

# AgulhasNPark eBulletin

VOL 3 • NR 7 • June 2013

www.sanparks.org



## World Environment Week, 3 – 7 June

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. This conference resulted in the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). People have the most impact on our environment. The nature and extent of this impact depends on factors such as the type of economic activity, distribution of wealth and resources, cultural values and lifestyles. (*A Year of Special Days*, 2012)



## World Environment Day, 5 June



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY  
5 JUNE  
REDUCE • YOUR • FOOTPRINT

World Environment Day, 5 June, aims to encourage people to become active supporters of sustainable and equitable living, to promote awareness and an understanding that communities play a central role in changing attitudes towards environmental issues, and to develop partnerships that will ensure all nations and people enjoy a safer and more fulfilling future. Celebrate World Environment Day by appreciating this unique planet and

make a conscious effort to practice energy-saving techniques, walk or cycle to work, recycle, re-use, support fresh produce markets, avoid environmentally hazardous goods or wasteful packaging and ensure a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle. The theme for World Environment Day 2013 celebrations is *Think.Eat.Save*. *Think.Eat.Save* is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your *foodprint*. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, one in every seven people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger ([www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)).

## Conservation management in Agulhas National Park

Agulhas National Park was proclaimed a national park in terms of the National Parks Act (Act 57 of 1976). The management of Agulhas must comply with national policies, legislation, and international conventions. The purpose of the Park was succinctly set out in the original studies and submissions towards the establishment of a National Park on the Agulhas Plain. The key intention of founding the Park was to protect the lowland Fynbos, especially the Central Rûens Shale Renosterveld (Critically Endangered), Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered), the unique wetland systems, the geographic location at the southern tip of Africa where two oceans meet,

the rich cultural heritage aspects and to protect the diverse marine life of the area. In alignment with the NEM:PAA the purpose of Agulhas National Park is to protect nationally and internationally important biodiversity areas, scenic areas and cultural heritage sites; to prevent exploitation or occupation inconsistent with the protection of the ecological integrity of the area; to allow spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourism opportunities which are environmentally compatible and to contribute to sustainable economic development.



International Year of  
Water Cooperation



Connecting to Society

**Agulhas vegetation types**

Nine different broad vegetation types have been identified in Agulhas Park.



**Agulhas Limestone Fynbos**



**Elim Ferricrete Fynbos**



**Agulhas Sand Fynbos**



**Overberg Dune Strandveld**



**Renosterveld**



**Overberg Sandstone Fynbos**



**Cape Lowland Freshwater Wetlands**



**Cape Seashore Vegetation**



**Cape Inland Saltpans**

(Sources: Mucina & Rutherford. 2006; Mustart, Cowling, Albertyn. 2003; Pictures: ANP; D. Euston-Brown)

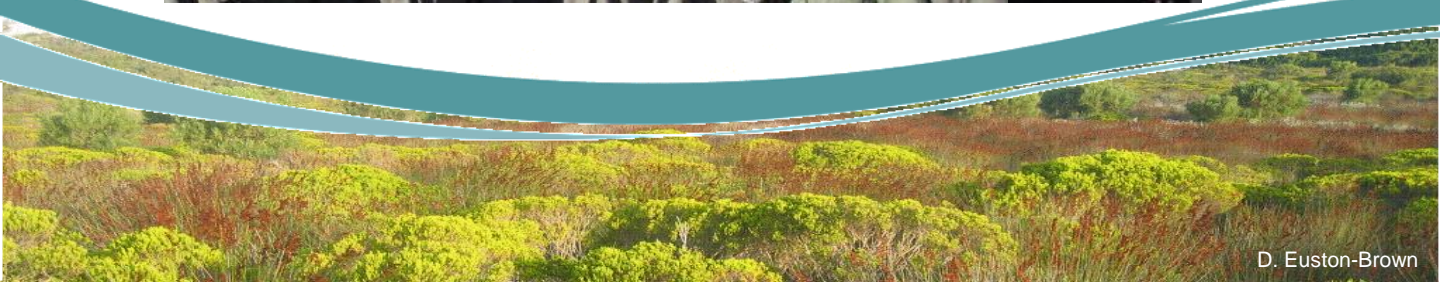
**The Conservation Management Section of Agulhas National Park**

Agulhas National Park is divided in two sections which each is managed by a section ranger with a group of field rangers and environmental monitors. Agulhas East is managed by Nickel Fortuin and field rangers Vincent Newman, Theseville Matheunis, Anele Wambi and Pamella Matshayana. They are stationed at the Park offices in L'Agulhas. Agulhas West is managed by section ranger Masindi Raselabe and field ranger Harold Karelse. They are stationed at Waterford.

Read more about the Conservation section's work in the July eBulletin.



**Nickel Fortuin    Masindi Raselabe**





## Questioning the Quagga! – Mick D’Alton

Reinhold Rau was a taxidermist of the SA Museums with a passionate interest in the quagga. He became an expert on them and was commissioned to re-mount many of the old original quagga specimens in museums across Europe. During this time he systematically collected old tissue from the hides of these animals which, when sophisticated methods of analyzing DNA were later developed, were used to prove that the true quagga was the southern race of the Plains zebra and not a separate species. This meant that the original true quagga came from the same genetic material that exists in the Plains zebra today. Individuals that displayed those desirable quagga characteristics were brought from that source and put together in the Western Cape. Being able to select individuals to breed together has accelerated that which happened naturally centuries ago. Habitat and climate has also assisted and now many animals closely match those from the past. The Quagga Project recognizes that the unique genetic blend of the true quagga cannot be matched perfectly but believe that, with the same basic genetic material, they have bred a parallel animal that can fill the void left with the demise of the true quagga. In order to allow the original quagga to maintain its place in history, it was decided to name the new animals, *Rau’s quagga* to distinguish them from the originals. (To be continued)



## BirdLife Overberg Flight for Birders course

A Flight for Birders course is organized in Bredasdorp in an attempt to get more people involved in birds and birding. The course will be presented at the BKB VIP-Hall, Mega Park in Bredasdorp on 20 and 21 June. The information is also available in Afrikaans and the programme can be studied at the following link:

<http://www.westerncapebirding.co.za/events.php?article=view&id=331>

## ABI to support community-based projects

The Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) is to support up to 20 community-based projects in the Overberg, in a project designed to help develop the necessary skills to implement conservation programmes. The ABI Small Grants Fund will kick off in time for World Environment Day, on 5 June. ABI secured funds from the Table Mountain Fund, an associated Trust of WWF South Africa. The project will be rolled out over the next three years. The aim is to make funds available to community organisations for projects linked to ABI's five themes. These are: climate change; land-use planning; responsible tourism; environmental education and renewable energy. According to Lesley Richardson of the ABI Coordination Office, it's hoped that through the ABI Small Grants Fund, the project will work closely with municipalities in the Overberg region. "The community-based projects ideally should be integrated into municipal development plans, allowing municipalities and projects to work closely to reach our combined conservation and community targets." She says building environmental and biodiversity concerns into municipal planning processes will enjoy major long-term benefits. "Civil society may sometimes not see the importance of participating in municipal processes such as their Integrated Development Planning (IDP). This project will aim to create awareness both in civil society and among municipalities, allowing greater collaboration between the two." Projects will need to meet certain criteria to be considered and can either co-fund those already in the municipal IDP, or kick-start new initiatives that the local authorities can help fund. During World Environment Week, from 3 to 7 June, ABI will start preparing to meet with key stakeholders who will assist in rolling out the project. The World Environment Day theme this year is 'Think. Eat. Save.' – aimed at stopping food waste and food loss, for a sustainable future. Richardson says, "Sustainability is a cornerstone for ABI under its five themes, therefore making this the perfect time to launch the new project." For more information on the ABI Small Grants Fund, contact Lesley Richardson at [info@agulhasbiodiversity.co.za](mailto:info@agulhasbiodiversity.co.za).





## Agulhas Infrastructure development

The infrastructure development in Agulhas Park is on fast forward. The Rasperpunt boardwalk is nearing completion. It is about 600m long and stretches from the Suiderstrand gravel road to the fish traps down on the coast. It runs through pristine coastal fynbos and across paleontological surfaces and middens. The route was laid out with the help of archaeologist Dr Lita Webley. The route will be culturally interpreted.

The tender process for seven extra chalets in the Agulhas Rest camp started on 17th May. This project also includes the development of the Rest camp gate, which includes a reception office and Tourism manager's office. Two staff houses for the Tourism manager and the Technical manager will also be built just above Suiderstrand

The Lighthouse Precinct development plans were accepted by Heritage Western Cape and the Record of Decision was received. The development consists of a heritage centre, restaurant, Transnet infrastructure, vendor stalls and parking space.



Rasperpunt boardwalk



Restcamp entrance gate



Lighthouse Precinct



Cape Agulhas Lighthouse veranda being built as part of the restoration process.

## Day of the Seafarer, 25 June

The 25th June of each year is the *Day of the Seafarer*, recognizing the invaluable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the world economy, often at great personal cost to themselves and their families.