

A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT 2006–2016

Dyer Island Conservation Trust

DISCOVER, PROTECT, EDUCATE

OUR MISSION

- **Discover** and understand this globally important marine eco-system through world-class scientific research
- **Protect** the long-term future of the species which live here by translating this knowledge into evidence-based conservation initiatives and legislation
- **Educate** our partners – local communities, legislators and visitors – by informing and actively involving them in achieving our goals for the benefit of all

A UNIQUE AND FRAGILE ECO-SYSTEM

Close to the southern tip of Africa, Dyer Island and the surrounding ocean form a critically important eco-system.

The 20ha island – managed by CapeNature – is home to breeding colonies of the endangered African penguin, Bank cormorant and Roseate tern, as well as thousands of other seabirds. Its importance is recognised by Birdlife International which designated Dyer Island as an Important Bird Area.

About 60 000 Cape fur seals are also resident and they attract the densest population of Great white sharks in the world.

The waters of Klein Bay also provide the breeding ground for the Southern right whales which migrate here from Antarctica between July and December each year while Bryde's whales, Humpback whales and Orcas visit the bay along with large pods of dolphins.



Dyer Island Conservation Trust

Whales
Southern right
Humpback
Bryde's
Orca

Marine Birds
African penguin*
Bank cormorant*
Roseate tern*
Cormorants (Cape, White breasted, Crowned)
Leach's storm petrel
African black oystercatcher
Gulls (Kelp, Hartlaub)

*Endangered species

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

We are privileged to live and work in Gansbaai - the most beautiful and fascinating coastal area of South Africa – only two hours outside of Cape Town.

Known to thousands of visitors from all over the world, the greater Dyer Island eco-system is the Great White Shark Capital of the world. It is an area of incredible biodiversity, which is home to thousands of seabirds including the iconic African penguin, and a large colony of Cape fur seals which attract the Great white sharks. Southern right whales visit us for six months every year to mate and calve.

Today this fragile eco-system is threatened from many directions. These dangers include declining fish stocks, pollution and coastal development, including a proposed nuclear power station, all of which put pressure on the future of every species.

OUR FIRST DECADE

We founded the Dyer Island Conservation Trust in 2006 to address these issues.

From our inception we knew that to successfully address these challenges we had to improve our understanding of this complex environment and the animals that inhabit it. So we embarked on a decade of rigorous world-class scientific research to obtain the evidence on which conservation programmes could be developed. In turn, this evidence is used to influence the public's attitudes and to drive policy.

THIS STRATEGY IS ENCAPSULATED IN OUR MOTTO, WHICH IS TO "DISCOVER, PROTECT, EDUCATE".

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust and our African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary are charities which are totally self-funded. Therefore, this important work would be impossible without the generosity of many organisations and individuals.

Our primary partners – Marine Dynamics and Dyer Island Cruises – provide significant funding as well as the operational platform from which the Trust operates.

We also rely heavily on the generous support of the local community, business and corporate sponsors, especially Volkswagen South Africa's 'Think Blue' initiative.

Donations from thousands of visitors who come to cage dive with Great white sharks or to join whale-watching cruises are also integral to our continued work.

OUR NEXT DECADE

While we are proud of our achievements we know that our work has only just begun.

The threats to this precious corner of the marine world have never been greater:

- African penguin populations continue to decline catastrophically and by 2030 these beautiful little birds could be extinct in the wild;
- Numbers of Great white sharks are dwindling but we do not yet know enough about their lives to better protect them; and,
- A myriad of other species are increasingly threatened and even the growing number of Southern right whales offers no margin for error

Driven by these clear and present challenges, we remain dedicated to an ambitious plan of research and conservation. As you will read in this report we have innovative research plans which will provide the scientific community with answers to some of the critically important questions on which more effective conservation policies can be planned and implemented.

At the same time the Trust is committed to working in partnership with local communities to educate them about the special corner of the world in which they live and to enthuse future generations of South Africans about their inheritance.

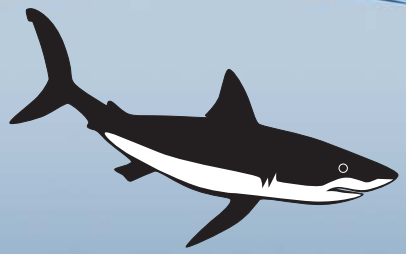
We can only deliver this vitally important work with your support.

Please help us to continue to discover, protect and educate – it is your choice that will allow us to make the difference.

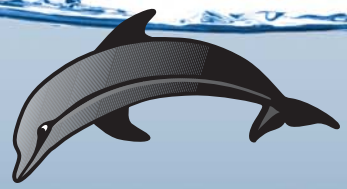


Wilfred Chivell
Founder and Chair of Trustees
Dyer Island Conservation Trust





Sharks and Relatives
Great white
Bronze whaler
Hammerhead



Dolphins
Common
Humpback
Bottlenose



Cape fur seal

SAVING THE ENDANGERED AFRICAN PENGUIN

The endangered African penguin could be extinct in the wild by 2030

THE AFRICAN PENGUIN'S CATASTROPHIC PLIGHT

The African penguin population has declined by about 98% since 1920 and is still decreasing by an average of 90 birds every week. As a result, numbers have halved over the last three generations.

On Dyer Island, one of the most important breeding colonies, the population has fallen from about 25 000 breeding pairs in the 1970s to only 1500 pairs today.

As a result, in 2010 with the support of the Trust, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared that the African penguin is "Endangered", i.e. it has "a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future".

CAUSES OF THE DECLINE

Initially this crisis was caused by guano scraping, and egg harvesting to which the modern threats of marine pollution and depleted fish stocks have been added.

In the past penguin colonies created 4- to 6-metre thick layers of guano (droppings) allowing the penguins to excavate burrows, which were insulated from the weather and protected from predators. But guano offered a rich and accessible source of organic fertilizer which was scraped away in the 19th and 20th centuries, leaving the penguins to nest on exposed rocks with no protection for eggs or chicks.

Until the 1960s these eggs were considered a delicacy which was regularly harvested. An estimated 13 million eggs were removed from penguin colonies.

Today, African penguins are highly susceptible to marine pollution, especially oil. While major oil spills are fortunately rare, penguins on Dyer Island are constantly threatened by small spills from passing ships or old wrecks. These oiled penguins drown or cannot go to sea to feed.

Meanwhile, declining stocks of sardines and anchovies force adult penguins to swim long distances from the colony to feed. Consequently they expend significantly more energy and the risk of attacks by predators such as Cape fur seals increases.

As a result of these challenges the Trust is still recording significant population declines.

TRUDI MALAN

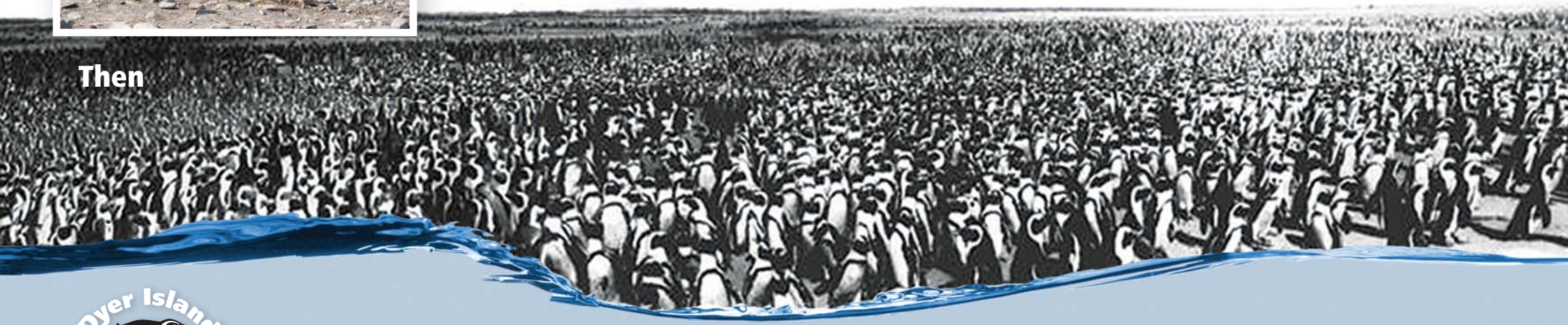


Bird Rehabilitation Manager

I was born an activist with the emphasis on the "act" part. I want to do, to be involved, to be the change. The Dyer Island Conservation Trust empowers me to make a difference. They act, whether through small conservation projects or large world-class developments like the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary. The Dyer Island Conservation Trust is doing something. We stand up, speak out and act. These actions will change perceptions and educate because:

"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny."
– *Mahatma Gandhi*





Dyer Island Conservation Trust

DECLINE OF THE AFRICAN PENGUIN POPULATION 1920-2015



Only 1500 breeding pairs left on Dyer Island

OUR RESPONSE

FACES OF NEED – HOMES FOR PENGUINS

In partnership with CapeNature, the Trust pioneered the unique nesting box for the African penguin, which protects eggs and chicks.

The importance of the project was recognised by Birdlife South Africa when the Trust's chairman, Wilfred Chivell, received the lifetime Eagle Award for the programme.

RESEARCH INTO THE THREAT

Trust-sponsored research into occupancy of these nests and the subsequent successful breeding of chicks revealed they were often occupied within hours of installation, that eggs were successfully hatched and chicks reared and fledged.

This research has allowed the design of the nests to be improved.

Faces of Need has funded additional innovative studies using micro-radio transmitters to track penguins from Dyer Island. It revealed that parents are swimming more than 50 km from the colony to fish before returning to feed their chicks. This data highlights the need to reconsider the extent of marine protected areas.

Results of this research have been published in scientific literature and presented at international congresses.

WORKING WITH SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS

Additionally, the Trust has hosted two landmark scientific conferences on the future of the African penguin. Here invited experts from South Africa, Europe and the USA reviewed the urgent action required to protect the species before it is no longer sustainable in the wild. As a result of these discussions, delegates adopted the Gansbaai Declaration, which reinforced the critical importance of the endangered species status and the implementation of South Africa's African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan, to which the ***Faces of Need*** project is integral.

MORE THAN 2000 NESTS INSTALLED AT BREEDING COLONIES











THE NEXT DECADE

Establish the international Centre for Marine Sciences to expand studies of the Dyer Island colony

Launch a long-term programme of data collection to facilitate an integrated plan for conservation of the South African population

Continue to play a pivotal role in the delivery of the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan

AFRICAN PENGUIN AND SEABIRD SANCTUARY

A world-class seabird sanctuary for conservation, rehabilitation and research

A NEW SANCTUARY

In 2015, the Dyer Island Conservation Trust opened the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS) in Gansbaai as an important contribution to addressing the plight of the penguin population.

The construction of the Sanctuary was funded by the Trust with the generous support of Volkswagen South Africa and other donors including Grindrod, Zimmermann, Marine Dynamics, and Dyer Island Cruises as well as individual donations from the local community and visitors.

Designed with experts in penguin conservation, this state-of-the-art facility includes the best practices for rehabilitating birds. Its construction facilitates the optimal care of injured and oiled birds and includes rehabilitation areas, pools and laboratory. There are also facilities for visitors to observe the birds, an auditorium and a shop from which all the proceeds help to support the Sanctuary.

The centre's full-time staff is permanently available to care for injured birds and abandoned African penguin chicks and to cope with ecological emergencies such as oil spills.

IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Every year a significant number of African penguin chicks are abandoned by their parents on Dyer Island and at other colonies along the coast. The loss of these chicks is a tragedy for the already fast-dwindling population.

WHY ARE CHICKS ABANDONED?

Adult penguins molt annually which for 3-4 weeks prevents them going to sea to feed. If these adults are raising chicks they are forced to abandon them in order to survive. Left unfed the chicks die of starvation or they try to go to sea prematurely and drown, or are killed by predators.

When a crisis occurs urgent action is needed to prevent the death of these orphaned chicks. Under the supervision of CapeNature, they are now removed to the safety of the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary where they are cared for and fed for about 100 days before being released to return to the Island.





Minister of Tourism Derek Hanekom and Overstrand Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Sanctuary.

Until the Sanctuary was established these rescued chicks from Dyer Island had to be transported more than 200 km to the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB). Subsequently, these birds were released in the Cape Town area and had to make the perilous swim of 160 km around Cape Point and back to the Island.

With the opening of the Sanctuary rehabilitated penguins are released on the Island by the Trust and CapeNature – with whom the Trust works closely – or from adjacent beaches which are a short swim from their home.



AFRICAN PENGUIN & SEABIRD SANCTUARY

90 – 100 days
Time to save a single penguin

ZAR 1 000.00
Cost of caring for a single penguin









XOLANI LAWO



Bird Rehabilitator

I came from the Eastern Cape where I have been involved with marine bird rehabilitation for the past 8 years. The Dyer Island Conservation Trust gave me the opportunity to take a step up in my career and to be part of the amazing new African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary. I love my work because I am actively contributing to the conservation of our marine heritage. Being able to share my knowledge and love for the African penguin and other sea birds with our community makes me proud.



420
Number of sardines consumed per African penguin during their stay

>120
Number of penguins saved in first year

UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES OF THE GREAT WHITE SHARK



OUR UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The seas around Dyer Island have one of the densest populations of Great white sharks in the world which is readily accessible to research scientists.

Attracted by the colony of about 60 000 seals on Geyser Rock (separated from Dyer Island by the world-famous Shark Alley) these mysterious apex predators are regularly sighted by thousands of visitors who come here to cage dive each year.

This creates a rare opportunity for marine biologists to study the behaviours of the Great white shark all year. While much of the Trust's research is conducted from our dedicated research vessel – *Lwaz*i (Xhosa "Seeking knowledge") – it is complemented by over a decade of observations and images collected by the marine biologists aboard the cage diving boat of Marine Dynamics.

As a result of this co-operation and the intensive research conducted by the Trust over the last five years, Dyer Island has become an internationally recognised 'hot spot' for exploring the world of the Great white shark.

OUR LANDMARK RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The first fundamental question that the Trust set out to answer scientifically was: What is the size of the Great white shark population in the bay today?

Previous estimates relied on observations which could not identify individual sharks with any great degree of certainty. So to obtain the answer the Trust's marine biologists embarked on a three-year programme using the unique database of more than 20 000 images of the dorsal fins of Great white sharks photographed in the Bay over a five-year period. To analyse these images scientifically they used a computer program which could identify individual animals over time. From these results they statistically calculated the probable population size.

Many were surprised by the results. In 1991 it was estimated that there were about 2000 individuals in the bay but the scientific study revealed that there were less than half of that number. Only 532 individuals were identified, suggesting that the total regional population is 808–1008 Great white sharks.

Although the size of the global population is disputed, the Trust's landmark study suggests there may be only 3000 – 5000 Great white sharks worldwide – a figure which is comparable with many terrestrial predators which are considered to be endangered.

When the Trust's results were published in the high-impact *PLoS ONE* journal, many asked why the figures did not support a recovery in regional numbers of sharks. The Trust believes that these results are evidence of the threats created by the anti-shark nets in KwaZulu Natal and intensive pressure from fishing in countries such as Mozambique which are putting the species under severe pressure. Given the slow growth of Great white sharks and their late maturity these issues need to be urgently addressed to protect the species.



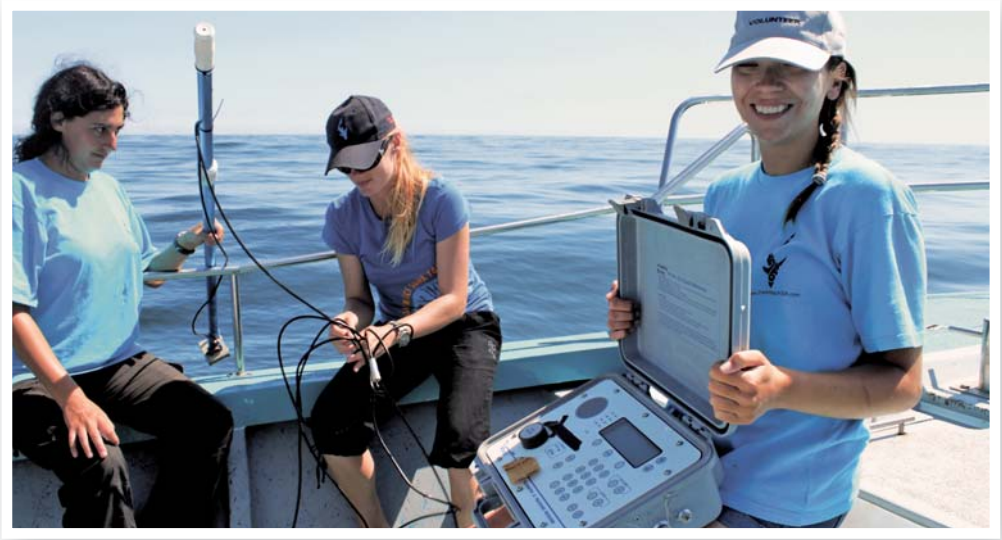


Dyer Island Conservation Trust

Gansbaai has the highest concentration of Great white sharks in the world. Each Great white shark has a unique dorsal fin.
A computerised dorsal fin recognition program called DARWIN was used to identify individual sharks, taking more than 3 years to complete.



Only 532 individuals were identified compared with the population of more than 2000 which had been previously estimated.



UNDERSTANDING THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GREAT WHITE SHARK

To conserve and protect this population conservationists need to understand their movements and reactions to their changing environment.

Using acoustic tagging our marine biologists have established an intensive programme to study sharks' interactions with their environment, habitat and prey. They have shown that sharks respond to changes in sea temperature. This information could provide a predictive model of periods when surfers, bathers and others are at increased risk from shark attacks.

Additionally our collaborative satellite tracking studies have revealed the larger migratory movement patterns of sharks within the bay and along the South African coast.

Today, this programme of boat-based tracking, which relies on calm seas, is augmented by a permanent network of 13 receivers, anchored to listening stations across the bay as well as adjacent Walker Bay and Quoin Point. The sharks are fitted with transmitters, which when detected by the moored receivers, allow the marine biologists to further analyse shark movements as part of the collaborative African Tracking Platform network, which incorporates data from all tagged species along the coastline.

In 2012 the Trust also co-operated with the US Ocearch Global Satellite Tracking programme in which 14 Great white sharks were fitted with satellite tags in Gansbaai (some of the 38 sharks tagged in South African waters). This powerful study has revealed the incredible distances covered by these white sharks, which have been recorded as far away as Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, and Angola and on the Continental Shelf of Sub Antarctica. This exciting data may reveal breeding and mating areas as well as regions where sharks are at high risk - all vital information for initiatives to adequately protect the species.

WORLDWIDE COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

Our commitment to excellence has produced important collaborations with researchers from universities in South Africa and the UK. This on-going work includes behavioural studies to understand how physiological stress and genetics affect individual variation in behaviour (termed 'personality') in a large apex predator.

The presence and effects of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) on Great white shark reproductive health are also being studied, using non-lethal techniques such as tissue biopsies.

In a further study of great local significance the team is investigating the relationship between cage diving and Great white shark behaviour by comparing control and cage-dive designated areas.

ALISON TOWNER



Marine Biologist

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust has provided me with unwavering support from the earliest point in my career. Marine research is notoriously expensive, as all equipment must be able to withstand the pressures exerted by the ocean environment. The work which fellow colleagues and I have produced in Kleinbaai would not have been possible if it was not for the Trust which provided staff, equipment and dedicated vessels. The partnership with marine eco-tourism companies Marine Dynamics and Dyer Island Cruises has been integral to our success. I feel honoured to have been working here for the best part of a decade and look forward to what the future holds for our marine research in this incredibly important location.

THE NEXT DECADE

Collect scientific evidence on movements and behaviours to urgently strengthen legislative protection in South Africa and adjacent countries

Contribute to a network of Ocean Ambassadors in South Africa and around the world

Host conferences to provide academics with a platform to exchange knowledge and foster wider collaboration



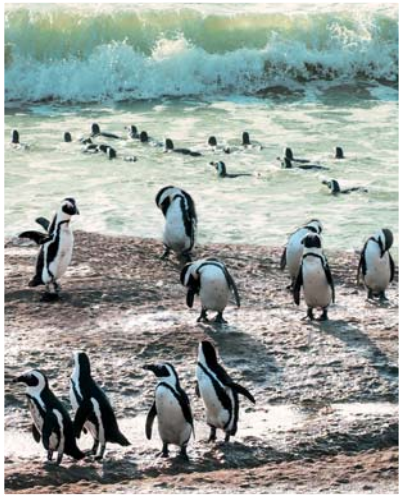
SPECTRUM OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN OTHER SPECIES

Our rich and diverse marine ecosystem offers excellent opportunities for conducting research across multiple species. Therefore, while the Trust has to date focused its funds and resources on the African Penguin and the Great white shark we also support research across other species:

- Support of the annual aerial survey of Southern right whales – one of South Africa's greatest conservation successes and which is one of the longest-running data series in the world
- Collaboration in researching the endangered Humpback dolphin
- Providing the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Mammal Research Institute of the University of Pretoria with data from all marine mammal strandings and conducting dissections.
- Collecting images of Bryde's whales for a national database of the species threatened by overfishing













Dyer Island Conservation Trust

OUR ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

BIOLOGIST AND AFFILIATES PUBLICATIONS

SHARKS

Wcisel, M.A., Chivell, W. & Gottfried, M.D. (2010) A potential predation attempt by a great white shark on an Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*. **40** (2): 184-187.

Jewell, O.J.D., Wcisel, M.A., Gennari, E., Towner, A.V., Bester, M.N., Johnson, R.L. & Singh, S. (2011) Effects of Smart Position Only (SPOT) tag deployment on white sharks in South Africa. *PLoS ONE* **6** (11): e27242.

Towner, A.V., Smale, M.J. & Jewell, O.J.D. (2012) Boat strike wound healing in the white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) *Global Perspectives on the Biology and Life History of the White Shark* Ed. Domeier Ch.6: 77–82.

Jewell, O.J.D., Johnson, R.L., Gennari, E. & Bester, M.N. (2012) Fine scale movements and activity areas of white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) in Mossel Bay, South Africa. *Environmental Biology of Fishes.* **96:** 881–894.

Towner, A.V. (2012) Great White Sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) in Gansbaai, South Africa: Environmental influences and changes over time: 2007–2011. Master's Thesis, University of Cape Town.

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Towner, A.V., Wcisel, M.A., Edwards, D., Reisinger, R.R. & Jewell, O.J.D. Gauging the Threat: The First Population Estimate for White Sharks in South Africa Using Photo Identification and Automated Software. *PLoS ONE*. **8** (6).

Towner, A.V., Underhill, L.G., Jewell, O.J.D, Smale, M.J. (2013) Environmental Influences on the Abundance and Sexual Composition of White Sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) in Gansbaai, South Africa. *PLoS ONE*. **8** (8).



Dureuil, M., Towner, A.V., Ciolfi, L.G. and Beck, L.A. (2015) A computer-aided framework for subsurface identification of white shark pigment patterns. *African Journal of Marine Science*. **37:** 363–371.

Towner, A.V., Leos-Barajas, V., Langrock, R., Schick, R.S., Smale, M.J., Kaschke, T., Jewell, O.J.D., Papastamatiou Y.P. (2016) Sex-specific and individual preferences for hunting strategies in white sharks. *Functional Ecology.*

Chapple, T.K., Gleiss, A., Jewell, O.J., Block, B.A. (2015) Tracking sharks without teeth: A non-invasive rigid tag attachment for large predatory sharks. *Animal Biotelemetry.* **3** (14).

CETACEANS

Vinding, K., Bester, M.N., Kirkman, S., Chivell, W. The Use of Data from a Platform of Opportunity (Whale Watching) to Study Coastal Cetaceans On the Southwest Coast of South Africa. *Tourism in Marine Environments.* **11** (1).



PENGUINS

Waller, L., Underhill, L.G., Lydynia, K. (2011) The African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*): Conservation and Management Issues. PhD Thesis, University of Cape Town.

SEALS

Vinding, K., Christiansen, M., Hofmeyr, G.J., Chivell, W., McBride R., Bester M.N. (2013) Occurrence of vagrant leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) along the South African coast. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research* **43** (1): 84-86.

Wcisel, M.A. (2013) The effects white shark presence has on Cape fur seal movements at Geyser Rock, South Africa. Master's Thesis, University of Cape Town.

Wcisel, M.A., O'Rian, J., De Vos, A., Chivell, W. (2014) The role of refugia in reducing predation risk for Cape fur seals by white sharks. *Behavioural Ecology Sociobiology*.

SEABIRDS

Cook, T.R., Jewell, O.J.D., Chivell, W. & Bester, M.N. (2012) Albino Cape Cormorant (*P Capensis*) at Dyer Island. *Marine Ornithology* **40:** 72–73.

TURTLES

Jewell, O.J.D. & Wcisel, M.A. (2012) A leatherback turtle stranding at Danger Point, Gansbaai, South Africa. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*. **42** (2): 147–150

OUR SCHOLARLY GRADUATES

Alison Towner – MSc Zoology, University of Cape Town
Michelle Wcisel – MSc Zoology, University of Cape Town
Oliver Jewell – MSc Zoology, University of Pretoria
Dr. Lauren Waller – PhD, University of Cape Town
Dr. Katja Vinding-Petersen – PhD, University of Pretoria

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

PROTECTING OUR UNIQUE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Trust is committed to working in partnership with our community to involve them in our work to protect our unique marine eco-system for future generations of South Africans.

FISHING LINE BIN PROJECT

In 2010, recognising the ever-increasing hazards to animals and humans of discarded fishing line, the Trust began this special recovery and recycling project with Overstrand municipality.

Today the programme is nationwide and more than 350 collection bins have been installed along the coast.

In Gansbaai alone >50 kg of discarded fishing line have been collected.

MARINE DISENTANGLEMENT AND RESCUE

Working closely with the local community, particularly the Department of Environmental Affairs, CapeNature and fishermen, the Trust provides the emergency response to disentangle whales and other animals trapped in fishing lines. We attend and record all strandings of marine animals in the area and take samples for analysis where necessary.

BEACH CLEAN-UPS

With Overstrand municipality, local organisations and schools the Trust organises teams to collect, and where possible recycle, waste that washes up on the local beaches. These popular events take place monthly.













Dyer Island Conservation Trust

YOUNG PEOPLE COLLECTED MORE THAN 2000 KG OF MARINE RUBBISH – MUCH OF WHICH IS RECYCLED



REACHING OUT TO TOMORROW'S SOUTH AFRICANS

For the last 10 years the Trust has constantly engaged local communities in the protection of our shared environment. Education has been the foundation of these efforts.

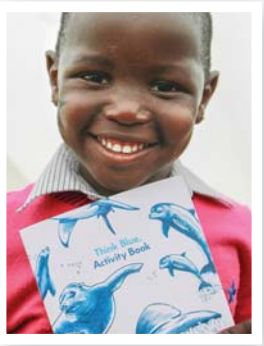
Providing support to teachers and learners, the Trust's team regularly visits schools, and encourages them to visit us to participate in our programmes.

In partnership with Gina Boysen and Masakhane Primary School an environmental club (EnviroClub) has been established where 10- 12-year-old girls and boys learn about the environment and how they can help care for it.

These programmes reconnect learners with nature and environmental issues to encourage them to become good stewards of the earth and particularly of the wonderful environment around them in the Cape.













PINKEY NGEWU



Operations Administrator
Dyer Island Conservation Trust

I am passionate about communicating the critical importance of protecting our very special marine environment to the youth of today who will shape the South Africa of tomorrow. In partnership with educators, schools and the local community, we have created programmes which motivate children to connect with the exciting world which sits on their doorstep and open their eyes to opportunities to learn and grow. In turn, this is building a cadre of Deep Blue Ambassadors who will become the future advocates for protection and conservation in the Dyer Island eco-system.

THE NEXT DECADE

Create a unique network of DEEP Blue Ambassadors in local schools to become tomorrow's guardians of the fragile Dyer Island eco-system

Support Grootbos Foundation's Dibanisa youth environmental education and sport project

Establish the Recycle Swop Shops in local schools to expose promising children to the Trust's activities and educational programmes

WELCOMING MARINE VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



OUR MISSION

To inspire our volunteers to make a difference in the world around them by providing them with life-changing opportunities and experiences, and creating awareness that eco-tourism, conservation, community, research and education can all dovetail into a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship.

Since the International Marine Volunteer Scheme started in 2007 more than 1200 people have enrolled from 29 countries. Many of these volunteers return repeatedly, some go on to study related subjects at university or college, while others join our full-time team.



They bring with them important skills and enthusiasm which have ensured that they make valuable contributions to our programmes. When they leave they become great ambassadors for the Trust all over the world.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD

Volunteers work with our eco-tourism partners Marine Dynamics and Dyer Island Cruises giving them an otherwise rare, but here daily opportunity to view and work with Great white sharks. They play a key role in all our conservation and education programmes including the fishing line bin project, the African penguin nest initiative, and community outreach as well as being members of the Great white shark tagging and tracking team.







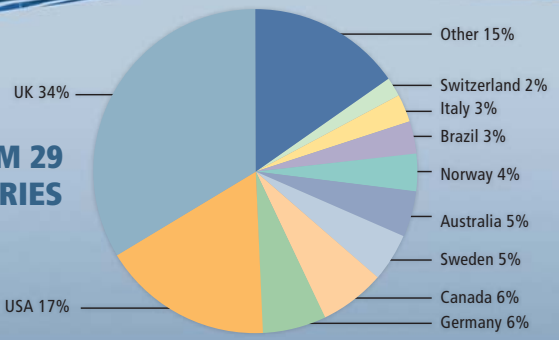


Dyer Island Conservation Trust

EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS



FROM 29 COUNTRIES



Sean Hardison
USA



"I gained a deeper respect for the ocean and its inhabitants, and for those who study it. Being out at sea every day in order to collect data is an unforgiving and often thankless task, but fortune favours those who persevere. I was able to see how marine biologists go about their work, and the troubles they encountered along the way. Volunteering helped to add perspective to an often-romanticised field. From another point of view, being out on the water every day helped to "connect the dots" for those of us who have only learned about marine science from the classroom."



Dustin Miller
USA



"My experience with Marine Dynamics and the Dyer Island Conservation Trust changed my life. Although I'm not in the "scientific" field anymore I'm still involved in wildlife through my photography trying to bring conservation to the forefront and make people aware of what's going on in our world. I donate part of my proceeds to wildlife conservation. The biggest influence of the volunteer programme for me was just how much you guys do for wildlife conservation."



Rebecca Haughey
Australia



"Studying Marine Sciences at university was the main reason I looked into volunteer programmes (getting to travel overseas for it was a bonus!), but the biggest influencer on the programme for me was the opportunity to work with such an amazing species and learn more about them (especially with the increasing number of shark attacks in Western Australia and the fact that these beautiful animals are so badly misunderstood). Travelling, great whites and invaluable practical experience will do wonders for your career."



MEREDITH THORNTON



Volunteer Manager/Research Co-ordinator

I joined the Dyer Island Conservation Trust because I am passionate about conservation and it is imperative for me to work in an organisation that truly walks the walk, believes in what they do and makes a difference in the world around them. All of our research, conservation, education and social projects are active, useful and the number and scope of these projects is growing. I will strive to maintain the high quality and robustness of our research, and will continue to build relationships with tertiary education and conservation organisations. I am immensely proud to be associated with the Trust and know that exciting times lie ahead!

THE NEXT DECADE

Develop an international intern programme for those volunteers with Master's/PhD degrees to enhance their careers and to benefit from their contribution to the Trust's research programmes

International
MARINE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

MAJOR SPONSORS
Volkswagen South Africa
Grindrod
Zimmermann

SPONSORS
Air Jaws 2012 Film Crew
Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative
Alexander Abraham Foundation
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First National Bank
Gansbaai Marine
Glass South Africa
Grootbos Foundation
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JoJo Tanks
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Mike Morrison Architecture
Mike Gibbs
National Lottery
Nautic Africa
Ocean Tracking Network
Pierre Franken Builders
PlasLantic (Pty) Ltd
Plastics SA
Romansbaai Eco Estate
Rudy Projects
Save our Seas Foundation
Shark Entertainment
Sharklady Adventures
Stephen Walker
The Blue Fund
Two Oceans Aquarium
Underwater Survey
VVM
Walker Bay Bird Fair
Wildlands Trust
Youngman Roofing

CONSERVATION PARTNERS
Blue Flag South Africa
Cape Whale Coast Hope Spot
CapeNature
Department of Environmental Affairs
Gansbaai Courant
Overstrand Municipality
WESSA
WWF

SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATIONS

SOUTH AFRICA
University of Cape Town
University of Pretoria
University of Limpopo
Rhodes University
CapeNature
Mammal Research Institute

UK
University of Sussex
University of Southampton
Bangor University

USA
University of Michigan

ITALY
Centro Studi Squali – Aquarium Mondo Marino

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust (DICT) and the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS) are registered charities.

Only the generous support of our sponsors – organisations, corporations, businesses and individuals – makes these achievements possible.



Special thanks to the thousands of individuals from South Africa and the rest of the world who have supported us through donations, sponsorship and purchases.

BRIDGET HARPUR



Sales and Marketing, Volkswagen SA

2015 marks the 4th year of Volkswagen South Africa's sponsorship of the Dyer Island Conservation Trust, including the newly built Seabird Sanctuary.

Volkswagen's sponsorship falls under the Think Blue brand, a sustainability strategy that was rolled out globally in 2010. The philosophy is based on the principle that we are all responsible for our actions to the environment, and that one small change can make a big difference. We truly hope that our small contribution amounts to a big difference in the lives of the Gansbaai communities, sea life and environment.

We could not be prouder of our association with this dedicated, passionate and wild bunch of individuals!

Dyer Island Conservation Trust

"In 2011 VWSA met this small NGO with a very big heart… our partnership with DICT has been one of our most rewarding sustainability projects we have been involved with in South Africa. The work of DICT will make an impact for generations to come."
Ryan Laubscher – Volkswagen South Africa

"We are proud to invest in our ecological heritage in partnership with organisations that are actively involved in the conservation of South Africa's rich natural environment."
Mike Hankinson – Chairman, Grindrod Ltd

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust works in partnership with award-winning eco-tourism operators Marine Dynamics Tours and Dyer Island Cruises. Leaders in responsible shark cage diving and pioneers of ethical marine eco-tourism, these Fair Trade Tourism-certified companies provide logistical and marketing support. Daily observational data gained through these operations is crucial to the scientific research objectives.





OUR AWARDS

- Overstrand Mayor's Floating Trophy for Environmental Conservation: 2004/2006 Finalist; 2007 Runner-Up; 2009 Joint Winner; 2012 Winner; 2015 Silver
- Birdlife South Africa: Blue Crane Award for Faces of Need Project 2006
- Birdlife South Africa: Eagle Award for penguin conservation (Faces of Need 2008) (This is a once-in-a-lifetime award)

"Projects of this nature are about the common good – good for the environment, good for the community and good for our country as a whole."

Derek Hanekom – South African Minister of Tourism

"The total operation was a complete experience which is best practice eco-tourism from start to finish across all aspects."

Guy Chester – Global Sustainable Tourism Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT TO THE DYER ISLAND CONSERVATION TRUST

We reviewed the financial statements as presented to us by management. These financial statements are the responsibility of the trustees. It is our responsibility, on the grounds of our procedures, to give our opinion on the financial statements.

1. Scope

We conducted procedures we considered sufficient to form a basis for our opinion regarding these financial statements. These procedures were planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. These procedures include:

1.1. An examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements,

1.2. Assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and

1.3. Evaluating the overall financial statements presentation.

2. Result of independent review

It is our opinion that the accompanying financial statements are a reasonable portrayal of the financial position of the Trust on 28 February 2015 and of the results of their trade for the year ending on this date. These statements were drawn up in accordance with the generally accepted accounting practices, as applicable to the Trust.

Villet Group — Date: 27 January 2016

The full financial statements are available on request from Dyer Island Conservation Trust

BALANCE SHEET

At 28 February 2015

	Notes	2015	2014
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL			
Non-current assets		3 983 609,02	469 761,38
Fixed Assets	1	3 949 951,19	173 055,16
Loans to related parties	2	33 657,83	296 706,22
Current Assets		402 349,71	312 732,19
Cash on hand		3 100,00	100,00
Current Bank Account		51 308,75	258 975,73
Debtors		17 777,00	53 656,46
Inventory		72 099,17	–
SARS – VAT		258 064,79	–
		R4 385 958,73	R782 493,57
CAPITAL EMPLOYED			
Trust Capital	3	2 887 670,46	773 420,23
Non-current liabilities			
Loans from related parties		1 429 695,52	–
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		68 592,75	9 073,34
		R 4 385 958,73	R 782 493,57

INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 28 February 2015

	2015	2014
Income:APSS	2 354 112,	–
– Bricks	25 000,00	–
– Donations	2 328 312,70	–
– Shop	1 500,00	–
Purchases	(72 799,17)	–
Closing Stock	72 099,17	–
Income	986 932,63	1 166 221,38
Donations Received – Faces of Need	967 454,79	1 156 793,54
Interest Received	19 477,84	9 427,84
LESS: Cost of Sales	43 907,35	50 795,00
LESS: Expenditure	1 182 887,75	877 410,67
Net Profit	R2 114 250,23	R238 015,71

TRUSTEES
Mr Wilfred Chivell, Founder and Chairman
Mr Mike Gibbs
Mr Deon Pitzer
Mr Tertius Lutzeyer

SCIENTISTS
Alison Towner – Senior Marine Biologist
Trudi Malan – Bird Rehabilitation Manager
Xolani Lawo – Senior Bird Rehabilitator
Mervyn Visagie – Bird Rehabilitator
Meredith Thornton – Research Coordinator

FUND RAISING
Karin Blumer

OPERATIONS
Pinkey Ngewu – Operations Administrator
Brenda du Toit – Project Support
Nicola Immelman – Finance Manager

CONSULTANT TO TRUST
Julie Cheetham



Charity registration PBO 930032314 / NPO 052-024
Section 18, Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Level 1
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ISBN

A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Educated 25,000 visitors per year about the vital need for marine conservation in this globally important marine eco-system
- Played a key role in gaining endangered species status for the African penguin
- Created and installed more than 2,000 homes for endangered African penguins in every major breeding colony in South Africa and Namibia
- Opened the world-class African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS)
- Conducted and published pioneering research which changed scientific understanding of the size of the global Great white shark population and the immediate dangers to the species in Southern Africa
- Published 18 research papers in prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Supported researchers affiliated to universities in South Africa and the UK who successfully completed higher degrees in marine sciences
- Hosted international and national scientific conferences
- Offered more than 1 200 international volunteers opportunities to work with marine biologists and eco-tourism teams
- Organised more than 100 monthly beach clean ups and collected thousands of kilometres of discarded fishing line in our iconic fishing line bins
- Reached out to more than 2 500 scholars in local schools, through multiple education programmes, beach clean ups, excursions and marine trips
- Partnered with national and international tourism, including guest houses and service providers, to enhance local economic opportunities
- Provided logistical support for hundreds of visiting scientists as well as film and TV crews

OUR VISION

Dyer Island Conservation Trust is a charity dedicated to delivering world-class research and conservation programmes to protect the fragile and threatened marine eco-system and animals close to the southern tip of Africa.

Dyer Island Conservation Trust

www.dict.org.za

PO Box 78, Gansbaai, 7220 , South Africa Email: office@dict.org.za Telephone +27 (0)829075607

@DyerICT TheDyerIslandConservationTrust