

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY – 16 MAY 2026

MarinaWildKidz

Amazing Endangered Animals and Plants Right Here at Home!

When you hear the words “**endangered species**,” what pops into your mind?

A giant elephant? A rhino? Maybe a tiger?

Those are great answers! But did you know that some endangered species are much smaller — and some live right here in and around our Marina?

This **Endangered Species Day**, become a **Marina WildKidz Nature Detective** and see what incredible creatures and plants you can discover!

The Tiny Tree Superhero

Hidden in the Arthur Fennell Park area grows a very special plant called the **Dwarf Cape-beech** (*Rapanea gilliana*).

This plant is extra special because it only grows in a small part of the Eastern Cape, between St Francis Bay and Port Alfred. That means people from many other parts of the world will never see it growing naturally!

Sadly, this little plant is endangered because some of its natural homes have disappeared due to development and invasive plants.



Your WildKidz mission:

🔍 Next time you explore nature, look carefully at plants around you. Big adventures can begin with small discoveries!

Want to learn more? Visit: [SANBI Plant Red List](#)

Secret underwater grass gardens

Did you know grass can grow underwater?

In our canals lives **Cape Eelgrass** (*Zostera capensis*). It is not seaweed—it is real underwater grass!

This underwater grass acts like a giant marine playground where animals can:

- 🐟 hide from predators
- 🔍 find food
- 🏠 raise babies

Without eelgrass, many creatures would lose their homes.

Sadly, pollution and habitat damage have caused this special grass to disappear from some places.

WildKidz mission:

👁️ Look into the canals next time you're nearby. What creatures might be hiding beneath the water?



Meet the strange cousin of a seahorse!

In 2025, something exciting happened in our Marina canals...

Residents spotted a **Longsnout Pipefish**!

This unusual fish is related to seahorses. It has a long skinny body and an extra-long nose.

Now here is the coolest part: **The dads carry the babies!**

That's right—just like seahorses, male pipefish carry and give birth to the young.

Pipefish love living among eelgrass because it keeps them safe and gives them places to eat and hide.

WildKidz mission:

🇺🇸 If you spot interesting animals, birds, fish or insects, tell your parents and report sightings to the HOA. Read more: [Longsnout Pipefish story](#)

Birds can tell us ocean secrets

Have you seen groups of dark birds flying near the coast?

One of these may be the **Cape Cormorant**, an endangered seabird.

Scientists call birds like these **nature detectives** because they help us understand whether our oceans are healthy.

If fish disappear or ocean conditions change, these birds help us notice.

Become a Marina WildKidz Nature Hero!

You do not need a cape to help endangered species.

This Endangered Species Day, challenge yourself:

Complete the word puzzle:

https://www.educaplay.com/learning-resources/29133435-cape_biomes_word_search.html

Read this book "The Black Rhinoceros and its Horn" published by Unite for Literacy.

Get it from this link: <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/unite/ endangered/book?BookId=1304>

Find one amazing plant, bird or animal you've never noticed before.

You might discover that endangered species are not only found far away...

They could be living right here beside you. 🐾 🌱 🐋

