

Penguins



Keren Su / Corbis

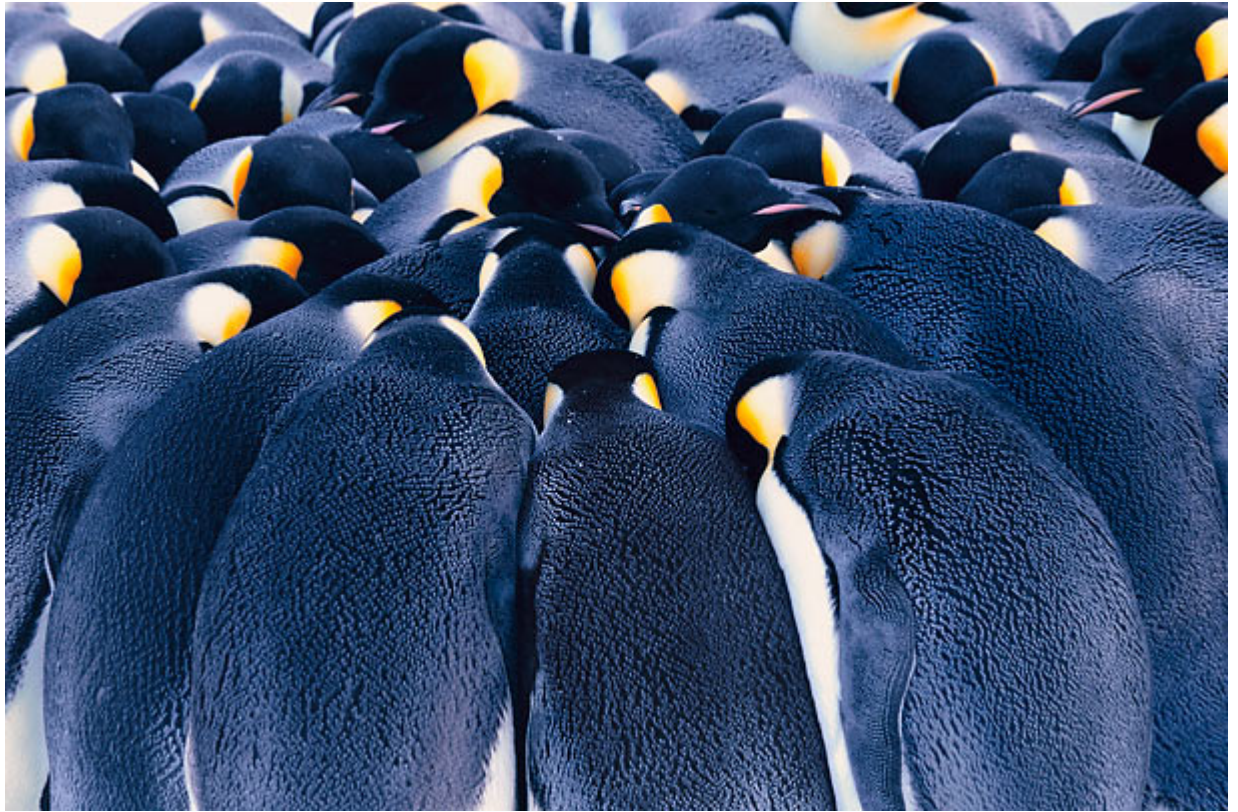
The Emperor Penguin

The Emperor, the largest and most recognizable of the **penguin species**, is thought to be the most **vulnerable of all** life in Antarctica. According to the World Wildlife Federation, the overall rise in temperatures is melting sea ice and **dramatically** reducing the scope of the **penguin's habitat**.



Frosty Chicks

The male Emperor Penguin famously guards the egg on its feet in blizzards and temperatures as low as -49c until it hatches. A 2009 report of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences argues that the early break-up of the winter sea ice that supports the colony may contribute to low breeding success.



Frans Lanting / Corbis

Sharing the Warmth

The Emperors huddle together to protect themselves from **the extreme** cold of Antarctica. Scientists warn that global warming could put the magnificent birds **at the risk of extinction** by the end of the next century.



Adélie Penguin

In the last 25 years, the Adélie population **has dropped** 65% due to a loss of sea ice and increased competition for food among other penguin species.



Arthur Morris / Corbis

Colony

Adélie Penguins require dry land for **breeding grounds** and **stone pebbles** for creating nests, but their greater survival depends on the presence of sea ice.



Frans Lanting / Corbis

King Penguin

There **are currently** 2 million pairs of breeding King Penguins on the islands north of Antarctica. Research suggests that the population **is declining** as sea temperatures warm and the birds are forced to travel longer distances to find food.



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Out for a Swim

Much like the larger Emperors, King Penguins rely on Krill and small crustaceans for food, but an increase in surface ocean temperatures is reducing the supply in the winter months.



Eastcott / Corbis

Gaggle

A King Penguin stands among a large number of chicks in the Southern Ocean. The time that the penguins devote to searching for food, research suggests, takes away from the time they spend feeding their chicks.



Paul A. Souders / Corbis

Chinstrap Penguin

The warming temperatures **have been temporarily beneficial** for Chinstrap penguins, which breed and nest on land with no ice or snow.



Maria Stenzel / Corbis

Chilly Willy

The warmer temperatures have significantly forced the Chinstraps further south, which is putting them in competition with Emperors and Adélies for food.



Paul A. Souders / Corbis

Gentoo Penguin

Much like the Chinstrap, the Gentoo birds guard their eggs **in shifts** and **prefer slightly warmer** temperatures. In the last few decades, their numbers **have been on the decline**.



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A Following

The decrease in population is likely due to reduced food availability as a result of overfishing and climate change.



Seth Resnick / Science Faction / Corbis

Floating Beach

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the Gentoo as near extinction, which means that **it is not critically endangered** but at risk of being reclassified.



Frozen?

With their food source **under threat** and their habitat evaporating, Emperor, Adelie, King, Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins all share Antarctica's uncertain future.

