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April the 10th 2014

To whom it may concern,

The Blue Wind Energy facility Bird and Bat Monitoring preliminar reports for the pre-construction phase prepared on March 2014 by BioInsight to Savannah Environmental covers 9 of the scheduled 12 months of the monitoring period, including field results from the 4 seasons of the year. During the April field surveys, conducted between 1st and 7th of April, all the bird monitoring programme field survey effort for the autumn season, necessary to fulfill the Best Practice Guidelines, was conducted. The present letter is intended to provide feedback on the results collected during the autumn season and how these confirm or change the results and conclusions of the above referred report.

With the April survey, a total of 45 hours of vantage points were achieved for the autumn season, divided by the three periods of the day (morning, midday and afternoon). This accounts for a total of 9 hours of observation per vantage point conducted, spread evenly (a total of 3 hours) in each period of the day. For the bird pre-construction monitoring programme were also implemented bird walked transects, nests and water body monitoring. Regarding bat monitoring programme, were conducted active surveys in pre-established transects through the area and passive detection at ground level and at rotor height.

During the April survey, **only two bird species considered sensitive to the implementation of wind facilities were detected: the Rock Kestrel and the Pale Chanting Goshawk (both already observed in the previous autumn surveys conducted)**. These were observed mainly in the eastern section of the wind facility proposed area, using the area around the aerial electric line that runs north from the Gromis substation; and around the south-western group of wind turbines. Both these areas were previously highlighted in the March report as considered to have a higher risk of collision due to the presence of features of interest (nests and/or perching sites) which increased the bird activity in those areas, and sequentially the probability of collision with existing or proposed structures. Activity recorded in April survey was approximately the same as the estimations presented in the preliminary report for the autumn season. In addition, only 13% of the flights recorded were observed at rotor height, being all from crow species (Cape and Pied Crow). No bird species of conservation concern, or other birds considered sensitive to wind energy impacts, were observed using the area or its immediate surroundings during the April surveys conducted. **The observations conducted through bird walked transects confirmed the expectations considered in the March report, confirming a reduction on the bird activity levels in autumn** (Figure 1).



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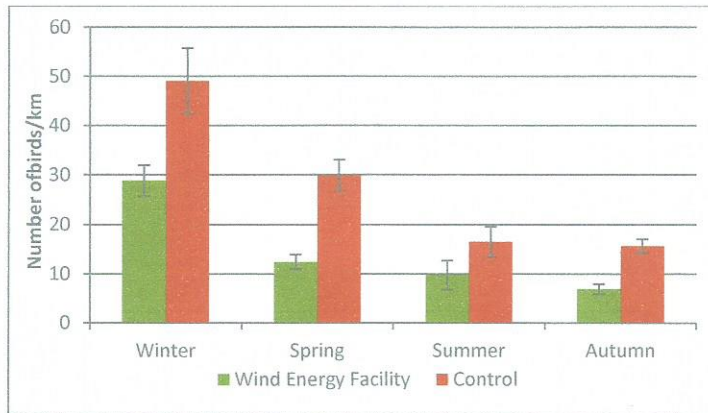


Figure 1 – Passerines and other small birds’ abundance in the proposed Blue Wind Energy Facility site and Control area, between July 2013 (winter) and April 2014 (autumn).

Regarding bat activity at the proposed site, the results from April survey are in line with the previous observations **confirming the low activity of bats on the site during autumn season**. The locations where relative higher bat activity was detected in the past surveys remained the same: surrounding the sheep corral (located near sampling point PQBL33), within the wind facility site, and in the Control area. In the remaining area no bats were detected, being supported the hypothesis that bats do not use the area either frequently or intensively.

The general results collected during the april autumn field surveys, for both bat and bird local communities, are in line with the results considered previously in the preliminar report compiled in March 2014. These results don’t add any significant information nor introduce any relevant changes on the conclusions and recommendations from the March report. Therefore, it is considered that the conclusions and recommendations presented on the Blue Wind Energy facility Bird and Bat Monitoring report for the pre-construction phase prepared on March 2014 are considered adequate to the bird and bat community present in the study area.

Yours faithfully,

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