

# African Penguin



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# History



- Fossils from 10-12 million years and one 50 million year old fossil of the penguin were found in Africa
- Originally 4 species in South Africa
- Humans did not kill earlier species
- Impacted the surviving species - African Penguins
- Been on endangered list 4 years

# Traits

- Black feet
- One of the smallest penguins
- Small pink gland above each eye - specific to species

# Fun Facts

- “Jackass” penguin
- *Spheniscus demersus* ( scientific name)
- Adapt well in zoo environments (most common penguin in zoos)
- Household cat is a common predator

# Human Impact

- Fisheries cause decline in penguin's food source
- Nests are destroyed for fertilizer
- Impacts force living in vulnerable areas = offspring endangerment
- Oil spills are not common but can have persistent effects

# Habitat

- They make nests out of their own excrement (guano or poop) under bushes and rocks
- Found in large colonies along the southwestern coast of Africa
- Live in warm climates

# Species Dependencies

- Sardines, squid, and crustaceans form up an African penguins' diet, so global warming and overfishing, will impact them directly
- Seals and sharks rely on penguins for their diet- no penguins no food

# Reproduction

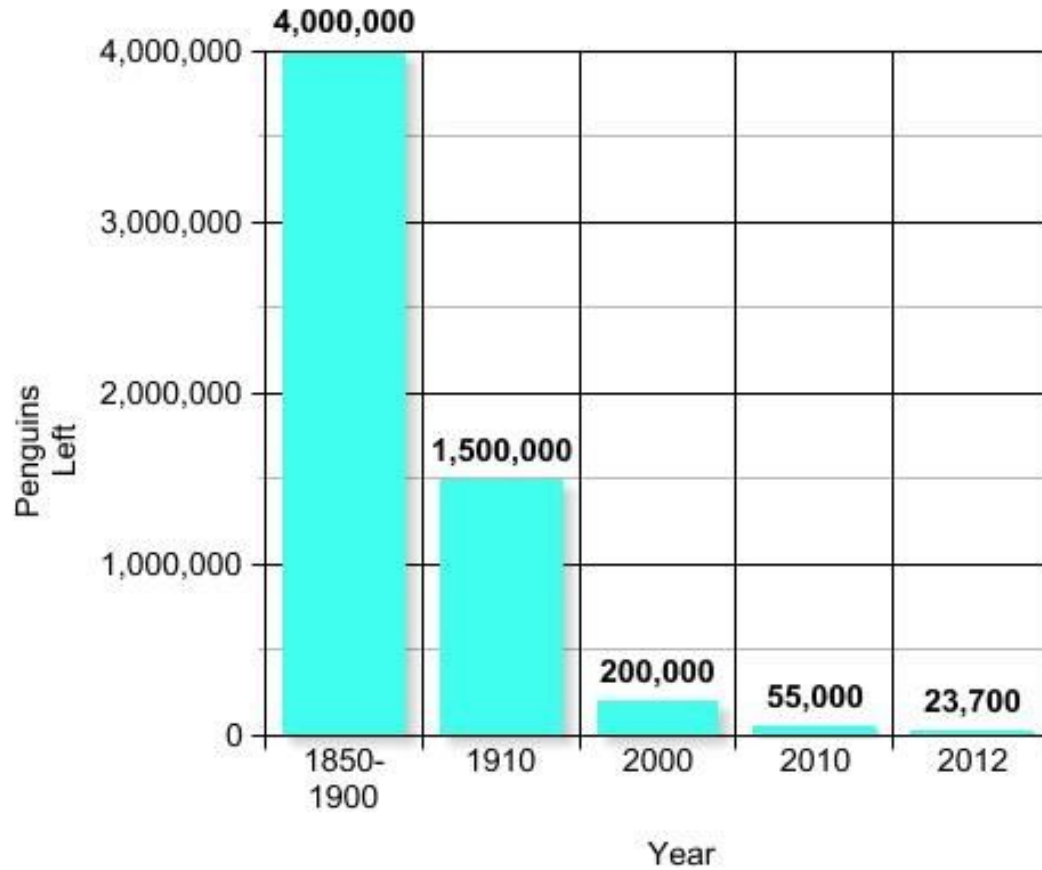
- Mated penguins will continue to bond for the rest of their lives, having 2-4 eggs per year, which helps with penguin output
- Young penguins ready to mate can be aggressive

# Biodiversity

- Located in same area
- Not much biodiversity in species
- Colonies are close together
- More diversity = more survivability
- Aren't too diverse = disease/habitat

loss - greater harm

African Penguin Population



**Will The African Penguin Go Extinct?**





# YES

there is a high probability they will go extinct due to an increased loss of their food and their habitat, unless there is a dramatic change in our habits, as humans now.

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<https://jeopardylabs.com/play/african-penguin-4>