Islands, all six and seven respective ACAP species present at colonies of >1% global population have been tracked. Other highly diverse sites, such as **Crozet**, **Kerguelen** and **Campbell** are less complete, with 3/9, 1/4 and 3/6 of the ACAP species at each site tracked. Despite the apparent lack of data from the Crozet and Kerguelen island groups, a lot of data has been collected at those two sites by researchers from the CNRS lab. This lab, however, aptly manages its own data and utilises it as a tool for conservation themselves. Therefore the gap of data in the GPTD does not actually represent a gap in scientific knowledge or its input into policy.

Key gaps in the coverage of breeding sites include the Bounty Islands population of **Salvin's Albatross** (which represents around 70% of the global population), the Tristan da Cunha population of **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** (around 70% of the global population), the eastern breeding sites of **Black-footed Albatross** (because of its disparity from the tracked population) and the Gough population of **Grey Petrel** (around 20% of the global population).

As shown in Appendix 1, recent submissions have added considerably to the coverage of the tracking database. Most notable have been tracking data, covering all life history stages for Black, White-chinned and Grey Petrel and Buller's, Chatham, White-capped and Salvin's Albatross from sites within the New Zealand jurisdiction.

Most large gaps that remain are caused by a lack of data in existence, rather than a lack of submission to the database. Work is already underway which will go some of the way to filling a number of these. Most notably, this includes tracking studies on non-breeding Waved Albatross, breeding Spectacled Petrels and breeding and non-breeding Grey Petrels on Gough.

Uses of the database in 2010-2011

In 2010-2011, the major use of Global Procellariiform Tracking Database has been to input into a BirdLife project which is working to identify and designate marine Important Bird Areas

for pelagic seabird species. The project is being overseen by a steering committee familiar with tracking data and its analysis, and seabirds and their conservation.

This work follows a request from BirdLife to data owners in 2009, in which all owners of data held within the database gave permission for its use in this process. New data added to the database over the last year will help strengthen the analysis for this project, fill regional gaps and ensure the most complete and appropriate network of sites for these species can be identified.

The current analysis is being undertaken on a regional basis so that it may feed into the relevant CBD EBSA regional workshops. With an overall aim is to produce a first inventory of marine IBAs globally by the end of 2012.

Other analysis have also been undertaken this year, including an update of the analyses first done in 2004 as part of the Tracking Ocean Wanderers book (BirdLife International, 2004) investigating the overlap between tuna commissions' areas of competence and Albatross and Giant-petrel distribution.

For further information please contact Phil Taylor (phil.taylor@birdlife.org).

Appendix 1. ACAP Breeding Sites represented in the Global Procellariiform Tracking Database, grouped by ACAP Island Group. Circles indicate data existing before 2011, crosses indicate data that has been added or added to since January 2011.

Island Group	Species	Proportion of sites with population >1% represented with tracking data	Pre-egg	Incubation	Brood	Guard	Post-guard	Unknown	Non-breeding
Amsterdam and St Paul									
	Amsterdam Albatross	1/1		0					0
	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	1/1		0	0			0	0
	Sooty Albatross	1/1							X
Antipodes Islands									
	Antipodean Albatross	1/1	0	0	0	0			0
	Grey Petrel	1/1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Light-mantled Albatross	0/1							
	Northern Giant-petrel	0/1							
	White-chinned Petrel	1/1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Auckland Islands									
	Antipodean Albatross	1/2	0	0	0	0	0		0
	White-capped Albatross	2/2		X	X	X			X
	White-chinned Petrel	0/1							
Bounty Islands									
	Salvin's Albatross	0/1							
Campbell Islands									
	Campbell Albatross	1/1						0	
	Grey-headed Albatross	1/1				0			
	Light-mantled Albatross	0/1							
	Northern Giant-petrel	0/1							
	Southern Royal Albatross	1/1	0						
	White-chinned Petrel	0/1							
Chatham Island									
	Buller's Albatross	1/2		X					
	Chatham Albatross	1/1		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Northern Giant-petrel	0/2							
	Northern Royal Albatross	1/3		X				X	X
Crozet									
	Grey Petrel	0/1							
	Grey-headed Albatross	0/2							
	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	0/2							
	Light-mantled Albatross	0/4							
	Northern Giant-petrel	0/5							
	Sooty Albatross	3/3		0	0	0	0		
	Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
	Wandering Albatross	4/4		0	0	0			0
	White-chinned Petrel	4/1		0			0		
Diego de Almagro									
	Black-browed Albatross	1/1		0					
Elephant Island									
	Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)									
	Black-browed Albatross	4/8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Southern Giant-petrel	0/8							
Galapagos									
	Waved Albatross	1/1		0	0			0	
Gough									
	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	1/1	0	0	0	0			0
	Grey Petrel	0/1							
	Sooty Albatross	1/1		0	0	0	0		0
	Tristan Albatross	1/1		0	0	0			0
Hawaii									
	Black-footed Albatross	1/6		0	0	0	0		0
	Laysan Albatross	1/5		0	0	0			0
Heard and McDonald Islands									
	Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
Isla de los Estados									
	Southern Giant-petrel	1/1				0			
Isla Noir									
	Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
Islas Diego Ramirez									
	Black-browed Albatross	2/2		0	0	0	0		0
	Grey-headed Albatross	2/2		0	0	0			0
Islas Ildefonso									
	Black-browed Albatross	2/2		0					
Izu Shoto									
	Black-footed Albatross	0/1							
	Short-tailed Albatross	1/1				0			0
Kerguelen									
	Grey Petrel	0/1							
	Grey-headed Albatross	0/1							
	Northern Giant-petrel	0/4							
	Wandering Albatross	2/2			0	0			
Macquarie Island									
	Light-mantled Albatross	1/1		0	0				
	Northern Giant-petrel	1/1		0		0	0		0
	Southern Giant-petrel	1/1			0	0			0

New Zealand								
Black Petrel	2/2	X	X	X	X	X		X
Westland Petrel	1/1				0			
North Patagonia								
Southern Giant-petrel	1/1		0	0				0
Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands								
Black-footed Albatross	0/1							
Palmer Archipelago								
Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
Prince Edward Islands								
Grey-headed Albatross	1/2		0			0		
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	1/1	X	X	X	X			
Light-mantled Albatross	1/2	X	X	X	X			X
Northern Giant-petrel	1/2				X			
Sooty Albatross	1/2	X	X	X	X			X
Southern Giant-petrel	1/2				X			
Wandering Albatross	1/2		0	0	0			0
Senkaku Retto of southern Ryukyu Islands								
Short-tailed Albatross	0/1							
Solander Islands								
Buller's Albatross	0/2							
South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)								
Black-browed Albatross	1/5	0	0	0	0	0		0
Grey-headed Albatross	1/7		0	0	0	0		0
Northern Giant-petrel	1/5		0	0	0			0
Southern Giant-petrel	1/4		0	0	0			0
Wandering Albatross	1/4		0	0	0			0
White-chinned Petrel	1/6		0			0		0
South Orkney Islands								
Southern Giant-petrel	0/2							
South Sandwich Islands (Islas Sandwich del Sur)								
Southern Giant-petrel	0/1							
South Shetland Islands								
Southern Giant-petrel	0/3							
Tasmania								
Shy Albatross	3/3		0	0	0			0
The Snares								
Buller's Albatross	2/2	X	X	X	X	X		X
Salvin's Albatross	2/2	X	X	X	X	X		X
Tristan da Cunha								
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	0/3							
Sooty Albatross	0/3							
Spectacled Petrel	1/1							X