

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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March 4, 2016

Ing. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán
Secretario de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Av. Ejército Nacional No. 223
Colonia Anáhuac, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo
Ciudad de México, C.P. 11320

Dear Secretary Pacchiano Alamán,

This letter concerns creation of a new protected area, “Reserva de la Biosfera Islas del Pacífico de la Península de Baja California.” The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) first wrote in support of the Mexican Federal Government’s intention to protect its Baja California Pacific islands in July 2005. We now congratulate you and your staff on advances in this process over the last decade, and we encourage and look forward to publication of the Biosphere Reserve’s Decree by Mexico’s President, Lic. Enrique Peña Nieto, in the near future.

The PSG is a society of professional seabird researchers and managers dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds. Founded in 1972, our principal goals are to increase the quality and quantity of seabird research through facilitating exchange of information and to identify and assess the importance of threats to seabird populations and provide government agencies and others with expert advice on managing the threats and populations. Our membership draws from the entire Pacific basin, including Mexico, Canada, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA.

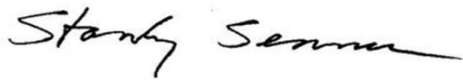
These Baja California Pacific islands are key nesting sites for seabirds of global concern, providing prime habitat for 21 seabird species, six of which are endemic, occurring nowhere else on earth. Each year, more than 2.5 million birds breed on these islands, making this region one of the most valuable ones for seabird conservation in the eastern Pacific. We applaud Mexico’s leadership in seabird conservation and restoration on these particular islands through a long-term comprehensive program involving the removal of mammal pests, implementation of social attraction techniques to restore seabird breeding colonies, and ongoing research to increase our understanding of these seabird populations.

Given the current threats that seabirds face to date—from invasive alien species, to fisheries interactions, to climate change—protecting these outstanding islands as a Biosphere Reserve will significantly contribute to minimize such threats and increase seabird populations' resilience. With the publication of the decree to formally establish the Biosphere Reserve, all Mexican islands will have a federal protection status, setting for your government a global conservation benchmark in the light of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Targets.

Considering all the above, the PSG encourages and looks forward to the publication of this Biosphere Reserve's Decree by Mexico's President, Lic. Enrique Peña Nieto, in the near future.

Please find a courtesy translation attached.

Respectfully yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley Senner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stanley Senner
Vice Chair for Conservation
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Portland, OR 97201

cc. Lic. Alejandro Del Mazo Maza. Comisionado Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, CONANP. Ciudad de México.