



Oceans of life

Seabirds are, for most people, the more obvious icons of the oceans and their ability to fly makes them the envy of humans. In celebration of seabirds, BirdLife South Africa created in 2009 a marine festival that over time has morphed into a very positive brand: the Oceans of Life Festival. Our conservation work is part of BirdLife International's Marine Programme, which includes the Save the Albatross campaign and the highly acclaimed Albatross Task Force. Yet BirdLife's work to conserve seabirds must, of necessity, expand into a much broader, ecosystem-wide context, so it is entirely fitting that Oceans of Life encompasses all marine biodiversity.

The spectacular images on these pages are from our 'Best Of' retrospective exhibition, which will be held at the Iziko South African Museum in Cape Town this summer – a fitting celebration of our oceans of life! The images are intuitively appealing and BirdLife South Africa is privileged to be able to use them. They encapsulate why we turn up for work and remind us of the true value of our conservation efforts.

ROSS WANLESS



above A European Shag is caught in a blizzard – and on camera in a stunning freeze-frame. Espen Lie Dahl (Norway)

top A translucent shrimp ventures from its regular haunt on an anemone onto a feather-duster worm. Gaetano Gargiulo (Australia)



above Sharks and albatrosses are killed at unsustainable levels by long-line fishing, but are still common off Cape Town. Chris Fallows (South Africa)

below On land it would be a flower, but the detail in this stunningly lit image reveals that in this underwater world it is a *Serpula* tubeworm. Lorenzo Terraneo (Italy)



above This image of a Gentoo Penguin really brought the Oceans of Life photographic competition alive in 2010. Jill Sneesby (South Africa)