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<b>Reference</b>	<b>SSD14/2/6/1/4/C_ Blue Stone Quarry_Robben Island</b>
<b>Date</b>	24 June 2021

Enviroworks  
Suite 1064  
Private Bag X2  
Century City  
7441

Via email: [megan.smith@enviroworks.co.za](mailto:megan.smith@enviroworks.co.za)

Attention: Ms Megan Smith

Dear Ms Smith

**RE: THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BLUE STONE QUARRY WALL, ROBBERN ISLAND, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. Our comments are as follows.

1. It appears that the breeding habitat of African penguin and disturbance to African penguin during breeding season has been mitigated due to the penguins altering their route to their colony as reported in the avifaunal assessment.
2. Indicate the timeframe that will be allowed for construction to be completed and confirm whether construction can be completed in this timeframe. If not, then unfortunately maintenance of the nature proposed in the MMP should be a no-go; and it should be considered to look to maintaining the remaining sections of the wall with works that will take less time and not disturb breeding seabirds in the area.
3. Should the timeframe for construction be appropriate (in that it will not disturb breeding colonies and allow for completion of the project), the following mitigations should also be adhered to:
  - 3.1 Interaction with any avifauna must be prohibited.
  - 3.2 No extensive use of construction vehicles.
  - 3.3 No vehicles or human presence at the quarry or on the road at night.
  - 3.4 Use spotters to guide vehicles on the road and usher any avifauna off the road.
  - 3.5 Insert temporary speedbumps on the road to enforce speed limits.
  - 3.6 An independent monitor must be appointed to monitor construction activities daily.
  - 3.7 ECO must conduct weekly site visits, with reports submitted within the same week of inspection.

4. Disturbance to breeding colonies penguins, cormorants, gulls and terns will not be supported. The disturbance to the penguin colony appears to have been mitigated given the new route utilised by penguins.
5. Indicate the impacts and mitigations regarding the tidal action to the penguin breeding site, given that the restored wall may block tidal flows and affect water quality.
6. Indicate the impacts and mitigations regarding the quarry tidal pool that acts as a nursery.
7. Indicate the impacts associated with the dyke construction on the penguins making landfall.
8. Indicate the moulting times of the penguins and impact of the proposed works on moulting penguins.
9. There is no certainty that the cormorants will abandon the rock pile and fully use the harbour for nesting. If some cormorant return to the rock pile, would it not cause them to abandon chicks if disturbed?
10. Under the current circumstances and provided cormorant fully utilise the harbour for breeding instead of the rockpile, nesting sites of seabird species do not appear to be affected. Disturbance to cormorants is not supported, if they choose to continue nesting on the rockpile.
11. All recommendations proposed by the avifaunal assessment must be implemented.
12. The MMP is supported provided no breeding areas are disturbed or access to breeding areas is inhibited, that all recommendations of the avifaunal assessment are implemented, and pending the outcome of the requested impacts and mitigations above.
13. No tourists or staff must be allowed to the restored wall at any time. Only staff performing essential duties should be allowed at the restored wall. The heritage will be maintained by the fact the wall has been restored and remains.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely,



Ismat Adams

Conservation Officer Off-Reserve: Ceder-Berg Landscape Unit

For:

Marius Wheeler

Conservation Intelligence Manager: Landscape West

Elbé Cloete

Landscape Manager: Landscape West

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