



MEDIA RELEASE

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50 MARATHONS OVER 50 DAYS: 50 YEARS OF THE TWO OCEANS

BirdLife South Africa's race to relocate the African Penguin

Cape Town, 25 February 2019 – In 5 days' time, Dave Chamberlain, in collaboration with BirdLife South Africa, will embark on a journey to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Two Oceans Marathon, but with a difference. In a feat akin to Forrest Gump's, Dave plans on running 50 consecutive ultramarathons, starting 2 March, culminating in the final 50th Anniversary Two Oceans Marathon, 20 April 2019, all in aid of BirdLife South Africa's African Penguin relocation project.

The Two Oceans Marathon has a reputation for being the most scenic ultramarathon where one can experience the connection between the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans as they border the Cape Peninsula. BirdLife South Africa is currently undertaking an ambitious project to save the African Penguin from extinction by establishing new colonies in the Indian Ocean.

The colonies along the Atlantic west coast are failing due to a shift in food distribution from the west coast to the south. This shift, likely caused by changing environmental conditions exacerbated by localised fishing pressure, has had a direct impact on the African Penguin population. One of the solutions is to create new colonies on the south coast, in areas of high food abundance. "There is a natural union between The Two Oceans Marathon and The African Penguin Relocation Project to create awareness for this cause," said Mark Anderson, CEO of BirdLife South Africa. "If successful, this could very well be the saving grace for this species," he continued.

This harmony will allow Dave to raise funds for BirdLife South Africa's African Penguin Project. To join BirdLife South Africa in its race to relocate the African Penguin, you can donate towards every run completed in the 49 days prior to the final 50th Anniversary Two Oceans Marathon at www.505050.org. By raising the necessary funds, BirdLife South Africa will be able to carry out this project and achieve a successful creation of African Penguin colonies to secure their future.

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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: Isdell House, 17 Hume Road, Dunkeld West 2196, Gauteng

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3. While establishing new seabird colonies has been attempted in various parts of the world, this is a first for South Africa and for the African Penguin.
4. More information on the new colony project can be found at <http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/seabird-conservation/african-penguin-conservation/creating-penguin-colonies>