

Project Update: August 2014

a. Implementing MPA criteria for penguin conservation.

- *Identifying primordial conservation measures:* In order to implement representative penguin conservation measures at sea, we have reviewed all the Chilean regulations and compiled according with our proposal draft for the establishment of a MPA for the mixed colony. During the first period of the grant, we have conducted discussion sessions with stakeholders, especially with the ecotourism sector and local NGOs, in turn to combine data from other organisations, which may be added to our final proposal draft.

- *Coordinating national level meetings:* One the critical points that is required by the Chilean regulation, is to inform to the local authorities about any conservation measures that is planning to be applied. In that context, we have presented our proposal draft to the local government authorities, including the Ministries of Environment and Economy (National Marine Fisheries Service and Undersecretary for Fisheries). Our presentation was based on the ecology, biology and conservation status of both, Humboldt and Magellanic population in the Puñihuil Islets. This meeting represents the first official step in the initiative to improve penguin conservation at-sea in the country. As an organisation, we were proposed by the authorities to lead an Advisory Commission during the following steps of the process, which will be in charge of the design, data collection and developing a management plan for the establishment of this novel conservation measure.

b. Raising knowledge about the crucial role of penguins to the local marine ecosystem and economy.

By the end of August 2014 , we have scheduled a participatory discussion session with the City Council and stakeholders, such as ecotourism operators, artisanal fishermen, NGOs, the government authorities and the local press. On the other hand, we are coordinating a symposium to present the bio-ecological and conservation data from Humboldt and Magellanic penguins at the Puñihuil Islets. Workshops and economic data collection are programmed to begin during the next penguin-breeding season, which occur between September 2014 and March 2015.

Due to one of our main objectives, which is to empower the local community with penguin conservation and management, provide simple communication messages is crucial. In that context, we have developed promotional and educational materials (e.g., brochures, presentations, MPA proposal) that focus on marine and penguin conservation. Material will be delivered at the meeting with stakeholders and during the upcoming symposium and workshops.