

April 2012 eBULLETIN

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Connecting to Society

SANParks and specifically Agulhas NP are in the process of serious introspection to live up and give effect to the new vision of SANParks: *Connecting to Society*. Our programmes and interactions will focus not only outwards but definitely more inwards. Our most precious stakeholders are our staff component and beneficiaries of the EPWP projects. Through this, we will be the pride and joy of South Africa and the world. Important themes will be interacting, incorporating and integrating actions and activities, in other words, joint planning and implementation with society. There is a realization that each and every one, also each and every thing, is important in the bigger scheme of things and we must appreciate it and tap into all those resources. Agulhas is looking forward to the challenge. (Alliston Appel, Snr People and Conservation Officer)

"Alle dinge hang saam. Alles is aanmekeer geskakel. Wat met die aarde gebeur, gebeur ook met die kinders van die aarde. Die mens het nie die web van lewe gespin nie – hy is maar een draadjie daarvan. Wat hy ook al aan die web doen, doen hy aan homself." – Hoofman Seattle, 1855, Amerikas

Bosheuvel EPWP Precinct Development

Bosheuvel on the Elim road in Agulhas NP is the home of environmental education programmes and the EPWP projects. It consisted of offices, kitchen and dining hall facilities, as well as dormitories. Currently the precinct is being upgraded and renovated to fulfil a new approach to live up to SANParks new vision: *Connecting to Society*.



The new and upgraded facilities where the environmental education programmes were conducted, as seen on the picture, will now also have a resource room, computer room and an additional multipurpose hall. Other additions will be phased in as further funding becomes available. Two flats for staff and interns or a centre manager, ablution facilities and sick bay will be included. Read more on www.agulhas.org.za

Lighthouse Restoration

The tender process ended on 26 March 2012. The contractor will be appointed in April and the Lighthouse building will be closed from 1 May 2012.



Agulhas Park Management Plan

We are proud to announce that we have submitted the draft management plan for Agulhas National Park to the Department of Environmental Affairs for comment and approval. The draft management plan as well as a summary document of comments raised during the Stakeholder Participation Process in the development of the Park Management Plan, as well as the official responses from SANParks can also be downloaded from our website http://www.sanparks.org/conservation/park_man/.

SANParks value your participation and comment as it ultimately contributes to informed decision-making, which is more sensitive to stakeholder concerns and values. South Africa's National Parks are increasingly living up to their new Vision, "South African National Parks, connecting to society".

Agulhas National Park – Park Forum

SANParks has an obligation to engage in stakeholder participation processes to strengthen stakeholder–Park relations by empowering stakeholders to contribute to certain decision-making processes in National Parks. SANParks has developed a set of guiding principles to enable this stakeholder participation. One of

the vehicles through which this participation takes place, is through Park Forums. The Park Forum is a means of providing a legitimate platform to communicate both SANParks/Park issues to stakeholders, and vice-versa, on matters of mutual relevance affecting the Park. It is expected that the Park Forum facilitates constructive interaction between the Park and its stakeholders, and encourages the building of constituencies in support of the natural and cultural heritage conservation goals of SANParks.

Agulhas has a well-established Park Forum. The Forum has developed its own vision in 2007:

“ We promote the conservation, management and sustainable use of the biodiversity and cultural heritage of Agulhas National Park to maintain, or repair, its spirit of place at the Southern Tip of Africa in a manner that benefits the regional economy and social dynamic.”

(To be continued)



Topography of Agulhas National Park

The Agulhas Plain comprises a gently rolling, coastal lowland landscape. The shoreline of the Cape Agulhas coast has both rocky (60 km) and sandy (45 km) beaches, backed by sand dunes, including rare hummock-blowout and playa-lunette dunes situated between Brandfontein and Cape Agulhas. North of these dunes is a sandy, flat coastal plain with numerous marshes, vleis and pans.

Apart from the extreme eastern sector, this coastal plain is narrow (1.5 – 5 km wide), truncated in places by steep coastal mountains

that reach elevations of 150 – 350 masl. Inland of these mountains are fertile undulating plains.



The topography of the limestone landscape is complex – the limestone hills rise to a maximum of 500 m above the coastal plain and have both small and large vertical cliff faces and a diversity of slope and aspect combinations. A series of small limestone outcrops (islands) occur for a distance of between 0.5 and 4.5 km east of the main exposure. All the islands are essentially lanceolate in shape with the long axis running north-south. The limestone islands are probably the remnants of a more extensive exposure although there have been no detailed studies on geomorphological processes in the area.



The highest point in the park is 309.0 metres above sea level on Waterford in the western section of the park. The first “mountain” or significant rise in landscape from the Southernmost tip of Africa is Sandberg at 155m above sea level $\pm$ 5km NW of the Southernmost tip. The second mountain is Soetanysberg at 260m above sea level and $\pm$ 16km also NW of the Southernmost tip.

The first real “mountain range” is the combination of three mountains, Franskraal se Berg at 356m, Koueberg at 525m and



Bredasdorpberg at 654m above sea level. These three ranges lie in a halve moon shape $\pm 45\text{km}$ N to NW of the Southernmost tip.



(SOURCE: *Agulhas National Park Management Plan, Draft 4.4 – 2012; Information files.*)

What soils and rock formations are Agulhas Fynbos growing on ...?

Shallow alkaline bedrock and limestone's of the Bredasdorp Formation is distributed from Hermanus to Bredasdorp and Struisbaai on the Agulhas Plain. The largest expanses of limestone are found around Heuningrug and Soetany'sberg with the most southerly patch within 300m of the southern tip of Africa. Limestone consists of bedded sediment consisting chiefly of calcium carbonate.



Neutral to acid sands over limestone of the Bredasdorp Formation are distributed in fragmented patches from the flats west of Soetany'sberg, east of Elim to the largest patch northwest of Struisbaai and south of Bredasdorp. Sandstone is consolidated sedimentary rock made up of sand sized grains (clearly visible),

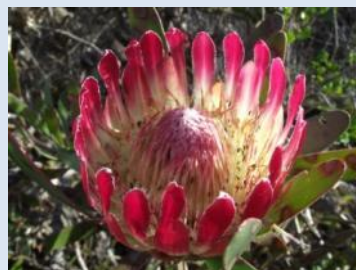
usually predominantly of quartz and lesser feldspar, cemented together by silica, clay materials or carbonate.



The Bredasdorp Formation is made-up of limestone and sandstone.

(SOURCE: NORMAN & WHITFIELD. 2006. *A traveller's guide to South Africa's rocks and landforms: geological journeys*. Cape Town: Struik Nature; MUCINA & RUTHERFORD. 2006. *The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. Pretoria: SANBI).

Agulhas Limestone Fynbos



Bredasdorp protea
Limestone sugarbush
Protea obtusifolia



Agathosma collina

Agulhas Sand Fynbos



Stinkblaar protea
Stink-leaf sugarbush
Protea susannae



Geelbos
Limestone conebush
Leucadendron meridianum

Southernmost Tip of Africa

South Africa's unique coastline

South Africa's nearly 3000km of coastline is bathed on its west by the northward flowing, cold Benguela Current and on its east by the south-westward flowing warm Agulhas Current. The Agulhas Current is directed by the topography (arrangement and shape) of the South African eastern coastline and typically follows the continental shelf from Maputo in Mozambique down to the tip of the Agulhas Bank, which extends about 250km south of Cape Agulhas. In the southeast Atlantic Ocean (south of Cape Agulhas) the Agulhas Current retroflects (turns back on itself) and in doing so, periodically pinches off eddies (rings) of 'warm' water that enters the flow of the Benguela Current. This phenomenon, combined with the topographic following of the Agulhas Current, allows mixed water (that is colder than the Agulhas Current water, but warmer than the Benguela Current water) to occupy that region between the continental shelf and the mainland that has historically been referred to as the south coast.

(SOURCE: *Cape Agulhas – An extraordinary location?* By Gavin Maneveldt Department of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape, 2012.)

A coastal zone is the area adjacent to the sea characterised by coastal land-forms, and includes beaches, dunes, estuaries, coastal lakes, coastal wetlands, land submerged by the waters of the sea, or of any estuary, coastal lake or coastal wetland, boat-launching sites, proclaimed harbours and recreational use areas. (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT 107 OF 1998)

2012 Theme of the Year

Electricity is essential for modern life but in generating and distributing electricity much of the energy is lost: only $\pm 30\%$ of the electricity generated at the power station reaches the user (who might be industrial, commercial, agricultural or household).



Southern Tip Day Programme

Bazaar at Bosheuwel

We have decided to create a traditional bazaar atmosphere at Bosheuwel while everyone is waiting for the Southern Tip-Zoetendals Vallei Relay Race participants to do their thing on 12

May 2012. Come and enjoy real bazaar pudding, *pannekoek*, *roosterkoek*, *moerkoffie*, tea, ginger beer, etc, etc.

SOUTHERN TIP DAY FESTIVITIES

11 May 2012, Friday

Southern Tip Talk & Meal – Suiderlig Dienssentrum

Brederode (1785): her resting place, artifacts and possible role in future tourism to the Overberg – Jimmy Herbert

12 May 2012, Saturday

Southern Tip-Zoetendals Vallei Relay Race

Fun for Family & Friends
14km run

10-km canoe

40km mountain bike

Special prizes for first three positions

Entry Fee: R150 per team of three, two or one individual

Enquiries

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12 – 18 May 2012, Saturday to Friday

Mariner & Shipwreck Art Display – Suiderlig Dienssentrum

16 May 2012, Wednesday

Southern Tip Day

For more information visit www.agulhas.org.za

Kaap Agulhas: Golgotha van die Oseane, by Jeannette Grobbelaar will be launched on 6 April 2012. It will be available at the Struisbaai Boekwinkel, Shipwreck Coffee shop and the Bredasdorp Shipwreck Museum. The price is not available yet, but for more information contact Jeannette Grobbelaar at 082 642 2911.

Events Calendar

April 2012	
1	Palmsondag, Elim
22	Earth Day
May 2012	
11	Southern Tip Talk & Meal
12	Southern Tip-Zoetendals Vallei Relay Race
12 – 13	Hoëwal-Die Dam Hike (Picnic at the Jessie shipwreck site), Elim
12 – 18	Mariner & Shipwreck Art Display
16	Southern Tip Day
18	International Museum Day – Changing role of museums in the 21st Century
22	International Day for Biological Diversity