



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
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ACAP Implementation Report

Author: Brazil

ACAP Implementation Report – Brazil

Range State: BRAZIL

Point of Contact: Dr. Onildo Marini

Institution: Chico Mendes Institute for the Conservation of Biodiversity - ICMBio
Endangered Species Coordination – CGESP

Mailing Address: SCEN L4 Norte - trecho 2 - bloco b - subsolo
Ed. Sede Ibama
Cep 70800-200
Brasília - DF
BRAZIL

Telephone: +55 61 3316-1165

Fax: +55 61 33161067

Email: onildo.marini-filho@icmbio.gov.br

1. Species Conservation

Report on any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harming of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.2		III (3)

Environmental Crimes Law (L. 9.605/98)

<http://www.mma.gov.br/ingles/gab/asin/leii.html> that establishes sanctions against environmental illegal activities;

National Program of Biodiversity (Dec. 1.354/94)

http://www.ibama.gov.br/cemave/legislacao.php?id_arq=51

Official List of Brazilian Fauna Species in Risk of Extinction (IN MMA nº 03/03)

<http://www.mma.gov.br/port/sbf/fauna/index.cfm>, including 6 albatrosses and 2 petrels ACAP/Annex 1 species.

Use and trade	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.1, 1.1.2		III (3)

No use of albatrosses or petrels is permitted in Brazil

Single or multi-species conservation strategies / action plans	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	1.1.3		

National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (NPOA-Seabirds/Brazil) adopted at 05/07/2006 <http://www.projetoalbatroz.org.br/arquivos/planacap/planacapIngles.pdf> includes several measures with the objective to avoid the incidental capture of birds during the fisheries activities and their conservation on breeding sites in Brazil. Many measures are being successfully implemented.

Any other conservation projects for ACAP species	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

Researches have been done addressed to test mitigation measures to reduce the incidental capture of albatrosses and petrels in pelagic longline fisheries in Brazil. Seventeen cruises (177 sets and 210,270 hooks) of the fishing fleet were sampled by onboard observers alternating sets with and without torilines. Overall, the main project findings were that single torilines reduced the capture of seabirds in general, including the species with highest captures, i.e. Black-browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) and White-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) but the bycatch rate founded is still higher than FAO and NPOA/Seabirds-Brazil recommendations. Blue dyed-bait appears to add to the reduction in seabird capture in spite of the small sample size tested. Torilines increase the capture of target species (sharks, tuna and swordfish) with considerable economical benefits for the fleet. The use of torilines is beneficial for seabirds and fisheries. It is a simple and cheap method, but should be associated with other mitigation measures to reduce capture rates to satisfactory levels. More tests are also recommended for a more robust analysis.

2. Habitat Conservation

Measures (legal and policy instruments and actions) to implement protection and management of breeding sites including habitat restoration	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	2.1	3	III (1) a)

- ICMBio and the Brazilian Navy are supporting Projeto Albatroz to develop research and conservation activities for the Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) at Trindade Island.
- An inter-ministerial program (PROTRINDADE) was established in February 2007, with the goal of promoting and managing the development of scientific research at Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands and adjacent sea areas. This program will facilitate the access of scientists to Trindade Island and provide logistic and financial support for their projects.
- The conservation of two petrel species (*P. arminjoniana* and *Puffinus lherminieri*) breeding grounds located on oceanic islands is a high priority in the National Plan of Action-Seabirds Brazil.

3. Management of Human Activities

Report on environmental impact statements related to albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.1		

A study on relevant offshore areas for seabirds listed on Annex 1 was completed based on seabird abundance, richness, diversity and bycatch data. This research is detailed cited on item 4. Research and Monitoring (ongoing researches).

A review of seabird bycatch in pelagic and bottom longline fisheries in the southwestern Atlantic was carried out and bycatch rates in the Brazilian pelagic longline fleets from 2000 to 2007 were calculated. A draft report is currently under review and is available on request.

Measures to reduce or eliminate incidental mortality in fisheries	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	3.2	6	

Identification of the Itaipava fishing fleet¹ as an important cause of mortality for seabirds (Bugoni et al. 2008, *Fisheries Research* 90:217-224). including endangered species such as Yellow-nosed albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* and Spectacled petrel *Procellaria conspicillata*. A broad study of fishing methods, fleets, fishing grounds, and seabird species interactions was carried by Projeto Albatroz and Albatross Task Force Program in Brazil. This program is also looking for the introduction of know mitigation measures or the development of new ones. This assessment was

¹ Itaipava fishery is a semi-rtisinal fleet that used several kinds of line and hooks methods for pelagic and bottom target species.

very important to describe the fishery and to start an environmental education program to make the fishing community aware of the seabird bycatch and to encourage them to test and adopt mitigation measures.

Fifteen national longline vessels (40% of the total national longline fleet) based in Southern Brazil are voluntarily testing and adopting the mitigation measures, mainly torilines donated by Projeto Albatroz. Also, there are more fishermen who are interested in testing torilines and blue-dyed baits. This was a result of intense environmental educational of the fishermen.

Specialized courses for professional observers from the National Observers Program to train them to collect data on seabirds (identification, abundance, and bycatch levels), to support the fishermen during the testing of mitigation measures and to provide environmental education onboard the vessels.

Development of a federal act to make the use of mitigation measures by all longliners compulsory and determining other mitigation methodologies for vessels that do not use artificial baits. Such measures must be mandatory for all national and leased fleets, taking into consideration the specific gear types in each fishery. This document was written by Projeto Albatroz with the collaboration of fishermen who have experience in the use of mitigation measures.

<i>Measures to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	3.2 4	6	

National Policy for Satellite Tracking for Fishing Vessel (PREPS) was established in order to allow the monitoring of legal fisheries on Brazilian EEZ.

National Observers Program (PROBORDO – INC nº 01 de 29/09/2006) foresee as among observers tasks the immediate communication for the Brazilian Marine Authorities about the sights of IUU vessels fishing on Brazilian territory, including all detailed information such as flag country, geographic position, name of vessels and all activities in course such as discharges of fishes, crew members, fuel, food, other materials including fishing articles, etc.

<i>Measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (with reference to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	2.3.1 b), 3.3		

Encouraging and educating fishermen to bring non-degradable wastes produced from fishing activities back to land, (including plastics, batteries, light sticks, and plastic packaging bands)

As a signatory of the MARPOL Convention, Brazil has committed to prevent pollution of the marine environment by ships and fishing vessels whether from operational or accidental causes.

<i>Measures to minimise disturbance in marine and terrestrial habitats</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	3.4		

Limitation of tourism activities in the Itatiaia Islands (Espírito Santo State), which is the breeding ground of the Brazilian endangered Audubon's shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri*.

There has been insufficient research in the Brazilian territories to make it necessary to establish general procedures for avoiding research disturbance. However, IBAMA licenses specific research initiatives in accordance with Brazilian regulations.

The Brazilian Navy is providing logistic facilities for the development of research on the petrels of Trindade Island through the PROTRINDADE Programme.

4. Research and Monitoring

Ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.1		

Study of the trophic structure of the Procelariiform community off Brazil based on stable isotope signatures was initiated in cooperation with the University of Glasgow and Projeto Albatroz. Results will be presented at the International Albatrosses and Petrels Conference (IAPC) in Cape Town, August 2008.

Study on toriline models by fishermen of the domestic longline fleet based in southern Brazil and their efficiency using different materials. This assessment including descriptions of models adequate for the Brazilian fleets will be completed by late 2008.

Study on Spectacled petrel movements started in June 2006 with deployment of four additional satellite transmitters. Results and fine-scale analysis confirm a large overlap between pelagic longline fishing fleets and Spectacled petrel distribution and preferential marine habits which are mainly over the shelf break in warm, oligotrophic waters. Details will be presented at the IAPC Conference in Cape Town, August 2008.

A study has been performed on the systematics of breeding petrels at Trindade Island (*Pterodroma* spp.). Trindade Island was visited from December 2006 to April 2007 to collect data on the Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*), that included ringing birds, a census of the population, collecting blood samples for a taxonomy study, and at sea tracking using geolocators aimed at clarifying the specific status of the group and identifying important feeding areas for breeding birds. Preliminary molecular data suggest: a low level of distinctiveness between Trindade Island and Round Island (Indian Ocean) populations; foraging trips of breeding birds reach 30-40°S; the population is in the lower range of that estimated previously; the terrestrial crab *Gecarcinus lagostoma* is an important egg and chick predator on Trindade Island. Historical and new data are being published in a book chapter (Luigi et al. 2008), with the information also used for status assessments being carried out by BirdLife International. The Kermadec petrel (*Pterodroma neglecta*) was not found breeding on Trindade island. The occurrence of the species in Brazil has yet to be confirmed. Recent information on the Trindade petrel was used to update the IUCN Red List following a request from BirdLife International.

Development of a method to sample birds at sea non-destructively by using a cast net. This method proved successful in trapping 500 birds of 13 species, from storm-petrels to *Diomedea* albatrosses, and we hope this study encourages further work on wintering birds at sea to complement information usually collected on breeding grounds/periods (Bugoni et al. 2008, *Journal of Field Ornithology* 79, in press).

A range of biological information was collected at sea on albatrosses and petrels and is being submitted as a PhD thesis at the University of Glasgow. It includes methods for ageing albatrosses, moult periods, sexual size dimorphism, sex-ratio, and stable isotopes.

A study on relevant offshore areas for seabirds was completed based on seabird abundance, richness, diversity and bycatch data in order to create subsidies for further marine protected areas in Brazil. In relation with the richness, it was observed 30 taxon, which we identified eight in relation with its gender. According to the richness evaluation, it was verified that how close to the south and coast, bigger the richness, even at the coldest and warmest months. The southern part of Brazil shows the greatest diversity during the warmest months. The area delimited by the coordinates 30°S a 35°S e 55°W a 45°W was considered as a priority during all seasons. During the coldest months, all the species threatened by fisheries were present in this area, and three species were dominant., Among these, two species (*Thalassarche melanophris* and *Procellaria aequinoctialis*) were abundant and were the most frequently captured species during the present study (85.6% of the total bycatch). In the warmest months, six of the eleven threatened species were seen in this area, two of these are considered threatened and two vulnerable: *T. melanophris*, *T. chlororhynchos*, *P. aequinoctialis* and *P. conspicillata*. Two scientific articles are being produced.

An abstract entitled 'Distribution and Abundance of albatrosses and petrels (*Procellariiforms*) in southern Brazil' was presented at the XV Brazilian Congress of Ornithology in Porto Alegre, RS, 01 to 06 June, 2007.

A book presenting the results of tests of torilines and blue-dyed bait in the national longline fleet has been produced. Data obtained during this project is part of a book to be published soon which present the conservation and economical benefits of mitigation measures for the fishing industry. This document is sponsored by the Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries of the Presidency of the Republic (of Brazil) – SEAP, from a partnership between NEMA (Núcleo de Educação e Monitoramento Ambiental) and Projeto Albatroz.

Establishment of partnerships between seabird conservation projects and the National Observers Program of Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fishing of the Presidency of the Republic (SEAP/PR) to promote training of the observers to collect data on seabird interactions with longline fleets based in Brazilian northeastern and southern fishing harbours.

A MSc Thesis at Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande – FURG involves the study of interactions between seabirds, sea turtles and killer whales with the longline fisheries and addresses the influence of environmental factors on those interactions.

Monitoring longline fishery fleet in Santos-SP and Itajaí-SC fishing terminals (Southern Brazil) to collect information on seabird bycatch through logbooks. In 2007, the skippers recorded approximately 130 seabirds in 90 logbooks delivered to Projeto Albatroz. This number of seabird captures is considered to be an under-estimate.

Observer programmes to monitor fisheries bycatch of albatrosses and petrels	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference
	4.2	5.1	

Monitoring the longline fishery fleet at-sea in Santos-SP, Itajaí-SC and Itaipava-ES (Southern Brazil) through onboard observers with the objective of collecting information on seabird bycatch and distribution, fishery production information and the testing of mitigation measures. In 2007, 29 cruises were carried out by Projeto Albatroz, sponsored by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – RSPB (BirdLife international/SAVE Brasil), Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries

of the Presidency of the Republic (of Brazil) – SEAP, and the environmental financing program of Petrobras (Programa Petrobras Ambiental).

5. Education and Public Awareness

<i>Dissemination of information / training for 'user audiences' e.g. scientists, fishermen, conservation bodies, and decision-makers</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	6.1		

Onboard observers carried out awareness activities with fishermen during fishing trips, exchanging experiences and talking about marine environment, conservation and sustainable fisheries.

Production and editing of the Proceedings of *the first South American Fishermen Forum to Reduce the Seabirds Bycatch* that was held on 12 -14th December, 2006, at the Delphin Hotel in Guarujá city, Sao Paulo littoral. The event was organized by Projeto Albatroz a Brazilian NGO and the New Zealand NGO Southern Seabird Solutions, sponsored by the UK NGO Care for the Wild International and supported by the Government State Department of the United States. The forum's major goal was to promote information exchange between fishermen, ship owners, researchers, governmental and non governmental organizations to illustrate and talk about the fisheries practices to reduce seabird's bycatch in South American countries, especially by longline and trawler fisheries. Sixty fishermen and researchers from many different countries such as Australia, New Zealand, United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Chile, Ecuador and Brazil attended this event.

The report entitled "Seabird bycatch on Brazilian pelagic longline fishery and implications for the conservation in South Atlantic" was presented at the ICCAT Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, Madrid, Spain, March 10-14th, 2008 (SCRS/2008/032).

Projeto Albatroz elaborated a social-cultural diagnostic of fishermen to evaluate how they deal with the pelagic fisheries and the seabird bycatch. In this diagnosis it will be discussed how the different kinds of pelagic longline in Brazil affected the seabird bycatch along the years.

<i>Dissemination of information to the general public</i>	<i>Action Plan Reference</i>	<i>AC Work Programme Reference</i>	<i>Agreement Reference</i>
	6.2		

Participation of Projeto Albatroz in several environmental workshops and exhibitions aiming to inform the public and to contact other conservation projects to exchange information about activities for conservation of seabirds being carried out in Brazil.

Several media programs, articles and reports addressed albatross conservation were presented on TV and newspapers, magazines, radio, and Internet. These efforts aimed the general public.

Courses about the biology and conservation of seabirds were provided to students and researchers. In these courses, information on taxonomy, reproduction, feeding, interactions between seabirds and fisheries and their solutions were presented, as well the activities developed by Projeto Albatroz and others institutions around the world.

Educational material such as folders, cartoons, and booklets were developed by Projeto Albatroz and NEMA to inform fishermen about albatross biology, seabird identification, and distribution, the importance of reporting recovered bands from seabirds, seabird bycatch, mitigation measures and

how the pollution at sea can affect seabirds and other marines animals. Materials were sponsored by Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries of the Presidency of the Republic – SEAP/PR.

A 20-minute video is being produced to show the development of the national longline fleet in Brazil and how changes through the years affected the seabird bycatch in Brazil. The video also shows fishermen talking about the advantages of mitigations measures. This material is being sponsored by Petrobras Ambiental and aims to make fishermen and the general public aware of albatross mortality in Brazil.

6. Implementation

Summarise progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties	Action Plan Reference	AC Work Programme Reference	Agreement Reference

According paragraph 6.1.22 of MoP2 Final Report, among the priorities on Advisory Committee activities there are:

Capacity Building

In order to attend this prioritization Tatiana Neves General Coordinator of Projeto Albatroz / Brazil was invited to coordinate the project due to her knowledge and expertise of fisheries in South America due to the identified need in the region. The work was carried out with voluntary funds from New Zealand to support the Advisory Committee to accomplish these activities.

The fact to invite a South American expert to support Secretariat works is a valid way to improve the capacity of these experts that can learn with the experience to work on ACAP Secretariat.

The project has the main objective of compiling all relevant information from South American nations regarding the conservation of seabirds in the ACAP in order to identify tasks and opportunities for capacity building in South America that address the implementation of ACAP.

To accomplish this objective, it was elaborated seven proposes of projects for Capacity Building in South America which was sent to eleven South American experts whom provided valuable comments, suggestions and criticisms. After this consultation, four final projects were proposed. The result of such project is presented on AC4 Doc 27.

Working with RFMOs to reduce seabird-fisheries interactions

Since 2006 Brazil, as an ICCAT Parties had informed to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and to the Commission the national progresses on (NPOA-/Seabirds – Brazil) in attention of ICCAT Resolution 02-14.

Also, Brazil has being collect and presented to SCRS through scientific papers compiled information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches in pelagic longline fisheries and other fisheries under the purview of ICCAT.

Also, Brazil has being maintained seabirds experts in the national delegation both in SCRS and in the recent created SC-Ecosystem meetings. Many papers regarding seabirds interactions with fisheries was already presented in such meetings what subsidizes the Brazilian in puts on the discussions for the Recommendation 07-07 addressed to the implementation of mitigation measures on the Convention area.

In addition, Brazil have being working close to the SC Ecosystem chairs to create an educational material addressed the fishermen on ICCAT area.

7. Credits

The described activities were carried out by Brazilian Government institutions, especially ICMBio and Special Secretariat of Aquiculture and Fisheries (SEAP) together with Projeto Albatroz, NEMA – Núcleo de Monitoramento e Educação Ambiental and others partners. For the development of Projeto Albatroz activities this NGO received the support of its main sponsor PETROBRAS (Brazilian Petroleum Company) through its Program Petrobras Ambiental. Other sponsors and/or partners such as, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International, Save Brasil, (Albatross Task Force Program) and Fundação o Boticário de Proteção da Natureza have also an important role on the Projeto Albatroz activities.