



CapeNature is continuing the phased reopening of its reserves across the Western Cape following the easing of the national lockdown regulations to Alert Level 3 to allow hiking and fishing activity.

Please visit our website to check the **full list of reserves and trails that are currently open to the public**, taking into consideration the daily limit allowed on each trail. Once capacity is reached no more hiking permits may be issued for that trail on that day. The opening of trails will be subject to weather conditions. A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found [here](#).

T&Cs
UPDATED



In order to accommodate the impact of this pandemic, resulting in an international and national travel ban, we have amended our standard terms and conditions. CapeNature is committed to all its visitors by monitoring and reviewing all confirmed travel arrangements, providing visitors with both flexibility and security. Our **revised and additional COVID-19 pandemic terms and conditions** apply to the tourism accommodation units, campsites, eco-venues, hiking and outdoor facilities managed by CapeNature. It excludes activities on reserves managed by third parties. These set of terms are applicable from 27 March 2020 to 30 November 2020.

For enquiries, please contact the customer call centre at info@capenature.co.za. For urgent enquiries call our Contact Centre at one of the numbers listed at the bottom of this page.



VISITOR SAFETY

All visitors entering at a controlled CapeNature reserve entrance gate will be subjected to a screening process and various guidelines will apply, including the mandatory completion of a 4-step check-in process.

Watch the video.

In order to minimise contact engagement and risk, no hiking permit will be on sale at reserve gates until further notice. All visitors will be encouraged to pre-purchase their hiking permit online, by visiting www.capenature.co.za or contacting the CapeNature Contact Centre on 087 087 8250 (074 936 2139 or 062 318 4987 on weekends). Pre-purchased hiking permit sales will close at 10h00, for any purchases made for that particular day. In order to manage capacity and record keeping, Wild Card holders will also need to register for a hiking permit online prior to arriving at the reserve.

20th Anniversary of the sinking of the MV Treasure

The 23rd June 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the sinking of the *MV Treasure* between Robben and Dassen Islands. The *Treasure* was a bulk ore iron carrier that had suffered structural damage in storms and when it sank the morning of the 23rd it leaked about 400 tons of bunker oil into the sea. This oil spill was and is to date South Africa's worst environmental disaster. Nearly 19 000 (20% of the total population) African Penguins were oiled and had to be caught, transported to various cleaning stations, cleaned and fed and cared for until they were ready to be released back into the sea. Volunteers from all over the world flocked to assist with the operation.

In a first for the world, it was decided to also remove un-oiled penguins from the two islands. The penguins were transported to Port Elizabeth and released at Cape Recife. Three birds (two males and one female) dubbed Peter, Percy and Pamela were fitted with satellite tracking devices before they were released at

Cape Recife. People from around the world could track their progress via the web as they made their way back to their respective islands.

The total mortality of African Penguins as a result of this oiling included 2 000 adult and immature birds and 4 350 chicks.

Unfortunately 20 years later the African Penguin population, despite numerous conservation efforts, still continues to decline due to human impacts on the species. Today there are fewer penguins left than the numbers that were removed from Robben and Dassen Islands during the *Treasure* oil spill. Concerted effort is required to prevent the species from becoming extinct and nullify the effort of thousands of volunteers that spent days rescuing, cleaning, feeding and caring for the African Penguins during the oil spill and the weeks thereafter.

Read the full story.

