Using technology to protect biodiversity

Title

The BirdLife partners in France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the UK, are deploying unprecedented actions to protect the marine environment, through the project FAME (Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment, Interreg Programme 2010-2012). Amongst other, they have been tagging seabirds with mini-cameras, which recorded wonderful images.

Seabirds experts from those countries share their knowledge and their survey methodologies, for a better understanding of seabirds distribution at sea, and their interactions with human activities. In France, David Grémillet?s team from the CNRS-CEFE of Montpellier, has deployed several telemetric devices on a colony of Northern Gannets, in Rouzic, the heart of the National Reserve ?Sept-Iles?. This work was performed in close collaboration with the LPO/BirdLife in France Reserve?s staff, and with Amélie Lescroël from the University of Rennes 1.

GLS, GPS, Time Depth Recorders, are real concentrates of technology, and provide increasingly accurate information about birds? location and behavior. Their permitted to reply to many questions nobody could answer before such as where the birds? foraging areas and wintering areas are. As a complementary action, several adults from the Northern Gannets colony were tagged in 2011 with a mini- camera.

Click here to discover the extraordinary images they gathered. Those images will allow improving the knowledge about the fishing behavior of Gannets, for example know if they fish in group or as isolated birds or what their interactions with fishing boats are. This promising first experience is going to be repeated during the 2012 breeding period, final year of the FAME project.

For more information visit the FAME project website. Or contact Amélie Boué, LPO/ Birdlife France - Service Etudes du Patrimoine Naturel Fonderies Royales

---

Stichting BirdLife Europe gratefully acknowledges financial support from the European Commission. All content and opinions expressed on these pages are solely those of Stichting BirdLife Europe.