



Annual Report 2017



SANCCOB

Celebrates 50 years

in 2018



Picture: HANNE THART, Booked 7.7.1979
Penguins already panting the blood are serious about the new arrivals.



MEV. JANE COULTAS (regs) en man. Christian Bels was twee met die boeserle Kaapse Irlipkewyne in 'n aanpaaiering by Suidkoe se samewerke saasvle in Malmesbury.

Olie eis tol op Kaapse pikkewyne

Daar is 'n Oopingsgeleentheid op 15 Mei.

Die 15 Mei is die dag wat die Kaapse pikkewyne se lewensreis begin. Dit is die dag wat die pikkewyne se lewensreis begin. Dit is die dag wat die pikkewyne se lewensreis begin.

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SANCCOB signage unveiled
in Port Elizabeth



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Message from the Chairperson

Mariette Hopley

I would like to wish SANCCOB a blessed 50th jubilee celebration! What a phenomenal milestone, and an honour and reflection on my dear friend and founder of this organisation, Althea Westphal. I salute her initiative, courage and dedication in the marine bird conservation field and every single person who worked and volunteered at SANCCOB over the years. Another SANCCOB milestone reached this year is the upgrading of our current marine bird rehabilitation centre in Table View, which is near completion. We are very excited about this state-of-the-art facility, which will be officially opened in November 2018. I truly believe that Althea Westphal and so many who joined her previously and those who are joining us now in the cause to save marine birds will be extremely proud.



For a moment I would like to focus on the importance of our oceans, the marine ecosystem and all species living in it and the impact of humankind on it. Over hundreds of years, human existence has relied on the ocean. As the largest ecosystem on earth; it produces 70% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs carbon dioxide, and provides us with much-needed protein-based food resources. With more than half of the world's population living within 100 kilometers of the coast and a growing global human population, we have had a tremendous impact on the quality of the oceanic and coastal environment. Currently, overfishing and pollution are major factors threatening the survival of a healthy ocean ecosystem and marine species, and more specifically endangered species such as the African penguin.

My question to you today is: What are you and I doing about it? Are you a mainstream follower or are you indeed taking this challenge to save our oceans, the species, ourselves, and the planet, to the next level by managing what you consume and by taking serious responsibility? In your very own home and office, are you practicing the values of a circular economy through reducing, re-using, recycling and composting what you use? Are you taking a stand with like-minded people to create a waste-less future and clean ocean in order to co-exist? If not, the time is here, the time is now – we need to take responsibility, participate and act!

It is evident that SANCCOB is a most important role-player and leader in seabird research, conservation, marine education, as well as in oiled wildlife preparedness and response globally. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the whole SANCCOB team; it is heart-warming and bears evidence of your passion and dedication. To the SANCCOB board of directors, you are all unique and truly an inspiration to work with. Thank you for effortlessly giving your time and input to strategically govern this beautiful organisation this past year. I would like to thank our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to our organisation. Lastly, I would like to extend a SANCCOB hand of friendship to each person who supports our cause and partners with our organisation. Let the challenges of today bring change for a phenomenal future!

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dr Stephen van der Spuy

2017 was a year of substantial growth and development for SANCCOB, which included the transfer of the South African Marine Rehabilitation and Education Centre (SAMREC) in Port Elizabeth (PE) to SANCCOB, and the ongoing construction of our new Seabird Hospital and associated facilities. The Team is working hard to continue the normal daily work while also attending to the requirements of the new projects.



On the 4th of April a special event was held to honour those who had worked tirelessly over the years to make the SAMREC facility a reality, and encourage them and others to continue supporting SANCCOB in Port Elizabeth. We were honoured to have the Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor, Councilor Athol Trollip, attend the event and also deliver an inspiring speech. I would like to thank the Trustees of SAMREC for transferring an amazing facility to SANCCOB – we will make you proud.

The construction of the new SANCCOB Seabird Hospital in Cape Town is progressing well and we are excited to share that it will be the largest dedicated seabird rehabilitation facility on the African continent. The financial and in-kind support we have received to make the new hospital a reality has been remarkable. It is heart-warming to know that SANCCOB is well supported and loved by people from all over the world. We anticipate opening the facility in November 2018.

Due to the meticulous work done by our finance team, the 2017 financials audited by BDO Cape Incorporated were clean and positive.

I would like to thank our donors, without whom, we cannot implement our critical seabird conservation work. Your continued support and the partnerships we develop, are integral to the survival of our seabirds.

We are fortunate to have the continued support from our government partners, including the Department of Environmental Affairs: Oceans and Coasts, CapeNature, South African National Parks (SANParks), City of Cape Town, Robben Island Museum, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality and Kouga Local Municipality.

We thank our dedicated Board of Directors for their passionate support and value their guidance to ensure SANCCOB remains strategically focused and financially secure.

Thank you to the SANCCOB staff whose work is exemplary and driven by passion for what they do. What a fantastic team! Without the volunteers contributing thousands of volunteer hours, we would not be able to do the critical work we do. We salute your commitment.

Looking forward, 2018 is SANCCOB's 50th anniversary year, and it is indeed a milestone in our history. We are privileged each day to carry out the legacy of SANCCOB's founder, Ms Althea Westphal, whose compassion and vision inspires us into the future. We applaud everyone who has given so much to save seabirds and all who presently join us in our fight against seabird extinction. Thank You!



REHABILITATION



Every time an additional seabird species is re-classified as Endangered, it is a stark reminder of the significance of SANCCOB's work and the critical role we play in marine conservation. Rehabilitating seabirds is a forever challenging quest as each individual bird admitted to our centres signifies its importance in the preservation of saving its species from extinction.

In 2017, the Cape gannet was uplisted from Vulnerable to Endangered on the IUCN Red Data List. Equally, along with other endangered seabirds, this is due to a steep population decline driven primarily by depleted fish stocks. Their population has dropped by more than half between 1956 and 2015, with the largest decreases occurring in Namibia. Today, there are only 124,754 breeding pairs left in South Africa (unpublished census data, DEA). The main cause for decline is a lack of food. In Namibia, overfishing of the gannets' preferred prey, sardine and anchovy, caused the almost complete collapse of fish stocks in the 1960s, and they have yet to recover.

92 Cape gannets were admitted to our three centres throughout 2017. Unfortunately, the majority of gannets admitted either suffered severe blunt-force trauma and/or were so emaciated that we could not pull them through. Most of the gannets admitted were juveniles; so it is a fair assumption that their lack of hunting experience *and* the low food availability is having a significant impact on the survival of this species.

What was once known as ‘the greatest shoal on Earth’ – the annual phenomenon that usually sees thousands of ocean predators embark on a feeding frenzy on masses of sardines as they migrate up the Kwazulu-Natal coastline each year, is not what it used to be. The low food availability is being addressed by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), who have significantly reduced fishing quotas, to allow sardine stocks to recover. In addition, SANCCOB’s research is regularly supplied to government, which is utilised to guide management decisions.

A total of 2,386 seabirds were admitted to SANCCOB during 2017. 1,031 African penguins were admitted; including abandoned chicks (630), oiled penguins (4) and generally debilitated penguins (394). Overall, SANCCOB achieved a 78% release rate. 1,355 other seabirds of various species were admitted.

Chick Bolstering Project

630 African penguin chicks were admitted to the three SANCCOB centres. As in previous years, the majority of penguin chicks were admitted during November and December due to abandonment by their moulting parents. Conservation authorities monitor the colonies closely during this time of year to ascertain which chicks will fledge successfully and which chicks require conservation intervention. SANCCOB also artificially incubated and hatched 130 African penguin eggs, which were cleared from unsafe nesting sites. Since the inception of the Chick Bolstering Project, SANCCOB has hand-reared and released more than 5,600 chicks back to the wild!

Historically, there have been busier years where we have admitted more chicks than in 2017, however, every year is different depending on the breeding success of the penguins, food availability and environmental challenges. 2017 was still not a quiet year for SANCCOB, Cape Town. A severe winter storm in June and the overall lack of food led to larger than usual numbers of chicks admitted during the middle of the year. We found ourselves admitting chicks for hand-rearing all year around.

The release rate for African penguin fledglings in 2017 was 84%.

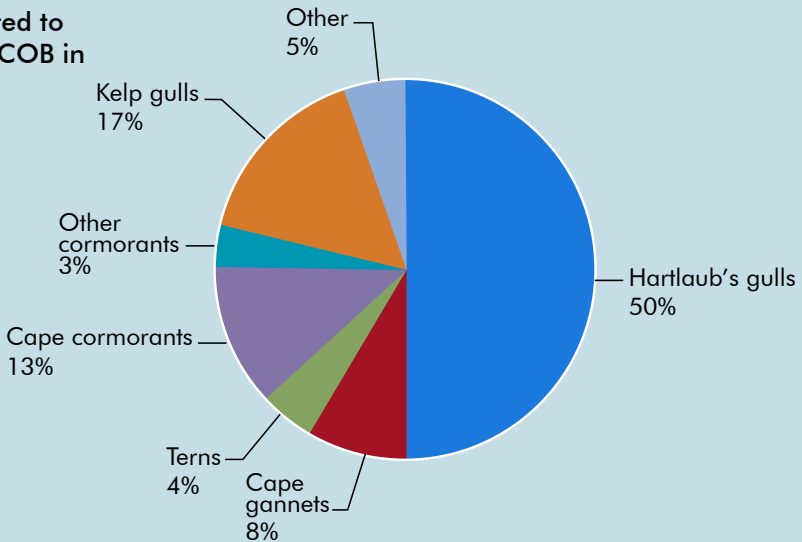


"The release rate
for African penguin
fledglings in 2017
was 84%."



Different species admitted:

Flying seabirds
admitted to
SANCCOB in
2017



Of the 1,355 other seabirds admitted, 646 were released; the low release rate is largely due to species such as Cape cormorants who were often admitted weak and malnourished with minimal chance of survival. There is a distinct difference between penguins and flying seabirds, in that penguins are generally monitored closely and are easier to rescue whereas flying seabirds are difficult to monitor due to their movement patterns and are often only rescued when their condition has deteriorated to the point that they are no longer able to fly.

Success for SANCCOB's chick rearing

For the second time, an African black oystercatcher was successfully hand-reared and released. Rescued from Stony Point penguin colony weighing 79g, this chick was hand-reared utilising husbandry protocols developed in 2016 and was released at Baboon Point, Elands Bay.

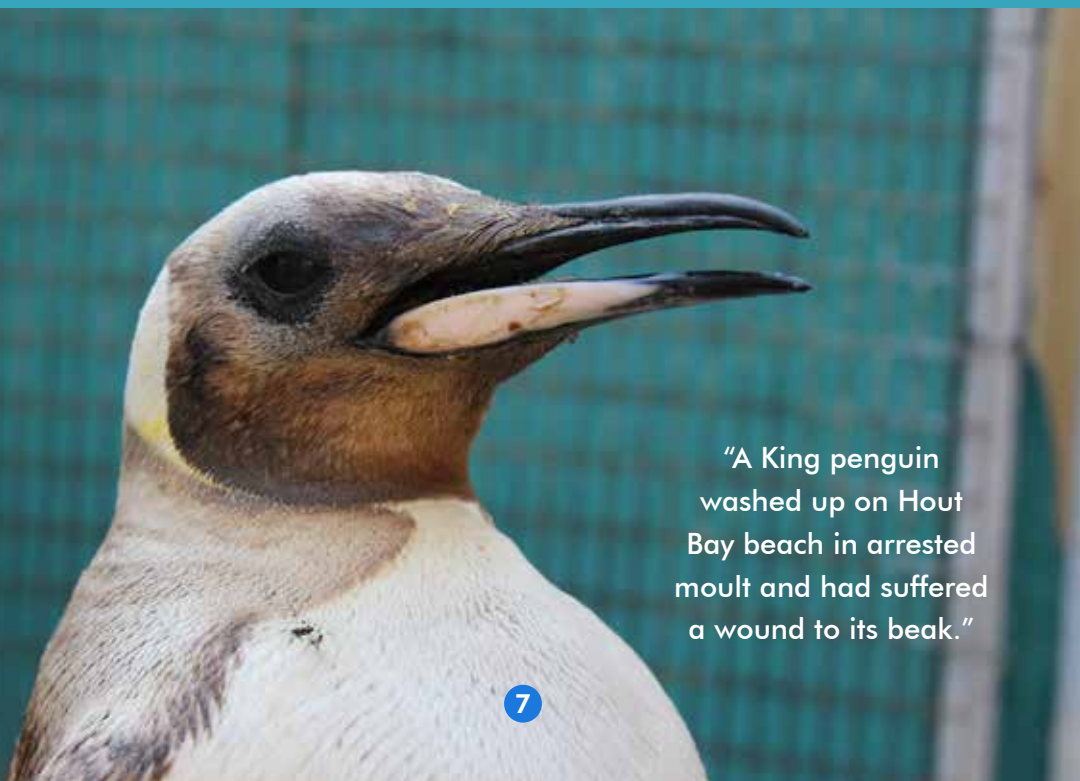
The population of this species is stable due to improved management plans designed to protect these birds. Threats include human disturbance, habitat degradation, urban development, pollution and spring high tide.

A case report was published by SANCCOB and provides a basis for the development of hand-rearing techniques that might be useful for the protection of this and other threatened wader species.

Antarctic seabird species

It's always a privilege to see different or unusual seabirds, particularly Antarctic species.

A King penguin washed up on Hout Bay beach in arrested moult and had suffered a wound to its beak which suggested that it may have been caught by a long-line fishing vessel. Unfortunately, the bird suffered from a systemic infection and died. This rarely-seen bird is the 11th King penguin recorded in South Africa since 1977 and is likely to have originated from Prince Edward Islands or Crozet Islands, more than 2,000km from Cape Town.

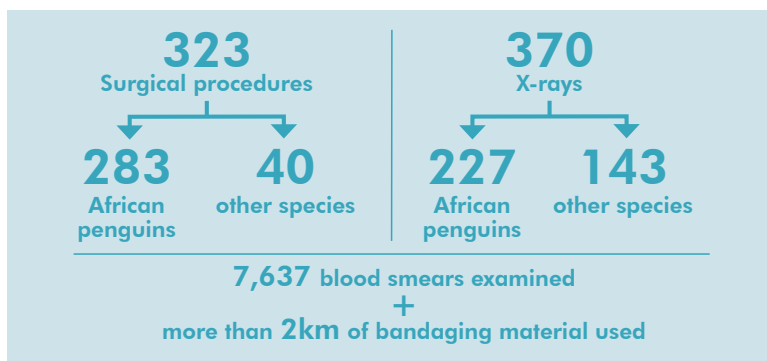


"A King penguin washed up on Hout Bay beach in arrested moult and had suffered a wound to its beak."



VETERINARY

Statistics



Veterinary Staff

SANCCOB's veterinary work was done by a team of enthusiastic vets. Dr Henk Lubbinge was assigned to SANCCOB as a compulsory community service vet for three days a week; Dr Willemien van Wyk worked at SANCCOB twice a week; and Dr David Roberts joined SANCCOB as the Clinical Veterinarian in June. Our CEO, Dr Stephen van der Spuy, always availed himself to assist wherever an experienced hand was needed, especially with our orthopaedic cases, and in November, Sister Samantha Ross joined the SANCCOB Port Elizabeth team as a vet nurse and seabird rehabilitator.

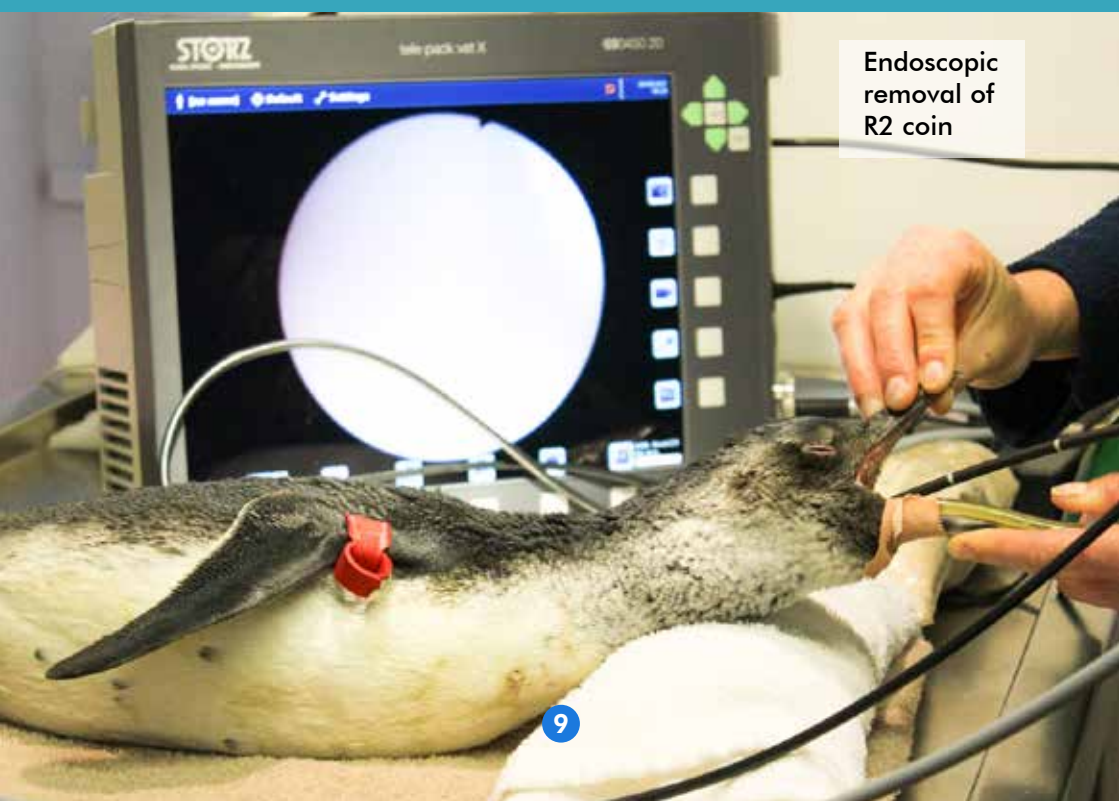
Vet Experience

Each year, SANCCOB is able to give interns, aspiring veterinarians and vet nurses an opportunity to see exactly what the SANCCOB veterinary team does, through our one and two week veterinary experience programmes.

Interesting Cases

Coin found in stomach

X-rays were taken of African penguin patient because of regurgitation and they showed a disk-shaped metallic opacity in the stomach. With the help of an endoscope from Karl Storz Endoscopy SA we removed the offending object, which turned out to be a R2 coin. After follow-up treatment he was released and the coin was auctioned which raised R4,000.00 for SANCCOB.



Propeller Injuries

A penguin presented on a Sunday in August with multiple, fresh, parallel wounds to the side and leg. These were most likely from the propeller of a boat. He was bleeding profusely and needed emergency surgery to prevent further bleeding, repair damaged muscles and tendons and to close the worst skin wounds. After the initial surgery, he required an extended recovery in ICU with several follow-up procedures but was finally released at Stony Point in November.

Neck Injury

A penguin was admitted with the most severe of several cases of neck laceration that presented to SANCCOB in 2017. He was admitted from Stony Point with a severe injury to the back of the head. After a two-hour long emergency surgery he recovered remarkably quickly and was released at the Penguin Palooza in partnership with CapeNature at Stony Point.

Orthopaedic Procedures

Several orthopaedic surgeries were performed this year to treat birds with fractured bones. They were treated by placing intramedullary pins and external skeletal fixators.

Gravel-filled stomach

The abandoned chicks which are admitted to SANCCOB during chick season may not have been fed by their parents for some time. One chick was admitted with a stomach filled with pieces of gravel which he probably ate out of desperation. This gravel could not be removed when he was small and weak and so he was fed small amounts until he grew large enough for the stones to be removed. Although it took a long time for him to put on weight he was finally large enough to undergo a stomach flush procedure. On the first attempt only three pieces of gravel were removed. At the second attempt, a week later, twelve more pieces of gravel were removed.



RESEARCH



Colony Assistance

SANCCOB continues to provide funding and logistic support to the conservation agencies for four Penguin Monitors at the Boulders Beach penguin colony and a Penguin Ranger at the Stony Point colony.

The Penguin Monitor programmes have been further developed and special mention is necessary for Simon's Town (also known as the Burgher's Walk project), where a three year agreement between the City of Cape Town and SANCCOB was signed and an Area Manager was employed to supervise the monitoring activities, and assist the Penguin Monitors with getting sick, injured and abandoned penguins to the SANCCOB facility. A SANCCOB intern funded by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) also formed part of the team in Simon's Town in 2017.

Aside of the incredible work that our Penguin Monitors and Rangers do in these colonies, SANCCOB staff from Table View also assisted the colonies during larger residential clearances, removing eggs and chicks from unsafe areas and inserting transponders into adults being moved back into the colony. Our international volunteers assisted CapeNature over the busy festive season at Stony Point and SANCCOB has established a close collaboration with CapeNature, extending further than just the Stony Point colony.

Transponder Work

Since 2013, African penguins are being transpondered with subcutaneous microchips (Passive Integrated Transponders – PITs) at most colonies in the wild, as well as at SANCCOB. In 2017, SANCCOB Table View successfully released 723 African penguins equipped with PITs and 291 PIT-equipped penguins were released from our two centres in the Eastern Cape. Since 2013, SANCCOB released over 3,000 African penguins with PITs back into the wild, compared to 2,700 African penguins that have been equipped with PITs in the same time frame in the wild colonies. Thus, SANCCOB contributes significantly to the long term marking of African penguins, which facilitates long-term survival analysis for the species, as well as improved post-release monitoring for rehabilitated penguins. For example, we are seeing the first hand-reared chicks from 2013 and 2014 back at the colonies, now having reached the age of first breeding (3-4 years) and establishing nest sites.

SANCCOB works closely with the colonies making sure penguins are being “resighted” using hand-held and ground PIT readers, which together with the PITs are kindly funded by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) programme. 2017 was the second year that SANCCOB hosted a delegate from the AZA SAFE programme, who assisted with work at the Table View centre and with colony based monitoring and PIT work.

Disease Surveillance Project

Disease surveillance continued in 2017 with 948 post mortems (PMs) conducted by our research and veterinary teams in Cape Town. Of those, 737 were on birds that died at the Table View centre (either shortly after admission or after a longer rehabilitation process) and 211 came as carcasses from the colonies and other sites for disease surveillance. Most frequent species on which post mortems were conducted were African penguins (295 PMs), Hartlaub’s gulls (242 PMs), Cape cormorants (142 PMs) and kelp gulls (114 PMs). The reasons for death most commonly seen were injuries and emaciation, which often are linked to each other as weak birds are more likely to get injured. The low fish availability in 2017 may have played an important role here. However, we also saw birds that died of plastic pollution, fishing line or other human impacts.

Several scientific publications resulted from the disease surveillance conducted at SANCCOB over the last few years and further research is underway.

Southern Ocean Species Workshop

Over the past 25 years (1993 to 2017), SANCCOB has admitted a total of 297 southern ocean seabirds from 34 species at an average of 11.9 birds per year, with the highest number of 32 individuals being admitted in 2002 and lowest being one bird in 1993 and 1999. The most common species admitted to SANCCOB is the Southern giant petrel *Macronectes giganteus* (16.4%) and Northern giant petrel *Macronectes halli* (11.4%), both being common visitors to our coastline, as well as the White-chinned petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (11.4%), which is considered a rare visitor. The majority of birds were admitted as debilitated (61%) or with trauma or external injuries (21%). In 2017, SANCCOB facilitated a multi-stakeholder workshop for the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to develop guidelines for rehabilitation centres and managing authorities on how to deal with these species in terms of admission, rehabilitation and release. It is important to keep conservation concerns, potential risks of disease transmission to wild colonies and the birds' individual welfare into account when dealing with these vagrants.



Publications:

- Parsons NJ, Gous TA, Cranfield MR, Cheng LI, Schultz A, Horne E, Last RP, Lampen F, Ludynia K*, Bousfield B, Strauss V, Peirce MA, Vanstreels RET (2018) Novel vagrant records and occurrence of vector-borne pathogens in King penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*) in South Africa. *Polar Biology* 41: 79-86
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- Parsons NJ, Vanstreels RET, Schaefer AM (2018) Prognostic indicators of rehabilitation outcomes for adult African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*). *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 54
- Botes A, Parsons NJ, Bellstedt D (2017) Conservation implications of avian malaria exposure for African penguins during rehabilitation. *South African Journal of Science*: 113
- Morten JM, Parsons NJ, Schwitzer C, Holderied MW, Sherley RB (2017) Body condition as a quantitative tool to guide hand-rearing decisions in an endangered seabird. *Animal Conservation* doi:10.1111/acv.12338
- Yabsley, MJ, Vanstreels, RET, Shock, BC, Purdee, M, Horne, EC, Peirce, MA, Parsons, NJ (2017) Molecular characterization of *Babesia peircei* and *Babesia ugwidiensis* provides insight into the evolution and host specificity of avian piroplasmids. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*: 6257-264
- Crawford R, Ellenberg U, Frere E, Hagen C, Baird K, Brewin, Crofts S, Glass J, Mattern T, Pompert J, Ross K, Kemper J, Ludynia K*, Sherley RB, Steinfurth A, Suazo C, Yorio P, Tamini L, Mangel J, Bugoni L, Jimenez-Uzcategui G, Simeone A, Luna-Jorquera G, Gandini P, Woehler E, Pütz K, Dann P, Chiaradia A, Small C (2017) Tangled and drowned: A global review of penguin bycatch in fisheries. *Endangered Species Research* 34:373-396

* SANCCOB members of staff



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Oil Spill Incidents

Although South Africa has an extensive history of oil spills we have been fortunate to enjoy a year without a major oil spill off the South African coastline. Seabirds are still at risk from mystery spills though and SANCCOB admitted 15 such oiled seabirds including 6 African penguins; 2 Cape cormorants; 3 Hartlaub's gulls; 1 White breasted cormorant; 1 Reed cormorant; 1 Grey headed heron; and 1 White pelican.

Training and Exercises

All key SANCCOB members of staff have now completed the Incident Command System 100 and 200 qualifications, which is considered a minimum requirement when responding to an oil spill. SANCCOB has also conducted a full review and update of their Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response Plan.

SANCCOB was invited to provide oiled wildlife response training for both the Department of Environmental Affairs in the Northern Cape and the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) regional conference held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. SANCCOB was also invited to participate in a number of oil spill exercises (or drills) conducted by both government and industry, including: Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), and BP Shipping.

Operation Phakisa

SANCCOB remains an active member in Operation Phakisa ensuring that the welfare of our coastal birds are taken into account. For the first time in South Africa's history, the 'National Oil Spill Contingency Plan' contains a chapter dedicated to Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response. In addition, this wildlife chapter will refer to a separate 'National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response Plan' that will be completed by the end of 2018 in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Offshore Bunkering in Algoa Bay

Regrettably a shipping company has been granted permission to perform offshore bunkering operations in Algoa Bay within a few nautical miles of the largest remaining breeding colonies of African penguins and Cape gannets on St Croix and Bird islands respectively. In August 2016, approximately 200 African penguins were affected by an oil spill of just 100 litres caused by the bunkering operations.

SANCCOB has therefore been corresponding extensively with SAMSA to ensure that the proper procedures have been followed; that the necessary risk assessments have been completed; and that sufficient stakeholder engagement has taken place. A Working Group involving SANCCOB, SANParks, South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), the Department of Environmental Affairs, TRANSNET and Disaster Management has been convened and will meet twice a year to discuss Algoa Bay.

Global Oiled Wildlife Response System

SANCCOB continues to play a major role in the development of the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System (GOWRS). In essence, GOWRS is a group of wildlife ecology, rescue, healthcare and welfare organisations, which are different but united in their efforts to save wildlife animals' lives, alleviate suffering and protect them during an oil spill response. The vision is to develop an innovative, flexible, responsive system, based on robust science that is able to deliver an effective response, enable better wildlife contingency planning and rapid assistance for oil affected animals.

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) SAFE Disaster Relief Project

AZA is running an initiative called SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) that has a Disaster Relief Project whose main objectives are to improve oiled wildlife preparedness and response for African penguins in South Africa and Namibia.

An AZA representative visited South Africa earlier in the year to meet relevant stakeholders and visit the penguin colonies with a view to see how we can improve nationwide preparedness and response capacity and capability. It was decided that the priority was to purchase specialised oiled wildlife response equipment at strategic locations near African penguin colonies or rehabilitation centres, as well as provide training to relevant individuals, such as colony managers and seabird rehabilitation staff. It was agreed that Algoa Bay would be the initial focus given that they are at imminent danger from ship-to-ship bunkering that is now occurring within a few kilometres of the largest remaining breeding colony of African penguins.



"Seabirds are still at risk from mystery spills and SANCCOB admitted 15 such oiled seabirds."



VOLUNTEERING AND TRAINING

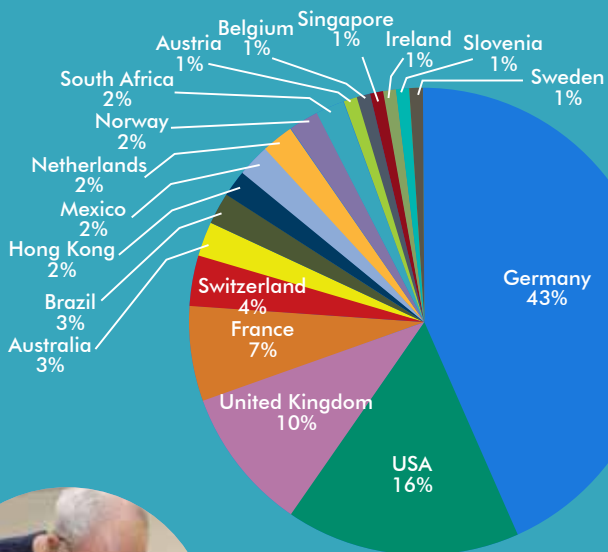


Volunteers

Without the unwavering support of the volunteers, SANCCOB will not be able to achieve the objectives of the organisation. The dedicated volunteers become an extension of the staff and are an integral part of the daily running of the centres. Not only do volunteers assist with the hands-on work with the seabirds, but also provide assistance in all functions of the centre such as education, marketing and administration.

Both the Local and International Volunteer Programmes are well supported at the centres in the Western and Eastern Cape. The International Volunteer Programme attracted 115 individuals, representing 18 different countries. Our local volunteers were key to our operations.

Volunteers often became aware of SANCCOB from previous volunteers and this once again proves that the volunteers become local and international ambassadors for seabirds.



◀ Countries' volunteers represented in the International Volunteer programme



◀ Gerald Mousley has been volunteering at the PE centre since 2015 and celebrated his 90th birthday in September. He volunteers every week to clean and prepare food and insists that mopping the hospital is his job.



Stony Point Colony Assistance

SANCCOB volunteers and interns once again had the opportunity to assist the CapeNature staff at the Stony Point penguin colony in Betty's Bay with vital work during peak seasons. In February and December, the colony staff required additional assistance with habitat restoration, providing the penguins with much-needed nesting material, penguin monitoring and providing visitors with important penguin conservation facts. The opportunity to assist in the field is a highlight for the volunteers and interns and they gain insight on the work required outside of the rehabilitation centre to conserve seabirds.



**SANCCOB
team with Cuan
McGeorge at
Stony Point
colony**

Internships

SANCCOB receives interns through an independent internship programme, managed directly by SANCCOB, as well as act as host to interns from external internship programmes.

During 2017, a total of 31 new interns received training at SANCCOB. The majority of these interns participated in Seabird Rehabilitation internships and several interns, who previously participated in the International Volunteer Programme, returned to SANCCOB to participate in an internship.

For the seventh consecutive year, the National Research Foundation (NRF) placed interns at SANCCOB. During the 2016/2017 programme, four interns were hosted at SANCCOB. For the 2017/2018 programme, SANCCOB has been awarded four new interns by the NRF. For the first year, SANCCOB hosted an intern through the WWF Graduate Internship Programme. Both these internships are important skills development programmes and SANCCOB is proud to be associated with them. SANCCOB looks forward to continuing with these individuals in 2018 and providing them with valuable workplace experience.

Type	Number of interns
Seabird rehabilitation	19
Seabird chick rearing	6
Penguin nursery	2
Education	2
Research	1
Colony monitoring	1
Total	31



Penguin release day at Boulders Beach for Amy Flanagan (San Diego Zoo), Travis Garrett (Denver Zoo), Niklas Fisher (International volunteer), Alison Day (Nashville Zoo), Eric Reece (Minnesota Zoo), Debbie Denton (San Diego Zoo) and Joop Kuhn (San Diego Zoo)

Animal Professional Experience

In 2017, SANCCOB hosted 19 international zoo and aquarium staff in this programme. The individuals represented the following institutions: Shedd Aquarium, Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, Hegalaldia, Monterey Bay, Farmers Korner Veterinary Hospital, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Miami Seaquarium, Maryland Zoo, Zoo Wrocław, San Diego Zoo, Nashville Zoo, Minnesota Zoo and Denver Zoo. The majority of the participants join the programme during the peak period of November and December, known as 'chick season' at SANCCOB. The participants find the experience incredibly rewarding as they are able to develop their own skills, share their knowledge with SANCCOB and also further develop the partnership between their institutions and SANCCOB.

Training

SANCCOB provides valuable training to staff who are based at seabird colonies, as well as aquaria staff on an annual basis. The newly appointed Penguin Rangers, based in Simon's Town, received intensive practical training over a three day period. Their training includes handling and stabilisation of seabirds, as well as packaging and transportation of seabird eggs.





Education Programme for Learners with Special Education Needs

The Education Department was able to host a project funded by Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), where 211 learners from five LSEN schools were given an opportunity to learn about SANCCOB and marine birds. These learners have intellectual disabilities and sometimes additional physical disabilities. We were able to provide the learners with two school visits, a trip to Rietvlei Nature Reserve, a beach clean-up along the West Coast, and entry to our African Penguin Awareness Day festival in Simon's Town. The lessons were all based on seabirds, specifically the African penguins, and keeping our oceans clean. As a last "thank you" to the schools, SANCCOB handed over a resource pack that included a set of four recycling bins, a two month supply of recycling bags and a garden in a box, containing seven different vegetables to assist the schools with their feeding schemes. We hope that the resource packs help the teachers carry on with the lessons we've had and pass them on to all the other classes so that more learners can see the importance of taking care of our environment.



Mobile Science Lab

Grade 8 learners of Forest Heights High School in Eerste River participated in the Mobile Science Lab programme in August. SANCCOB's education team believes that the mobile science lab makes a positive impact on the learners and increase their interest in science as a subject.

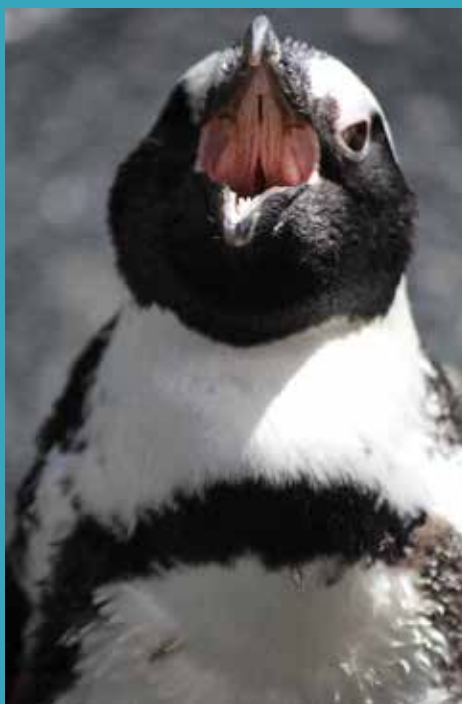
Three lessons were created and presented under the educator's supervision. Due to the nature of our organisation, we incorporated a marine theme into the science lessons.

Skype Lessons

In 2017 SANCCOB provided free Skype lessons to create awareness and educate the younger generation on marine bird life, conservation, ecosystems, threats, and much more. The education department reached 1971 learners and 153 teachers through its lessons. The vast majority of international Skype lesson requests came from the United States of America, and other connections were made with learners in Ireland, United Kingdom, South America, Canada, Middle East, Central Europe, Poland, Vietnam, Eastern Europe, Portugal, Brasilito, Sweden, Ukraine, Hungary, Spain, Pacific Asia and Italy.

Build4penguins school challenge

Near the end of the second school term a fundraising challenge was initiated to garner support from local schools. The primary objective of the Build4penguins challenge was to assist with generating funds through school initiatives in support of the construction of our new Seabird Hospital in Cape Town. 10 schools took part and generated over R7,000.00 in donations. Capriccio! Pre-school, Westside Academy and St Martini Kindergarten were the top 3 most outstanding schools in terms of creativity and fundraising. They were treated to a visit by one of our ambassador birds and are invited to visit our facility in 2018.





FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING



In 2017, we had the challenge of raising funds over and above our operational needs to bring in a funding shortfall for the new seabird hospital. We were fortunate to have the support of funders, both locally and internationally supporting our campaigning but with some choosing to divert their support to the new facility, we felt the impact in our operational income.

Fortunately, SANCCOB is privileged to receive generous and on-going support from local and international donors, most notably, zoo & aquaria institutions in the US and Europe who remain SANCCOB's biggest source of donor funding. Together with a strong fundraising and marketing team and a robust fundraising portfolio, SANCCOB continued to grow.

SANCCOB's fundraising is well-planned and draws from a wide range of resources including Corporate Social Investment (CSI) from South African corporates such as Rand Merchant Bank, De Beers Marine, Van de Venter Mojapelo, as well as Abax Foundation. SANCCOB furthermore secured support from a number of South African grantmaking foundations - one such pillar of support is the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust (HHCT), who has supported SANCCOB for many years – operationally, as well as with other projects.

SANCCOB cannot do without the support from individuals – individuals such as Pamela Isdell, who is incredibly passionate about the environment and the survival of the charismatic and endangered African penguin.

On World Oceans Day, Woolworths launched an African penguin reusable bag and SANCCOB received R10 for each bag sold. Bags sold out in record time. Woolworths also added succulents sold in penguin holders and a Relate beaded bracelet supplied by a non-profit social enterprise, which invests in social upliftment initiatives. SANCCOB's resident Northern Rockhopper, Rocky, is the brand ambassador of one of Boston Breweries' products. The local craft beer brewery released its Rock Hoppa beer with R1 of each bottle sold given to SANCCOB.



Events

On 7 October, we celebrated African Penguin Awareness Day – dedicated to raising worldwide awareness about the plight of the endangered African penguin. In Cape Town, we hosted the annual Penguin Festival at Boulders Beach in partnership with SANParks, released 20 rehabilitated African penguins back into the wild and welcomed around 2,000 festivalgoers in attendance.

We also hosted the second Penguin Palooza festival at the Stony Point penguin colony in Betty's Bay, in partnership with CapeNature where we once again, publically released rehabilitated African penguins.

Our ever popular annual benefit auction took place in August at the Protea Hotel Fire & Ice, where Magic Radio breakfast show host, Guy McDonald, was the Master of Ceremonies, the Parklands College band entertained guests with their jazz music and the auction was facilitated by Michael James Auctioneers.





EASTERN CAPE

2017 was an exciting year for SANCCOB Eastern Cape with the expansion of our reach to Port Elizabeth (PE), growing the team, acquiring a veterinary nurse and welcoming a manager to oversee the Cape St Francis (CSF) and PE centres. The CSF centre's shop had a mini revamp and an overall repaint. The PE centre's interior was reorganised to suit the new staff compliment, while the front entrance of the centre was converted into a souvenir shop that has become a popular destination for visitors of the Cape Recife Nature Reserve.

Education

Lessons at SANCCOB Port Elizabeth

SANCCOB PE offers a variety of lessons to the schools in the Eastern Cape. The majority of the learners come from schools in and around Port Elizabeth. The programme offered contains 17 individual and unique marine-themed lessons with our penguin and pollution lessons being the most popular. In 2017, SANCCOB PE saw a total of 105 schools and 4,949 learners on and off-site. Due to the unique placement in a Nature Reserve, the schools prefer to visit the centre than have off-site lessons. The lessons are always combined with a mini beach clean-up along the beaches of the Cape Recife Nature Reserve.

Holiday Club

A total of 100 children attended the holiday club programme over the course of five days in the July and December school holidays. Children were divided into three smaller groups on each day and they rotated between games, beach walks and penguin art. The holiday club has become a really enjoyable experience for all the children that attend.

Little Blues Club

Little Blues Club is a monthly programme aimed at 7-12 year olds. They assist with cleaning the Home Pen rocks. They play games, do arts and crafts and go for walks in the Nature Reserve. They carry rubbish bags on their walks to assist in keeping the beaches and the Nature Reserve clear of litter. The Little Blues Club is well loved by the community with a total of 121 children attending the programme in 2017.

Events

Marine Week

Marine week in Port Elizabeth is aimed at schools in under-resourced areas. The organiser fundraises and helps support the trip to the venue for Marine Week. In 2017, the event was hosted at Bayworld and the SANCCOB PE education team participated with a total of 480 learners from eight schools in attendance. The SANCCOB stand included hands-on activities like feather washing and a mini beach clean-up.

African Penguin Awareness Day

SANCCOB PE hosted its first African Penguin Awareness Day event on 7 October. The event started with a successful penguin release on Pollock Beach. Members of the public then hopped on the shuttles provided and visited the SANCCOB PE centre to learn about marine life in our exploration room and watched the Home Pen birds being fed. Later in the morning, everyone went on a beach walk from the centre to Something Good restaurant on the Port Elizabeth beachfront, where they were entertained by live music and an educational stand hosted by SANCCOB.

Moonlight walks

In 2017, SANCCOB successfully hosted moonlight walks at the PE centre. These walks started with food on sale and time spent in the centre's exploration room, followed by a leisurely walk to the Cape Recife lighthouse to see the moon rise. After the moonrise, all the participants returned to the centre for refreshments and browsed through the SANCCOB PE shop. These walks have become very popular with the Port Elizabeth locals and are well attended.



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

SANCCOB NPC (Registration Number 2001/026273/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017

Figures in R	2017	2016
Revenue	18,679,647	10,936,788
Cost of sales	(396,025)	(371,606)
Gross surplus	18,283,622	10,565,182
Other income	7,784,280	221,736
Operating expenses	(13,361,434)	(10,085,826)
Operating surplus	12,706,468	701,092
Finance income	2,208,311	1,236,609
Fair value adjustments	136,814	(101,850)
Finance costs	(5,775)	(2,638)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	15,045,818	1,833,213

Board of Directors

Mariette Hopley Chairperson

Dr Stephen van der Spuy Chief Executive Officer

Dr Samantha Petersen Vice-Chairperson

Inge Cilliers Treasurer

Dr Azwianewi Makhado

Karel van Wyk

Peter Misselbrook

Iain Hamilton

Current Staff

Albert Snyman Research Assistant

Alex Rogers Education Assistant

Candice Jansen-Steyn Procurement and Inventory Officer

Christian Triay Preparedness and Response Manager

Dr David Roberts Clinical Veterinarian

Eljoren Goede Bird Rehabilitator - Cape St Francis

Hedwich Tulp Resource Development Manager

Dr Katta Ludynia Research Manager

Karin Fuchs Temporary Shop Assistant - Cape St Francis

Dr Lauren Waller Leiden Conservation Fellow

Luc Hosten Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator - Port Elizabeth

Marcelo October Marine Ranger - Stony Point

Marna Smit Bird Rehabilitator

Martine Viljoen Volunteer Coordinator

Mashudu Mashau Area Manager - Simon's Town

Melissa Knott Accountant

Michelle Brackenridge Administrator - Port Elizabeth

Natalie Maskell Business Manager

Nicky Stander Rehabilitation Manager

Peter van der Linde Bird Rehabilitator

Philipa Wood Education Manager - Port Elizabeth

Rhiannon Gill Bird Rehabilitator

Romy Klusener Chick Rearing Unit Supervisor

Ronnies Daniels Public Relations Officer

Rushaan Martheze Receptionist

Samantha Ross Veterinary Nurse - Port Elizabeth

Sharnay Adams Bird Rehabilitator

Sibongile George Rehabilitation Assistant

Stacey Webb Eastern Cape Manager

Stephanie Brisland Data Administrator

Dr Stephen van der Spuy Chief Executive Officer

Theresa Wijker Education Manager

Vusumzi Martins PE Bird Rehabilitator

Zamokuhle Lazola Rehabilitation Assistant - Cape St Francis



THANK YOU



Funders, In-Kind Suppliers and Service Providers of the New Seabird Hospital



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Cape

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Cape Plumbing & Bathroom Supplies,
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Environmental Management

Department

Comprac Western Cape (Pty) Ltd

Concrete Coatings and Repair Services
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DM Agencies

Dormakaba South Africa (Pty) Ltd

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Funders donating R5000 and above

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Basel Zoo
Billy's Beach
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Mammal Group
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Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
JB Findlay Trust
Jeff Corwin
Jenkinson's Aquarium
Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
L Bellingan Family Trust
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Monterey Bay Aquarium
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Sea Life Trust
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Vital Health Foods
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Wroclaw Zoo
Wyldegrove
Yellow Zebra Optical
Zoo di Pistoia
Zoo Knoxville
Zoological Society of East Anglia
ZooTampa

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Timmermans
J W Findlay Trust

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Fax: +27 (0)41 583 1835

Support SANCCOB:

Account holder: SANCCOB

Bank: First National Bank

Branch: Table View

Branch code: 203 809

Account number:

5923 713 5859

Account type: Current

Swift code: FIRNZAJJ923

Email: info@sanccob.co.za

www.sanccob.co.za

