



MEDIA RELEASE

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An Arctic adventure of a lifetime awaits!

Cape Town, 8 June. Today we celebrate the world's oceans. World Oceans Day is an annual opportunity to honour the world's oceans, celebrate what they provide and appreciate their aesthetic and spiritual values. Conserving marine life, and creating awareness surrounding the marine environment, are central to this year's theme: "Together we have the power to protect the ocean."

In celebration of World Oceans Day, BirdLife South Africa is pleased to launch their annual 'Oceans of Life' Photographic Competition, part of the annual SOS Festival. The competition is for images of all marine life (not just seabirds), and finalists and winning the photographs will go on exhibition at Iziko South African Museum in National Marine Week, starting 7 October. This year, ORYX Photographic Expeditions in conjunction with One Ocean Expeditions have again sponsored the main prize, an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime Arctic adventure to Spitsbergen with its abundance of iconic mammals such as Arctic fox and polar bear.

1st prize in the Main category:

The ORYX Award: A trip for 2 to Spitsbergen, Norway, from One Oceans Expeditions VALUED AT UP TO US\$15 000.

Canon South Africa have sponsored a very exciting prize for the winner of the Youth Category (under-21s) – a Canon EOS 7D camera and 18-135mm IS Lens Kit, worth R21 000.

The competition is open for entries from 1 July-31 August 2013. To view previous year's images or updates on the festival, or to enter the competition when it opens, visit www.sosfestival.co.za

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Notes for the editor:

1. The mission of BirdLife South Africa is to promote the enjoyment, conservation, study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats.

2. BirdLife South Africa contact details: Lewis House, 239 Barkston Drive, Blairgowrie, P.O. Box 515, Randburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, Tel. +27-11-7891122, Fax. +27-11-7895188, e-mail address: info@birdlife.org.za, website: www.birdlife.org.za
3. The South African Albatross Task Force is part of an international team working with fishermen and government to find innovative solutions to seabird bycatch.
4. Three species of albatross are Critically Endangered on the International Red List. This is the highest threat category before extinction.
5. For more information about One Ocean Expeditions see their website at <http://www.oneoceanexpeditions.com/>.
6. For further information regarding booking of tours, costs and other destinations for Oryx Worldwide Photographic Expeditions visit <http://www.oryxphotography.com/>.
7. SOS = Save our Seabirds.