

The African Penguin



By Zac T. Class of 2025

Links to websites that help

These are links to websites that help spread awareness and help the African Penguin.

A Blog:

<https://www.awf.org/blog/celebrating-penguins-africa>

Fact sheet:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/penguins/African_penguin.html

_Adopt an african black-footed penguin:

<https://gifts.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/gifts/species-adoptions/african-black-footed-penguin.aspx>

Data and Findings

African penguin population numbers have dropped 60% in the last 30 years and they are now considered Endangered. ([georgia aquarium](#))

In 2019, approximately 13,300 pairs bred in South Africa: St Croix Island 3,638 pairs, Bird Island 2,378 pairs, Dassen Island 1,912 pairs, Stony Point 1,705 pairs , Robben Island 1,190 pairs(you may recognize this island as it was the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned), Dyer Island: 1,071 pairs, Simonstown: 932 pairs. ([Data zone bird life](#))

There are only an estimated 120,000 of these animals left and that is decreasing because of a loss of food and habitat which is due to the expansion of commercial fishing. ([a-z-animals](#))

African penguin questions

1. Why are these penguins called Jackass Penguins?

a). They aren't very nice birds. b) Their voices sound like braying donkeys. c) They are the long-lost cousins of donkeys. d) None of the above.

2. True or False: These penguins are endangered.

3. How fast can these penguins swim?

a) Up to 5 kph (3 mph) b) Up to 10 kph (6.2 mph) c) Up to 20 kph (12.4 mph) d) Up to 50 kph (31 mph)

4. In the wild, how old can these penguins get?

a)12 b) 15 c) 25 d) 27

5. True or False: The male and female of this species are practically identical.

African penguin answers

- 1) B. their voices sound like braying donkeys. Really, the best way to explain this is to let you listen.
- 2) True, the penguins are endangered. In 2010, the birds were uplisted from vulnerable to endangered on the IUCN red list because of recent, rapid populations decreases. IUCN data suggest fisheries and shifts in prey populations are playing a part.
- 3) C, up to 20 kilometers per hour. They also can travel up to a distance of 45 miles per trip. These penguins live in large colonies across southern Africa, as far north as Namibia on the west coast and Mozambique on the east coast.
- 4) D, 27. According to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, the average lifespan of one of these birds ranges from 10 to 27 years. Captive birds of this species typically live longer than those in the wild. This average age is on par with other similar penguins.
- 5) True, the genders look extremely similar. Both males and females have short, broad, tightly spaced feathers to protect their skin from water. They also share similar markings, including a white belly topped with a black U-shaped band and a black back.

What Hunger and Homelessness has to do with penguins

Hunger and homelessness appears in penguins, more the hunger part as Penguins have been suffering due to a lack of food which is caused by the expansion of international fishing which is taking all of their food. To stop this and make sure that there is an increase in penguins, we need to supply these penguins with food and stop the amount of fishing we do in these areas.



Kids for Positive Change

Kids for Positive Change is a great organization and I have been extremely happy to work with Camille, she has been very helpful with finding websites and coming up with ideas and just helping me complete my project in general. I would definitely recommend kids for positive change because they have helped me a lot and if you choose to present, I am sure it will be a wonderful and very rewarding experience.

How you can Help

You can help by donating to different organizations that help with this cause such as World Wildlife Fund adopt a penguin you can also help by donating to a local organization such as Sancobb. It also helps to send a letter to some people who might be able to help save and protect penguins with this such as who I sent my letter to Maurrieta Stewart who is the Health Minister

In an area of South Africa. I am personally collecting donations for sancobb.

African Penguins

The numbers of African penguins is diminishing fast due to a lack of food which is caused by commercial fishing. So please donate using this QR code.

