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09 February 2014

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To:

Karen Versfeld
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Dear Karen

SUGGESTED BUFFER ZONES: DE AAR 2

I refer to your email dated 03 February 2014 with regard to a possible amendment to the buffer zones as contained in conditions 43 and 45 of the DEA Environmental Authorisation dated 01 March 2013 for the Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North Wind Energy Facility. Condition 43 prescribes a 1km buffer zone around the Verreaux's Eagle nests. Condition 45 prescribes a 1.5km buffer zone around the Vendussiekuil Farm.

1. Condition 43: 1km buffer zone around the Verreaux's Eagle nests

After careful consideration of the situation *re* Verreaux's Eagle nests, we would recommend that this condition be revised to prescribe a buffer zone of 800m around the core cluster of Verreaux's Eagle nests identified during the four seasons' pre-construction monitoring at the site. This recommendation is primarily based on the flight observations data gathered in the course of the pre-construction monitoring but also takes into account the following factors:

- International best practice;
- South African best practice;
- Flight behaviour of other large eagle species reported in literature on wind farms;
- Suggestions from Spanish ornithologist Alvaro Camiña on this specific project; and
- The pre-cautionary principle


It is important that it be understood that this buffer zone refers to the currently (2013) active nest site, as well as two alternative nest sites i.e. **each of the nest sites should get an 800m no-turbine buffer zone**. The nests are situated at the following localities:

- Nest 1: 30°32'47.39"S 24°14'12.09"E
- Nest 2: 30°32'47.30"S 24°14'11.00"E
- Nest 3: 30°32'59.91"S 24°14'17.99"E

2. Condition 45: 1.5km buffer zone around the Vendussie Kraal Farm Dam located at 30°34'36.46"S 24°19'13.11"E

We recommend that this buffer zone is revised from 1.5km to 500m. The reason for this revision is that the pre-construction monitoring survey data indicated that the dam is dry most of the time, and not regularly used as a roost site by any priority species. It is further believed that the 500m buffer zone will be adequate in the event that the dam does hold water for a while i.e. after good rains, which could potentially attract priority species on a temporary basis.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris van Rooyen", written in a cursive style.

Chris van Rooyen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Froneman", written in a stylized, cursive style.

Albert Froneman