ON AVERAGE, THE AFRICAN PENGUIN POPULATION HAS DECLINED BY 90 BIRDS, EVERY WEEK, SINCE 1956.



The colonies around our coast have shrunk to dangerously small numbers. The colonies are now very vulnerable to small-scale events, such as bad weather, seal predation or seagulls taking eggs.

In a large, healthy population these events were trivial. Now, they have potentially serious consequences.

We are at the point where **EVERY BIRD COUNTS**.

You Can Be The Change

Every Bird Counts. Every donation is valued.

Become part of the rebuilding of the African Penguin population by donating a brick valued at R1000 - the cost of rehabilitating 1 penguin. This will light up your name on the "wall of support" that will make our projects possible.

Visit the African Penguin & Seabird Sanctuary have a coffee and enjoy some cake while you learn more about South Africa's seabirds.

Spread the word about the plight of the African Penguin specifically and our oceans in general.

For those wanting to make a "penguin-sized splash", we have a tiered system of support that will provide you with the opportunity to "splash out" with more than just a brick-sized commitment towards biodiversity conservation.

DONATION TIERS

PENGUIN	**R1,000,000+**
ALBATROSS	**R750,000**
GANNET	**R500,000**
CORMORANT	**R250,000**
PETREL	**R100,000**
OYSTERCATCHER	**R50,000**
TERN	R10,000
GULL	R5,000
INDIVIDUAL	**R1,000 a brick**



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#EveryBirdCounts

Facebook: African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary
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SPONSORS

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ZIMMERMANN IMMOBILIER

Dyer Island Cruises www.WhaleWatchSA.com

BANKING DETAILS:

Dyer Island Conservation, First National Bank, Hermanus.
Branch Code: 200412 | Current Account No: 62100203497
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Dyer Island Conservation Trust is a registered Public Benefit Organisation (930032314) in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962 and donations to the organisation are exempt from donations tax in terms of section 56(1) (h) of the Act.

Cover image by Anna Phillips

www.africanpenguin.org

AFRICAN PENGUIN & SEABIRD SANCTUARY

#EVERY BIRD COUNTS

www.africanpenguin.org



Dyer Island Conservation Trust

A PROJECT OF
THE DYER ISLAND CONSERVATION TRUST
www.dict.org.za

Mission

The African Penguin & Seabird Sanctuary (APSS) serves as a custom-designed, world class, marine bird rehabilitation centre in the Overstrand area.

We provide temporary rehabilitative care to diseased, displaced, injured, oiled and abandoned marine birds with special focus on the endangered African Penguin.

Marine bird rescue, rehabilitation and release form part of the conservation management plan to conserve and maintain African Penguin populations, and other seabirds.

Through continued research, education and awareness programmes, we aim to mitigate human impacts on our colonies.

Penguin Numbers

START 1900's	MORE THAN 2 MILLION
MID 1950's	LESS THAN 300 000
LATE 1976	222 000
1986	194 000
1996	179 000
2007	110 000
2009	42 000
2014	**38 000**

These numbers refers to adult birds

DID YOU KNOW?

IT COSTS **R1000** TO REHABILITATE EACH BIRD ADMITTED TO THE SANCTUARY

Your donations help not only build better infrastructure and buy better equipment and facilities, they also directly impact and improve the lives of disaster-stricken penguins. We see each brick sponsored as a penguin successfully cared for.

SAVE A PENGUIN TODAY.



Then and now: *the image below was taken in the early 1900s, and the right image was taken in modern day - the difference is truly staggering.*

Historic Factors

THREATS:
Natural: Sharks, Seals, Parasites
Human: Historically – Guano Scraping and Egg Harvesting
Modern – Commercial Fishing and Oil Pollution

EGG HARVESTING:
African penguin eggs were once considered a delicacy. In 30 years (1900-1930) an estimated 13 million eggs were removed from the colonies. Our local Dyer Island colony has been particularly hard hit – In 1979 there were 23 000 breeding pairs compared to only 800 in 2015.

GUANO HARVESTING:
Guano (bird droppings) was extensively harvested in the 19th and 20th centuries for use as agricultural fertilizer. This 'white-gold' as it was known was stripped from the islands leaving them barren. Now the penguins are forced to nest on the surface where often their eggs or chicks are left exposed to predators. The Dyer Island Conservation Trust established an artificial nest project to provide shelter for breeding penguins and improve fledgling success.

OIL:
Oiling is still a threat and could be catastrophic considering the current population. Sanctuaries such as APSS aim to mitigate this threat as oil contingency plans are part of the strategy.

Oil can kill a penguin very quickly. An oiled penguin loses its insulation against the cold seawater. An oiled penguin will eventually die of dehydration and starvation if not treated.

SEAL PREDATION:
This can be quite severe around colonies like Dyer where a few mature seals will remove a penguin merely for its stomach contents.

FISH STOCKS:
Studies to date have shown that African penguins may travel 50km or more for food. Results of these studies will provide data required for establishing marine protected areas around sensitive colonies.

Penguin Facts

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Spheniscus demersus

Spheniscus - The word hails from the diminutive form of the word for "spen" in Greek. The correct translation for the word would be 'wedge" and that refers to the stream-lined swimming shape of penguins.

Demersus – Latin word meaning "plunging" with reference to diving.

COMMON NAME:
English: African Penguin, Jackass Penguin, Cape Penguin, Black-footed Penguin

Afrikaans: Afrika pikkewyn, Brul-pikkewyn

Xhosa: Inguza, Unombombiya

SIZE:
Height: Approx. 50cm

Weight: Adult birds between 2 – 4 kg's

FOOD:
Shoaling Fish like Sardines (Pilchards), anchovies, horse mackerel and round herrings Squid.

Penguins not busy raising chicks can eat about 300g of fish a day, or 110kg per year.

SWIMMING:
Speed: 15 – 20 km/hour

Diving depth: Usually less than 30m but up to 130m

Dive duration: 2 – 5 minutes

APPEARANCE:
Juveniles: Entirely Blue Grey and is referred to as "Baby Blues" or "Blues"

They do not yet have the unmistakable black and white penguin suit. They retain this juvenile colouring for about 12 to 22 months.

Adults: Unmistakable Black and White colouring.

White face markings with black band over chest, and black back.

BREEDING:
Breeding season: All year round, but in South Africa normally March – May.

Age at first breeding: 2 – 6 years

Number of eggs per breeding pair: 1 – 2 white eggs

Incubation period: 40 days

Fledging period: 60 – 130 days

Lifespan: 10 – 11 years; up to 24 years in captivity

MOULTING:
Once per year, normally between November and January.

It takes them 5 weeks to fatten up at sea, increasing their body weight by 30%.

Once in moult, they stay on land and loose about 90g per day.

The moulting period lasts between 19 and 20 days.