

MEGAN DIAMOND

Ms. Megan Diamond completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management from the University of South Africa and has been involved in conservation for 20 years. She has 17 years' worth of experience in the field of bird interactions with electrical infrastructure and during this time has completed impact assessments for over 160 projects. During her tenure at the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife & Energy Programme and the Programme's primary project (i.e. the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership) from 2006 to 2013, Megan was responsible for assisting the energy industry and the national utility in minimising the negative impacts, associated with the construction and operation of electrical infrastructure, on wildlife through the provision of strategic guidance, risk and impact assessments, training and research. Megan currently owns and manages *Feathers Environmental Services* and is tasked with providing guidance to industry through the development of best practice procedures and avifaunal specialist studies for various developments including renewable energy facilities, power lines, power stations and substation infrastructure in addition to railway infrastructure and residential properties within South Africa and elsewhere within Africa. Megan has attended and presented at several conferences and facilitated workshops, as a subject expert, since 2007. Megan has authored and co-authored several academic papers, research reports and energy industry related guidelines, including the *BirdLife South Africa/ Endangered Wildlife Trust best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa* and the *Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa* (2015), and played an instrumental role in facilitating the endorsement of these two products by the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA), IAIAAsa (International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa) and Eskom. She chaired the Birds and Wind Energy Specialist Group in South Africa (2011/2012) and the IUCN/SSC Crane Specialist Group's Crane and Power line Network (2013-2015), a working group comprised of subject matter experts from across the world, working in partnership to share lessons, develop capacity, pool resources, and accelerate collective learning towards finding innovative solutions to mitigate this impact on threatened crane populations. She is currently a member of the IUCN Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group and the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership Ludwig's Bustard Working Group.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Nationality: South African
SACNASP Registration: Environmental Science Registration number 300022/14
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EXPERIENCE

Avifaunal Specialist | Feathers Environmental Services JULY 2013 – Present
Wildlife & Energy Programme Manager | Endangered Wildlife Trust OCTOBER 2006 – JUNE 2013
Assistant Research Officer | TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa AUGUST 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2006

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- * Society for Conservation Biology 21st Annual Meeting (1-5 July 2007)
- * The 6th TAWIRI Scientific Conference (3 – 6 December 2007) Presented a paper titled "Co-operative management of wildlife and power line conflicts: an African solution"
- * Pan-African Ornithological Congress (7-12 September 2008)
- * International Conference on Overhead Lines, Design, Construction, Inspection & Maintenance, Fort Collins Colorado USA. (29 March – 1 April 2010) Presented a paper titled "Bird's eye view: how birds see is key to avoiding power line collision"
- * Windaba 2011 – Implementing South African Wind Energy (27-29 September 2011)
- * Pan African Vulture Summit (16-20 April 2012) Presented a paper titled "Electrification in Africa – Are our vultures being strung along"
- * 4th Wind Power Africa Conference & Renewable Energy Exhibition (28-30 May 2012) Presented a paper titled "Wind Energy in Africa – what does this really mean for our continent's birds"
- * 13th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (14-21 October 2012) Presented a paper titled "Stringing South Africa's Terrestrial Birds Along - Monitoring of Bird Interactions with Power Line and Experimental Testing of Bird Collision Mitigation at the Karoo Long Term Monitoring Site"
- * AEWA Single Species Action-Planning Workshop for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane (10-13 September 2013) Presented and participated in the workshop as a subject expert (energy and bird interactions)

AUTHORED& CO-AUTHORED PAPERS

Jenkins, A.R., Smallie, J. & Diamond, M. 2009. Balls, flashers, flappers and coils: South African perspectives on a global search for ways to prevent avian collisions with overhead lines. In: Harebottle, D.M., Craig, A.J.F.K., Anderson, M.D., Rakatomonana, H. & Muchai, M. (eds). *Proceedings of the 12th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, 2008*. Cape Town, Animal Demography Unit.

Smallie, J., Diamond, M. & Jenkins, A. 2009. Lighting up the African continent – what does it mean for our birds? pp. 38–43. In: Harebottle, D.M., Craig, A.J.F.K., Anderson, M.D., Rakotomanana, H. & Muchai. (eds). *Proceedings of the 12th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, 2008*. Cape Town, Animal Demography Unit.

Jenkins, A. R., Smallie, JJ and Diamond, M. 2010 Avian collisions with power lines: a global review of causes and mitigation with a South African perspective. Bird Conservation International, page1 of16.

Retief, E.F., Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, H.A., Jenkins, A.R., Brooks, M. 2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa.

Jenkins, A.R., Van Rooyen, C.S., Smallie, J.J., Harrison, J.A., Diamond, M. And Smit, H.A. 2012. BirdLife South Africa / Endangered Wildlife Trust best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa.

Jenkins, A.R., De Goede, K.H., Sebele, L. and Diamond, M. 2013. Brokering a settlement between eagles and

industry: sustainable management of large raptors nesting on power infrastructure. *Bird Conservation International* (2013) 23:232 – 246.

Diamond, M., Harris, J., Mirande, C. and Austin, J. 2014. People of a feather flock together: A global initiative to address crane and power line interactions. 13th North American Crane Workshop Summary. Lafayette, Louisiana.

Page-Nicholson, S., Tate, G., Hoogstad, C., Murison, M., Diamond, M., Blofield, A., Pretorius, M., Michael, M.D. 2018. Mitigating the Impact of Large Mammals on Wooden Electrical Distribution Poles in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. *African Journal of Wildlife Research*.

Diamond, M. and Hoogstad, C. (in press) Collisions and habitat loss associated with utility lines and wind turbines. IUCN SSC Crane Specialist Group – Crane Conservation Strategy.