



Cape Gannet (*Morus capensis*)

Size: Body length, 85 - 90 cm **Weight:** Approx. 2.6 kg **Habitat:** Southern Africa's coasts; breeds on only six islands **Surviving number:** Estimated at 150,000 breeding pairs



Photographed by Tom Walmsley

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Dive master. When seeking prey, the cape gannet hurls itself toward the water, losing hardly any speed as it submerges. It spends some 20 seconds underwater on each dive hunting pilchard, sauries and anchovies. To conserve energy, the bird then uses its natural buoyancy to rise to the surface. But food sources are disappearing due to commercial

overfishing. The cape gannet has also run afoul of oil spills, and competition is increasing with other species for habitat on its breeding islands. This all adds up to deep trouble.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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