



## **Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

### **Sixth Meeting of Advisory Committee**

*Guayaquil, Ecuador, 29 August – 2 September 2011*

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## **Report on the Implementation of the Agreement 2008-2011 – South Africa**

### **South Africa**

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**Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-4 (2012)****Submitted by** - South Africa**Coverage of report** - South Africa**1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?              | Yes<br><br>Permits issued to vessels engaged in longline activities (by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) require mitigation measures that reduce the bycatch of seabirds to be implemented (see appended).<br>1) SWORDFISH.pdf (size 1467765 bytes)  <br>2) TUNA LONGLINE COND.pdf (size 1542265 bytes)   |
| 1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years? | Yes<br><br>Implementation of mitigation measures to reduce by-catch will continue to be required. Monitoring of the status of albatrosses and petrels at South Africa's Prince Edward Islands will continue to be undertaken.   |
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**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?                         | No<br><br>South Africa's National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries was adopted in 2008, prior to the most recent MoP. |

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 No  
introduced any  
new legal or  
policy  
instruments for  
species  
protection of  
albatrosses and  
petrels?

2.7 Has the Party No  
implemented any  
legal or policy  
instruments for  
environmental  
impact  
assessments?

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?

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### 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
- 3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) requires mitigation measures that reduce the bycatch of seabirds to be implemented (see 1.1 above).
- 3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
South Africa has several marine protected areas where no fishing is allowed. These are undoubtedly utilized by albatrosses and petrels but are small compared to the overall range used by these birds.

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#### 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)?

Not answered


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

No

## 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

Regular counts of six species of albatross and petrel are undertaken at Marion Island. Counts of seven species of albatross and petrel were made at Prince Edward Island in 2008. Trends in numbers of seven species of albatross and petrel breeding at the Prince Edward Islands up until 2008 were published in 2009 (see appended).  
1) PEI Ryan et al Albatrosses and Giant Petrels.pdf (size 252396 bytes)  [→](#)

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

Yes

Experts from BirdLife South Africa, Percy FitzPatrick Institute at University of Cape Town and SANCCOB are involved in research towards albatross and petrel conservation.

## 6. Education and public awareness

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

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WWF-SA has provided training for fishers.

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

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In 2010, an article "Biological survey confirms Prince Edward Islands an important breeding site" was published in Umlobi, a popular magazine produced by South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs.

## 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?

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## 8. Additional Comments

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### Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

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Report by Robert Crawford