

## Detailed Final Report

During my Continuation RSG Grant I consolidated an international coalition for penguin conservation called the Global Penguin Society (GPS). I had the following objectives and accomplishments.

□ **Objective 1.** Build an international science-based conservation coalition, engaging partners interested in penguin-related marine conservation globally through strategic alliances.

I founded the Global Penguin Society (GPS). I have met and engaged key people and organisations related to penguin conservation and research in different countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, United States, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile). I held meetings and workshops and organized or participated in events to strengthen GPS. For example in 2009 I was the plenary speaker at the Oamaru Penguin Conservation Symposium in New Zealand, in 2010 I have also been invited to the workshop to design the Management Plan for the endangered African penguin, in 2010 I held a World Penguin Conservation Symposium at the International Penguin Conference in Boston and in 2011, together with Pew, we organized a Penguin conservation status Symposium at the International Marine Conservation Congress in Victoria, Canada.

We also involved 54 researchers in the edition of the Book: PENGUINS: Natural History and Conservation. Some of the institutions included in our activities are: the British Antarctic Survey, the University of Cape Town, University of Otago, Univ of Maryland, University of Washington, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (France), Australian Antarctic Division, Antarctic Research Trust (Germany), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia, Phillip Island Nature Parks (Australia), The Peregrine Fund, Charles Darwin Foundation and Galapagos National Park (Ecuador), Universidad Cayetano Heredia (Peru), etc.

More relevant activities:

1. Structured Board.
2. Defined mission, vision and objectives.
3. Meetings with experts to receive feedback.
4. Symposium organisation and presentation at the International Penguin Conference (Boston, Aug 2010).
5. Presentation at Oamaru Symposium (New Zealand) and meetings (June 2010)
6. Presentation at World Seabird Conference (Canada)(Sept 2010)
7. Workshop with PEW authorities in Washington and meetings with WCS authorities (July 2010).
8. Participation at the African penguin Management Plan Workshop (Oct 2010).
9. Presentation at II International Marine Conservation Congress (Canada May 2011).

□ **Objective 2.** Assess the feasibility to create the IUCN Penguin Specialist Group. We continued our conversations to reach this goal. I met the General Director and major authorities of IUCN in Switzerland, and in late 2010 we met in Cambridge authorities of the Species Survival Commission to get started in the process of creating this group. We were delayed because there was a need to agree with the Birdlife International authorities about the need to create such a group.

□ **Objective 3.** We were part of the Organizing Committee of the International Penguin Conference held in 2010 and we are also in the Committee for the next venue, which will be Bristol, U.K. 2013.

□ **Objective 4.** Assess the status and conservation priorities for all penguin species.

We accomplished this goal by editing the Book mentioned above, that will be printed by University of Washington Press and will be available in English, Spanish and Japanese. It will have 355 full colour pages divided in 18 chapters with 190 figures and 89 tables. All authors provided the most updated information. Main section include diagnostic characteristics, distribution, population size and trends, threats, research gaps and needs, current conservation efforts and conservation priorities. I had meetings during our trips and also at the Congresses and symposium I attended. I coordinated the compilation work through mail with 54 authors. A summary of the work is published at our website ([www.globalpenguinsociety.org](http://www.globalpenguinsociety.org)) under Species fact sheet section. I hired staff to design the figures and maps.

□ **Objective 5.** Design a Global Penguin Conservation Strategy. This blueprint will be prepared at workshops and meetings, identifying main penguin conservation issues and developing specific actions.

I organized a Penguin Status conservation Symposium in Boston where experts presented the status of all penguin species. I coordinated meetings to discuss conservation priorities.

A joint presentation was done at the World Seabird Conference with leading authors.

In the Penguin Book there are four sections in each penguin species chapter that refer to this conservation strategy: Main threats, Recommendations of priority research actions for conservation, Current Conservation Efforts, Recommendations of priority conservation actions.

□ **Objective 6.** Write a Book containing issues detailed in items 4 and 5. This is a huge and challenging task. We worked with authors from 12 countries sharing more than 700 e-mails. All chapters (18) are finished now. We are working with the University of Washington Press staff in the final edition. The Book Title will be: PENGUINS: NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION.

I visited Seattle three times to work in the Book (July 2010, Sept 2010 and May 2011)

□ **Objective 7.** Collaborate and formulate advice for governments based on scientific, technical and empirical evidence, aiming at influencing decisions and policies. The coalition will formally offer assistance to governments.

Punta Tombo Advisory Management Commission. I fostered the creation and coordination of an Advisory Management Committee by the Provincial Government.

El Pedral Colony. During my research with penguins (with this project) I discovered a new Magellanic penguin colony. However, the site selected by this first 13 penguins pairs was far from pristine. Unregulated recreational activities took place there, with fishermen and visitors

leaving garbage all around and setting on fire bushes, where penguins nest, to make barbecues. Moreover, people with 4-wheel trucks and motorbikes crossed the area not paying attention to the nests. The fate and persistence of this colony depended on our ability to improve their habitat and design and implement an adequate management of human activities. I coordinated a multisectorial management Plan for the area and submitted the application for its designation as Provincial Wildlife Refuge, which was approved. Now penguins are protected and we designed a very restricted touristic operation that will allow to enforce rules. The colony grew from 13 original nests in 2009 to 176 nests in 2011. This is now a model for a changing ocean environmental scenario that fosters the movements of species to areas where they never occurred before.

New Marine National Park at San Jorge Gulf. We participated in meetings and workshops to the management of this Park located in Central Patagonia that were organized by the National Government of Argentina.

We were invited by the Government of South Africa to participate in the design of the Management Plan of the African penguin and contributed in the different stages of its elaboration. They used the African penguin chapter of our book as the base document for the management Plan.

I also interacted with the Department of Conservation of New Zealand in the workshop about the Fiordland penguin and interacted with the authorities.

We submitted letters of concern to the National Government of Chile regarding their plans to build thermal power plants within a major Humboldt penguin breeding area.

We are also involved in the design of the Management Plan of penguin colonies in Southern Chile (Magellanic National Park, Cape Horn), where we facilitated material form management plans from Australia, South Africa and Argentina.

We interacted with the Ambassador of Uruguay in Japan to avoid the purchase of wild penguins for an Aquarium in Tokio.

We assisted the Government of Namibia to address the problem of illegal trade of African penguins to the far East.

□ **Objective 8.** Work through local partners with communities, involving stakeholders in participatory processes to increase the sense of ownership and commitment with species and areas involved, obtaining greater public support to improve decision making and implementation.

I organized participatory meetings with interested stakeholders and visits to natural areas. I also organised meetings for the Pedral colony management Plan to protect and manage the colony. This involved the authorities and staff of the Provincial Wildlife Bureau, the owners of the ranches where penguins breed, tourist operator, legislative body deputies, and organisation of fishermen and users that use the area for recreation. I interacted with stakeholders from South Africa in their management Plan and also with stakeholders in the different penguin colonies in New Zealand.

Specific activities:

1. I contributed to the management design of the Punta Tombo penguin colony.

2. I designed the Management Plan and obtained a protection regime for the new Pedral Penguin colony.
3. Participated in the workshop to design the African Penguin Mngmt. Plan.
4. Interacted with NZ Dpt. Of Conservation in Fiordland penguin management.
5. Participated in workshop for New Marine Park Management Plan in Patagonia.
6. I am contributing with the Government of Chile in the Management Plan of the Penguin colonies in their Magellanic National Park, at Cape Horn.
7. We interacted with the Ambassador of Uruguay in Japan to avoid the purchase of wild penguins for an Aquarium in Tokio.
8. We assisted the Government of Namibia to address the problem of illegal trade of African penguins to the far East. We contacted interested parties in US and Switzerland (CITES and TRAFFIC)

□ **Objective 9.** Design effective communication strategies to reach specific audiences with clear messages.

GPS designed and launched its website: [www.globalpenguinsociety.org](http://www.globalpenguinsociety.org), which contains information on what we do, who we are, goals, activities, updated information on all species of penguins in the world, and news. Launching announcement were made in Boston, New Zealand, SouthAfrica and Argentina.

School trips to visit penguins along Patagonia Coast (Argentina) and Cape Town (South Africa) during the 3 year project period.

Advisor to design exhibits and provide scientific advice for the first Interpretation Center at Punta Tombo, visited by 130,000 persons per season.

Press cover (TV, radio, newspapers and documentary films) in Argentina and in many countries: Argentina, Brazil, U.S.A., Mexico, U.S.A., Canada, Germany, Netherlands and France.

□ **Objective 10.** Promote and help consolidate marine conservation initiatives, such as the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or other more appropriate marine conservation tools in the Southern Oceans.

I participated in the annual meeting of a forum of environmental NGOs related with the SW Atlantic.

To promote the designation of new marine protected areas we obtained critical information about penguin colonies along Patagonia. We obtained information about foraging areas (satellite tracked penguins) and estimated abundance.

We promoted and obtained the designation of the new colony at El Pedral as a wildlife refuge. Now we will foster the incorporation of a marine protected area to protect the foraging ground.

I published an article about massive mortality of penguins linked to oceanographic changes potentially linked to climate variability. It will foster international agreement to protect specific marine areas. I was also co-author of an article called Research Priorities for Seabirds: improving seabird conservation and management in the 21st Century.

I am collaborating with Rio Negro Province in the research and protection of 3 penguin colonies recently settled in their coasts.

I was invited by the National Parks Administration of Argentina to help in the planning of a Marine Park with 14 penguin colonies.

With my team we discovered a new colony, alerted the government, design the Management plan, submitted the proposal for a protection regime as a Wildlife Refuge and obtained it and assisted a tour operator to take visitors to the area and generate incomes to allow surveillance and efficient protection.