



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

MEDIA STATEMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS AT THE AGULHAS NATIONAL PARK LIGHTHOUSE PRECINCT SET TO BOOST TOURISM AND ADVANCE INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION

14 APRIL 2026

WESTERN CAPE - Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille today unveiled newly built tourism facilities at the Agulhas National Park's Lighthouse precinct that are set to drive tourism numbers whilst advancing the cause of heritage and inclusive conservation in the Overberg region.

The Department of Tourism and SANParks invested R81.7 million to build new infrastructure and enhance the aesthetic of the Agulhas National Park Lighthouse Precinct to include a 60-seater restaurant; a fully equipped interpretation centre; visitor and bus parking facilities; new access stairways and a wheelchair ramp to improve universal access; upgrades to the water, sewer, and electrical services; landscaping and environmental rehabilitation. The precinct will create a thriving area for SMMEs to offer crafts, food, and cultural experiences.

"Two years ago, in March 2024, I stood here when this was still just a construction site. Today, we see what our hands and imagination have delivered for the local community and tourists who will soon be flocking to Agulhas."

"The handover of this project is a clear demonstration of how, through collaboration, tourism infrastructure initiatives contribute directly to job creation and enterprise development," Minister De Lille stated.

Also speaking at the event, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Willie Aucamp, highlighted that the development of the Agulhas National Park Lighthouse Precinct is a testament that economic development and job creation can be achieved sustainably whilst conserving our natural and cultural heritage.

“The handover of this facility is not only a milestone for tourism, but it is a practical demonstration of how heritage preservation, environmental stewardship and economic development can be achieved together.”

“Together, we are entrusted with safeguarding our natural and cultural heritage, and we are committed to ensuring that our efforts deliver social and economic value in a responsible and sustainable manner. Growing the economy and job creation is possible through sustainable initiatives,” added Minister Aucamp.

Located at the southernmost tip of Africa, the Agulhas National Park conserves a uniquely biodiverse natural environment, and the rich culture of the Khoi and San communities that dates back to the 1800s. Revered for its breathtaking coastal views, Agulhas National Park Lighthouse Precinct is a popular destination for maritime history enthusiasts and visitors who enjoy immersive cultural experiences that are offered in the neighbouring towns.

Infrastructure projects contribute to the greater goal of the Tourism Growth Partnership Plan (TGPP) that aim to position tourism as a key driver of inclusive economic growth and job creation; tourism product development; and coordinated destination marketing. The upgrade of the Agulhas National Park Lighthouse Precinct is among several infrastructure initiatives that are implemented by the Department of Tourism across the country to grow and diversify the country’s tourism products, whilst creating business and employment opportunities for communities.

“Standing here today, at the southernmost tip of Africa, we are reminded that South Africa is more than just a destination, it is an experience.”

“In 2025, we received a record-breaking 10.5 million international visitors in our country, and this demonstrated a strong confidence in our tourism product offering.”

“We are committed to diversifying our tourism offerings beyond our traditional coastal and safari experiences, and we are ready to welcome more visitors from across South Africa and the world,” Minister De Lille said.

The infrastructure developments at the Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct are aligned with SANParks’ approach on inclusive conservation which supports co-creation with local communities to ensure their sustainability. This collaborative initiative afforded employment and training opportunities to more than 117 community members from Agulhas, Struisbaai and Bredasdorp. The upgrades also created business opportunities for local SMMEs and subcontractors highlighting the benefits of infrastructure-led growth and transformation that serves both conservation and community upliftment goals.

SANParks Interim Board Chair, Beryl Ferguson, cited that the lighthouse development reflects SANParks' commitment to ensuring that conservation areas are not only responsibly managed but also actively contribute to the well-being of surrounding communities.

"Through partnerships such as this, we are able to unlock sustainable economic opportunities, enhance visitor experiences, and ensure that our natural and cultural heritage continues to deliver value for generations to come," Ms Ferguson said.

ENDS

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