

The logo consists of a square divided into a 3x3 grid of smaller squares. The top-left square is black, the top-middle is white, and the top-right is green. The middle-left square is white, the middle-middle is green, and the middle-right is black. The bottom-left square is black, the bottom-middle is white, and the bottom-right is green.

**Two Oceans Aquarium
FOUNDATION**



**Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation
Annual Report 2020/2021**

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Annual Report 2020/2021	2
Conservation	3
Turtle Programme.....	3
Marine Wildlife Management Programme	3
Education	4
Research.....	5
Partnerships.....	5

Introduction

The southern tip of Africa is the meeting place of two bountiful oceans, the Indian and the Atlantic. The Two Oceans Aquarium at the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, showcases the incredible diversity of marine life found in these waters.

In addition to being an award-winning attraction which sees more than 500 000 visitors a year, the Aquarium is deeply invested in environmental education and campaigning, conservation, and research. In 2018, it established a not for profit, Public Benefit Organisation, the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation (the Aquarium Foundation) to promote and expand on its work.

The Aquarium Foundation's vision is *to connect all people to the ocean*. It offers quality, curriculum-aligned marine education programmes and adult ocean sustainability programmes. Its conservation work includes contributing to the conservation of five of the seven marine sea turtle species, collaborating on animal welfare programmes and conducting collaborative research projects with major tertiary institutions.

Annual Report 2020/2021

During the 2020/2021 fiscal year the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation was building and growing its reach, all whilst dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous lockdowns, anxieties, and the multiple changes and challenges that were faced.

The three primary areas covered by the Aquarium Foundation are conservation, education, and research. The Aquarium Foundation aims to lead by example by:

- demonstrating how the ocean is connected to daily life
- inspiring and educating the next generation of marine scientists and ocean champions

- empowering individuals, communities, and organisations to act in support of the ocean
- conducting marine and behavioural science research
- supporting marine rescue and conservation efforts
- innovating and showcasing new ocean positive solutions

Conservation

Turtle Programme

Our turtle team had a total of 37 turtle hatchlings and 12 sub-adult and adult turtles under their care. 19 hatchlings and four sub-adult and adult of these were released. In October, there were five green turtles that washed up on our shorelines and required rehabilitative care.

Throughout the year our turtle rescue stories were often featured in traditional and online media, with the story of Marcel receiving a lot of attention. Marcel, the green turtle, unfortunately did not recover after surgery of amputation due to fishing gear entanglement. We shared this story during Plastic Free July as poor Marcel had 67 pieces of plastic in his stomach (not the cause of death), and thus had great relevance to plastic pollution.

We also ran several successful fundraising campaigns. This included a very successful #AnnieGoesHome campaign in September as a fundraiser to cover the final costs of sea turtle Anette's rehabilitation before we released her in the summer. Annie's story generated a lot of interest, and we learnt a lot regarding quick and targeted fundraising. Media value related to Foundation activities and turtle content was R3 520 252 just in October. In the summer months, 13 Peaks for 13 Turtles raised R70 000 and a Robben Island Swim for Bob raised R18 000, this funding was allocated to the fantastic enrichment work carried out by Alexandra Panagiotou, the Foundation's Turtle Enrichment Specialist.

During the year we continued to track turtles that had previously been released. In August 2020 Alvi had just entered the waters off Angola and Yoshi was having a great time in Australia. In the first couple of months of 2021 our released turtles, Annie, and Luis, were doing incredibly well and had covered 7100km and 5400km, respectively. Annie was heading to Australia and at that point was currently about 580km SE of East London. Luis was busy enjoying travelling offshore Cape Town.

Marine Wildlife Management Programme

We have continued to manage the Marine Wildlife Management Programme throughout lockdown, and in July 2020 the seal monitors re-joined fulltime again.

Brett Glasby, our Marine Wildlife Management Co-ordinator, had two successful seal disentanglements and two bird rescues during July. The Marine Wildlife Management Programme team, together with support from the TOA team, disentangled a total of 16 seals during August – October 2020.

Throughout the summer months, together with the Aquarium team we rescued more than 30 seals from the dry docks and had a large number of disentanglements. Brett

also worked closely with V&A Waterfront team to manage breeding swift terns and chicks on the Nelson Mandela Gateway building and the Zenprop building, during breeding season which takes place each year between the end of December and mid-January.

Education

Our education team successfully adapted lessons and courses to be able to deliver the content online. With huge thanks to De Beers generous support, we were able to acquire the eLearning platform in February 2020. With fantastic assistance from Anzio Abels and Katja Laingui our teachers familiarised themselves with Open LMS and on the 1st of May we started our first paid for online course with 14 learners. This allowed us to offer 23 online courses during the course of the year which included more than 600 sponsored youth from under resourced areas. Currently the beneficiaries of our donor funding are 100% black youth, as well as our public benefit activities under conservation and welfare. We are now doing formal course surveys and feedback reports to measure potential impact better, but also to continually improve on our offerings based on participant experience and feedback.

The team also worked on creating video content. We introduced a subscription model which consists of three different educational content offerings for children aged three and above. These include:

- Mini Crew – Spunky Sea Stories for 3 – 7-year-olds
- Cool Crew – MzanSea Stories for 8 – 12-year-olds
- Pro Crew – uLwandle Stories for 13 and older

We also produced a series for the City of Cape Town Energy Festival called Smart City Kids, and our content featured at the Open Design Afrika event. In addition to this our Smart City Kids web series episodes were screened on Cape Town TV, and over the course of the year we produced 31 Spunky Sea Stories.

As lockdown levels began to change in the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021 and the world adjusted to the 'new normal', our outreach vehicles, including mobile puppet shows and 'Oceans in Motion' were able to get back on the road and school groups slowly began to return to the Aquarium. This has included both paid for groups and some sponsored school visits. It was wonderful to host children in the classrooms and Aquarium again.

One of our biggest achievements of the year was getting sign off from Minister Angie Motshekga for our Marine Sciences curriculum as a recognised Department of Basic Education's Gr 10 – 12 subjects. The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation also acts as an online node school and has 100 registered students for this 3-year course. Russell and Xavier are the principal educators and loading content onto our online platform, they also set the matric NSC exam.

Research

In 2020 Maryke Musson, the CEO of the Foundation at the time, had one publication in the Marine Science Journal and an approved publication for 2021 in the SA Vet Journal. The head of research at the Aquarium Foundation, Dr. Nathalie Viljoen continues to lecture at CPUT, and we began to receive a monthly payment from CPUT for her services.

In addition to this, we hosted four international virtual interns, two WESSA interns and CPUT student during 2022. In the course of 2021, we have the pleasure of hosting two new WESSA interns, two WWF interns and a CPUT Advanced Diploma student.

Partnerships

Throughout the year we built several partnerships and collaborated with a number of organisations. Below is a brief breakdown of our various partnerships and collaborations from the year.

- Captain Fanplastic – with various collaborations and an online course in April
- Leadership for Conservation in Africa – both Xavier Zylstra and Maryke Musson presented on their platform with some of the highest views they have received, and Maryke also did six podcasts for them.
- NSRI – Talitha Noble and Maryke presented three master classes for them; this was for NSRI's 1000+ volunteers.
- Nature Valley Trust – collaboration on marine sciences education.
- Sealand Gear – they are supporting our turtle conservation programme and our education outreach through supplying backpacks for distribution to our under-resourced students.
- World Surf League Africa – the 2021 Junior WSL Africa tour will have a turtle leader's vest with funding through a 'high score' system and great awareness throughout their contest series and social media channels (this includes contest as far afield as Senegal and working with the international organisation 'Black Girls Surf')
- Sentinel Ocean Alliance – Maryke stepped down from their committee, but our educators will remain involved with the Parley Ocean School and their activations in Hout Bay
- Challenge Cape Town – The Foundation was selected as official environmental/conservation partner to this international sports event, 2021 will have a local focus.
- We are Ocean Hack – Wandi Jonga and Chanelle Naidoo are now active participants contributing to this international ocean conservation working group (via Protect Blue)
- We are One Ocean / WSL Pure – we continue to attend their workshops to contribute to the 30x30 movement, increasing marine protected areas.
- Waterfront Rotary Club – Maryke has attended meetings and presented three times.

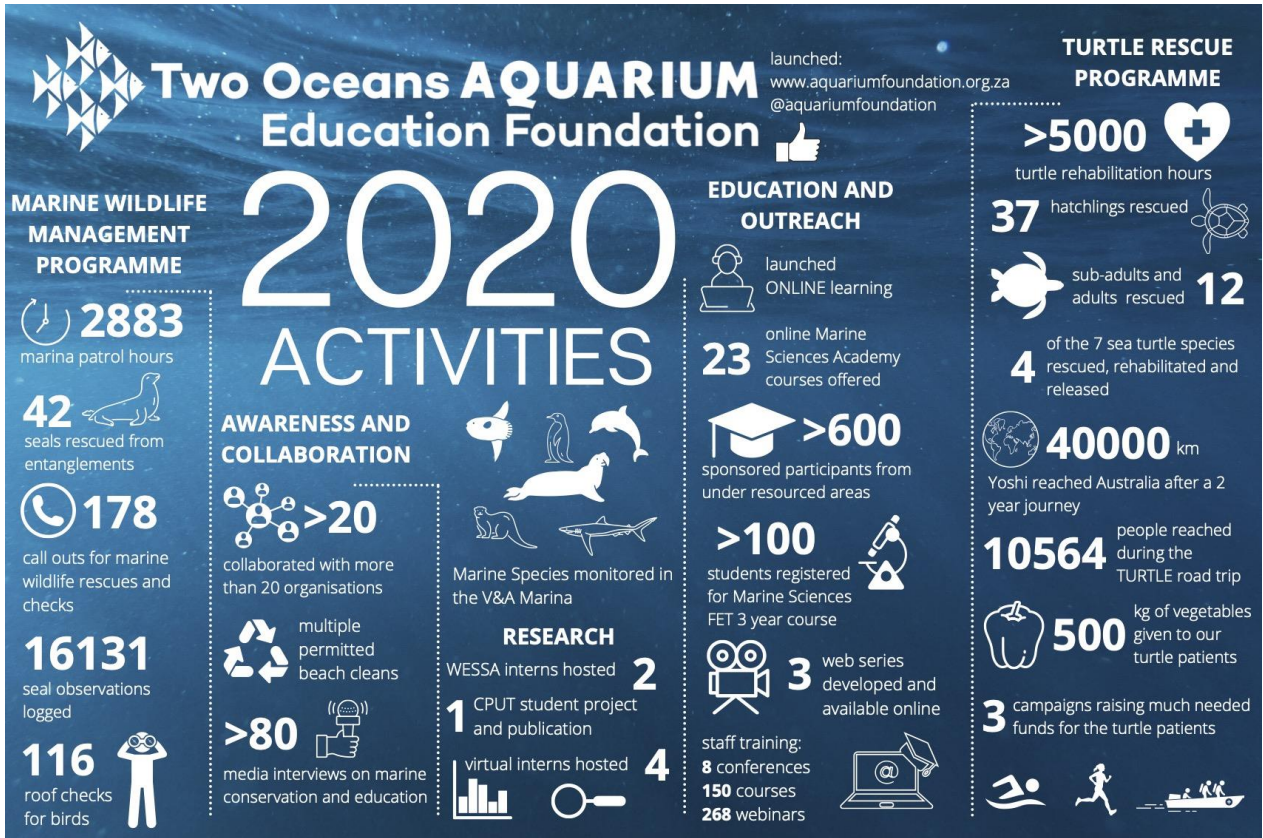


Figure 1. Infographic of Two Oceans Aquarium Education Foundation activities