

Corresponding Members Committee Report

PSG Corresponding Members Committee (CMC) Report

Submitted to the ExCo February 13th, 2024
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CMC Members (merged into the EID Committee in 2023)

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Updates

The Corresponding Members Committee (CMC) is currently guided by Coordinator Dr. Carlos Braxtzo Phil Zavalaga Reyes, but was merged into the EID Committee in 2023. Given the overlap in goals and objectives between the CMC and EID Committee, keeping the committees separate seemed duplicative of time and energy. In addition, Wieteke stepped down in 2023 as the CMC merged with the EID Committee.

Many memberships of Corresponding Members expired in 2023, and not many members were recruited. Currently, the committee has 7 members (down from 14). In 2024, we should prioritize adding new Corresponding Members to our program from throughout the Pacific. As a note, the number of Corresponding Members was increased to 30 members in 2021 via a proposal from the Corresponding Members Committee in order to address and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the PSG membership.

Background

The Corresponding Members Committee (CMC) is a committee associated with the Executive Council. As described in the PSG Handbook, the Corresponding Members Committee “was established to support seabird researchers and conservationists in developing countries. It provides memberships to select people with the requirement that they provide an article to Pacific Seabirds at least once every three years in return. The committee is limited to provide a maximum of 30 corresponding memberships.”

Actions to date

a. Current Members

In total, the Pacific Seabird Group has 7 Corresponding Members:

Full Name	Country	Membership Expiration Date
Roberto Aguilar	Chile	3/1/2024
Cristina Burga	Perú	3/1/2024
Susana Cárdenas-Alayza	Perú	3/1/2024
Abdulmaula Hamza	Malaysia	3/7/2025
Guillermo Luna-Jorquera	Chile	2/4/2024
Ravichandra Mondreti	India	2/23/2024
Javier Quiñones	Perú	2/4/2024

b. Highlights from our Corresponding Members

With the revamp of *Pacific Seabirds* as an online blog/webpage, communications from Corresponding Members have been restored. We will encourage Corresponding Members to participate in “Member Updates” in *Pacific Seabirds* and submit content. We seek to work with the Communications Committee and the EID Committee to create more opportunities for information sharing and collaboration among PSG’s international membership. Below is the update about a Corresponding Member included in *Pacific Seabirds* 50(1):

- *Corresponding Member Update: Javier Quiñones:* Javier’s main research and Ph.D. thesis was focused on jellyfish occurrence and its relationship with environmental variability in Peru but since 2018 his research focus has shifted to the spatial distribution, foraging ecology, and habitat of migratory seabirds, specially albatrosses and petrels, in Peru. Javier has actively participated in research cruises on pelagic seabirds along the entire Peruvian coast as well on 11 campaigns to Antarctica. He is working on surveys attaching satellite transmitters with GPS on Chatham and Buller Albatrosses in offshore southern Peru, sponsored by ACAP. In addition, he is currently collaborating with the Conservation of New Zealand regarding habitat use of Salvin’s and Black Petrels in Peru. Javier has more than 35 indexed scientific publications.

During 2023, Javier worked as the head of the Top Predators department of the Peruvian Marine Research Institute (IMARPE) in Callao, Peru. During 2023, he published 4 papers on Black-browed Albatross and Buller’s Albatross (to access all of Javier’s papers, click [here](#)). Javier was also was an ACAP secondee in the Department of Conservation in New Zealand, where he worked on addressing distribution data gaps of Chatham, Buller’s, and Salvin’s Albatrosses, and Black Petrels and their overlap with the artisanal fishing effort of Peruvian longline, drift gillnet, and coastal gillnet fisheries. Javier seeks to learn about mitigation and fisheries outreach techniques used in New Zealand that can be adapted and applied to the artisanal fisheries of Peru. (WMIL) New Zealand. More recently, Javier served as a representative for the Peruvian Marine Research Institute together with Johannes Fisher and Igor Debski from the Department of Conservation of New Zealand to develop a project for by-catch mitigation of albatrosses and petrels in the Peruvian artisanal longline fishery targeting sharks. In addition, Javier assisted on a Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) project on the Great Barrier Island nesting area, together with Elizabeth Bell from Wildlife Management International Ltd.

We also encouraged students and corresponding members to apply for PSG conservation funds and to attend the PSG 2004 meeting. Some of them applied for and received grants.

c. Purpose and value of a Corresponding Membership to Corresponding Members

Our goal is to maintain a geographically diverse PSG membership spanning the entire Pacific. Moreover, our committee seeks to foster involvement of seabird researchers and conservationists in developing countries or those working in regions with little or no institutional support for seabird conservation. Through merging with the EID Committee, we will be able to combine our activities and efforts in a more sustainable and streamlined manner.

Next steps/Recommendations

1. Encourage CMs to provide updates and reports to the broader PSG membership (through *Pacific Seabirds*), offer help/support for publishing in *Marine Ornithology* (either by covering publishing costs or helping with English proofreading).
2. Continue to work in tandem with the PSG HELPS program to identify students and early-career scientists who would benefit from sponsored PSG memberships.
3. Encourage CMs to apply for PSG Conservation Grants; foster connections with the broader PSG membership to find more collaboration opportunities for CMs.
4. Continue to seek new members from target regions (possibly by asking for recommendations from BirdLife for partner organizations), including:
 - Asia (Russia, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia)
 - Central America (all countries)
 - South Pacific (Papua New Guinea, American Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Palau, Guam, French Polynesia + some even smaller island groups in the South Pacific).
 - South America (Atlantic coast involving Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil).