

Integrated Public Participation Process for the Proposed
Development of the Platberg and Teekloof Wind Energy Facilities
and supporting Electrical Infrastructure to the Proposed Wind
Energy Facilities, Victoria West, Northern Cape Province

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



MAY 2016

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BACKGROUND

Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa (hereinafter referred to as Mainstream) is proposing to construct two Wind Energy Facilities (WEF), namely Platberg WEF and Teekloof WEF, in the Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley KaSeme District Municipality, 25 km south from Victoria West, 40 km north from Murraysburg and 40 km west from Richmond in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed projects are being developed in accordance with the National Department of Energy (DoE) Independent Power Producer (IPP) Procurement Programme and are intended to generate electricity via wind energy which will feed into and supplement the national electricity grid.

The respective farms portions affected by the two WEFs and the supporting electrical infrastructure and the relative location of the proposed projects are shown on the opposite page. Since the two EIA projects are located within the same geographical area, an integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken for the proposed projects. However, separate Applications for Environmental Authorisation will be lodged with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with:

- Background information on the proposed projects;
- A description of the combined Environmental Authorisation and Public Participation Processes (PPP) that will be undertaken for the projects;
- Details on how I&APs can become involved in the proposed projects by registering their interest in the projects, raising issues of concern or interest, and receiving further information.

As a registered (I&AP), there will be opportunities for involvement in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by receiving information, the contribution of issues and commenting on draft reports. The input received from I&APs together with the information and assessment provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), will assist the Competent Authority, the DEA, with their decision making process.

NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

At a national level, South Africa is facing serious electricity shortages as well as water scarcity. Linked to this, the proposed projects aim to supply additional electricity to the national grid. Furthermore, the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the importance of a secure and diversified energy supply has resulted in a global shift towards, and an increased focus on, the use of renewable energy technologies. In South Africa, national government has encouraged the utilisation of renewable energy through national policy and strategic planning. The objective is to expand electricity generation capacity in South Africa and promote the practice of sustainable development.

The Integrated Resource Plan for South Africa for the period 2010 to 2030 (hereinafter referred to as IRP 2010) was released by government in 2010, with an updated report in 2013, and proposes to develop and secure 17 800 MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 (including wind, solar and other energy sources). The IRP 2010 has set up a target of 3 725 MW of renewable energy to be produced by IPPs by 2016. Subsequent to this, an additional target of 6300 MW from renewable energy sources was added to the Renewable Independent Power Producer REIPPPP) as published in Government Gazette No. 39111 of 18 August 2015. The additional target allocated for wind energy is 3040 MW.

Linked to this, in 2011, the Department of Energy (DOE) launched the REIPPPP and invited potential IPPs to submit proposals for the financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the first 3 725 MW of onshore wind, solar thermal, solar PV, biomass, biogas, landfill gas or small hydro projects. The bidders with the highest rankings (according to the aforementioned criteria) are appointed as "Preferred Bidders" by the DoE.

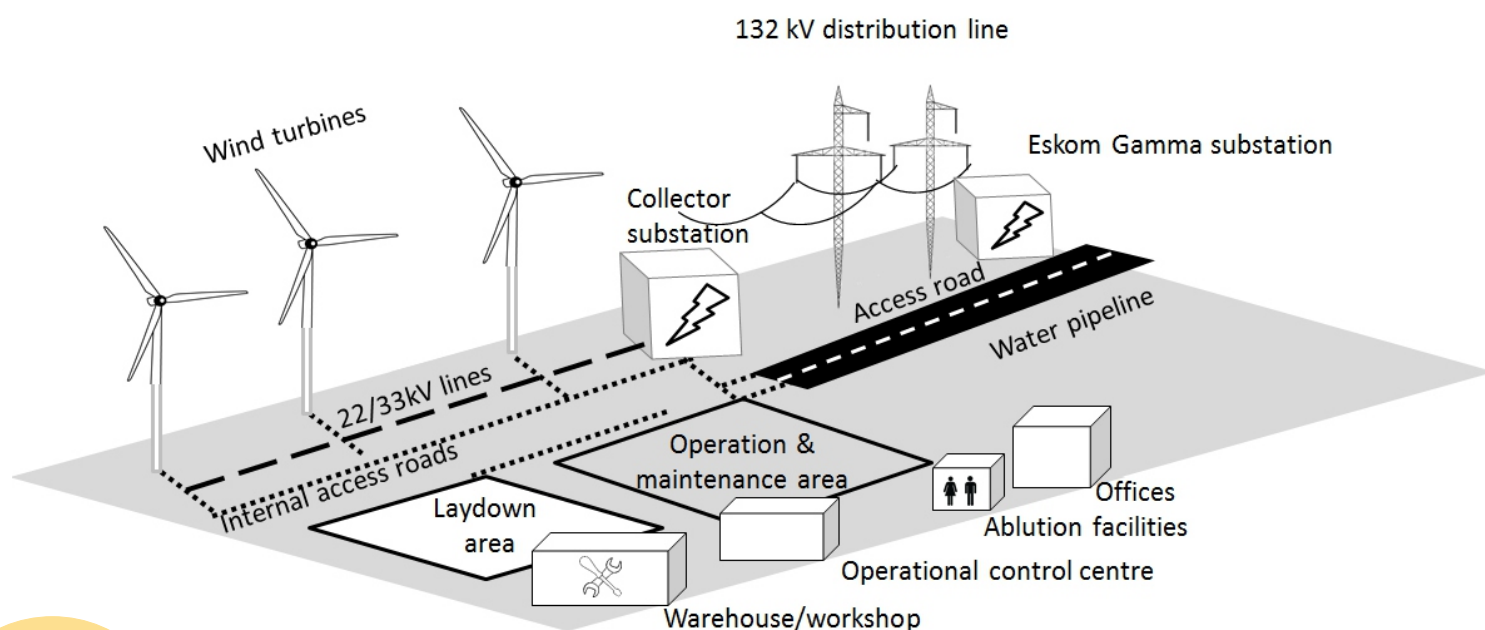
The proposed projects aim to contribute to the above strategic imperative.

WHAT DO THE PROPOSED PROJECTS ENTAIL?

The proposed projects will be situated on land that is owned by a third party and as such, consent will be obtained from the respective landowners. It is anticipated that the properties on which the proposed projects will be constructed will be leased from the landowner.

It is proposed that each WEF will have a generation capacity of 140 MW. The anticipated maximum amount of

turbines to be constructed on site for each project is 70. These turbines will have a turbine height of 150 m and a rotor diameter of a 150 m. In order to connect the proposed WEFs to the national grid, a 132 kV distribution line and collector substation is proposed to be constructed and is collectively referred to as the supporting electrical infrastructure to the proposed WEFs. Each WEF facility will consist of the components presented in the figure below. The components and their dimensions will be confirmed and discussed within the Scoping & EIA Reports produced for each WEF.



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act no. 107 of 1998) and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in GN R982, R983, R984 and R985 on 8 December 2014 in Government Gazette 38282 the proposed projects potentially trigger, amongst others, the following activities:

GN R. 983 Listing Notice 1:	11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 56
GN R. 984 Listing Notice 2:	1, 15
GN R. 985 Listing Notice 3:	4, 10, 12, 14, 18

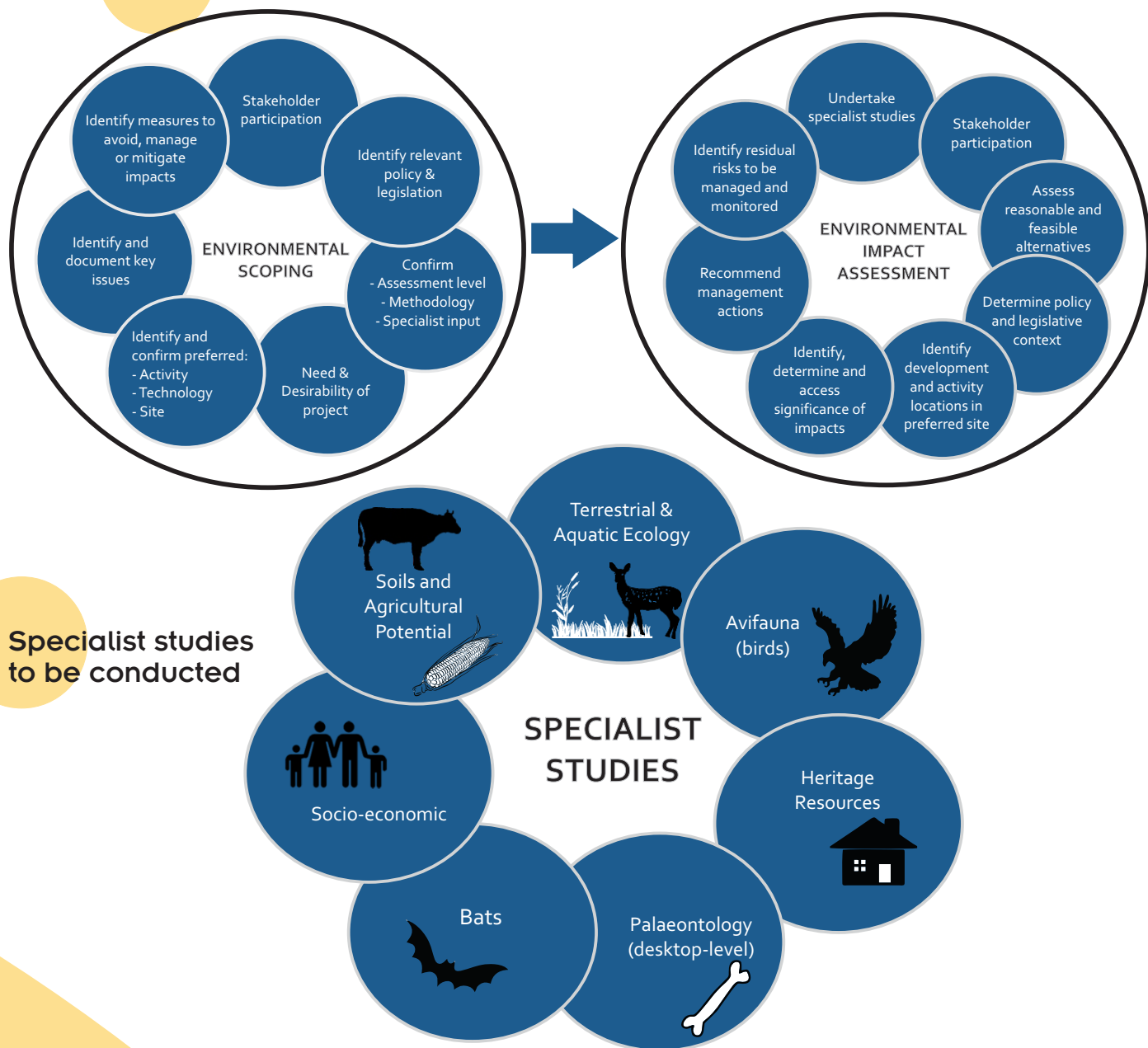
The EIA process is also designed to meet the requirements of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

Note from the CSIR: A precautionary approach has been adopted by the CSIR when identifying listed activities, in that if there is any doubt at this stage of the project planning whether or not an activity is included in the project design, then the activity is listed. This list may be refined during the course of the Scoping & EIA Processes, and listed triggers may be removed or added as applicable.

The applicable listed activities require Environmental Authorisation from the Competent Authority prior to the undertaking thereof. The main steps in Scoping and EIA Process are discussed and shown in the figure below. As also shown in Figure 2, proactive engagement with stakeholders forms a key component of the entire Scoping and EIA Process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Scoping & EIA process for the proposed WEF developments



NAME	ORGANISATION	ROLE/SPECIALIST STUDY
SPECIALISTS		
Henry Holland	Private Consultant	Visual
Prof. Brian van Wilgen	Private Consultant	Terrestrial Ecology
Wouter Fourie	PGS Heritage	Archaeology, Palaeontology and Cultural Landscape
Stephen van Staden	Scientific Aquatic Services	Freshwater Aquatic Ecosystems
Johann Lanz	Private Consultant	Soils and Agricultural Potential
Andrew Jenkins	Avisense Consulting	Avifauna
Rudolph du Toit	CSIR	Social
Kate McEwan	Inkululeko Wildlife Services (Pty) Ltd	Bats

Step 1: Notify Authorities and I&APs of the Scoping and EIA Processes (30 days) (WE ARE CURRENTLY AT THIS STEP)

The initial step entails providing notification to Authorities and potential I&APs of the proposed projects and the commencement of the Scoping and EIA Processes. An initial database of potential I&APs and Authorities will be compiled. Authorities and potential I&APs will be provided with a BID (i.e. this document), including a Comment and Registration Form and written notification. Advertisements will also be placed in local newspapers and site notices will be placed at the project site as well as in the closest towns during this phase.

During this period, I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database in order to be included from the outset of the Scoping and EIA Processes. **In terms of the EIA Regulations, in order to register as an I&AP, a person must provide their comments together with their name, contact details (preferred method of notification, e.g. e-mail address or fax number) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application. Failure to do so may lead to a person not being registered as an I&AP for these projects.**

I&APs will be provided with a 30-day review period within which to raise any issues or concerns for inclusion in the Scoping Reports.

Step 2: Preparation of Applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Scoping Reports

Two separate Applications for EA for the proposed WEF developments will be prepared. In addition, the Scoping Reports and a Plan of Study for EIA will be compiled in line with Appendix 2 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (GN R982). All issues and concerns raised by the Authorities and I&APs during the review of the BID will be recorded and compiled into an Issues and Responses Trail for inclusion in the Scoping Reports.

Step 3: Submission of Applications for EA

Submit the Applications for EA for the proposed WEF developments (i.e. a total of two applications) to the National DEA for processing.

Step 4: Authority and I&AP Review of the Scoping Reports (30 days)

The Scoping Reports will be released to the public for a 30-day review period. All Authorities and Registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the opportunity to review the Scoping Reports. A Comment and Registration Form will also be sent with the written notification to all Registered I&APs. Copies of the Scoping Reports will be placed on the project website (http://www.csir.co.za/eia/victoriawest_wind.html) and at the local public libraries. The reports will be placed in the following libraries:

- Victoria West Public Library;
- Hutchinson Settlement Public Library;
- Murraysburg Public Library; and,
- Richmond Public Library.

Focus group meetings will be schedule with surrounding landowners and interested and parties seeking clarity on the proposed projects during the Scoping phase. Open day events will be held in:

- Richmond;
- Murraysburg;
- Hutchinson Settlement; and
- Victoria West.

Step 5: Submission of Scoping Reports to the National DEA for Decision-Making

The comments received from I&APs during the 30-day review of the Scoping Reports will be recorded into a comprehensive Issues and Responses Trail, and will be included in the Scoping Reports before submission to the National DEA. The Scoping Reports will thereafter be finalised and submitted to the National DEA for decision making. The National DEA will have 43 days (from receipt of the Scoping Reports) to either accept the Scoping Reports with or without conditions, or refuse EA.

All comments received on the Scoping Reports will be responded to within the Issues and Responses Trail. A copy of the Issues and Responses Trail will be sent to all I&APs registered on the project database.

Step 6: Preparation of EIA Reports (including the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr))

Once the National DEA accepts the Scoping Reports, the Impact Assessment Phase may commence. During this phase, the EIA Reports (including the EMPr) will be compiled in line with the 2014 EIA Regulations and the accepted Plan of Study for EIA.

Step 7: Authority and I&AP Review of the EIA Reports and EMPr (30 days)

During this phase, the EIA Reports will be released to the public for a 30-day review period. All Authorities and registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the opportunity to review the EIA Reports. A Comment and Registration Form will also be sent with the written notification to all registered stakeholders. Copies of the EIA Reports will be placed on the project website (http://www.csir.co.za/eia/victoriawest_wind.html), and at the local public libraries.

The reports will be placed in the following libraries:

- Victoria West Public Library;
- Hutchinson Settlement Public Library;
- Murraysburg Public Library; and
- Richmond Public Library.

Focus group meetings will be schedule with surrounding landowners and interested and parties seeking clarity on the proposed projects during the EIA phase. Open day events will be held in:

- Richmond;
- Murraysburg;
- Hutchinson Settlement; and
- Victoria West.

Step 8: Submission of the EIA Reports to the National DEA for Decision-Making

A key component of the EIA Process is documenting and responding to the comments received from I&APs and Authorities. The comments received from I&APs during the 30-day review of the EIA Reports will be recorded into a comprehensive Comments and Responses Trail, and will be included in the EIA Reports before submission to the National DEA. The Comments and Responses Trail will indicate the nature of the comment, when and who raised the comment, as well as indicate how the comment received has been considered in the EIA Reports, in the project design or the EMPr. The EIA Reports will thereafter be finalised and submitted to the National DEA for decision making.

The National DEA will have 10 days (from receipt of the EIA Reports) to acknowledge the reports and thereafter, the DEA will have 107 days to grant or refuse EA.

All comments received on the EIA Reports will be responded to within the Issues and Responses Trail. A copy of the Issues and Responses Trail will be sent to all I&APs registered on the project database.

Step 9: Notification of Environmental Decision and Appeal Period

All registered stakeholders on the project database will be notified in writing of the environmental decision for the proposed projects, and will be informed of the opportunity to appeal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement forms an important component of the EIA Processes by assisting in the identification of issues and alternatives to be evaluated. The following outlines the steps in the PPP which will be undertaken to run in parallel to the Scoping and EIA Processes.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

	PPP action by project team	HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS?
Step 1: Notify Authorities and I&APs of the Scoping and EIA Processes (30 days)	Notify Authorities and I&APs of the project by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Notification letters o Comments & Registration Forms o Basic Information Document o Newspaper advertisements o Site notices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Register as an I&APs ✓ Provide comments on potential issues that should be considered during the EIA
Step 2: Preparation of Applications for EA, and Scoping Reports		
Step 3: Submission of Applications for EA		
Step 4: Authority and I&AP Review of the Scoping Reports (30 days)	Provide Authority and I&APs with Reports for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review Scoping Reports and provide written comment
Step 5: Submission of Scoping Reports to the National DEA for Decision-Making		
Step 6: Undertake Specialist Studies and Preparation of Basic Assessment and EIA Reports (including the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr))		
Step 7: Authority and I&AP Review of the Basic Assessment and EIA Reports and EMPr (30 days)	Provide Authorities and I&APs with Reports for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review Basic Assessment- and EIA Reports and provide written comment
Step 8: Submission of the EIA Reports to the National DEA for Decision-Making		
Step 9: Notification of Environmental Decision and Appeal Period	Notify I&APs of the Authorities' decision on Environmental Authorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunity to lodge appeals

GET INVOLVED

1. Respond to our invitation for your involvement advertised in local newspapers (*Die Burger* and *The Victoria West Messenger*).
2. Email, fax or mail the attached Comment and Registration Form to the public participation facilitator, **Shawn Johnston, Sustainable Futures ZA, P.O. Box 749, Rondebosch, 7701, Fax: 086 5102537, e-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za.**
3. Visit the project website at http://www.csir.co.za/eia/victoriawest_wind.html to download relevant project information.
4. Review the various reports within the stipulated comment periods provided.
5. Attend any focus group meetings, which may be held during the review period.

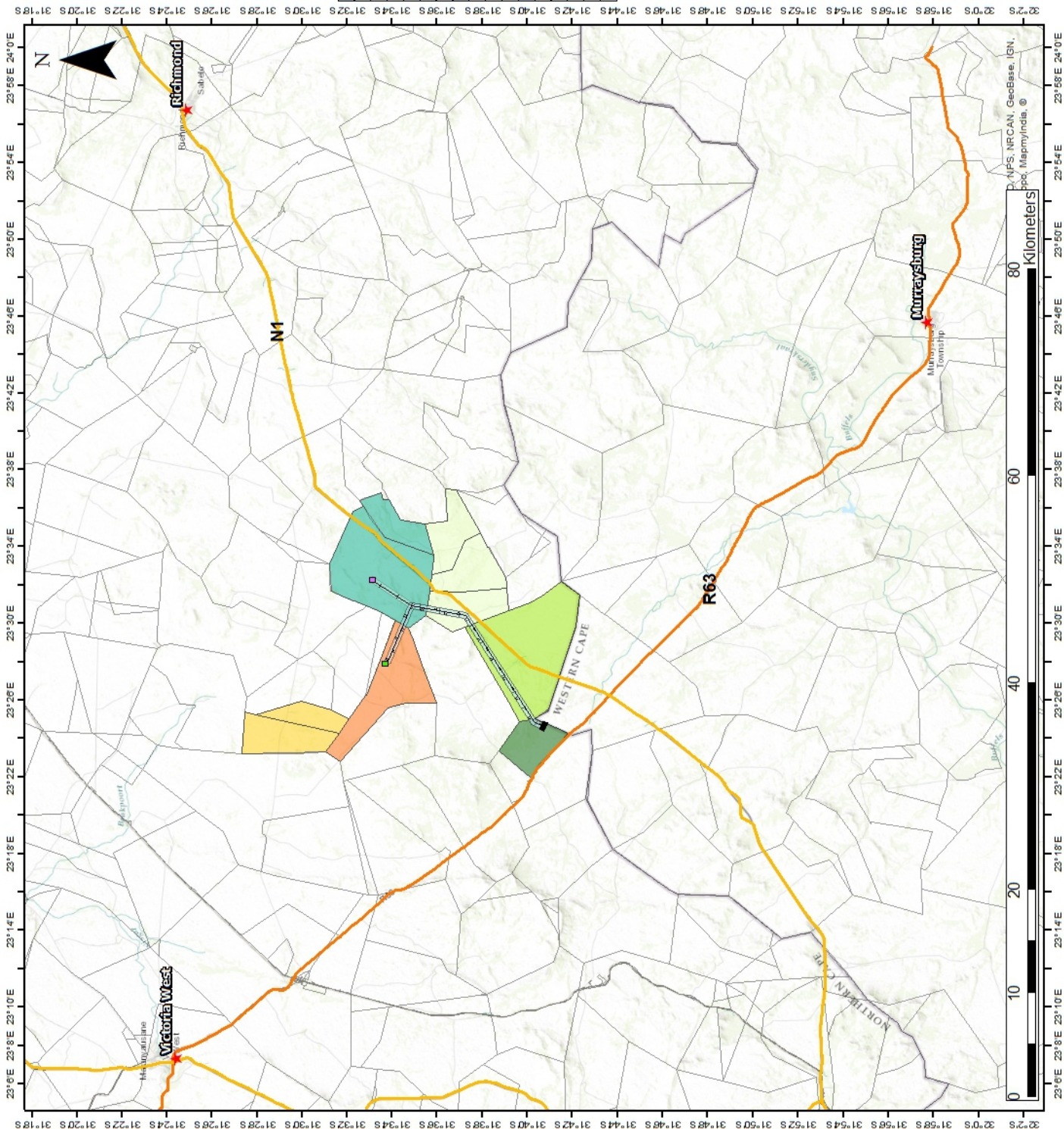
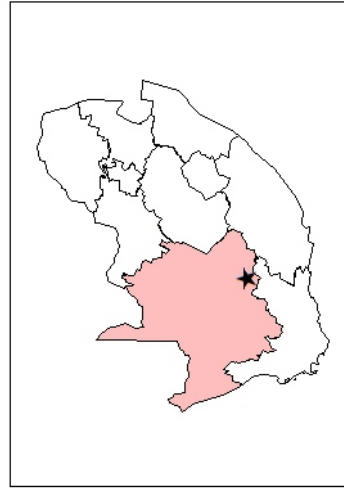
To register as an I&AP, please complete the Comment and Registration Form included with this BID and kindly return to:

Sustainable FuturesZA
P.O. Box 749, Rondebosch, 7701
Fax: 086 510 2537
E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za
Tel: 083 325 9965

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

- Legend**
- Gamma Substation
 - Proposed supporting electrical infrastructure
 - Platberg and Tee Kloof Proposed Substation
 - Platberg and Tee Kloof Alternative Location for the Substation
 - Platberg and Tee Kloof Proposed 132kV distribution line
 - Distribution line buffer
- Farms affected by the proposed project**
- BULT & RIETFontein
 - JAN BOOYSENS ONDER PLAATS
 - KLEINFontein
 - UIT VLUGT Fontein
 - VLEKFontein
 - WYNANDSFontein

Tee Kloof WEF	
Portion 1 of Uitvlugt Fontein Farm 265	
Remaining Extent of Kleinfontein Farm 93	
Portion 8 of Jan BooySENS Onder Plaats Farm 94	
Portion 5 of Jan BooySENS Onder Plaats Farm 94	
Remaining Extent of Jan BooySENS Onder Plaats Farm 94	
Portion 8 of Bult and Rietfontein Farm 96	
Platberg WEF	
Remaining Extent of Wynandsfontein Farm 91	
Remaining Extent of Vlekfontein Farm 90	
Portion 2 of Vlekfontein Farm 90	
Supporting electrical infrastructure	
Portion 1 of Bult and Rietfontein Farm 96	
Portion 1 of Uitvlugt Fontein Farm 265	
Remaining Extent of Kleinfontein Farm 93	
Portion 8 of Jan BooySENS Onder Plaats Farm 94	
Remaining Extent of Wynandsfontein Farm 91	



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