

13 November 2021

**Verification of the authorised Rietkloof wind energy facility (WEF) grid connection route, in relation to the bat sensitivity map and impacts on bats.**

Animalia Consultants (Pty) Ltd completed the 12-months pre-construction bat monitoring for the 147MW Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility (WEF). The final preconstruction bat impact report also served as the EIA phase bat report and was submitted in May 2015. It included the assessments of impacts as required for the EIA phase.

A site visit was conducted on 13 September 2021 by Animalia Consultants (Pty) Ltd to verify the grid connection route, in relation to bat sensitivity. The impact of overhead powerlines on bats are considered minimal in South Africa. However, pylon construction can pose a threat to underground bat cave roosts.

The proposed powerline route from the Rietkloof WEF facility to the Bon Espirange substation does not cross over any known bat caves, and therefore is not predicted to have a significant negative impact on bat populations in the site area.

The proposed grid connection route is acceptable from a bat sensitivity perspective if all conditions of the EA are adhered to.

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Werner Marais  
Managing Director  
[werner@animalia-consult.co.za](mailto:werner@animalia-consult.co.za)  
*Pr.Sci.Nat. (Zoological Science) 400169/10*

# ANiMALiA



c o n s u l t a n t s

---