

## **SACT Q4 2025 Report - Creating the Conservationists of Tomorrow**

SACT's efforts to educate and engage communities in wildlife conservation continues to be successful with children through the use of comics. These provide a fun and educational way for children to learn about the various species in their environment. The comics address endangered species but also species that are common but maybe not well understood by local communities.

This last quarter involved issuing a comic on Vultures These are generally regarded as dangerous, nuisances, and disease-ridden creatures. The comic book series helped provide an understanding of the important role vultures play in maintaining a healthy balanced ecosystem.

Below is an excerpt from the comic explaining the importance of vultures:

**Vultures: Nature's Unsung Heroes!** Think about it: when animals die, vultures swoop in like a clean-up crew. They eat what's left behind, stopping the spread of germs and diseases. Without vultures, our world would be a much smellier and less healthy place! Here's why vultures are true heroes:

**Disease Fighters:** By eating decaying animals, they stop harmful bacteria from spreading to other animals and even people.

**Guardians of the Environment:** Their clean-up work helps keep ecosystems balanced and healthy for everyone.

**Super Scavengers:** They're like nature's recycling team, making sure nothing goes to waste. So next time you see a vulture, remember they're not scary at all. They're amazing, hardworking superheroes doing a dirty job to keep our world sparkling clean!

### **The Dyer Island Conservation Trust Partnership:**

SACT is also always interested in evaluating and supporting projects other species This last quarter, we extended a partnership with The Dyer Island Conservation Trust. This organization is focused primarily on marine life, including the African Penguins. Recently a group of vibrant sea of young conservationists gathered at the African Penguins and Seabird Sanctuary on International Children's Day, Thursday, November 20, 2025. The event celebrated the official induction of the latest cohort of DEEP Blue Ambassadors, an integral part of the Dyer Island Conservation Trust's (DICT) Environmental Education Program. Children in grades 5 to 7 from Masakhane and Gansbaai Primary Schools officially cemented their crucial role in safeguarding the marine environment, thanks to vital sponsorship from the Southern African Conservation Trust (SACT).

### **New Educational Comic Book to Feature Ambassador Stars**

Adding to the excitement, SACT announced a significant new educational initiative: the production of a comic book titled 'Vusa the Penguin Guardian.'

### **Uniforms Symbolize Rights and Responsibility**

A key moment was the official handover of the DEEP Ambassador uniforms. Officiated by Helen Turnbull of the Dyer Island Conservation Trust and Desmond Langkilde, representing SACT, the custom uniforms were presented to the children, making their membership official. SACT views its support as a tangible affirmation of the learners' role: "You are part of this ocean conservation team. You are recognized. These uniforms are far more than clothing; they are powerful symbols of identity, responsibility, belonging, and unity," said Langkilde. The DEEP Ambassador uniform handover coincided with World Children's Day, which marks the adoption

### **SACT Partnership and Program Inauguration**

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust is proud to celebrate this partnership with the Southern African Conservation Trust (SACT). DICT is particularly honored that the DEEP Blue Ambassador program is the inaugural project in SACT's new marine conservation portfolio. This partnership is dedicated to empowering young learners through place-based marine education, thereby making a positive, lasting difference for our oceans.