



our future through science

7 November 2012

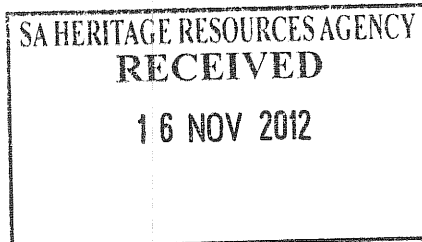
CSIR Consulting and Analytical Services

PO Box 320 Stellenbosch 7599 South Africa

Tel +27 21 888 2400

Fax: +27 21 888 2693

Email: mlevendal@csir.co.za



ATTENTION: Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti
 South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
 111 Harrington street
 Cape Town, 8000

Dear Madam

RE: Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Draft EMPr, Proposed Banna Ba Pifhu Wind Energy Project, Farms Broadlands and Saragossa, Humansdorp, Kouga Local Municipality (DEA Reference Number: 12/12/20/2289)

As the land owner of the above project you are hereby notified of the submission of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Draft EMPr to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for decision making (DEA reference no: 12/12/20/2289). All comments on the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report are to be submitted directly to the National Department of Environmental Affairs, as indicated in the table below and a copy provided to the Public Participation Consultant, contact details below, by no later than the **11 December 2012**.

PO Box 27688, Greenacres, 6057; Tel: 041-374 8426; Fax: 041-373 2002;
Email: sandy@publicprocess.co.za

For Attention:	Ms Sindiswa Dlomo
Postal Address	National Department of Environmental Affairs Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001
Phone	Tel: (012) 395 1856
Fax	Fax: (012) 320 7539
Email	sdlomo@environment.gov.za
Please ensure that the project reference number is reflected on all correspondence:	
DEA Reference no:	12/12/20/2289

Report Availability

Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report are available for public viewing at the **Humansdorp** and **Jeffreys Bay Main Library** and can be downloaded from the website www.publicprocess.co.za. A CD containing the FEIA Report is included.

Please find attached to this correspondence a note providing an overview of the changes made to the Banna Ba Pifhu Final EIA Report (November 2012) since the publishing of the Draft EIA Report (April 2012). An executive Summary of the Draft EIA Report can be downloaded from the website www.publicprocess.co.za or may be requested via email from sandy@publicprocess.co.za. As a registered interested and affected party on the database for this project you will receive written notification of the outcome of the decision making process and appeal period.

We thank you for your participation in this EIA process.

Yours sincerely,

Minnelise Levendal CSIR Project Manager)

WHAT IS NEW IN THE FINAL EIA REPORT?

This section provides an overview of the changes made to the Banna Ba Pifhu Final EIA Report (November 2012) since the publishing of the Draft EIA Report (April 2012).

1. **The scale of the Banna Ba Pifhu wind energy project has been reduced from 50 MW to 30.6 MW.** At the start of the EIA process it was initially planned that the wind energy project will be capped at 50 MW and that it will connect either to the existing 66 kV Melkhout / St. Francis overhead powerline, which passes through the site, or to a new 132 kV overhead powerline that would be constructed to connect the wind farm to the Melkhout substation, located approximately 7 km north of the site. Since the release of the Draft EIA Report, Eskom has conveyed to WKN Windcurrent that the existing 66 kV Melkhout / St. Francis overhead powerline can only receive an additional connection of up to approximately 30 MW from this project. WKN Windcurrent has thus decided to decrease the total capacity from 50 MW to 30.6 MW in order to utilize the on-site grid connection.
2. Both the 50 MW and 30.6 MW alternative layouts are assessed in the Final EIA report, with 50 MW being alternative 1 with a maximum of 28 turbines, and **30.6 MW being the preferred alternative** with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 17 turbines (the actual number will be dependent on the capacity of the turbines selected in the range between 1.8 and 3.2 MW). The project description (Chapter 2) has been updated to include the new preferred alternative comprising 30.6 MW.
3. An **updated layout plan** has been prepared for the preferred alternative comprising 30.6 MW. It shows the location of the proposed 17 turbines as well as supporting infrastructure (such as roads) relative to features such as riparian areas (refer to Figure S.2 in the Summary and Figure 2.4 in Chapter 2 of the Final EIA Report).
4. The Chapter on the **Approach to the EIA** (Chapter 4) has been updated to include the additional preferred alternative of 30.6 MW and to indicate the Public Publication Process followed since the release of the Draft EIA Report.
5. The **specialist studies** have been revised to incorporate and **assess the preferred alternative layout comprising 30.6 MW** (Chapters 5 to 14). The specialist reports assessed both the preferred alternative of 30.6 MW and the alternative 1 comprising 50 MW. The assessment ratings were not affected negatively. The assessment ratings either remained the same or have a less negative impact for the 30.6 MW option due to the reduction in the scale of the project.
6. A **twelve month pre-construction bird monitoring programme** was undertaken at the proposed wind farm site by two experienced bird monitors under the guidance of the bird specialist, Chris van Rooyen. The monitoring commenced in March 2011 and continued until April 2012. The monitoring was done over four sampling periods, i.e. summer, winter/early spring, late spring and autumn. The specific objectives of the monitoring programme were to record the abundance and diversity of all birds, and flight patterns of priority species. The results from the pre-construction monitoring programme and the proposed mitigation measures based on the monitoring are included in the updated Bird specialist study (Chapter 6 of the Final EIA Report) and informed the turbine layout for the 30.6 MW preferred option.
7. The **updated bat specialist report** included in the Final EIA Report was prepared by Natural Scientific Services (NSS). An initial bat assessment was conducted by Stephanie

Dippenaar in late 2011 and this study was included in the Draft EIA Report. The report prepared by Stephanie Dippenaar was part of the desktop review for the bat specialist report prepared by NSS. Natural Scientific Services has been commissioned by WKN Windcurrent to conduct a **twelve month bat monitoring programme** which is being completed to satisfy the requirements of the South African Good Practice Guidelines for Surveying Bats in Wind Farm Developments (Sowler & Stoffberg, 2012). The bat monitoring at the Banna Ba Pifhu site commenced in mid April 2012 and is scheduled to run until mid April 2013. The bat monitoring was conducted over two seasons, autumn and winter. The data collected during the first quarter of the 12 month monitoring period are included in the Final EIA report and therefore incorporate on-site data measured compared with preliminary data collected at the start of the project. Chapter 7 on bats serves as a Preliminary Bat Impact Report with a final detailed monitoring report to be submitted mid-May 2013 and incorporated into the EMPr as part of the detailed project planning.

8. A **shadow flicker study** was undertaken by WKN Windcurrent and the data from the study are included in the visual report (Chapter 8). The data were analysed by the visual specialist on the project team, Mr Henry Holland of Mapthis. He identified the potential impacts of shadow flicker and proposed mitigation measures to reduce the potential impacts.
9. The **EIA Summary** and the **Conclusions** chapter (Chapter 15) have been updated to reflect the latest changes since the release of the Draft EIA Report as discussed above.
10. **Communications** to Interested and Affected Parties following the release of the Draft EIA Report are included (Appendix D).
11. **Correspondence** from Interested and Affected Parties following the release of the Draft EIA Report is included in Appendix E
12. The **Issues and Responses Trail** has been updated to include the comments received after the release of the Draft EIA Report and the comments thereto (Appendix F).
13. Details regarding the **second public meeting in Humansdorp on 8 May 2012** following the release of the Draft EIA Report are included. It includes the minutes of the public meeting (Appendix I) and attendance register (Appendix J).
14. The **EMPR** has been updated (Section B of the Final EIA Report) following the revision of the specialists reports.
15. **WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd has signed a letter of commitment** to indicate that they will implement the mitigation measures and recommendations proposed in the specialist studies and the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report. They also commit to adhere to the conditions imposed by the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), should this project receive Environmental Authorisation (see "Proponent's Commitment Statement" inserted at the front of the report).