

Protect our Penguins in Algoa Bay Project

Biodiversity loss is the major environmental problem facing humanity currently. As custodians of African penguins we are called to action to protect the species from extinction. We have failed thus far. The penguin numbers, especially in Algoa Bay on the main breeding island have radically declined in the last 5 years. During this time 80% of penguin breeding pairs were lost from the St Croix Island, the island that once housed the highest number of African penguins in the world. This is a matter of grave concern to us. At this point IMMEDIATE AND DRASTIC intervention is necessary and we cannot just be complacent because scientists are monitoring the penguins. We are counting the penguins into extinction!

The following activities have been identified as key actions to protect the penguins, specifically declining numbers from St Croix Island, in Algoa Bay.

Plugging gaps in scientific and other knowledge on bunkering:

Monitoring of the water around St Croix Island for contaminants

Investigate the nature of the Heavy Fuel Oil used in the bunkering vessels.

Perform parameter analysis on HFO to video its behaviour in seawater.

Investigate money flow of the bunkering operations

Perform a socio-economic impact study on bunkering and the benefits or not to Algoa Bay.

Liaise with governmental departments to address shortcomings in the legislation when dealing with STS bunkering.

Take legislative action is required.

Increase “agreeability” of St Croix Island for penguin breeding

Concrete penguins have been used in the Western Cape. Obtain and position around St Croix.

Penguin huts are currently used with success on Bird Island. Extend project to include St Croix Island.

Building material to be supplied on the island for the birds.

Increase Public Awareness

One of our main goals are to increase public awareness.

A petition to Stop bunkering (not only to stop the lifting of the moratorium, as is Sanccobs aim in their petition)

Social media on information on bunkering

Public meetings and public appearances, as well as private presentations to impacted groups

Education programme

Establish workbook for Primary schools: Treasures of Algoa Bay.

Invite oceanography students for a cruise to St Croix Island that they can understand the situation.

School kid trips to Sanccob or Bayworld

Tourist attraction

Large penguin at the pier – photographic opportunity for tourists and locals.

Algoa Bay Conservation incorporating Baywatch Project, Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism and Raggy Charters

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