Environmental Management Programme

Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project

OBJECTIVES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The compilation of this Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) forms part of the requirements of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. Compliance with the contents of the EMPr is required during the construction and operational phases of the project. The EMPr serves as an environmental management tool by providing a generic structured plan of mitigatory measures / management action, which serves as a guide to assist in minimising the potential environmental impact of the activity that may arise during the construction and operational phases.

The EMP provides a set of guidelines for the environmental management of all works to be executed so as to have a minimum impact on the environment in accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and standards.

In this context it should be viewed as a dynamic or 'living' document, which may require updating, or revision during the life-cycle of the project to address new circumstances as the need arises. It is essentially a written plan of how the environment is to be managed in practical and achievable terms.

The effectiveness of the EMPr is limited by the level of adherence to the conditions set forth herein. Compliance with the EMPr will be monitored on a regular basis as set out in the EMPr and contractual clauses.

The EMPr forms part of the Contract Documentation and is thus a legally binding document. An individual responsible for environmental damage must pay costs both to environment and human health and the preventative measures to reduce or prevent additional pollution and/or environmental damage from occurring (the Polluter Pays Principle).

Further to the above, the following objectives apply:

- To state the standards and guidelines which has to be adhered to in terms of environmental legislation;
- To set out the mitigation measures / management actions and environmental specifications which Eskom will be required to implement in order to minimise the extent of environmental impacts, and where possible to improve the condition of the environment;
- To mitigate potential negative impact associated with the project and ensure optimising of positive impact;

- To define corrective actions which Eskom must take in the event of non-compliance with the specifications of the EMPr;
- To prevent long-term or permanent environmental degradation;
- To ensure that the applicant, construction workers and the operational and maintenance staff are well acquainted with their responsibilities in terms of the environment;
- To ensure that communication channels to report on environment related issues are in place.

GAZETTED GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

On 22 March 2019 a *Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)* was promulgated in terms of Section 24 of NEMA and gazetted as Government Notice No 435. This EMPr is applicable where application is made for Environmental Authorisation for substations and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure as identified in terms of

- **activity 11 or 47 of EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, or for**
- **activity 9 of EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014, as amended, and**
- **any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure.**

The EMPr forms part of the Basic Assessment and EIA Reports, is a legally binding document and contains general as well as site specific mitigation measures.

The Generic Environmental Management Programme consists of the following:

APPENDIX A: DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF SUBSTATION INFRASTRUCTURE and
APPENDIX B: DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF OVERHEAD ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project entails the construction of an overhead power line only and Appendix B is thus applicable to this project.

Appendix B is divided into the following:

1. Part A (General Guidance and Information)
2. Part B: Section 1 (Pre-approved Generic EMPr Template)
3. Part B: Section 2 (Site Specific Information and Declaration)
4. Part C (Site Specific Sensitivities / Attributes)
5. Method Statements

PART A (GENERAL GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION)

- Provides general guidance and information such as definitions, acronyms, roles & responsibilities, documentation and reporting. This section **is not legally binding**.

PART B: SECTION 1 (PRE-APPROVED GENERIC EMPr TEMPLATE)

- Contains generally accepted impact management outcomes and impact management Actions required for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks associated with the development
- The template in this section is to be completed by the contractor, with each completed page signed and dated by the holder of the EA prior to commencement of the activity. Once completed and signed, the template represents the EMPr for the activity approved by the Competent Authority (CA) and **is legally binding**.
- The template is not required to be submitted to the CA because the generic EMPr was gazetted for implementation and has therefore been approved by the CA.
- The EAP must make this section available for public consideration.

PART B: SECTION 2 (SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION and DECLARATION)

- Contains preliminary infrastructure layout *and* a declaration that the applicant/holder of the EA
    - will comply with the pre-approved generic EMPr as contained Part B: Section 1;
    - understands that the impact management outcomes and impact management actions **are legally binding**.
- The preliminary infrastructure layout must be submitted with the BAR / EIA Report ensuring that all impact management outcomes and impact management actions have been either preapproved or approved in terms of Part C.
- This section **must be** submitted to the CA together with the BAR or EIA Report. The information submitted to the CA will be considered to be incomplete should a signed copy of Part B: section 2 not be submitted.
- Once approved, this Section forms part of the EMPr for the site and **is legally binding**.

PART C (SITE SPECIFIC SENSITIVITIES / ATTRIBUTES)

- Any site specific management outcomes and management actions not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr must be included in this section.
- These specific environmental attributes must be referenced spatially and impact management outcomes and impact management actions must be provided.
- These outcomes and actions must be presented in the format of Part B: Section 1.
- This section will not be required should the site contain no specific environmental sensitivities or attributes.
- If Part C is applicable it is required to be submitted together with the BAR or EIA Report to the CA for consideration.
- The information in this section must be prepared by an EAP and must contain his/her name and expertise including a Curriculum Vitae.
- Once approved, Part C forms part of the EMPr for the site and **is legally binding**.

METHOD STATEMENTS

- It contains the method statements to be prepared prior to commencement of the activity.
- The method statements are **not required** to be submitted to the Competent Authority.

Information provide in this EMPr is information as requested in

Appendix B: Overhead power lines

- Part B: Section 2 (Site Specific Information and Declaration)
- Part C (Site Specific Sensitivities / Attributes)

Appendix B: Overhead power lines

Part B: Section 2

Site Specific Information and Declaration

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT AND THE EAP

Contact details of the applicant

Name of applicant	: Eskom Holding SOC Limited: Limpopo Operating Unit
Contact person	: Ms Munzhedzi Mudau
Tel No	: 015 299 0498
Fax No	: -
E-mail address	: MudauMu@eskom.co.za
Postal Address	: PO Box 3499, Polokwane, 0700
Physical Address	: 92 Hans van Rensburg Street, Polokwane, 0699

Contact details of the EAP

Name of EAP	: Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants
	: Susanna Nel & Annelize Grobler
Tel No	: 082 888 4060 & 082 566 4530
E-mail address	: info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Expertise of the EAP

Landscape Dynamics is an environmental consultancy firm established in May 1997. The main line of business since that time up to the present is the compilation of environmental impact assessments. Landscape Dynamics has a broad client base from both the private and government sectors which has developed over the past 22 years of professional services supplied. The operating base for Landscape Dynamics is the entire South Africa; with local representation in Gauteng, the North West Province, Mpumalanga, the Western Cape, the Northern Cape and Limpopo. The Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) for this project are Ms Annelize Grobler and Ms Susanna Nel. Both EAPs are EAPASA registered. *Refer to Addenda A of this EMPr for a Company Profile and condensed Curriculum Vitae's of the EAPs.*

PROJECT INFORMATION

- ***Project name***
  Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project

- ***Description of the project***
  Eskom Holdings Limited SOC (Limpopo Operating Unit) is planning to construct an approximate 18km 132kV power line from the existing Merensky substation to connect to the Merensky-Jane Furse-Uchoba 132kV Power line T-off point (this line has been approved for construction and construction will commence in due course).

  Access roads
  Some access roads to the site are available and some new access roads will be constructed. Access will be limited in width – the purpose being providing access for construction and maintenance purposes only. Construction will take place strictly according to the guidelines and specifications as provided in this EMPr which was guided by the specialists' assessments.

- ***Project location***
  The power line runs roughly between the towns of Steelpoort and Kennedy's Vale in the jurisdiction of the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

- **The SG21 Digit Codes of the directly affected properties are:**

T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	0	0	5
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	0	1	1
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	0	0	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	7	0	0	0	1	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	7	0	0	0	0	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	2
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	1	7
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	3	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	1
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	2
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	0
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	7
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	8
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	9
T	O	K	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	0	0	0	2	9

- The 250m coordinates of the Preferred Route Alternative is provided in Addendum C of this EMPr.

DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT SITE MAP: SCREENING TOOL

This section refers to a map of the site sensitivity overlaid with the preliminary infrastructure layout. The sensitivity maps were prepared from the national web based environmental screening tool: https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool.

Sensitivity maps feature both within the planned working area and any known sensitive features within a 1km buffer zone surrounding the proposed route alignment.

Refer to Addenda B of this EMPr for the Screening Tool report as obtained from the website mentioned above.

DECLARATION

The proponent/applicant or holder of the EA affirms that he/she will abide and comply with the prescribed impact management outcomes and impact management actions as stipulated in Part B: Section 1 of the generic EMPr and have the understanding that the impact management outcomes and impact management actions are legally binding. The proponent/applicant or holder of the EA affirms that he/she will provide written notice to the CA 14 days prior to the date on which the activity will commence of commencement of construction to facilitate compliance inspections.

_____

Signature Proponent/applicant/ holder of EA

_____

Date

Appendix B: Overhead power lines

Part C

Site Specific Sensitivities / Attributes

Specific environmental sensitivities/attributes which are present on the site and which require more specific impact management outcomes and actions are included in this section. These outcomes and actions are not covered in the generic EMPr template.

The management controls including impact management outcomes and impact management actions are presented in the format of the preapproved generic EMPr template.

Part C is submitted to the CA together with the BAR or EIA Report for consideration of, and decision on, the application for EA. Once approved, Part C forms part of the EMPr for the site and is legally binding.

Contact details of the EAP

Name of EAP : Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants
: Susanna Nel & Annelize Grobler
Tel No : 082 888 4060 & 082 566 4530
E-mail address : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Expertise of the EAP

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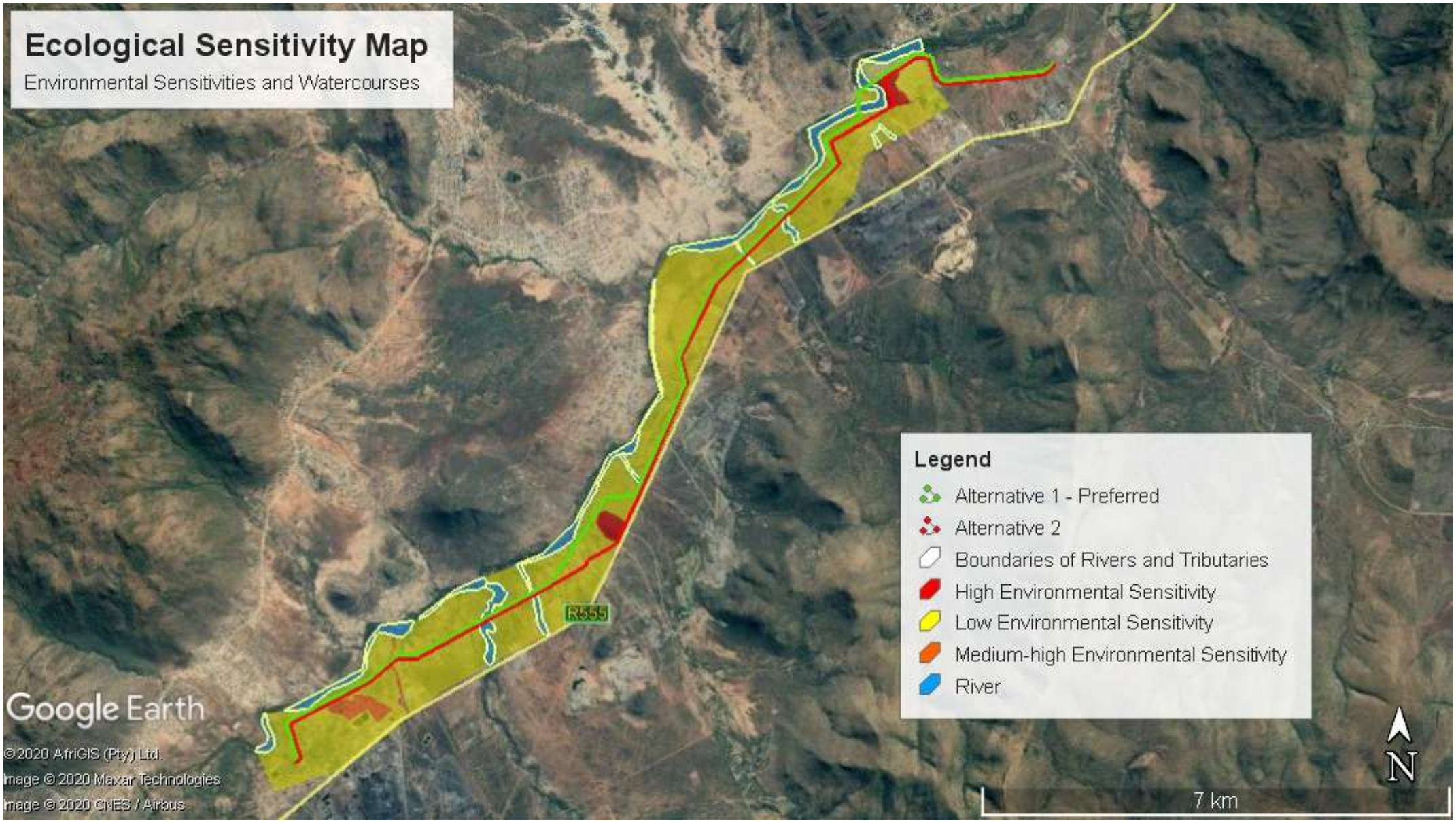
Refer to Addenda A of this EMPr for a Company Profile and Curriculum Vitae's of the EAPs


Ecological Sensitivity Map
Environmental Sensitivities and Watercourses
Legend
Alternative 1 - Preferred
Alternative 2
Boundaries of Rivers and Tributaries
High Environmental Sensitivity
Low Environmental Sensitivity
Medium-high Environmental Sensitivity
River
R555
Google Earth
© 2020 AfriGIS (Pty) Ltd.
Image © 2020 Maxar Technologies
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N
7 km

Power line tower positions: Impact on Fauna, Flora, Avifauna & Heritage

Impact Management Outcome: The footprint of the towers is positioned in an environmentally friendly way in order to minimise impact on the natural and cultural environments of the area

Impact Management Actions	Implementation			Monitoring		
	Responsible person	Method of implementation	Timeframe for implementation	Responsible person	Frequency	Evidence of compliance
Fauna and Flora *Route walk-down* A route corridor of 1 280 hectares in size was investigated by the specialist team and approved as part of the EA. Walk-downs by the ecologist for flora and aquatics must be conducted after the EA has been issued. This would ensure sensitive placement of infrastructure within the corridor. The purpose is to avoid as far as possible sensitive plant communities, large / protected trees, heritage sites and bird nesting areas. *Red data species* One red data species which is also a protected species namely *Euphorbia barnardii* was found to be present within the study area. These trees should be protected and pylons should be positioned in such a way that they are not being impacted on. Vegetation Unit 6 provides suitable habitat for the following species: ○ *Acacia ormocarpoides* ○ *Euphorbia sekukuniensis* ○ *Plectranthus porcatus* ○ *Plectranthus venteri* ○ *Zantedeschiajucunda*	Flora Specialist	Eskom must appoint the specialist for the walk-down and implement their final requirement in the final design	Walk-down during the final design phase and prior to commencement of construction	Eskom must communicate the ecological requirement and permit conditions with the site clearance and servitude maintenance personnel	Eskom to monitor site sensitivities during operation and project maintenance. It should take place at least once a year.	Record of final ecologist specialist requirements, authorisations and permits must be kept on file

Protected trees
• Nine protected trees were identified within the study area:
  ○ *Balanites maughamii*
  ○ *Sclerocarya birrea* (Marula)
  ○ *Boscia albitrunca*
  ○ *Aloe globuligemma*
  ○ *Aloe marlothii*
  ○ *Aloe castanea*
  ○ *Euphorbia barnardii*
  ○ *Spirostachys Africana*
  ○ *Boscia foetida minima*
 	
• These trees play an important role in the ecosystem by providing food, shelter and shade to various animal and bird species. It is therefore important that these trees are not unnecessarily removed from the ecosystem.
  ○ The contractor must have the necessary knowledge to be able to identify the mentioned protected trees interfering with the operation of the line due to their height and growth rate.
  ○ In terms of Section 15(1) of the National Forests Act, 1998, no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a license or exemption granted by the Minister to an applicant and subject to such period and conditions as may be stipulated. Trees are protected for a variety of reasons, and some species require strict protection while others require control over harvesting and utilization. DEFF as well as the Department of Nature Conservation (Limpopo) will have to be approached to obtain the required permits for the removal of any protected tree/plant species.						

Vegetation clearing • The object of vegetation clearing is to trim, cut or clear the minimum number of trees and vegetation necessary for the safe mechanical construction and electrical operation of the power line. Only an 8m strip may be cleared flush with the ground to allow vehicular passage during construction. • No scalping shall be allowed on any part of the servitude road unless absolutely necessary. • Vegetation clearing on pylon sites must be kept to a minimum. • The removal of indigenous woody species should be avoided as far as possible. These species have an extensive root system binding the soil and take long to establish. • Any alien invasive trees with large root systems shall be cut manually and removed, as the use of a bulldozer will cause major damage to the soil when the root systems are removed. Stumps shall be treated with herbicide. Smaller vegetation can be flattened with a machine, but the blade should be kept above ground level to prevent scalping. • Any vegetation cleared on a tower site shall be removed or flattened and not be pushed to form an embankment around the tower. • To minimise the effect on the vegetation it is recommended that the construction be done within the winter period when most plants are dormant and when little rain is expected that could potentially cause erosion. • Where vegetation needs to be "opened" to gain access it is recommended that the herbaceous species are cut short rather than removing them. That will ensure that they regrow during the growing season. • If possible "soil saver blankets" could be placed over the vegetation to prevent erosion and unnecessary trampling. These blankets must be removed after construction. • No pylons to be erected within Vegetation Units 3 (river area), 4 (tributaries), 6 (rocky hill) and 7 (*Combretum apiculatum* woodland).						

Alien vegetation
Alien species poses a huge threat to the natural environment due to their competitive nature that leads to the displacement of natural indigenous species (plants and animals), and also due to their excessive use of soil water.
• All alien vegetation within the study site should be eradicated. The invasive species as listed below should be given the highest priority:
  ○ *Argemone ochroleuca*
  ○ *Arundo donax* L.
  ○ *Cereus jamacaru* DC.
  ○ *Datura stramonium* L.
  ○ *Ipomoea purpurea*
  ○ *Melia azedarach* L.
  ○ *Morus alba* L.
  ○ *Opuntia ficus-indica*
  ○ *Pennisetum clandestinum* Chiov.
  ○ *Ricinus communis*
  ○ *Solanum sisymbriifolium* Lam
  ○ *Tecoma stans*
  ○ *Xanthium spinosum* L.
• The use of herbicides shall only be allowed after a proper investigation into the necessity thereof and Eskom's approval for the use of herbicides is mandatory. Application shall be under the direct supervision of a qualified technician. All surplus herbicide shall be disposed of in accordance with the supplier's specifications. All alien vegetation in the total servitude and densifiers creating a fire hazard shall be cleared and treated with herbicides.
 	
Fauna
• Any animals encountered in the areas could be relocated away from the development site.
• Workers must be limited to areas under construction and access to natural undeveloped areas must be strictly regulated, preventing uncontrolled						

hunting, poaching and gathering of firewood and medicinal plants. • Wherever possible, work should be restricted to one area at a time. This will give smaller birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians an opportunity to move into undisturbed areas close to their natural habitat. • The Site Manager and ECO must ensure that no faunal species are disturbed, trapped, hunted or killed during the construction phase. All animals unearthed or disturbed should ideally be released in appropriate habitat away from the development. • Construction activities should be limited to the daylight hours preventing disturbances to the nocturnal activities of certain species and nearby human populations. This will also minimise disturbances to sensitive and secretive species.						
Watercourses The final route selection was influenced by the findings of the aquatic specialist. The route will cross the Steelpoort River twice and it will also cross various drainage lines. The following however applies: • Pylons must not be placed closer than 32m from any watercourse. • The river and tributaries were delineated and all pylons must be placed outside of the delineated areas. • Construction disturbance is not allowed within the delineated buffer areas. Because no disturbance (temporary or permanent) will take place within the delineated buffers, Section 21(c) and/or 21(i) of the NWA will not be triggered. It is therefore not a requirement to apply for a Water Use License or a General Authorisation.		Eskom must appoint the specialist for the walk-down and implement their final requirement in the final design	Walk-down during the final design phase and prior to commencement of construction	Eskom must communicate the ecological requirement and permit conditions with the site clearance and servitude maintenance personnel	Eskom to monitor site sensitivities during operation and project maintenance. It should take place at least once a year.	Record of final ecologist specialist requirements, authorisations and permits must be kept on file

Bird Impact • ***Electrocution*** *of avifauna on the 132kV steel monopole structure* To eliminate the risk of vulture electrocutions the 7649 steel monopole structure is proposed with suspended insulators and diagonal supporting cross arms, which would make perching uncomfortable while ensuring that birds are clear of the live phases. • *Avifaunal mortality due to* ***collisions*** *with the earthwire* High risk sections of power line must be identified by a qualified avifaunal specialist during the walk through phase once the alignment has been finalized. If power line marking is required (i.e. in agricultural clearings or water crossings) bird flight flappers must be installed on the full span length on each of the conductors (according to Eskom guidelines - five metres apart). Light and dark colour devices must be alternated so as to provide contrast against both dark and light backgrounds respectively. These devices must be installed as soon as the conductors are strung. • *Displacement of Red Data species and large raptors due to* ***habitat destruction and disturbance*** *associated with the construction of the powerlines and substations* Follow general fauna and flora mitigation actions as per this EMPr A walk-through must be conducted by the avifaunal specialist when the final pole positions have been determined, to assess whether there are any Red Data species, and/or large raptors breeding in the vicinity of the final alignment, which could be displaced by the construction activities. Should this be the case, appropriate measures must be put in place to prevent the displacement of the breeding birds, through the timing of construction activities.	Bird Impact Specialist	Eskom must appoint the specialist for the walk-down and implement their final requirement in the final design Site specific mitigation in high risk areas are implemented. It must be done during the construction phase (i.e. placement of bird flappers)	Walk-down during the final design phase and prior to commencement of construction Fitting bird perches to all monopoles and fitting of bird flappers in high risk areas must be done during the construction phase	Eskom	Monitoring at least once a year during servitude maintenance in the operational phase to ensure bird impact devices are intact. As soon as bird fatalities are recorded, Eskom must immediately investigate	Keep record of final bird specialist recommendation. Keep photo record, liaison with bird specialist and re-actionary actions taken on file during any incidents recorded

<u>Heritage Requirement</u> • A final walk down of the proposed power line route must be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction commences. A report of this assessment must be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior construction. • In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected. • If any new heritages resources discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer. • If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. • Mitigation may only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). Contact: SAHRA APM Unit: Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654. • If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).	Heritage Specialist	Eskom must appoint the specialist for the walk-down and implement their final requirement in the final design	Walk-down during the final design phase and prior to commencement of construction	Eskom	Frequency and further action will depend on any heritage resource and fossils uncovered during construction and operation	Must keep final specialist requirement and all relevant authorisations, landowner agreement and permits available on file

2. Power line tower positions: Impact on landowners

Impact Management Outcome:
The footprint of the power line towers is positioned whilst taking the landowner's concerns into consideration.

Impact Management Actions	Implementation			Monitoring		
	Responsible person	Method of implementation	Timeframe for implementation	Responsible person	Frequency	Evidence of compliance
• Possible directly affected landowners were informed of the proposed route during the EIA process and an opportunity to object to the development proposal was provided. Objections were addressed to the satisfaction of all involved. • However, the exact footprint of the towers must be discussed with each landowner to ensure sensitive placement and to lessen impact on the operations of the farm. Insensitive placement could also have a negative visual impact which can be easily avoided during discussions with the landowners.	Eskom	Arrange meetings with landowners and confirm final site detail with them during servitude negotiations. Final requirements from the landowners must be integrated with the final designs	Prior to commencement of construction during the detail design phase of the project	Eskom	Once-off prior to commencement of construction. Continuous liaison throughout the operational phase with landowner will assist with good relations in terms of access and servitude maintenance.	Must keep written agreement with landowners on file, together with all contact details to ensure effective communication during i.e. veldfires and other relevant incidents that require immediate action.

3. Bush clearing for maintenance purposes

Impact Management Outcome: Sensitive and minimal bush clearing for maintenance purposes						
Impact Management Actions	**Implementation**			**Monitoring**		
	Responsible person	Method of implementation	Timeframe for implementation	Responsible person	Frequency	Evidence of compliance
• All permit and landowner conditions shall be adhered to. • Bush clearing must be undertaken with the knowledge of the landowner. • Under no circumstances shall natural vegetation (veld), forests or protected vegetation be removed, harvested, mowed, brush-cut or altered in any way without a permit (where applicable). • Only selective bush clearing is allowed: only vegetation which interferes with the safe operation of the power line or where the height exceeds the requirements as set by the Electrical Machinery Regulations and the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act may be trimmed / removed in agreement with the landowner. • No damage or destruction of vegetation shall be permitted outside the footprint of the line servitude. • No plant material may be removed if not part of identified vegetation clearance. • No scalping shall be allowed on any part of the servitude unless absolutely necessary. Smaller vegetation can be flattened with a machine, but the blade should be kept above ground level to prevent scalping. • Bush clearing must be done in accordance with the Vegetation Clearance and Maintenance within Overhead Power line Servitudes and on Eskom Owned Land procedure (EPC 32-247). • Bush clearing is not allowed on river- and stream banks. • Bush cuttings shall not be burned but must be removed from site • The contractor must be able to identify protected and indigenous species not interfering with the operation of the line due to their height and growth rate.	Eskom	Only selective bush clearing may be allowed. Any permit requirement n terms of pruning and/or removal of protected trees species to must be adhered to. Eskom must ensure that site clearing contractors are well trained in terms of environmental protection and the conditions of permits in terms of protected trees.	At commencement of the construction period	Eskom	At least once a year during infrastructure inspection and servitude maintenance	Record of permit and agreement with landowners should be kept on file. Contact details of landowners must be available and updated to ensure effective communication during i.e. veldfires and other relevant incidents that require immediate action