

**Southern African Data Centre
for Oceanography
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SAPPI SAICCOR current meter data

In 1997 a series of current meters were deployed to collect information on behalf of SAPPI SAICCOR off Umkomaas in KwaZulu-Natal.

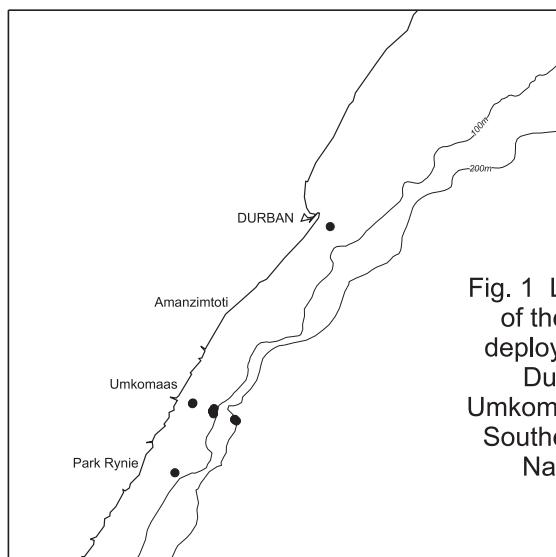
Current measurements along this coast are somewhat scarce, and a good data set can always help to understand the interesting phenomena that occur here.

SAPPI SAICCOR has now kindly released the data to SADCO, and this has been loaded.

The positions of the instruments are indicated Figure 1. The current meter data lasted for about 3 months during summer and 6 weeks during winter.

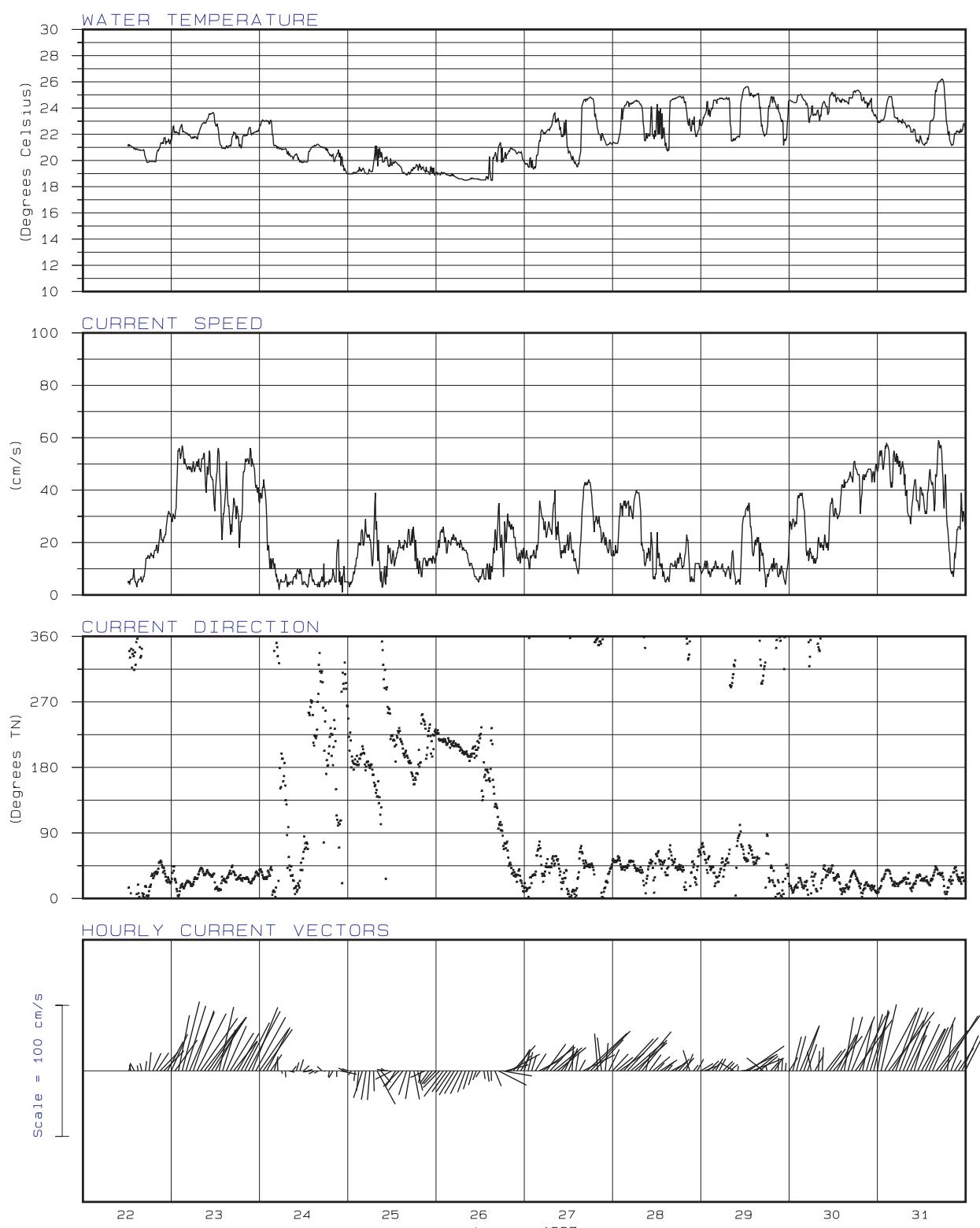
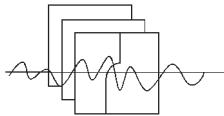
Figure 2 contains some data as an example (temperature, speed and direction).

SADCO wishes to express its appreciation to SAPPI SAICCOR for making this data available to SADCO and its users.



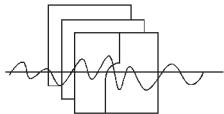
**Fig. 1 Location chart
of the moorings
deployed between
Durban and
Umkomaas along the
Southern KwaZulu
Natal coast.**





Station/Client: UM2	Latitude: 30 13.4 S
Deployment Number ...: 004120-32	Longitude: 30 52.2 E
Deployment Date.... : 1997-01-22 12: 30	Sampling Interval ...: 10 minutes
Depth Of Deployment : 45.0 metres	
Total Depth: 55 metres	Number of Records ...: 5904

Fig. 2 Example of current meter data collected close to Umkomaas.



AFROBIS: LOADING OF ADU MARINE BIRD DATA



After some hiatus in terms of data loading AfrOBIS has now loaded a large set of marine bird data.

The data was kindly supplied by the Animal Demographic Unit at the University of Cape Town. This is the first set of bird data loaded by AfrOBIS, and we are grateful to the ADU for making the data available.

The extent of the data is indicated in the table below.



AfrOBIS and its "parent" database, OBIS (Rutgers University, USA), remain fully operational. AfrOBIS is presently funded by SAEON (South African Environmental Observation Network) only. OBIS is an open, freely accessible database of some 13 million marine observations worldwide. There are powerful plotting routines available on-line that can produce publication-ready plots.



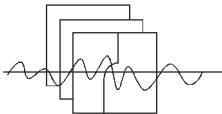
The URL for AfrOBIS is

<http://afrobis.csir.co.za>

and the link to OBIS for data extraction is automatic and seamless.

Marine Bird Data

Data origin	Full name	No. of records	Time period
CWAC	Coordinated Waterbird Counts	15 827	1983 – 2006
BIRP	Birds in Reserves project	23 226	1906 – 2007
SAFRING	South African Bird Ringing Unit	164 366	1899 - 2004



SADCO's new web site

SADCO's web site was created in 2000 as part of the process to webenable the data centre and the transfer to ORACLE.

It has been planned to give the web site a "make-over" as well as the add new options. This would form part of the overall changes associated with the new strategy approved by the Steering Committee, and be a forerunner to a systematic "opening" of the data centre.

The new web site is now available at:

<http://sadco.csir.co.za>

SADCO's new web site was designed by Karin Burns of DTP Solutions.

New content has been added in the form of:

- Additional buttons for "Useful links", "data types" and "Popular graphs". The latter is still under construction and will become available as soon as the graphs and pictures have been identified and generated.
- The data inventory, which is coupled to the extensive database of cruises and other surveys, now differentiates the data type according to:
 - Hydrographic profiles (CTDs, ARGO profiles, XBTs, etc)
 - Weather (these are coastal automatic weather stations)
 - Currents (deployed current meters)
 - Waves (wave buoy data)
- The data inventory is now also searchable according to project name.

The Inventory interface has also been updated, and will be reported in the next Newsletter.



Welcome to SADCO

[home](#)

The Southern African Data Centre for Oceanography (SADCO) stores, retrieves and manipulates multi-disciplinary marine information from the areas around southern Africa.

[data](#)

SADCO has been in existence since the 1960's, and in its present configuration is hosted by the South African CSIR and located in Stellenbosch, about 50 km east of Cape Town.

[inventory](#)

SADCO is funded by a number of marine organisations, namely

[popular graphs](#)

- CSIR
- Marine and Coastal Management branch of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
- Namibian Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources
- South African Environmental Observation Network
- South African Navy

[services](#)

These and other participating organisations are represented on a Steering Committee, along with a representative from the maritime industry. The role of the Steering Committee is to advise on strategic and other issues, review SADCO's operational progress and decide on work list priorities.

[newsletters](#)



[useful links](#)

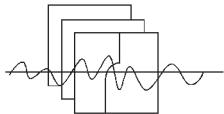


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SADCO's new web site continued...



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SADCO publishes a quarterly newsletter, through which users are informed about new data, software, etc. To receive the Newsletter free of charge please contact the manager.

The newsletters since June 2002 (Vol 13 No 2) below are in Pdf format.

Click on the icon below to download free Adobe Reader

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Available Newsletters

2008 [Vol. 19 No. 4 \(Dec 2008\)](#)
[Vol. 19 No. 3 \(Sept 2008\)](#)
[Vol. 19 No. 2 \(June 2008\)](#)
[Vol. 19 No. 1 \(Feb 2008\)](#)

2007 [Vol. 18 No. 4 \(Dec 2007\)](#)
[Vol. 18 No. 3 \(Aug 2007\)](#)
[Vol. 18 No. 2 \(June 2007\)](#)
[Vol. 18 No. 1 \(February 2007\)](#)

2006 [Vol. 17 No. 4 \(Dec 2006\)](#)
[Vol. 17 No. 3 \(Oct 2006\)](#)

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SADCO keeps an on-line inventory of all surveys and cruises (where subsurface data was collected) in its target area. Inventory entries are for data sets in SADCO as well as data sets not in SADCO. This [inventory](#) is searchable according to:

Cruises (including ARGO floats)

- the vessel
- principal scientist
- date of the cruise
- project name
- area
- the loading number (referred to as the SurveyID)
- institute

Current meter deployments

- Date
- Location

UTR (underwater temperature recorder) deployments

- Date
- Location

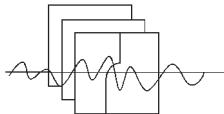
Automatic weather stations

- Date
- Location

Wave Stations

- Date

inventory



ROBBEN ISLAND WEATHER DATA

The South African Weather Service kindly donated weather data from Robben Island to SADCO. This represents the first Robben Island weather data in the data centre.

The data consists of hourly wind speed and direction for the period February 1993 to December 1997.

An example of the data is shown in Fig. 3. This data set augments the extensive amount of coastal weather data, from weather stations around the coast, that have been provided by the South African Weather Service over the past ten years.

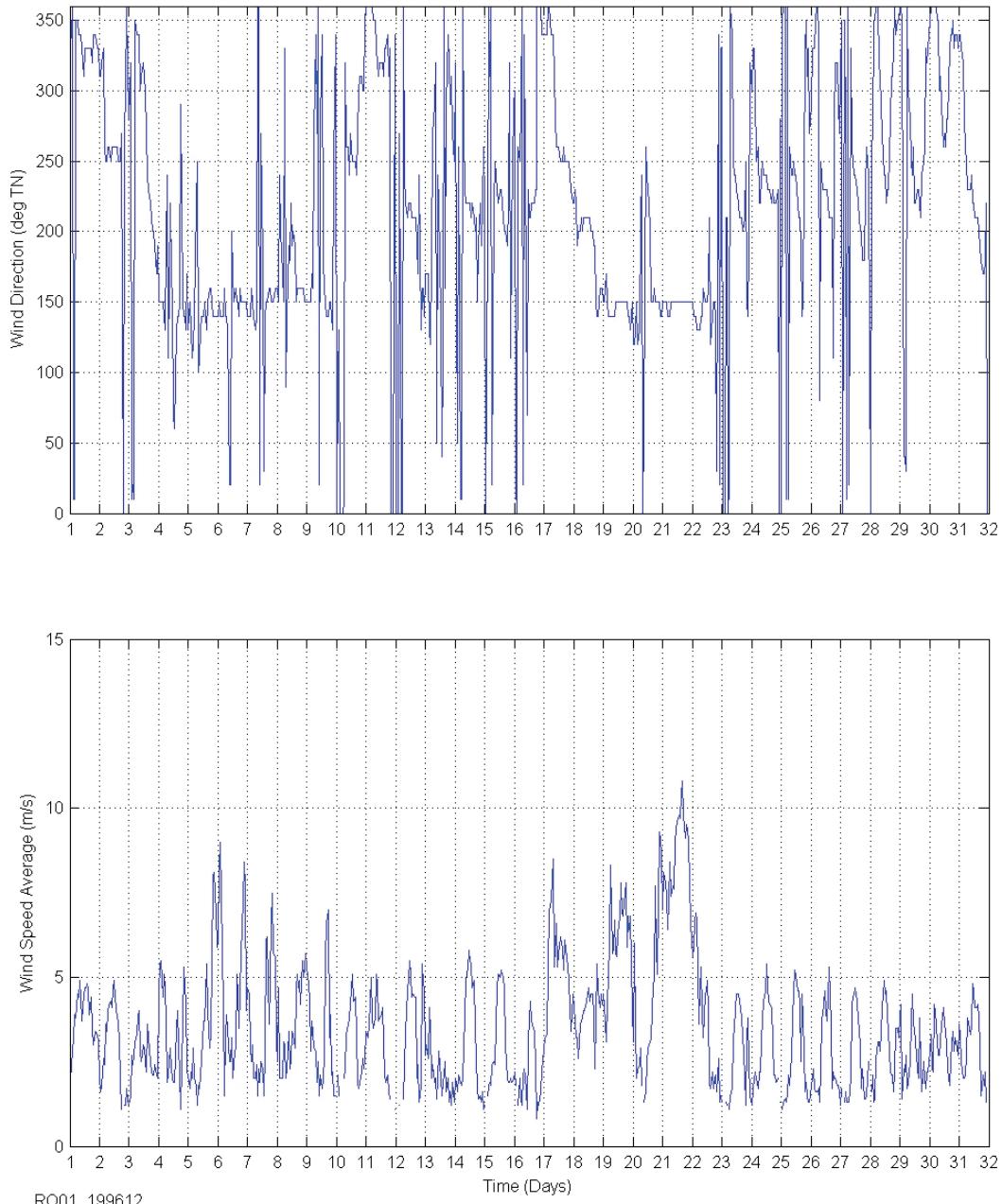
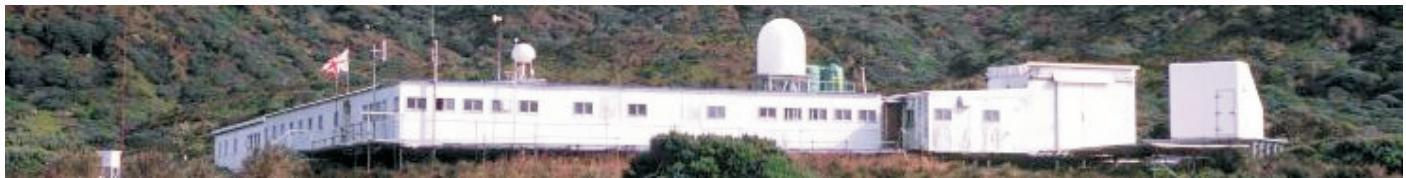
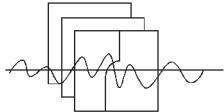


Fig. 3 Time series of wind direction (top) and wind speed (bottom) for December 1996 at Robben Island. Of interest are the diurnal wind speed peaks (see e.g. 23 - 30 December and also at other times during the month).



Gough weather data

Forty six years of weather data collected by the South African Weather Service at Gough (from 1963 - 2006) has recently been provided to SADCO. This data has now been loaded.

The following information has been adapted from <http://home.intekom.com/gough/> and the enclosed map is reproduced with acknowledgement to Jean-Pierre Langer of Monaco.

The island location

Gough Island is a volcanic island in the central South Atlantic Ocean, about 2700 km (1700 miles) south south-west from Cape Town and over 3200 km (2000 miles) from the nearest point of South America. It lies at latitude 40° 20' South and longitude 9° 54' West. Two hundred and thirty miles to the north north-east are the three islands of Tristan da Cunha, Inaccessible and Nightingale.

All four islands rise from the Mid Atlantic Ridge, which is a submarine mountain range running down the centre of the Atlantic, roughly equidistant between the Americas and Africa and Europe. Most of the ridge does not extend to the surface, but the mountain masses of Iceland, the Azores, St. Paul's Rocks, Ascension, the Tristan-Gough group and Bouvetøya have built up sufficiently vast volcanic cones to break the surface.

Weather station

South Africa has operated a weather station on Gough Island since 1956. Initially it was housed in the station at The Glen (see Fig. 4) but moved to the south eastern lowlands of the island in 1963 where weather observations are more accurate. The weather office is operated as if it were in South Africa, with hourly climate observations and twice daily upper air accents.

The station is administrated by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Directorate: Antarctica

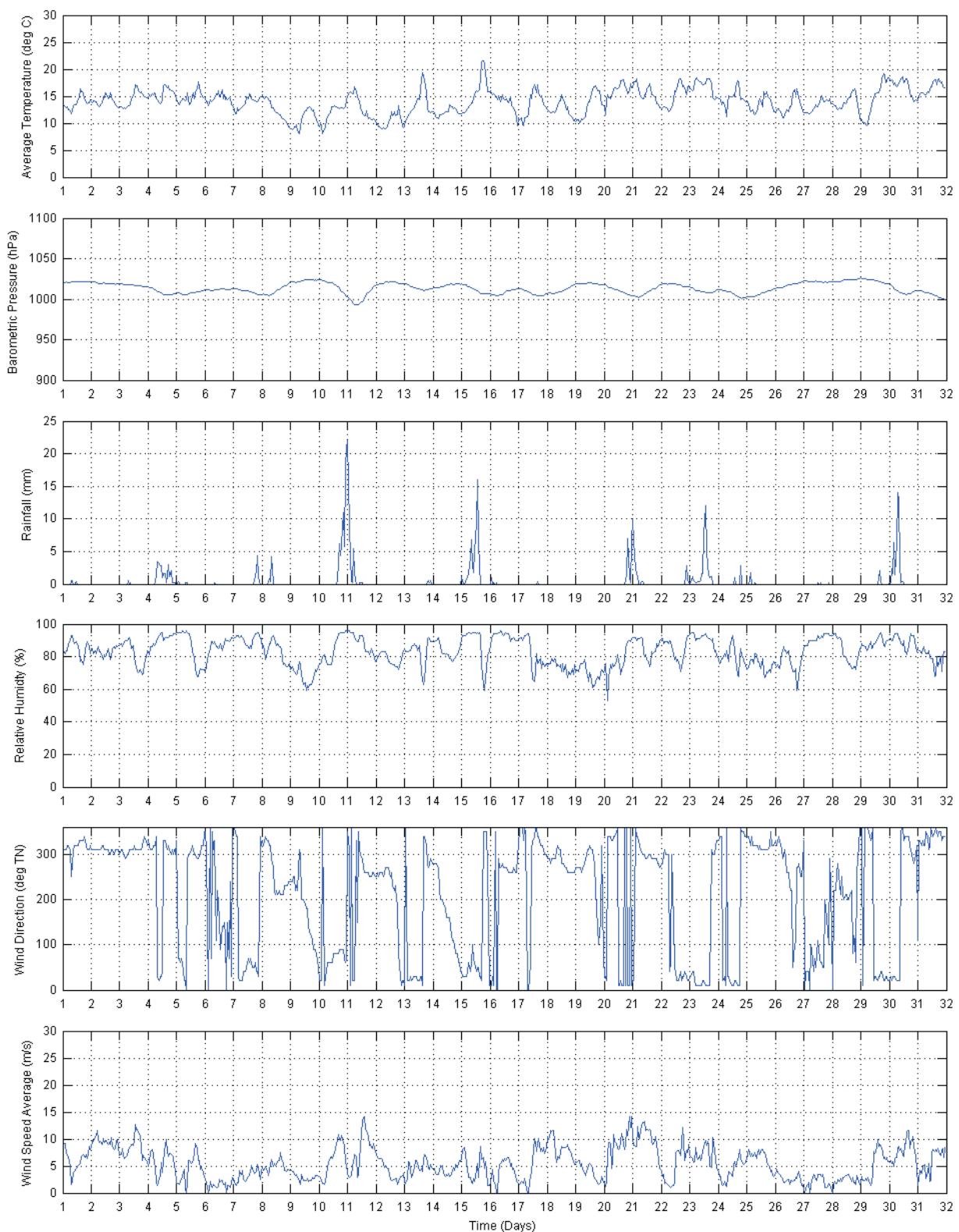
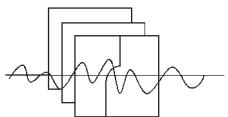


and Islands.

Although Gough Island is a British possession the land on which the station is built is leased to South Africa on contract and is treated as part of the magisterial district of Cape Town.

The data received by SADCO suggests that initially only temperature, pressure and relative humidity were recorded.

Wind speed and direction was added in 1980, and rainfall in 1991. An example of the data is presented in Fig. 5.



GI01_199212

Fig. 5 Time series of data collected in December 1992.