



## **Media Invitation – come join us and report on our waddle**

We invite you to join in the Waddle this coming Saturday 14 October 2023 - at the V&A Waterfront or in Simon's Town. We believe this will be an incredible photo or film opportunity for a good news story to raise awareness of what to do to help save the African penguin from extinction.

If you would like to join in the Waddle or come along to report on the event, please get in touch with Heather Wares, Communications Manager at the Two Oceans Aquarium on +27 21 814 4539 or [HWares@aquarium.co.za](mailto:HWares@aquarium.co.za).

We also welcome any requests for interviews, voice clips, or photographs.

In the meantime, please find a media release below with event details for immediate release.

## **Join Us - Two Oceans Aquarium Waddles for the love of African penguins on African Penguin Awareness Day!**

START This Saturday, 14 October 2023, the Two Oceans Aquarium, in support of the #NOOW African Penguin Campaign, invites Capetonians and visitors alike to join a Penguin Waddle. Help shine a light on International African Penguin Awareness Day and show care for the well-being of South Africa's marine environment and its special inhabitants, the African penguin.

“This global initiative will see Waddles taking over cities in five continents with Waddles taking place from the USA to France, South Africa, Mozambique and Japan. All of South Africa's major cities are hosting big Waddles for International African Penguin Awareness Day” said Helen Lockhart, Conservation and Sustainability Manager at the Two Oceans Aquarium.

In Cape Town, the Two Oceans Aquarium will proudly be leading a Waddle through the iconic V&A Waterfront. Following a surge of interest, the Two Oceans Aquarium will be supporting an additional Waddle in association with Marine Dynamics and I Am Water, from Simon's Town to Boulders Beach – the home of about 9% of the African penguin population.

Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of the Waddle, which has been endorsed by the United Nations Ocean Decade as a Decade Activity.

Show your support by wearing black and white clothing and carrying signs that reflect your love for African penguins.

Find signs here: <https://www.aquarium.co.za/news/placards-for-the-waddle>

### **Event details:**

**Events** - Saturday 14 October 2023 at 09h30

**V&A Waterfront** – [Please RSVP here](#)

**Venue:** Meet in front of the Two Oceans Aquarium (±3km route will end at same place)

**When:** 14 October 2023 from 09h30 – 12h00

**Route:** Start and finish at the Two Oceans Aquarium entrance. (±3km route around the V&A Waterfront)

**Simon's Town to Boulders Beach** – [Please RSVP here](#)

**Venue:** Meet at Longbeach, Simon's Town

**When:** 14 October 2023 from 09h30 – 12h00

**Route:** Start at Longbeach, walk to Boulders Beach, and return to Longbeach start point. (False Bay Yacht Club is ready to welcome waddlers back into town with food and drinks on sale)

**Come prepared:** Wear comfortable walking shoes. Remember to bring water (in reusable water bottles) and some snacks for fuel in reusable bags – please, no plastic.

**Get creative:** Craft signs to create awareness.

Some suggestions: I ♥ AFRICAN PENGUINS' / 'STOP THE EXTINCTION OF AFRICAN PENGUINS' / '#NOTONOURWATCH'.

**Prizes:** Plenty of spot prizes for attendees (as well as the "best-dressed" Waddler)

Not in Cape Town? Don't worry there are various **BIG WADDLES TAKING PLACE across South Africa:**

[uShaka Sea World](#) in Durban

[National Zoological Garden](#), Pretoria

[The JHB Zoo](#) in Johannesburg

[The Penguin Protection Parade](#) at Emmarentia Dam, Johannesburg

[Sanccob](#) in Table View, Cape Town

[Sanccob](#) in Gqeberha

[The Florida Aquarium](#) in Tampa, USA

[Georgia Aquarium](#) in Atlanta, USA

For a full list of the waddles taking place across five continents, go to:  
<https://www.africanpenguinnotonourwatch.org/join-a-waddle>

### **African penguin on the brink of extinction**

The aim of the Waddle is to raise awareness around the plight of African penguins and their rapid decline in numbers. African penguins are the only penguin species found on the African continent. In the last century, their numbers have declined dramatically, and current estimates suggest that there are a mere ~10 000 breeding pairs in the wild today. Scientists estimate that if their numbers continue to decline at the current rate, these charismatic and endemic birds will be functionally extinct in the wild within 15 to 20 years.

### **The #NOOW African penguin Campaign**

The #NotOnOurWatch campaign's worldwide waddle on 14 October 2023 has been endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a Decade Activity.

#NOOW was created in 2022 after scientists and conservationists agreed there needed to be a public action project to try to stop the functional extinction of the unique African penguin by 2035. The campaign's goal is to create a movement and raise awareness about the need for urgent action to reverse the decline of the African penguin population in the wild. Public support in South Africa and around the world, including in the USA, Europe, Japan and Australia, will help to ensure that the South African government, the conservation community and private industry make wise decisions concerning the future of the African penguin.

"While many people and organisations are dedicated to the survival of the African penguin and their incredible commitment and hard work must be commended, saving a species needs action on the ground, the support of people and actionable legislation. To date there has not been a public action campaign for the African penguin. This is where #NOOW comes in" said Dr Judy Mann, Head of Strategic Projects at the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation.

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For more information contact:

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**Image captions: Here is the link to a selection of images and infographics:**

<https://we.tl/t-FfqPsdUldN>

**Please credit images to the relevant photographer – name in file name – Steve Benjamin.**

Two Oceans Aquarium (1): Natalie Viljoen, Head of Research at the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation, supports the #NOOW Campaign and the African penguin at a previous waddle.

Two Oceans Aquarium (2): Supporters of the Two Oceans Aquarium and #NOOW April African penguin waddle encourage cars to give a hoot and show their support for the African penguin.

Two Oceans Aquarium (3): Supporters of the Two Oceans Aquarium and #NOOW April African penguin waddle encourage cars to give a hoot and show their support for the African penguin.

Two Oceans Aquarium (4): The group of waddlers at the Two Oceans Aquarium and #NOOW April African penguin waddle braved the rainy conditions to create awareness around the plight of the African penguin.

Two Oceans Aquarium (5): The Two Oceans Aquarium V&A Waterfront waddle invitation for October 14 2023.

Two Oceans Aquarium (6): The Two Oceans Aquarium V&A Waterfront waddle invitation for October 14 2023.

Two Oceans Aquarium (7): The Two Oceans Aquarium Simon's Town waddle invitation for October 14 2023.

Steve Benjamin Penguin 9w (1): A close up of two African penguins on the South African coastline, a species declared critically endangered and under risk of extinction.

Steve Benjamin Penguin 16w (2): A pair of African penguins waddling along a beach on the South African coastline.

Steve Benjamin Penguin 19w (3): African penguins from a colony situated on a South African beach welcome the day under the soft light of a sunrise.

Steve Benjamin Penguin 22w (4): An African penguin, endemic to the Southern African coast explores the shallows.

Steve Benjamin Penguin 28w (6): A nesting pair of African penguins. Since 1979, the current breeding population has declined from ~55 200 pairs to a mere ~10 000 breeding pairs in 2021.



**2021** United Nations Decade  
**2030** of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

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