



PROTECTING SEABIRDS
PROTECTING OCEANS
SECURING FUTURES



NAMIBIA FOUNDATION
FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF SEABIRDS
(NAMCOB)

Integrated conservation, preparedness and ecosystem-based management in Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area (NIMPA), Namibia

The Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOB) supports the government-led seabird conservation through an integrated framework linking oil spill preparedness, rehabilitation, and ecosystem-based management within the NIMPA.

Integrating Preparedness and Rehabilitation: NAMCOB's Approach to African Penguin Conservation in Namibia

Kaurimbi Petoorua Mberirua, NAMCOB, Namibia, Contact: kaurimbi@nnf.org.na

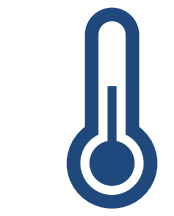
1. BACKGROUND

African penguins have declined dramatically across their range.

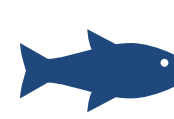
Halifax Island, 1939



Halifax Island, 2002



Environmental variability & Climate change.



Declining prey availability.



Overfishing & Habitat degradation.



Oil pollution risk



Seal Predation



Human disturbances



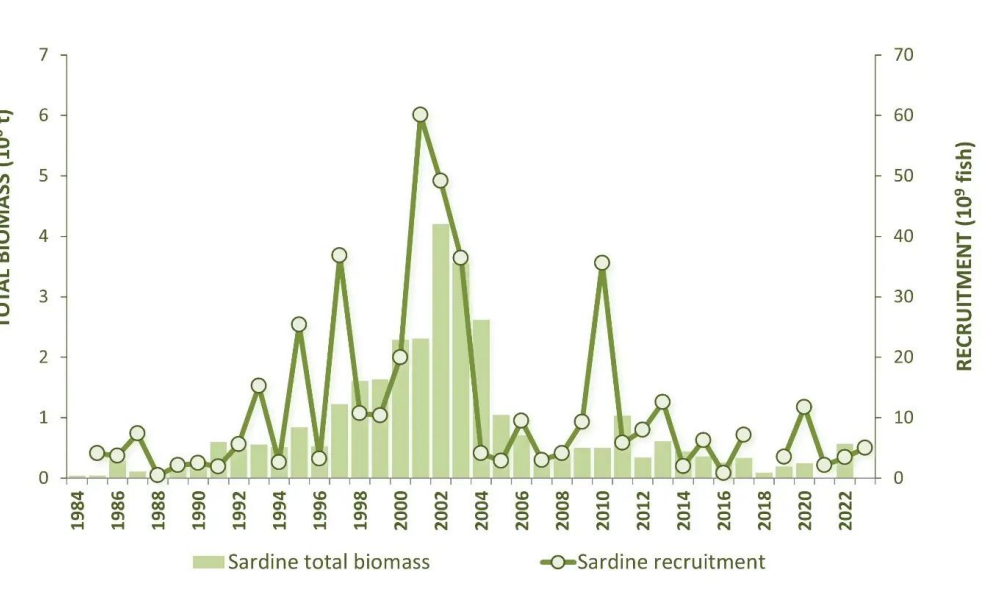
Disease outbreak (HPAI)

NAMCOB was established 2022 to address these intersecting risks through an integrated, science-base and partnership-driven approach.

3. ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Reduced prey → lower foraging success → poorer breeding performance → reduced recruitment.

A dramatic decline: ~5,000 breeding pairs → 1,200 in 2023 (Sherley et al., 2024)



NAMCOB promotes:

- Sustainable fisheries management • Habitat protection & restoration • Ecosystem-based marine conservation
- Generates ecological data • Evidence-based policy advocacy



2. REHABILITATION & POPULATION RESILIENCE

Rehabilitation provides immediate intervention for:

Oiled or injured seabirds

Predation cases

Sick & Malnourished birds

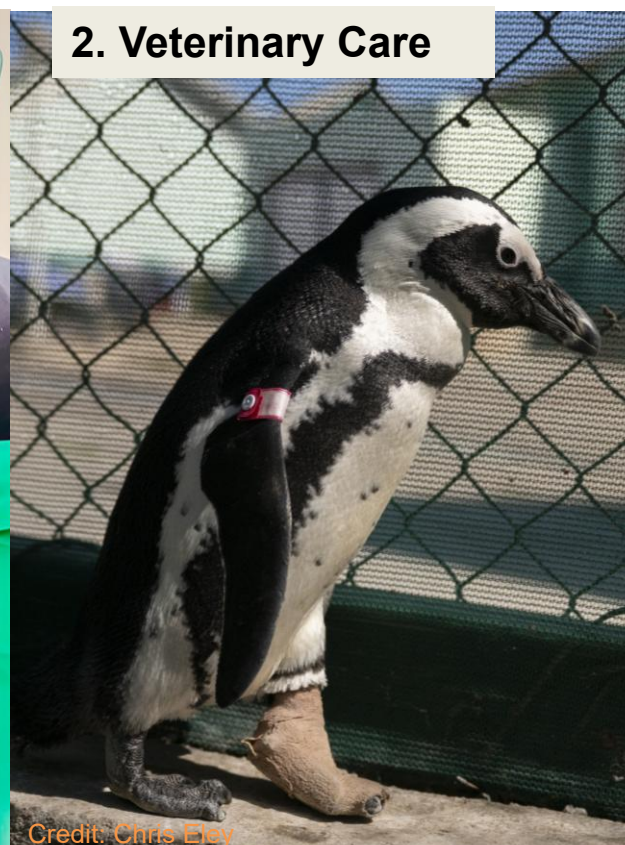
Stranded juveniles & Abandoned chicks



1. Admission



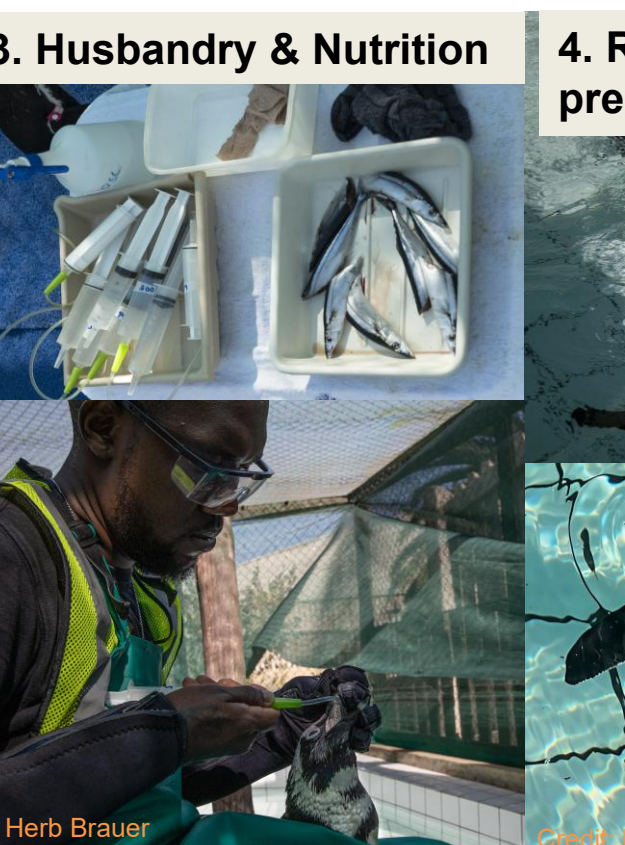
2. Veterinary Care



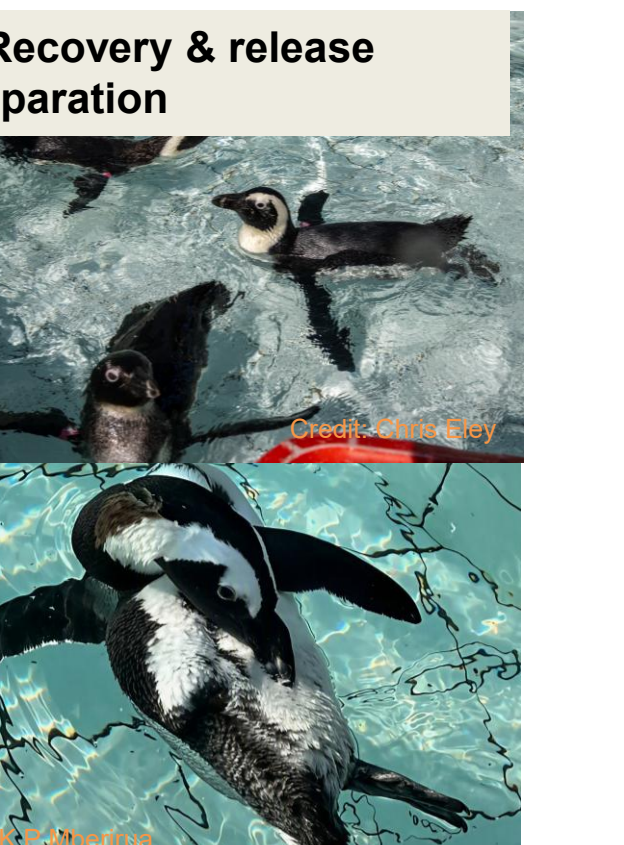
3. Husbandry & Nutrition



4. Recovery & release preparation



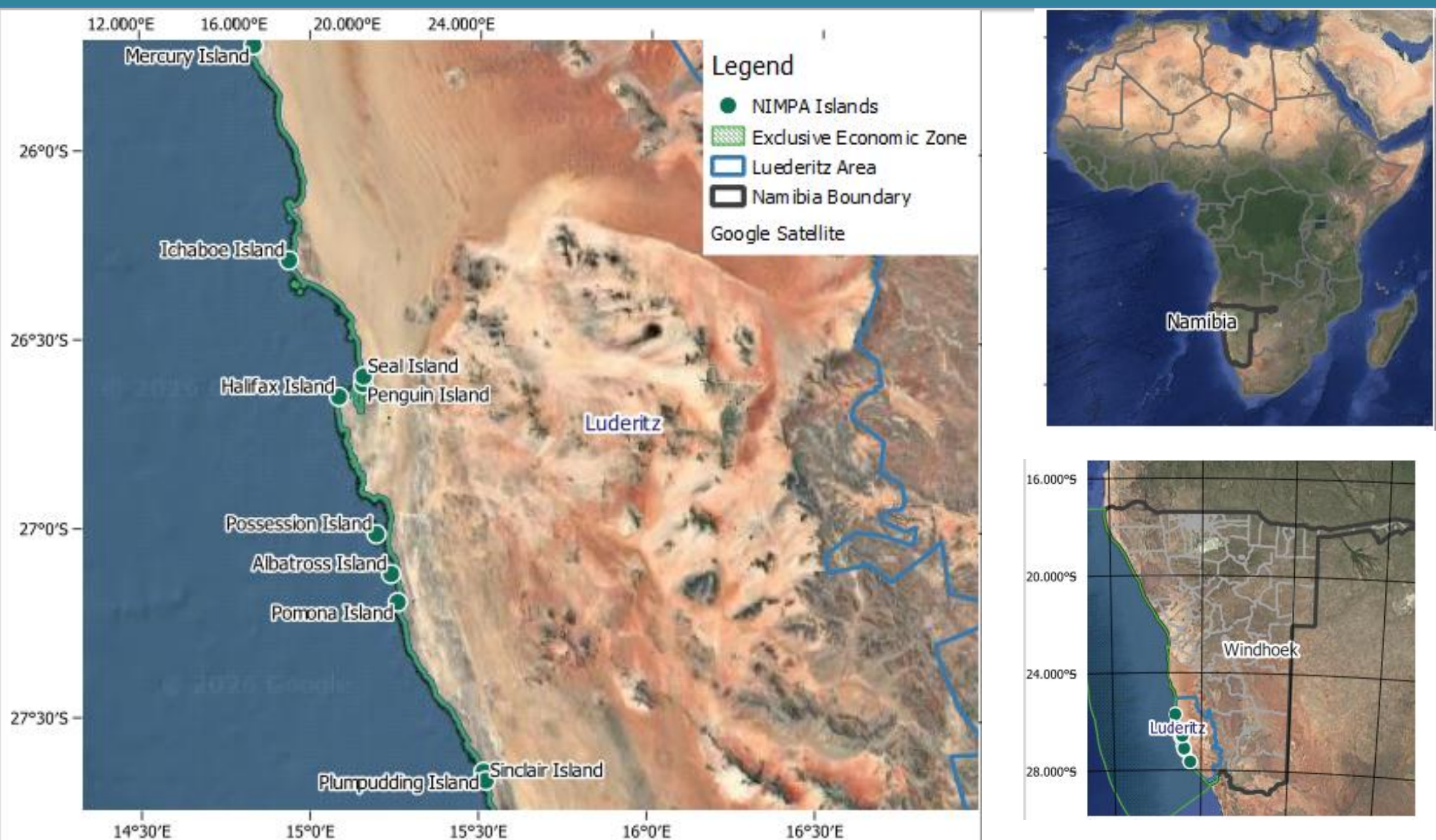
5. Release



6. Post-release monitoring

30 of 50 admitted birds successfully released
~60% of admitted birds successfully released

4. ISLANDS WE PROTECT



Year-round monitoring and conservation management across Namibia's internationally important seabird colonies, including rangers' deployment on 3 Islands and monitoring activities on 6 islands.

5. OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS



Island-based spill response kits



120+ first responders trained



2 coastal response containers



Multi-agency coordination



6. RESEARCH & MONITORING

Population Monitoring



Breeding success & Chick conditioning



Technology & SMART Monitoring



Diet & Disease monitoring



Rehabilitation data & Necropsies

Marine Ecosystem Monitoring



6. OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Ocean Literacy Toolkit Rollout in Schools



Community & Stakeholder Engagement



Engaging with communities for ocean health & biodiversity conservation & Public awareness and Education campaigns.

We sincerely thank the AZA SAFE African Penguin Program for their generous sponsorship and financial support, which made my attendance at the 12th International Penguin Conference 2026 possible. Their investment in African penguin conservation and knowledge sharing is greatly appreciated

7. CONSERVATION IMPACT

Intervention

- Oil spill preparedness
- First responder training
- Rehabilitation
- Fisheries advocacy
- Strategic partnerships

Conservation Benefit

- Faster emergency response
- Improved operational readiness
- Increased survival and release rates
- Improved long-term prey security
- Enhanced conservation effectiveness

