



# AgulhasNPark eBulletin



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World Population Day 11 July

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

## Current World Population: Past, Present, and Future

At the dawn of agriculture, about 8000 B.C., the population of the world was approximately 5 million. Over the 8,000-year period up to 1 A.D. it grew to 200 million (some estimate 300 million or even 600, suggesting how imprecise population estimates of early historical periods can be), with a growth rate of under 0.05% per year. A tremendous change occurred with the industrial revolution: whereas **it had taken all of human history until around 1800 for world population to reach one billion**, the second billion in 15 years (1974), and the fifth billion in only 13 years (billion was achieved in only 130 years (1930), the third billion in 30 years (1960), the fourth 1987). During the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, the population in the world has grown from 1.65 billion to 6 billion. In 1970, there were roughly half as many people in the world as there are now. Because of declining growth rates, it will now take over 200 years to double again. According to this website South Africa stands at 58, 065, 097 now in 2019. (SOURCES: World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - United Nations Population Division; The World at Six Billion, World Population, Year 0 to near stabilization - United Nations Population Division; <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>)



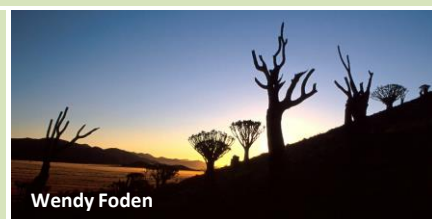
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**When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realize that one cannot eat money. (Native American saying)**

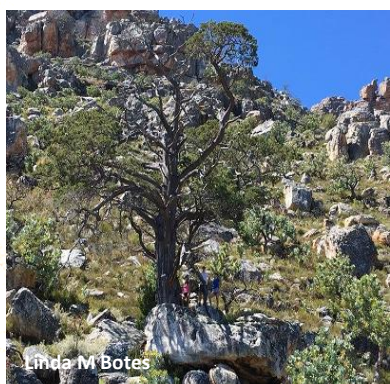
## Species in trouble

Referring back to the article on **Climate Change turning the Southernmost Tip into a Nature Science Laboratory** by Dr Wendy Foden in the June 2019 eBulletin:

**Quiver trees** (*Kokerbome, Aloe dichotoma*) are expanding in the southern parts of their range (Northern Cape) and dying in the north (central Namibia). They are not yet expanding far into new territory....will they keep up?



Wendy Foden



Linda M Botes



Logan Kahle

The **Cape Rock-jumper** (*Kaapse bergglyster, Chaetops frenatus*) is experiencing unusually high temperatures which cause stress. The birds seek cover under rocks but this means they lose many hours of foraging each day and their condition and survival are compromised. They too are being forced to higher elevations, but they are already near the maximum altitude available.

The **Clanwilliam Cedar** (*Clanwilliam-seder, Widdringtonia cedarbergensis*) is being squeezed off the top of the Cedarberg range due to rising temperatures and increased fire frequencies.



Connecting to Society



## The history of compost

The history of compost began in 1842 when John Lawes of England developed the first inorganic compost by treating phosphate with nitric acid to create superphosphate. In the same year a German researcher, Justus von Liebig, established that plants need nitrogen to flourish. In 1909 German chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed a process through which ammonia could be economically synthesised from the atmosphere. Five years later a factory to manufacture ammonium was built. This was the beginning of the present-day fertiliser business and trade. (SOURCE: *Landbouweekblad 100 years 1919-2019: 'n eeu op die platteland.*) Research on old fields in Agulhas National Park showed that it is going to take years for nitrates from compost in the soil to be washed out naturally. This means it will take years for the natural fynbos to establish again.

**“As much as we were looking for pure nature, we were looking at human nature.”**

**(Lee Dunbar commenting on land that was farmed for a century; a pristine natural landscape does not exist anymore.)**

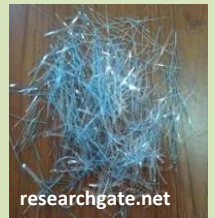


**Flower farming footprint on Soetanysberg**



## You may be eating a credit card's worth of plastic each week – study

Plastic pollution is so widespread in the environment that you may be ingesting five grams a week, the equivalent of eating a credit card, a study commissioned by the environmental charity WWF International said on Wednesday. The study by Australia's University of Newcastle said the largest source of plastic ingestion was drinking water, but another major source was shellfish, which tended to be eaten whole so the plastic in their digestive system was consumed too. “Since 2000, the world has produced as much plastic as all the preceding years combined, a third of which is leaked into nature,” the report said. The average person could be consuming 1,769 particles of plastic every week from water alone, it said. The amount of plastic pollution varies by location, but nowhere is untouched, said the report, which was based on the conclusions of 52 other studies. In the United States, 94.4% of tap water samples contained plastic fibres, with an average of 9.6 fibres per litre. European water was less polluted, with fibres showing up in only 72.2% of water samples, and only 3.8 fibres per litre. (Reporting by Tom Miles Editing by Peter Graff) (SOURCE: Daily Maverick, 12 June 2019)



## Twenty years on: how the Agulhas National Park has developed

### 2009

A massive fire destroyed about three-quarters of the park at the end of 2009. The fire started on Christmas day in the afternoon at Buffeljags west of the Agulhas National Park and within 24 hours, with a very strong wind behind it, burned from west to east, east to west up to the Rhenosterkop area where it was contained.



The Overberg Honorary Rangers' name changed to Agulhas Honorary Rangers.





2010

Agulhas National Park’s Tourism Department was established with the appointment of a Tourism manager, Derick Strydom, a Receptionist, Hut attendants and General workers. The Agulhas Rest camp officially opened in December. A Section Ranger Nickel Fortuin, for the western section, was also appointed. The Southern Tip boardwalk was officially opened and the Southern Tip Icon competition ended with four winners. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan was finalised and accepted as a lower level plan of the Park Management Plan. The inventory and mapping of tangible and intangible heritage since 2007 stood at 30 sites identified.



Derick Strydom (Rest Camp Manager), Betsie Graaff (Receptionist), Agnes Adams, Alecene Windvogel, Ilse Ahrends (Hut attendants), Steven Murtz and Gerhard Adams (General workers)



Four double and four single cottages were built



Nickel Fortuin



First boardwalk



The four winning designs of the Southern Tip Icon competition



Cultural Heritage Sites



Cape Agulhas Lighthouse  
1848, 1849



Southern Tip of Africa  
1421, 1488, 1502



Fish traps  
Late Stone Age  
Early 20<sup>th</sup> century



Middens  
Late Stone Age



Shipwrecks  
1673

Dates refer to earliest visits and occupation

SANParks Marine Protected Areas

Three new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within South African National Parks (SANParks) have been gazetted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The Addo Elephant National Park MPA, Robben Island MPA (to be managed by Table Mountain National Park) and Namaqua National Park MPA form part of 20 new national MPAs gazetted on May 23 2019. This declaration is the culmination of many years of work by South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI,) SANParks, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and DEA. These MPAs come into effect on August 1, 2019. According to SANParks National Marine Co-ordinator, Dr Ané Oosthuizen, this new network of MPAs increases the conservation footprint of South Africa’s oceans from 0.43 to five percent and is a major achievement for conservation. “The new MPAs will contribute to the conservation of our oceans, islands and coastal habitats, protect threatened species such as penguins and rebuild overexploited species such as line fish, abalone and rock lobster. They will help secure ecosystem services, support recreational, tourism and educational activities, as well as subsistence, recreational and commercial fishing. MPAs help keep ecosystems resilient in the face of climate change,” says Oosthuizen. The planning towards some of these MPAs started as far back as in 2006. Planning, stakeholder meetings, negotiations with communities and industries such as oil and gas, mining, fisheries, and aquaculture took place. Planners and lawyers spent five years developing the shape, size and regulations for these MPAs with many compromises on all sides. For more information <https://www.marineprotectedareas.org.za/protecting-the-ocean>.

## Bird of the Month: African Black Duck - Wim de Klerk

Birding in winter can be slow, but with all the migrators absent it gives a chance to focus on some of the resident species in the Agulhas Plain. The African Black Duck (Swarteend, *Anas sparsa*) is such a specie. It normally prefers fast flowing water and therefore is seen as a pair on the small streams of the Agulhas Plain closer to the Soetmuis Mountains. In dry months though, they do appear on dams among other ducks. The African Black Duck pictured was seen at the Elim sewerage works among some Cape Teal (which also has a grey head, but a red bill) and Yellow-billed Duck. At first they were seen for Cape Shovelers until they swam off as a pair to one side. This is typical behaviour as they have a tendency to keep to themselves! The African Black Duck is found in sub-Saharan Africa from Sudan down to the Agulhas Plain.



## Fiscal Shrike catching its meal for the day



## June birding on the Agulhas Plain

On three occasions 43, 48 and 59 species were counted. The Southbosch Secretary Birds are back and nesting. Another highlight was sighting the Grey-winged Francolin. (W. De Klerk.)

## The Agulhas 20 Years Birthday Bash

Agulhas National Park will be celebrating its 20 years of conservation at the Southernmost Tip with a programme running all of September, appropriately also Heritage and Tourism month. It all started on September 14, 1998 when SANParks purchased four ha of land at the Southernmost Tip of the African continent to establish a national park. It was officially declared on September 23, 1999 in the Government Gazette as GN 1135. Today the park stretches over 21 971.0161 ha of land. The programme will consist of the following:

September, all month: Lowland fynbos exhibition, Cape Agulhas Lighthouse

September, 7: Agulhas Birding Day

September, 9 – 14: Park Week

September, 14: Coastal Clean-up

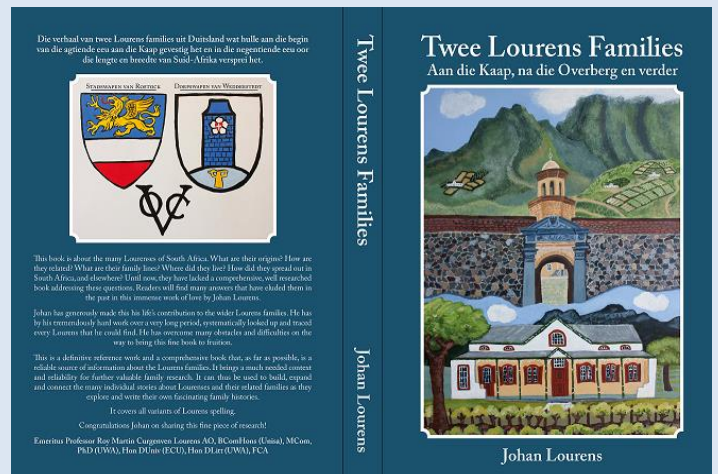
September, 21: Birthday Bash Relay Race & Basaar.

For more information contact: Emmerentia De Kock, Alliston Appel, 028-4356078 (08:00-16:00)



## The Lourens Family book

Watch this space for when Johan Lourens' long-awaited book on the Lourens family will be available. The Rostock Lourense played a huge part in the development of the Strandveld in those early years when Matthys Rostok received permission to graze sheep at the *Groot Soetendaal Valley* on April 2, 1746. Over a period of 50 years various grazing rights were given to Matthys and his sons. Apart from *Groot Soetendaal Valley*, he also received grazing rights at Ratelrivier in 1755, Rhenosterkop in 1757 and *Vogelstruiskraal* in 1762. Grants to Matthys Rostock sons were as follows: Dirk Lourens *Aan de Vogelvalley* in 1782, Cornelis Lourens Geelrug *Aan de Vogelvalley* in 1784, Hendrik Lourens Geelrug *Aan de Vogelvalley* in 1790, Matthys Johannes *De Renosterkop aan de Soutpansberg* and Papenkuilsfontein in 1790. Soutpansberg is Soetanyssberg today. The list is incomplete, but gives a good idea of the Rostock Lourens settlement in the Strandveld. (Hercules Wessels and Johan Lourens research)



July in Khoe, //gai/ab, means "make fire, the cold is getting worse"