



SEPTEMBER eBULLETIN

Should you wish to be added to our email list please send an email with **“SUBSCRIBE”** on the subject line to emmerentiad@sanparks.org

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF AFRICA

S34°49'59" E20°00'12"



The limestone Fynbos and beautiful lichens on the rocks at the Southern Tip are barometers of environmental wellbeing as are the creatures living in the rock pools. The coastal fynbos is intact and pristine, since it had never been harvested for firewood back in the days of the VOC government - contrary to the Fynbos around the towns and harbours of the Cape. Very importantly, this piece of coastal Fynbos is part of the world-renowned Cape Floral Kingdom, a biodiversity hotspot of critical importance.

RESTCAMP NEWS

The cultural heritage of the Restcamp



The Restcamp area is rich in cultural heritage, and, as has already been explained in the August eBulletin, its archaeological heritage.

When the Albertyn family bought the land in 1898 Mrs Albertyn called it *The Lagoon* after a book she had read – the well-known

story called *The Blue Lagoon*.

Apart from the twelve middens recorded, nine 19th and 20th century sites have been documented in the Restcamp. They include the limestone quarry situated on the hill ± 500m inland from the house. Both the house and outbuildings were built with stone from this quarry in 1898. On the western side of the Lagoon is a very big and interesting midden, consisting of layers of giant

perlemoen shells. This midden is classified by SAHRA as a mega midden. Some people, however, believe that it was a shell burning site for lime. The beacon for the Albertyn property was on top of this midden. Wells for fresh water were dug and opened up every Christmas when the family came down for the holidays.

Many stories, legends, and myths have been told about this area. But just as many have disappeared in the mists of time. There's a story that an Eastern princess was buried somewhere around the Lagoon ... and stories about shipwrecked people from the two world wars.

The Restcamp coastline is dotted with famous fishing spots with interesting names, e.g. Blaasgat, and Pietie se Punt, as the area is known locally. It is called Sandknoll Point on charts. The names of the popular fishing spots change as new generations of people move in. The Lagoon itself is also called Oubaai by some locals, and the bay just east of the house is called Vlei se Baai, which later became Bloubaai. West of the Lagoon is Gruis se Baai, so called because of the pebbly beaches. The Lagoon was, in the past, a famous trek-fishing spot where not only harders were pulled out, but also sole.

Many a story still needs to be told.

Lighthouse Precinct Development



The ball for the start of the Lighthouse Precinct Development was set rolling at the first technical meeting on 23 July 2010 between SSI (the consulting engineers), SANParks, Transnet and Cape Agulhas Municipality.

One of the discussion points was the issue of Streets, Roads and Parking. All the different options for the intersections were taken through the Public Participation Process and Option 5 was accepted and approved by immediate residents around the development. The Municipality, as the road authority, will inform the Overberg District Municipality and Western Cape Province about the approved design and changes in the road layout. The plan will include a four-way stop that will be added to the current layout. SANParks will also apply for road closure at the new cul-de-sac section in Lighthouse Street on the sea side of the Main Road. Space for buses has been allowed in the new



To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject **“UNSUBSCRIBE”** to emmerentiad@sanparks.org





parking layout that is adequate to control bus flow for the new development. A request was also made to include sealing of Road 1044 to protect the new development against dust. This will be included in the tender – if it falls within the tender budget it could be done as part of this first phase of the development. It was also mentioned by the Municipality that SANParks and TNPA can write a letter to the Municipality explaining the problems around the dust caused by the road for them to consider the inclusion of this road in their IDP. The layout and detailed drawings for the first phase (Engineering services and new offices for TNPA) will be issued to the Municipality for approval shortly.

February to May. The seeds often fail to germinate as they are parasitised by the larva of a fly. Specimens can be seen on the Struisbaai-Elim road before Soutbosch and on the Rhenosterkop werf.

“The oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.”
(Aldo Leopold, American environmentalist, 1887-1948)

Fauna



Noordkapper, Southern right whale, *Eubalaena australis*

The Southern right whale is the baleen whale most frequently seen from the Cape Agulhas shoreline. It is widespread in the southern hemisphere and migrates south to Antarctic waters in summer.

Adult females visit our coast from June to December to give birth and raise their young.

The Southern right was heavily exploited in the 1800s and reduced to 10% of their original numbers.

They have been formally protected since 1935 and have recovered at a rate of about 7% per annum in southern Africa. An attempt to lift the ban recently was stopped successfully. It is named the ‘right’ whale because it was easy to hunt and floated after being killed – most other whales sink and are therefore difficult to recover. (BRANCH, GRIFFITHS, BRANCH & BECKLEY. 2005. *Two oceans: a guide to the marine life of southern Africa*. 2nd ed. Cape Town: David Philip.)

Flora

Seeghwarrie, Sea guarri, *Euclea racemosa*



The Ghwarrie is one of the few tree species in the Strandveld. It can grow up to a height of 6m, and occurs in coastal dune shrub and low coastal forest. Small creamy-white flowers appear from December to March, and the fruit turns black when ripe from



International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is Culture

Give a thought to biodiversity in art, education, indigenous knowledge systems, spiritual places in nature and the need for people to connect to nature.

“Only after the last tree has been cut down; Only after the last fish has been caught; Only after the last river has been poisoned; Only then will they realise that money cannot be eaten.”
Cree Indian Prophecy – 1800s.

Park Kry Radiokommunikasiesetel – Koos Swart

Gedurende die brand in Desember 2009 was daar ‘n baie groot behoefte aan ‘n kommunikasiesetel om al die verskillende partye die funksionaliteit te gee om met mekaar te kommunikeer aangesien daar areas in die Park is waar daar geen selfoonontvangs is nie.

Deur die bemiddeling van die Ereveldwagter Organisasie gaan Motorola Suid-Afrika ‘n radio kommunikasiesetel aan Agulhas Nasionale Park skenk wat deur R&S Communications Systems van George geïnstalleer gaan word.

Die setel bestaan uit die opgradering van die radiomas op Soetanyberg, die installering van ‘n sonkragvoorsieningstelsel, ‘n herleistasie op Soetanyberg, basisstasies by die Parkkantore en die Ruskamp, asook voertuig- en handradio's.

Namens die Parkbestuur en die Ereveldwagters van Agulhas Nasionale Park wil ons die bestuur van Moto Rola Suid-Afrika bedank vir hierdie ruim skenking en weet ons dat ons beter voorbereid is vir toekomstige gebeurlikhede.

DID YOU KNOW....

That the endangered Cape Platanna, *Xenopus gilli*, and the Micro Frog, *Microbatrachella capensis*, are both found in the wetland areas of the Park?

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject “UNSUBSCRIBE” to emmerentia@sanparks.org





Red Data Species

Amellus capensis
Status: Vulnerable (VU)

Family: Asteraceae
Common Name: Grysasterjtjie
Distribution: Western Cape:
Hawston to De Mond
Habitat: Coastal Dunes

Description: Annual or perennial herbs or shrubs, densely covered with grey hairs, with mauve or white petals (rays) and a yellow disc.



Reason for Status: Extent of occurrence estimated to be less than 20 000km² and is severely fragmented or known to exist in no more than ten locations. Declining as a result of coastal development and severe infestations of invasive alien plants.



How CITES Works – Part 1

CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-exports and introduction from the sea, of species covered by the Convention, has to be authorized through a licensing system. Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licencing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species.

The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendices I and II

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

The Conference of the Parties (CoP), which is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its member States, has agreed on a set of biological and trade criteria to help determine whether a species should be included in Appendices I or II.

Appendix III

This Appendix contains species that are protected in at least one country, and which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Changes to Appendix III follow a distinct procedure from changes to Appendices I and II, as each Party is entitled to make unilateral amendments to it.

A specimen of a CITES-listed species may be imported into or exported (or re-exported) from a State party to the Convention only if the appropriate document has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit.

There is some variation of the requirements from one country to another and it is always necessary to check on the national laws that may be stricter, but the basic conditions that apply for Appendices I and II will be described in the next edition.

“Earth laughs in flowers.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson).



Tourism Month



Tourism Month is a very important initiative in the drive to encourage South Africans to travel domestically. Domestic tourism has become more important than ever.

Domestic and regional tourism is the backbone of a sustainable and robust tourism industry. By travelling at home, South Africans contribute meaningfully to the tourism industry and its competitiveness, as well as to local economic growth and job creation. Domestic tourism is also less volatile than international tourism since it offers the economy a steady and reliable income stream. Tourism Month is celebrated annually in South Africa in September and during this month, the focus is placed on domestic travel experiences as well as on offerings in lesser visited regions of the province.

The tourism month theme for this year is: “TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY”. (Cape Town Routes Unlimited).

A Green Tip!

Repair a hole in the wall

If your walls have those pesky holes and chips from hanging pictures, mix the following:

- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 5 teaspoons of water

Use this mixture to fill in the gaps and voila!

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject “UNSUBSCRIBE” to emmerentia@sanparks.org





Environmental Education in Agulhas National Park



Our mission is to develop an educational and interpretational resource for all visitors to the Agulhas National Park in order to instil an enhanced insight, respect and appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage of the Agulhas area. Our project consists of one- and three-day programmes. The Kids in Parks programme is a special three-day programme which allows 500 learners between grades five and seven and approximately twenty teachers from disadvantaged schools the opportunity to spend two nights and three days in a national park without any cost involved. During their stay they will learn about the natural environment and the important role that SANParks plays in conserving it. Fifty learners, divided in two groups per three days, are accommodated.

The 2010 programme comprises the following:

Day 1: Visit Bredasdorp Shipwreck Museum; Birding; Alien Invasive Plant Identification and its threats to Indigenous Fynbos plants; Interpretative Walk with focus on edible and medicinal plants as well as milkwood trees; Interpretative Walk with focus on Wetlands and the Water Cycle; Scavenger Hunt and Map Work.

Day 2: Lighthouse Museum and Tower; Exterior of Lighthouse building, Grounds and Cave; Interpretative walk to the Historic Southern Point and Southernmost Tip of Africa; Interpretation of the Pebble Beach, Sandy Shores, Tidal Activity and Zones, Sea Creatures, Sea Level Rise and Consequences, Dunes and Vegetation, Shell Middens and Cultural History; Swimming at Struisbaai Harbour; Canoeing on Nuwejaars River and Interpretative Walk to Saltpans.

Day 3: Conclusion of programme; Present schools with World Environmental Day and Biodiversity Posters and a milkwood tree. Learners and teachers receive Goodie Bags.

For more information on the Environmental Education programmes, contact Alliston Appel at 028 435 6216, Monday to Friday, 08h00 to 16h00.

the rich biodiversity and associated patterns and processes of the Agulhas wetlands, and secure a water source for human consumption.

The Agulhas Working for Wetlands project commenced in 2003 and immediately started with the construction of earth structures at Soutbosch. This implied plugging the drainage furrows in the wetlands. Since then earth and gabion structures have been built on Toekomst, Rietfontein, Ratelrivier, Bergplaas and Springfield. The construction of these interventions have helped to control erosion, trap sediment and, finally, raise the water tables in the wetlands system. The plugging of artificial drainage channels has proven to be a huge success on the Agulhas Plain. The project also stabilised the river bank at De Mond in 2006.

This financial year the Agulhas Wetlands project is focusing on the rehabilitation of the wetlands in the Soutpan / Springfield area. Methods that are used to rehabilitate the area include rock packing, earth works, earth structures, eco logs, concrete structures and revegetation.

The management component consists of the project manager, Arnold Viegeland and the administrative assistant, Simoné Koert. Currently the project employs forty workers from the communities of Bredasdorp, Elim, Napier, surrounding farms, and other informal settlements.

For more information on the Agulhas Working for Water project, contact Arnold Viegeland, 028 435 6216, Monday to Friday, 08h00 – 16h00.



EVENTS

September	
13 - 17	Park Week
15 - 17	Agri Mega
18	Birding Open Day
19	Coastal Clean-up Day
24	Heritage Day Braai4Heritage (Springfield)
24 - 26	Elim Blommefees Wildflower Show
October	
Oct	National Marine Month
4 - 8	National Weed Buster Day
November	
5 - 7	Sasol Agulhas Birding Weekend
26	Agulhas Honorary Ranger Wine Auction
28	Birding Big Day

Agulhas National Park Working for Wetlands Project



Our mission is to secure the Agulhas water resources by rehabilitating the wetlands to their original state, improve thereby

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject "UNSUBSCRIBE" to emmerentia@sanparks.org

