

African Penguin

Spheniscus demersus



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Range: South Africa

Size: ♂: 68-70 cm(26-27 in)

♀: 68-70 cm(26-27 in)

Weight: ♂: 2-3 kg (4.4-6.6 lb)

♀: 2-3 kg (4.4-6.6 lb)

Wing: flipper shape wing

Habitat: Marine, rocky shore

Incubation: 38-42 days

Eggs: 2

Fledge: 10-12 weeks

Sexual maturity: ♂- 48 months

♀- 48 months

Nest: scrape

Social: gregarious

Breeding: monogamous

Movement: sedentary

Food: squid, herring, sardines

IUCN: Endangered

Subspecies: monotypic

Longevity: Captive: 27 years

Wild: 20 years

Order: Sphenisciformes **Family:** Spheniscidae

The only species of penguins native to Africa it is also one of the most endangered. It is also called a jackass penguin due to its braying vocalization however other species also bray. African penguin is one of four species of temperate species penguins which live in more northern latitudes.

Roughly 4,000,000 penguins existed at the beginning of last century. The total population fell to 200,000 in the year 2000; 10 years later, in 2010, the number was estimated to be only 55,000. At the current pace of decline the species will be extinct within 15 years.