



## **ACTION PLANS CONSULTANT** **(National Audubon Society – Audubon Americas Program)**

### **Background**

In its second century, Audubon, which is based in the United States, is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the places that supports them. Audubon’s mission is engaging people in bird conservation on a hemispheric scale through science, policy, education, and on-the-ground conservation action.

Bird populations are experiencing large-scale declines across the globe that can be attributed to a variety of human-caused factors. Seabird populations experienced a 70% reduction since the 1970s and between 1974 and 2019, we lost 17 million North American shorebirds (37% of the total population, n = 44 species, Rosenberg et al. 2019). Both sea and shorebirds are vulnerable to habitat loss and degradation, associated human disturbance and the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise. There are important opportunities to protect critical coastal and marine habitats in Latin America to support naturally regulated sea and shorebird populations. Conservation efforts have not been able to keep pace with rapid economic growth and intensifying pressure on natural coastal and marine resources. Worryingly, sea and shorebirds are relatively absent from conservation decision-making: they are often overlooked by conservation organizations and government agencies in the establishment of Marine Protected Areas. We urgently need to address this gap in bird conservation by using the latest scientific information and resources.

Audubon has played a critical leadership role along the Pacific Americas Flyway to reduce the loss of shorebird habitat and build the local conservation and monitoring capacity necessary to better understand and mitigate threats. Furthermore, Audubon has also played an important role in strengthening public policies in different countries in the Americas.

The past year, the Chilean government officialized the Chile’s National Plan for the Conservation of Birds (hereafter NPCB; MMA-ONU Medio Ambiente, 2022), mainstreamed bird conservation in the environmental legislation of this Country, which has settled a set of strategic actions aimed at reducing the most important threats to birds in the country. This Plan, led by the Ministry of the Environment (hereafter MoE), with a coordinator (now funded by Audubon) and an implementation committee that includes representatives of national and international NGO, Public Services and Scientific Centers, will be implemented with a temporal horizon of 10 years.

To align in-country and hemispheric efforts, and advance bird conservation, Audubon Americas will lead the development of two action plans, the first for seabirds and the second one for wetland birds in Chile. These instruments will be a national guide to develop efforts of public and private sectors, academia and civil society, to increase and strengthen the capacity in bird conservation

internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally. In this way, the Action Plans are crucial products for the implementation of the NPCB and will allow us to prioritize actions focus on these highly threatened groups, linking actions at the national level proposed in the Strategy.

Audubon Americas is looking for a consultant with the following objectives: i) develop a synthesis of seabird and wetland bird species information, conservation status (national and global), risk assessment and migration status in Chile and ii) Identify and describe of sites of importance to seabirds and wetland birds, iii) describe the main threats recognized in the ENCA, with the potential to impact seabirds and wetlands birds, and iv) coordinate the participative workshops associated with the elaboration of these plans.

## **Consultant**

### Summary:

The independent contractor will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating the elaboration of both seabird and wetland bird action plans in Chile.

### Expected activities and products<sup>1</sup>:

1. Support the base document with the existing information about both group of bird species. Each one must contain, at least:
  - a. Synthesis of species information, conservation status (national and global), risk assessment and migration status.
  - b. Assessment and description of important sites.
  - c. Description of the main direct and indirect threats to seabirds and wetland birds.
2. Coordinate and facilitate national and regional workshops and systematize the information of this workshops.
3. Support the Audubon Americas team in Chile in the elaboration of the text for each action plan.

### Essential Functions:

- Gather and assess seabirds and wetland birds' information.
- Carry out meetings and workshops, when necessary, to gather and assess information.
- Systematized information gathered during this consultancy.
- Report to the Chile Country Director and work alongside the NPCB coordinator.
- Communicate and coordinate with Audubon staff, partners, and experts regarding data this topic and analysis.

### Qualifications and Experience:

- Educated to degree level in a relevant subject; M.S. and/or Ph.D. degree in sciences, ecology, biodiversity, conservation, or equivalent experience is required.
- High knowledge of seabirds and wetland birds in Chile.

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<sup>1</sup> All deliverables must be written in Spanish (with English Abstract) and follow [Audubon's brand guidelines](#).

- Knowledge of Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.
- Skills in critically assessing and synthesizing information and writing accurately and concisely.
- Good knowledge of biodiversity conservation issues.
- Extensive experience working in biodiversity conservation.
- Proven experience in elaborating and/or implementing of management plans and/or action plans for conservation.
- Ability to work to deadlines, work independently to a high standard and learn new skills rapidly, but also able to work as part of a team.
- Excellent organizational skills and careful attention to detail. Able to manage a varied and workload, meeting tight deadlines.
- Excellent communication skills, particularly in writing reports relating to analytical methods and outputs. Proficiency with public speaking and presentation to a range of audiences.
- Ability to solve problems, develop new technical ideas and innovative analyses.
- Microsoft Office skills.
- Excellent written and spoken Spanish, English is a plus.

Questions about this Consultancy:

Tomás A. Altamirano - [tomas.altamirano@audubon.org](mailto:tomas.altamirano@audubon.org)

Timeline

- **August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** Applicants must send their CV and a cover letter indicating why the applicant is suitable to successfully achieve the goals of this consultancy, to the following email: [tomas.altamirano@audubon.org](mailto:tomas.altamirano@audubon.org), using as subject “**Application for Action Plans – Audubon Americas Chile**”. Applications that do not meet the requirements or are submitted incomplete will not be considered).
- **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023:** The results will be announced.
- **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** Starting date.
- **January 31, 2023:** The deadline<sup>2</sup> to receive all the expected products associated with this consultancy.

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<sup>2</sup> This deadline might be extended depending on the coordination with other stakeholders (public services, NGO or research centers)