

**KOMSBERG WEST WIND FARM AND GRID CONNECTION, NORTHERN AND
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES**

ECOLOGICAL WALKDOWN REPORT

FOR

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

BY



EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd

Dr Brian Colloty

1 Rossini Rd
Pari Park
Gqeberha
6070

DATE

30 July 2021

REVISION 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 4
2. Species identification and permitting requirements 7
3. Results - Flora..... 8
4. Results – Fauna 15
5. Conclusion and Recommendations..... 16
6. Appendix 1 - Specialist CV..... 18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: List of potential listed and protected plants, and if they had been observed during the June 2021 survey within the project alignments, where those listed under IUCN other than LC will also require a Biodiversity Permit from the respective provinces (ToPs) 8
Table 2: Findings of the walkdown surveys for the structures shown in Figure 1a& 1b with specific reference to species observed within the development layout only..... 11

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: The proposed project layout used in the walk down assessment conducted in June 2021 .. 6
Figure 2a: Eastern portion of optimised wind farm layout based on the findings of this assessment and past assessments with regard High Sensitivity habitats with the remainder of the site considered Medium to Low..... 6
Figure 2b: Western portion of optimised wind farm layout based on the findings of this assessment and past assessments with regard High Sensitivity habitats with the remainder of the site considered Medium to Low..... 7

SPECIALIST REPORT DETAILS

Report prepared by: Dr. Brian Colloty Pr.Sci.Nat. (Ecology) / Member SAEIES.

Expertise / Field of Study: BSc (Hons) Zoology, MSc Botany, Ph.D Botany Conservation Importance rating and interior wetland / riverine assessment consultant from 1996 to present. Brian has also been working in the study region for the last 8 years, with the past 2 years focused on establishing and managing on a daily basis search and rescue programmes for various wind farms in the Karoo Hoogland (Roggeveld / Klein Roggeveld) including associated works such as quarries and borrow -pits around Laingsburg / Matjiesfontein.

I, **Dr. Brian Michael Colloty** declare that this report has been prepared independently of any influence or prejudice as may be specified by the National Department of Environmental Affairs and or Department of Water and Sanitation.



Signed:..... Date:....30 July 2021.....

Appendix 1 of this report contains a detailed CV

This document contains intellectual property and proprietary information that is protected by copyright in favour of EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd. The document may therefore not be reproduced, or used without the prior written consent of EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd. This document is prepared exclusively for Savannah Environmental and their client and is subject to all confidentiality, copyright, trade secrets, and intellectual property law and practices of SOUTH AFRICA.

1. Introduction

Komsberg Wind farm (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation on the 08 September 2016 for the construction of the Komsberg West Wind Energy Facility (up to 275MW maximum capacity) and its associated grid connection infrastructure between Sutherland and Laingsburg. The project straddles the Northern and Western Cape Provinces, and falls within the Laingsburg and Karoo Hoogland Local Municipalities (Figure 1).

The Environmental Authorisation (as amended) authorises the following:

- Up to 45 wind turbines up to 6.5 MW in capacity with a rotor diameter of up to 180m and a hub height of up to 150m.
- Foundations and hardstanding associated with wind turbines;
- Up to 8m wide internal access road to each turbine, the substation complex and the ancillary infrastructure including underground cabling adjacent to the roads. Road length would be up to approximately 40km in total;
- Medium voltage cabling between turbines and the substation, to be laid underground where practical;
- Overhead medium Voltage cables between certain turbine strings or rows;
- A 100m x 150m on site substation complex to facilitate stepping up the voltage from medium to high voltage to enable the connection of the wind farm to the national grid;
- A 30m x 50m operations and services workshop area/ office building for control, maintenance and storage; and
- Temporary infrastructure including a site camp, laydown areas and a batching plant totalling 150m x 100m in extent.

This report is based on a 3-day walk-down of the final site layout, conducted in June 2021. The aim of this, was to locate and identify/confirm any sensitive ecological features, protected or threatened plant species and/or fauna of conservation concern within the development alignments. The identity and general location of all listed and protected species is also provided, which can be used as input for the vegetation clearing permit application that is required from the provincial authority.

Further recommendations for avoidance or search and rescue for specific habitats were also provided to the development / engineering team (Table 1) for consideration in the finalisation of the layout. These were provided as additional High Sensitivity Areas and are highlighted in this report (Figure 2), as previously several of the internal roads and underground cables were located in Very High Sensitivity areas, and in areas that would have required significant amounts of cut and fill.

Note the final layout/alignment has also been based on additional input provided by the Bat, Avifaunal and Heritage specialists and this report should be read in conjunction with those reports to contextualise the overall constraints provided to the development team. The input by the various specialists, this report, and various technical constraints saw change in the project footprint, that resulted in the avoidance of several very sensitive habitats such as dolerite outcrops / scarps cliff faces in particular.

1.1 Aims and objectives

- Conduct a pre-commencement ecological (terrestrial fauna & flora and aquatic) walk-through survey / assessment of the footprint areas:
 - Provide a professional opinion on ecological issues relating to terrestrial fauna & flora and the aquatic environment within the footprint areas of the optimised layout;
 - Report on the presence of potential wetlands that could be affected and where the relevant mitigation measures need to be implemented if needed;
 - Serve as background information for any ecological permits required for the disturbance to, destruction of, or removal of species of conservation concern and/or protected plants or trees;
 - Serve as additional ecological information for the Proponent, contractors and Environmental Control Officers (ECOs) and/or Environmental Officers (EOs) involved in the development.
- This is also to facilitate micro-siting of footprint areas, where possible and by taking cognisance of other constraints, with the aim to further reduce negative impacts of the development.
- Aid in future decisions and environmental management regarding the project.

1.2 Assumptions and Limitation

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of both the flora and fauna of the aquatic communities within a study site, as well as the status of endemic, rare or threatened species in any area, assessments should always consider investigations at different time scales (across seasons/years) and through replication. No long-term monitoring was undertaken as part of this assessment. However, a concerted effort was made to assess the entire site, as well as make use of any available literature, species distribution data and aerial photography. The report author has also been implementing the plant & animal search and rescue operations on nearby farms from mid-2019, which includes the two nearby wind farms under construction (Karusa & Soetwater) and the associated grid connections that extend to the Komsberg Eskom substation, which all encompass a 17 000ha area, assessed on a bimonthly basis to determine re-vegetation recovery and plant relocation success on these projects. Similar walkdowns were also conducted for other nearby proposed wind farms namely Gunstfontein and Great Karoo (adjacent to Komsberg West) inclusive of their respective grid connections.

It should be emphasised that information, as presented in this document, only has reference to the study area as indicated on the accompanying maps. Therefore, this information cannot be applied to any other area without detailed investigation.

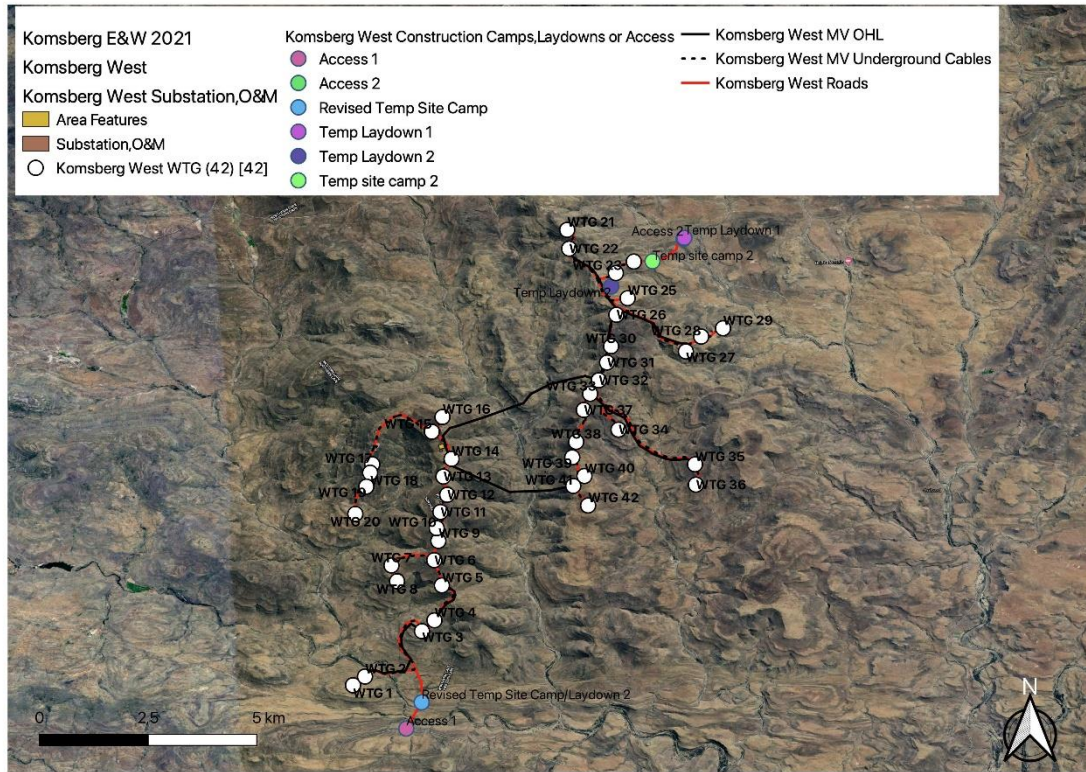


Figure 1: The proposed project layout used in the walk down assessment conducted in June 2021

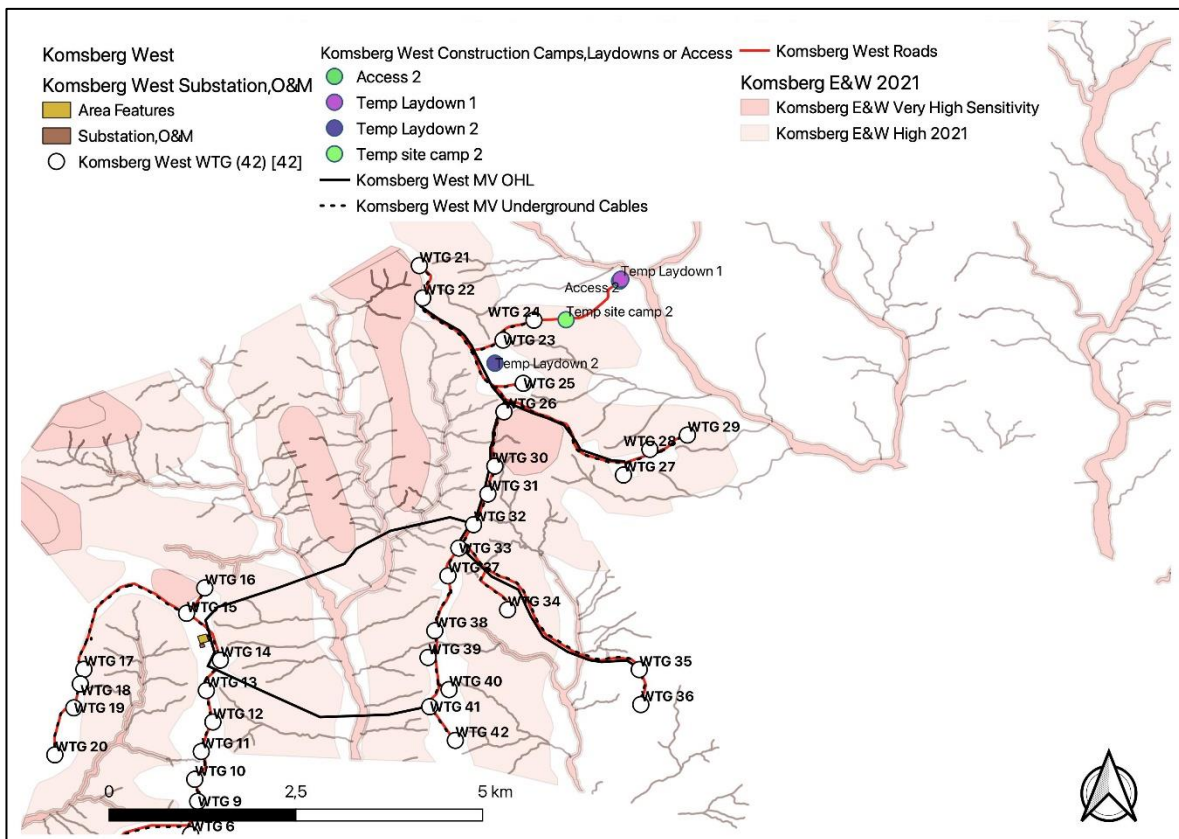


Figure 2a: Eastern portion of optimised wind farm layout based on the findings of this assessment and past assessments with regard High Sensitivity habitats with the remainder of the site considered Medium to Low

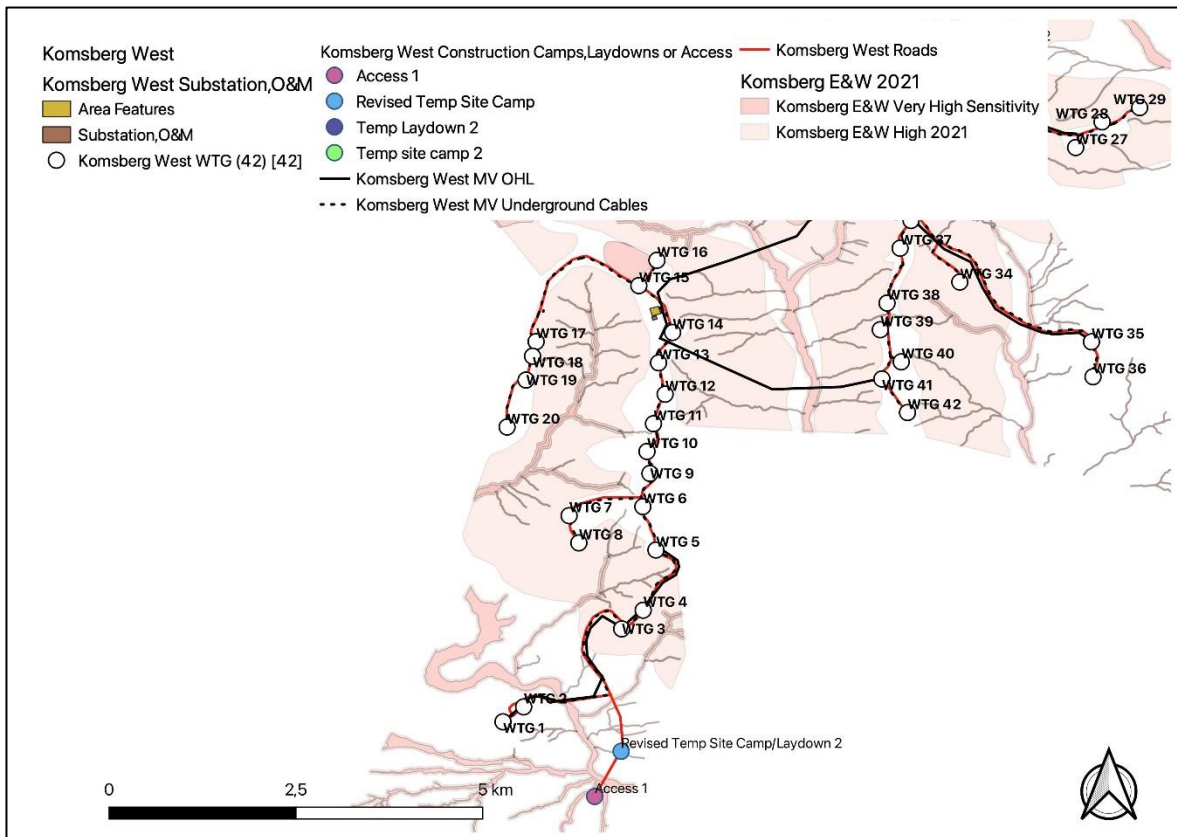


Figure 2b: Western portion of optimised wind farm layout based on the findings of this assessment and past assessments with regard High Sensitivity habitats with the remainder of the site considered Medium to Low

2. Species identification and permitting requirements

In preparation for the walkdowns, the following sources of information were assessed to produce a species checklist:

- South African National Botanical Institute's (SANBI's) Integrated Biodiversity Information System database for the quarter degree squares 3220DB, 3220DD, 3221CA & 3221CC within which the project falls.
- Species of conservation concern were extracted from the list based on their status according to Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Downloaded from Redlist.sanbi.org on 2021/05/19.
- Species listed as endangered or protected under the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance as amended (No. 3 of 2000).
- Species listed as endangered or protected under the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act (No. 9 of 2009).
- Todd, S. (2015). Environmental impact assessment for the proposed Komsberg East and West Wind Farms and associated grid connection infrastructure: Fauna & flora specialist impact assessment report. Arcus Consulting. Amendment reports submitted 2019

3. Results - Flora

The continued drought within the region limited the number of plants visible in the region, with rains in excess of 60mm in the winter period, only falling in July 2021 after the surveys were conducted. However several plants will still be observed and are listed in Table 1 below.

All protected plant species, (protected in terms of the Western Cape legislation) are listed below. The disturbance, destruction and/or relocation, whichever is more relevant, of these species would require the relevant permits from the provincial authority, noting that the majority of the species listed below were found outside of the June 2021 project layout/alignments. This does not however preclude them from being found within the final footprints or especially after the recent rains.

Table 1: List of potential listed and protected plants, and if they had been observed during the June 2021 survey within the project alignments, where those listed under IUCN other than LC will also require a Biodiversity Permit from the respective provinces (ToPs)

Family	Genus	Species	Subspecies	IUCN Status	2021 Survey	NCNCA (No 9 of 2009) Observed	Protected WC NCO (No 3 of 2000) Observed
AIZOACEAE	<i>Aloinopsis</i>	<i>spathulata</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Antimima</i>	<i>prolongata</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Antimima</i>	<i>pumila</i>		DDT	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Cheiridopsis</i>	<i>namaquensis</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Cleretum</i>	<i>lyratifolium</i>		LC		X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Cleretum</i>	<i>Papulosum</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Delosperma</i>	<i>sphalmanthoides</i>		DDT	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Drosanthemum</i>	<i>spp</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Hammeria</i>	<i>meleagris</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Lampranthus</i>	<i>spp</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Ruschia</i>	<i>caroli</i>		LC	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Ruschia</i>	<i>inclusa</i>		DDT	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Ruschia</i>	<i>pungens</i>		DDT	X	X	
AIZOACEAE	<i>Stomatium</i>	<i>suaveolens</i>		LC	X	X	
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Boophone</i>	<i>disticha</i>		Declining	X	X	X
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Brunsvigia</i>	<i>josephinae</i>		VU		X	X
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Gethyllis</i>	<i>spiralis</i>		LC	X	X	X
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Gethyllis</i>	<i>verticillata</i>		LC	X	X	X
AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Strumaria</i>	<i>karooica</i>		Rare		X	X
ANACAMPSEROTACEAE	<i>Anacampseros</i>	<i>marlothii</i>		LC	X		
APOCYNACEAE	<i>Hoodia</i>	<i>gordonii</i>		DDD		X	X
APOCYNACEAE	<i>Hoodia</i>	<i>pilifera</i>	<i>pillansii</i>	DDT		X	X
ASPARAGACEAE	<i>Asparagus</i>	<i>capensis</i>		LC	X		
ASPHODELACEAE	<i>Aloe</i>	<i>microstigma</i>		LC	X		X
ASPHODELACEAE	<i>Bulbine</i>	<i>torta</i>		Rare			
ASPHODELACEAE	<i>Bulbine</i>	<i>torta</i>		Rare			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Cotula</i>	<i>coronopifolia</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Dimorphotheca</i>	<i>cuneata</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Elytropappus</i>	<i>rhinocerotis</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Eriosephalus</i>	<i>ericoides</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Eriosephalus</i>	<i>grandiflorus</i>		Rare			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Eriosephalus</i>	<i>grandiflorus</i>		Rare			

Family	Genus	Species	Subspecies	IUCN Status	2021 Survey	NCNCA (No 9 of 2009) Observed	Protected WC NCO (No 3 of 2000) Observed
ASTERACEAE	<i>Euryops</i>	<i>lateriflorus</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Euryops</i>	<i>marlothii</i>		Rare			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Euryops</i>	<i>petraeus</i>		Rare			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Felcia</i>	<i>filifolia</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Gnaphalium</i>	<i>declinatum</i>		NT			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Petronia</i>	<i>glomerata</i>		LC	X		
ASTERACEAE	<i>Phymaspermum</i>	<i>schroeteri</i>		Rare			
ASTERACEAE	<i>Rosenia</i>	<i>oppositifolia</i>		LC	X		
COLCHICACEAE	<i>Colchicum</i>	<i>coloratum</i>	<i>burchellii</i>	LC			
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Adromischus</i>	<i>humilis</i>		Rare		X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Adromischus</i>	<i>humilis</i>		Rare		X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Adromischus</i>	<i>phillipsiae</i>		Rare	X	X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Crassula</i>	<i>corallina</i>	<i>macrorrhiza</i>	LC	X	X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Crassula</i>	<i>roggeveldii</i>		Rare		X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Crassula</i>	<i>rupestris</i>	<i>commutata</i>	Rare		X	
CRASSULACEAE	<i>Tylecodon</i>	<i>paniculatus</i>		LC	X	X	
EBENACEAE	<i>Diospyros</i>	<i>austro-africana</i>		LC	X		
ERICACEAE	<i>Erica</i>	<i>caffrorum</i>	<i>glomerata</i>	DDT			
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>hamata</i>		LC	X	X	
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>mauritanica</i>		LC	X	X	
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>multifolia</i>		LC	X	X	
FABACEAE	<i>Lotononis</i>	<i>venosa</i>		VU			
HYACINTHACEAE	<i>Drimia</i>	<i>capensis</i>			X		
HYACINTHACEAE	<i>Lachenalia</i>	<i>congesta</i>		Rare		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Babiana</i>	<i>crispa</i>		LC	X	X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Geissorhiza</i>	<i>karooica</i>		NT		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Ixia</i>	<i>brevituba</i>		Rare		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Ixia</i>	<i>trifolia</i>			X	X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Moraea</i>	<i>contorta</i>		Rare		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Moraea</i>	<i>miniate</i>		LC	X	X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Romulea</i>	<i>eburnea</i>		VU		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Romulea</i>	<i>komsbergensis</i>		NT		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Romulea</i>	<i>multifida</i>		VU		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Romulea</i>	<i>subfistulosa</i>		NT		X	X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Romulea</i>	<i>syringodeoflora</i>		VU		X	X
OXALIDACEAE	<i>Oxalis</i>	<i>obtusa</i>		LC	X	X	
POACEAE	<i>Helictotrichon</i>	<i>namaquense</i>		VU			
PROTEACEAE	<i>Protea</i>	<i>venusta</i>		EN		X	X
ROSACEAE	<i>Cliffortia</i>	<i>arborea</i>		VU			
SANTALACEAE	<i>Thesium</i>	<i>marlothii</i>		DDT			
SCROPHULARIACEAE	<i>Manulea</i>	<i>incana</i>		DDD			
SCROPHULARIACEAE	<i>Selago</i>	<i>articulata</i>		LC	X		
GERANIACEAE	<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>Spp</i>		LC	X	X	



Where LC = Least Concern, DDD = Data Deficient - Insufficient Information, DDT = Data Deficient - Insufficient Information, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable & EN = Endangered.

With regard the MV Overhead Lines, the final tower positions and access roads to these pylon positions were unknown, thus a 100m wide corridor was assessed in order to identify potential areas of concern and or the list of protected plants. With the exception of the abundant Aizoaceae (protected), with the number of plants that are in the order of 1000s, only three key plant species, with limited numbers were observed and these included *Aloe microstigma*, *Boophane disticha* and *Brunsvigia josephinae* that are found in numerous grouped localities through out the site and can thus not all be avoided. It is thus recommended that that the search and rescue operations focus on these species, i.e. relocate as many as possible within the footprint as well as a percentage of the common plants represented by the Aizoaceae.




Table 2, below indicates the recommendations that must be considered during construction for site specific area, while the following general recommendations apply to the whole site:


- Where possible, road alignments and underground trenching operations should try and avoid rock outcrops and or rocky payment areas.
- To the extent possible, any search and rescue operations should be conducted before the end of February for the summer flowering species, and a follow -up should be conducted early August for the winter flowering species.


Table 2: Findings of the walkdown surveys for the structures shown in Figure 1a& 1b with specific reference to species observed within the development layout only

Structures & Comments	Observation and species that can be relocated if they fall within the construction footprint ¹	Species ID Photo
Wind farm access road, construction camp/Laydown 2 and roads / underground cables & turbines Turbine 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8		
<p>Roads, turbine, hardstands and underground cables coupled to the south western access</p> <p>This portion of the access roads and turbines areas will traverse several High sensitivity areas in the form of riverine crossings and steep inclines, which are not avoidable, but found acceptable. The proposed river crossings will for the most part avoid large and or intact areas of sensitive riparian vegetation as well as the majority of the dolerite cliff areas.</p> <p>One crossing (-32.82349S 20.81.488E) to WTG 1 and 2, must receive due consideration in terms of clearing of any of the riparian vegetation, keeping the disturbance to a minimum. Species observed are not protected, but include some large <i>Searsia lancea</i> trees</p>	<p>8 – 10 <i>Irises (Moraea miniata)</i> 5 <i>Drimia capensis</i> >15 <i>Boophane disticha</i></p>	<p>All listed species can easily relocated</p>  <p><i>Gethyllis spp</i></p>  <p><i>Drimia capensis</i></p>

¹ The number of species listed here represent the number observed on site, however only those species directly within the construction/ disturbance footprint require relocation

Structures & Comments	Observation and species that can be relocated if they fall within the construction footprint ¹	Species ID Photo
		 <p data-bbox="1563 555 1787 580"><i>Boophane disticha</i></p>
Eastern Access 2 road, Laydown area 1, Site camp 2, Laydown 2. Roads, underground cables and Turbines 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29		
<p data-bbox="163 630 703 692">Roads, turbine, hardstands and underground cables. Laydown Areas 3 & 4</p> <p data-bbox="163 735 770 979">This portion of the access roads and turbines areas have avoided the Very High sensitivity areas. However due consideration must be given to the very steep areas within the High sensitivity areas, especially to try and minimise large cut and fill areas, that create secondary impacts such as erosion and sedimentation</p>	<p data-bbox="808 630 1128 799">15 Irises (<i>Moraea miniata</i>) >25 Gethyllis spp 9 <i>Drimia capensis</i> >1000 <i>Antimima</i> spp >5 <i>Aloe microstigma</i></p>	 <p data-bbox="1570 959 1783 984"><i>Antimima pumila</i></p>  <p data-bbox="1570 1391 1783 1417"><i>Aloe microstigma</i></p>

Structures & Comments	Observation and species that can be relocated if they fall within the construction footprint ¹	Species ID Photo
Road and underground cables (UC) and turbines 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Substation (BESS) & OM Buildings		
This portion of the road/UC and turbine layout has avoided all High & Very High sensitivity areas.	<p><i>Species are represented by all the Aizoaceae and those listed above, ranging from 100-1000s of plants.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >15 <i>Gethyllis</i> spp > 20 <i>Drimia capensis</i> >1000 <i>Antimima</i> spp >5 <i>Aloe microstigma</i> >50 <i>Boophane disticha</i> >100 <i>Brunsvigia</i> spp 	
Internal MV OHL		
This portion of the layout covers very similar terrain to that already described but found acceptable should the towers/pylons be placed outside of any of the drainage lines and watercourses shown (High & Very High Sensitivity Areas)	<p><i>Species are represented by all the Aizoaceae and those listed above, ranging from 100-1000s of plants.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >30 <i>Gethyllis</i> spp > 500 <i>Drimia capensis</i> >1000 <i>Antimima</i> spp >20 <i>Aloe microstigma</i> >50 <i>Boophane disticha</i> >100 <i>Brunsvigia</i> spp 	 <p data-bbox="1263 1353 2089 1415">A view of the MV OHL route showing the main watercourse (lowland areas) crossing that can be spanned</p>

Structures & Comments	Observation and species that can be relocated if they fall within the construction footprint ¹	Species ID Photo
Connection road and UC from WTG 26 to 30 and roads, UC and Turbines 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36		
<p>This portion of the access roads and turbines will traverse several High sensitivity riverine areas, which are not avoidable, but found acceptable as these have avoided sensitive riparian vegetation over the broad river crossings. This portion of the road & UC alignments have also avoided any steep / cliff areas, while also remaining behind several of the smaller ridgelines</p>	<p>>20- 30 <i>Brunsvigia josephinae</i></p>	 <p><i>Brunsvigia spp</i></p>
Road and UC from WTG 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42		
<p>This portion of the road/UC and turbine layout has avoided all High & Very High sensitivity areas.</p>	<p><i>Species are represented by all the Aizoaceae and those listed above, ranging from 100-1000s of plants.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >15 <i>Gethyllis spp</i> > 20 <i>Drimia capensis</i> >1000 <i>Antimima spp</i> >5 <i>Aloe microstigma</i> >50 <i>Boophane disticha</i> >100 <i>Brunsvigia spp</i> 	

4. Results – Fauna

In terms of fauna the following are species which potentially occur at the site and are listed as protected species, with those species highlighted in BOLD being observed in this and past assessments:

Schedule 1: Specially Protected Fauna as per the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance (No. 3 of 2000) that may occur within the region or have suitable habitat present

- *Felis nigripes* - Black-footed cat/Miersshooptier
- *Felis silvestris* - African wild cat/Afrika wildekat
- *Ictonyx striatus* - Striped polecat/Stinkmuishond
- *Mellivora capensis* - Honey badger/Ratel
- *Otocyon megalotis* - Bat-eared fox/Bakoorvos
- *Proteles cristatus* – Aardwolf/Maanhaarjakkals
- ***Vulpes chama* - Cape fox / Silver jackal Silwervos**
- *Orycteropus afer* - Aardvark / Ant-bear Erdvark / Aardvark
- *Atelerix frontalis* – South African hedgehog
- Family: *Chamaeleonidae* - Chamaeleons, all species
- **Family: *Cordylidae* Girdled lizards, all species**

Virtually all indigenous fauna which do not fall under Schedule 1 are classified under Schedule 2, except those species classified as pests. In terms of mammals most rodents, shrews, elephant shrews, bats, hares and rabbits, carnivores such as mongoose, genets, and meerkat, antelope such as klipspringer, steenbok, Mountain reedbuck and duiker are included. In terms of other vertebrates, all tortoises, lizards, most harmless snakes and all frogs are listed under Schedule 2. The full list is contained within the Schedule and it not repeated here.

In terms of fauna, the following, *inter alia*, are protected and may not be hunted, captured or harmed without a permit:

- All tortoises [3 species observed which include Angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulate*), Karoo Padloper (*Homopus femoralis*) & Southern Tent Tortoise (*Psammobates tentorius tentorius*)];
- All lizards;
- All frogs;
- Most snakes [4 species have been observed in the past on site, namely Cape cobra (*Naja nivea*), Mole snake (*Pseudoaspis cana*), Karoo sand snake (*Psammophylax rhombeatus rhombeatus*), and Puff adder (*Bitis arietans arietans*)]. The June 2021 period was mainly a cold windy period so no reptiles other than a few of the tortoises and small lizards listed above where observed;
- All indigenous antelope;
- Aardvark;
- Most small carnivores such as Honey Badger, Cape Fox, Bat-eared Fox;
- Large Grey Mongoose etc.; and
- Most birds except pest species.

With the exception of the tortoises, lizards and snakes, the species listed above typically leave the area once construction commences, thus permits for the relocation of lizards, snakes and tortoises must be obtained.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results of the walkdown and the amended layout, several sensitive areas will still be disturbed, but based on the field assessments, the final alignments will be located within disturbed or less sensitive areas of the particular habitat observed. Furthermore no important aquatic riparian habitats and or wetlands will be disturbed by the proposed layout. The nearest wetland is more than 3km from any of the proposed structures.

The report also indicates the approximate areas of occurrence of several protected species throughout the development site. However, most of the species are easily to relocate and with a degree of success can be re-established outside of the footprint areas, noting that all of the species are still well represented in areas that won't be disturbed.

During this assessment, it was also indicated that the presence of termites and primates at other sites have resulted in either damage to underground cables or work stoppages when vervets or baboons climb into the turbine towers.

With regard primates (vervets & baboons) the following recommendations are made:

1. All turbine towers, plant / vehicles and or buildings inclusive of windows must be closed when not being occupied
2. Solid waste and in particular any food waste must be disposed of into the appropriate bins. These bins must be located in waste areas that can be located using primate proof cages. This especially on Sundays or R&R periods when there are limited numbers of staff thus movement and disturbance on site. This will discourage the animals from entering the construction camps in search of food, if the waste is not accessible.
3. Confronting the animals is not recommended, as this usually escalates fear within the primates, which typically become defensive, attack and or bite. Particularly if large males or females with young individuals are present.

In a short review of termite distribution of South Africa, it is evident that the following species are found within the project site with those in bold being observed in the previous surveys:

Harvester termites (Hodotermitidae)

Hodotermes mossambicus = Northern Harvester Termite / Rysmier

Microhodotermes viator = Southern Harvester Termite

Subterranean termites / damp wood termites (Rhinotermitidae)

Psammotermes allocerus = Desert Termite

Fungus-growing termites (Termitidae)

Trinervitermes = Snouted Harvest Termites

Amitermes hastatus = Black-mound Termites

It is not evident if any of the species have the ability or the need to damage the underground cables, but several options are available to deter the termites from tasting. They don't feed on the cables, but test to see if outer casing is edible, which then leads to damage of the insulation and water ingress. The first option is to include a physical barrier, while the second is the use of a chemical barrier. The latter option is used successfully on small

sites such as homes, but the potential of soil contamination and secondary poisoning on a larger scale may pose a significant risk, when considering the length of the cables within a wind farm.

The only recommendation that can be made presently based on the information at hand is to install monitoring stations within the site, typically the very sandy areas where the termites are found. Using these small bait stations will allow for correct identification of the species present, but also allow for the opportunity to place small sections of the proposed cable inside the monitoring system to see if the termites are causing significant damage to the cable outers. These can be placed throughout the site, to assist if required to identify which portions of the underground cables will require physical barriers. This is not a mandatory recommendation, and may be implemented at the Proponent's discretion.

Lastly, a very high number of plants that are protected under Provincial legislation, with some of the species encountered (Aizoaceae) numbering in the thousands are abundant within the region. Table 2 thus lists the number of plants that should be relocated as a percentage of those observed within the affected properties or sites (5-10%). Noting that the majority of these species are adapted to disturbance, while the topsoil will contain a large seed bank. It is therefore important to conserve as much of the stripped topsoil within the sandy area as and when construction commences, as this will aid in rehabilitation in the later construction phases of the project.

No nursery or protected area is envisaged, relocation will be to the nearest region that does not contain any project infrastructure and which will not be disturbed by construction and operation activities

Similarly, it is anticipated that rock spoil post construction maybe an issue, thus the contractor must allow for time and cost to adequately break down large boulders to create smaller micro habitats for both plants and animals. Experience on site under construction within the region (Roggeveld, Karusa & Soetwater WEFs) has shown that due to the nature of the regional geology and the construction methods required, large boulders and or rock sheets are created. These are then crushed and used as fill or covered within any remaining topsoil to blend into the natural environment. However the amount of rock that must be disposed of is far greater than anticipated with contractors not availing sufficient time and budget to deal with. This issue has since been rectified on all three sites, but had time and cost implications.

The following recommendations are reiterated:

- Vegetation clearing should occur in a phased manner in accordance with the construction programme to minimise erosion and/or run-off.
- All construction materials including fuels and oil should be stored in demarcated areas that are contained within berms / bunds to avoid spread of any contamination. Washing and cleaning of equipment should also be done in berms or bunds, in order to trap any cement and prevent excessive soil erosion. Mechanical plant and bowsers must not be refuelled or serviced within or directly adjacent to any channel. It is therefore suggested that all construction camps, lay down areas, batching plants or areas and any stores should be outside of any demarcated water courses.
- All cleared areas must be re-vegetated after construction has been completed.
- All alien plant re-growth (mostly forbs) must be monitored, and should it occur, these plants should be eradicated. The scale of the operation does however not warrant the use of a Landscape Architect and / or Landscape Contractor.

6. Appendix 1 - Specialist CV

CURRICULUM VITAE

- **Dr Brian Michael Colloty**

- **7212215031083**

1 Rossini Rd

Pari Park

Port Elizabeth, 6070

brianc@envirosci.co.za

083 498 3299

Profession: Ecologist (Pr. Sci. Nat. 400268/07)

Member of the South African Wetland Society

Specialisation: Ecology and conservation importance rating of inland habitats, wetlands, rivers & estuaries

Years experience: 25 years

SKILLS BASE AND CORE COMPETENCIES

- 25 years experience in environmental sensitivity and conservation assessment of aquatic and terrestrial systems inclusive throughout Africa. Experience also includes biodiversity and ecological assessments with regard sensitive fauna and flora, within the marine, coastal and inland environments. Countries include Mozambique, Kenya, Namibia, Central African Republic, Zambia, Eritrea, Mauritius, Madagascar, Angola, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. Current projects also span all nine provinces in South Africa.
- 15 years experience in the coordination and management of multi-disciplinary teams, such as specialist teams for small to large scale EIAs and environmental monitoring programmes, throughout Africa and inclusive of marine, coastal and inland systems. This includes project and budget management, specialist team management, client and stakeholder engagement and project reporting.
- GIS mapping and sensitivity analysis

TERTIARY EDUCATION

- 1994: B Sc Degree (Botany & Zoology) - NMU
- 1995: B Sc Hon (Zoology) - NMU
- 1996: M Sc (Botany - Rivers) - NMU
- 2000: Ph D (Botany – Conservation Rating Systems (wetlands) – NMU

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1996 – 2000 Researcher at Nelson Mandela University – SAB institute for Coastal Research & Management. Funded by the WRC to develop estuarine importance rating methods for South African Estuaries

- 2001 – January 2003 Training development officer AVK SA (reason for leaving – sought work back in the environmental field rather than engineering sector)
- February 2003- June 2005 Project manager & Ecologist for Strategic Environmental Focus (Pretoria) – (reason for leaving – sought work related more to experience in the coastal environment)
- July 2005 – June 2009 Principal Environmental Consultant Coastal & Environmental Services (reason for leaving – company restructuring)
- June 2009 – August 2018 Owner / Ecologist of Scherman Colloty & Associates cc
- August 2018 Owner / Ecologist - EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd

SELECTED RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

World Bank IFC Standards

- Botswana South Africa 400kv transmission line (400km) biodiversity assessment on behalf of Aurecon - current
- Farim phosphate mine and port development, Guinea Bissau – biodiversity and estuarine assessment on behalf of Knight Piesold Canada – 2016.
- Tema LNG offshore pipeline EIA – marine and estuarine assessment for Quantum Power (2015).
- Colluli Potash South Boulder, Eritrea, SEIA marine baseline and hydrodynamic surveys co-ordinator and coastal vegetation specialist (coastal lagoon and marine) (on-going).
- Wetland, estuarine and riverine assessment for Addax Biofeuls Sierra Leone, Makeni for Coastal & Environmental Services: 2009
- ESHIA Project manager and long-term marine monitoring phase coordinator with regards the dredge works required in Luanda bay, Angola. Monitoring included water quality and biological changes in the bay and at the offshore disposal outfall site, 2005-2011

South African

- Plant search and rescue, for NMBM (Driftsands sewer, Glen Hurd Drive), Department of Social Development (Military veterans housing, Despatch) and Nxuba Wind Farm, - current
- Wetland specialist appointed to update the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan, for the Province on behalf of EOH CES appointment by SANBI – current. This includes updating the National Wetland Inventory for the province, submitting the new data to CSIR/SANBI.
- CDC IDZ Alien eradication plans for three renewable projects Coega Wind Farm, Sonop Wind Farm and Coega PV, on behalf of JG Afrika (2016 – 2017).
- Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Baakens River Integrated Wetland Assessment (Inclusive of Rehabilitation and Monitoring Plans) for CEN IEM Unit - Current
- Rangers Biomass Gasification Project (Uitenhage), biodiversity and wetland assessment and wetland rehabilitation / monitoring plans for CEM IEM Unit – current.
- Gibson Bay Wind Farm implementation of the wetland management plan during the construction and operation of the wind farm (includes surface / groundwater as well wetland rehabilitation & monitoring plan) on behalf of Enel Green Power - current
- Gibson Bay Wind Farm 133kv Transmission Line wetland management plan during the construction of the transmission line (includes wetland rehabilitation & monitoring plan) on behalf of Eskom – 2016.
- Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm implementation of the wetland management plan during the construction of the wind farm (includes surface / biomonitoring, as well wetland rehabilitation & monitoring plan) on behalf of Cennergi – completed May 2016.
- Alicedale bulk sewer pipeline for Cacadu District, wetland and water quality assessment, 2016
- Mogalakwena 33kv transmission line in the Limpopo Province, on behalf of Aurecon, 2016
- Cape St Francis WWTW expansion wetland and passive treatment system for the Kouga Municipality, 2015
- Macindane bulk water and sewer pipelines wetland and wetland rehabilitation plan 2015

- Eskom Prieska to Copperton 132kV transmission line aquatic assessment, Northern Cape on behalf of Savannah Environmental 2015.
- Joe Slovo sewer pipeline upgrade wetland assessment for Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality 2014
- Cape Recife Waste Water Treatment Works expansion and pipeline aquatic assessment for Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality 2013
- Pola park bulk sewer line upgrade aquatic assessment for Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality 2013
- Transnet Freight Rail – Swazi Rail Link (Current) wetland and ecological assessment on behalf of Aurecon for the proposed rail upgrade from Ermelo to Richards Bay
- Eskom Transmission wetland and ecological assessment for the proposed transmission line between Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay on behalf of Aurecon (2012).
- Port Durnford Exxaro Sands biodiversity assessment for the proposed mineral sands mine on behalf of Exxaro (2009)
- Fairbreeze Mine Exxaro (Mtunzini) wetland assessment on behalf of Strategic Environmental Services (2007).
- Wetland assessment for Richards Bay Minerals (2013) – Zulti North haul road on behalf of RBM.
- Biodiversity and aquatic assessments for 125 renewable projects in the past 9 years in the Western, Eastern, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State provinces. Clients included RES-SA, RedCap, ACED Renewables, Mainstream Renewable, GDF Suez, Globeleq, ENEL, Abengoa amongst others. Particular aquatic sensitivity assessment and Water Use License Applications on behalf of Mainstream Renewable Energy (8 wind farms and 3 PV facilities.), Cennergi / Exxaro (2 Wind farm), WKN Wind current (2 wind farms & 2 PV facilities), ACED (6 wind farms) and Windlab (3 Wind farms) were also conducted. Several of these projects also required the assessment of the proposed transmission lines and switching stations, which were conducted on behalf of Eskom.
- Vegetation assessments on the Great Brak rivers for Department of Water and Sanitation, 2006 and the Gouritz Water Management Area (2014)
- Proposed FibreCo fibre optic cable vegetation assessment along the PE to George, George to Graaf Reinet, PE to Colesburg, and East London to Bloemfontein on behalf of SRK (2013-2015).