Verena Gill’s Report to EXCO for 2022 PSG Annual Meeting

Craig S. Harrison Conservation Fund
This report covers January 2021 to January 2022. The members of the Committee are; Verena Gill (Chair), Craig Harrison, Bill Henry, Dave Duffy, Doug Forsell, Trudy Chatwin, Peter Hodum (new in 2021), and Doug Causey. We said goodbye and thank you to committee members Michelle Kissling and Marc Romano in 2021.

As of 24 January 2022, the Fund total is $10,454.32. Since 2007, PSG has funded 25 projects for a total of $51,628 although two studies was never completed (Juliana Coffey in 2013 and Abdulmaula Hamza in 2017). Most of the money for Coffey’s project was returned and all of the money for Hamza’s project was returned. Countries covered by the funding include Fiji, Chile, Indonesia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, French Polynesia, and China.

In 2021 we received two proposals to review. One of these were funded for $2000 for a project submitted by Susana Cárdenas-Alayza, the Punta San Juan Program Director in Peru. The money will be used to acquire and install modular housing inside the Punta San Juan reserve to support staff on site year round. The money has not yet been received by Susana due to paperwork issues with the university on her end but we are hopeful the funds can be transferred soon. The other proposal submitted was considered not eligible as the requesting country was Kenya. Note, we are about to receive a new proposal for 2022 from the Philippines.

Updates needed to the PSG website https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/grants/grant-recipients/

1. A paper at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0025326X20307505?dcid=author should be linked to the entry for Ana Garcia in 2019 Characterization of Marine Debris in Nests of Red-legged Cormorant (Phalacrocorax gaimardi) and Inca Tern (Larosterna inca) in Northern Chile. This is a direct result of the work we funded and PSG is acknowledged. A final report is in progress but this publication is a good substitute until then.

2. The final report Tracking of Guanay cormorants at Punta San Juan, Peru by Lyanne Ampuero et al should be linked to the entry for Lyanne Pierina Ampuero’s 2018 project Tracking of Guanay Cormorants (Leucocarbo bougainvillii) at Punta San Juan, Perú.

3. Add 2021 Susana Cárdenas-Alayza’s project Acquire and install modular housing inside the Punta San Juan reserve to support staff on site year round.

4. Remove the project 2017 Abdulmaula Hamza, Malaysia Diversity and Breeding Status of Seabirds in Pulau Perak, Malaysia. The project was canceled and the money returned to PSG in May 2021; (Dear Verena, I am writing to you and to PSG to express my deep sorrow again, as we were not able to conduct the fieldwork at Pulau Perak in Malaysia, due to the continuous delay of any fieldwork because of COVID situation. As I will soon leave Malaysia because my contract ends with the University where I worked for the past 7 years, I am obliged morally to return the fund of PSG (USD 2K) to you, so it can be used by other researchers in the future. Can I send you the funds to the PSG paypal account? What reference
should I include? Please pass my apologies to the PSG chair and council members, and wherever I will be next I will keep publishing in MO and contribute to the message of PSG).

5. Remove the special photo and blurb on Cristián G. Suazo’s project about albatross that is highlighted in the Grant Recipient page because despite numerous attempts by PSG to obtain a final report on the project it has never been provided despite being funded in 2010.

Delinquent reports*: There are three final reports outstanding from funded projects; Cristián Suazo from 2009, Alejandro Suarez from 2009, and Felipe Estela from 2013. To date all PIs that are delinquent have been contacted multiple times. Efforts will continue to track down these reports including contacting PI references. *Note that Cristián Suazo is a member of EXCO that has a delinquent report. March 2019 Adrian Gall agreed to get Suazo (now a PSG regional rep for Southern California, Latin America, and Hawaii) to submit his report ASAP but as of January 2022 still nothing has materialized.

One follow up is needed for a project that were completed recently but no report has been submitted yet; Yovana Murillo from 2017; Building Capacity for Conservation of Ringed Storm-Petrels (Oceanodroma hornbyi) Affected by Light Attraction in Perú. An email exchange between Verena and Yovana occurred between 24-26 January 2022 with Yovana promising a final report soon.