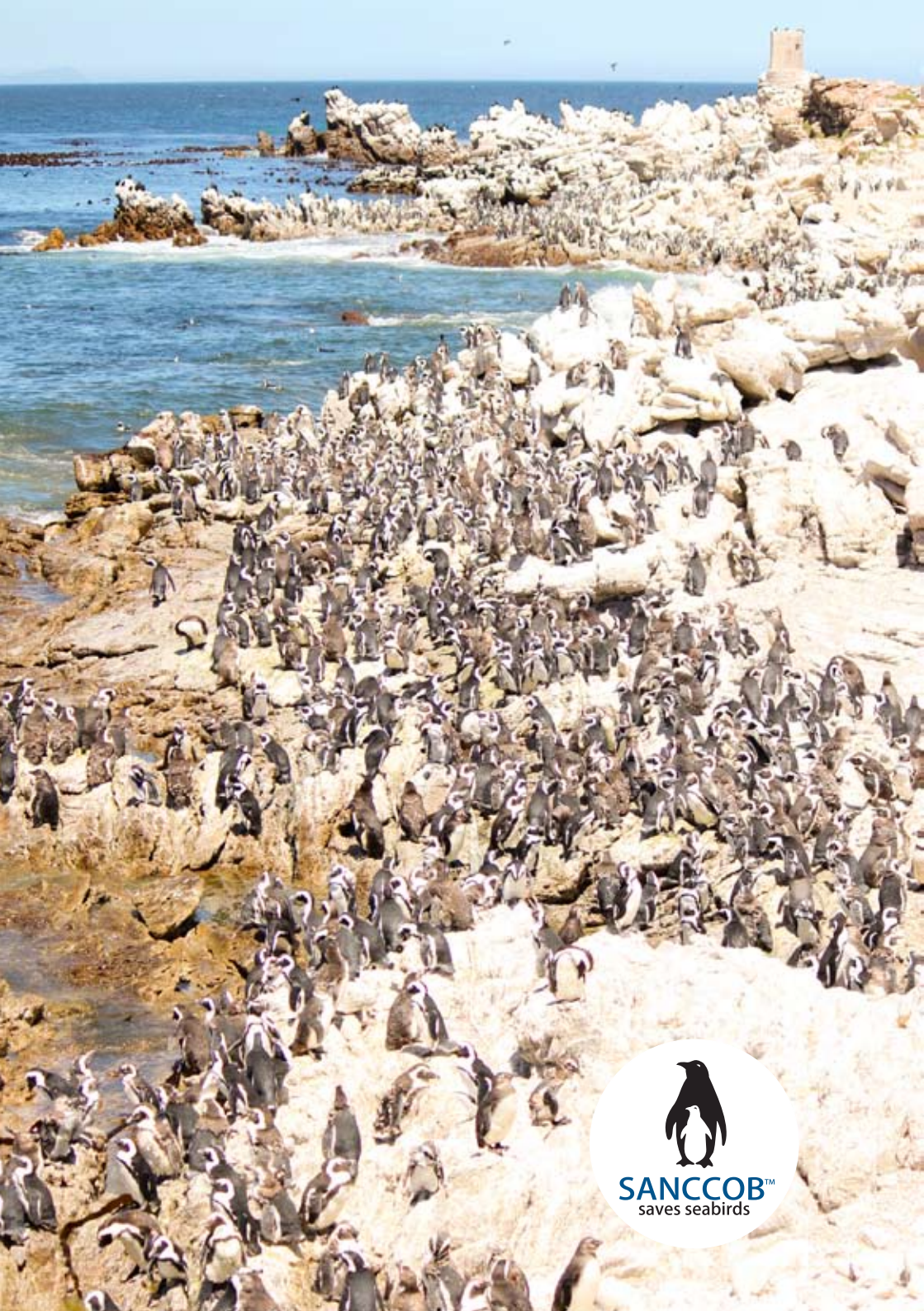




2015 Annual Report





Contents:

- Message from the Chairperson.....1
- Message from the Executive Director.....2
- Rehabilitation.....4
- Research.....8
- Veterinary.....10
- Volunteering and training.....12
- Education.....18
- Awareness and events.....20
- Statement of comprehensive income.....22
- Current Board of Directors and staff.....22
- Funders and supporters.....23



Message from the Chairperson

In this period of reflection on the achievements of the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) over the past year, I would like to commend the whole team on the way they have worked together, how they engaged with over a hundred volunteers, as well as implemented their new work strategy. The strategic changes within the organisation have brought about a positive impact on all levels of communication, delegation of duties, access to volunteers and significantly strengthened our financial stature.

Over the past year, the road travelled together with the SANCCOB Board of Directors and the SANCCOB team has been an absolutely fascinating experience, with moments of pride and visible positive growth within the organisation. SANCCOB's fundamental friendship network with both its volunteers and staff is stronger than ever. It is clear that SANCCOB is an important role-player and leader in seabird research, conservation, education and oiled wildlife preparedness and response.

SANCCOB has clearly become increasingly visible by actively participating in global and local wildlife forums and networks such as the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System, the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan, Operation Phakisa Initiative B1 Working Group and Incident Management System Task Team.

The SANCCOB Board of Directors and I are proud to be involved the strategic governance of this developing and dynamic organisation and look forward to tackling the challenges that future years will bring. To our hardworking SANCCOB team and volunteers, I wish you all the best for the year ahead. Your commitment and dedication make a huge and noticeable difference. Let us continue to work at the forefront of nature conservation.

I would like to extend a SANCCOB hand of friendship to each and every person out there who is interested in joining forces with our unique organisation and phenomenal team. We endeavour to keep everyone up-to-date with relevant news and progress made within our organisation on a regular basis throughout the year ahead.

To this end, I would like to share a quote by Russell Simmons:

"It is important to focus on what we do best and master one craft at a time. A clear and focused mind will last a lifetime. Getting your mind in shape is nothing less than the key to sustainable success in the world."

Ms Mariette Hopley

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mariette Hopley', written in a cursive style.

Message from the Executive Director

It is truly an honour and privilege to work for SANCCOB, an amazing organisation with passionate and dedicated board members, staff, stakeholders and supporters. I hope you will enjoy our annual report, which provides a brief insight into our work and developments in 2015.

SANCCOB has been rehabilitating seabirds since 1968 - as a progressive organisation we continue to develop our rehabilitation techniques and engage with like-minded organisations to ensure that we remain world leaders in seabird rehabilitation, and ready for any seabird emergency.

Oil spills are a continuous threat to seabirds and the environment. The Southern African coastline has historically been affected by major oil spills and SANCCOB has responded to every major oil spill off the South African coast including the *MV Treasure* oil spill (2000), acknowledged as the biggest animal rescue in the world. In 2015, a mystery (of unknown source) oil spill in Algoa Bay resulted in the oiling of 30 African penguins and the abandonment of four penguin chicks. South African National Parks (SANParks) actioned the rescue and transferred the penguins to SANCCOB's centre in the Eastern Cape to be rehabilitated. All the penguins were successfully released into the wild after the rehabilitation process. In addition to our regional oil spill preparedness and response work, we are also one of 11 leading oil spill preparedness and response organisations endeavouring to establish a Global Oiled Wildlife Response System (GOWRS).

We continue to balance our resources with the increased demand for seabird rehabilitation and conservation, education outreach, training and research. The 2015 financial year proved to be positive and stable due to the commitment and support of our donors, as well as solid financial management by the SANCCOB staff. We are grateful and inspired by the support of our donors and supporters.

We would like to thank the South African Department of Environmental Affairs (Oceans and Coasts), CapeNature, SANParks and the City of Cape Town who were all instrumental in the success of our operations. We greatly value our partners (both local and international) and appreciate your continued support of SANCCOB. We look forward to many years of working together for conservation.

A special word of thanks to the SANCCOB Board of Directors, staff, interns and volunteers who ensure that SANCCOB remains committed to fulfilling its strategy.

Dr Stephen van der Spuy (BVSc)





*Of the 979 African penguins
admitted to SANCCOB in
2015, 583 were chicks.*

Rehabilitation

In 2015, SANCCOB admitted more than 2,100 seabirds between our two centres in Cape Town (Western Cape) and Cape St Francis (Eastern Cape). Of the 979 African penguins admitted, 583 were chicks (110 of these were African penguin chicks hatched from eggs and incubated at SANCCOB's specialised Chick Rearing Unit).

African penguins

The most frequently admitted seabird at SANCCOB is the endangered African penguin. 979 penguins were admitted in 2015 and SANCCOB was able to release 83% of these birds back into the wild.

African penguins are admitted to SANCCOB throughout the year, but egg season usually begins in January. From the beginning of the year until July, Penguin Rangers from the Table Mountain National Park section of SANParks conduct regular 'sweeps' at Boulders Beach in Simon's Town to collect eggs that are at risk. These eggs have either been abandoned by their parents or the adult penguins were found nesting in areas outside of the protected colony, putting both the adults and their young at risk. In such cases, the adult penguins are relocated to the safety of the colony and the eggs are brought to SANCCOB to be hatched. Once hatched, the chicks are hand-reared until they are ready to be released.

During October and November, SANCCOB experienced an influx in African penguin numbers, admitting 288 'Christmas chicks', as they are affectionately known. These chicks become abandoned when their parents undergo their annual feather moult and are unable to hunt for fish to feed their young. As a result, any chicks that are still in the nest face starvation as the adult parents moult for three to four weeks. The majority of these chicks were admitted from the Stony Point colony in Betty's Bay.

Hartlaub's gulls and Swift terns

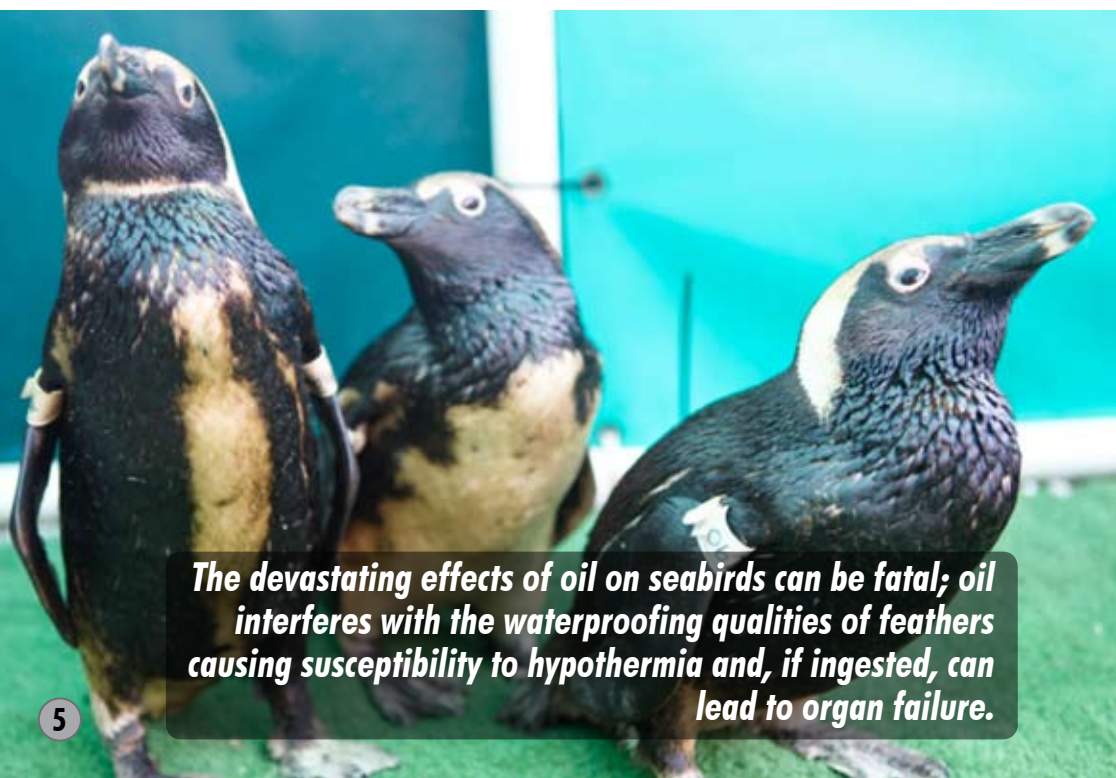
During February and March, SANCCOB experiences a surge in the volume of flying seabirds admitted to the centre. In 2015, just less than 500 Hartlaub's gulls were admitted, the majority of which were chicks that were abandoned or suffered heat stress during the summer breeding months.

During the same period, 179 Swift terns were admitted to the centre, these predominantly being chicks. Although Hartlaub's gulls and Swift terns may be found nesting together, Swift terns differ in that they stay with their parents well into the juvenile stage and are completely dependent on their parents for food. Many of these chicks either jumped or fell off of a rooftop, possibly as a result of heat stress, human disturbance or an airborne predator.

SANCCOB seeks proactive ways to prevent these seabird events from occurring and endeavours to actively work with partners to develop management plans for these protected species.



Seabirds admitted in 2015	IUCN Status	Table View (W Cape)	Cape St Francis (E Cape)
African penguin	Endangered	816	163
Cape gannet	Vulnerable	49	23
Cape cormorant	Endangered	209	12
Crowned cormorant	Near threatened	4	
Reed cormorant	Not assessed		1
Bank cormorant	Endangered	7	
White breasted cormorant	Least concern	7	1
Hartlaub's gull	Least concern	486	
Kelp gull	Least concern	128	8
Swift tern	Least concern	179	
Common tern	Least concern	38	1
Sandwich tern	Least concern	2	
Arctic tern	Least concern	1	
Great White pelican	Least concern	7	
Sub Antarctic skua	Not assessed	1	
White-chinned petrel	Not assessed	2	
Blue petrel	Least concern	1	
Cory's shearwater	Least concern	1	
Sooty shearwater	Near threatened	1	
Northern giant petrel	Least concern	2	1
Southern giant petrel	Least concern	3	
Soft plumage petrel	Least concern		1
Shy albatross	Near threatened	1	
African oystercatcher	Near threatened	2	
African darter	Least concern	2	
CENTRE TOTALS		1,949	211
TOTAL			2,160



The devastating effects of oil on seabirds can be fatal; oil interferes with the waterproofing qualities of feathers causing susceptibility to hypothermia and, if ingested, can lead to organ failure.

Oil spill in Algoa Bay

During May 2015, a mystery oil spill in Algoa Bay (Port Elizabeth) resulted in the oiling of 30 African penguins and the abandonment of four penguin chicks. Rangers from the Marine Section of the Addo Elephant National Park (SANParks) rescued these African penguins from Bird Island and St Croix Island, air-lifted them via helicopter and then transported them by road to SANCCOB's seabird centre in Cape St Francis.

Three weeks after the admission of the first bird, the last oiled bird was washed by the team and Jane Coultas, daughter of SANCCOB founder, Althea Westphal. The penguin was named 'Hartley' in remembrance of Chrystal Hartley, who had recently passed away. Chrystal and her veterinarian husband, David Hartley, originally started the rehabilitation of penguins in the Jeffreys Bay and St Francis area. Ten of the penguins originally rescued by the Hartleys (that could not be released back to the wild) still remain in SANCCOB's care.

By 11 July, all of the adult penguins were released back into the wild after being successfully cleaned and rehabilitated. The abandoned chicks required a longer rehabilitation period in order to reach the appropriate fledgling age and weight. After undergoing 13 weeks of rehabilitation at SANCCOB, these chicks were also successfully released back into the wild by their original rescuers, the Marine Rangers at SANParks. As a result, a 100% release rate was achieved following this unfortunate incident.

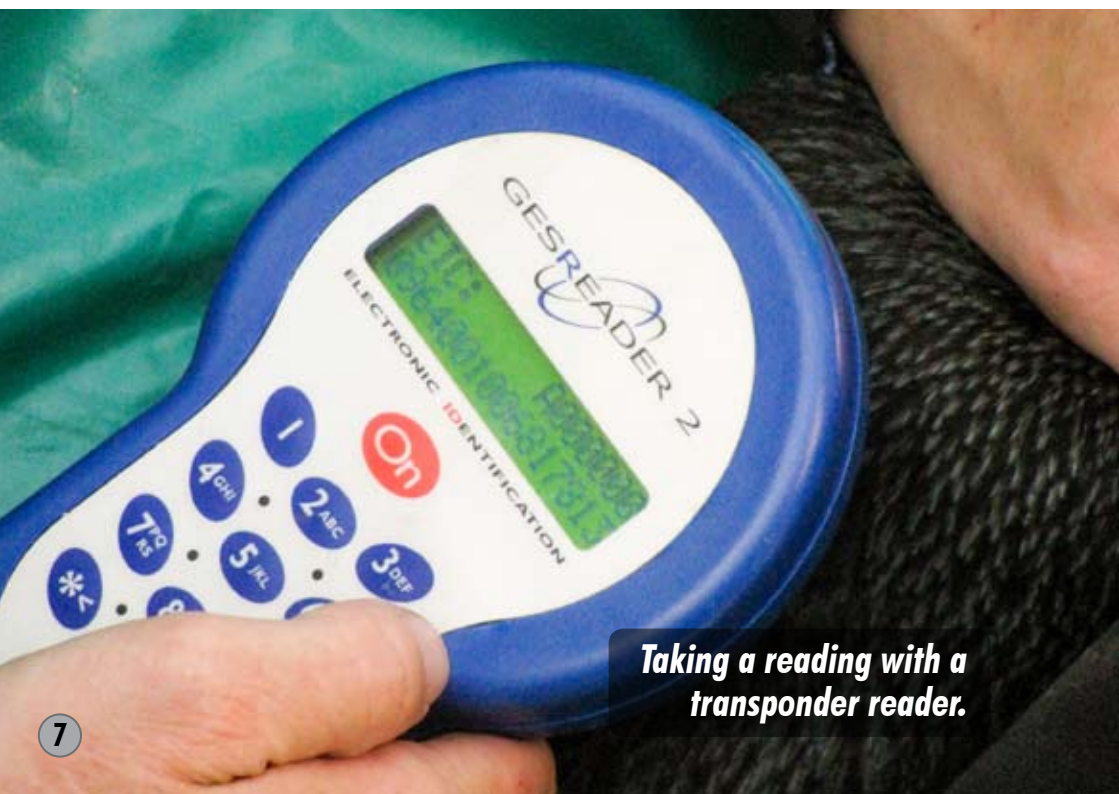
One of the oil-affected penguins, whose body was 30% covered in oil, was wearing an identification band with the number, T1453 on his flipper. Records reveal that T1453 was banded as a juvenile penguin in 1997 by SANParks as part of on-going population research, making the bird 18 years old. The recapture information of this bird provides vital data in terms of survival rates of the African penguin species. African penguins can survive up to 40 years of age in captivity and have been recorded to live over the age of 20 years in the wild.

While all of the penguins affected by the oil spill have been released back into the wild, the source of the oil pollution remains a mystery – a continued concern, considering that Algoa Bay is home to approximately 60% of South Africa's endangered African penguin population.





Nina Voogt (NRF research intern) and Dr Nola Parsons collecting measurements for transponder work.



Taking a reading with a transponder reader.

Research

Transponder work

In 2015, the project's second year, the research team was able to mark more African penguins in colonies with transponders than in previous years. Dr Katrin Ludynia led the colony work in the Western Cape, assisted by veterinarian, Dr Keri-Lee Dobbie, and trained SANCCOB volunteers. Transponders were placed into a total of 249 adults and 182 fledglings at three colonies in South Africa, namely Dassen Island, Robben Island and Stony Point.

Dr Lorien Pichegru from the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University collaborated in the Eastern Cape and placed transponders in a total of 97 adults at Bird and St Croix islands.

SANCCOB (Western Cape) also placed transponders in 332 fledglings that were admitted in 2015, mainly from the Boulders Beach/Simon's Town and Stony Point colonies. This year marked the initiation of the use of a smaller, 12mm Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT). Additionally, more implant guns, transponder readers and a cord antennae system (a floor reader) were obtained, with the floor reader currently being in operation on Robben Island. 'Resightings' of the birds with transponders is proving useful at both Robben Island and Stony Point (work has been done for three years at these colonies), especially in terms of monitoring nest site fidelity and mate fidelity.

Disease surveillance project

A guideline document, titled 'Disease surveillance in southern African seabird colonies' was produced and distributed to the seabird colony managers and other relevant parties, and was also submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs as part of the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan. Passive disease surveillance data was collected from animals admitted for rehabilitation that died within five days of admission, or from carcasses admitted for post-mortem examination. Data was collected from 692 carcasses (from both the Western and Eastern Cape centres) of more than seven different seabird species, post-mortem examinations were performed on 413 carcasses, histopathology analysis was performed on 90 samples, and bacteriology and virology performed on 25 samples.

Publications in 2015

Parsons, NJ, Schaefer, AM, van der Spuy, SD and Gous, TA, 2015. Establishment of baseline haematology and biochemistry parameters in wild adult African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*). *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 86: 8 pages.

Parsons, NJ, Gous, TA, van Wilpe, E, Strauss, V and Vanstreels, RET, 2015. Herpes virus-like respiratory infection in African penguins *Spheniscus demersus* admitted to a rehabilitation centre. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* 116: 149-155.

Campbell, KJ, Farah, D, Collins, S and Parsons, NJ, 2016. Sex determination of African Penguins *Spheniscus demersus* using bill measurements: method comparisons and implications for use. *Ostrich* 87: 47-55.





The highlight of the year for SANCCOB's veterinary department was the installation of a new x-ray machine.



Veterinary

Dr Natasha Ayres joined the SANCCOB team in January as the full-time Clinical Veterinarian.

The highlight of the year for SANCCOB's veterinary department was the installation of a new x-ray machine. The addition of an onsite x-ray machine has multiple benefits:

- Birds can be assessed faster; depending on the condition of the bird it may even receive radiographs on admission.
- It is feasible to radiograph birds repeatedly to monitor the progression of a condition.
- Intra-operative radiographs are possible.
- It is much less stressful for the birds – previously they would be transported to a local veterinary clinic.
- Reduced annual cost to SANCCOB.

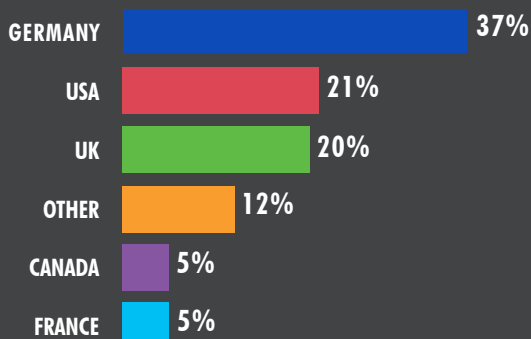
185 patients were radiographed in 2015, generating 615 images. We also received sponsorship of lead gowns, gloves and thyroid protectors to protect staff from exposure to radiation.

Blood evaluation continues to be a staple of veterinary assessment. Considering only the African penguin blood smears, approximately 2,656 blood smears were analysed in 2015.

Seabirds are often admitted with long bone fractures. Of particular interest this year was two different African penguins admitted with humeral (flipper) fractures. The fractures were repaired with stainless steel pins, which were removed after the bones had healed. Flipper function was restored and the penguins were subsequently released.



Home countries of International volunteers



Volunteers (from left to right): Sheri Hendricks (Shedd Aquarium, USA), Cuan McGeorge (CapeNature, South Africa), Kathryn Henny (Plymouth University, England) and Emelie Rose (Germany).

Stony Point colony assistance

In 2015, SANCCOB volunteers had the opportunity to assist with seabird work at a number of locations outside SANCCOB's rehabilitation centres. One of these locations was the Stony Point penguin colony in Betty's Bay.

Volunteers assisted with habitat restoration, providing penguins with much-needed nesting material, conducting penguin monitoring duties and educating visitors about African penguins.

These volunteers returned to SANCCOB's Western Cape centre with new insight into wild seabirds and seabird conservation, as well as having enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the Marine and Penguin Rangers based at the colony.

Volunteering and training

Volunteers

Every year, SANCCOB receives tremendous support from volunteers who fulfil a crucial support role in the daily operations at SANCCOB.

The international volunteer programme attracted 128 individuals, originating from 16 different countries, who supported the rehabilitation staff in the daily running of the seabird rehabilitation centres. Not only do these volunteers learn skills pertaining to rehabilitation of seabirds during their time in the programme, but also become ambassadors for seabird conservation around the world.

Once again, the majority of volunteers originated from Germany, with an average of four German volunteers joining the programme every month. SANCCOB also attracted volunteers from several new countries, namely, Hong Kong, Colombia and Lithuania.

SANCCOB's local volunteer programme continues to attract a steady stream of active volunteers, who make a long-term commitment to SANCCOB's work. Volunteer duties are not limited to the daily operations of the rehabilitation centres. Volunteers contribute in a variety of different ways, including fundraising, administration and field assistance.

Interns

SANCCOB hosted two funded internship programmes: the Groen Sebenza Programme and the National Research Foundation Internship Programme. These are important skills development programmes and SANCCOB is proud to be associated with them.

Through the Groen Sebenza Programme, SANCCOB played host to four interns in the departments of seabird rehabilitation and environmental education. During the 18-month internship, it was a privilege for SANCCOB to assist these interns in gaining valuable employment experience. All four of the participants were able to find employment within the conservation sector following their internship with SANCCOB.

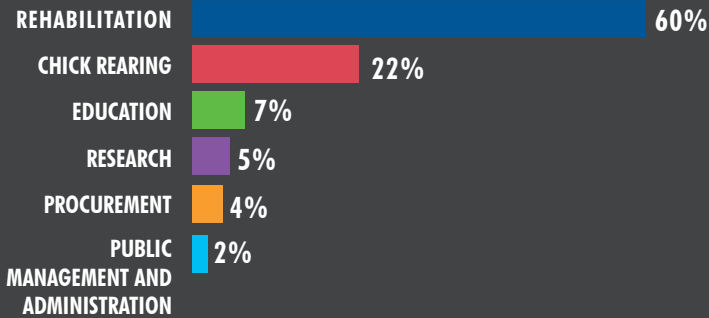
For the fifth consecutive year, the National Research Foundation placed interns at SANCCOB. During the 2014/2015 programme, five interns were hosted at SANCCOB. On completion of their internship, these interns also all obtained full-time employment in the conservation sector.

For the 2015/16 programme, SANCCOB was awarded seven new interns by the National Research Foundation. SANCCOB is looking forward to continuing with these individuals in 2016 and providing them with valuable workplace experience.

SANCCOB also receives interns through an independent internship programme, managed directly by SANCCOB. During 2015, a total of 45 interns received training at SANCCOB. The majority of these interns participated in internships in the Bird Rehabilitation Department.



Types of internships participated in (2015)



Keeper Exchange Programme participants (from left to right): Monika Rohrer (Monterey Bay Aquarium, USA), Marguerite du Preez (SANCCOB) and Joop Kuhn (San Diego Zoo, USA).



Penguin release with international keepers and volunteers (from left to right): Ptoli Hand (Plymouth University - UK), Miren Schleicher (New England Aquarium - USA), Fabian Putz (Germany), Anne Gantke (Germany), Claire Bacon (Wildlife Paradise Park - UK), Alicia Fernandez (Switzerland), Sheri Hendriks (Shedd Aquarium - USA), Tracy Camp (Mystic Aquarium - USA), Maggie Snipe (Fort Wayne Children's Zoo - USA), Marcela Leone (LEO Zoological Conservation Centre - USA), Britni Plummer (Fort Wayne Children's Zoo - USA), Anthony Nelson (Cheyenne Mountain Zoo - USA) and Marguerite du Preez (SANCCOB).

Department	Groen Sebenza interns	NRF interns 2014/15	NRF interns 2015/16	SANCCOB independent internship	Total number of interns
Rehabilitation	3	2	3	19	27
Chick Rearing				10	10
Education	1	1	1		3
Research		1	1		2
Procurement			1	1	2
Public Management and Administration			1		1
TOTAL	4	4	7	30	45

Keeper Exchange Programme

During the 2015 end of the year chick season, SANCCOB hosted 20 international zookeepers and aquaria staff in the Keeper Exchange Programme.

This unique programme brings professional keepers to SANCCOB to assist during this peak period, affectionately known as ‘chick season’, due to the large number of African penguin chicks admitted during this time. Most keepers come to SANCCOB with years of experience from institutions with animals in captivity, but little can prepare them for the task of working with hundreds of abandoned African penguin chicks.

The highlight for all keepers is the opportunity to assist during the release of rehabilitated seabirds back into the wild. They return to their institution with first-hand experience of the rehabilitation and release of seabirds and are better able to inspire visitors to participate in seabird conservation.

Miren Schleicher, a keeper from New England Aquarium (USA) said, “I would highly recommend a trip to SANCCOB to anyone and everyone working in this field. It was hands down the best experience I’ve ever had. I got everything I hoped for out of it and more. It was incredible to get to see a whole other side of these birds that we dedicate so much to taking care of. I really felt like I was making a worthwhile contribution to the conservation of African penguins and all the other species I experienced. There’s just no substitute for that feeling!”

Monika Rohrer from Monterey Bay Aquarium valued the practical training she received. She said, “I learned more about tubing penguins in one day than in 12 years of working with them in an AZA institution. That experience alone was worth the whole trip.”

The following institutions were represented in the keeper exchange programme during 2015: Monterey Bay Aquarium (USA), New England Aquarium (USA), Denver Zoo (USA), San Diego Zoo (USA), Lincoln Park Zoo (USA), Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo (USA), Pueblo Zoo (USA), Mystic Aquarium (USA), LEO Zoological Conservation Centre (USA), Shedd Aquarium (USA), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (USA), Marine Life (Canada) and Wildlife Paradise Park (UK).





Members of the Bird Life Albatross Task Force attending training at SANCCOB.



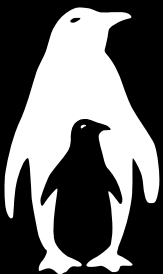
Training

In 2015, SANCCOB provided valuable training to various colleagues from a variety of organisations.

Training was conducted with members of BirdLife South Africa's Albatross Task force, which were invited to SANCCOB for basic seabird training. The Birdlife team spends several days on board fishing vessels as observers, to monitor seabird populations and to find solutions to mitigate seabird bycatch in the fishing sector. Knowing the correct basic seabird handling techniques, fluid therapy, wound management and other rehabilitation techniques is vital for these observers, should they encounter an injured or oiled seabird.

Two Oceans Aquarium penguin exhibit staff came to SANCCOB to gain hands on training with African penguin chicks and eggs. The staff gained insight in to how the chicks are cared for in the Chick Rearing Unit at SANCCOB, the equipment that is used, the hygiene protocols, the feeding regime, recognising health from behaviour and handling and tubing of African penguin chicks. Emphasis was placed on candling eggs as an effective tool to either determine the fertility of the egg or the hatching date of the egg.

SANCCOB provides annual training to staff based at various seabird colonies. These training sessions are essential in standardising rescue, stabilisation and transportation protocols for seabird colony staff. In 2015, staff from Robben Island, Dassen Island, Stony Point and Boulders Beach attended a two day seabird training workshop at SANCCOB with a focus on handling and hydrating African penguins and other seabirds, stabilising different ages of African penguin chicks, temperature requirements, egg handling and transportation.



Learners with Special Education Needs Outreach

SANCCOB's Education Department continued working on a five-stage education project with five special needs education schools in Cape Town. Two hundred learners took part in the programme, with excellent results.

A representative from Tembaletu School for the Physically Disabled wrote: "Thank you, greatly, for involving our school in the SANCCOB programme. Learners from grade 3, 5 and 6; approximately 40 learners, with a variety of disabilities were all interested and excited about the programme. It was, indeed, a wonderful opportunity for the learners to learn more about our marine life and how to take care of it. From their feedback, they had lots of fun."

Two learners from the programme were selected for the special experience of releasing a penguin on African Penguin Awareness Day – an experience they will never forget.



Learners from grade 3, 5 and 6; approximately 40 learners, with a variety of disabilities were all interested and excited about the programme.

Education

SANCCOB implements an extensive range of educational programmes that reach almost 10,000 learners and other members of the public each year by offering educational programmes, annual events and behind-the-scenes tours of their centres.

SANCCOB strives to inspire learners to love seabirds and to adopt environmentally-aware habits, which will develop as they mature into adulthood.

Skype in the Classroom Expansion

Skype in the Classroom is a free online classroom experience, where learners from all over the world can participate in virtual field trips with content providers through Skype. SANCCOB has been a content provider for Skype in the Classroom since 2013 and saw a significant expansion of this project in 2015. Princess and Stubby (two of the four education ambassador penguins) present different lessons.

Princess's lesson is focused on plastic pollution, while Stubby shares her story on how she came to live at SANCCOB because of her shortened flippers, helping learners understand that even if they are a little different, they are still special. Stubby's lesson has since been adapted into a story book, which is now sent to all participating educators. SANCCOB has presented these two lessons to thousands of learners across 26 countries, travelling over one million virtual kilometres and SANCCOB has since been named a master contributor by the Skype in the Classroom team.

Learner Outreach and EduXperience

Two separate projects that took place in 2015, namely the Learner Outreach and EduXperience projects, allowed SANCCOB the opportunity to reach out to 700 previously disadvantaged learners.

The Learner Outreach project involved four phases where learners were visited twice by the SANCCOB education team, received the opportunity to visit SANCCOB and finally conducted a beach clean-up. Throughout the first three phases, content focused heavily on the impacts of littering and plastic pollution on our oceans. Children were asked to create their own clean oceans and then to fill it with trash found on their very own school premises. Many learners felt saddened that something they had made so beautiful could be impacted by the actions of others. After coming to SANCCOB and learning about real cases of plastic pollution the centre has encountered with injured seabirds, learners were motivated to conduct a very successful beach clean-up. Teachers involved in the project noted that their learners kept the classroom and school field cleaner after SANCCOB's visits, taking pride in picking up litter.



Penguin Holiday Festival in St Francis

The second Penguin Holiday Festival took place in the greater St Francis area from 20 to 29 December 2015, to raise awareness about the endangered African penguin and SANCCOB's African penguin conservation work. Attended by approximately 15,000 visitors, the various festival events catered for the large influx of seasonal visitors to the charming coastal town over the December holidays. The much-anticipated festival kicked off with a well-attended public penguin release at the Seal Point Lighthouse, where a few lucky holiday-makers got the chance to adopt and release a rehabilitated penguin back into the wild.

Other festival activities included a beach tennis tournament, a penguin art exhibition at the lighthouse, a memorable open air-cinema and the ever-popular annual Penguin Golf Day at the St Francis Golf Club. Two benefit concerts by Koos Kombuis, and Wendy Oldfield added much allure to the festival.



SANCCOB's annual fundraising events are crucial in supporting its annual operational needs.

Awareness and events

Penguin Festival for African Penguin Awareness Day

On 17 October 2015, SANCCOB and its conservation partners across the globe celebrated African Penguin Awareness Day, dedicated to raising worldwide awareness about the plight of the endangered African penguin. As is customary every year, SANCCOB held public penguin releases in the Western and Eastern Cape to commemorate the special day dedicated to African penguins.

In the Western Cape, SANCCOB and conservation partners, SANParks (Table Mountain National Park) released 14 rehabilitated African penguins at the picturesque Seaforth Beach (Simon's Town, Cape Town) to the delight of hundreds of onlookers. After the release, festivalgoers headed through the scenic Boulders Beach boardwalk to the Penguin Festival area that provided educational entertainment for young and old throughout the day.

In the Eastern Cape, seven rehabilitated African penguins were released into the wild next to SANCCOB's centre in Cape St Francis. With the iconic Seal Point Lighthouse as the backdrop, more than 200 supporters watched as the penguins waddled their way back into the ocean.

Benefit Auctions

SANCCOB hosted two prestigious benefit auctions in aid of its seabird rehabilitation and conservation work.

In the Eastern Cape, the second annual SANCCOB Food-and-Wine Pairing and Benefit Auction was held on 17 October 2015 at the St Francis Links Golf Estate. Witty local auctioneer, Jo Brown's special brand of humour had the 110 guests laughing all the way towards raising much-needed funds for SANCCOB's seabird conservation work in the Eastern Cape.

On 26 October 2015, SANCCOB hosted its 13th annual Benefit Auction and Gala event in the Western Cape at the Commodore Hotel (V&A Waterfront). Local comedian, Nik Rabinowitz, provided entertainment and laughter throughout the evening as the master of ceremonies, and encouraged bidders to raise as much as possible for SANCCOB. All proceeds raised from the auction directly benefitted SANCCOB and its joint African penguin partner projects with SANParks (Table Mountain National Park) and the City of Cape Town.

As a non-profit organisation, both these annual fundraising events are crucial in supporting SANCCOB's annual operational needs. As such, the SANCCOB team extends its deepest gratitude to all the participating sponsors and partners for making both the events such a huge success.



Swiss pair adopts African penguins to celebrate their 60th birthdays

Irene and Max Schweizer from Liestal (Switzerland) celebrated their 60th birthdays in a unique fashion by adopting 79 African penguins from SANCCOB, one for each of the 79 guests attending their birthday event. Taking place over two days at the Appenberg Hotel in Zäziwil, the Swiss pair requested that their guests bring donations instead of gifts in order to adopt endangered African penguins from SANCCOB. Irene and Max said, "We got the idea from our daughter, Nadia, who adopted a penguin from SANCCOB for us in 2013 as a Christmas gift.

We simply loved the idea and thought we will do our bit to help conserve the African penguin for our birthdays."

As an organisation reliant on public support, SANCCOB is extremely grateful to Irene and Max for their very generous donation to help rehabilitate and release 79 African penguins back into the wild.



Pub-to-Pub fundraiser

On 3 October 2016, a pub-to-pub charity walk was held in in Kempton Park (Gauteng) in aid of SANCCOB Eastern Cape. The event was initiated by Tim Ronaldson, a Tjokka Trail hiker, who was impressed by SANCCOB's work during a guided tour of the facility earlier in 2015. The start and finish were accompanied by Scottish bag pipes and a human-sized penguin.

Statement of comprehensive income

SANCCOB NPC

(Registration Number 2001/026273/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

Figures in R	2015	2014
Revenue	10,714,032	10,146,871
Cost of sales	(414,410)	(559,853)
Gross surplus	10,299,622	9,587,018
Other income	780,975	456,088
Operating costs	(10,457,961)	(9,456,856)
Operating surplus/(deficit)	622,636	586,250
Finance income	1,172,316	950,793
Finance costs	(5,372)	(191)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,789,580	1,536,852

Current Board Members:

Mariette Hopley (Chairperson)
Dr Stephen van der Spuy (Executive Director)
Dr Samantha Petersen (Vice-chairperson)
Inge Cilliers (Treasurer)
Sheryl Ozinsky
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Current Staff:

Dr Stephen van der Spuy (Executive Director)
Nicky Stander (Rehabilitation Manager – Western Cape)
Romy Klusener (Chick Rearing Unit Supervisor)
Marna Smit (Bird Rehabilitator)
Rhannon Gill (Bird Rehabilitator) | Ntsae Sekati (Bird Rehabilitator)
Dylan Kackell (Seabird Hand-rearer)
Sibongile George (Bird Rehabilitation Assistant)
Juanita Raath (Rehabilitation Coordinator – Eastern Cape)
Eljoren Goeda (Bird Rehabilitator) | Chanel Hauvette (Bird Rehabilitator)
Xolisa Sinkwane (Rehabilitation Assistant)
Dr Natasha Ayres (Clinical Veterinarian)
Dr Nola Parsons (Researcher)
Marguerite du Preez (Volunteer Coordinator)
Francois Louw (Fundraising and Marketing Manager)
Roxanne Abrahams (Marketing and Fundraising Officer)
Nada Manengela (Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator – Eastern Cape)
Louise Myburgh (Fundraising Assistant)
Tamlyn Hardy (Education Manager)
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