

ZONE 38

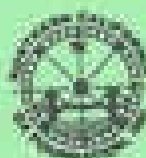
PENGUIN ISLAND

AFRICA

ZSØZ

Another ZS6EZ operation supported by the NCDXF

ST	ZSØZ worked:	YU4FDE	1432Z	28 MHz	2xCW	599	50(3)	2 WAY
	911219	1432Z	28 MHz	2xCW	599	50(3)		<input type="checkbox"/> CW <input type="checkbox"/> RTTY <input type="checkbox"/> SSB
	Op Chris							



cushcraft
CORPORATION

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The Penguin Islands are a string of 13 guano islands situated along the west coast of Southern Africa, off the Republic of Namibia. They were annexed by the British in the mid 19th century as part of the Cape Province (now part of the RSA). They therefore predate Namibia as an administrative entity. They are currently protected as nature reserves.

Wikipedia lists the islands, including May (26 37 S 015 09 E). The island is about 1200 X 500 m, and our one tower was mounted at its peak (49 m amsl). The island is inhabited by many thousands of gulls, and a number of cormorants. There is almost no vegetation. A few derelict buildings from an old guano mine still stand on the eastern side.

We erected four rotatable Yagis antennas and three independent stations while on the island. The WARC band signal was radiated by an A3BW beam supplied by Cushcraft. The 10m monowire was supplied by INDEXX for the previous ZS6Z/ZS1 operation. The low band antenna was the same Batts Creek Special used at 3Y3X, and made available courtesy of W0CO, W8UVZ and K8GG through the NCDXF. Capetronics kindly supplied 200m of RG-213 at cost.

An attempt was made to give extensive coverage to Europe and Japan (where the islands have remained high on wanted lists) as well as both low bands and WARC bands. In spite of indifferent conditions, these goals were met. Over 140 non-African stations were worked on 160 m alone.

NCDXF came through yet again with major financial support. Other contributors include T2HP, W1UJ and ZS6BK. K1MM, W8ZV, ZS6WB (P1.2100Z, 8 m equipment), ZS6P (2 generators) and ZS6BRZ (TH50X) assisted with the logistics. The operators supplied 4 transceivers, two HF amplifiers, various towers, and two vehicles with trailers to get to and from Lüderitz harbour. SAFT issued the first ever ZSO call sign especially for this operation.

The picture shows our first view of Penguin Island across the bow of the yacht "Sagitta". The skipper, Hans Rogge, did an excellent job.

ZSØZ

DECEMBER 1991

Operators:

Chris R Burger, ZS6EZ (ex ZS6BCR, aka ZS6Z, ZS3Z, ZS6Z, YU4Z)

Bernie van der Walt ZS4TX (also ZS6X, TP8EN)

Rod Handfield-Jones ZS6RAU (Ex ZS4AAB until 1990)

Jan van Niekerk ZS6NW (then ZS6BUV)

Izè van Niekerk (Jan's wife; played cook on the island)

