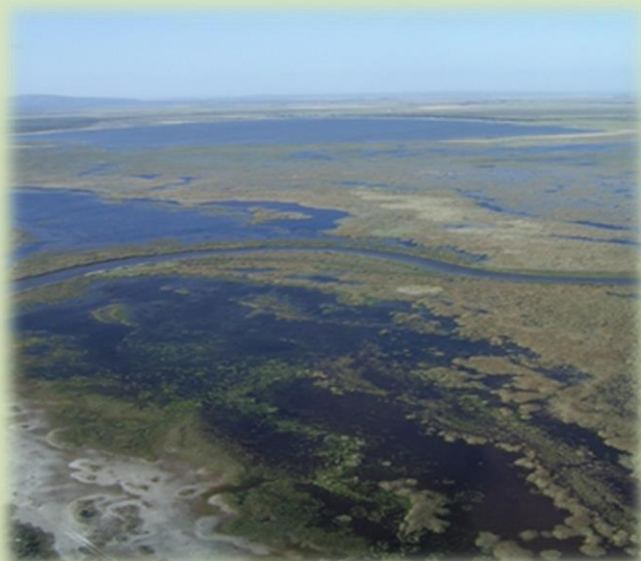


Soetendalsvlei



The very low gradients in the south-eastern Agulhas Plain resulted in significant wetland development, and created the second largest lacustrine wetland in South Africa and the most southerly lake in Africa, the Soetendalsvlei. Soetendalsvlei is from north to south 8km long and 3km at its widest. It is fed by the Nuwejaars River from the west and overflows into the Heuningnes River towards the estuary at De Mond.

Soetendalsvlei is named after the first documented shipwreck on the Cape Agulhas coast. During the night of August 23 1673 the VOC ship, *Zoetendaal*, ran aground on the rocks in a bay. By daybreak the survivors started to walk towards the Cape and arrived at a big lake with fresh water. They were so grateful that they named it after their ship, Soetendalsvlei.



Together with the Heuningnes River estuary at De Mond, Soetendalsvlei forms an important breeding and feeding area for both fresh water and marine fish species. Soetendalsvlei is also an important birding area.



Soetendalsvlei and the Southernmost Tip are both situated on the meridian of 20° east

Not accessible to the public