

13 October 2015

Dear Stanley Road Primary School,

Thank you for adopting ME!

The name SANCCOB means 'hope' in penguin-ese. Without SANCCOB many thousands of African penguins and other seabirds would die every year. While it's difficult to imagine a world without penguins and other seabirds, the truth is that time is running out for us as we struggle to beat the effects of climate change, over-fishing, oiling, predation and human disturbance.

Your kind gesture has given me a second chance. By adopting me you have enabled the kind folk at the SANCCOB 'hospital' to care for me so that I can be fit and healthy - ready for my release back into the wild.

Giving me a second chance means that my extended family of African penguins has a chance to reverse our status on the IUCN Red Data listing. In 2010 we were reclassified from vulnerable to ENDANGERED - that's bad news for us penguins as it means that our population is rapidly shrinking and that conservation measures should be stepped up. I've heard that at the turn of the last century there were more than 4 million penguins living in Southern Africa, and I've seen pictures of my ancestors on the islands standing together in their thousands; I find this difficult to believe because today there are no more than 21,000 breeding pairs of us left in the wild. Lucky for us we have SANCCOB and a whole bunch of caring conservationists doing everything in their power to turn our fate around.

#### **What to do if you meet a penguin on the beach?**

Well, I suggest that you do not give him a penguin-high-five-greeting, as it is unlikely that he'll respond by giving you a wink! We are "wild" birds and we tend to bite and struggle if we are scared or unsure of what is happening around us. The folk at SANCCOB have a step-by-step plan worked out for you if you spot one of us on a beach! Firstly you should immediately call **SANCCOB on +27 (0) 21 557 6155** who will assess the situation and either dispatch their seabird 'ambulance' to come and get us, or if you're one of those people that easily handle birds, then they will ask you to please pick us up and take us to SANCCOB.

#### **People are always asking 'how can we help' so I've prepared a couple of tips of how you can help to save us and the precious marine environment that we rely on:**

- Litter and pollution are penguin-enemies – spare a thought for where your trash ends up; think about oil and how you as the end-user can cut down on the oil and oil by-products that you use; and remember – if you recycle regularly, you sure do get two-flippers-UP from all penguins for helping our environment
- Drive a small car – walk or cycle instead of taking your car – or you could try hopping, we penguins do it all the time
- Be a picky eater - consult the SASSI list and make responsible choices when eating seafood
- Be conscious of climate change – your actions can save the planet
- Become a member of SANCCOB

So, once again thank you for adopting me and remember that every little bit helps. Help SANCCOB to save us. So far they've saved 90,000 seabirds.... let's keep counting, together.



**From your penguin:**  
" Stanley" AP 064)

