



INFORMATION PACK

ANIMAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



ABOUT SANCCOB

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) was established in 1968 and is a non-profit organisation whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of ill, injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds – especially endangered seabirds like the African penguin.

In over 50 years, SANCCOB has treated around 100 000 seabirds. In a non-spill year, SANCCOB treats up to 2 500 seabirds, of which approximately 1000 - 1 500 are African penguins. Other seabirds treated by SANCCOB include various Cormorant species (including the endangered Bank and Cape cormorant), the endangered Cape gannet, various species of terns; pelagic birds such as albatrosses and petrels, oystercatchers, gulls, pelicans and other coastal seabirds that are found in the region. On average, SANCCOB admits between 24 and 30 different seabird species for rehabilitation per year.”

With a limited staff component, SANCCOB relies heavily on the support of volunteers to achieve the mission of the organisation. 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 marketing, procurement and fundraising.

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO COME TO SANCCOB?

SANCCOB admits a variety of seabirds throughout the year. For each species, there are peaks and lows during the year. Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee when these peaks and lows will occur.

Month	Species	Max capacity for keepers for 2 weeks at a time.
January	African Penguin abandoned chicks, emaciated Cape cormorants	8 (4 people every 2 weeks)
February		0
March	Abandoned Hartlaub’s gull chicks, CRU assistance	2
April	Abandoned Hartlaub’s gull chicks, Botulism Kelp gulls, CRU assistance	2



May	Abandoned Cape gannets, gulls, Botulism Kelp gulls, Nursery assistance	3
June	Abandoned Cape gannets, gulls, Nursery gulls	3
July		0
August		0
September		0
October	Abandoned African Penguin chicks	2
November	Abandoned African Penguin chicks	8 (4 people every 2 weeks)
December	Abandoned African Penguin chicks, emaciated Cape cormorants	8 (4 people every 2 weeks)

OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN PENGUIN BREEDING PAIRS

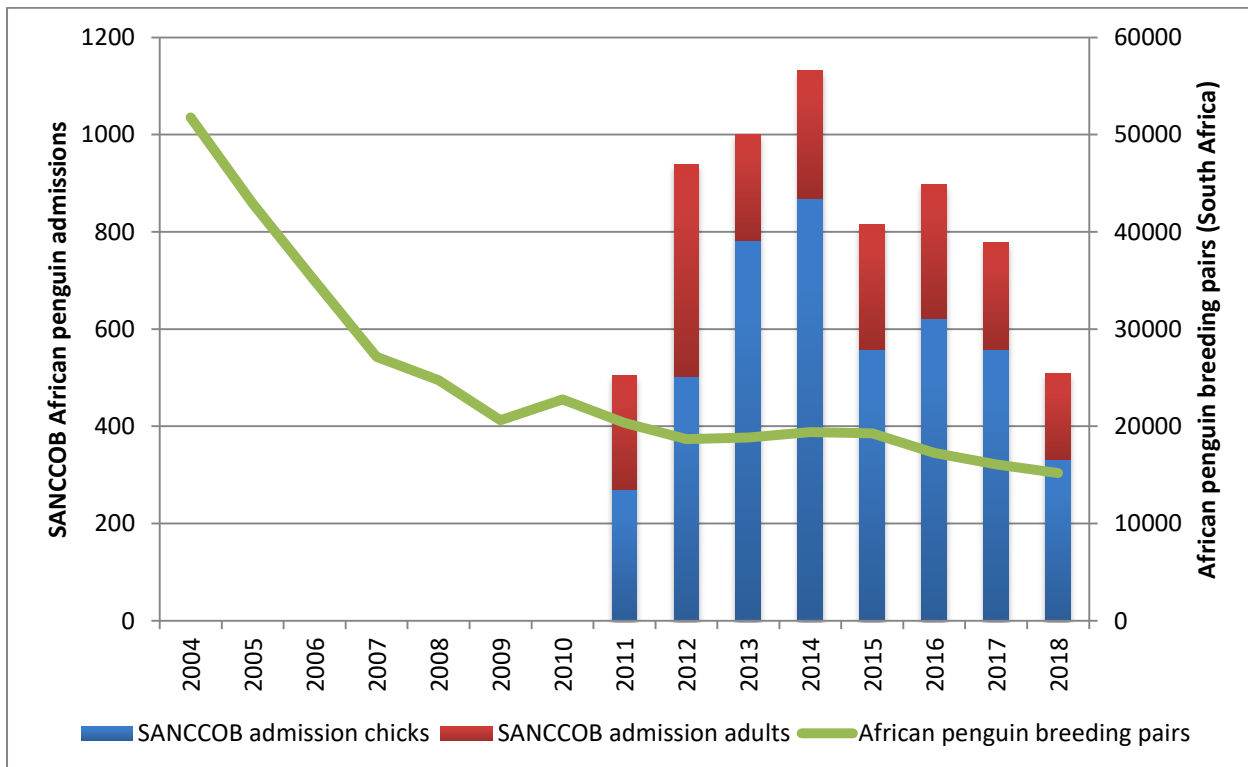


Figure 1: Overview of African penguin breeding pairs between 2004 and 2018 in South Africa (green line) and SANCCOB African penguin admissions between 2011 and 2018 in the Western Cape (blue bars= AP chicks, red bars= AP adults & juveniles).

WORKING ROUTINE AND SCHEDULE

SANCCOB is open 365 days of the year and requires assistance throughout the year. Regardless of what time of year you come, the learning curve in your first week is steep as you become accustomed to daily routines, preparing food, learning about seabird care and helping with general duties. The work is physically tiring so please be prepared for long days of rigorous activity.

You will receive an itinerary once your dates have been confirmed and finalized.



WHAT TO PACK FOR YOUR ANIMAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 🕯 Comfortable clothes that can get can get dirty
- 🕯 A sleeved shirt (like a t-shirt) is required while working at SANCCOB
- 🕯 We advise that you wear quick drying long trousers, ¾ trousers or leggings under your oilskins especially if you are going to be at SANCCOB over the summer
- 🕯 Protective clothing like oilskins, boots and gloves will be provided by SANCCOB unless you prefer to work with your own gear. Some volunteers prefer to wear Crocs rather than boots while working in some areas around the centre. You are welcome to bring your own Crocs if you prefer, as long as they are a dark colour like black, navy or dark grey
- 🕯 Pairs of socks (for when wearing boots)
- 🕯 For the winter months, you are advised to bring some warm clothes as the early mornings and late evenings can be very cold
- 🕯 Sunscreen is an absolute must at any time of the year, along with a hat when working outside
- 🕯 Make sure to pack a long sleeve sweater/ fleece and waterproof jacket regardless of the season
- 🕯 Bring a lunch box
- 🕯 If you are bringing your mobile phone and would like to take advantage of cheaper local call rates in South Africa, you can purchase a South African SIM card and airtime vouchers here. Please remember to unlock your phone before your leave home and do not forget your SIM unblocking PIN code

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME

Miren Schleicher (New England Aquarium): "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!"

- 🕯 Get hands-on experience working with endangered penguins and other seabirds at the world renowned SANCCOB Seabird Centre in Cape Town, South Africa
- 🕯 Give something back to the environment and learn about different aspects of seabird rehabilitation; while actively partaking in the conservation of endangered seabirds
- 🕯 Develop skills in teamwork while meeting new people
- 🕯 Add this experience to your cv or resume
- 🕯 Certificate of appreciation upon completion of the experience
- 🕯 No cost involved in participating in the experience

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To join the Animal Professional Experience, you must:

- 🕯 Submit an Application and Indemnity Form
- 🕯 Submit a letter of reference from your current supervisor
- 🕯 Submit a short CV
- 🕯 Submit a letter of motivation and your expectations for the experience
- 🕯 Be at least 18 years of age

Physical Address: 22 Pentz Drive, Table View • Postal Address: P. O. Box 11116, Bloubergrandt, Cape Town, 7443
Tel: +27 (021) 557 6155 • Fax: +27 (021) 557 8804 • Email: volunteers@sanccob.co.za



- 🐧 Consult your doctor before volunteering if you are pregnant, on medication or allergic to animal dander, or detergent. Persons with chronic respiratory ailments or impaired kidneys or liver should avoid working around crude oil
- 🐧 Have an **up to date tetanus vaccination**
- 🐧 A good understanding of the **English language** is essential
- 🐧 Be **cooperative** and **work as a team** at all times
- 🐧 Wear personal protective gear, as defined by supervisors per task, at all times
- 🐧 Follow Standard Operating Procedures as explained by the SANCCOB team

PLEASE NOTE

- 🐧 Keepers with penguin experience will be accepted to assist at the SANCCOB centre in Cape Town during our busiest times.
- 🐧 Keepers with no experience are also welcome. However, they are encouraged to apply for the 6 week international volunteer programme.
- 🐧 The work is **very physical** by nature and you will be exhausted at the end of every day
- 🐧 The environment is **wet** and the majority of the work takes place **outdoors**
- 🐧 Volunteers should be prepared to work in extreme weather conditions (rain or heat)
- 🐧 SANCCOB is unable to provide accommodation, but we can recommend accommodation used by many of our past international volunteers
- 🐧 Preparation, both physical and mental, is important for ensuring that you have the best possible experience at SANCCOB. To ensure that you are fully prepared for your trip, we recommend you draw on the experience of prior participants of the experience. We encourage you to contact one or more of them to ask questions and get their first-hand advice on what to expect. A list of contacts is available upon request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 🐧 All visitors to South Africa must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six months past the date of entry and which must contain at least two consecutive blank (unstamped) pages. You may be refused entry if you do not comply with these requirements.
- 🐧 Travel to South Africa from the US and Europe can vary in price depending on the site of origin. This will vary depending on the time of year and the time of purchase/departure. There are two airports that are generally the point of entry into South Africa:
 - Johannesburg (OR Tambo International Airport)
 - Cape Town International Airport
- 🐧 The local currency in South Africa is South African Rand (ZAR). For up to date currency rates and exchanges go to www.xe.com
 - It is recommended to carry small amounts of currency when traveling in South Africa due to the criminal activity in/around Cape Town. The use of credit cards/debit cards provides the safest and most efficient rates of exchange when making purchases.
- 🐧 Electricity: South Africa uses 240 volts, 50 Hz, three-pin Type M or two-pin Type C plug. You can purchase universal adapters prior to arriving in South Africa, in the South Africa airports or at various places around Cape Town or Table View.
- 🐧 Transport: There are metered taxis and a rapid transit system (<http://mycity.org.za>) that is safe to use.

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The MyCiti transit system has good coverage in the main tourist areas (<http://myciti.org.za/en/routes/tourist-routes/>) of the city. You have to buy a card which you can top up at most stations. It is also easy to rent cars and drive in South Africa.

🕯 Tipping: It is customary to give a 10% tip of the cost of the service to wait staff or tourist guides in South Africa.

WEATHER IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is often said that in Cape Town you can experience all four seasons in one day as the weather can change quite suddenly. In particular, it can rain quite heavily for a half an hour and then be a lovely clear sunny day.

Season:	Months:	Average daily temperature:
Spring	September, October and November	Daily temperatures are between 20-30° C (77-96°F). The nights are still cool, but not cold.
Summer	December, January and February	Daily temperatures are between 25-35°C (77-95°F). The nights are balmy.
Autumn	March, April and May	Daily temperatures are between 15-25°C (59-77°F). The nights are cool.
Winter	June, July and August	Daily temperatures are between 7-18°C (44.5-64.5°F). The nights are cold.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any further queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the experience co-ordinator,

Brittany Lowe

Email: volunteers@sanccob.co.za

Contact number: +27 (021) 557 6155

If you are a member of an AZA institution you are also welcome to contact,

Gayle Sirpenski

Email: gsirpenski@mysticaquarium.org

Contact number: 860-572-5955 Ext 108