EMPEROR PENGUINS - DECLARED EXTINCT—A POSSIBILITY

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British Antarctic scientists warn by the end of this century the emperor penguin will most likely be extinct due to climate change and its impact on the penguins' icy habitats. Emperor penguins rely on sea ice for breeding, resting, and feeding. As temperatures rise, ice melts, affecting their ability to find suitable nesting sites and to access food. In 2022 the sea ice

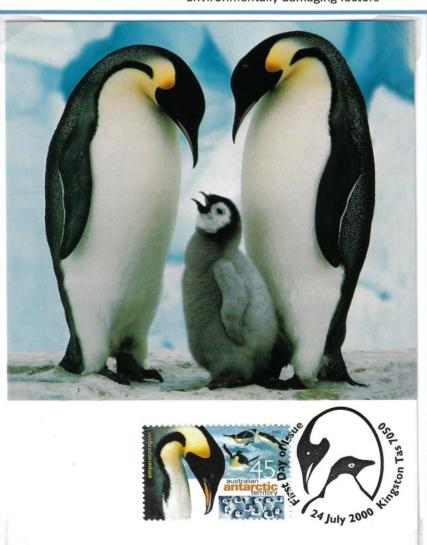
underneath the chicks melted and broke apart before they could develop the waterproof feathers needed to swim in the ocean, an estimated 10,000 chicks drowned or froze to death. Predictions are more than 90% of emperor penguin colonies will be all but extinct by the end of the century, as the continent's seasonal sea ice withers in an ever-warming world.







Environmentally damaging factors



Climate Action: The long-term survival of emperor penguins depends on global efforts to combat climate change. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving polar environments, and creating marine protected areas are crucial steps.



Reference: Fretwell, PT, etal (2023) Record low 2022 Antarctic sea ice lead to catastrophic breeding failing of Emperor Penguins. Communic Earth & Environment, 4 (273), 2023.