WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #30
December 11th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home.

Welcome to the 30th issue. This week, we will learn about one of the most unique primates, the **Black and White Colobus Monkey!**

Unlike other primates, they do not have thumbs. They are the number one tree dwellers of all African monkeys and rarely descend to the ground.

We discover how we can take actions for nature, share amazing art done by other students, meet a Nature's Treasures Photo Competition junior entrant, wild jokes, and much, much more... **Please read on!**

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure and always remember to share with your family and friends.

JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHER HIGHLIGHT

Seyan Hirani participated in the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition. Here are some of his striking images.

Q & A with Seyan Hirani

Q. How old are you?

A. I am 14 yrs old

Q. Which camera do you use?

A. Nikon D7100 and D3400

Q. What do you like about nature photography?

A. I like taking pictures that tell the world about the importance of wildlife.

Q. What advice do you have for young and upcoming photographers?

A. Never give up because you will always get a good shot at the end.

Q. Where can we follow you on Social Media

A. 500px-SeyanHirani (https://500px.com/p/seyan_hirani?view=photos)

MONKEYS

Olive baboon (*Papio anubis*)

VOCABULARY:

- **Troop**– a group of monkeys
- **Folivorous herbivore** – animals that mainly eat plants, leaves, and flowers
- **Arboreal** – Living in trees
- **Diurnal** – Mainly active during the day

Around the world, there are over 250 different species of monkeys that come in various sizes, colors and appearances.

Monkeys are primates and mainly arboreal, though species like baboons can be seen on the ground.

They are able to sit upright and use their free hands for different tasks like grooming and eating.

Monkeys are found in two main groups which have different characteristics; The Old World monkeys found in Africa, and Asia and The New World monkeys found in Mexico, Central and South America

Sykes Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis albogularis*)

In Kenya, we have over 15 species of monkeys and we are going to learn about one of the most unique Old World monkeys, the **Black and White Colobus Monkey**.

Black and White Colobus Monkeys (*Colobus quereza*)

- Their name, "Colobus", is a Greek word for "mutilated" because unlike other monkeys, Colobus monkeys do not have thumbs.
- They can easily be identified by their beautiful black and white coats, white rimmed black faces, white tipped tails and a beard around the face.

- There are 8 subspecies of Colobus monkeys and in Kenya, there are two species that inhabit the coastal forests and inland montane forests.

- The Guereza or Eastern Black and White Colobus Monkey (*Colobus guereza)* has a U-shaped cape of white hair running from the shoulder to the lower back.
- The other subspecies found only in the coastal forest of southern Kenya is the **Angolan Black and White Colobus Monkey (*Colobus angolensis palliatus)*.**
- Small populations are found in the tropical forests of Congo and Angola where they are extremely endangered.
- They have white hairs flaring out at the shoulders.

- Angolan Black and White Colobus Monkeys live high up in the trees and eat mostly buds, leaves and fruits of specific indigenous trees.
- They are the most tree-dwelling of all African monkeys and rarely descend to the ground.
- They get their water from the dew and moisture on the leaves and do not have to come down to drink water.

Angolan Black and White Colobus Monkeys

- Colobus monkeys are territorial and live in troops of about 5 - 10 animals consisting of a dominant male, several females and their young ones. They live in treetops in closed forests.

- They are majorly leaf-eaters and prefer tender young leaves at the tree tops. They are better described as **Folivorous**.
- They travel long distances to find food high in minerals such as the sodium-rich eucalyptus barks.
- They have complex chambered stomachs that carry bacteria which ferments and digest nutrients from toxic foliage that would make other monkeys sick.
- They communicate through different song-like calls, screams and tongue clicking.

Black and White Colobus babies

- Colobus monkeys do not have a set birthing season.

Their gestation lasts for about 142 to 161 days after which the female gives birth to a single infant.

- On average, mature female Colobus monkeys give birth once every 20 months.
- When baby Colobus are born, they are covered in white fur and have a pink face.
- During the first 1 or 2 weeks, infants are cared for mainly by childless adult females than their own mothers.
- When moving from tree to tree, the baby clings to its mother's abdomen.
- After about a month, the infants fur begins to change color and develops the black and white adult color by three months.

Black and White Colobus Monkey Fun Facts

- Colobus monkeys do not have thumbs! Almost all primates have opposable thumbs.

- Their forelimbs are longer than hind legs and can leap more than 6 meters in the air, from tree to tree; even a mother carrying a baby can do this!
- In some communities, locals call Colobus monkeys "Messengers of God" due to color and tree living behaviour.
- Colobus monkeys are calm unlike other monkeys that are aggressive and playful.
- Colobus monkeys can live up to 20 years in the wild.
- A male's "roar" can be heard up to 1.6 kms away.

Importance of Colobus Monkeys

- **Flower pollination;**
  - They pollinate flowers as they eat leaves and brush tree flowers as they leap.
- **Seed dispersal;**
  - Colobus monkeys disperse seeds that they eat and drop in their large habitat.
- **Prey;**
  - They are food to predators like leopards and eagles that hunt both young and old monkeys.

Dangers Facing Colobus Monkeys

- **Habitat loss-** They are losing their homes as people cut down indigenous forests.
- **Poaching** – At one time, Colobus Monkeys were killed for their beautiful coats to make dance costumes.
- **Road kills-** Colobus are not used to walking on the ground and therefore many get killed by motorists while crossing the expansive roads across forests.
- **Electrocution-** monkeys suffer deaths and injuries while attempting to use the electric power lines to navigate through the forests

- They avoid predators by navigating quickly through trees.

MEET MWITU KHALIFANI

Q: Tell us about yourself.

My name is Mwitu Khalifani, I was born in Tsimba location, Kwale County and went to school at Mwamgunga Primary School then Kwale High School.

I joined Colobus Conservation in 2008 as a volunteer.

I was employed in 2011 and since then, been working to better Colobus habitat besides creating awareness through education.

Q. How did you get interested in Colobus Monkeys and why?

A: On completing my high school studies and French classes, I decided to find a volunteering opportunity and Colobus Conservation offered me one.

I was passionate about saving monkeys and securing their home. Thus, I combined my tree climbing skills to better the Diani Forest habitat through rescuing monkeys and rehabilitation of their habitat.

Adult Colobus Monkeys with an infant

Q. What is the project about?

A: Colobus Conservation promotes the conservation, preservation and protection of primates like the nationally threatened Angolan Colobus Monkey (*Colobus angolensis palliatus*) and its coastal forest habitat in south eastern Kenya.

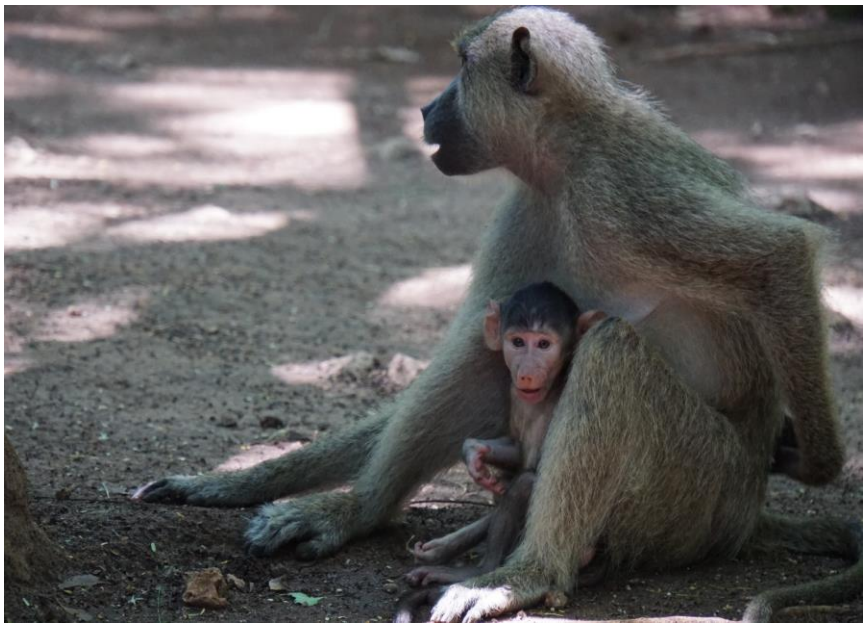
Our work focuses on Conservation, Animal Welfare and Education. We have numerous projects concentrating on data collection, finding solutions to human/primate conflicts, primate protection and rescue, community social development and education, forest protection/ enrichment and eco-tourism awareness.

Q. What does your normal day at work look like? What do you do?

A: I usually start by attending morning meetings in the office. This is usually followed by the conservation education program we do. We have local school children who come to attend and participate in workshops.

Each workshop starts with an introduction then a brief tour around the facility. This is followed by a classroom session where I teach them about the four types of monkeys found in Diani. These are:- the Vervet Monkey, Sykes Monkey, Baboons and the Angolan Colobus Monkey.

Yellow Baboon (*Papio cynocephalus cynocephalus*) with infant



Vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus hilgerti*) with infant

Sykes Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis albogularis*)

Images courtesy of Colobus Conservation

Colobus monkey with infant

Q. How would a young person get involved in Colobus conservation? What do they need to study?

A: Here at Colobus Conservation, we offer volunteering opportunities for young people to help us conserve our habitat, provide animal and orphan care.

School children are also involved in planting of Colobus food trees and awareness creation against poaching, petting and snaring. It is pretty easy and you really don't need advanced education. You can start young!

Q. What can we do to protect our Colobus Monkeys?

A: Support the building of their tree canopy ladder-like pathways across Diani Road (colobridges)

Mwitu making a colobridge

- Shout about their road crossing behaviour to alert drivers to slow down and let them cross

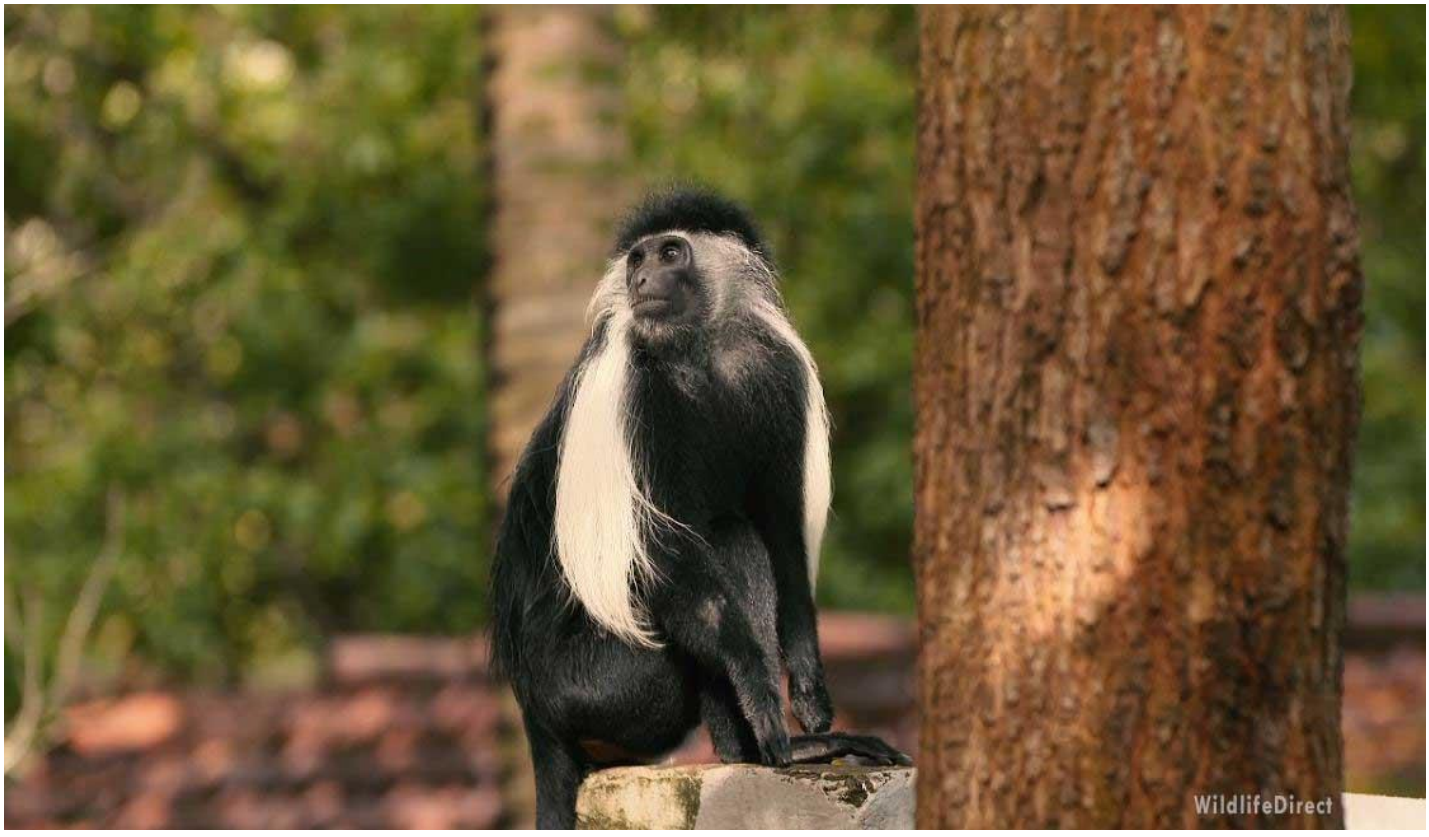
- Plant indigenous trees to recover their home and increase forest cover.

Join the Colobus Conservation Global Giving Campaign to help in saving the reducing number of primates and their habitat.

Support the projects by sharing this Newsletter or donate through: http://goto.gg/49954

COLOBUS MONKEYS
WILDLIFE WARRIORS EPISODE

There are two species of black and white colobus monkey in Kenya; the Guereza found in the highlands and the Angolan colobus found in the coastal forests.



The destruction of the forest in the coastal part of Kenya is a major threat facing the Angolan Black and White Colobus Monkey.

Find out more on the Wildlife Warriors Episode on Colobus Monkeys here;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSBNpSOj6g0

WILD JOKES!

Q: What kind of key opens a banana?

A: A monkey

Q: Why did the monkey take the banana to the hospital?

A: Because it wasn't peeling too well

Q: What do monkeys wear when they are cooking?

A: Ape-rons

Q: What did the banana do when he saw the monkey?

A: Banana Split

Q: Where do monkeys go for a drink?

A: The monkey bars

Wild Jokes courtesy of Joy Omulupi

Do you have a wild joke to share?
Please share with us your joke on
WhatsApp number to +254 746 511 787

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE FOR WILDLIFE

Upcycle an old T-shirt into a shopping bag

Did you know, clothing that ends up in landfills can stay there for 200-plus years, and as it decomposes, it emits methane? To reduce fabric waste in our landfills, you can convert one of your old T-shirt into a shopping bag.

You need :

- Sharp scissors
- Old t- shirt (thick fabric recommended)
- Temporary marker (optional)
- Ruler or tape measure (optional)

Step 1:

Cut off both sleeves and the collar.

Tip: Cut the fabric just past the seam where the sleeves are sewn to the body of the shirt.

Share with us what you are doing to help nature by sharing a picture/video or text on **WhatsApp** to; **+254 746 511 787**

Step 2:
Determine how deep you want the bag to be and mark with a marker.

Step 3:
Cut the sides of your t-shirt up to the part where the tape is. Then cut up your t-shirt into fringes. Turn the t-shirt inside out.

Step 4:
Tie the fringes together making sure there is no gap in between. Turn the bag to the normal side once done.

Step 5: Step out in style with your beautiful DIY bag that not only protects our environment but also carries your shopping. Share this simple trick with your family and friends too.

CALL TO ACTION

ROAD KILLS

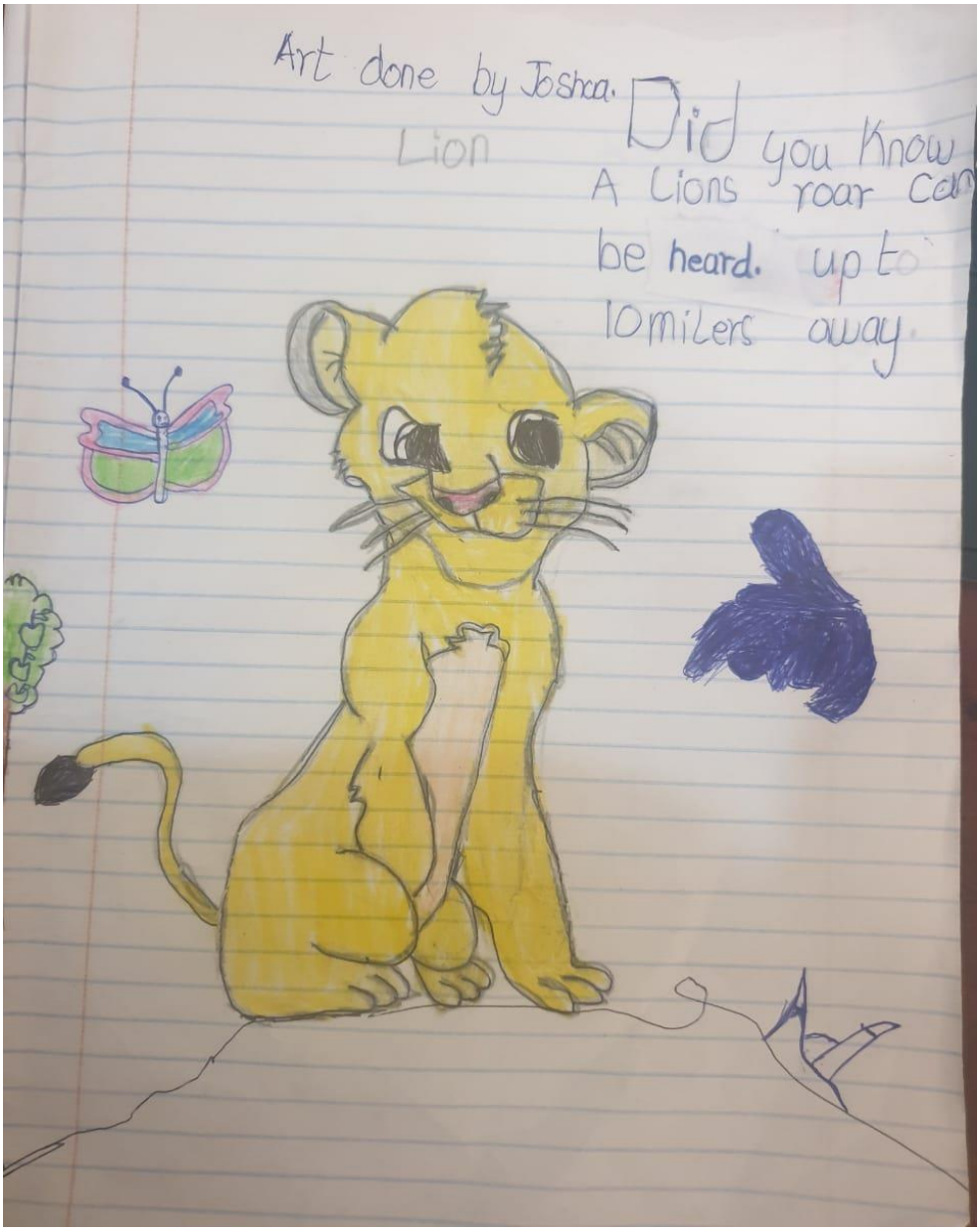
Deforestation and forest habitat division not only reduces the habitat of the rare Black and White Colobus Monkeys in Diani forest, but also exposes them to road kills by motorists.

In the past, many colobus monkeys were killed while crossing the road but this has greatly reduce as they no longer have to descend to the ground but safely use the colobridges high up between the trees.

Many other animals are killed on our roads and railways and we need more innovative ways in place to prevent road kills

Share your innovative ideas on reducing ROADKILLs of other animals along our roads and rails through essays, or art **WhatsApp** to; **+254 746 511 787**

ART FOR WILDLIFE



Art by **Joshua Guto Otwori (8 years),**
3rd grade pupil at Lizar Schools Naivasha

Please send a **photo** of your **Drawing**, **Painting**, **Poem** or **Essay** on **WhatsApp** to **+254 746 511 787.**

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA

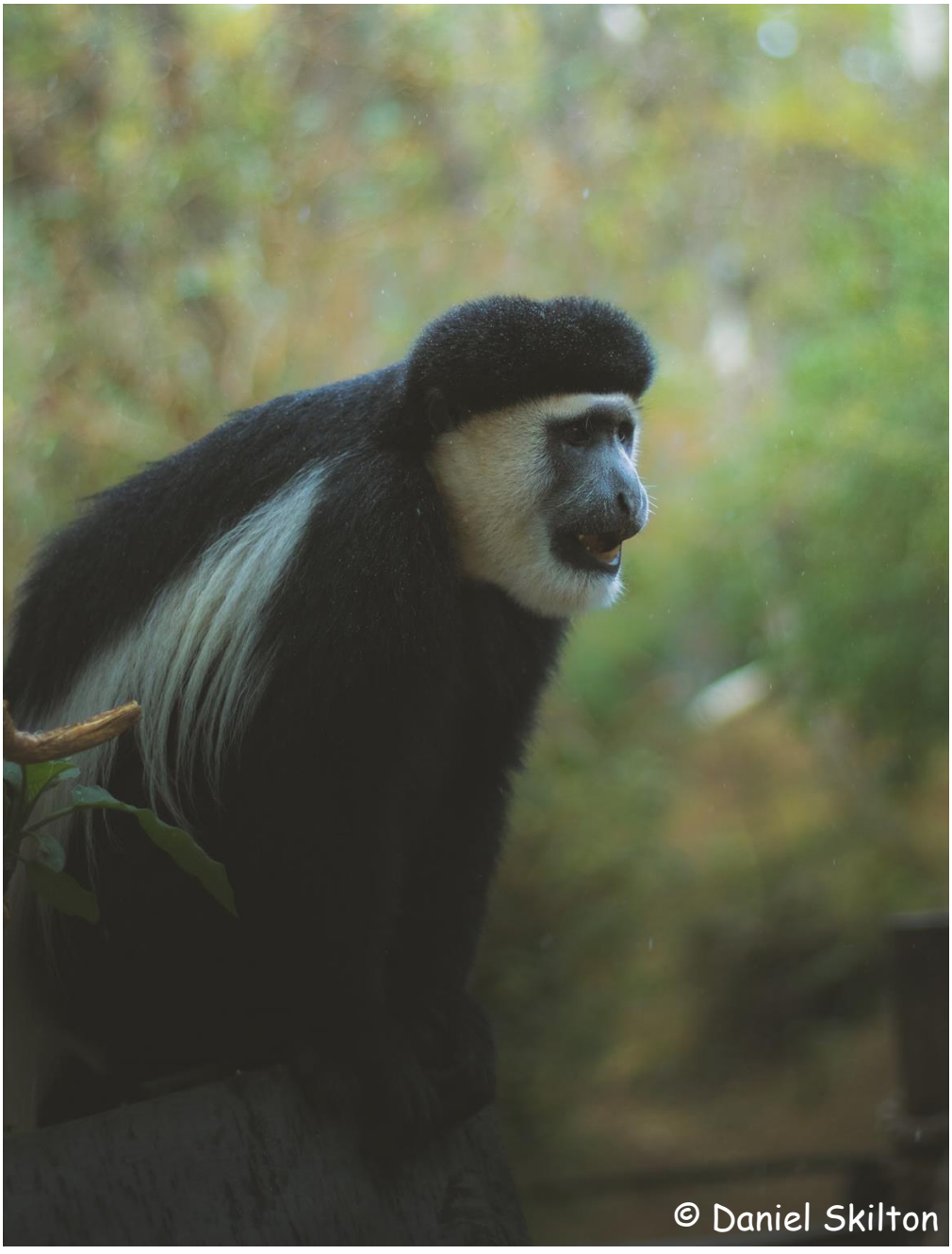
The African penguin population has declined by over 95% since the 1900s and by nearly 65% over the last 30 years.

This Sunday on My Wild Africa, we follow the extraordinary lives of the African Penguins found on the Algoa Bay in South Africa, which make up 50% of the whole African Penguin population.

Tune in at 5:30 pm EAT on Citizen TV

Watch the **film** with your family and tell us **what you learnt** by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **+254 746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS



- **Jamhuri Day - 12th December**
- **My Wild Africa on CITIZEN TV** every Sunday at 5:30 pm EAT.
- **Monkey Day** – 14th December

FOR PARENTS

This newsletter is issued each week to inform, inspire and encourage children who are at home during COVID 19 school closure.

It is distributed completely free of charge to children and their parents anywhere in Kenya, Africa and the world. If you would love to contribute to the Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

PAYBILL NO. 600100

A/C NO: 0100003937598

Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

To sign up to this newsletter series, click here:

bit.ly/WWKidsSignup

Follow @WildlifeDirect