



The conservation benefit of decades of collaboration between a non-profit and aquariums

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The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), is a leading marine-conservation non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and releases seabirds, especially during major oil spills. We conduct research to improve management of wild populations; educate and train South Africans to care for the marine environment; and raise awareness about the plight of endangered seabirds and the marine environment. Our work has been supported for more than a decade by the international zoo and aquarium community.

This paper will use three case studies to demonstrate the effectiveness, sustainability and benefits of collaboration between SANCCOB and the international aquarium community. The case studies include the African Penguin Chick Bolstering Project; a benchmark survey of the health of wild seabird populations in southern Africa; and wildlife emergency response cooperation during the infamous *MV Treasure* oil spill in the year 2000, which oiled nearly 20 000 African Penguins. Keys to ensuring the sustainability of projects benefiting conservation will be highlighted.