

# ENDANGERED MARINE BIRDS

## CURRENT SITUATION

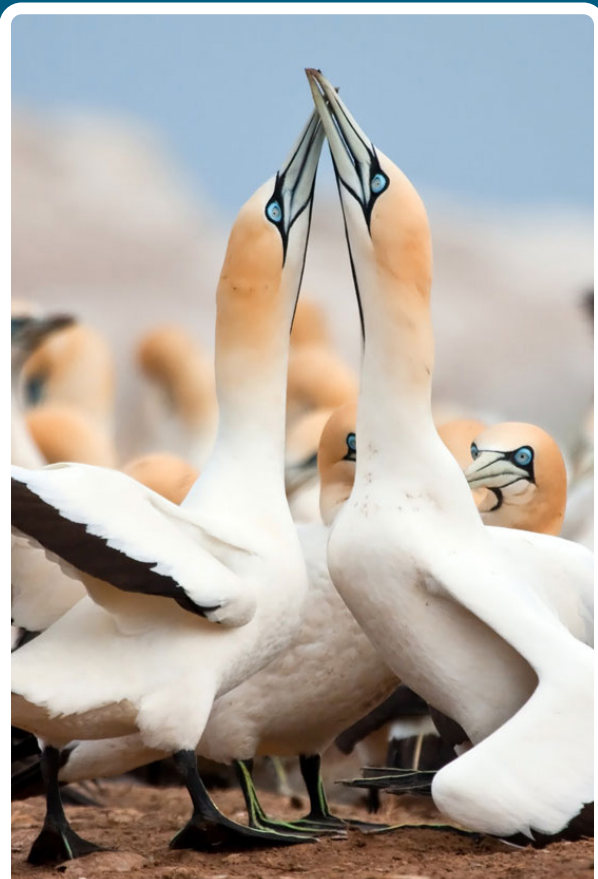
- ±100,000 breeding pairs left in the world
- population on the decline
- listed as an endangered species on the IUCN red list
- many human and natural threats
- disturbance at or displacement from colonies
- disease and predation at or around colonies
- mortality in fisheries
- scarcity of nutritious prey
- extreme weather events
- mortalities of eggs, chicks and fledglings by Cape fur seals

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- they occur in protected areas
- research and monitoring plans in place
- invasive species control and prevention plan in place
- they are protected by international legislation

## WHAT CAN STILL BE DONE

- do not disturb the natural habitat of these birds when visiting tourist attractions in the area of colonies
- small pelagic fishery should take ecosystems into account through spatial management



**CAPE GANNET**  
*Morus capensis*

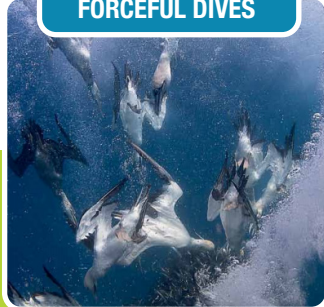
**“The primary threat to gannets is a shortage of their preferred prey ... competition with commercial fisheries is a significant factor!”**

## INTERESTING FACTS

THEY HAVE A FINE SERRATION AT THE TIP OF THEIR BILL TO HELP CATCH FISH



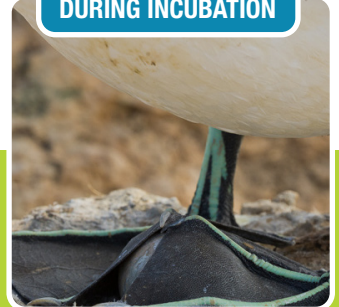
THEY DON'T HAVE EXTERNAL NOSTRILS WHERE WATER CAN ENTER DURING THEIR FORCEFUL DIVES



MATING RITUALS INVOLVES STRETCHING THEIR NECKS AND TAPPING THEIR BILLS TOGETHER



THEY USE THEIR LARGE BLACK AND TURQUOISE WEBBED FEET TO COVER THEIR EGGS DURING INCUBATION



# INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK (with # hashstags)

Did you know these facts about the endangered Cape Gannet?

- They have a fine serration at the tip of their bill to help catch fish
- They don't have external nostrils where water can enter during their forceful dives
- Mating rituals involves stretching their necks and tapping their bills together
- They use their large black and turquoise webbed feet to cover their eggs during incubation

Photos © (TO BE INSERTED)

#CapeNature  
#CapeGannet  
#endangered  
#EndangeredSpecies  
#ThreatenedMarineBirds  
#Gannets  
#ExtinctionTheFacts





# TWITTER

The long, pale blue bill of the endangered Cape Gannet is pointed with serrations close to the tip to help catch fish.



Cape Gannets don't have external nostrils where water can enter during their forceful dives from a height of 30m, hitting the water at up to 120km/h.



When the female Cape gannet selects a male to breed with, the pair perform a ritualised courtship where they stretch necks and tap bills together.



The Cape gannet use their large black-turquoise webbed feet to cover their eggs during incubation. The chick is fed by both parents until it fledges



The primary threat to gannets is a shortage of their preferred prey ... competition with commercial fisheries is a significant factor

