



PENGUIN RESCUE!

On July 23, 2000 the tanker *MV Treasure* sank off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa spilling 1,300 tons of oil and threatening the survival of thousands of African penguins living and breeding on nearby islands. Tragically, the spill occurred at the height of the best breeding season on record for this threatened species, resulting in the loss of thousands of eggs and newborn chicks.

A massive rescue effort was quickly organized and tens of thousands of volunteers from around the world descended upon Cape Town to offer whatever help they could. Within a few days 20,000 oil covered penguins had been rescued and brought to local rehabilitation centers, where their care was overseen by 100 penguin experts brought in to assist with the monumental task. The ensuing rehabilitation of the oiled penguins took more than three months and over 556,000 hours of intense volunteer labor to complete.

This event was historic in its size and represents the largest number of animals within a species ever to be rescued. Due to the tremendous international response to the crisis, over 91% of the penguins were successfully rehabilitated and returned to the wild, where they have resumed breeding in the years since. Had this extraordinary effort to save the African penguins not taken place, this threatened species would have been one step closer to extinction.

This amazing and inspiring story, accompanied by dramatic photographs, will be presented by Dyan deNapoli, a former Senior Penguin Aquarist with Boston's

prestigious New England Aquarium and a key member of an international team of penguin experts who flew to South Africa to manage the care of the penguins. Dyan is currently writing a book about her experiences during this event. Since leaving the aquarium, Dyan has continued to teach children and adults about penguins through her educational company called THE PENGUIN LADY. She donates a portion of the proceeds from every program to organizations working to protect penguins and our oceans.