



ANTARCTIC
SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Unique insights into penguin behaviour

Multi-disciplinary research into iconic Antarctic species

National and international science collaborations

State of the art technology and innovation

PENGUIN PURSUITS

a birds-eye view of environmental change

- Adélie penguins are an iconic species that predominately breed on the Antarctic coastline, understanding their responses to environmental change will provide insights into how climate and human activities are impacting Antarctica.
- Discover how dramatic changes to the remote environment of Commonwealth Bay are effecting Adélie penguin colonies.
- In 2010 a massive iceberg grounded offshore from Cape Denison blocking the Adélie penguins' access to their traditional food and breeding grounds.
- Your contribution to the Antarctic Science Foundation will support a research mission to Cape Denison to survey and monitor Adélie penguins and the environmental impacts on their populations.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The tongue of the the Mertz Glacier broke away in 2010 and created a 97 km long iceberg that changed the lives of the local Adelie penguin colony. A few years later a private expedition reported that the Adelie penguin population at Cape Denison had declined. Further research will help us understand the environmental change and impacts on the Adelie penguin colony.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Understanding the Adelie penguins response to environmental change requires ongoing research. East Antarctica is the 'Home of the Blizzard' therefore regular first hand visits are difficult. This single year visit to Cape Denison will allow an opportunity for a science team to survey the Adelie population and establish remote technology to monitor the birds breeding success in future years.



THE TECHNOLOGY

Remote cameras, tracking devices and remotely-operated gliders have proven to be effective methods to gather information about penguins. Cameras can provide year-round information about breeding colonies and give us a front row view of penguins in their natural environment. Tracking devices can tell us not only how far penguins travel to feed and nest but how they are interacting with their land and water environments.

Photo credits: Chrissie Trousselot/Antarctic Science Foundation

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can support the research mission to Commonwealth Bay to observe Adelie penguins foraging habits and assess the impact of the changed environment on breeding success. As part of the Australian Antarctic Science Program, all research is ethical and designed to minimise ongoing intrusion and disturbance for the penguins.