

AFRICA TALES

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OMULONGA

Omulonga (oh-moo-LOHN-gah) is a black-footed penguin from the country of Namibia. Her name is the Oshiwambo word for “river”. Black-footed penguins live along the coast of Namibia and South Africa, and she has moved from Namibia to Johannesburg in South Africa because, like so many people in Africa, she was hoping for a better chance to find work in the big city. She is very artsy and hip, and enjoys living in the city.

Black-footed penguins are the only penguins in the world that live in Africa. They live in groups called colonies, along the coast of Namibia and part of South Africa. They are black on the back and white on the front—this helps them to hide from predators in the water. They also have a pattern of black spots on their stomachs. Each penguin has its own pattern, just like each person has their own fingerprints. The sound they make is a loud braying noise like a donkey. Lately, it has become hard for the black-footed penguins to find enough food, because of people overfishing in the ocean. Last year they were put on the endangered species list.



The Republic of Namibia (nah-MIHB-ee-ah) is on the southwest coast of Africa. The capital city of Namibia is Windhoek (VIN-HD-hook). The main languages in Namibia are Oshiwambo, Afrikaans and English. Most people in Namibia call themselves Christians, but there is still much work to be done in spreading the Word of God. Namibia is one of the world’s youngest countries. It became independent from South Africa in 1990. This young country is home to the oldest desert in the world, the Namib Desert, which is where the country got its name. The currency in Namibia is called the *Namibian Dollar*.

