



INFO PACK

SEABIRD REHABILITATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES (Port Elizabeth 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. Over the last 50 years, SANCCOB has treated more than **100 000** seabirds and independent research confirms that SANCCOB's oil spill response actions saved approximately 40,000 birds in one year (*Treasure* oil spill) and that is the number of birds now seen in the wild which shows the great need for conservation. In a non-spill year, we see between 1500 and 2500 birds, but with declining numbers of breeding African penguins, we are also seeing fewer birds than we used to. That doesn't mean that they don't need our help - our work is even more crucial than ever and annually, SANCCOB sees over 2% of the wild population of African penguins at its centres, consequently, having a huge impact on the survival of the species.

WHY DOES SANCCOB NEED YOU?

With a limited staff component, SANCCOB relies heavily on the support of interns to achieve the mission of the organisation. Interns become an extension of the staff and are an integral part of the daily running of the centres. Not only do interns 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 interns 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)

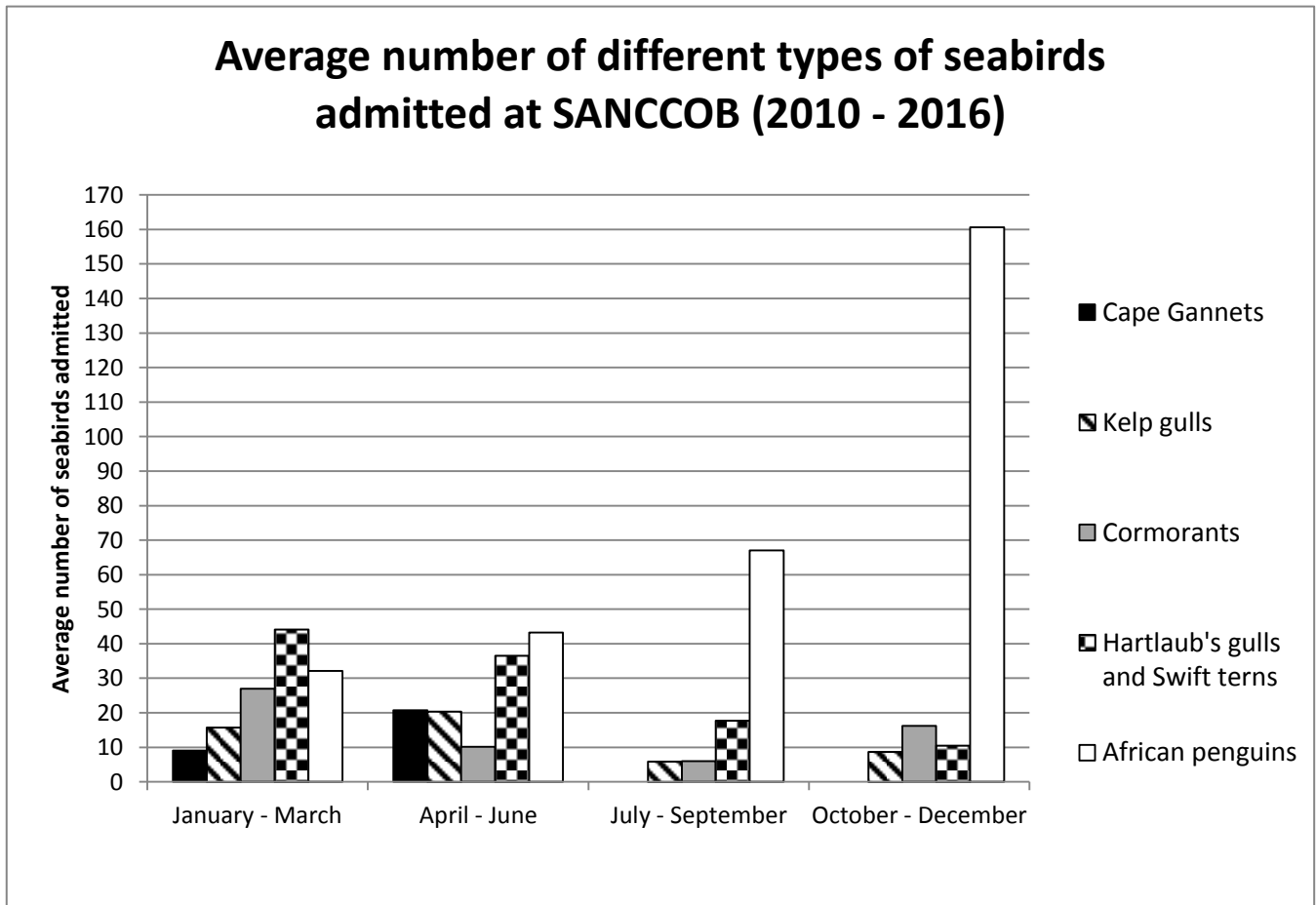
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Hartlaub's gulls	February - April	Abandoned chicks
Kelp gulls	January – June	Botulism
Swift terns	February - April	Abandoned chicks



DIFFERENT SEABIRD INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

The internships are structured, mentored training programmes with a strong focus on skills development – suitable for returning volunteers, university students, post-graduates, employees and volunteers in the field of conservation, zoology, animal science, husbandry, care and welfare related fields.

Seabird Rehabilitation (3 or 6 months)

The Seabird rehabilitation internship has been developed to equip you with basic skills for seabird rehabilitation for a career in bird rehabilitation or conservation.

Skills observed, assisted with and learned during the internship:

- 👉 Maintaining a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness in the rehabilitation centre
- 👉 Catching and handling, feeding (force feeding and free feeding), hydrating (tubing) and administering medication to different seabird species

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- 🐧 Defrosting and preparing fish for a variety of seabird species
- 🐧 Supervising the intensive care unit for seabirds under guidance of the staff
- 🐧 Assisting in admitting new seabirds to the rehabilitation centre
- 🐧 Supervising bird pens and other volunteers
- 🐧 Record keeping for individual birds
- 🐧 Evaluating of basic blood results (packed cell volume, buffy coat and total protein)
- 🐧 Assisting in evaluating the waterproofing of feathers in African penguins
- 🐧 Observing seabird necropsies
- 🐧 Participation in the release of rehabilitated seabirds
- 🐧 Assisting in taking blood sample (bleed from foot vein) of African penguins – *6-month interns only*
- 🐧 Assisting in ringing of seabird species - *6-month interns only*

The different areas of the main rehabilitation centre to which interns could be assigned to each day are:

- 🐧 Food Preparation – Area responsible for laundry, fish defrosting, preparation of fluids/formula and cleaning of food preparation and feeding equipment
 - 🐧 Mats and Crates – Area responsible for cleaning of large equipment with the use of a high-pressure hose. Example: Mats from bird enclosures and bird crates
 - 🐧 Intensive Care Unit – 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
 - 🐧 Rehabilitation pens – 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
 - 🐧 Home Pen – Exhibit for permanent and long-term temporary birds at SANCCOB. Assisting in maintenance of the exhibit, include scrubbing rocks, raking sand and food preparation
 - 🐧 Jobs – Various jobs required around the centre, crucial in the daily running of the rehabilitation centre. Jobs could include general maintenance or cleaning duties
- **Please note that duties are divided amongst all volunteers and interns. Everybody will be assisting in all the different areas during the week.**

WORKING SCHEDULES AND SHIFTS

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

Seabird rehabilitation

A normal working day is from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm* with a lunch break 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm and a short break in both the morning and afternoon.

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

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COSTS AND BENEFITS

- 🕯 Participants: No cost is associated with participants; however, there is a refundable R2000.00 deposit to secure their place.
- 🕯 Enhancing your CV or resume with getting hands-on experience working with endangered penguins and other seabirds at the world-renowned SANCCOB centre.
- 🕯 Develop personal work ethics while networking to build professional contacts
- 🕯 Earn and understand organizational culture
- 🕯 Develop career-related personal skills like communication, teamwork and problem solving
- 🕯 Participation in a seabird release (bird and weather depending) after being part of the rehabilitation process
- 🕯 Certificate of appreciation upon completion of the programme

EXPECTATION OF INTERNS FROM SANCCOB

A PROSPECTIVE INTERN SHOULD BE:

- 🕯 A committed individual; willingness to go the extra mile will be crucial
- 🕯 Physically fit and able to stand for a full shift
- 🕯 Comfortable with getting dirty
- 🕯 Willing to work in all weather conditions, frequently outside
- 🕯 Able to work in a team as well as independently
- 🕯 Able to follow Standard Operating Procedures
- 🕯 A reliable and accountable individual
- 🕯 Compassionate with caring nature with a love for seabirds
- 🕯 Trustworthy
- 🕯 Able to work under pressure

AND HAVE

- 🕯 Attention to detail
- 🕯 A strong sense of initiative
- 🕯 Excellent communication skills
- 🕯 Good problem-solving skills
- 🕯 The ability to multi-task and perform tasks in order of importance and priority and delegate tasks to volunteers and other interns

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To apply for one of the Seabird Internship Programmes, you must:

- 🕯 Submit an Application and Indemnity Form
- 🕯 Submit a letter of reference from a professional contact
- 🕯 Submit a short CV
- 🕯 Submit a letter of motivation and your expectations in participating in an internship
- 🕯 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

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- 🕯 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
- 🕯 Interns 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 and interns
- 🕯 Upon acceptance into the programme, all interns are required to pay a refundable R2000.00 fee to secure their place. This is refunded in South African Rand after successful completion of the programme.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Yonela Mahamba

Education Intern

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