



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DETAILS OF SPECIALIST AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	12/12/20/ or 12/9/11/L
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA
Date Received:	

Application for environmental authorization:-

- (1) National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014; and

PROJECT TITLE

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 10MW SKUITDRIFT SOLAR PROJECT NEAR AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Specialist:	Simon Todd Consulting		
Contact person:	Simon Todd		
Postal address:	60 Forrest Way		
Postal code:	7975	Cell:	0823326502
Telephone:	021 782 0377	Fax:	
E-mail:	Simon.Todd@3foxes.co.za		
Professional affiliation(s) (if any)	SACNASP Pr.Sci.Nat 400425/11		

Project Consultant:	Savannah Environmental		
Contact person:	Karen Jodas		
Postal address:	First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park, Cnr of Woodlands Drive		
Postal code:	P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill	Cell:	082 655 1935
Telephone:	011 656 3237	Fax:	086 684 0547
E-mail:	karen@savannahsa.com		

4.2 The specialist appointed in terms of the Regulations_

I, Simon Todd, declare that --

General declaration:

I act as the independent specialist in this application;
I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the specialist:

Simon Todd Consulting

Name of company (if applicable):

25 May 2016

Date:



environmental affairs

Department:
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DETAILS OF SPECIALIST AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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Application for environmental authorization:-

- (1) National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014; and

PROJECT TITLE

Development of the 10MW Skuitdrift Solar Facility near Augrabies, Northern Cape Province.

Specialist:	Birds & Bats Unlimited		
Contact person:	Dr Rob Simmons		
Postal address:	45 Libertas Ave, Table View		
Postal code:	7441	Cell:	0827 800 133
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:	Rob.Simmons@uct.ac.za		
Professional affiliation(s) (if any)	Birdlife South Africa and Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group		
Project Consultant:	Savannah Environmental		
Contact person:	Karen Jodas		
Postal address:	First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park, Cnr of Woodlands Drive		
Postal code:	P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill	Cell:	082 655 1935
Telephone:	011 656 3237	Fax:	086 684 0547
E-mail:	karen@savannahsa.com		

4.2 The specialist appointed in terms of the Regulations_

I, **Dr Rob Simmons** _____, declare that --

General declaration:

I act as the independent specialist in this application;

I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;

I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;

I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;

I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;

I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;

I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;

all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and

I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the specialist:


Birds & Bats Unlimited

Name of company (if applicable):

26 May 2016

Date:

Short CV/Summary of Expertise – Simon Todd

 <p>SIMON TODD CONSULTING</p> <p>ECOLOGICAL SPECIALIST SERVICES</p> <p>Assessment/Management/Research</p>	<p>Simon Todd Pr.Sci.Nat</p> <p>C: 082 3326502 O: 021 782 0377 Simon.Todd@3foxes.co.za</p> <p>60 Forrest Way Glencairn 7975</p>	<p>Ecological Solutions for People & the Environment</p>
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Professional Profile

Simon Todd has extensive experience in biodiversity management and ecological assessment, having provided assessments for more than 100 different developments. This includes a large number of power lines and associated infrastructure distributed widely across South Africa. In addition, Simon Todd was the contributing ecologist on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for both the Eskom Grid Infrastructure, as well as the Renewable Energy Development Zones. Simon Todd is a recognised ecological expert and is a past chairman of the Arid-Zone Ecology Forum and has 18 years' experience working throughout the country. Simon Todd is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (No. 400425/11).

Recent notable studies include the following:

- Eskom Grid Infrastructure Strategic Environmental Assessment (EGI-SEA) - Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity – Specialist contribution to report. CSIR 2015.
- National Wind and Solar PV SEA Specialist Report - Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity. Specialist Report produced for the CSIR on behalf of DEA for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs). CSIR 2014.
- Proposed Juno-Aurora 765KV Power Line in the Western Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Nzumbulolo Heritage Solutions 2015.

Abbreviated CV

- Profession: Independent Ecological Consultant - Pr.Sci.Nat 400425/11
- Specialisation: Plant & Animal Ecology
- Years of Experience: 18 Years

Skills & Primary Competencies

- Research & description of ecological patterns & processes in Nama Karoo, Succulent Karoo, Thicket, Arid Grassland, Fynbos and Savannah Ecosystems.
- Ecological Impacts of land use on biodiversity

- Vegetation surveys & degradation assessment & mapping
- Long-term vegetation monitoring
- Faunal surveys & assessment.
- GIS & remote sensing

Tertiary Education:

- 1992-1994 – BSc (Botany & Zoology), University of Cape Town
- 1995 – BSc Hons, Cum Laude (Zoology) University of Natal
- 1996-1997- MSc, Cum Laude (Conservation Biology) University of Cape Town

Employment History

- 1997 – 1999 – Research Scientist (Contract) – South African National Biodiversity Institute
- 2000-2004 – Specialist Scientist (Contract) - South African National Biodiversity Institute
- 2004-2007 – Senior Scientist (Contract) – Plant Conservation Unit, Department of Botany, University of Cape Town
- 2007 Present – Senior Scientist (Associate) – Plant Conservation Unit, Department of Botany, University of Cape Town.

General Experience & Expertise

- Conducted a large number of fauna and flora specialist assessments distributed widely across South Africa. Projects have ranged in extent from <50 ha to more than 50 000 ha.
- Widely-recognized ecology specialist. Published numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications based on various ecological studies across the country. Past chairman of the Arid Zone Ecology Forum and current executive committee member.
- Extensive experience in the field and exceptional level of technical expertise, particularly with regards to GIS capabilities which is essential with regards to producing high-quality sensitivity maps for use in the design of final project layouts.
- Strong research background which has proved invaluable when working on several ecologically sensitive and potentially controversial sites containing some of the most threatened fauna in South Africa.
- Published numerous research reports as well as two book chapters and a large number of papers in leading scientific journals dealing primarily with human impacts on the vegetation and ecology of the arid and semi-arid parts of South Africa.
- Maintain several long-term vegetation monitoring projects distributed across Namaqualand and the karoo.
- Guest lecturer at two universities and have also served as an external examiner.
- Reviewed papers for more than 10 international ecological journals.
- Past chairman and current committee member of the Arid Zone Ecological Forum.
- SACNASP registered as a Professional Natural Scientist, (Ecology) No. 400425/11.

A selection of recent work is as follows:

Specialist Assessments:

Power Lines/Grid Connections:

Proposed Juno-Aurora 765kV Power Line in the Western Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Nzumbulolo Heritage Solutions 2015.

The proposed Mookodi Integration Phase 2 132kV Power Lines and Ganyesa Substation near Vryburg, North West Province: Fauna & Flora Specialist Basic Assessment Report. Sivest 2014.

Basic Assessment Process for the Proposed Construction of the Transnet 7km 50 kV Power Line from Eskom Juno Substation to the proposed new Transnet Juno Traction Feeder Substation. Nsovo Environmental Consulting. 2014.

Basic Assessment Process for the Proposed Construction of the Transnet 5km 50 kV Power Line from Eskom Aries Substation to the proposed new Transnet Aries Traction Feeder Substation. Nsovo Environmental Consulting. 2014.

Basic Assessment Process for the Proposed Construction of the Transnet 15km 50 kV Power Line from Eskom Helios Substation to the proposed new Transnet Helios Traction Feeder Substation. Nsovo Environmental Consulting. 2014.

Burchell-Caprum-Mooidraai 132kV Power Line - Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2014.

Proposed Re-Alignment Of The Koeberg – Ankerlig VPower Line: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report For Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2014.

Grid Connection for Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant- Redstone Solar Thermal to Olien Mts: Fauna & Flora Specialist Basic Assessment Report. SiVest 2014.

Grid Connection for Mainstream South Africa Perdekraal Wind Energy Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. ERM 2014.

Karoshhoek Grid Integration Infrastructure. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Garob to Kronos Power Line - Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Loeriesfontein Wind Energy Facility – Substation & Grid Connection. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Gouda Wind Energy Facility – Grid Connection. Walk-Through of Overhead Power Line - Gouda WEF to Eskom Windmill Substation. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Proposed Kappa-Omega 765 kV Transmission Line. Fauna, Flora & Ecology Walk-Through Report. Specialist Report for ACER Africa. 2013.

Strategy/Conceptual Documents:

Renewable Energy Sector Spatial Planning Tool for the Namakwa District: To Form Part of the NDM Green Economy Strategy. Conservation South Africa, 2013.

Terrestrial Environment: Characteristics and Categorization. Contribution to the development of standards for EIA processes on behalf of the DEA. Anchor Environmental 2012.

National Wind and Solar PV SEA Specialist Report - Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity. Specialist Report produced for the CSIR on behalf of DEA for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs). CSIR 2014.

Eskom Grid Infrastructure Strategic Environmental Assessment (EGI-SEA) - Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity – Specialist contribution to report. CSIR 2015.

Infrastructure & Mining Developments:

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Putsberg Open Cast Mine Near Pofadder, Northern Cape. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. Ecopartners 2013.

Proposed Establishment of the Gamsberg Zinc Mine, Concentrator Plant and Associated Infrastructure near the Town of Aggeneys, Northern Cape. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report For ESIA. ERM 2013.

Pella Water Board – Infrastructure Upgrade. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Environmental Resources Management 2012.

Transnet Manganese Ore Line Upgrade. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Environmental Resources Management 2012.

Proposed Vryburg Wastewater Treatment Works: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Endemic Vision 2013.

Proposed Mamatwane Compilation Yard, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Environmental Resources Management 2013.

Rare Earth Separation Plant Near Vredendal, Western Cape Province. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Proposed Mocke Poultry Farm: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Enviroworks 2015.

Basic Assessment for proposed Neotel Fibre Optic Cable Route 1 from George to Oudtshoorn. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Enviroworks 2015.

Basic Assessment for proposed Neotel Route 2 Fibre Optic Cables from Prince Albert Road to Oudtshoorn via the N12. Enviroworks 2015.

Basic Assessment for proposed Neotel Route 3 Fibre Optic Cables from Oudtshoorn to George via R328 and R102. Enviroworks 2015.

Basic Assessment for proposed Neotel Route 4 Fibre Optic Cables from Laingsburg to Oudtshoorn via Ladismith along the R323 and R62. Enviroworks 2015.

Improvements to the Ou Kaapse Weg / Silvermine Road Intersection. Specialist Faunal Study For Basic Assessment. Khula Environmental Consultants, 2012.

Upgrading of Tourism Facilities at Goegap Nature Reserve. Specialist Ecological Assessment. Van Zyl Environmental Consultants. 2012.

Plant Sweeps on Portion 2 of the Farm Demaneng 546, Kuruman District, Northern Cape Province for SA Manganese. 2011.

Solar Energy Developments:

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Wolmarransstad Solar Energy Facility North West Province. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. Savannah Environmental 2015

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 1 Near Copperton, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Humansrus Solar PV Energy Facility 2 Near Copperton, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Dyasonsklip Solar Energy Facility 1 Near Upington, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Postmasburg Solar PV Energy Facility 2 and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure, Postmasburg, Northern Cape. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Joram Solar Vryheid PV Project, Northern Cape. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Richtersveld Solar Farm and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2015.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Re Capital 3 Solar Energy Facility and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure, Dyason's Klip, Northern Cape. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2013.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Richtersveld Solar Farm and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. CapeEAPrac 2014.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Bosjesmansberg Solar Energy Facility East of Copperton, Northern Cape Province. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Specialist Vegetation Assessment for EIA. The Proposed Commercial Concentrated Solar Power Tower Facility and Concentrated Photovoltaic Facility at Van Roois Vley Near Upington. WSP 2012.

Proposed Les Marais \ Buitenfontein 5MW Solar Energy Facility in the Free State: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Stella Helpmekaar Solar Energy Facility in the North West Province: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Wolmaransstad Municipality 5MW Solar Energy Facility in the North West Province: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Heuningspruit PV1 and PV2 Solar Energy Facilities Near Koppies, Free State Province: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Hibernia PV Solar Energy Facility near Lichtenburg: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study For Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Steynsrus PV1 And PV2 Solar Energy Facilities: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on Konkoonsies, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. EScience Associates 2012.

Proposed Padrooi 13 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. EScience Associates 2012.

Adams Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. EScience Associates 2012.

Proposed Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on Klein Swart Bast, Northern Cape: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. EScience Associates 2012.

Proposed Khoi-Sun Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Cape EAPrac 2012.

Suurwater 62, Boesmanland 75mw Solar Farm, Aggeneys. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Cape EAPrac 2012.

Karoshhoek Solar Valley Development, Upington: Fauna & Flora Specialist Impact Assessment Report. Savannah Environmental. 2012.

O’Kiep 3 PV Solar Energy Facility on a Site In O’kiep Near Springbok, Northern Cape Province. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on Voëlklip, South of Springbok. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Namaqua Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on a Site North of Kamieskroon. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Inca Graafwater Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Graafwater, Western Cape Province. Faunal Ecology Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Aberdeen Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Venetia Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Southern Cross Solar Energy Facility: Southern Farm 425. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Tutwa Solar Energy Facility: Portion 4 of Narries 7. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Valleydora Photovolataic Solar Power Plant, Free State. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report. CSIR, 2012.

Reddersburg Solar Facility - Fauna & Flora Specialist Assessment. CSIR, 2012.

Melkvei Photovolataic Solar Power Plant. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist report for ERM. 2012.

Ruinte Photovolataic Solar Power Plant. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist report for ERM. 2012.

Genoegsaam Solar Park. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist report for ERM. 2012.

Genoegsaam Solar Park. Fauna & Flora Specialist EIA Report. Specialist report for ERM. 2012.

Graspan Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Specialist report for ERM. 2012.

Olyven Kolk Solar Power Plant, Northern Cape: Botanical and Faunal Specialist Assessment. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management (ERM). 2011.

Skuitdrift Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Specialist Report for Cape EAPrac. 2012.

Beaufort West Solar Facility, Erf 7388 - Fauna & Flora Specialist Assessment. Specialist Report for Cape EAPrac. 2012.

Khoi-Sun Solar Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Scoping Report. Specialist Report for Cape EAPrac. 2012.

Boesmanland Solar Farm. Fauna & Flora Specialist Scoping Study. Specialist Report for Cape EAPrac. 2012.

Bitterfontein Solar Plant - Fauna & Flora Specialist Assessment. Specialist Report for Cape EAPrac. 2012.

Wind Farm Developments:

Mainstream South Africa Dwarsrug Wind Energy Facility: Fauna & Flora Specialist Impact Assessment Report. Sivest 2014.

Proposed Spitskop Wind Energy Facility near Cookhouse: Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Roggeveld Wind Energy Facility and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for EIA. Savannah Environmental 2013.

Proposed Mainstream South Africa Springfontein Wind Energy Facility: Terrestrial Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for EIA. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Establishment of the Wolseley Wind Farm, Western Cape Province. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report. Arcus Gibb 2012.

Proposed Eskom 300MW Kleinsee Wind Energy Facility. Fauna Specialist Report For Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Proposed Inca Energy Swellendam Wind Energy Facility: Fauna Specialist Report For Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Proposed Moorreesburg Wind Energy Facility: Fauna & Flora Specialist EIA Report For Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2014.

Terrestrial Ecology Specialist Study for the Proposed Establishment of a Renewable Energy Facility near Sutherland, Western and Northern Cape Provinces. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) 2011.

Roggeveld Wind Farm: Ecological and Biodiversity Assessment: Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna & Botanical Specialist Study. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management (ERM). 2011.

Zen Wind Energy Facility. Fauna & Flora Specialist Impact Assessment Report. Savannah Environmental. 2012.

Proposed Project Blue Wind and Solar Energy Facility, Near Kleinsee. Fauna Specialist Report For Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Garob Wind Farm: Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Impact Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Loeriesfontein Wind Energy Facility – Substation & Grid Connection. Fauna & Flora Specialist Report for Basic Assessment. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Noblesfontein Wind Energy Facility, Victoria West. Ecological Walk-Through Report. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Gouda Wind Energy Facility. Fauna And Flora Walk Through Report. Savannah Environmental 2012.

Klawer Wind Farm: Ecological and Biodiversity Assessment: Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna & Botanical Specialist Study. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management. 2011.

Lambert's Bay Wind Farm: Ecological and Biodiversity Assessment: Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna & Botanical Specialist Study. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management. 2011.

Richtersveld Wind Farm: Ecological and Biodiversity Assessment: Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna & Botanical Specialist Study. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management (ERM). 2011.

Witberg Wind Farm: Ecological and Biodiversity Assessment: Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna & Botanical Specialist Study. Specialist Report for Environmental Resources Management (ERM). 2011.

CV for ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Dr Rob Simmons



Synopsis: 59 year-old ecologist, ornithologist and environmental consultant, with 30 years' research experience in Namibia and South Africa. Permanent Resident in South Africa. Currently I am a Research Associate of the FitzPatrick Institute's Centre of Excellence, UCT, and Director of Birds and Bats Unlimited. Formerly employed in the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as the country's ornithologist, specializing in biodiversity issues. Schooled in England (Honours: Astrophysics), Canada (MSc: Biology) and South Africa (PhD: Zoology).

I have worked in many parts of southern Africa: In Namibia as Wetlands Biologist, then Ornithologist, specialising on raptorial birds, shorebirds, flamingos, terns, endemic species and inventories of Namibia's wetlands. Endemic species have been intensively studied in the escarpment and specialized collaborative studies have been undertaken with Cambridge, Oxford, Uppsala, Stanford, Edinburgh and Sheffield Universities. I have authored and co-authored 104 papers and 70 popular articles, contributed to 9 books or proceedings, and written two books: an Oxford-published book on raptors in 2000 and a recently completed Namibian Red Data book on birds published in May 2015.

I live and work in South Africa and have undertaken over 50 impact assessments in the last 20 years. I was part of the advisory board team for BAWESG of EWT and Birdlife SA Birds, and I was on the editorial boards of the journals *Ibis* (UK) and *Ostrich* (South Africa).

1. SPECIFIC SURVEY EXPERIENCE:

- **Ecological study of the Cunene River mouth** – As wetlands biologist, I headed a 1991 survey team comprising MET staff, that assessed the avifauna of the river's lagoon over 3 months during peak (March - May) and low flow (November) periods. We concurrently recorded all other fauna in the area and undertook simple mapping and river sampling. Results published *Madoqua* 18:163-180 (1993)
- **National surveys of Namibian wetland birds** - Coordinated avifaunal assessments of about 80 wetlands throughout Namibia twice a year, as part of an Africa-wide programme (1990-2003). Results published in *Conservation Biology* (2015)
- **Sandwich Harbour avifauna** - A project begun 25 years ago by ministry staff, and continuing to this day, assessing natural changes in wetland area (using GPS technology) and the resultant changes in wetland avifauna. Random survey plots used to count birds.

Major nationwide monitoring projects:

- **Population monitoring of Namibian endemics** - In conjunction with Edinburgh University determined densities and overall population numbers of all 16 Namibian endemic birds. Published *Biological Conservation* in 1996, Robertson and Jarvis; incorporated into the new Namibian Red Data book (Simmons et al. 2015)
- **Damara Tern status** –In 1992 I devised a stratified random survey of the entire 1450 km-long coast of Namibia, revolutionised our estimates of the species' status. Published *Ibis* 1998. Other papers on success of protection of breeding colonies on population size and success.
- **Black Harrier status** – From 2000 - present monitoring threatened Black Harriers throughout South Africa, using satellite tags to follow migration with MSc and PhD students.
- **Flamingo status and trends** - Re-assessment with Mark Anderson and Graham McCulloch of southern African populations and 50 years of breeding at Etosha (Simmons in *Essentials of Conservation Biology*. Primack R. ed). 5th ed, New York).

Environmental Impact Assessments undertaken

My consultancy work experience covers 22 years in Namibia and South Africa.

- birds impacted by a proposed Haib copper mine near the Orange River (1994)
- siting of proposed Lüderitz wind farm prior to formal assessments for NamPower (1997);
- coastal birds impacted by new “pocket-beach” diamond mines within the Diamond Area of the Sperrgebiet for Namdeb (Enviro-science (2002)
- impacts to birds along power lines across the Namib Desert (Windhoek-Walvis Bay) for Nampower (2000)
- assessment of water abstraction scheme from Karst System on wetlands and birds near Tsumeb (2003) (Jessica Hughes)
- impacts to birds from proposed power lines between Windhoek-Rehoboth (2005) for NamPower
- bird impacts on a proposed power line south-east of the Waterberg Plateau Park (assisted Chris van Rooyen with specialist knowledge -2006)
- impact of uranium mine at Valencia, Khan River, Namibia (Aug 2007, Feb 2008)
- Impact on birds of new airport in Caledon, Western Cape (2009)
- Wind farm (x5) bird assessments (with Andrew Jenkins) in Western Cape (2010-2011)
- Power lines-bird interactions Redlinghuys, West Cape (ERM- 2009)
- Coastal birds impacted by re-mining diamonds in Sperrgebiet, Namibia (Piscis- 2010)
- Impact of golf course development at the River Club, Observatory (2010)
- Wind farm assessments at Gansbaai/Walker Bay (Savannah-2011)
- Wind farm assessments on the west coast at Kleinsee and Koingnaas (Savannah – 2011)
- EIA report for Kleinsee 300 and Kleinsee Blue projects (Savannah-2011)
- EIA report and pre-construction monitoring of birds in Namaqualand and Springbok (Mulilo – 2012)
- EIA pre-construction avian impacts on a wind farm at Konstabel (Mainstream 2011).
- Pre-construction avian impacts at the Witteberg (Karoo) wind farm site – (Anchor Environmental 2011-2012) and Verreaux’s Eagles (G7 Renewables 2014-2015);
- Pre-construction avian impacts at a Richtersveld wind farm site (EnBW -2012-2013)
- Pre-construction avian impacts at Happy Valley (E Cape) wind farm site (EDP Renewables -2013-2014)
- Pre-construction avian monitoring Karoshoek CSP-trough CSP-tower Solar Park (Upington) (Savannah Environmental for Emvelo Eco Projects, 2015-2016)
- Pre-construction avian monitoring 6x Solar PV solar park (Northern Cape) (Subsolar Pty Ltd, 2016)
- Pre-construction avian impacts at a Tankwa Karoo wind farm (Genesis Eco-Energy 2016)

Recent papers and academic background can be found at:

<http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/fitz/staff/research/simmons>

Red data book and conservation work at:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289668855>

Consultancy work at:

<http://www.birds-and-bats-unlimited.com>



Dr Rob Simmons

Rob.Simmons@uct.ac.za

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