

BAT MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR THE OPERATIONAL PHASE

1. Purpose

At present there is no credible knowledge concerning how South African bats are affected by the installation and operation of wind energy turbines. Therefore, a post-construction bat monitoring study is required. The purpose of this document is provide the principles for bat monitoring during the operational phase of the wind energy facility. This document therefore serves as a framework.

2. Aim of Monitoring

The aim of post-construction bat monitoring would be to analyse changes in bat activity patterns, determine fatality at sites where impacts are predicted following installation and the operation of the turbines and provide additional information on mitigation.

If the negative impact of the turbines is significant enough to have impacted the ability of the bat population to survive, reproduce, or be affected significantly in their local distribution or abundance, this puts the population of bats at risk. This in turn runs the risk of infringing the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004, unless mitigation is implemented.

The first two years of wind farm operation is the vital period in which to collect post-construction data as this is when any change in bat activity and mortalities are most likely to occur.

3. Monitoring Protocol

The bat monitoring protocol and exact methodology to be implemented, shall be detailed in a Method Statement prepared by the bat specialist for approval by the ECO prior to commencement of the operational phase.

4. Adaptive management approach

A precautionary and adaptive mitigation management approach must be adopted based on the results and certainty of results of the post – construction bat monitoring program. Mitigation management and mortality surveys may possibly be altered significantly as technological advancements can cause other methodologies to be more favourable.

5. Carcass Search Team and Landowner Consultation

Before the carcass search commences and before a carcass search team is appointed, the Landowners/ Farmers must be consulted. The consultation should outline the methods of the carcass searches. Details, e.g. frequency of searches, contact/responsible persons, access control, etc. must be discussed and agreed with the Landowners/ Farmers. To ensure the safety of Landowners/ Farmers it is also recommended that a background check is done on all employees/ members of the carcass search team before they are appointed and that proof of this is kept. The carcass search team should be introduced to the Landowners/ Farmers. Landowners/ Farmers should at all times be kept informed of the whereabouts of the carcass search team. All relevant EMPr conditions, e.g. no hunting/ killing of animals, no fires on site, no camping on site, etc. will apply to the carcass search team. They must therefore be inducted to the Wind Farm and made aware of all rules, regulations and code of conduct. Landowner Requirements agreed upon will be signed and form part of this Report.

This document may be updated as and when required.