

Schiebel partnership with NGO Earthrace delivers results in the fight for global environmental and wildlife protection



Schiebel is supporting global environment and wildlife protection activities through a partnership with Earthrace Conservation, a nonprofit organisation, providing its CAMCOPTER® S-100 Unmanned Air System (UAS) for maritime deployment.

Deployed onboard the Earthrace vessel M/Y MODOC, a CAMCOPTER® S-100 system is currently supporting the NGO operations in South America. The main tasks involve finding and monitoring illegal fishing, identifying wildlife smuggling, hunting poachers, locating illegal gold miners, as well as rescuing illegally held animals.

In one of its recent operations of global interest, this July, the ship monitored a Chinese squid fleet in international waters west of the Galapagos Islands. The ships have been accused of various illegal activities in recent years, including:

- fishing illegally in Ecuadorian and Argentinian waters;
- spoofing of Automatic Identification System (AIS) by transmitting fake GPS data; and
- human rights violations. The S-100 has proved to be a key asset to the Earthrace team, conducting regular flights that have allowed close monitoring and assessment of the fleet and its activities outside the Ecuadorian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

“The Chinese squid fleet is one of the largest on the planet, with an estimated 500 vessels. The S-100 significantly broadens the MODOC’s area of operation and allows us to keep a close watch on the fleet. The fact that they are being observed has already led to a reduction in illegal activities.”

Earthrace founder Captain Pete Bethune

The CAMCOPTER® S-100 is equipped with a Trakka TC-300 Electro-Optical / InfraRed (EO/IR) camera gimbal and an AIS receiver.

“I am very pleased to be able to support Earthrace with our proven and unrivalled UAS capability. Detecting illegal activities from the sky, using an Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV), is a hugely important capability for Earthrace’s missions and its endeavour of protecting the environment and wildlife for future generations.”

Hans Georg Schiebel, Chairman of the Schiebel Group