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Geographical range

Amazing Species: African Penguin

The **African Penguin**, *Spheniscus demersus*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is confined to southern African waters and breeds at 25 islands and four mainland sites in Namibia and South Africa. It has been recorded as far north as Gabon and Mozambique.

This species of penguin is undergoing a very rapid population decline, which led to its uplisting to 'Endangered' in 2010, largely attributed to food shortages due to commercial fishing and environmental fluctuations. Other threats include: egg collection, guano collection, oil spills, competition with Cape Fur Seals, *Arctocephalus pusillus*, for food and displacement from breeding sites (and is a periodic predator), mortality from fishing nets and predation by sharks, feral cats and Kelp Gulls, *Larus dominicanus*.

The African Penguin is protected by listings on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and on Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). In South Africa, all breeding localities are national parks, nature reserves or otherwise protected. Collection of guano and eggs is also prohibited. The SANCCOB oil spill rehabilitation centre also needs to be continued and maintained.

Knowledge ^{EQ}
Experts ^{EQ}
Action ^{EQ}
Get Involved ^{EQ}



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