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SA Agulhas II sails into Cape Town: 4 #Green17 environment wins you need to see

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Cape Town - SA's Department of Environmental Affairs, along with friends and family of the researchers on board, have welcomed back the SA Agulhas, South Africa's only dedicated cadet training vessel under command of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), as she returned from Antarctica on Tuesday, 07 February, to the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town.

Aboard the vessel are the SANAE 55 expedition team, DEA's supporting team, members from the National Department of Public Works, as well as scientists and researchers from various tertiary institutions.

The SA Agulhas left Cape Town 48 days ago on 14 December 2016, headed for Port Louis in Mauritius where she took on board a group of Indian scientists that are part of the research expedition before she headed south towards the Antarctica – precisely the 68th parallel, a circle of latitude that crosses the southern ocean and Antarctica.

WATCH: SA's Agulhas II departs for Antarctica

This season marked phase II of the refurbishment project at the SANAE IV base. New, more efficient power generation systems were installed at the base. A new water reticulation management system was installed and this will allow for greater efficiency in the operations, the DEA reports.

This is what the homecoming looked like: