



DYER ISLAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Report of Gratitude: Funding of Updated Surveillance Cameras on Dyer Island

A Heartfelt Thank You to Shannon and Kruger from the KruShan Foundation

Prepared by: Christine Wessels

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Introduction

With immense gratitude and appreciation, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Shannon and Kruger from the KruShan Foundation for their generous funding of the updated surveillance camera system on Dyer Island.

Your support has made it possible to significantly strengthen the protection and monitoring of one of South Africa's most important seabird breeding islands, home to the critically endangered African Penguin and numerous other vulnerable seabird species.

This investment is far more than technology — it is an investment in conservation, safety, rapid response, and hope for the future of our oceans and marine wildlife.



The Importance of Dyer Island

Dyer Island remains a globally significant conservation area and one of the few remaining breeding sites for the critically endangered African Penguin.

The island and surrounding marine ecosystem form part of the Greater Dyer Island Area, a region internationally recognised for its biodiversity and conservation importance. Yet these ecosystems face increasing threats, including illegal activities, poaching pressure, environmental change, and declining seabird populations.

Protecting this fragile ecosystem requires constant vigilance, rapid response capabilities, and the ability to monitor both wildlife and human activity effectively.



Nighttime activity is being monitored by CEO Wilfred Chivell.

The Need for Enhanced Surveillance

Recent security concerns on the island highlighted the urgent need for improved remote monitoring systems. Threats posed by poachers created significant risks to both wildlife and conservation personnel, including our dedicated bird ranger, Kopanang Jankie.

Thanks to the KruShan Foundation's support, two advanced solar-powered surveillance cameras have now been installed on the lookout tower on Dyer Island. These cameras provide continuous, real-time monitoring of the island and surrounding areas, enabling immediate detection of suspicious activity and significantly improving situational awareness.

Most importantly, the system now allows CEO, Wilfred Chivell, to monitor nesting areas and island activity 24 hours a day from the mainland and respond immediately should any suspicious activity occur.

This capability represents a major advancement in the protection of the island's wildlife and the safety of those working to conserve it.



Nest being monitored for penguin eggs.

System Features and Conservation Impact

The newly installed surveillance system includes:

- Two Hikvision Outdoor 4-MP IR PTZ Cameras with 25X zoom capability
- Full solar-powered energy infrastructure for uninterrupted operation
- Weatherproof and corrosion-protected equipment designed for harsh island conditions
- A Point-to-Point wireless NanoBeam link to shore for remote live viewing
- Motion alerts and real-time monitoring capabilities
- Installation, testing, networking integration, and system configuration

The cameras now provide:

Enhanced Wildlife Monitoring

Continuous observation of penguin nesting areas and seabird breeding colonies allows staff to identify injured, sick, distressed, or deceased birds far more quickly. This enables faster intervention and strengthens conservation data collection and reporting.



Increased Protection Against Illegal Activity

The system acts as both a deterrent and an early warning mechanism against trespassing and poaching activities. Real-time alerts enable rapid mobilisation and support from land-based teams when necessary.

Improved Ranger Safety

Remote monitoring reduces the need for vulnerable staff members to face potentially dangerous situations alone on the island and supports safer operational procedures.

Long-Term Conservation Value

The surveillance system will continue to support ecosystem monitoring, conservation management, research, and environmental protection for years to come.

A Meaningful Investment in Conservation

The total project value of R83,150.00 funded by the KruShan Foundation covered the supply and installation of the complete surveillance and solar-powered monitoring system.

This remarkable contribution directly strengthens conservation efforts within the Greater Dyer Island Area and demonstrates the Foundation's deep commitment to protecting South Africa's natural heritage.

At a time when African Penguin numbers continue to decline dramatically, support such as this is critical. Every protected nest, every early intervention, and every deterrence of illegal activity contributes to the survival of this species.



Our Deepest Gratitude

To Shannon and Kruger, thank you for believing in this work and for standing alongside us in the urgent mission to protect our marine wildlife and seabird colonies.

Your support is helping ensure that future generations will still experience the wonder of African Penguins in the wild.

The updated surveillance system has already strengthened our ability to monitor and protect Dyer Island around the clock, and it provides invaluable peace of mind knowing that immediate action can now be taken should any threats arise.

Your generosity is creating real and lasting conservation impact.

From all of us at Marine Dynamics, the Dyer Island Conservation Trust, the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary, and everyone working tirelessly to protect the Greater Dyer Island ecosystem — thank you sincerely.

Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility

“The ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. The ocean is an important source of the planet’s biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle. The ocean provides a range of ecosystem services, supplies us with oxygen to breathe, contributes to food security, nutrition and decent jobs and livelihoods, acts as a sink and reservoir of greenhouse gases and protects biodiversity, provides a means for maritime transportation, including for global trade, forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage and plays an essential role in sustainable development, a sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication.”

— Political Declaration of the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.

With thanks and gratitude



Wilfred Chivell

CEO: Marine Dynamics / Dyer Island Cruises / Marine Dynamics Academy / Marine Dynamics 17Sixty

Founder: Dyer Island Conservation Trust / African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary