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Let's hope chickless penguin colony can come back from the brink

LIFE | COMMENT 22 November 2017

By **Olive Heffernan**





Better times ahead?

Wayne Lynch/Getty

For the Adélie penguins on Petrel Island in East Antarctica, this is a critical moment. It is early summer and adult birds are returning in their tens of thousands to breed.

If all goes well, the island should soon be abuzz with the squawks of raucous chicks calling for food. Taking turns to waddle and slide across the ice, their parents fetch fish and krill to feed their hungry young. In the normal course of events, it is much as you would expect from watching *Happy Feet*.

But a far from happy scene ...

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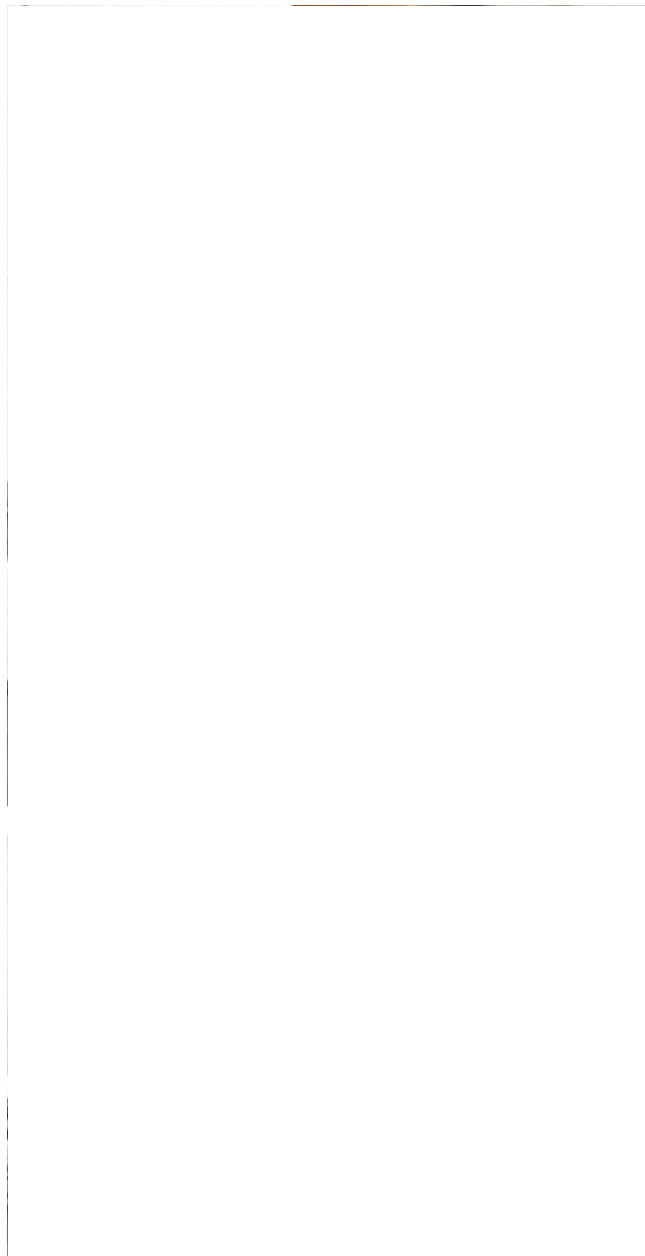
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