

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH), NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/MP1)

A Public Participation Process (PPP) for the EMPr and Layout Plan finalisation process for the Establishment of a Wind Energy Facility situated on the Eastern Plateau (South), near De Aar, in the Northern Cape Province (also referred to as the De Aar 2 South WEF), has been undertaken to provide registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant State Departments and Organs of State with an opportunity to comment on the draft Amended EMPr and proposed Final Site Layout Plan, in furtherance of compliance with Conditions 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the Environmental Authorisation (EA)¹ (DFFE Reference No. 12/12/20/2463/1/MP1).

The Public Participation Process included the following, amongst others:

- **Written notifications** (sent via email or post) to registered I&APs notifying them of the availability of the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan for review and comment. Refer to Appendix R2 of the Final EMPr for the notifications, and to Appendix R1 for the registered I&AP database.
- Registered I&AP's (including relevant Organs of State and State Departments) were given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan for a 30 day **I&AP comment period**, i.e. from 14 November 2022 – 14 December 2022 (adjusted to 17 November 2022 – 9 January 2023 for DFFE). Refer to Appendix R of the Final Amended EMPr.
- Copies of the draft Amended EMPr and proposed Final Site Layout Plan were made available as follows during the I&AP comment period:
 - A hard copy of the draft Amended EMPr, including the proposed Final Site Layout Plan, was lodged at the Hennie Liebenberg Public Library in De Aar (Station Street, De Aar). Refer to Appendix R3.
 - An electronic copy of the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan was made available for download on the Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants website (www.hollandandassociates.net).
 - Upon request, the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan was available to I&APs via electronic file transfer or Dropbox link. The Dropbox links were provided in the cover email for notifications sent to I&APs via email. Electronic copies of the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan on CD or USB were available on request. Refer to Appendix R.
 - An outline of the draft Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan could be provided verbally (telephonically) to I&APs who are illiterate and/or those with disabilities and/or any other disadvantage, if necessary. Such I&APs could provide their comments via telephone and/or sms (if preferred), and such comments would be included in the Comments and Responses Report.
- Any additional I&APs who registered during the EMPr and Site Layout Plan finalisation process have been added to the registered I&AP database (Refer to Appendix R1(b)).
- All comments received have been incorporated into this Comments and Response Report (CRR), which is included in the Final Amended EMPr (in Appendix R4) that is being submitted to DFFE for decision making.

This Comments and Response Report (CRR) provides the comments submitted in writing during the 30 day Interested & Affected (I&AP) comment period on the draft Amended EMPr and Final Layout Plan, i.e. from 14 November 2022 – 14 December 2022 (adjusted to 17 November 2022 – 9 January 2023 for DFFE), and provides the project team's (Applicant/ EAP/ Specialists) responses thereto.

¹ dated 1 March 2013, as amended.

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Note: The template for the CRR specified by the DFFE in their comment dated 12 December 2022, has been used. For ease of reference to I&APs, comments from the same I&AP are displayed together and chronologically in the table, as opposed to the comments appearing in date order, as received.

Table 1: Comments and Response Report (CRR)

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
1	15/11/2022 Email Transnet (Annelize Harmse) Holland and Associates Environmental Consultants was copied into the email from Annelize Harmse to Zanele Manyathi of Transnet.	1.1. Good Morning The attached documents regarding the above-mentioned is for your further attention, please. Regards	1.1 The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Nicole Holland of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants, did not respond to the email as the email was not addressed to Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants, they were simply copied in.
1a	8/12/2022 Email Transnet (Annelize Harmse) Holland and Associates Environmental Consultants was copied into the email from Annelize Harmse to Zanele Manyathi of Transnet.	1a.1. The attached Amended EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan: Public Participation Process is for your attention, please.	1a.1. The EAP did not respond to the email as the email was not addressed to Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants, they were simply copied in.
2	15/11/2022 Email	2.1. DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line.	2.1. Tilly Watermeyer (TW) of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants (assistant to the EAP) responded on 23/11/2022:

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	DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation (Kamogelo Mathetja)	<p>Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email).</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>Thank you for acknowledging receipt of our email notification for the abovementioned project. We look forward to your Directorate's comments.</p> <p>Kindly note that all comments submitted by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the I&AP comment period will be recorded in a Comments & Response Trail Report (C&R report), which will include all comments submitted by I&APs and the project team's responses. The Comments and Response Trail Report will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr for decision making, in due course.</p>
3	<p>23/11/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>African Clean Energy Developments (Kholofelo Rameetse)</p>	3.1. Please register me as an I&AP as well as share a kmz file of the layout.	<p>3.1. TW responded on 24/11/2022:</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>We will register you as an I&AP for this project. As requested, please see attached the kmz. file of the site layout plan.</p>
3a	<p>24/11/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>African Clean Energy Developments (Kholofelo Rameetse)</p>	3a.1. Received, thanks so much.	3.2. No response required.

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4	<p>24/11/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (Elsabe Swart)</p>	<p>4.1. Attached herewith, please find our comments for your perusal and due consideration.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact Louise should you have any questions.</p>	<p>4.1. TW responded on 25/11/2022:</p> <p>Thank you very much for the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform's (DAERL) comments.</p> <p>Kindly note that all comments submitted by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the I&AP comment period will be recorded in a Comments & Response Trail Report (C&R report), which will include all comments submitted by I&APs and the project team's responses. The Comments and Response Trail Report will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr for decision making, in due course.</p>
4a	<p>23/11/2022</p> <p>Letter received via email</p> <p>Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (L. Geldenhuys & E. Swart)</p>	<p>4a.1. RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMENDED EMPr AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN FOR DE AAR 2 SOUTH WIND ENERGY FACILITY</p> <p>Background</p> <p>On 14 November 2022 Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants sent out a notification that the draft amended EMPr and Final Site Layout plan for the De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility is available for comments. The purpose of the amendments to the</p>	

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		<p>EMPr and Final Site Layout Plan is to reflect several amendments made to the Environmental Authorisation of the development. Herewith comments and inputs on these documents.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / comments:</u></p> <p>1. It is suggested that it is indicated on table 1 (page 3 of the EMPr) that the amendments of 2017 are indeed taken into account (the phrase could be altered from “EIA Regulations 2014, as amended”, to “EIA Regulations 2014, as amended in 2017).</p>	<p>4a.1. The EAP responded:</p> <p>Thank you for your recommendation. The EMPr has been updated to include “<i>in 2017 and 2021</i>” after “<i>as amended</i>” in Table 1 on page 3 of the amended EMPr.</p>
		<p>4a.2. Please clarify if the turbine foundation footprint as indicated on the Final Layout Plan includes the permanent hard standing made of compacted gravel that are at the base of each turbine? If not – please include this on the insert of the Final Layout Plan (the insert that indicates the turbine footprints).</p>	<p>4a.2. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The insert on the Final Layout Plan (Figure 1 in the Amended EMPr) has been updated to include the permanent hard standing, as requested.</p>
		<p>4a.3. Please add a scale bar to the zoomed in insert on the Final Layout Plan.</p>	<p>4a.3. The EAP responded:</p> <p>As requested, a scale bar has been added to the zoomed-in insert in the Final Layout Plan. Refer to Figure 1 in the final Amended EMPr (repeated in Appendix D of the Final Amended EMPr).</p>

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		<p>4a.4. EMPr page 17: "Bird flappers and/or diverters must be installed at all points where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors, wetlands, drainage line and pans." Please include a map in this EMPr that show all such crossings, that can be used to verify if this condition is carried out correctly in the field.</p>	<p>4a.4. The Applicant responded:</p> <p>The recommendation in the avifaunal specialist's report is that all sections of Overhead Powerlines require flappers. Considering this, there is no need to indicate these sections on a map as bird flappers will be installed on all lines. The Final Environmental Sensitivities Map (Appendix D) indicates where avifaunal corridors, wetlands, drainage lines and pans are located.</p> <p>The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>All 33kV overhead lines will be fitted with Bird Flappers and/or Bird Flight Diverters.</p>
		<p>4a.5. EMPr page 17: "Photographs must be taken (of the site) before construction commences, as a visual reference". Place a reference here to Appendix B for more detail on which photographs to be taken.</p>	<p>4a.5. The EAP responded:</p> <p>Reference to <i>Appendix B, page 5</i> has been included in the final amended EMPr for this particular mitigation measure, as requested.</p>
		<p>4a.6. EMPr page 17: "Obtain required permit(s) for the permanent destruction/removal of any affected listed protected trees/plants." Please note that permits will also be needed for transplanting/search and rescue of protected plants.</p>	<p>4a.6. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The ecological specialist (Dr David Hoare of David Hoare Consulting (Pty) Ltd.) has advised that a flora permit must be obtained for any destruction/ removal or rescue (which involves transplantation) of affected listed protected trees/plants. The ecological</p>

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			<p>specialist has provided the required input for the application, and a consultant has been commissioned by the Applicant to carry out this permit application process, and the necessary permits will be obtained prior to construction commencing. The applications for the required permits have been made to the provincial competent authority on 20 January 2023.</p>
		<p>4a.7. Please note that the name of the former “DENC” has changed to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL).</p>	<p>4a.7. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The name of the former “DENC” has been updated to the “Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)” in the final amended EMPr.</p>
		<p>4a.8. The Northern Cape CBA map is not referenced in the EMPr or Ecology walkthrough study, but from a visual comparison it looks like no CBA1 or CBA2 areas will be impacted.</p>	<p>4a.8. The EAP responded:</p> <p>That is correct. No CBA1 or CBA2 areas will be impacted by the proposed Final Layout Plan.</p>
		<p>4a.9. The development area is within the Platberg-Karoo Important Bird Area, but the extensive mitigation measures and layout changes that have been included in the EMPr to minimise the development's impact on avifauna are expected to be sufficient.</p> <p>We hope you find these recommendations in order.</p>	<p>4a.9. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The DAERL's comment indicating that the development area is within the Platberg-Karoo Important Bird Area, and that the extensive mitigation measures and layout changes that have been included in the EMPr to minimise the development's</p>

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			<p>impact on avifauna are expected to be sufficient, are noted.</p> <p>The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>We agree with this statement.</p>
5	<p>12/12/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Lydia Kutu)</p>	<p>5.1. Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>5.1. The EAP responded on 13 December 2022:</p> <p>Thank you. Received.</p>
5a	<p>12/12/2022</p> <p>Letter received via email</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Milicent Solomons, signed by Olivia Letlalo)</p>	<p>5a.1. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) AND LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 01 MARCH 2013 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH) NEAR DE AAR IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</p>	<p>5a.1. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The Applicant proposes the construction of up to 26 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and associated infrastructure. The draft Final Layout and sensitivity map included in the Draft Amended EMPr (November 2022) comprised 28 possible WTG positions, of which a maximum of 26 WTGs would be developed, as stated in Section 2.2 of the draft Amended EMPr</p>

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		<p>The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned projects dated 01 March 2013; and the draft amended Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and draft Layout Plan dated November 2022, received by the Competent Authority (CA) on 17 November 2022 and the acknowledgement of receipt thereof on 18 November 2022, refer.</p> <p><u>Following the review of the above-mentioned draft amended EMPr, this CA has the following comments:</u></p> <p>a. It has been noted that the draft final layout and sensitivity map shows 28 turbines, however, the bat assessment report indicate that 26 turbines will be constructed. Please clarify the reasons of including more turbines than what would be constructed. In addition, you are advised of the risk of including turbines that would not be constructed in the layout that must be considered as final layout, as it might not be considered as final layout.</p>	<p>(November 2022) and specialist reports/ statements. Based on DFFE’s comment, however, the Applicant has decided to refine the proposed Final Layout Plan to a 26 turbine layout to avoid confusion, i.e. to only include the 26 turbines in the final layout that would be constructed. In this regard, WTG numbers 9 and 13 have been removed from the 28 turbine position layout that was included in the Draft Amended EMPr. The proposed 26 turbine Final Layout is included in Figure 1 and Appendix D of the Final Amended EMPr. (Note that no other changes to turbine positions have been undertaken, only the removal of 2 turbine positions and very minor micro-siting of Turbines 11 and 25 to ensure that the turbines are not within the jackal buzzard buffer areas. <u>Note: The numbering of the turbines has remained the same as the draft Final Layout Plan included in the draft Amended EMPr and associated specialist investigations. Accordingly, whilst there are turbines numbered 27 and 28 in the Final Layout Plan included in the Final Amended EMPr, there are only 26 turbines in the layout, as turbine positions 9 and 13 have been removed. The 33kV overhead powerline from Turbine 21 to Turbine 24 has also been removed from the proposed Final Layout Plan.</u></p> <p>In terms of the Department’s comment regarding the bat assessment report indicating that 26 turbines will be constructed, kindly note that all specialists</p>

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			<p>assessed the 28 possible turbine positions (and accordingly the maps in their specialist reports/statements may include the 28 potential WTG positions put forward in the draft Amended EMPr), however, with the understanding that only up to 26 WTG of the assessed 28 positions would be constructed – as stated in the specialist reports/statements. All of the potential 28 WTG positions (and associated infrastructure) were acceptable to specialists, and the specialists have also confirmed their acceptance of the updated Final Layout included in the Final Amended EMP, illustrating the 26 WTG positions, and associated infrastructure (refer to Appendix E).</p> <p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>The layout now (in the Final Amended EMPr) only shows the positions of the 26 turbines that will be constructed. Note that these 26 turbines are still in their original positions, and only two positions have been removed from the draft layout. The reason for including more positions than would actually be constructed was to allow the applicant to select the 26 most optimal positions of the 28 in future, and to ensure that the specialists, when conducting their walkthrough and assessments, considered all possible locations.</p>

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		<p>5a.2.</p> <p>b. It has been noted that the aforesaid map shows that the following turbines are located within the sensitive or at the edge of sensitive areas, therefore, must be relocated to avoid sensitive areas. In addition, no buffer zones for such sensitive areas have been provided on the map. Therefore, you are advised to ensure that the final layout adequately address the concerns raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines 7, 8 and 9 are located within the visual sensitive area, • Turbines 11, 24 and 25 are located within and at the edge of high fauna and flora sensitivities. 	<p>5a.2. Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson (the Visual Specialists) responded as follows:</p> <p>With reference to the Final Visual Assessment Amendment Report dated 27 October 2022 – included as Appendix E7 in the Amended EMPr) Visual and scenic features are indicated on Map 6, and visual sensitivity, including visual buffers, is indicated on Map 7. The buffers for landscape features are based on Table 2.</p> <p>Turbines 7, 8 and 9 have avoided the 'no-go' areas and are only in the 'high' category, which is considered acceptable from a visual impact perspective.</p> <p>Although Turbines 16, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25 are in the 'Very high' visual sensitivity category, they are generally an improvement on the previous layouts for the project, and taking cognisance of the significant reduction in the number of turbines and context of the site, are considered to be acceptable for this project.</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>In terms of the Department's comment regarding turbines 11, 24 and 25:</p> <p>The fauna and flora sensitivities are identified by the ecological specialist in the Ecological Walkthrough</p>

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			<p>Report for the proposed Final Layout Plan (refer to Appendix E1 of the Final Amended EMPr for the Walkthrough Report). As indicated on page 75 of the aforementioned ecological walkthrough report (Section titled "Sensitivities identified on site"), the specialist stated "Site-specific sensitivities were identified during the current walk-through <u>These are not "no-go" areas</u>, but they are areas with elevated biodiversity value relative to the "common" condition or are more sensitive for other physical reasons. Construction of infrastructure within these areas therefore needs to proceed with more caution than in other general areas." [emphasis added].</p> <p>The ecological specialist confirmed that the proposed Final Layout Plan, including turbine positions, is acceptable.</p> <p>The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>We have clearly indicated avifaunal turbine exclusion areas and the said turbines are located outside these zones.</p> <p>Furthermore, Turbines 11, 24 and 25 do not fall within bat sensitivity buffer areas.</p> <p>In light of the above, the proposed position of turbines 11, 24 and 25 are deemed to be</p>

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			<p>acceptable and are not located within any “no go” or turbine exclusions areas.</p> <p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>Sensitive areas deemed no-go or non-developable by the relevant specialist have been avoided by the final layout. The final environmental sensitivities map (Appendix D to the Final Amended EMPr) has reference.</p> <p>Turbines 7, 8 and 9 are located within areas that are deemed acceptable for the placement of wind turbines, as indicated in the Visual Impact Assessment. The visual sensitive areas that these turbines are in are NOT considered as “no-go” areas by the specialist.</p> <p>Turbines have been micro-sited accordingly, to be out of all “no go” areas. Turbines 11, 24 and 25 are located within areas suitable for turbine placement, as described in the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.</p>
		<p>5a.3.</p> <p>c. There is an inconsistency noted in figure 2: sensitivity map and figure 4: turbine exclusion zones included in the draft EMPr, whereby turbines 2, 11, 26 to 19 and 22 to 25 are located within or at the edge of the exclusion area. You are advised to</p>	<p>5a.3 The Applicant responded:</p> <p>Upon close inspection, Turbines 11 and 25 were approximately 2 m into the exclusion zone, due to a mapping error. This has been corrected and turbines 11 and 25 are now outside of the “no-go” areas in the</p>

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		<p>relocate or avoid the sensitive are in the final layout to be submitted with the final EMPr for approval.</p>	<p>Final Layout included in the Final Amended EMPr. The other locations referred to are located outside of the Turbine Exclusion zone. Placement on the edge of these zones is acceptable to the specialists in these instances.</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>Further to the Applicant's response above, please note that Figure 4 of the amended EMPr has been updated (by the avifaunal specialist) and included in the Final Amended EMPr, to illustrate the final 26 turbine layout, to avoid any confusion and remove any inconsistencies with the proposed Final Layout Plan, Environmental Sensitivity Map and Figure 4 of the Amended EMPr. The avifaunal specialist has confirmed that the proposed 26 turbine Final Layout Plan is acceptable (refer to Appendix E2).</p>
		<p>5a.4. d. Final layout plan and environmental sensitivity map submitted in the draft EMPr and generic EMPr is hereby noted. You are advised to ensure that this incorporates details of the map as well as information including location of all infrastructures or components indicated on page 5 to 6 of the EA dated 01 March 2013 and must include but not limited to the following:</p>	<p>5a.4. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>The final Layout Plan and Environmental Sensitivity Map have been updated in the Final Amended EMPr to include details and locations of all infrastructure and components indicated on page 5 and 6 of the EA dated 01 March 2013 as requested by DFFE, including:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind turbine positions and its numbers (only to be constructed), • An on-site substation or switching station, • Powerlines (existing and new) as well as underground cables. • Internal access roads, existing and to be upgraded as well as their width on the legend, • Associated buildings including a workshop area for maintenance, storage, and control facility, • Permanent lay down area footprint, • Heritage areas and its buffers i.e., G110, G113, J1G04 and JG134, 3 sites identified in 2011 HIA, buffer around Kranskop and Vendussie Kuil farm werfs, stone walled kraals, • No-go area, • Final layout superimposed (overlain) on the sensitivity map, highlighting heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind turbine positions and numbers (only to be constructed). (<u>Note: The numbering of the turbines has remained the same as the draft Final Layout Plan that was included in the draft Amended EMPr (November 2022) and associated specialist investigations. Accordingly, whilst there are turbines numbered 27 and 28 in the Final Layout Plan included in the Final Amended EMPr, there are only 26 turbines in the layout, as turbine positions 9 and 13 have been removed from the layout.</u>) • The on-site substation (note that the switching station has been approved as part of a separate Environmental Authorisation, DFFE Reference No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2595), • Powerlines (existing and new) as well as underground cables. (Note that the proposed 33kV lines and/or cables are referred to as “MV lines” in the Final Layout Plan). • Proposed internal access roads, existing access roads, and the section of road to be upgraded are included in the Final Layout Plan, • Associated buildings, • Temporary lay down area footprints, • For ease of reference, heritage areas and their buffers including, G110, G113, J1G04 and JG134, the three sites identified in the 2011 HIA, buffer around Kranskop and Vendussie Kuil farm werfs,

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			<p>and stone walled kraals have been included in a separate “Heritage Sensitivity Map” overlain on the Final Layout Plan – refer to Appendix D in the Final Amended EMPr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No-go areas (refer to Appendix D of the final Amended EMPr for the turbine “no go” areas map), • Final layout superimposed (overlain) on the sensitivity map, highlighting heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels. (Refer to Appendix D of the Final Amended EMPr). <p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>The Final layout plan and environmental sensitivity map submitted with the final Amended EMPr indicate all infrastructure proposed. Each wind turbine is represented by a number. The final layout plan now only includes the 26 turbine positions to be constructed.</p>
		<p>5a.5.</p> <p>e. Please ensure that the colours used on the legend of the final layout plan are clear and communicate to the colours on the map.</p>	<p>5a.5. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>The colours used on the legend of the final layout plan are clear and communicate to the colours on the aforementioned map.</p>

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		<p>5a.6.</p> <p>f. It has been noted that the impact management actions provided in the amended EMPr constantly reflect words such “as far as possible”, “where necessary” and “should”. Please refrain from using the abovementioned words as it indicates that work is still to be undertaken.</p>	<p>5a.6. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>Words such as “as far as possible”, “where necessary” and “should” have been amended accordingly in the final Amended EMPr, where applicable.</p>
		<p>5a.7.</p> <p>g. The final EMPr to be submitted for approval must address all issues raised in accordance with conditions 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the EA dated 01 March 2013.</p>	<p>5a.7. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>Issues raised in accordance with conditions 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the EA dated 01 March 2013 have been appropriately addressed. Please refer to Table 3 of the final Amended EMPr for details and references of how each condition and sub condition have been addressed.</p>
		<p>5a.8.</p> <p>h. The statement on page 18 of the draft EMPr is noted that “ideally no turbines should be in the VERA high risk zone. It is noted that the project received environmental authorisation before the Verreaux’s Eagle guidelines, or the VERA model came in to being. The current turbine layout has been assessed as the most conservative layout possible in terms of avoiding VERA high risk zones and maintaining the viability of the project, in contrast to</p>	<p>5a.8. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>We would suggest that given the current urgent need for additional generation capacity in SA, the potential impact of the proposed wind farm must be balanced against the potential loss of more generating capacity if the guidelines are applied strictly. It should also be noted that the guidelines are not formally gazetted and the proposed mitigation measures are extensive and should</p>

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		<p>the previous layout which was authorised prior to the release of the VERA model and Verreux's Eagle guidelines. You are hereby reminded that even though the EA was issued prior to the release of the VERA model and Verreux's Eagle guidelines, the EMPr was not approved. As such, you are expected to comply with the relevant guidelines and recommendations by the avifaunal specialist.</p>	<p>significantly reduce the impact of the wind farm. Furthermore, the industry as a whole will benefit from experience gained through the implementation of the novel mitigation measures such as blade painting and the curtailment modelling exercise using deep neural techniques, which is a first for SA.</p> <p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>The applicant has implemented extensive additional bird monitoring in line with the Verreux's Eagle guidelines and the existing standard guidelines. This monitoring was done between 2019 and 2021. Furthermore, the applicant took steps to engage the VERA model authors and run the VERA model, before the VERA model was finalised and released for use. The outputs of that process have significantly influenced the final design of the project, with a reduction of the number of turbines from 61 to 26. Although the current EA condition (Condition 43, as amended) places a restriction of 800m around VE nests, the applicant has adopted a significantly larger exclusion zone through consultation with the avifaunal specialist who considered all information and guidance at hand, including the extensive additional bird monitoring done.</p>

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			<p>Therefore, in summary, the Best Practice Guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa and the Verreaux's Eagle Guidelines were consulted and considered by the applicant when designing the revised layout. The revised layout significantly reduces the number of turbines from 61 to 26 and introduces extensive mitigation measures such as turbine exclusion zones for high-risk areas, shutdown-on-demand (SDoD), blade painting and focused pre-emptive curtailment. The specialist's assessment of the revised layout and mitigation measures was conducted with reference to the Guidelines. The specialist is satisfied that the Guidelines have been appropriately consulted and addressed in the final layout and the mitigation measures that have been put in place, and that the final layout is the best possible viable layout. The specialist has accordingly approved the layout and the mitigation measures.</p>
		<p>5a.9.</p> <p>i. Further to the above, you are reminded that the specific conditions of the EA dated 01 March 2013 remain valid and must be considered during the</p>	<p>5a.9. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>All specific conditions in the EA dated 01 March 2013, as amended, have been taken into consideration by the Applicant and project team, including specialists, during the siting of the wind</p>

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		<p>micro siting of the wind turbines in the final layout plan to be submitted.</p>	<p>turbines in the final layout plan which has been submitted for decision-making.</p> <p>The avifaunal specialists responded:</p> <p>Please note that as far as the avifauna is concerned, the recommendations in the walk-through report replace all recommendations contained in previous avifaunal impact assessment reports and Environmental Management Programmes, which are now outdated.</p> <p>EAP: Note that the avifaunal specialists' response above does not influence the Applicant's ability to comply with the Conditions of Authorisation in the EA. The Applicant has confirmed that they will ensure compliance with the Conditions of the EA, as well as the mitigation measures of all specialists (including the avifaunal specialist's updated mitigations) in the final Amended EMPr.</p> <p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>Specific conditions of the EA dated 01 March 2013 have been considered during the micro siting of the wind turbines in the final layout plan submitted for decision making.</p>

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		<p>5a.10.</p> <p>j. Please ensure that the final generic EMPr comply with the requirements as mentioned in the generic EMPr published by the Department (No 435 of 22 March 2019).</p>	<p>5a.10. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>The final generic EMPr for the <i>Development and Expansion of Substation Infrastructure for the Transmission and Distribution of Electricity</i> complies with the requirements mentioned in the generic EMPr published by the Department (No 435 of 22 March 2019). Please refer to Appendix O for the final generic EMPr.</p>
		<p>5a.11.</p> <p>k. Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 37(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), taking into consideration the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity and Conservation Section at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za. 	<p>5a.11. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>The public participation process was conducted in terms of Regulation 37(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>Despite attempts to obtain comments from the Department's Biodiversity and Conservation Section at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za, comments have not been received for the EMPr and Layout Plan finalisation process. Notification of the public participation process and request for comment was sent to the aforementioned directorate on 14 November 2022. A 'read receipt' was received from Portia Makitla on 14 November 2022. Furthermore, an email was received from Kamogelo Mathetja of DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation on 15 November 2022, acknowledging receipt of the</p>

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			<p>invitation to review and comment on the project and indicating that the project had been allocated to Mrs Portia Makitla and Ms M Mudau. A reminder email was sent by TW of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants to relevant State Departments and Organs of State on 8 December 2022. No further comment was however received from the DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation. Please refer to Appendix R6 for proof of attempts to obtain comments from the Department's Biodiversity and Conservation Section.</p>
		<p>5a.12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft EMPr and layout plan from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are included and adequately addressed in the final EMPr, including comments from this CA, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR). The format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. 	<p>5a.12. The EAP responded as follows:</p> <p>All issues raised and comments received on the draft EMPr and final layout plan from I&APs and organs of state have been captured verbatim in this Comments and Response Report which is being submitted together with the final Amended EMPr and final layout plan to DFFE for decision-making. The format of this report is as per that described in Annexure 1 of the DFFE's comments letter.</p>
		<p>5a.13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have 	<p>5a.13. The EAP responded as follows:</p>

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		jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the CA with the final EMPr.	The original copies of all comments submitted during the public participation period are attached as Appendix R5 to the Final Amended EMPr.
		5a.14. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EMPr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the CA of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. 	5a.14. The EAP responded as follows: Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders, as well as proof of attempts to obtain comments, is attached as Appendix R6 to the Final Amended EMPr.
		5a.15. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually. 	5a.15. The EAP responded as follows: Comments from I&APs have not been split and arranged into categories. Comments from each stakeholder have been documented verbatim (excluding greetings) in this Comment and Response Report and each comment has been responded to individually.
		5a.16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments. 	5a.16. The EAP responded as follows: All comments have been recorded verbatim (i.e. comments have not been summarised) and a clear response has been provided to each comment. ‘Noted’ has not been used as a response to any comment.

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		<p>5a.17.</p> <p>Should you fail to meet the timeframe stipulated in Regulation 37(5), please note that the application in terms of Regulation 45 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, will lapse.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the CA.</p>	<p>5a.17. The EAP responded:</p> <p>It is noted that if the timeframe stipulated in Regulation 37(5) is not met, the application will lapse. It is also noted that the timeframe in Regulation 37(5) relates to the scenario where no comments are received (which is not the case for this public participation process, as comments from I&APs were indeed received).</p> <p>The Applicant has noted that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the CA.</p>
6	<p>13/12/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>CMO Grondverskuiwing en Algemene konstruksie (Anoulice Strydom)</p>	<p>6.1. Thank you for the e mail and remainder.</p> <p>Please note that as we are not affected by the wind farm we offer accommodation as well as our contract services as previously mentioned.</p> <p>Our accommodation is free to view and we are about 15km from first site.</p> <p>As we've previously worked as contractors with CSV at the Phillipstown site we have our services available at any possible way needed.</p> <p>Hope to hear from you ASAP</p> <p>Have a blessed festive season</p>	<p>6.1. TW responded on 13/12/2022:</p> <p>Thank you very much for your email.</p> <p>Kindly note that all comments submitted by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the I&AP comment period will be recorded in a Comments & Response Trail Report (C&R report), which will include all comments submitted by I&APs and the project team's responses. The Comments and Response Trail Report will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr for decision making, in due course.</p>

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7	<p>13/12/2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness (Thivhulawi Nethononda)</p>	<p>7.1.</p> <p>The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness, would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the De Aar 2 South WEF: Amended EMPr and Final site layout plan and supporting documents for the above-mentioned project.</p> <p>After conducting the review of the submitted documents, we have noted that the proposed developments will not take place within any kind of protected areas in terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), Act No. 57 of 2003. Subsequently, this directorate provides comments or input on the projects which are affecting the national protected areas. In terms of our records, no protected areas is affected by the proposed development, however the EAP must confirm with the provincial department responsible for nature conservation.</p> <p>However, the EAP must consult and get comments (if not yet consulted) from the Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) which can be contacted at BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>7.1. TW responded on 13/12/2022:</p> <p>Thank you very much for your Directorate's (Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness) comments.</p> <p>Kindly note that all comments submitted by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the I&AP comment period will be recorded in a Comments & Response Trail Report (C&R report), which will include all comments submitted by I&APs and the project team's responses. The Comments and Response Trail Report will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr for decision making, in due course.</p> <p>Additionally, the EAP had the following response:</p> <p>It is noted that The Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness has no record of protected areas affected by the proposed development. Furthermore, comment has been received from the provincial authority (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform) on the project and they have confirmed that no CBA1 or CBA2 areas will be impacted by the proposed development.</p>

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		<p>Further, also notify the provincial departments, local municipality, and other associated entities for comments.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	<p>Despite attempts to obtain comments from DFFE’s Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate, comments have not been received for the EMPr and Layout Plan finalisation process. Notification of the public participation process and request for comment was sent to the Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate of DFFE on 14 November 2022 and a reminder email was sent on 8 December 2022. A ‘read receipt’ was received from Portia Makitla on 14 November 2022, and an email was received from Kamogelo Mathetja of DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation on 15 November 2022, acknowledging receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project and indicating that the project had been allocated to Mrs Portia Makitla and Ms M Mudau. No further comment was however received. (Note: The DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation did submit comment (dated 23 January 2023) on the recent Part 1 EA amendment process for the De Aar 2 South project (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/1/AM9) that is currently awaiting decision making with DFFE. In the aforementioned comment, DFFE’s Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation stated that “<i>The proposed final layout turbine positions will remain within the assessed and authorised project footprint. Furthermore, all the proposed 28 positions (of which 26 would be developed) have been assessed. No significant changes to the receiving environment have occurred since the original EIA.</i>”</p>

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			<p><i>Based on the information above, the Directorate does not have any objections to the proposed amendment provided that all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the Draft motivational report and specialist studies will be included in the final EMPr and adhered to".</i></p> <p>The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL) was notified, and comments were received from DAERL on 23 November 2022. The comments are included in this CRR (refer to Comment 4 above). The Northern Cape Department of Energy, the Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency and the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works were notified and invited to comment on 14 November 2022 and a reminder email was sent again to these entities on 8 December 2022. No comment was however received from the aforementioned Departments.</p> <p>Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Emthanjeni Local Municipality and Renosterberg Local Municipality were notified of the public participation period on 14 November 2022 and a reminder email was sent again to these Municipalities on 8 December 2022. No comment was received from the Municipalities despite receiving a read receipt from</p>

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			Isak Visser and SG Booysen (Emthanjeni Municipality) as well as from the email address pixley@albieswireless.co.za.
8	<p>14/12/2022</p> <p>Letter received via email</p> <p>South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Natasha Higgit)</p>	<p>8.1.</p> <p align="center">Final Comment</p> <p align="center">In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>Attention: Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Proposed Wind Energy Facility situated on the Eastern Plateau (south) near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province: Application for Amendment of Environmental Authorisation (DEA Ref No.: 12/12/20/2463/AM3)</p> <p>Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment application for the authorised Wind Energy Facility (WEF) situated in the eastern plateau (south) near De Aar, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/2463/1/AM9).</p> <p>A Draft Amendment Motivation Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The amendment includes several updates to the project</p>	<p>8.1. No substantive response needed as these are statements of fact.</p> <p>Please note that the Applicant (and holder of the EA) is Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd, and not Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd. The change in holder was effected by way of an amendment to the environmental authorisation granted for this project, which amendment was approved by DFFE on 7 April 2016 (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/2463/AM4).</p>

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		<p>description, increase the width of roads to 6 m and upgrade to sections of existing roads, and an increase the size of foundations.</p> <p>Marion Bamford Consulting and ACO Associates CC have been appointed to provide input into the EA Amendment application as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Bamford, M. 2022. Specialist Statement – Palaeontology Mulilo De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility: EA Amendment Application</i></p> <p>The specialist has confirmed that the impact rating and mitigation measures provided in the initial assessment are still valid and no new mitigation measures are required to be added to the EA or EMPr.</p> <p><i>Gribble, J. 2022. Mulilo De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility: Part 1 Environmental Authorisation Amendment Application: Heritage Specialist Impact Statement</i></p> <p>A walkdown was conducted as per previous recommendation. This walkdown identified four heritage resources that include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of medium heritage significance, historical ash heap and historical werfs of low heritage significance.</p>	

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		<p>8.2.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the walkdown report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final layout plan avoids the three archaeological sites identified in the 2011 HIA. None of these sites will thus be impacted by the final layout plan and the requirement that they are archaeologically sampled can fall away; 	<p>8.2. No response needed as this is a statement, and is correct.</p>
		<p>8.3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All identified stone-walled kraals must be avoided during construction. ACO has provided the locations of these kraals for inclusion in the Environmental Sensitivity Map for the final layout plan and the kraal complexes must be demarcated prior to construction and labelled as no go areas during construction; 	<p>8.3. The EAP responded:</p> <p>All recommendations by the heritage specialist have been adhered to in terms of the proposed final layout plan and included in the amended EMPr. All identified stone-walled kraals have been avoided in the proposed Final Layout Plan and will be clearly demarcated as no go areas prior to construction. A Heritage Sensitivity Map indicating the position of the kraals (and heritage sites) is also included in the Final Amended EMPr (in Appendix D), for ease of reference.</p>
		<p>8.4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 500 m buffers in place around the Kranskop and Vendussie Kuil farm werfs will remain although: The small overlap of the laydown area and access road with the Kranskop buffer is permitted; and the access 	<p>8.4. The EAP responded:</p> <p>No response needed as this is a statement, and correctly reflects recommendations of the heritage specialist. All recommendations by the heritage specialist have been adhered to and are reflected in</p>

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		road within the Vendussie Kuil buffer is permitted, but that instead of constructing a new road within a short distance of the farm complex, the section of the existing farm road within the buffer is upgraded to serve as the access road, thereby limiting the impacts of the WEF on the farm complex;	the proposed final layout plan and Final Amended EMPr for the project.
		8.5. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 m buffer to be adhered to around G113 or the site must be mitigated; 	8.5. The EAP responded: All recommendations by the heritage specialist have been adhered to in the final layout plan and included in the Amended EMPr for the project.
		8.6. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 m to be adhered to around G110 or the site must be mitigated 	8.6. The EAP responded: All recommendations by the heritage specialist have been adhered to in the final layout plan and are included in the Amended EMPr for the project.
		8.7. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 m buffer to be adhered to around JG104 and JG134 or the sites must be mitigated. 	8.7. The EAP responded: All recommendations by the heritage specialist have been adhered to in the final layout plan and are included in the Amended EMPr for the project.
		8.8. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specialist states that the proposed EA amendments will result in a reduction in the physical WEF footprint and the impacts to heritage resources. 	8.8. No response required as this is a statement, which correctly reflects what was indicated by the heritage specialist, and relates to the EA Amendment process (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/1/AM9) currently in

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		Larger hardstands and wider roads may result in limited and minor impacts that can be mitigated.	progress (i.e. currently awaiting decision making by DFFE).
		<p>8.9. Final Comment</p> <p>The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Amendment Report and EMPr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the proposed amendment to the development; 	<p>8.9. The EAP responded:</p> <p>SAHRA’s comment has been included in the Final Amended EMPr (in Appendix R5), and was also included in the Final Amendment Motivation Report (February 2023) as part of the separate EA amendment process that is awaiting decision making by DFFE).</p>
		<p>8.10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)b – All previously provided conditions by the heritage specialists must be adhered to as stated in the letter issued on the SAHRIS Case application on 08/03/2016 (http://sahra.org.za/sahris/node/358381) with the exception of the walkdown requirement, as this has been completed; 	<p>8.10. The EAP responded:</p> <p>All conditions mentioned by the heritage specialists and as stated in the letter issued by SAHRA on 08/03/2016 have been adhered to in the finalisation of the site layout plan. The findings from the walkdown conducted by the specialist in 2022 informed the finalisation of the site layout plan. Note that the heritage specialist stated in the heritage walkdown report (2022) for the Final Layout (refer to Appendix E3 of the Amended EMPr) that the recommendations included in the heritage</p>

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			walkdown report (2022) replace those included in the HIA (2011) and Addendum report (2015).
		<p>8.11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 	<p>8.11. The EAP responded:</p> <p>This condition is included in the Final Amended EMPr (in SDEMA4.13 “Protection of archaeological and palaeontological remains”).</p>
		<p>8.12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/ Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 	<p>8.12. The EAP responded:</p> <p>This condition is included in the Final Amended EMPr (in SDEMA4.13 “Protection of archaeological and palaeontological remains”).</p>

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		<p>8.13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences; 	<p>8.13. The EAP responded:</p> <p>In terms of offences, the Applicant has taken note of Section 51(1) of the NHRA. The Amended EMPr refers to Section 51(1) of the NHRA in terms of offences (in SDEMA4.13 “Protection of archaeological and palaeontological remains”).</p>
		<p>8.14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA 	<p>8.14. The EAP responded:</p> <p>This condition is included in the final Amended EMPr (in SDEMA4.13 “Protection of archaeological and palaeontological remains”).</p>
		<p>8.15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application. 	<p>8.15. The EAP responded:</p> <p>No response required as this comment relates specifically to the EA Amendment process being run separately to the EMPr and site layout plan finalisation (and the comment has been responded</p>

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		Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.	to in the Comments and Response Trail Report (C&R) for the EA amendment process). With this said, the decision regarding the Amended EMPr and Site Layout Plan Finalisation process (as well as the decision for the EA amendment process) will be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application in due course.
8a	16/01/2023 Email South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (Natasha Higgitt)	8a.1. Good afternoon, Yes, the Final Comment issued on the 14/12/2022 is valid for the EMPr. Do you need a separate comment where the EMPr is specifically noted?	8a.1. The comment was provided by Natasha Higgitt of SAHRA after TW of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants queried the applicability of SAHRA's comment received on 14 December 2022 to the Amended EMPr and Site Layout Finalisation process in addition to the EA amendment application (as the subject title of SAHRA's comment referred only to the Application for Amendment of the EA, however some of the comments related to the EMPr and Final Layout). Natasha Higgitt confirmed that the SAHRA comment dated 14 December 2022 applies to both the EA Amendment Application process and the Amended EMPr and Site Layout Plan Finalisation process.
9	16/02/2023 Email (EMPr with comments, attached)	9.1. I have included some comments on the EMPr for De Aar 2 South WEF in the attached. Apologies for the delay in getting this to you.	9.1. TW responded on 24 February 2023: Apologies for the late acknowledgment of your email.

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	BirdLife South Africa (Samantha Ralston-Paton)		<p>Thanks very much for your comments (on behalf of BirdLife SA) on the draft Amended EMPr.</p> <p>Kindly note that all comments submitted by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the I&AP comment period, as well as your comment, will be recorded in a Comments & Response Trail Report (C&R report), which will include all comments/inputs submitted by I&APs and the project team's responses. The Comments and Response Trail Report will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr for decision making, in due course.</p>
9a	<p>16/02/2023</p> <p>Draft EMPr with comments</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa (Samantha Ralston-Paton)</p>	<p><u>PLEASE NOTE: The BLSA comments on the draft amended EMPr were supplied as sticky notes in the draft amended EMPr PDF document (refer to Appendix R5 of the Final Amended EMPr for the full comment). The relevant extract from the draft amended EMPr (November 2022) is provided below, with an outline of the sticky note comment.</u> (Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the context).</p> <p>9a.1. Page 18, 3rd bullet point from bottom, states "A 750m turbine exclusion zone around the Jackal Buzzard nests must be implemented".</p>	<p>9a.1. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>A 1km all infrastructure exclusion zone must be implemented around all Verreaux's Eagle nests to prevent disturbance of the breeding pair(s) except for authorised linear infrastructure. If linear infrastructure is needed in these areas, then construction thereof must avoid the breeding season, as described in the response below (9a.2.)</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p>

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		<p>Samantha Ralston-Paton (SR) of BLSA commented <i>“An exclusion zone for Verreaux’s eagle should also be specified.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>The following mitigation measure has been added to the Final Amended EMPr:</p> <p>A 1km all infrastructure exclusion zone must be implemented around all Verreaux’s Eagle nests to prevent disturbance of the breeding pair(s) except for authorised linear infrastructure. If linear infrastructure is needed in these areas, then construction thereof must avoid the breeding season (as described in the response below (9a.2.)).</p>
		<p>9a.2. Page 49, section titled “specific mitigation measures application to the construction phase recommended by the specialists”, subsection “Avifauna”.</p> <p>SR commented <i>“If any construction is planned within 1km of nests, please include a requirement to avoid of construction in breeding season”.</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.2. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>Should construction of authorised linear infrastructure be planned within 1 km of a Verreaux’s Eagle nest, the construction must take place outside of the breeding season.</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>The following mitigation measure has been added to the section on ‘construction phase mitigation measures recommended by specialists’ in the Final Amended EMPr:</p> <p>Should construction of authorised linear infrastructure be planned within 1 km of a Verreaux’s Eagle nest, the construction must take place outside of the breeding season.</p>

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		<p>9a.3. Page 56, section titled “Specific Mitigation Measures (applicable to the operational phase) recommended by the project specialists are outlined below”, subsection “Avifauna”, first bullet point: <i>“A programme of observer-based Shutdown on Demand (SdoD) to reduce potential SCC turbine collisions must be implemented for the whole wind farm. Trigger species are the following: Verreaux’s Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black Stork, Lanner Falcon, Tawny Eagle, Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture. The details of the SdoD (number of observation points, training of observers and scheduled shifts) must be determined in consultation with the avifaunal specialist. The SdoD must be in place to commence on the first day of commercial operation”.</i></p> <p>SR commented <i>“SSOD should be undertaken everyday of the week including weekends and public holidays.”</i></p>	<p>9a.3. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The following addition has been made to the SDoD mitigation measures under the avifaunal section for ‘Specific Mitigation Measures (applicable to the operational phase) recommended by the project specialists’ in the Final Amended EMPr:</p> <p>“...and must be in place 365 days a year (unless conditions are unsafe).”</p>
		<p>9a.4. Page 56, 2nd bullet point from the bottom: “As a minimum, operational monitoring should be undertaken for the first five years of operation, and then repeated again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results</p>	<p>9a.4. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen & Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>The aim is for all 26 turbines to be searched weekly unless circumstances prevent searching from taking place e.g adverse weather conditions.</p>

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		<p>of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management”.</p> <p>SR commented <i>“In light of the importance of SSOD, fatality searches should continue for the lifespan of the project to verify if it is effective. All turbines within VEagle territories should be searched, with a minimum frequency of monthly.</i></p> <p><i>Quarterly reports to please be shared with BirdLife SA withing 3 months of last date of data collection.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>The mitigation measure referred to by SR in the avifaunal section for ‘Specific Mitigation Measures (applicable to the operational phase) recommended by the project specialists’ in the Amended EMPr has been updated to read:</p> <p>“Operational phase avifaunal monitoring (which consists of live bird monitoring and/or carcass searching) must be undertaken for the lifespan of the WEF. As a minimum, operational live-bird monitoring must be undertaken for the first three years of operation, and then repeated again in year five and every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. Carcass searching under turbines should be done every year for the life-span of the facility. The aim is for all 26 turbines to be searched weekly unless circumstances prevent searching from taking place e.g adverse weather conditions. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the specialist based on the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management, and should be sufficient to monitor the impact of the facility and the effectiveness/non-effectiveness of the mitigation measures.”</p>

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			<p>The EMPr has also been updated to stipulate that quarterly reports are to be shared with BirdLife SA within 3 months of the last date of data collection, as requested.</p>
		<p>Page 56, last bullet point on page, states “Depending on the results of the monitoring, a range of mitigation measures will have to be considered if the impact on mortality turns out to be significant, including expanding curtailment to additional problem turbines during high-risk periods” (emphasis added by SR of BLSA”).</p> <p>SR commented <i>“This is weak and open ended. “Considered” is not implementation. No timeframes are provided. There is also often disagreement about what is significant. Please clearly define this here.</i></p> <p><i>Suggestion: If fatalities of threatened species occur, and are likely to re-occur, additional mitigation measures MUST BE IMPLEMENTED within a maximum of 12 months from the incident(s). if this is not possible, biodiversity offsets/compensation must be implemented, with the objective of achieving no net loss / net gain (please define) for the species affected.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>The Applicant responded:</p> <p>We agree to change the mitigation measure to:</p> <p>“If fatalities of certain threatened species occur (as identified as target species by the specialist), are likely to re-occur and are likely to result in a significant impact to the Directly Affected Population (as determined by the specialist), then additional mitigation measures must be implemented. The implementation must be done within a reasonable and agreed upon time between the applicant and the avifaunal specialist, considering the type and extent of mitigation recommended at the time. If this is not possible, biodiversity offsets and/or compensation must be implemented, with the objective of achieving no biologically significant loss for the species affected (as determined by the avifaunal specialist).</p>

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		<p>9a.5. Page 57, Figure 4: The proposed turbine exclusion zones Jackal Buzzard nests, boreholes, dams and escarpment edge, and turbines (white points) including those turbines to be curtailed (red points)”</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Please also indicate exclusion zones for VEagle.</i>”</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.5. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>A 1km all infrastructure exclusion zone must be implemented around all Verreux’s Eagle nests to prevent disturbance of the breeding pair(s) except for authorised linear infrastructure. If linear infrastructure is needed in these areas, then construction thereof must avoid the breeding season.</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>Figure 4 has been updated to include the Verreux’s Eagle nest exclusion zones for all infrastructure (except for authorised linear infrastructure).</p>
		<p>9a.6. Page 63, “Mitigation measure, point 3, states, “Appoint an independent Environmental Professional to undertake bi-annual audits for the first three years of operation and once every five years thereafter. Each audit is to be based on site visits by the auditor as well as a review of any records of environmental management to be kept by the EM. The audit must also determine whether the OEMP is adequately dealing with the range of environmental impacts on the site, i.e. whether the plan is still appropriate, or whether it needs to be extended. The Audit Report</p>	<p>9a.6. The EAP responded:</p> <p>To address comments from BLSA during the recent EA amendment application for the project, this particular bullet point in the EMPr has been updated to stipulate more frequent audits (i.e. quarterly for the first five years, and once yearly thereafter), to ensure the bird and bat monitoring reports are included in the scope of the audits, and for the results of the audits to also be submitted to BLSA, in addition to DFFE and DAERL. Point 3 of the</p>

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		<p>produced shall comply with the requirements of Regulation 34 of GN R982, as amended, and shall meet the content requirements laid out in Appendix 7 of GN R982, as amended. The audit report is to include recommendations of changes required to the OEMP document and/or any Appendices to the EMPr that have relevance to the Operational Phase, management practices etc to improve environmental management of the site. The results of this audit must be submitted to DFFE and DAERL”.</p> <p>SR commented <i>“Including bird and bat monitoring reports.”</i></p>	<p>mitigation measures in No.1. of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programmed Table in the draft Amended EMPr has been updated as follows:</p> <p>“Appoint an independent environmental auditor (which can be the ECO appointed as per Condition 19 of the EA) to undertake quarterly audits for the first five years of operation and once yearly thereafter. Each audit is to be based on site visits by the auditor as well as a review of any records of environmental management (including bird and bat monitoring reports), and the outcomes thereof. The audit must also determine whether the Operational Phase EMP and associated impact management actions are adequately dealing with the range of environmental impacts on site. The results of the audit must be submitted to DFFE, DAERL as well as to BLSA.”</p>
		<p>9a.7. Page 64 (mitigation measure “4”) states, “Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development”.</p> <p>SR commented <i>“And key stakeholders (e.g. BirdLife SA).”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.7. The EAP responded:</p> <p>Point 4 of the mitigation measures in No. 1 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programmed Table in the draft Amended EMPr has been updated to read as follows:</p> <p>“Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to</p>

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			any relevant and competent authority and key stakeholders (e.g. BirdLife SA) in respect of this development.”
		<p>9a.8. Page 70 (“impact” column), states “Disturbance to or loss of birds as a result of collision with the turbine blades”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>I’m not sure where this should fit in (construction phase vs operational), but consider include something on blade-painting as mitigation. It would be nice to have some explicit indicators of whether it is working or not.</i>”</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.8. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The blade painting requirement is specified in Section 3.3.3 (and Figure 3) of the EMPr (“Additional Pre-construction Requirements”), to ensure that it is taken into account in the design/pre-construction phase.</p> <p>Furthermore, the following mitigation measure has been added to No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr:</p> <p>“All turbines must have one blade painted in signal red according to pattern no. 4 depicted in Figure 3 of this EMPr (as per the recommendations of the avifaunal specialist)”.</p> <p>The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>The mortality rate and Verreux’s Eagle nest occupancy rate at the De Aar 1 and 2 North wind farms, for which robust mortality data exist, must serve as a baseline to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures implemented at De Aar 2</p>

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			<p>South. It is expected that given the suite of mitigation that will be implemented at De Aar 2 South, that the nest occupancy rate would be higher, and the mortality rate will lower at De Aar 2 South compared to the other two wind farms.</p> <p>Recommended performance indicators are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued, uninterrupted presence of a pair or pairs of Verreaux's Eagles at the site (continues active territory) to be monitored annually. Significantly fewer mortalities of target species compared to the corresponding periods at the other two De Aar wind farms (De Aar 1 and De Aar 2 North) measured annually. <p>The EAP added:</p> <p>The abovementioned recommended performance indicators have been added to the EMPr in the subject section.</p>
		<p>9a.9. Page 70, point No. 5, “objective”, states “Objective: To reduce the impact of the operating WEF on priority bird species”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>This objective is very vague. Could we have it more specific? E.g. To ensure no fatalities of threatened species occur.</i>”</p>	<p>9a.9. The EAP responded:</p> <p>Thank you for the suggestion. The “Objective” of No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been amended to read:</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH), NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/MP1)

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p align="center"><i>Or</i></p> <p align="center"><i>To ensure local, regional or national populations of bird species of conservation concern are not compromised by turbine / powerline fatalities.</i></p> <p align="center">(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p align="center">“To ensure local, regional or national populations of bird species of conservation concern are not compromised by turbine / powerline fatalities.”</p>
		<p>9a.10. Page 70, point 5, (“verification” column), which currently states: “EM, O&M Contractor, & DFFE”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Verification should be through submission of monitoring reports to authorities and stakeholders and auditing of reports.</i>”</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.10. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The ‘Verification’ column of No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to include:</p> <p>“Submission of monitoring reports to DAEARL, DFFE, BLSA and EWT and the auditing of these reports.”</p>
		<p>9a.11. Page 70, point No. 5, (“performance indicator” column), paragraph stating: “No additional disturbance to avifauna populations along the length of the power line routes”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Disturbance is often used in the context of disruption behaviours. Suggest change disturbance to “fatalities” or “loss” to avoid confusion.</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9a.11. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The performance indicator of No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to read:</p> <p>“No significant loss to avifauna populations along the length of the power line routes”.</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH), NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/MP1)

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>9.12. Page 71 (“performance indicator” column): “Monitoring reports submitted to relevant provincial environment, Birdlife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), and DFFE on a quarterly basis”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Specify timeframe. e.g. within 3 months of the last date of data collection.</i>”</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.12. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The performance indicator of No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to read:</p> <p>“Monitoring reports submitted to relevant provincial environment, Birdlife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), and DFFE on a quarterly basis, within 3 months of the last date of data collection.”</p>
		<p>9.13. Page 70-71 (“mitigation measure” column), bullet point states: “A programme of observer-based Shutdown on Demand to reduce potential SCC turbine collisions must be implemented for the whole wind farm. Trigger species are the following: Verreaux’s Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black Stork, Lanner Falcon, Tawny Eagle, Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture. The details of the SdoD (number of observation points, training of observers and scheduled shifts) must be determined in consultation with the avifaunal specialist. The SdoD must be in place to commence on the first day of commercial operation”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Must be in place 365 days a year (unless conditions are unsafe).</i>”</p>	<p>9.13. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The mitigation measure regarding SDoD in point No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to add the words:</p> <p>“...and must be in place 365 days a year (unless conditions are unsafe).”</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH), NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/MP1)

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).	
		<p>9.14. Page 71 – 72 (“schedule” column), bullet point states: “As a minimum, operational monitoring should be undertaken for the first five years of operation, and then repeated again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Should be lifespan, but frequency of surveys could be reduced to monthly.</i>”</p> <p><i>ALL turbines within Verreaux Eagle territory should be surveyed.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.14. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The “schedule” column of No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to include the following:</p> <p>“Operational phase avifaunal monitoring (which consists of live bird monitoring and/or carcass searching) must be undertaken for the lifespan of the WEF. As a minimum, operational live-bird monitoring must be undertaken for the first three years of operation, and then repeated again in year five and every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. Carcass searching under turbines should be done every year for the life-span of the facility. All 26 turbines to be searched weekly unless circumstances prevent searching from taking place e.g adverse weather conditions. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the specialist based on the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management, and should be sufficient to monitor the impact of the facility and the effectiveness/non-effectiveness of the mitigation measures.”</p>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH), NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL SITE LAYOUT PLAN (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2463/MP1)

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>9.15. Page 72 (“mitigation measure” column), bullet point states: “Curtailment threshold for winter and spring (1 June to 31 October): 60% or higher probability of flying. The lower threshold is to reduce the likelihood of impact on dependent chicks/fledglings”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>Please define performance indicator for this and specify the means of verification.</i>”</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.15. The avifaunal specialists (Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman) responded:</p> <p>Detailed records to be kept of all mortalities and the curtailment events and avifaunal specialist to report on it in the quarterly reports.</p> <p>The EAP responded:</p> <p>The performance indicator recommended by the avifaunal specialist above has been included in No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Final Amended EMPr, i.e:</p> <p>“Detailed records to be kept of all mortalities and the curtailment events and avifaunal specialist to report on it in the quarterly reports”.</p> <p>This would be verified primarily by the independent environmental auditor and environmental manager for the project. Other means of verification include the submission of monitoring reports to DAERL, DFFE, BLSA and EWT and the auditing of these reports, as specified in the OEMP.</p>
		<p>9.16. Page 72 (“mitigation measure” column), last bullet point: “Formal operational monitoring should be resumed once the turbines have been constructed, as per the most recent edition (2015) of the best practice guidelines (Jenkins et al. 2011). The exact</p>	<p>9.16. The EAP responded:</p> <p>Whilst we do not disagree with BLSA’s sentiment regarding monitoring, in our opinion, monitoring is also an “impact management action”, i.e. it is necessary to measure if mitigation is effective.</p>

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No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
		<p>time when post-construction monitoring should commence, will depend on the construction schedule, and will be agreed upon with the site operator once these timelines and a commercial operational date have been finalised.”</p> <p>SR commented <i>“This is probably pedantic, but monitoring is not mitigation. Monitoring is necessary to measure if mitigation is effective (i.e compare against performance indicator) and reports would be the means of verification.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>Whilst the heading of the “mitigation measure” column in the OEMP did also refer to “impact management actions”, the heading of the column has been updated in the Final EMPr to be more clear in that regard.</p> <p>Monitoring reports are included and addressed in both the “performance indicator” and “verification” columns for this particular bullet point in the OEMP.</p>
		<p>9.17. Page 73 (“mitigation measure” column), bullet point that states “As a minimum, operational monitoring should be undertaken for the first five years of operation, and then repeated again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management”.</p> <p>SR commented <i>“see previous comment. Necessary for the lifespan given the risks.”</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.17. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The mitigation measure in No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the Amended EMPr has been updated to read:</p> <p>“Operational phase avifaunal monitoring (which consists of live bird monitoring and/or carcass searching) must be undertaken for the lifespan of the WEF. As a minimum, operational live-bird monitoring must be undertaken for the first three years of operation, and then repeated again in year five and every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. Carcass searching under turbines should be done every year</p>

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No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation / I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP / Applicant / Specialist
			<p>for the life-span of the facility. All 26 turbines to be searched weekly unless circumstances prevent searching from taking place e.g adverse weather conditions. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the specialist based on the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management, and should be sufficient to monitor the impact of the facility and the effectiveness/non-effectiveness of the mitigation measures.”</p>
		<p>9.18. Page 73 (“mitigation measure” column), last bullet on page, which states “Depending on the results of the monitoring, a range of mitigation measures will have to be considered if the impact on mortality turns out to be significant, including expanding curtailment to additional problem turbines during high-risk periods”.</p> <p>SR commented “<i>See previous comment.</i></p> <p><i>Specify other activities and include offsets.</i></p> <p><i>Also include timeframes.</i></p> <p><i>Considering additional measures is not enough, something must be done”.</i></p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.18. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The mitigation measure in No. 5 of the Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table in the draft Amended EMPr has been updated to indicate the following:</p> <p>“If fatalities of certain threatened species occur (as identified as target species by the specialist), are likely to re-occur and are likely to result in a significant impact to the Directly Affected Population (as determined by the avifaunal specialist), then additional mitigation measures must be implemented. The implementation must be done within a reasonable and agreed upon time between the applicant and the avifaunal specialist, considering the type and extent of mitigation recommended at the time. If this is not possible,</p>

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			<p>biodiversity offsets and/or compensation must be implemented, with the objective of achieving no biologically significant loss for the species affected (as determined by the avifaunal specialist)."</p> <p>Accordingly, biodiversity offsets will be a requirement in the amended EMPr in the event that the avifaunal specialist undertaking the operational monitoring deem fatality levels to be of biological significance, and in the event that all of the mitigation measures are proven not to be effective (even after adjustments and improvements have been made and implemented), as determined by the avifaunal specialist at the time, at which stage the details of the biodiversity offsets can be determined in consultation with BLSA and the avifaunal specialist, if they become necessary.</p>
		<p>9.19. Page 74, point 6, "activity" column, which states "Construction Activities (wind energy facility)</p> <p>SR commented "<i>Right section of EMPr? Should this not be under construction section?</i>"</p> <p>(Refer to Appendix 1 of the CRR for the full context).</p>	<p>9.19. The EAP responded:</p> <p>The activity relates to maintenance activities during the operational phase that may require the handling and management of hazardous substances and waste. The wording of the activity in point 6 has been updated in the final amended EMPr to read "Maintenance Activities (wind energy facility)", instead of "Construction Activities", to avoid confusion.</p>

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PROVINCE: AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) AND FINAL
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APPENDIX 1


SUMMARY OF BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMENDED EMPr
(REFER TO APPENDIX R5 OF THE EMPr FOR THE ORIGINAL COMMENT SUBMITTED)

- Locate roads, cabling and other infrastructure in order to avoid drainage lines, as far as possible; and
- Locate the proposed project in such a way that the development footprint is minimized, as far as possible.
- Rescue any species of value from the footprint of construction (as per the Plant Rescue and Protection Plan (refer to Appendix F)).
- Some road alignment changes (detailed in the “Proposed Layout Changes” section of the Ecological Walkthrough Report – refer to Appendix E1) were proposed by the ecological specialist, and the majority have now been implemented by the Developer, to avoid drainage areas (specifically lowland flats that are seasonally waterlogged), areas of high topographic (habitat) diversity, and steep slopes. (The ecological specialist has confirmed that the proposed Final Layout is acceptable – refer to Appendix E1).

Avifauna:


- A 12 month long bird monitoring programme must be implemented prior to the commencement of construction. (Note: This has been completed. Pre-construction monitoring was conducted in 2013-2014 (Van Rooyen et al. 2014), the second year of pre-construction monitoring was completed in July 2022, and the additional analysis of flight data was undertaken to inform a curtailment programme).
- Note: The avifauna recommendations included in the amended EMPr are based on the pre-construction monitoring conducted in 2013-2014 (Van Rooyen et al. 2014), the second year of pre-construction monitoring that was completed in July 2022, and the additional analysis of flight data undertaken to inform a curtailment programme. The recommendations in the Avifauna Walkthrough Report (November 2022) (refer to Appendix E2) replace all recommendations contained in previous avifaunal impact assessment reports and Environmental Management Programmes, which are now outdated).


The following design changes were recommended to the applicant by the avifauna specialist and implemented in the current (final) layout to be included in the amended EMPr:


- Ideally no turbines should be located in the VERA high risk zone. It is noted that the project received environmental authorization before the Verreux's Eagle guidelines, or the VERA model came in to being. The current turbine layout has been assessed as the most conservative layout possible in terms of avoiding VERA high risk zones and maintaining the viability of the project, in contrast to the previous layout which was authorized prior to the release of the VERA model and Verreux's Eagle guidelines.
- It is understood that the 26 of the current 28 turbine positions will be utilised. This represents a significant 57.3% reduction, with 35 turbines being removed from the authorized layout of 61.
- It is recommended that a 200m turbine exclusion zone around dams and water troughs as a pre-cautionary measure against SCC and other priority species collisions.  ³
- A 750m turbine exclusion zone around the Jackal Buzzard nests must be implemented.
- A 100m turbine setback from the escarpment edge must be maintained.
- All internal 33kV medium voltage cables are to be buried if technically and practically possible.

Summary of Comments on Report No: [xxxx/xxxx]

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 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:28:43

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 10:43:08

 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 10:44:03
An exclusion zone for Verreaux's eagle should also be specified.

Specific Mitigation Measures applicable to the construction phase recommended by the specialists:

Agriculture/ Soils:

- Due to the overarching site characteristics and the nature of the proposed development viable mitigation measures are limited and will most likely revolve around erosion control:
 - Clearing activities should be kept to a minimum (turbine and road footprint).
 - In the unlikely event that heavy rains are expected activities should be put on hold to reduce the risk of erosion.
 - If additional earthworks are required, any steep or large embankments that are expected to be exposed during the 'rainy' months should either be armoured with fascine like structures.
- If earth works are required then storm water control and wind screening should be undertaken to prevent soil loss from the site.

Avifauna:



- Construction activity should be restricted to the immediate footprint of the infrastructure, and in particular to the proposed road network. Access to the remainder of the site should be strictly controlled to prevent unnecessary disturbance of SCC.
- Removal of vegetation must be restricted to a minimum.
- Construction of new roads should only be considered if existing roads cannot be upgraded.
- Care should be taken not to create habitat for prey species that could draw priority raptors into the area and expose them to collision risk. Rock piles must be removed or covered and compacted with topsoil to prevent them from becoming habitat for Rock Hyrax (Dassie).


Ecology:

WTGs

1. Unnecessary impacts on surrounding natural vegetation must be avoided. The construction impacts must be contained to the footprint of the turbines and laydown area.
2. Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction, using site-appropriate indigenous species. (Refer to Revegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Management Plan in Appendix H).
3. Existing access roads must be used, where possible.

Internal Access Roads

4. Unnecessary impacts on surrounding natural vegetation must be avoided. The construction impacts must be contained to the footprint/servitude of the internal access roads.
 5. Existing access roads must be used, where possible, as the location for new roads. Disturbances will then be placed where there is an existing, albeit small, disturbance.
 6. Steep slopes must be avoided, if possible.
 7. Rehabilitate disturbed areas adjacent to construction as quickly as possible. (Refer to Revegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Management Plan in Appendix H).
-

 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 10:48:05


If any construction is planned within 1km of nests, please include a requirement to avoid of construction in breeding season

Specific Mitigation Measures (applicable to the operational phase) recommended by the project specialists are outlined below:


Avifauna:

- A programme of observer-based Shutdown on Demand (SdoD) to reduce potential SCC turbine collisions must be implemented for the whole wind farm. Trigger species are the following: Verreaux's Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black Stork, Lanner Falcon, Tawny Eagle, Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture. The details of the SdoD (number of observation points, training of observers and scheduled shifts) must be determined in consultation with the avifaunal specialist. The SdoD must be in place to commence on the first day of commercial operation.
- In addition to the SdoD, a system of automated curtailment of the highest risk turbines must be implemented for those times of day and varied seasonally when flight activity is most likely to happen. Based on the analysis of flight data as explained in Section 7 of the Avifauna Walk Through Report (Appendix E2), the following are recommended:
 - Turbines 2, 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 must be curtailed (see Figure 9 in Appendix E2) for the location of the turbines). Turbines were identified based on proximity to Verreaux's Eagle nests, and observed flight activity.
 - Curtailment threshold for summer and autumn (1 November to 31 May): 80% or higher probability of flying.
 - Curtailment threshold for winter and spring (1 June to 31 October): 60% or higher probability of flying. The lower threshold is to reduce the likelihood of impact on dependent chicks/fledglings.
- Vehicle and pedestrian access to the site should be controlled and restricted to access roads to prevent unnecessary disturbance of SCC.
- Formal operational monitoring should be resumed once the turbines have been constructed, as per the most recent edition (2015) of the best practice guidelines (Jenkins *et al.* 2011). The exact time when post-construction monitoring should commence, will depend on the construction schedule, and will be agreed upon with the site operator once these timelines and a commercial operational date have been finalised.
- As a minimum, operational monitoring should be undertaken for the first five years of operation, and then repeated again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management.
- Depending on the results of the monitoring, a range of mitigation measures will have to be considered if the impact on mortality turns out to be significant, including expanding curtailment to additional problem turbines during high-risk periods.

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 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 10:50:32

SSOD should be undertaken everyday of the week including weekends and public holidays.

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:02:06

In light of the importance of SSOD, fatality searches should continue for the lifespan of the project to verify if it is effective. All turbines within VEagle territories should be searched, with a minimum frequency of monthly.

Quarterly reports to please be shared with BirdLife SA within 3 months of last date of data collection.

 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 10:58:36

This is weak and open ended. "Considered" is not implementation. No timeframes are provided. There is also often disagreement about what is significant. Please clearly define this here.

Suggestion: If fatalities of threatened species occur, and are likely to re-occur, additional mitigation measures **MUST BE IMPLEMENTED** within a maximum of 12 months from the incident(s). If this is not possible, biodiversity offsets/compensation must be implemented, with the objective of achieving no net loss / net gain (please define) for the species affected.

 Number: 4 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 10:53:59

 Number: 5 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 10:54:06

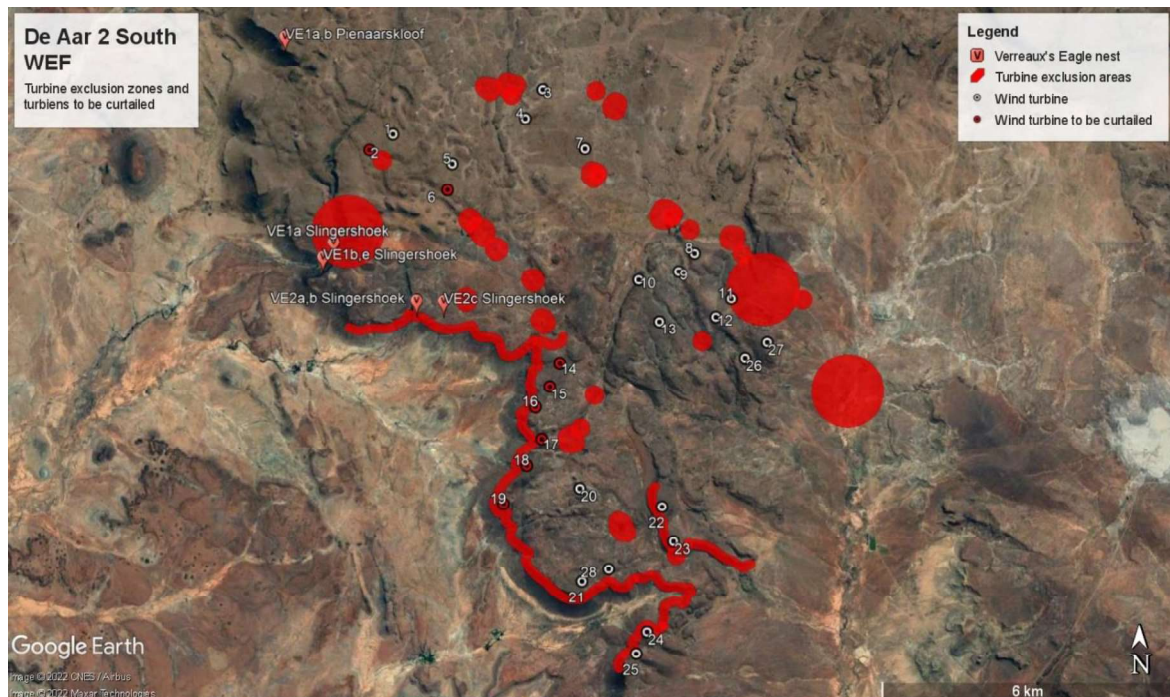


Figure 4: The proposed turbine exclusion zones Jackal Buzzard¹ nests, boreholes, dams and escarpment edge, and turbines (white points) including those turbines to be curtailed (red points).

Bats:

- Implementation of the Mitigation Action Plan for Bats (refer to Appendix G), including the following:
 - Step 1: Minimisation of light pollution and ratification habitat creation:
 - Bi-annual visits to the facility at night must be conducted for the operational lifetime of the facility by operational staff of the facility, to assess the lighting setup and whether the passive motion sensors are functioning correctly. The bat specialist conducting the operational bat mortality monitoring must conduct at least one visit to site during nighttime to assess the placement and setup of outside lights on the facility. When lights are replaced and maintenance on lights is conducted, the Mitigation Action Plan must be consulted (refer to Appendix G).
 - Step 2: Appointment of bat specialist to conduct operational bat mortality monitoring.
 - As soon as the De Aar 2 South WEF facility becomes operational, a bat specialist must be appointed to conduct a minimum of 2 years of operational bat mortality monitoring. The methodology of this monitoring must comply with the *South African Good Practice Guidelines for Operational Monitoring for Bats at Wind Energy Facilities - 2nd Edition June 2020* (Aronson et al. 2020), or any newer version of the applicable guidelines that may be in force at the start of operation of the facility.
 - The results of the bat mortality study may be used to develop mitigation measures focused on specific problematic turbines. The results of the

Please also indicate exclusion zones for VEagle.

This section contains the Operational Framework EMP table (Table 5) which constitutes the Operational Framework EMP.

Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table

NO.	ACTIVITY	ASPECT	IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE: (objective and mechanism (impact management actions))	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	SCHEDULE	VERIFICATION
1.	All Activities (wind energy facility)	Environmental management documentation and procedures	No framework within which to locate the management of the operational phase. No procedures against which to assess environmental performance during the operational phase and thus no measure of compliance.	<p>Objective: To ensure that the operation of the wind energy facility does not result in avoidable impacts on the environment, and that any impacts that do occur are anticipated and managed.</p> <p>Mechanism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Appoint a suitably qualified Environmental Manager (EM) to monitor compliance (either independent or in-house). 2) 1) Audit the compliance with the requirements of the environmental specification contained within the OEMP. 3) 3) Appoint an independent Environmental Professional to undertake bi-annual audits for the first three years of operation and once every five years thereafter. Each audit is to be based on site visits by the auditor as well as a review of any 	Environmental impacts effectively monitored and managed during the operational phase. Comprehensive record of compliance and remedial actions available <u>on site</u> .	<u>Holder of EA/ Developer</u> O&M (Operation and Maintenance Contractor)	OEMP	<u>Independent audits to be undertaken bi-annually for the first three years of operation and once every five years thereafter.</u>	<u>EM</u> <u>DFFE</u> <u>DAEARDLR</u>

Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table

NO.	ACTIVITY	ASPECT	IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE: (objective and mechanism (<u>impact management actions</u>))	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	SCHEDULE	VERIFICATION
				<p>records ¹ of environmental management to be kept by the EM. The audit must also determine whether the OEMP is adequately dealing with the range of environmental impacts on the site, i.e. whether the plan is still appropriate, or whether it needs to be extended. The Audit Report produced shall comply with the requirements of Regulation 34 of GN R982, as amended, and shall meet the content requirements laid out in Appendix 7 of GN R982, as amended. The audit report is to include recommendations of changes required to the OEMP document and/or any Appendices to the EMPr that have relevance to the Operational Phase management practices</p>					

Including bird and bat monitoring reports

Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table


NO.	ACTIVITY	ASPECT	IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE: (objective and mechanism (<u>impact management actions</u>))	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	SCHEDULE	VERIFICATION
				<p>etc to improve environmental management of the site. The results of this audit must be submitted to DFFE and DAERL.</p> <p>4) Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.</p> <p>5) Auditing to comply with requirements of the EA.</p>					
2.	All Activities (wind energy facility)	Protection of the surrounding environment (aquatic and terrestrial)	Impact of the operation and maintenance of the WEF on the surrounding environment (Ecological impacts including potential impacts on watercourses)	<p>Objective: To ensure that impacts on the surrounding biophysical environment are minimised during the operational phase.</p> <p>Mechanism:</p> <p>1) During maintenance activities limit movement in disturbed areas.</p> <p>2) Vehicle movements to be restricted to designated roadways.</p> <p>3) Any areas disturbed</p>	<p>Impacts on the surrounding environment including aquatic and terrestrial ecology, are avoided and/or minimised wherever possible.</p> <p>No further disturbance to vegetation.</p>	<p>O&M Contractor</p> <p>EM</p>	<p>EMPr</p> <p>Revegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Plan</p> <p>Stormwater Management Plan and Erosion Management Plan</p> <p>Open Space Management Plan</p>	<p>Ongoing, as required (operational phase)</p>	<p>EM/ Holder of EA</p> <p>DFFE</p> <p>DAEARDLR</p> <p>DWS</p>


And key stakeholders (e.g. BirdLife SA)

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				<p>Action Plan in Appendix G, and described above.</p> <p>5. Auditing of bat mortalities: During the implementation of the above mitigation measures, it is crucial for the facility to determine and monitor bat mortalities in order to implement, maintain and adapt mitigations as efficiently as possible (please refer to the bat Mitigation Action Plan in Appendix G and bat specialist specific operational mitigation measures described in detail above).</p> <p>6. Implementation of acoustic bat deterrents, if required, as per recommendations of bat specialist.</p>				Every 5 years (after the end of the initial 2 year operational study) for all turbines, and continuously for turbines where mitigations in Step 4 of the Mitigation Action Plan are implemented.	
5.	Operational Activities (wind energy facility)	Protection of avifauna	Disturbance to or loss of birds as a result of collision with the turbine blades. Disturbance to or loss of birds as a result of collision	<p>Objective: To reduce the impact of the operating WEF on priority bird species.</p> <p>Mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme of observer-based Shutdown on Demand to reduce potential SCC 	<p>No additional disturbance to avifauna populations on the WEF site.</p> <p>No additional disturbance to avifauna</p>	<p>Bird specialist</p> <p>O&M Contractor</p> <p>PM</p>	<p>EMP</p> <p>Avifaunal Walk-Through Report (see Appendix E2)</p>	<p>In accordance with the Avifaunal Walk-Through Report (Appendix E2). (Formal operational monitoring should be</p>	<p>EM</p> <p>O&M Contractor</p> <p>DFFE</p>

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 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:17:53

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:39:51

I'm not sure where this should fit in (construction phase vs operational), but consider include something on blade-painting as mitigation. It would be nice to have some explicit indicators of whether it is working or not.

 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:10:37

This objective is very vague. Could we have it more specific?

E.g.


To ensure no fatalities of threatened species occur.

Or


To ensure local, regional or national populations of bird species of conservation concern are not compromised by turbine / powerline fatalities.

 Number: 4 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:17:27

Verification should be through submission of monitoring reports to authorities and stakeholders and auditing of reports.


 Number: 5 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:13:00

Disturbance is often used in the context of distribution behaviours. Suggest change disturbance to "fatalities" or "loss" to avoid confusion.


 Number: 6 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:11:21

Operational Framework Environmental Management Programme Table


NO.	ACTIVITY	ASPECT	IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE: (objective and mechanism (<u>impact management actions</u>))	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	SCHEDULE	VERIFICATION
			with the overhead power lines. Electrocution as a result of the power lines.	<p>turbine collisions must be implemented for the whole wind farm. Trigger species are the following: Verreaux's Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black Stork, Lanner Falcon, Tawny Eagle, Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture. The details of the SdoD (number of observation points, training of observers and scheduled shifts) must be determined in consultation [2] with the avifaunal specialist. The SdoD must be in place to commence on the first day of commercial operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the SdoD, a system of automated curtailment of the highest risk turbines must be implemented for those times of day and varied seasonally when flight activity is most likely to happen. Based on the analysis of flight data as explained in Section 7 in the Avifauna Walk-Through Report (Appendix E2), the following are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Turbines 2, 6, 14, 15, 	<p>populations along the length of the power line routes.</p> <p>Continued improvement of avifauna protection efforts.</p> <p>Monitoring reports submitted to relevant provincial environment [1] Birdlife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), and DFFE on a quarterly basis.</p>			<p>resumed once the turbines have been constructed, as per the most recent edition (2015) of the best practice guidelines (Jenkins et al. 2011). The exact time when post-construction monitoring should commence will depend on the construction schedule, and will be agreed upon with the site operator once these timelines and a commercial operational date have been finalised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a minimum [3] monitoring should be undertaken for the first five years of operation, and then repeated 	

 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:44:37


Specify time frame. e.g. within 3 months of the last date of data collection.

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:46:49

Must be in place 365 days a year (unless conditions are unsafe)


 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:15:42

Should be lifespan, but frequency of surveys could be reduced to monthly.
ALL turbines within Verreux Eagle territory should be surveyed.


 Number: 4 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:14:52


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				<p>16, 17, 18, 19 must be curtailed (see Figure 9 in Appendix E2) for the location of the turbines). Turbines were identified based on proximity to Verreaux's Eagle nests and observed flight activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Curtailed threshold for summer and autumn (1 November to 31 May): 80% or higher probability of flying. 1 o Curtailed threshold for winter and spring (1 June to 31 October): 60% or higher probability of flying. The lower threshold is to reduce the likelihood of impact on dependent chicks/fledglings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and pedestrian access to the site should be controlled and restricted to access roads to prevent unnecessary disturbance of SCC. • Formal operational 2 monitoring should be resumed once the turbines have been constructed, as per the most recent edition 3 				again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management.	

 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:43:08

Please define performance indicator for this and specify the means of verification.

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:18:29


 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:36:55


This is probably pedantic, but monitoring is not mitigation. Monitoring is necessary to measure if mitigation is effective (i.e. compare against performance indicator) and reports would be the means of verification.


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				<p>(2015) of the best practice guidelines (Jenkins <i>et al.</i> 2011). The exact time when post-construction monitoring should commence, will depend on the construction schedule, and will be agreed upon with the site operator once these timelines and a commercial operational date have been finalised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a minimum, operational monitoring should be undertaken for the 1st five years of operation, and then repeated again every five years thereafter for the operational lifetime of the facility. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring will be determined on an ongoing basis by the results of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management. Depending on the results of the monitoring, a range of mitigation measures will have to be considered if the impact on mortality is found to be significant, including expanding curtailment to 					

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 Number: 1 Author: Samantha Subject: Highlight Date: 2023/02/16 11:22:19

 Number: 2 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:22:45
see previous comment. Neccsary for the lifespan given the risks.

 Number: 3 Author: Samantha Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2023/02/16 11:48:00
See previous comment.
Specify other activities and include offsets.
Also include timeframes.
Consering additional measures is not enough, something must be done,

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				<p>additional problem turbines during high-risk periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports regarding bird monitoring must be submitted to the relevant provincial environment, Birdlife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), and the Department (DFFE) on a quarterly basis. • Bird flappers and/or diverters must be installed at all points where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors, wetlands, drainage line and pans. 					
6.	Construction Activities (wind energy facility)	Appropriate handling and management of hazardous substances and waste	Litter or contamination of the site or water through poor waste management practices.	<p>Objective: To minimise the production of waste. To ensure appropriate waste disposal. To avoid environmental harm from waste disposal.</p> <p>Mechanisms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hazardous substances must be stored in sealed containers within a clearly demarcated area. 2) All structures and/or components replaced during maintenance activities must be appropriately disposed of at an appropriately 	<p>No complaints received regarding waste on site or indiscriminate dumping.</p> <p>Internal site audits identifying that waste segregation, recycling and re-use is taking place.</p> <p>No contamination of soil or water.</p>	O&M Contractor	EMP	Waste collection must be monitored on a regular basis.	EM O&M Contractor

Right section of EMPr? Should this not be under construction section?