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Friends of the Agulhas Park:

www.sanparks.org/parks/agulhas/

www.agulhas.org.za



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South African
NATIONAL PARKS



January eBULLETIN

Should you wish to be added to our email list please send an email with **"SUBSCRIBE"** on the subject line to emme.dekokk@sanparks.org

New Year's wishes

Agulhas National Park wishes all its friends, stakeholders and partners a most prosperous 2012. Thank you for all the support for our endeavours in 2011.

SANParks new Vision and Mission

To keep up with the changing world around us, SANParks has decided to change its vision and mission in order to win tomorrow together with society.

Vision: South African National Parks connecting to society.

Mission: To develop, manage and promote a system of national parks that represents biodiversity and heritage assets by applying best practice, environmental justice, benefit-sharing and sustainable use.

(Go Wild, Nov/Dec 2011, p. 3).



Geology and Soils of the Agulhas National Park

The Agulhas coastal plain, a remnant of an ancient wave-cut platform, is covered primarily by calcareous sands of the Tertiary Age. The coastal mountains are Cape Fold Belt sandstone, capped in sections by limestone (Raimondo & Barker 1988). Inland of these mountains are the undulating plains, comprised largely of Bokkeveld shale, which together with Cape Fold Belt sandstone are part of the Cape Supergroup System. Two fairly broad bands of the Malmesbury formation occur near Viljoenshof and Baardskeerdersbos. The shoreline of the Cape Agulhas coast has both rocky (60 km) and sandy (45 km) beaches and sand dunes, including rare hummock-blowout and playa-lunette dunes between Brandfontein and Cape Agulhas. North of these dunes is a sandy, flat coastal plain with numerous marshes, vleis and pans. Soils are varied and five major land systems occur in the area, namely:

- Die Dam system, occurring along the coast and having medium to coarse sands;
- The Moddervlei system, restricted to the eastern part of the area and having a bisecting, duplex profile with alluvial or colluvial top soils over residual or transported clays;
- The Elim system, occurring primarily in two bands near Viljoenshof and Baardskeerdersbos and consisting of non-hydromorphic duplex soils;

- The Hagelkraal system, situated near Hagelkraal, Soetansysberg and Heuningrug and having shallow, well drained, grey calcareous sands;
- The Bredasdorp Mountain system, occurring mainly in the western half of the area and consisting of acidic, highly leached, moderately to excessively drained soils.

(Source: Agulhas National Park Management Plan, Draft 4.1, November 2011)



Bird Identification Course – Dr Anton Odendal

A "Flight for Birders" bird identification course has been scheduled for 26 and 27 January 2012 in Hermanus by Dr. Anton Odendal. The course is to be presented at the Educational Centre in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve in Hermanus. The costs will be R400,00 per head. The programme schedule, registration form and other information can be obtained from Elaine. Kindly register by e-mailing your intention to attend to Elaine at mwjasser@mweb.co.za or call her at 082 455 8402 or 028 316 1105. Read more at www.agulhas.org.za.



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