



AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICK BOLSTERING PROJECT

Founding Partners – SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds), Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation, Department of Environmental Affairs (Oceans and Coasts), Cape Nature, ADU University of Cape Town, Robben Island Museum, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)

AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICK BOLSTERING PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT UPDATE: 19 December 2012

Chick report and data supplied by Dr. Nola Parsons SANCCOB Veterinarian and Researcher

Compiled by Margaret Roestorf SANCCOB Executive Director



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2012 SEASON LATEST REPORT ON AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICKS BEING HAND-REARED UNDER THE CHICK BOLSTERING PROJECT

259 African penguin chicks removed from moulting parents currently at SANCCOB

Detailed analysis as at 15 December 2012 by Dr. Nola Parsons

Area	Admit	Release	%	Died	%	Still at SANCCOB	%
Betty's Bay	206		0%	53	26%	153	74%
Boulders	1		0%	1	100%	0	0%
Dyer Island	10		0%	2	20%	8	80%
Robben Island	2	1	50%		0%	1	50%
TOTAL	219	1	0%	56	26%	162	74%

Since 1 November 2012, we have admitted 219 chicks, mainly from the Stony Point colony at Betty’s Bay. The chicks have mostly been in poor condition with 26% mortality to date. There are currently 162 chicks at SANCCOB. The age groups are mostly represented by P3 and P4 stages (150 total) with a further 58 P2 stage and 6 chicks that were P0 or P1 on admission.

There have been 56 deaths so far and causes of death include infectious causes (airsacculitis and pneumonia (26), endocarditis (1), umbilical infection (1), liver infection (5) and enteritis and peritonitis (5)) as well as emaciation (7), anaemia (5), head injury (1) and unknown (5). Of the 56 deaths, 13 have died after a week of admission to the centre, with a median of 5 days, strongly indicating that many of the chicks are already sick or compromised on admission. In addition, the chicks have high parasite burdens (mostly *Ornithodoros capensis* ticks) on admission and many have moderate quantities of plant matter (mostly small twigs) in their stomachs on post mortem evaluation. The ticks spread blood parasites such as *Babesia* and *Borrelia* which can compromise the chicks’ condition. The plant matter indicates that the chicks are starving in the colonies and trying to eat anything that they find.

Thus far we have released one chick (from Robben Island) close to Robben Island.



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ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS ONCE AGAIN STEP UP TO THE PLATE FOR CHICKS!

This year SANCCOB has once again seen international zoos and aquarium staff coming across to assist with the chick season; The first wave of help came from Jenn Odell and Erin Morlang from Georgia Aquarium, who were the first to arrive, hitting the end of the oilies season and the start of the chicks . Laurie Macha and Tracy Camp from Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium) once again seamlessly fitted into the rhythm and rapidly become an extension of the SANCCOB staff, working long days in the hot November / December sun – Josh Davis is on his way to help out at the end of December. Seaworld Florida sent across Sharon Jarvis who is a veteran-penguin handler and proved her metal in the pens alongside the staff and volunteers. Andy Cope from Bristol Zoo volunteered, Naomi Mansfield – California Academy of Science completed the Seabird Veterinary internship; Kate Atwell – Bristol Zoo – spent a day at SANCCOB after an Earthwatch trip to Robben Island; Jacqui Higgins – Phillip Island Nature Parks Education officer and Sherri Lynn from Aquarium of the Pacific with IBR experience volunteered for 6 weeks. Corinne Bos from Natura Artis Magistra, head of EEP, visited with Margaret at SANCCOB to find out more about SANCCOB and African penguin conservation work being done in South Africa first hand; while she was here she put in a good couple of shifts volunteering.

International visitors included:

Aaron Spacher – St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY - Greg Cunningham supervised MSc student – volunteered for 6 weeks during which time he assisted Dr. Nola Parsons with feather loss data capturing and worked in the bird rehabilitation team; Sherri Lynn – Aquarium of the Pacific & IBR volunteer – 6 weeks volunteering

Also spotted at SANCCOB in 2012 have been Dr. Dee Boersma (with SANCCOB Patron Tom Leiden), Dr. Sherri Cox, who spent a week with the SANCCOB conservation team, and Dr. Laura Reiveld from South America who kindly took up the veterinary reigns at SANCCOB to allow Nola a well-deserved break.



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EASTERN CAPE CHICKS REMOVED FROM MOULTING PARENTS

The Chick Bolstering Project is also assisting financially with chicks abandoned by their moulting parents in the Eastern Cape. In November 80 chicks were admitted to PEC (Penguins Eastern Cape) by the SANParks colony management authorities; the chicks were removed from the islands while still in a good condition, and are faring well. In 2013 SANCCOB will take over the PEC facility and will collaborate with the existing PEC management to ensure sustainability for the facility which is key to successful rehabilitation and oiled wildlife response in the region.





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The Chick Bolstering Project is calling on all zoos and aquariums which are interested in helping the save African penguins from extinction to support the project.

All contributions are welcome and funders will be credited.

The project supports chick rearing to bolster wild population and research to establish foraging behavior of juveniles.

Please consider sponsoring a **LOGGER PACKAGE**
(or part thereof)

Logger package	US\$	Euro
1 x PTT (satellite tracker) instrument	US\$2 250	Euro1 620
Contribution - Chick Bolstering Project	US\$ 400	Euro 280
Contribution - hand rearing abandoned chicks at SANCCOB	US\$ 850	Euro 500
TOTAL	US\$3 500	Euro 2 400

Many zoos and aquariums around the world are conscious of this important work and our thanks goes out to you for your contributions over the years. The project is made possible by the following sponsors: Bristol Zoo, Basel Zoo; Leipzig Zoo; Living Coasts; Erlebnis Zoo Hannover; Dierenpark Amersfoort; Le Pal Nature Foundation; Allwetterzoo Muenster; ZOOM Torino; La Palmyre Zoo; Burgers Zoo; Georgia Aquarium; Leiden Conservation Foundation; National Aviary; Seaworld Animal Crisis Fund; Little Rock Zoo; Memphis Zoo; Minnesota Zoo, Océarium du Croisic, Steinhardt Aquarium; Toledo Zoo; Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium); Disney Rapid Relief Fund; Wallace Global Fund; Fort Wayne Kid’s Zoo; Jenkinson’s Aquarium; IFAW; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; SeaWorld Busch Garden Conservation Fund and the SeaWorld Animal Crisis Fund; Jenkinson’s Aquarium; National Aviary; Disney Rapid Relief Fund; Natura Artis Zoo

Should you wish to contribute please contact:

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