



# INFORMATION PACK

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

### (Table View centre)



### 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 almost 50 years, SANCCOB has treated more than **95 000** seabirds and independent research confirms that SANCCOB’s oil spill response actions alone have increased the African population by **19%**. In a non-spill year, SANCCOB treats up to **2 500 seabirds**, of which approximately **1 500 are African penguins**.

SANCCOB (Table View centre) is situated on the banks of the City of Cape Town’s Table Bay Nature Reserve – Rietvlei section in a residential neighbourhood called Table View, approximately 20km from Cape Town.

### WHY DOES SANCCOB NEED YOU?

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. In short, we need volunteers like YOU to join our team!

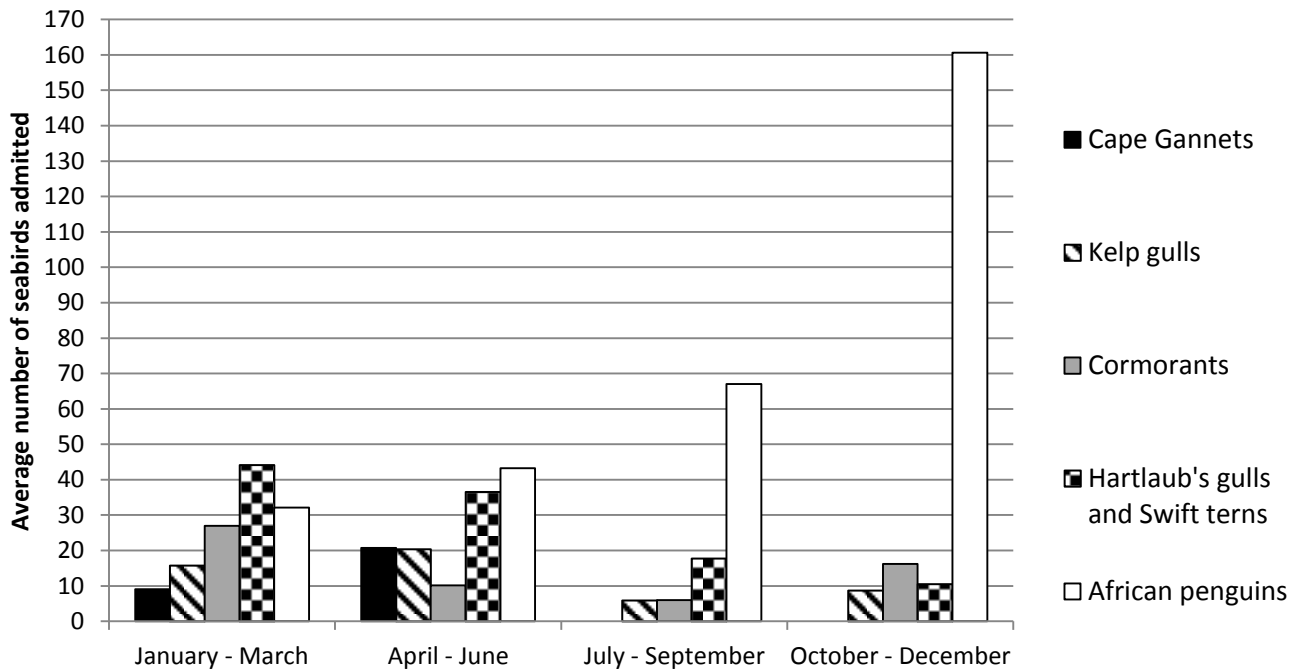
### WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO COME TO SANCCOB?

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. The information listed below is based on SANCCOB’s admission data for our most common bird species from 2010 – 2016.

Species:	Peak period:	Common reason for admission:
African penguins	October – January	Abandoned chicks
Cormorants	January – March	Weak juveniles
Cape gannets	January – May	Weak juveniles and abandoned chicks (end of May)
Hartlaub’s gulls	February - April	Abandoned chicks
Kelp gulls	January – June	Botulism
Swift terns	February - April	Abandoned chicks



## Average number of different types of seabirds admitted at SANCCOB (2010 - 2016)



## SHIFTS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

SANCCOB is open 365 days of the year and requires volunteer assistance throughout the year. International volunteers join the programme for a **minimum of 6 weeks** and on a **full-time basis**.

A monthly schedule is compiled by the Volunteer Coordinator, where volunteers will be scheduled to work a maximum of **5 days per week (including weekends and public holidays)**.

A normal working day is from **8:00 am to 5:30 pm\*** with a lunch break 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm and a short tea break in the morning at **11:00am** and afternoon at **3:30pm** (times may vary depending on capacity needs and bird numbers at the centre).

\*Some days may require volunteers to assist until 6:30 pm, so your willingness to go the extra mile during the busy times will be crucial.



## ACTIVITIES AND AREAS VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ASSISTING IN Birds (Monday – Sunday)

Activities/Task and responsibilities:	Expectations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐧 Maintaining a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness in the rehabilitation centre</li> <li>🐧 Scrubbing and cleaning of bird enclosures, mats, crates and swimming pools</li> <li>🐧 Cleaning of equipment used in food preparation and feeding</li> <li>🐧 Washing and drying of laundry</li> <li>🐧 Assisting in maintaining the permanent bird exhibit (scrubbing rocks, raking sand and food preparation)</li> <li>🐧 Defrosting and preparing fish for a variety of seabird species</li> <li>🐧 Catching and handling of different seabird species</li> <li>🐧 Feeding (force feeding and free feeding) of different seabird species</li> <li>🐧 Hydrating (tubing) different seabird species</li> <li>🐧 Administering medication to different seabird species</li> <li>🐧 Assisting with bird release preparation</li> <li>🐧 Centre maintenance duties</li> </ul> <p>** Please note that duties are issued based on the volunteer's experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐧 Physically fit and able to stand for a full shift</li> <li>🐧 Comfortable with getting dirty</li> <li>🐧 Willing to work in all weather conditions, frequently outside</li> <li>🐧 Able to work in a team as well as independently</li> <li>🐧 Able to follow Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>🐧 Be reliable and accountable</li> <li>🐧 Compassionate and caring nature with a love for seabirds</li> </ul> <p>** Be aware that this is not for the faint-hearted. The birds in our care are wild and will bite at any opportunity. Learning how to work with birds is a bit like riding a bike....the more you practice the better you become. Potential volunteers should, therefore, know that commitment is key to learning how to handle and feed birds.</p>

The different areas a volunteer could be assigned to each day are:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐧 <u>Food Preparation Kitchen</u> – Area responsible for fish defrosting, preparation of fluids/formula and cleaning of food preparation and feeding equipment.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Laundry</u> – Area responsible for the washing and drying of laundry.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Cleaning Station</u> – Area responsible for cleaning of large equipment with the use of a high-pressure hose. Example mats from bird enclosures and bird crates.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Aviary</u> – Enclosures designated for flying birds that require daily cleaning of the enclosure and feeding of the birds (free feeding). Some birds may require hydration (tubing), medication or force-feeding.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Intensive Care Unit</u> – Staff and interns are mostly responsible for the care of birds in the ICU, but volunteers could be asked to assist with cleaning in ICU.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Rehabilitation pens</u> – Main enclosures for birds undergoing rehabilitation, mostly African penguins. Areas require daily cleaning and feeding birds (force feeding). Some birds may require hydration (tubing) and medication.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Home Pen</u> – Exhibit for permanent and long-term temporary birds at SANCCOB. Assisting in maintenance of the exhibit, include scrubbing rocks, raking sand and food preparation.</li> <li>🐧 <u>Jobs</u> – Various jobs required around the centre, crucial in the daily running of the rehabilitation centre. Jobs could include general maintenance or cleaning duties.</li> </ul>

\*\*Please note that duties are divided amongst all volunteers and everybody will be assisting in all the different areas during the week.



## COSTS AND BENEFITS

- 🕯 The cost of the programme is R3000 for the 6 weeks (minimum period) with the opportunity to add additional weeks at R500 per week
- 🕯 Get hands-on experience working with endangered penguins and other seabirds at the world-renowned SANCCOB Seabird Centre in Cape Town, South Africa
- 🕯 No previous experience needed. All required training will be done at SANCCOB
- 🕯 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 volunteer experience to your cv or resume
- 🕯 Two free volunteer t-shirts
- 🕯 Invited to participate in a seabird release (bird and weather depending) after being part of the rehabilitation process
- 🕯 Certificate of appreciation upon completion of the programme

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To join the SANCCOB volunteer team, you must:

- 🕯 Submit a Volunteer Application and Indemnity Form
- 🕯 Be at least 18 years of age
- 🕯 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**
- 🕯 Be fit and healthy enough to stand and work for at least 8 hours per day
- 🕯 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

- 🕯 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
- 🕯 We do induction training on a Tuesday so please ensure that you book with us to start on a Tuesday.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any further queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

**Angela Wilmot**

**SANCCOB Volunteer Coordinator**

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