



South African  
NATIONAL PARKS

# AGULHAS PARK eBULLETIN

Official:

Friends of the Agulhas Park:

[www.sanparks.org/parks/agulhas/](http://www.sanparks.org/parks/agulhas/)

[www.agulhas.org.za](http://www.agulhas.org.za)



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July 2011, Volume 16



## JULY eBULLETIN

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### Agulhas Rest camp



Visitors to Agulhas Rest camp will now stay in Strandsalie, Oystercatcher, Sandpiper, Blombos, etc. Each chalet proudly displays a name from the coastal fynbos and local marine birds. The name boards were made from recycled old wood by Agulhas Honorary Ranger Dr Flip Van Staden. The planned Two Oceans Hiking Trail is also finished to the stage where it can be walked. This is also a project of the Agulhas Honorary Rangers under the leadership of HR Graham Pienaar and with the help of the Friends of the Park. The name of the trail comes from the fact that the two oceans, Atlantic and Indian, can both be seen at the same time from the highest lookout point. The trail, identifiable by white, yellow and red markings, consists of three options re length and time, 2,5 km, 5 km and about 15 km. The finalization of the distance and trail interpretation will be completed and ready for the December holidays, but Rest camp visitors can already walk the short circular in the camp indicated by the white markings.



### Agulhas Honorary Ranger, Dr Flip Van Staden receives Silver Award (HR No 26) – Len Le Roux, Agulhas Honorary Ranger

At the recent HR Indaba in the Kruger National Park, Dr Flip van Staden, honorary ranger of the Agulhas Region received the SANParks Honorary Rangers "Silver Award" for his years of loyal service and great dedication to SANParks and its honorary rangers.

A receiver of this award must have been an active member in his/her region for at least five years who has delivered exceptional service to the SANParks Honorary Rangers and SANParks. Flip started working with the Honorary Rangers as a candidate in the Pietersburg region 17 years ago and in 1996 both he and his wife Engela were appointed as honorary rangers. In 1997 he joined the Western Cape Region where he was actively involved in the training of applicant honorary rangers in the (then) three regions of the Western Cape. In 2003 he trained applicants in Cape Agulhas and formed what was then known as the Overberg Region. He served this region as chairperson in the early years of its existence. For the past eight years he has given his full support to this region in the respective capacities of chairperson, treasurer and trainer; this in spite of the fact that he lived 160 km from the Agulhas National Park.

The establishment of the Bontebok Region resulted in the name change of the Overberg Region to the Agulhas Region. [Read more](#)



### Agulhas National Park: Working for Water Project has done it again!!! – Alliston Appel, People and Conservation

The Agulhas National Park Working for Water Project repeated its success of a few years ago by winning the coveted SANParks ISCU Flagship award again in 2011.

Since 2003 there has been growth as well as consistency under the management of the current project manager Mr. Thys Ahrends. Since this prestige award is for the whole of SANParks during 2011, the project has served as a role model for the Cape Cluster Parks for the past couple of years. The challenges have also increased but were tackled by innovative and tested solutions by experienced personnel. The annual budget grew from R1 million to nearly R7 million in 2011. More than 200 persons have a reasonable secure income with training and skills development opportunities. The Flagship Project initiative is not only aimed at celebrating

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Winter Fynbos





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implementation excellence but also provides a platform for the sharing of lessons and experiences amongst various projects under the Natural Resource Management Programmes of SANParks.

[Read more](#)



## FLORA

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS

#### Celebrate Forests in 2011!!



The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests.

#### Tree of the Month

##### Sybas, Silky-bark, *Maytenus acuminata*



[www.plantzafrica.com](http://www.plantzafrica.com)

A small tree that can reach a height of eight metres but sometimes also 15 metres; found in evergreen forest and often among rocks near rivers or mountain slopes; bark mottled, grey to brown; dark green thick leathery glossy leaves; white to creamy green flowers in

January to February, sometimes continuing to June; smallish red to

orange fruit in May to October; rubbery threads present in the branches, leaves, flowers and fruit. This tree can be spotted on the Two Oceans Hiking trail in Agulhas National Park.

#### Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (*Mucina & Rutherford*) or Elim Asteraceous Fynbos (*Mustart, Cowling, Albertyn*)

Elim Ferricrete Fynbos consists of all fynbos types with transitional communities of species, but extensively asteraceous fynbos dominated by low proteoid elements containing species like *Protea repens*, *Leucadendron salignum* and *L. elimense*. When degraded, *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* dominates. Occurring on soils derived from Bokkeveld Shale, Cape Granite, ferricrete and silcrete. It is distributed extensively around Elim – spanning the area from Soetmuisberg in the north to the Soetanysberg in the south. Elim Ferricrete Fynbos is endangered with a conservation target of 30% and Red Data listed. It is also 5% statutorily conserved in Agulhas National Park and 42% transformed by cultivation of wheat, pastures and vineyards. The following are some well-known specimens in this vegetation type: Suikerbos, Sugarbush, *Protea repens*, Duineknoppiesbos, Common sunshine conebush, *Leucadendron salignum*, Elimheide, Elim heath, *Erica regia*, Sekelbos, Broad-leaf featherbush, *Aulax umbellata*, Rankluisie, Trident pincushion, *Leucospermum heterophyllum*.

#### Heritage Month, September 2011

##### Plants used for Food, Medicine and Other

A programme about the usage of plants by the Strandveld community through the years, is being planned for Heritage month in September 2011.

##### Suikerbos, Suikerkan, Sugarbush, *Protea repens*



Widely distributed in the Southern Cape from west to east; erect shrub up to three metres; flowerheads vary from cream to red and can be seen from April to September; flowerhead has a large supply of nectar inside. Nectar, collected by shaking the

flowerheads into buckets, was then strained and boiled to syrup, called *bossiestroop*. The *bossiestroop* was used as early as the 1700s as a remedy for chest cold symptoms such as coughing.

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## Waterblommetjie, *Aponogeton distachyos*



Aquatic plant with a tuberous root and floating leaves on long stalks; edible scented white flowerheads common in pools and standing water from Nieuwoudtville to Knysna; flowerhead is used to make the delicious and traditional

Cape stew

*Waterblommetjiedredie*; has become one of South Africa's truly indigenous vegetables.

## Matrassewejaartjie, Strooibloommetjie, Cape everlasting, *Syncarpha vestita*

Erect soft shrub up to one metre with soft furry leaves, white flowerheads with maroon and white centres; common after a fire and distributed on flats and slopes from the Cape to Knysna and also the Swartberg; flowers from November to January. Traditionally used for filling mattresses and making wreaths by the Elim people.



(MUSTART, COWLING, ALBERTYN: *Southern Overberg SA Wild flower guide* 8, 2003; SCHWEGLER, M: *Medicinal and other uses of Southern Overberg Fynbos plants*, 2003.)

## FAUNA

### Pollinators and fire in Agulhas National Park

Carly Cowell, Regional Ecologist, Cape Research Center

Pollination is required by approximately two-thirds of the world's food plants and almost 80% of the world's flowering plants. Pollination is a major tool for plants to adapt to changing environmental conditions by maintaining genetic variability and constantly evolving to meet environmental stressors. Pollinators visit flowers in search of food, shelter and/or a potential mate. The partnership between plant and pollinator has evolved over millennia, both having adapted to environmental elements such as fire. Fynbos

is a fire driven system and the plant species found here have adapted to fires, similarly the pollinators of Fynbos have adapted too.

Since the devastating 2009 fires in Agulhas National Park members of the local community have been worried about the pollinators in the Park. The interest shown sparked research into the pollinators of Fynbos. [Read more](#)

### Colourful birds in Agulhas National Park

Running up to the annual Sasol Stretton's Birding weekend early in November we thought of telling you about colourful birds in the Park.

### Oranjekeel Kalkoentjie, Cape Longclaw, *Macronyx capensis*

Distinctive orange throat encircled with black, deeper orange-yellow underparts; endemic, resident in coastal and upland grasslands. Was spotted recently along the Nuwejaars River between Southbosch and Soetendalsvlei.



### Recording birds in Agulhas National Park – Dr Wim De Klerk

At the end of 2009, the management of Agulhas National Park (ANP) gave me permission to begin a process of recording the birds of the park. My birding buddy, Chris van Gass (Agulhas Honorary Ranger) and I started recording birds in the park at the beginning of 2010. This is by no means a scientific paper but hopefully it will add some value in the development of the ANP. I decided to use the SABAP2 recording system in order to give the research a more scientific approach. According to this system the Park was divided into 20 pentads. So far only 15 of the 20 pentads have been covered, most of them only once. In the first year of this project we counted 134 species – 87 of which were in the Struisbaai pentad and 77 in the Soetendalsvlei pentad. [Read more](#)

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## What is the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2? (SABAP2)

SABAP2 is an update and refinement of the first Southern African Bird Atlas Project which ran from 1987-1991 and culminated in the publication in 1997 of two volumes on the distribution and relative abundance of southern African birds. It involves a large number of lay people as citizen scientists and made a huge contribution to the public understanding of science, participation in biodiversity data collection and public awareness of birds. This public interest and involvement was sustained after SABAP1 by the launch of focused projects such as the [Coordinated Waterbird Counts \(CWAC\)](#), [Birds In Reserves Project \(BIRP\)](#) and [Coordinated Avi-faunal Roadcounts \(CAR\)](#) which showcased the birding public's commitment to making further contributions to bird conservation in South Africa.

[Read more about other SABAP projects](#)

The Southernmost Tip area, from Elim in the west to De Mond in the east and north to the Bredasdorp Mountains, was declared as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International on 25 May 2011.

## Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* declared vulnerable by the Endangered Wildlife Trust

In the past there has been minimal concern over the status of the Secretary bird. Unfortunately this bird has now been classified as vulnerable by the Endangered Wildlife Trust. The Southern African Bird Atlas Project also found recently that the numbers of Secretary birds are dwindling in South Africa. The biggest threats to Secretary birds are the degradation and loss of their habitat – namely grassland areas due to urbanization, agricultural practices, and overgrazing. Secretary birds can be spotted in the Park in the summer months between Soutbosch and Bosheuwel, the Hangnes area, and next to the tarred road between Struisbaai and Bredasdorp.



## Life at the margins of the continents - An examination of the intertidal marine life of the southwestern Cape - Gavin W. Maneveldt, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape

There are astonishing ways in which both plants and animals from a typical southwestern Cape shore have evolved to adapt and cope in the harsh environment of the intertidal zone.

[Read this very interesting and informative article by Prof Maneveldt](#)



Accommodation: Lagoon House

## Events Calendar

| July                     |                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 23 - 24                  | The Birds of Prey Identification course |
| 31                       | World Ranger Day                        |
| September                |                                         |
| Heritage & Tourism month |                                         |
| 1 - 7                    | National Arbor week                     |
| 14 - 16                  | <a href="#">Agri Mega Week</a>          |
| 19 - 24                  | Plant week, Agulhas NP                  |
| 24                       | National Heritage day                   |
| 27                       | World Tourism day                       |

**SASOL / STRETTON'S BIRDING WEEKEND**  
4 - 6 NOVEMBER 2011

AGULHAS NATIONAL PARK  
SUMMER BIRDING  
-AN UNFORGETTABLE BIRDING EXPERIENCE!

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**DON PINNOCK**  
(AUTHOR, TRAVEL WRITER,  
EDITOR AND  
A BEMUSED NATURALIST)

CONTACT:  
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**AGRI MEGA WEEK 2011**

**AGRICULTURAL EXPO AND INDABA**

Wednesday - Friday 14 - 16 September 2011  
FOR THE SMALL GRAIN, DAIRY,  
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