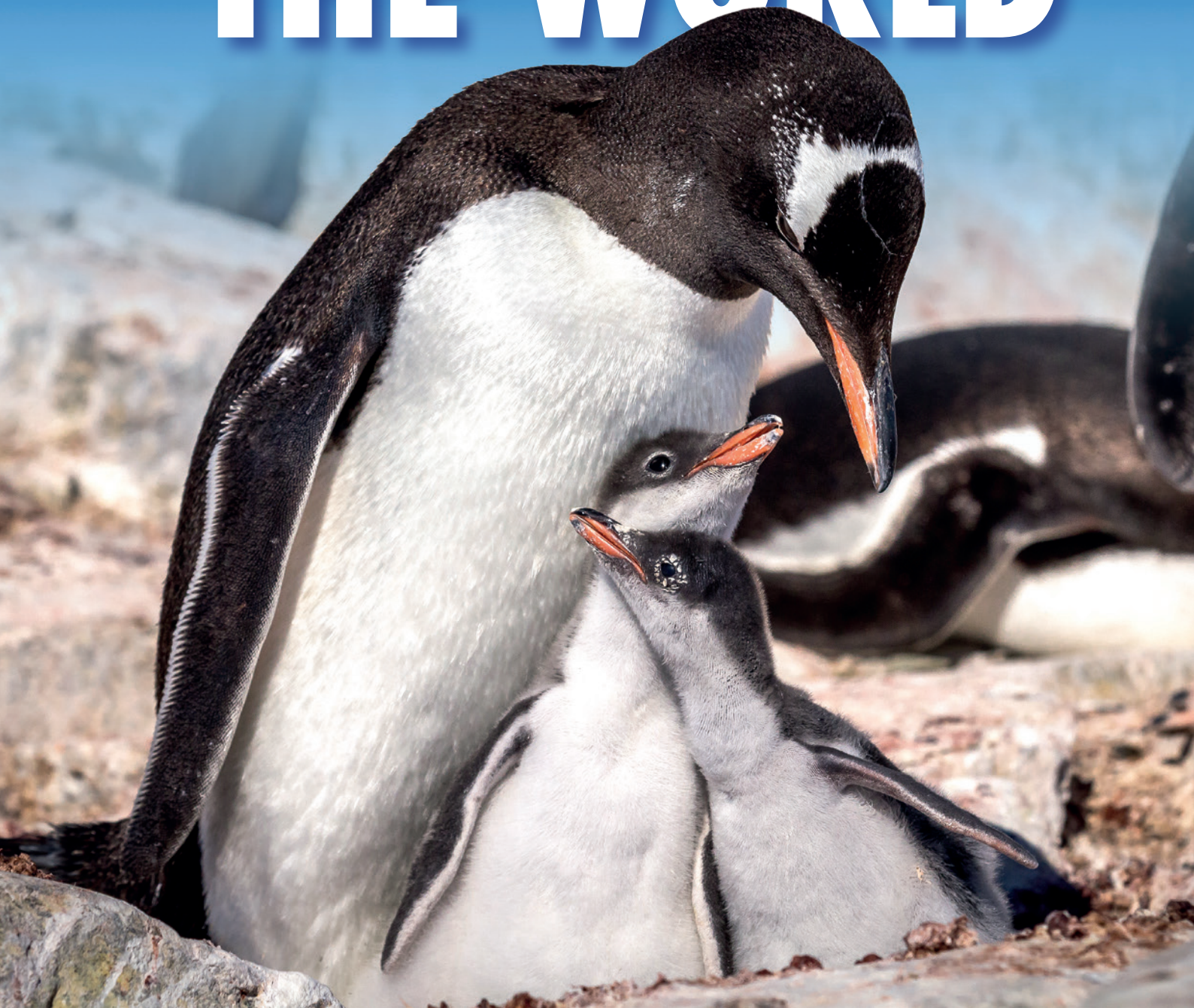




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PENGUINS AROUND THE WORLD



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PENGUINS 
AROUND THE WORLD

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WHAT ARE PENGUINS?

Penguins are **water birds** belonging to the family Spheniscidae. Like all birds, they are homeothermic, that is able to maintain their body temperature constant.

They have evolved from flying birds: in fact their wings have transformed into real fins which make them skilled swimmers, also thanks to their hydrodynamic body shape.

Fins are formed by dense and heavy bones (not hollow as most common birds), they have very thick water-repellent feathers, such as to avoid the absorption of water and promote the maintenance of body heat.

The biggest difference compared to many birds that use wings to fly, is the long bones found in their wings, which almost totally lack internal pneumatization. This makes penguins lighter, thus reducing the muscular effort for immersion. In addition, they have a small and rounded head, with a beak.

They have short legs and short webbed feet that make it difficult to move on land. When they move on ice in fact they usually let themselves slide on their belly to increase movement's speed and reduce their efforts.

Penguins also have a thick layer of fat that envelops their body: this serves as a food reserve and as a protection from polar temperatures. Depending on species and area, penguins vary significantly in size and weight. Usually, females are bigger than males. They're social animals, living in colonies and communicating with each other in different ways.





THE EMERGENCY



Currently, only some species of penguins have been evaluated as endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), among these have been included in the red list of threatened species:

- Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*), listed as near threatened;
- Humboldt Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*), listed as vulnerable;
- Southern Rockhopper Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*), listed as vulnerable;
- Fiordland Penguin (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*), listed as near threatened;
- Yellow-eyed Penguin (*Megadyptes antipodes*), listed as endangered;
- Snares Penguin (*Eudyptes robustus*), listed as vulnerable;
- Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*), listed as vulnerable;
- Galapagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*), listed as endangered;
- Erect-crested Penguin (*Eudyptes sclateri*), listed as endangered;
- African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), listed as endangered;
- Northern Rockhopper Penguin (*Eudyptes moseleyi*), listed as endangered.

The main threats to these animals come from several factors, such as: the climate change, which leads to a reduction in the availability of food and habitat (such as the melting of glaciers on which some of them live), oil spills at sea, during oil tanker accidents (the most serious in 1994 and 2000 killed 30000 penguins) and because of the illegal practice of washing empty tankers. The increase in commercial fishing is also a very important factor, because it leads to a significant reduction in food and increases the risk of by-catches in fishing nets.





THE SOLUTIONS



► Our World Sustainability Foundation provides financial support to the **“Penguin Rehab & Release”**, in north-west Tasmania, which is involved in the rehabilitation of penguins and other seabirds who are treated for illness, injury or other health issues, with the aim of preparing them for a later release in nature. They work mainly with Little Penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) which are native to Australia and New Zealand.

OUR GOALS:

- Sponsorship of Little Penguins for long-term care: support their rehabilitation for release back into the wild, each bird for roughly twelve months of care;
- Sponsorship of Little Penguins for long-term care: support their rehabilitation for release back into the wild, each bird for roughly one month of care;
- Sponsorship of Little Penguins for long-term care: support their rehabilitation for release back into the wild, each bird for roughly one week of care;
- Replacement of the penguin swimming pool.



PENGUINS

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