

PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

INTRODUCTION

Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd is overseeing the proposed development of up to three possible wind farms and associated infrastructure, near Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape. These proposed wind farms are named the Impofu North Wind Farm, the Impofu East Wind Farm and the Impofu West Wind Farm and are referred to collectively as the Impofu Wind Farms. Each Wind Farm is currently undergoing a separate environmental authorisation process. The Impofu West Wind Farm is the subject of this Application. The Proponent, Red Cap West Impofu (Pty) Ltd, hereafter referred to as Red Cap, proposes to develop the Impofu West Wind Farm, which is located within the Kouga Local Municipality within the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The broader area was formerly solely rural in character but has transitioned to a renewable energy landscape due to the presence of wind turbines and associated infrastructure in the area.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that is undertaken in terms of the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, and its associated regulations (Government Notice Regulation (GN R.) 982, 983, 984 and 985, as amended). The purpose of the EIA process is to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic characteristics of the proposed project and the consequences of the project on the environment and the people living in the area that would be affected by the proposed project activities. An EIA process is needed because the proposed project triggers several activities that are listed in the EIA Regulations¹. The proposed project therefore requires authorisation by the environmental decision-maker, which in this case is the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Red Cap, as the Proponent, has appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) as the environmental consultancy to undertake the environmental authorisation process for the proposed project and supply the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to manage the process. The EAP is the person who assumes overall responsibility for this authorisation process. The various stages of the EIA process are shown in Figure 5 below. This document is a non-technical summary (NTS) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the project, based on the completion of the Scoping Phase and associated public participation period. This NTS provides an overview of:

- An introduction to the proposed project, in the context of wind energy in South Africa;
- The role-players involved in the environmental assessment process;
- The legislation that governs the project and the relevant policy framework;
- The approach to the EIA including a description of the proposed public participation;
- The screening and iterative design process which has led to the preferred site layout;
- A concise description of the proposed project including the need and desirability thereof;
- A brief description of the baseline environment and a high level description of the potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures;
- A summary of the findings of the impacts identified and assessed by the specialists;
- Conclusions and opinion of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner; and
- Public participation and the way forward.

¹ These are activities 11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56 of Government Notice (GN) R983 of 2014, activity 1 of GN R984 of 2014, and activities 4 and 18 of GN R985 of 2014.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED AND WHERE?

The proposed Impofu West Wind Farm site is centred on 34°5'28" South latitude and 24°32'53" East longitude and is approximately 14 kilometres (km) north-west of Oyster Bay (refer to Figure 2). The site is situated to the south of the N2 National Road and R102 Main Road and is approximately 2,640 hectares (ha) in extent, comprising 8 adjoining farm portions as illustrated in Figure 3. The site is bordered immediately to the west by the existing Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm. The primary land use of the site is agriculture, specifically dairy farming. As such, there are several farm dams and farmsteads on the site, and numerous internal farm and gravel access roads. The site can be accessed from DR01774, DR01765 and MN50032.

A wind farm, requires a number of key components to facilitate the generation of electricity at a large scale, this includes wind turbines, powerlines and substation facilities to collect the generated electricity and distribute it to other users (as illustrated in Figure 1). Up to 29 wind turbine locations have been proposed for the Impofu West Wind Farm which would directly affect approximately 44 ha and generate up to 174 MW.

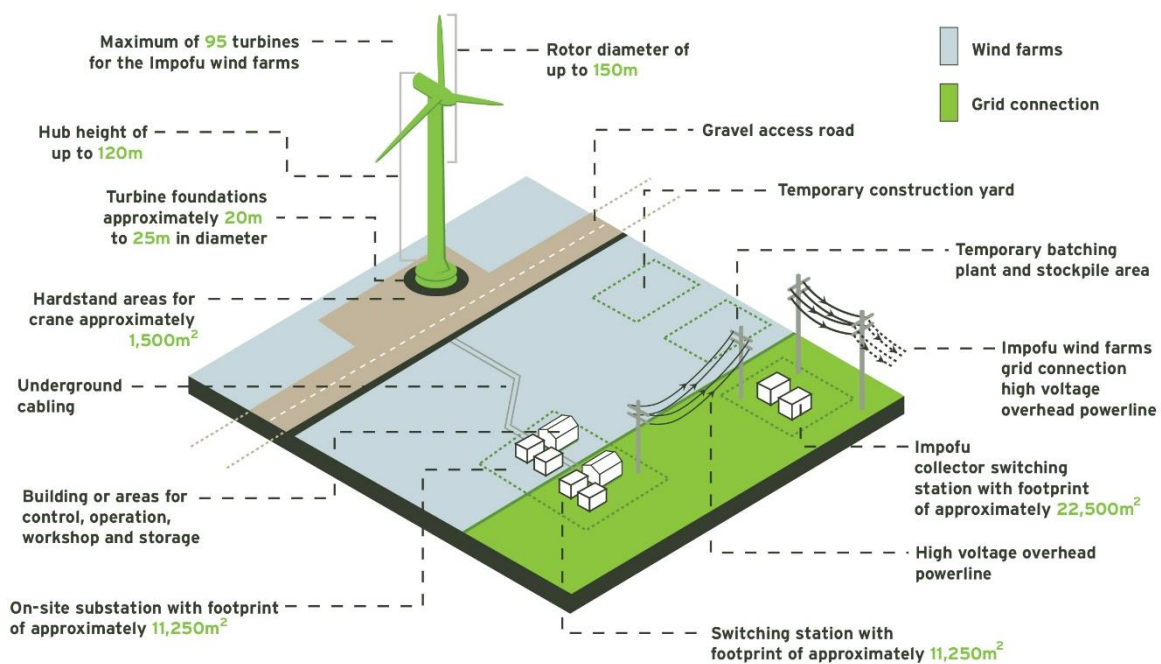


Figure 1: Development components for the Impofu West Wind Farm

A proposed Eskom Grid Connection will evacuate the energy generated by the Impofu West Wind Farm via a 132 kV overhead powerline to Port Elizabeth. The connection includes three short overhead powerlines that originate from each of the wind farm sub / switching stations, which connect to a combined central Impofu Collector Switching Station situated on the Impofu West Wind Farm site. From this Impofu Collector Switching Station, a single power line of approximately 120 km will connect into the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality's Chatty substation. This infrastructure (the three Eskom Switching Stations, the three Collector Powerlines, the Collector Switching Station and the 120 km powerline) are collectively termed the 'Grid Connection' and will be assessed in a separate Basic Assessment Process, which is being undertaken in parallel with the Scoping and EIR process for the Wind Farm.

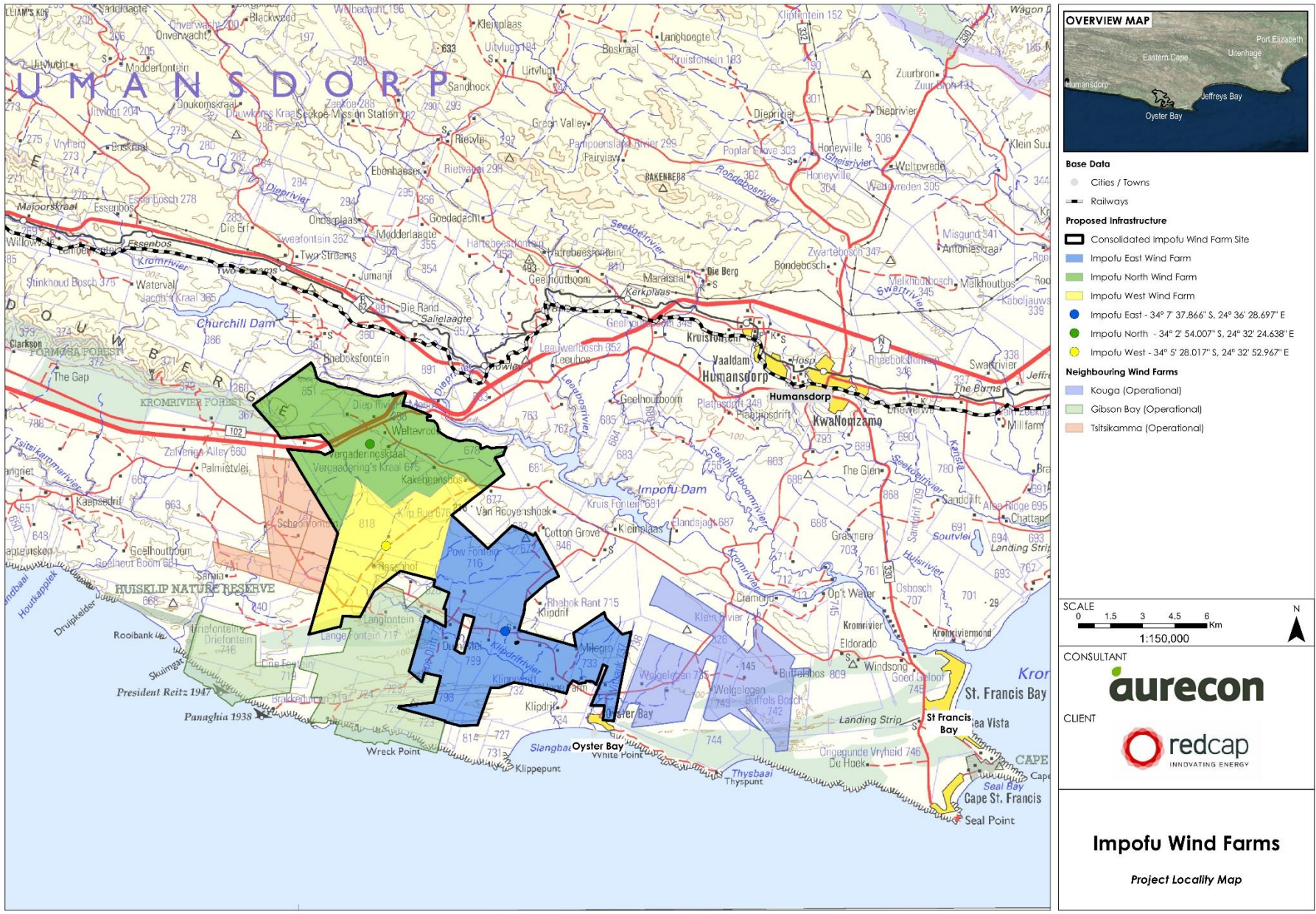


Figure 2: Project Locality Map

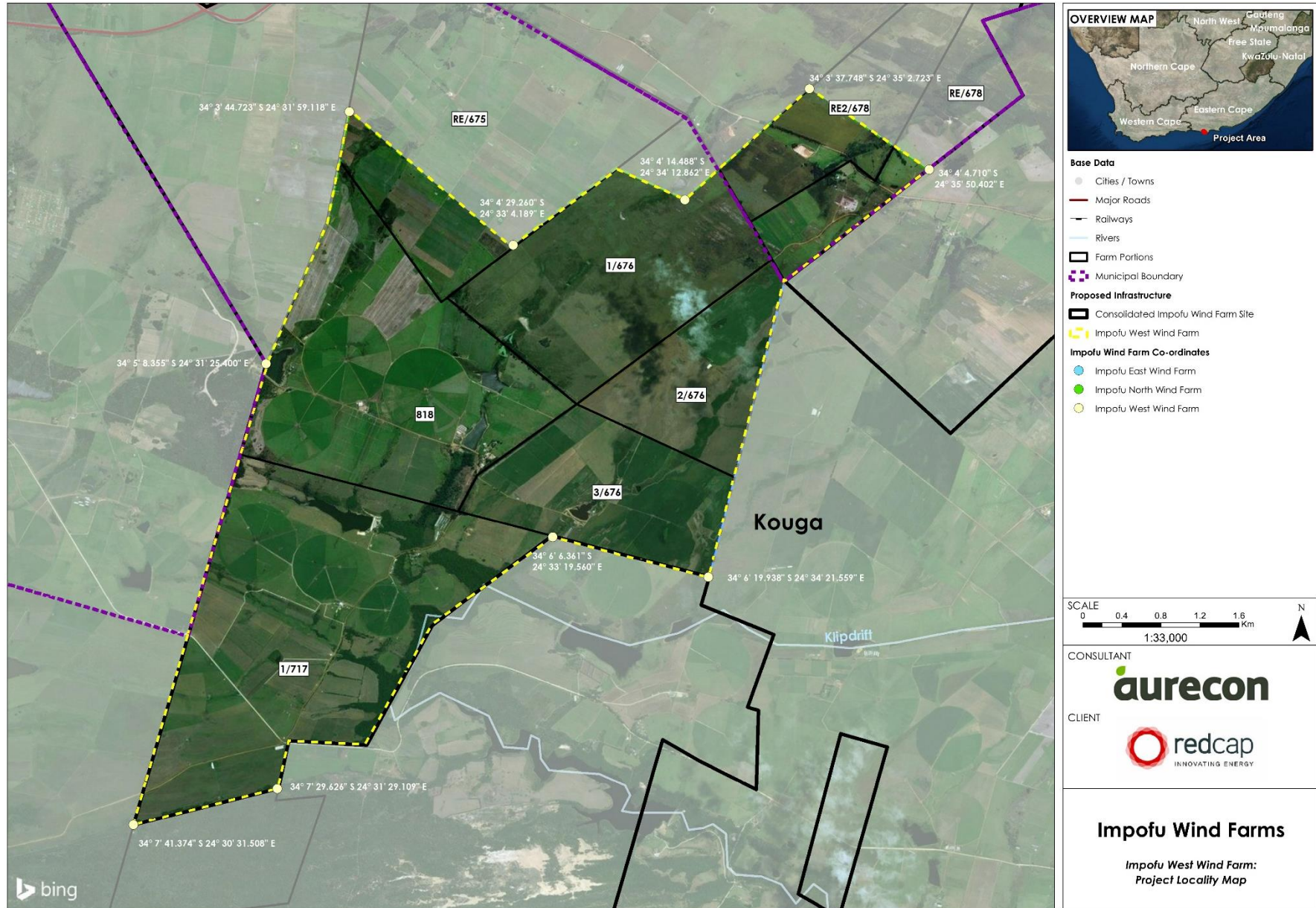


Figure 3: Location of the farm portions for the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm near Humansdorp in the Eastern Cape

The lifecycle of the Impofu West Wind Farm will occur in project phases, namely: pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning. The proposed activities associated with each of these phases are summarised below:



Figure 4: Summary of activities associated with the project

The construction phase of the proposed project is anticipated to last for 18 – 24 months. It is unknown at this stage when construction would commence, as this would be dependent on the REIPPPP programme and other related permit requirements for a wind farm, however it is anticipated that construction would commence within the next five years. Should decommissioning occur, this would only be likely after approximately 20 years.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

The NEMA process requires that feasible alternatives are considered during the EIA process. The EIA process requires alternatives to be considered and assessed during the Scoping phase to achieve the most environmentally and socially responsible development. An alternative is defined as a possible course of action, in place of another, that would meet the same purpose and need. Appendix 2 (Contents of Scoping Report) of GN R982 of 2014, as amended, (2)(1)(g)(x), states that 'if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such' should be provided in the Scoping Report and described in full, which was in this case.

The Scoping Report concluded that only the preferred site layout alternative would be assessed against the No-Go alternative. This layout was the outcome of the detailed Screening and Iterative Design Process. This was a rigorous, iterative and multi-disciplinary process, which drew on a large body of existing knowledge and specialist

expertise relating to the study area. This approach aligns with the NEMA principles advocating for sustainable development through the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy. Through the application of this hierarchy, 'avoidance' of environmental impacts was the basis for the approach.

This detailed Screening and Iterative Design Process involved the EAP and additional consultants from Aurecon, Red Cap and a multi-disciplinary team of specialists, and was based on identification and mapping of No-Go areas of the site to avoid all environmental, socio-economic and technically sensitive areas. Landowner input and groundtruthing of the turbines and other components informed micro-siting). This rigorous process motivates that only the preferred site layout will be assessed for the purposes of the EIA as it is considered to be the best practical environmental option possible for the proposed project site.

Since turbine specifications are constantly improving and evolving, it is not known at this stage what the turbine specifications would be at time of construction. A worst-case scenario has been adopted to allow for a range of specifications to which the final turbine must conform.

The No-Go alternative assumes that the project is not developed, which entails that the proposed activity does not go ahead and the *status quo* of the farming activities will continue. This is the only other alternative that is assessed in the EIA process.

HOW DOES THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS WORK?

The purpose of the EIA is to systematically evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed project activities. It is undertaken in terms of the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, and its associated EIA regulations (i.e. Government Notice Regulation (GN R.) 982, 983, 984 and 985, as amended).

Where negative impacts are likely to result from the project, measures can be recommended to avoid or reduce these impacts to a level where the impacts are considered acceptable from an environmental and social perspective. Where positive impacts are likely to result from the project, measures can be recommended to enhance these impacts.

The EIA process also provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with an opportunity to comment on the proposed project and be kept informed about decisions that may affect them or the environment. The various stages of the process are shown in Figure 5 below:

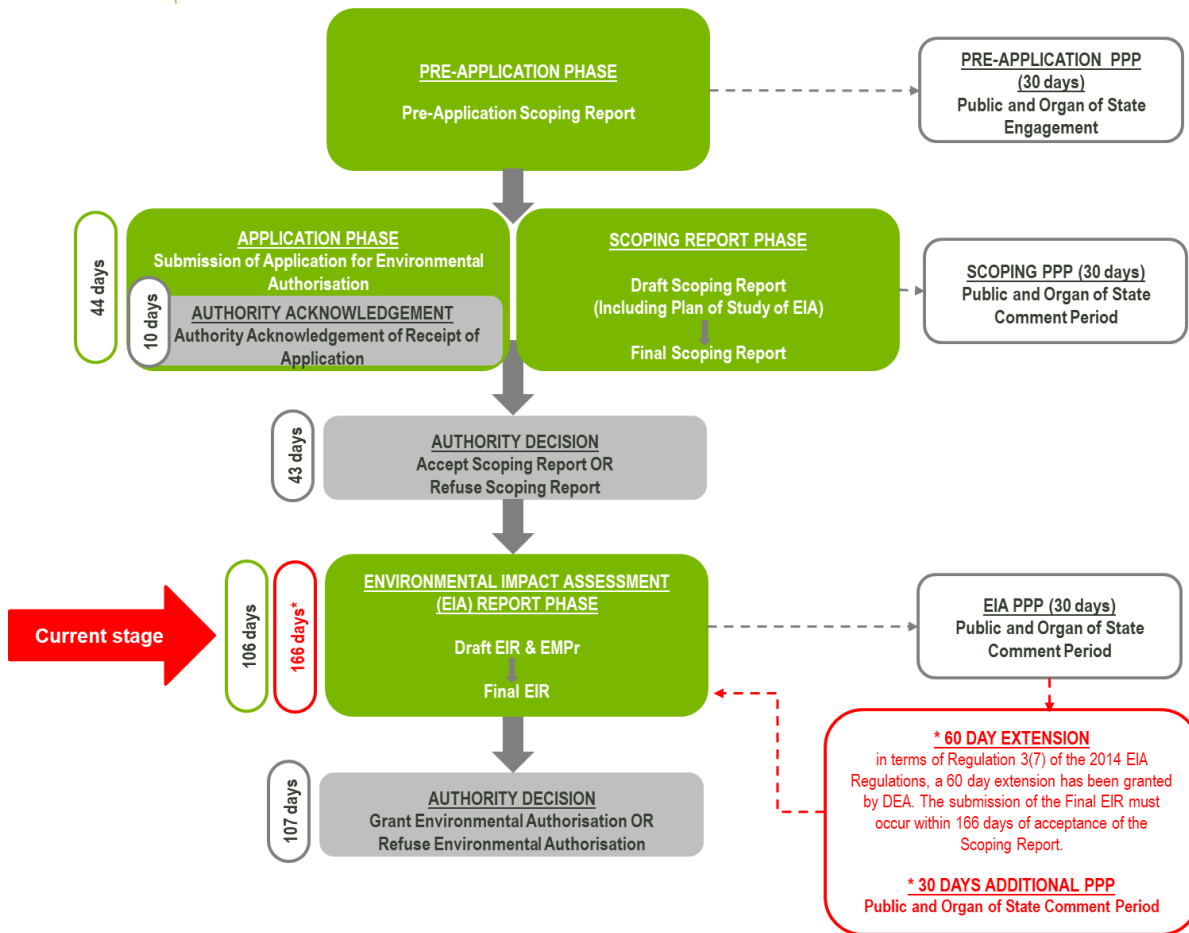


Figure 5: EIA process to be followed for the proposed project

As the EIA process prescribes stringent timeframes for Scoping and EIA, the approach has been to allow for as much detailed investigation and participation of I&APs upfront as possible, prior to commencement of the legal timeframes when an Application for environmental authorisation is submitted to the DEA. Therefore, the Pre-Application Phase, involved a lengthy and detailed Screening and Iterative Design Process and significant pre-application public participation, including the circulation of the Pre-Application Scoping Report. Further to this, the Draft Scoping Report was circulated for public comment and all comments were considered. The Final Scoping Report was submitted and accepted by DEA in January 2019. An extension of 60 days was requested and granted by DEA in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the 2014 EIA Regulations (GN R982 of December 2014, as amended) to allow for extra time to revise the site layout due to the findings of the pre-construction bat monitoring. The specialists have undertaken a detailed assessment of this new layout. The project is currently in the official EIA Phase as shown in Figure 5. This phase is commencing with the circulation of the Draft EIR for public comment.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The proposed development could potentially produce a range of environmental and socio-economic impacts. A team of specialists, listed in Table 1, was appointed to identify these potential impacts and to propose mitigation measures to reduce the potential negative impacts, and enhance the positive impacts. A detailed paleontological study was not required however their Scoping findings are included in the Draft EIR. The specialists assessed the significance of these potential impacts using a consistent methodology supplied by the EAP. The significance ratings have been provided for impacts anticipated from the proposed project before and after mitigation measures are implemented. A summary table showing all the significance ratings of the expected impacts is presented in Table 2 on page 14. For details of each impact study, please refer to the complete Draft EIR. The combination of potential impacts from the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm and other proposed wind farms in the wider study

area may result in significant impacts and therefore, the assessment also identifies and considers potential cumulative impacts. The environmental aspects and potential impacts relevant to this project are discussed below.

Table 1: Impact assessment and the specialist team

Potential impacts	Identified specialist
Biophysical impacts:	
Terrestrial Ecology	Simon Todd (3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions (Pty) Ltd)
Aquatic Ecology	Dr Brain Colloty (Scherman, Colloty & Associates)
Bats	Werner Marais (Animalia consultants)
Avifauna	Jon Smallie (Wildskies ecological services)
Socio-economic impacts:	
Agricultural resources	Johann Lanz (Independent consultant)
Impact on regional and local community and economy	Matthew Keeley and Thomas Parsons (Urban-Econ Development Economists)
Palaeontology	Dr John Almond (Natura Viva)
Archaeology	Dr Peter Nilssen (Independent Consultant)
Noise and Shadow Flicker	Astrid Peeters and Lien Van Breusegem (3E)
Visual	Quinton Lawson and Bernard Oberholzer (Quinton Lawson, Architect and Bernard Oberholzer, Landscape Architect)
Traffic	Athol Schwarz (Independent Consultant)
Wake effect	Gerald Ehlers (Africoast Energy)

Climate

The climate of the region falls within the marine temperate climate region of South Africa which is characterised by frontal weather, leading to changeable often overcast and moderate weather conditions. The broad Sarah Baartman District Municipal area experiences an average summer temperature of 23°C, and a winter average of 17°C. The study area receives an average rainfall of up to 662 mm per annum, with rainfall distributed throughout the year. The area is generally described as windy, with the dominant wind direction from the west, with the contribution of the highest wind speeds from the west-north-west and to a lesser extent from the south.

Topography, geology and soils

The proposed Impofu West Wind Farm is located on mostly flat terrain and is mapped as having a slope of less than 5% but may be greater in a few isolated spots. The site is located on coastal plains at altitudes between 180 and 250 metres (m) above sea level. Soils of the site are predominantly deep to moderately deep, very sandy soils with some drainage limitations and consist of the Constantia, Fernwood, Wasbank, Longlands, Houwhoek, Witfontein, Pinegrove, Kroonstad, Katspruit, Westleigh, Glencoe, Lamotte and Clovelly soil forms. Quarzitic Table Mountain and Bokkeveld Groups dominate the underlying geology of the area. The geology of the site is not considered to be a constraint to the development.

Terrestrial Ecology

Terrestrial ecology includes land-based plants and animals (excluding aquatic). A terrestrial ecological specialist undertook site visits during September 2017 and March 2018. Based on the site investigation, the vegetation type covering the study area is mostly of Tsitsikamma Sandstone Fynbos with Southern Cape Dune Fynbos in the southern extent of the site. The ecologist also identified a narrow band of Eastern Coastal Shale Band and Garden Route Shale Fynbos Vegetation which traverses the site. The diversity of the vegetation is considered low and it was confirmed from a site visit by the ecologist that the majority of the area has undergone significant land use change and is now transformed, including some Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA's) within the site. Weedy and alien species can be observed on site and on the old pasture lands. Some of these areas are used by fauna for grazing however the significance of this remains low.



Figure 6: Highly degraded Tsitsikamma Sandstone Fynbos in the north of the Impofu West Wind Farm (Todd, 2017)

The ecologist also considered mammal, reptile and amphibian animal communities during his site visits. Due to the transformed nature of most of the site, fewer mammals occur than would have naturally. The site has not been well sampled in the past for reptile biodiversity, and seven species were observed at the site. There are numerous earth dams, wetlands and drainage lines present at the site which represent the most important habitats for amphibians, and these areas have been well-buffered.

Potential Impacts of the proposed project on the terrestrial ecology of the study area during construction, operation and decommissioning will largely relate to the loss of currently intact ecological habitat and the transformation of the area, loss of vegetation and Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) and alien plant invasion following decommissioning. It is recommended that a pre-construction walk-through of the development footprint to further refine the layout and reduce impacts on SCC through micro-siting of the turbines and access roads is instituted. It is also recommended that the development footprint is minimised as far as possible and disturbed areas rehabilitated after construction. Areas identified as having high faunal importance have been avoided to mitigate the identified impacts.

Aquatic Ecology

The project falls within the K80E, K80F and K90D quaternary catchments, within the South Eastern Coastal Belt Ecoregion located within the Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma Water Management Area (WMA7). Natural run-off from the site will eventually flow into the Tsitsikamma River, Klipdrift River and Krom River. The aquatic ecology specialist identified wetlands, drainage lines, man-made systems such as dams, reservoirs and irrigation balancing dams as aquatic features found on site. The site is characterised by perennial, non-perennial watercourses and drainage lines. The presence of these watercourses will require specific site management with regards to maintaining the water quality and ecosystem services.

The main potential aquatic ecology impacts arising from the construction and operation of the proposed project are related to loss of aquatic species of concern and the loss of natural wetlands on site, loss of functional wetlands and riparian systems that provide ecosystem services within the site and increased surface run-off. To mitigate the potential impacts on the site aquatic features a final pre-construction walkdown is recommended as part of a Plant Search and Rescue plan. It is also recommended that good housekeeping is exercised during construction activities to protect the aquatic features and the management of stormwater run-off must be addressed in the design of the facility. It is also recommended that the wind farm join the Greater Kromme Stewardship Initiative and thus through this contribute to ongoing conservation in the area.

Bats

As required by South Africa's Good Practice Guidelines for Surveying Bats and Wind Energy Facility Developments, a bat specialist has undertaken 12 months of pre-construction monitoring covering four seasons.

Eight bat species have been confirmed on the consolidated Impofu Wind Farms site (Egyptian Free-tailed bat, Cape serotine, Natal long-fingered bat, Long-tailed serotine, Geoffroy's horseshoe bat, Temmink's myotis, Dusky pipistrelle and Yellow-bellied house bat). None of the bat species are classified as threatened (endangered or vulnerable) by conservation bodies, but they provide a high value to the local ecosystems in which they live. For example, the Egyptian free-tailed bat plays an important role in pest control. The presence of bats in an environment is largely connected to areas providing roosting (sleeping) and foraging (eating) habitats. Open watercourses and certain vegetation types providing insect habitat would be indicators of potential foraging sites.

Although most bats are highly capable of advanced navigation by echolocation and excellent sight, they are at risk of physical impact with the blades of wind turbines and to barotrauma (death caused by a change in air pressure). The impacts on bat sensitivity that could potentially result from the proposed construction and operation of the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm are specifically in relation to the potential increase of bat mortalities due to moving turbines and bat habitat destruction and disturbance. To avoid significant negative impacts to bats during the operational phase, avoidance is recommended. This was achieved as far as possible at the time by the original bat sensitivity map produced by the bat specialist prior to the Pre-Application Phase, which indicated the potential roosting and foraging areas as No-Go areas for wind turbine placement.

The bat sensitivity map has, however, been updated after the Pre-Application Phase of the project and then again after the Scoping phase as the 12-month bat monitoring study progressed and was then finalised in response to comments received from I&APs during these phases. This has led to a redesign of the layout to avoid such areas.

Avifauna

As with the bats, a 12 month pre-construction monitoring period has been undertaken to cover all four seasons. The purpose of the monitoring period is to record data on bird species on site and the spatial patterns in bird flight movement. This seasonal sampling provided the specialist with the opportunity to undertake monitoring in summer (when summer migrants are present); winter (when raptors breed and Blue Cranes flock); spring (when summer migrants are arriving on site and many species start to breed); and autumn (when summer migrants are leaving, and many raptors are preparing to breed).

A total of 190 bird species were recorded on the consolidated Impofu Wind Farms site, with a peak in species richness in summer (149), followed by spring (143), autumn (127) and winter (113). Of the 190 bird species, a total of 84 small terrestrial bird species and a total of 15 large terrestrial species and raptors were recorded on the Impofu Wind Farms site. Based on these records, nine priority bird species were classified for the assessment of the consolidated site. The selection was based on the regional conservation status of the species, and whether they are Red Listed or otherwise important species (the small bird community was not considered topmost priority). The nine priority species are: Denham's Bustard, White-bellied Korhaan, Blue Crane, Black Harrier, African Marsh-Harrier, Martial Eagle, African Fish-Eagle, Jackal Buzzard and White Stork. The nearest Important Bird Areas are located approximately 31 km north (Kouga-Baviaans) and 31 km west (Tsitsikamma National Park) of the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm.

The Martial Eagle is a species of potential concern for the Impofu Wind Farms project site. The confirmed presence of a Martial Eagle nest, approximately 2km north of the original Impofu Wind Farms site boundary, has had significant implications for the proposed development. To avoid risks to these eagles a 6-km radius buffer around the nest site was declared a No-Go area during the design phase.

The potential impacts on avifaunal sensitivity that could result from the proposed construction and operation of the proposed wind farm were specifically in relation to the potential increase of collisions with wind turbines which is a direct mortality factor, habitat destruction and disturbance as well as displacement and barrier effects presented by the wind turbines. To avoid potential significant negative impacts on avifauna during the operational phase an avifaunal walk down pre-construction is recommended to confirm the final turbine layout and identify any sensitivities that may arise between environmental authorisation and the construction phase. It is also recommended that monitoring of the breeding status of Martial Eagles be conducted in all breeding seasons post acceptance of the project as preferred bidder (to establish baseline) and including during and post construction. Furthermore, if Blue Crane turbine or power line collision fatalities occur during operation because of livestock feeding points, this will need to be mitigated, by restricting farmers from placing feed too close to turbines and power lines or preventing the Blue Cranes from getting into the feeding troughs. It is also recommended that a budget be set aside for potential mitigation that may be required due to findings of the operational monitoring.



Agriculture

The current land use on site is agriculture. The site and surrounding areas are currently used for intensive, high production dairy farming with some areas of cultivated, kikuyu based pasture and additional fodder crops, both under irrigation, as well as non-irrigated. From an agricultural perspective, the potential impacts largely relate to the permanent loss of agricultural productive land, or potentially productive land that will be occupied by the wind farm infrastructure and will become unavailable for agricultural use. These potential areas to be impacted are limited to only a small proportion of the total surface area of the site. In mitigating the negative impacts, the wind farm footprint has entirely avoided centre pivot irrigated lands, which were classified as No-Go areas. Based on the agricultural investigation, the Impofu West Wind Farm is likely to have continued positive impacts on the agriculture of the area rather than threatening agriculture, for example improved farm security, improved shared infrastructure and increased financial security for the farmers.

Socio-economic

The main socio-economic activity on the site is commercial dairy farming. Currently, four operational wind farms are located in close proximity to the site, namely: Kouga Wind Farm, Gibson Bay Wind Farm, Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm and Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm. The proposed development could provide a significant amount of new economic activity, both during the construction phase as well as during the on-going operation of the wind farm. From the study, it is evident that the development could have a significant impact on the local and regional society and economy. The proposed development would provide for a variety of potential positive and negative impacts during the construction and on-going operation of the development.

The potential negative socio-economic impacts include those relating to:

- Social disruption from the influx of workers;
- Changes in the sense of place; and
- Impact on economic and social infrastructure.

The potential positive socio-economic impacts include those relating to:

- Stimulation of national and local economy;
- Employment opportunities will be created nationally and locally;

- Skills development programmes;
- Increase in household earnings;
- Increase in government revenue;
- Improving the standard of living of households of permanent employees;
- Improvement of the livelihoods of the household's dependant on the local agricultural sector;
- Change in property and land value;
- Local economic and social development benefits; and
- Provision of electricity for future development.

Palaeontology

Palaeontological resources include fossilised materials such as buried fossils and rock units. Since some potential heritage material is buried, it is often only found during the construction phase of a project, a palaeontologist conducted a site visit in September 2017 and found a range of shallow marine to nearshore fluvial and estuarine trace fossils, mainly from the Western Cape outcrop area. The relevant palaeontological survey indicates that the palaeontological sensitivity of the Humansdorp region is generally low as far as the bedrocks are concerned, especially because of the high levels of chemical weathering and tectonic deformation observed within the area.

Two quarry sites of geoh heritage / palaeontological interest were identified by the palaeontologist near the Rosenhof farmstead (within the Impofu West site boundary). However, the two quarry sites will not be directly impacted by the proposed wind farm development. The sites show traces of equivocal fossils which are not regarded as of high conservation significance and will not be impacted by the development footprint. Apart from the trace fossil site in one of these existing quarries, near Rosenhof farmstead, no significant fossil sites were recorded during the field survey of the Impofu West Wind Farm project area and the overall palaeontological sensitivity of the area is rated as low.

The main potential palaeontological impacts arising from the construction of the proposed project are related to the disturbance and damage of fossil heritage. To mitigate the impact on palaeontological features onsite recording and sampling of significant fossils (if found) is to be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist and any potential fossil finds reported to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (ECPHRA). The study found that further detailed assessment in the EIA Phase was not required.

Archaeology

Archaeological resources include rock paintings, graves and stone tools. Based on previous studies undertaken in the surrounding environment, it is known that the area contains heritage resources including a variety of historic period structures, associated cultural materials, graves and graveyards. An archaeologist surveyed the site between March and April 2018 and identified significant archaeological features which may be impacted by the development of the project. These include:

- Historic period disused feeding / watering trough made of modern materials (IW4) – not conservation worthy and no mitigation is required;
- Stone Age quarrying / flaking of outcropping quartzite (IW5) – not impacted by the current design layout;
- Late Stone Age and Middle Stone Age stone artefacts in sand quarry (IW6)- no mitigation is required, but archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended; and
- *In situ* Middle Stone Age and Early Stone Age stone artefacts in quarry (IW7) – avoided by current design layout, but archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended.



Figure 7: Example of disused feeding / watering systems (IW4) and Stone Age quarrying / flaking of outcropping quartzite (IW5) found on site (Nilssen, 2017)

The potential impacts from this project therefore relate to the archaeological finds listed above. The clearing of vegetation and construction activities associated with the project are therefore considered a potential risk to these resources. Furthermore, the site lies within the pre-colonial cultural landscape, identified as an archaeologically sensitive area. The strip along the coast of up to 5 km wide is considered to be one of the richest archaeological and pre-colonial cultural landscapes in South Africa. To mitigate negative impacts on the pre-colonial cultural landscape archaeological monitoring of this area within the site is recommended. In addition, monitoring in the vicinity of the stone age quarry (IW7) is also recommended. The relevant provincial heritage agency (ECPHRA) has indicated that a full HIA is not required, only an archaeological study (and Palaeontological study) is to be submitted for comment. The proposed development triggers Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999; NHRA) and the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) will ensure compliance with the heritage legislation.

Noise and shadow flicker

Wind turbines are responsible for both mechanical and aerodynamic noise (from the wind turbine blades moving through the air). Shadow-flicker occurs when the rotation of wind turbine blades results in alternating periods of shadow and light to a receptor. Shadow-flickering will only occur when the position of the turbine is between the sun and the receptor, and only when the turbine is operating and the sun is shining.

Noise levels are affected by various factors such as topography, land use, vegetation cover and roads. According to the noise specialist, the potential issues and impacts associated with environmental noise will mostly be experienced during the construction phase of the project. Related noise would result from the equipment being used (e.g. excavators, graders, bulldozers, etc.) and the activities undertaken (e.g. excavations, batching plants, etc.), as well as traffic on site, and to and from the site. During operation the mechanical noise produced by wind turbines is likely to have an impact on neighbouring communities and nearby sensitive receptors, but the operational noise from the Impofu West Wind Farm is expected not to exceed the 45 dB(A) noise level threshold required for rural areas at any of the sensitive receptors within the Impofu Wind Farms site boundary. Noise related impacts during the decommissioning phase would be similar to those experienced during the construction phase.

It is anticipated that sensitive receptors that would experience shadow flicker impacts are those close to or within the neighbouring Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm, but the impact is expected to be very limited. Some receptors within the Impofu West Wind Farm site boundary are also expected to be impacted by shadow flicker, but these impacts are relatively easy to mitigate and reduce and are not seen as a major issue.

Visual

The visual specialist undertook a site visit in October 2017 to determine the scope of the visual impact issues. Based on the visual investigation the potential visual impacts significant to the project are related to the construction

and operation phases. These include visual intrusions of the construction activities such as construction traffic, cranes, dust, wind turbines, the substation, operation and maintenance buildings, lighting and the visual scarring of the landscape by earthworks. Given the scale of the proposed wind farm and the exposed nature of the site, the Visual Specialist indicated that the visual impacts of the site are considered to be at the municipal and local level. It is anticipated that the rural sense of place would be affected by the wind farm activities and associated infrastructure, particularly when considering the potential cumulative visual impacts.

Wake effect

the Impofu Wind Farms are located on a section of coastal plain with the ocean on either side which results in excellent wind conditions and low levels of turbulence, making it one of the best wind resources in the country and ideal for wind farm development. For this reason, there are a number of existing and planned wind farms in this area.

Red Cap thus appointed an independent specialist to assess the potential impacts on the yields of the adjacent Kouga Wind Farm and the Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm. An initial study has been concluded and discussions with these two wind farms have been initiated with the aim of arriving at a fair and amicable solution to this potential impact.

Cumulative impacts

A number of scenarios were considered in assessing the cumulative impacts of the proposed wind farm. This considered the Impofu West Wind Farm in conjunction with the past, present and future wind farm projects in the area which have the potential for cumulative impacts on the same environmental receptors. The area of influence of the cumulative study was a 30 km radius. Scenario 1 considered impacts from Impofu West Wind Farm on the baseline, in combination with the impacts of Impofu North and Impofu East Wind Farms. Scenario 2 considered impacts from all three Impofu wind farms and associated infrastructure on the baseline in addition to the proposed Oyster Bay, Banna Ba Pifhu and Ubuntu Wind Farms which are those with a valid environmental authorisation located within a 30 km radius.

The impact of the proposed project in combination with other wind farm projects, and past, present and future in the study have been assessed by each specialist discipline and depend largely on whether the project specific mitigation can be applied. Many of the impacts are rated as negligible or minor negative, with a few moderate impacts. Although the impact on avifauna mortality from turbine collisions has been rated to be of high significance, the overall impact on avifauna is considered to be moderate negative significance (this includes destruction and alteration of habitat, displacement of birds from the site, disturbance of breeding and mortality from turbines). A worst-case scenario has been taken into account to reach this finding and there is a requirement for a budget to be put aside for any potential mitigation during operation aimed at ensuring effective mitigation can be undertaken if required. Given both of these facts it is concluded that the impact can be properly mitigated if required and may be less than predicted. Impacts on bats from turbines are assessed as low moderate and as long as the proposed project, and the other wind farms that are not yet operational, remain below sustainable mortality thresholds, the cumulative impacts for the area will be acceptable in the cumulative scenarios. Visual impacts are assessed as being of moderate significance in both scenarios and the viewsheds will overlap with those of other wind farms.

No other high or major impacts, or any which will exceed a critical threshold, are expected through the development of the project. However, all efforts to mitigate project specific impacts should be pursued and contribution to the Greater Kromme Stewardship Initiative should be considered to contribute to local bioregional conservation efforts.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE IDENTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Table 2: Summary of identified impacts for the proposed project and associated infrastructure

Environmental aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
Construction			
Terrestrial ecology	Loss of vegetation and plant SCC	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)

Environmental aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
	Direct and indirect impacts on fauna	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
Aquatic ecology	Loss of aquatic species of special concern	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Loss of remaining wetlands with high sensitivity	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Loss of riparian systems and watercourses	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Impact on localised water quality	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Bats	Destruction of foraging habitat by clearing vegetation	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
Avifauna	Destruction of bird habitat	Moderate (-)	*Low to Moderate (-)
	Disturbance of birds	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
Agriculture	Loss of agricultural land use	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Discontinuation of farming activities	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Interference with farming operations	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Degradation to natural agricultural resource base	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Depletion of potential agricultural water resources	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Increased financial security for farmers	Moderate (+)	N/A
	Improvements to shared infrastructure	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Improved farm security	Negligible (+)	N/A
Socio-economic	Temporary stimulation of the national and local economy	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Temporary increase of new employment opportunities in the national and local economies	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Contribution to skills development in the country and local economy	Minor (+)	Moderate (+)
	Temporary increase in household earnings	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Temporary increase in government revenue	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Impact on property and land value in the immediately affected area	Negligible (+)	Negligible (+)
	Changes to the sense of place ²	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Temporary increase in social disruptions associated with the influx of people	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Impact on economic and social infrastructure	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Archaeology	Impacts on pre-colonial landscape along 5 km wide coastal strip	Moderate (-)	Negligible (-)
	Impact on surrounds of quarry with in situ ESA and MSA stone artefacts	Major (-)	Negligible (-)
Noise	Construction noise	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
Visual	Visual intrusion on the rural landscape and scenic resources ²	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
Traffic	Deterioration of road condition due to increased traffic volumes	Minor (-)	Minor (+)
	Incidents due to increased traffic volumes	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Delivery of concrete	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
Operation			
Terrestrial Ecology	Impacts on fauna	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
	Impacts on CBAs	Moderate (-)	Minor (+)

² Note that sense of place was assessed by both the social specialist and visual specialist, the pre-mitigation impact rating of the visual specialist was higher, however both ratings have the same residual impact with mitigation.

Environmental aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
Aquatic ecology	Impact on aquatic systems through increase in surface water runoff	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Bats	Bat mortalities due to moving turbine blades	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
	Bat mortalities due to light attraction	Moderate (-)	Negligible (-)
Avifauna	Disturbance of birds	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Displacement of birds	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Bird fatality through collision with turbine blades	Moderate (-)	Moderate (-)
	Bird collision and electrocution on overhead power lines	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Agriculture	Loss of agricultural land use	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Discontinuation of farming activities	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Interference with farming operations	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Degradation to natural agricultural resource base	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Depletion of potential agricultural water resources	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Increased financial security for farmers	Moderate (+)	N/A
	Improvements to shared infrastructure	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Improved farm security	Negligible (+)	N/A
Socio-economic	Sustainable increase in production and GDP nationally and locally	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Creation of sustainable employment positions nationally and locally	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Skills development of permanently employed workers	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Improved standard of living for benefiting households	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Sustainable increase in national and local government revenue	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Provision of electricity for future development	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Local economic and social development benefits derived from operations	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Improvement of the livelihoods of the households dependant on the local agricultural sector	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Negative changes to the sense of place ³	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
Noise	Operational noise	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
Shadow flicker	Shadow flicker	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Visual	Visual intrusion of the wind turbines on the rural landscape, settlements, scenic resources and overall sense of place ³	*Major moderate (-)	Major moderate (-)
	Visual intrusion of related infrastructure on the rural farming landscape	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
	Visual intrusion of lights at night on dark skies	Moderate (-)	Moderate (-)
	Visual intrusion of remaining structures and access roads on the rural landscape	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)
Traffic	Deterioration of road condition due to increased traffic volumes	Minor (-)	Minor (+)
	Incidents due to increased traffic volumes	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Decommissioning			
Terrestrial ecology	Alien plant invasion following decommissioning	Minor (-)	Minor (-)

³ Note that 'sense of place' was assessed by both the social specialist and visual specialist, the impact rating of the visual specialist was higher and therefore is taken to be the presiding rating for this impact.

Environmental aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
	Faunal impacts due to decommissioning.	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
Aquatic ecology	Loss of aquatic species of special concern	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Loss of riparian systems and watercourses	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Impact on localised water quality	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Avifauna	Disturbance of birds	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
Agriculture	Loss of agricultural land use	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Discontinuation of farming activities	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Interference with farming operations	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Degradation to natural agricultural resource base	Negligible (-)	Negligible (-)
	Depletion of potential agricultural water resources	Negligible (-)	N/A
	Increased financial security for farmers	Moderate (+)	N/A
	Improvements to shared infrastructure	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Improved farm security	Negligible (+)	N/A
Socio-economic	Temporary stimulation of the national and local economy	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Temporary increase of new employment opportunities in the national and local economies	Moderate (+)	Moderate (+)
	Temporary increase in household earnings	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Temporary increase in government revenue	Minor (+)	Minor (+)
	Changes to the sense of place ⁴	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
	Temporary increase in social disruptions associated with the influx of people	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
	Impact on economic and social infrastructure	Minor (-)	Negligible (-)
Noise	Decommissioning noise	Minor (-)	Minor (-)
Visual	Visual intrusion of remaining infrastructure on the rural landscape ⁴	Moderate (-)	Minor (-)

CONCLUSIONS AND OPINION OF THE EAP

The proposed Impofu West Wind Farm project offers the potential to contribute to South Africa's national commitment to transition to a low carbon economy but this needs to be weighed up against potential negative and other potential positive impacts such a development may have. As such, a detailed Screening and Iterative Design, Scoping and Draft EIR process has been undertaken for the project to date. The site layout has further been informed by the findings of 12 months of bird and bat monitoring. The total number of turbines for all three wind farms was reduced from 208 to 95 turbines and the overall site layout was reduced from 15,427 ha to 11,838 ha. This is testament to the ongoing screening and refining to avoid all areas of high environmental sensitivity. This has resulted in the determination of what is believed to be the best practical environmental option possible for the Impofu West Wind Farm site, comprising 29 potential turbine locations.

The focus of the environmental assessment process was to avoid environmentally and socially sensitive areas in the site layout design to reduce residual impacts as far as possible. This allowed the best practical environmental option for the site to be identified, as well as for Impofu Wind Farm consolidated site as a whole. The site is very favourable for wind energy generation and is therefore located amongst operational wind farms; this has been an

⁴ Note that sense of place was assessed by both the social specialist and visual specialist, the pre-mitigation impact rating of the visual specialist was higher, however both ratings have the same residual impact with mitigation.

integral consideration of the assessment. Furthermore, future other wind farms in the area have been taken into account through the assessment of cumulative impacts.

The EIR documents a number of residual negative impacts ranging from negligible, minor and moderate negative significance with one impact of major-moderate significance (visual intrusion); with fewer positive impacts, mostly socio-economic, but these are in the range of minor to moderate to major significance.

The negative construction impacts are mostly from direct landtake for the footprint of the facility, or a related to disruption arising from construction activities. The highest of these residual impacts was the loss of avifauna habitat which was rated as low to moderate negative significance with mitigation. The other moderate impacts could all be mitigated to minor or negligible significance through a number of preventative actions. Positive construction impacts largely relate to socio-economic impacts from the stimulation of the local economy through spend, employment and skills development, with other indirect benefits.

The most notable operational impacts include the mortality of bats and birds as well as the visual impact. The impact on bats from moving turbine blades as well as light attraction is rated as moderate negative significance but can be mitigated to minor and negligible negative significance respectively through the application of mitigation. This is primarily the implementation of operational monitoring and then adaptive management if unacceptable losses become evident. The impact of bird fatalities from collisions with turbine blades however remains as moderate negative significance even after mitigation has been applied. It has been recommended that a monitoring programme be implemented; since it is not possible to determine what mitigation may be appropriate in the future, provision for a mitigation contingency budget for operations is recommended. The negative impacts on fauna and CBAs both rated as moderate negative significance can be mitigated to minor negative and minor positive respectively through design measures and also contribution to the Greater Kromme Stewardship Initiative to assist with land management and biodiversity conservation within the area. The visual intrusion of the wind turbines on the rural landscape, settlements, scenic resources and overall sense of place is assessed as being of major to moderate negative significance and cannot be mitigated but is partly offset by existing wind farms in the landscape. The other infrastructure can all be mitigated to minor negative significance except for visual intrusion of lights at night which remains as moderate even after recommended design measures have been adopted.

Positive impacts in relation to agriculture is the additional income for farmers from the operation of the wind farms, the improvements to shared infrastructure and improved farm security. Most notable is the increased financial security that has been demonstrated by landowners already benefitting from the other existing wind farms in the area. This presides over the impacts of minor or negligible significance from loss of productive land or interference on operations, and indirectly through impacts to natural resources on which farmers rely.

Other positive socio-economic impacts of the operation of the project include a wide range of impacts rated as major positive significance, at both local and national levels. This includes sustainable increase in production and GDP, employment, skills development, increase in government revenue, provision of electricity for future development, local economic and social development benefits, as well as improvements of livelihoods for the local agricultural sector. The contribution from the developer towards maintenance of the local road network is also thought to have a positive impact for society, although minor positive significance.

Decommissioning, has also been included in the assessment. As a worst case it has been rated the same as construction, however, all impacts are likely to be notably lower as intensive activities like concrete batching and dispatching will not be necessary. All residual negative impacts are rated as negligible or minor negative significance. Positive socio-economic impacts are expected mainly from the stimulation of the economy and creation of jobs.

With regards to the cumulative impacts of the project it is the opinion of the EAP that since there are no high or major impacts that can't be suitably mitigated no critical threshold will be exceeded through the development of the project. The No-Go alternative does present negative impacts of lower significance but is also a lost opportunity for socio-economic benefits and sustainable energy production. After consideration of all identified impacts, including the compliance with the principles of NEMA that advocate for sustainability and the potential for the wind farm to contribute to South Africa's national commitment to transition to a low carbon economy, the EAP is of the opinion

that the proposed project based on the preferred layout alternative is acceptable, and no fatal flaws have been identified.

The confidence in the environmental assessment undertaken is regarded as being acceptable for decision-making, specifically in terms of the environmental impacts and risks. The EAP has adopted a worst-case scenario in order to make up for uncertainties with regards to some of the mitigation measures. It is believed that the information contained within the EIR is adequate to assist DEA in determining the environmental acceptability of the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Stakeholder engagement is an important component to ensure that a project is undertaken in a fair, open, transparent and inclusive way. South African EIA legislation and guidelines have formalised stakeholder engagement in the EIA process and refer to it as the Public Participation Process (PPP). PPP therefore forms an integral part of this investigation and enables parties that are directly or indirectly affected by the project (such as landowners, organs of state and other key stakeholders such as conservation groups), or simply interested in the project (such as the greater public), to participate in the process. Within the PPP process, these stakeholder groups are therefore referred to as interested and affected parties (I&APs).

This Draft EIR has been compiled to meet the requirements of NEMA⁵, with the primary aim of informing I&APs of the proposed project and allowing them an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the project before the Final EIR is submitted to DEA.

The contributions of I&APs are valued and provide important input into the EIA process. The PPP is designed to objectively enable I&APs to:

- Ask questions and get clarification on any aspect of the project;
- Raise issues of concern and make suggestions for alternatives and enhanced benefits;
- Contribute local knowledge;
- Verify that their issues have been captured and considered by the technical investigations; and
- Comment on the findings of the Scoping Report and EIA Report.

The PPP is designed to solicit a joint effort by stakeholders to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently. Successful PPP therefore provides an opportunity for I&APs to gain more knowledge about the proposed project, to provide input through the review of documents / reports, and to voice any issues of concern at various stages throughout the EIA process (as illustrated above in Figure 5). This process ultimately facilitates better decision-making. Table 3 summarises the PPP activities to date.

Table 3: PPP activities to date

Task	Description and date
Pre-application meeting	A pre-application meeting was held with DEA on 17 October 2017 and 11 September 2018
Screening and Iterative Design PPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Pre-Application meeting was held on 17 October 2017 with the competent authority, DEA, to ensure that an appropriate EIA process would be followed. • Advertisements in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa were placed in the provincial newspaper, Eastern Cape Herald newspaper, on 14 December 2017 and placed in the local newspaper, Kouga Express, on 21 December 2017 notifying the broader public of the initiation of the EA processes and inviting them to register as I&APs. • Trilingual site notices (Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa) erected at various public entrances and public libraries, in December 2017.

⁵ Appendix 2 of amended EIA Regulations (GN R982) of NEMA lists the content required in a Scoping Report. This has been listed for cross checking purposes on the page preceding the table of contents.

Task	Description and date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Information Document (BID) was compiled to provide a high-level introduction to the project. This was distributed to landowners, identified key stakeholders as well as any registered I&APs from December 2017 - February 2018. Three focus group meetings were held in PE and St Francis Bay between 6-8 February 2018 with local authorities, landowners and adjacent landowners (of the wind farms) and key identified stakeholders such as conservation bodies and local community groups.
Specialist studies and preparation of the Draft Scoping Report	April – July 2018
Pre-Application PPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Application Scoping Report made available for a five-week public comment period: 1 August - 7 September 2018 Three public meetings/open days held at the St Francis Bay Bowling Club (21 August 2018), Thornhill Hotel (22 August) and Innibos Lapa in Despatch (23 August). Notification of the public comment period and public meetings sent in writing (via post) to all registered I&APs by 25 July 2018, or via email by 31 July 2018 Trilingual advertisements of the public comment period and invitation to attend the public meetings was published in the Eastern Cape Herald (30 July 2018) and the Kouga Express (26 July 2018). Existing site notices were updated to indicate the start of the pre-application public comment period and announce the details of the public meetings. Hard copies of the Pre-Application Scoping Report were deposited at: Kouga Municipality (St Francis Bay), Oyster Inn/ Oyster Bay Estate Agent*; Humansdorp Library, Thornhill Hotel and Alan Ridge Library (in Uitenhage). Electronic copies of the report made available on Dropbox, Aurecon's PPP website, and via CD on request.
Updating of specialist studies and Final Scoping Report	September - October 2018
Scoping PPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Scoping Report made available for a 30-day public comment period: 11 October - 9 November 2018. This was extended to 12 November 2018 due to a minor delay in delivery, with some I&APs only receiving notification on 11 October 2018. Notification of the public comment period sent in writing to all registered I&APs on 4 October 2018 by post, and 10 October 2018 via email. Hard copies of the Draft Scoping Report deposited at: Kouga Municipality (St Francis Bay), Oyster Inn, Humansdorp Library, and Thornhill Hotel. A hard copy of the report was also made available to the Organs of State on request. Electronic copies of the report made available on Dropbox, Aurecon's PPP website, and via CD on request.
Comment on Draft Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEA acknowledgement of receipt of the application and Draft Scoping Report: 12 October 2018 DEA submitted comments on the Draft Scoping Report: 7 November 2018
Acceptance of Final Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEA acknowledgement receipt of the Final Scoping Report: 26 November 2018 DEA accepted Final Scoping Report: 25 January 2019
Application for extension of timeframes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension letter received by DEA: 29 January 2019 Extension granted by DEA: 3 March 2019
Specialist impact assessment studies and preparation of the Draft EIR	February – March 2019
EIR PPP	18 April 2019 – 23 May 2019
Comment and Decision on Final EIR	<p>In terms of Regulation 24 of GN R982, DEA must within 107 days of receipt of the EIR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in writing-</p> <p>(a) Grant environmental authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or</p> <p>(b) Refuse environmental authorisation.</p>

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

All I&APs are encouraged to submit comments/issues/concerns on the proposed Impofu West Wind Farm Project to the Aurecon team (Table 4), from **18 April to 23 May 2019**.

Table 4: Stakeholder engagement team

	Zoë Palmer	Ilse Aucamp
Telephone number	021 526 6069	082 828 0668
Email address	ppp@aurecongroup.com	ilsea@lantic.net
Postal address	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000	
Project document website	https://www.aurecongroup.com/public-participation/projects/impofu-windfarms-grid-redcap	

Access the **Draft EIR reports** at the following locations for further information:

1. Download them from Aurecon's PPP **website** (to access them, register on the website, and then use "Find Projects" search function using "Impofu").
2. Download them from **Dropbox**.
3. Access a **hard copy** of the report at the following locations:
 - a. Kouga Municipal Offices, St Francis Bay
 - b. Oyster Inn
 - c. Humansdorp Library
 - d. Thornhill Hotel
 - e. Allan Ridge Public Library, Uitenhage (Grid Connection only)

I&APs are also invited to the following **public meetings**:

- **St Francis Bay Bowling Club on 2 May 2019** - The team will be available from 16h30 until 20h00 and will facilitate a presentation and question and answer (Q&A) session from 18h00.
- **Innibos Lapa on 3 May 2019** - The team will be available from 11h00 until 15h00, with a presentation and Q&A session from 13h00.
- **Thornhill Hotel on 3 May 2019** - The team will be available from 16h30 until 20h00, with a presentation and Q&A session from 18h00.

Following the Draft EIR public comment period the Final EIR will be updated where necessary. All written comments received will be consolidated into an Appendix of the EIR. This will take the form of a Public Participation Report (PPR), with copies of the original comments received, in which raised issues and concerns will be included and responded to by the Project Team. The report will also be revised in light of feedback from the public, where necessary. The Final EIR document including the updated PPR will be submitted to DEA for their decision-making. Registered I&APs will be provided access to the Final EIR submitted to DEA. The DEA must, within 107 days of receipt of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report review it and, in writing, issue their decision regarding the environmental acceptance of the proposed project.