



Help our African Penguin and join the #NotOnOurWatch campaign (#NOOW)

#NOOW has been created by the Cape Town-based Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation and its South African and global partners, including The Florida Aquarium, Georgia Aquarium and Australia's Zoos Victoria, to take action to save this incredible species.



DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR AFRICAN PENGUIN IS AT RISK OF EXTINCTION IN ONLY 12 YEARS?

African penguins are only found in South Africa and Namibia.

African penguins are one of the only penguins in the world that **can be visited easily** in urban areas like Simon's Town and Betty's Bay in the Western Cape.

One hundred years ago, there were an estimated 1 million breeding pairs. Penguins usually mate for life, and often will stay with their partners until they die. There are now only about 10,400 breeding pairs in the wild. **That's a devastating 99% decline.**

The African penguin species (*Spheniscus demersus*) has been **listed as endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on its **Red List of Threatened Species**.

Conservationists predict that there will be **too few African penguins in the wild for the survival of the species within 12 short years if trends don't change.** That's about 4,380 days. That means that the penguins alive now may be part of the last generation.

IF WE WAIT IT WILL BE TOO LATE

ONLY 1% OF AFRICAN PENGUINS REMAIN

RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

4,380 DAYS

FUNCTIONALLY EXTINCT



WHAT HAS CAUSED THE DRAMATIC DECREASE IN AFRICAN PENGUIN NUMBERS?

1. One of the current reasons is competition for food – humans and penguins compete for the same sardines and anchovies.
2. There are too few sardines and anchovies in the sea and our African penguins are starving– they must swim further and further away from their colonies to find food and this means that they are using up lots of energy – just to feed themselves and their chicks.
3. Spending more time at sea also increases their risks of being taken by predators like seals and sharks.

Other current reasons for their decline include:

- a. Lack of standardised management of colonies
- b. Inadequate habitat for breeding
- c. Disease
- d. Oil pollution, with ships being refuelled out at sea off the coast of the Eastern Cape coast - near important penguin islands
- e. Noise pollution from the ever-increasing shipping traffic have also impacted bird numbers

In the past humans used to remove and eat their eggs; and the guano (penguin poo), in which penguins made their cosy burrows for raising their chicks, also used to be collected and used by humans as fertiliser.



HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR AFRICAN PENGUINS IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Everyone can help penguins every day, no matter where they live!

Here is how you can help!

1. Reduce your household waste by bulk buying, choosing foods and stores with limited or no packaging, use reusable cloths to clean and say no to straws and paper or plastic cups
2. Take reusable canvas bags rather than using plastic bags every time you go shopping
3. Use biodegradable products because that means that the water going down the drains and ultimately often out to sea doesn't contain harmful chemicals
4. Swop to affordable eco-friendly dishwashing products, laundry products, shampoo, body wash, soaps, face wash, toothpaste, tile cleaner, sunscreen, toilet cleaner, bin bags etc
5. Encourage your schools, if they don't already, to have recycling cages for tins and plastic bottles
6. Set up recycling bins in your own homes and recycle correctly
7. If you eat fish, make sure it's sustainable by checking the Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) list, which can be found at <https://www.sassi.co.za/sassi-list/>
8. Ask questions about the sardines or anchovies you eat – where were they caught?
9. Challenge your friends to make one eco-friendly change in their lives a month and see who achieves the most in a year



HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INVOLVED AND HELP SUPPORT THE AFRICAN PENGUIN

- Help us spread the word and increase awareness about the plight of our African penguin and the #NotOnOurWatch campaign
- Follow the #NotOnOurWatch campaign (#NOOW) on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and share our #NOOW campaign posts
- Share your love and support for penguins by sharing photos and videos on social media using the hashtags #AfricanPenguin and #NOOW and by using the campaign's logo
- Visit our website at www.africanpenguins.org and click through to send an email to the minister asking that the government protect our special penguins – and show your friends on social media that you've sent the email
- Donate to the #NotOnOurWatch campaign to help extend our efforts and conservation of these beautiful creatures. To donate, please contact us on info@africanpenguins.org. Every cent helps.






SHARE THE LOVE

HELP RAISE AWARENESS BY SHARING OUR POSTS OR YOUR OWN PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF AFRICAN PENGUINS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

PLEASE USE #NOOW

WWW.AFRICANPENGUINS.ORG




START A MOVEMENT

HELP RAISE AWARENESS BY JOINING THE #NOOW PENGUIN DAY FOR SCHOOLS' BETWEEN 26 AND 29 SEPTEMBER


WWW.AFRICANPENGUINS.ORG

WHAT TO DO IF YOU COME ACROSS A PENGUIN IN NEED


If you find a stranded or injured penguin, there are a few things that you should do:

- First, make sure the penguin is safe and that there are no animals or people near it.
- Call SANCCOB 021 557 6155 or APSS +27 (072) 598 7117 for assistance.
- Do not place it in ice water or on ice.
- Do not attempt to move a severely injured penguin. Wait for the rescue team to arrive.
- Do not attempt to feed the penguin or give it water.
- Do not remove fishing gut or hooks from a penguin.
- DO NOT put the penguin back in the water
- DO NOT try handle a penguin that is moving around a lot as it will stress the bird more. Penguins do bite!
- If the penguin isn't mobile and needs to be kept safe and warm while waiting for experts to come - Use a towel to carefully pick up the bird and put it in a box with a flat bottom and lots of breathing holes.

For help, there are options as to who you can call:



AFRICAN PENGUIN & SEABIRD SANCTUARY
African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary
+27 (072) 598 7117.



SANCCOB™
saves seabirds
Western Cape
021 557 6155 / 078 638 3731 (a/h)
Eastern Cape
+27 41 583 1830 / +27 64 019 8936
(after hours & weekends)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

- The country's aquariums and zoos have volunteer programs and educational programs. The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation offers courses including Junior Biologist for learners in Grade 6 and a matric in marine sciences that starts for learners in Grade 10 and can be done fully online. Visit <https://www.aquarium.co.za/foundation/education/courses>
- To volunteer at the Two Oceans Aquarium you need to be 17 or older to apply. Here's the latest post about how to become a volunteer: <https://www.aquarium.co.za/news/become-an-aquarium-volunteer>
- Find groups anywhere in the country who arrange clean ups of rivers or beaches – the more litter we stop from getting into the ocean, the better.



EDUCATION COURSES



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

