

- Work with LOCO to facilitate access to venues for those with limited physical mobility (based on recent feedback from a PSG member via email)
 - Begin discussion on how to increase accessibility for other disabled communities
- Continue work with ABC + MOSAIC on equitable hiring resources
- Distribute 2025 demographic survey

Report #10. Corresponding Members Committee Report

Corresponding Members Committee Report

PSG Corresponding Members Committee (CMC) Report

Submitted to the ExCo January 5th, 2025
by Dr. Carlos Zavalaga

Corresponding Member Sub-Committee is part of the EID since 2023.

Dr. Carlos Zavalaga - czavalaga@cientifica.edu.pe (Coordinator)

Updates

The Corresponding Members Sub-Committee (CMSC) is currently guided by Coordinator Dr. Carlos Zavalaga. Given the overlap in goals and objectives between the former CMC and EID Committee, keeping the committees separate seemed duplicative of time and energy.

The Corresponding Members Subcommittee aims to ensure geographically diverse representation within the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) across the entire Pacific region. It focuses on promoting the participation of seabird researchers and conservationists from developing countries or areas with limited institutional support for seabird conservation. To achieve this, the Subcommittee offers free 3-year PSG memberships in exchange for a report detailing the members' seabird research or conservation efforts, which is published in *Pacific Seabirds*. Additionally, the Subcommittee facilitates networking opportunities with the broader PSG community, fostering connections that support vital seabird research and conservation efforts globally.

Many memberships of Corresponding Members expired in 2024, and no member was recruited. Currently, the committee has 7 members. In 2025, we should prioritize adding new Corresponding Members to our program from throughout the Pacific and to request renewal of membership to the 2024 list.

Background

The Corresponding Members Sub-Committee (a former Corresponding Member Committee) is part of the EID Committee. 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 Sub-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

For the PSG/WBS 2025 meeting no committee members will participate. Unfortunately, none of them applied for travel funds.

Highlights from our Corresponding Members

The Fourteenth Meeting of ACAP’s Advisory Committee (AC14) was held in Lima, Peru, from 12 to 16 August 2024. Prior to the meeting, BirdLife International organized a one-day workshop titled “An Evidence-Based Approach to Targeted Action to Address Seabird Bycatch in the Humboldt Current.” Research teams from Ecuador, Peru, and Chile convened to assess the availability of seabird and fishing vessel tracking data in the region, aiming to conduct an analysis to identify bycatch hotspots within the Humboldt Current and develop more effective conservation strategies.

Javier Quiñones, from the Peruvian Marine Research Institute and a corresponding member, contributed valuable insights on the seasonal variation in the composition of oceanic seabird guilds interacting with Peru’s artisanal longline fisheries. In 2024, with funding from ACAP, Javier collaborated with longline fishermen to implement bycatch mitigation measures in the southern Peruvian artisanal longline fleet targeting sharks, aiming to reduce the accidental capture of albatrosses and petrels. Alongside Dr. Carlos Zavalaga from Universidad Científica del Sur, Dr. Johannes Fisher, and Dr. Igor Debski from New Zealand’s Department of Conservation, Javier also participated in a GPS tracking survey of artisanal fishing vessels in southern Peru to better understand the spatial

overlap and potential bycatch risks for Chatham, Buller's, and Salvin's albatrosses that were tagged in New Zealand. His offshore expeditions have also yielded valuable data on previously unrecorded petrels in Peruvian waters.

The BirdLife workshop provided a platform for Dr. Carlos Zavalaga to exchange ideas with seabird biologists from Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, fostering connections to potentially include new members.

Susana Cardenas-Alayza was also highly active in 2024, playing a key role in an alliance with Island Conservation and Universidad Científica del Sur to initiate a rat eradication program at Punta San Juan, Peru. The presence of invasive black rats (*Rattus rattus*) in this marine protected area has negatively impacted species such as Inca terns and Humboldt penguins. In August, Chilean colleagues from island conservation, José Cabello, María José Vilches, and Cinthia Munita traveled to Peru to conduct the first palatability trials using inert pellets at both Punta San Juan and Isla Chincha Norte.

Susana also engaged with authorities in meetings to present the proposed rodent eradication plan for 2025. As an ambassador for the conservation of large marine animals at Punta San Juan, including seabirds, she has been exceptionally active on social media platforms in 2024 such as Instagram (@programapuntasanjuan, @susanacardenasalayza) publishing content about conservation, education and biodiversity. In addition to leading local educational programs, she participated in the third Festival Ladera Sur in Chile, further advancing awareness and advocacy for marine conservation.

Cristina Burga works for the Peruvian governmental agency AgroRural, which oversees the harvesting and distribution of seabird guano. As part of AgroRural's Conservation Department, she has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between the government and academia to develop seabird conservation programs, implement seabird monitoring, and provide training for rangers in seabird count techniques.

In 2024, Cristina joined the Master's Program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru. Her research will focus on studying the effects of guano harvesting on the breeding phenology and population numbers of three seabird species.

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. To recruit new member for 2025 that have been already identified in South America.
3. Continue to work in tandem with the PSG HELPS program to identify students and early-career scientists who would benefit from sponsored PSG memberships.

4. Encourage CMs to apply for PSG Conservation Grants; foster connections with the broader PSG membership to find more collaboration opportunities for CMs.
5. 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).

Report #11. Local Committee Update

PSG 2025 Local Committee Update

Submitted by:

- **Local Committee Co-Chairs:** Kyra Mills, Jennifer Wheeler, Ghisselle Alvarado
- **Event Coordinator:** Justine Miller (Luana Events)

1. Registrations (as of 12/19/24):

326 registrations with the following breakdown:

40 Latin America
 95 Member
 40 Non-Member
 30 Student
 50 Non-Member Student
 40 WBS Member
 30 WBS Student Member
 1 one day

2. Fundraising:

a. \$36,200 from the following organizations:

- i. American Bird Conservancy
- ii. Global Messenger
- iii. International Bird Rescue
- iv. Lotek
- v. National Audubon Society - Seabird Institute
- vi. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- vii. NOAA National Seabird Program
- viii. Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- ix. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- x. Pacific Rim Conservation
- xi. PathTrack