Open Space Management Plan

KHAI-MA WIND ENERGY FACILITY

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1. Purpose

The Open Space Management Plan addresses the need to prevent and mitigate significant impacts due to staff presence and activities that could lead to disturbed fauna and flora, disturbed soil surfaces, and generally bare soils prone to erosion and further degradation on the Tsitsikamma Community Wind Energy Facility to be developed on a site near Humansdorp, Eastern Cape Province.

The plan must be used in conjunction with the Erosion Management, Vegetation Rehabilitation, and Alien Invasive Management Plans.

The objective of the plan is therefore to provide protocols for the access, use and general conduct of all construction, maintenance and operational staff of the facility

2. Scope

This document is the Open Space Management Plan that acts as a guideline to be applied by all contractors, subcontractors and other staff employed by and active on the Tsitsikamma Community Wind Energy Facility site as per the environmental authorisation Condition 18 issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The authorisation clearly states:

> (18.5): An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility

This plan, as a requirement of the authorisation, is a legally authorised document that must be implimented to fullfil the requirements of the authorisation. However, the management plan is an evolving guideline that needs to be updated or adapted as progress is made with the revegetation and rehabilitation of the project area, and successes and failures of procedures identified.

3. Legislation and Standards

Relevant legislation:

- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983
- Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989
- National Forestry Act 84 of 1998
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998

4. Open Space Management

The objective of open space management within the project area is to ensure that construction activities and the operation of the facility is in harmony with the biodiversity, general land use practices and local residents and will not interfere with

or degrade the functionality of the ecosystems affected on and beyond the infrastructure developed. Several steps must be taken toward this objective:

4.1. Access Control

» Access to the facility during construction and operation should be restricted to permanent staff or authorised persons only.
» Non-permanent on-site staff and all other contractors or visitors should be required to register when entering.

4.2. Prohibited activities

» Clear, visible signs must be displayed to show:
  * Disturbance to fauna and flora or the physical environment within the project area, other than regular authorised operational activities (e.g. annual mowing), is strictly prohibited.
  * No open fires are permitted in the project area
  * Strictly no off-road driving
  * No random collection of firewood; only if allowed and controlled by the developer and from designated windrows of cleared alien invasive woody vegetation
  * Strictly no littering, especially no discarded cigarette butts that could ignite a fire in flammable alien vegetation present on site

4.3. Fire Risk Management

» Fires are a regular part of Fynbos dynamics and the potential for such occurrences in remaining Fynbos areas must be incorporated into the maintenance plan of the facility. In addition, most of the alien invasive vegetation present on and beyond the site has highly flammable foliage and wood, and if this vegetation cannot be cleared adequately, the risk of fire from this vegetation must be clearly understood
» Ignition risk sources in the area include the following:
  * Lightning strikes
  * Personnel within the facility
  * Infrastructure such as transmission lines
  * Discarding of burning cigarette stumps
» A fire-risk management strategy must be compiled and implemented:
  * This should also be in collaboration with the land users within and on surrounding properties
  * Within that strategy it must be clear who will be responsible for what actions in the event of a fire
  * If firebreaks need to be created and maintained and by whom

    - What kind of equipment should be available on site, and who is trained to use and authorised to have access to that equipment
    - Vegetation management (e.g. annual mowing of grasses, clearing of alien vegetation) that may be necessary to limit risks of fires
- Fire-fighting training must be provided to on site staff and/or local community members
- Fire-fighting equipment must be regularly inspected and maintained

4.4. Waste Management

- Pollution and littering of any form or amount will not be tolerated on the site during construction, operation and decommissioning
- Adequate measures must be in place for managing and disposing of any form of waste on site

4.5. Specific protection of Flora

Apart from above measures to prohibit disturbance to any flora and prevent fires, the following will be required:

- It shall be made clear to all staff that no indigenous flora may be picked, cut, dug out, damaged or disturbed in any way unless a relevant permit is issued for protected plants affected by the construction of the energy facility
- Large machinery and other vehicles moving into the project area shall first be inspected for the presence of seeds of invasive species carried by tyres, undercarriage or other structures, especially if such machinery or vehicles went past or through areas with alien plant infestations en route to the project area

4.6. Protection of Fauna

Apart from above measures to prohibit disturbance to any fauna and prevent fires, the following will be required:

- Any means of deliberately killing any kind of animal shall be strictly prohibited, unless it is an invasive declared pest that needs to be controlled
- Where fauna pests need to be controlled, this shall be done by a suitably qualified person/company in a manner that will not affect any other species of the resident biodiversity
- Fence lines and similar structures shall be inspected on a regular basis to detect and remove any snares that may have been put to ensnare animals
- Should snares be detected on a regular basis, the necessary investigative steps shall be taken to determine who is responsible for these activities and the matter shall be referred to the local conservation and policing authorities for follow-up procedures

- Driving speeds shall be limited to 40 km/h or less during construction and operation of the facility on all internal access routes of the project to limit the incidence of road kills of mammals, reptiles and amphibians and the deterioration of roads
- Driving speeds on public roads through the area shall be strictly kept within the speeds indicated on those roads
- After heavy rains when amphibian activity can be high, especially near watercourses, no driving shall be undertaken on internal access roads between dawn and dusk (when these species are most active and move around), except in the case of an emergency