KLIPHEUWEL / DASSIESFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Avian impact assessment

AVISENSE CONSULTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study contains an extensive review of relevant literature on wind energy impacts on birds, and identifies potential impacts of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility on the avifauna of the Caledon area of the Overberg, Western Cape, South Africa. These expected impacts are: habitat destruction by construction of the facility itself and any ancillary infrastructure, disturbance and possible displacement of sensitive species by the operation of the facility, and mortality in collision with the blades of the wind turbines, or in collision or electrocution incidents associated with ancillary infrastructure.

The proposed wind energy facility is situated in an open, hilly heathland area, heavily modified by agriculture. Patches of mostly degraded, Renosterveld vegetation are set in an extensive matrix of cereal croplands and pastures. The immediate area is likely to support over 180 bird species, including 43 endemics or near-endemics, 16 red-listed species, and four species – Blue Crane, Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*, Black Harrier and Agulhas Long-billed Lark - which are both endemic and red-listed (Barnes 1998, 2000, Table 1, Appendix 1). Large terrestrial species (especially Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*, which regularly occurs in large, non-breeding flocks and/or as a number of breeding pairs in pastures and cultivated land), resident and breeding and/or visiting raptors (in particular Black Harrier *Circus maurus*, which is likely to occur regularly on site, and may breed within it in wet years), and a suite of endemic passerines (in particular Agulhas Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda brevirostris*) are probably the species of greatest conservation significance which are most likely to be impacted by the wind energy facility, both in terms of the anticipated collision and disturbance impacts of the development.

The proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility could have a significant, long-term impact on components of the avifauna of the surrounding area. The most obvious and immediate negative impacts are likely to be on the considerable number of Blue Cranes present in the area, and to a lesser extent on Black Harrier and Agulhas Long-billed Lark (Note: Cape Vulture is at best a rare vagrant to the site, and is not considered as an important component of the local avifauna). These red-listed endemic species may/do occur as breeding residents at the site, and may be disturbed by the construction of the wind energy facility, and/or lose foraging habitat (in terms of the area covered by the construction footprint and by displacement from areas with operating turbines), and/or suffer energetic costs associated with routing around a barrier of wind turbines when commuting between resource areas, and/or sustain mortalities in collisions with the turbine blades.

These effects may be reduced to acceptable and sustainable levels by adherence to a proposed mitigation scheme. A comprehensive programme to fully monitor the actual impacts of the facility on the broader avifauna of the area is recommended and outlined, from pre-construction and into the operational phase of the project. Clarity on the

environmental impact of this and other facilities proposed for the same general area can only be reached once pre-construction monitoring has been completed. It is imperative that the impacts of this project be viewed in the context of cumulative effects generated by multiple wind energy facility proposals for this general area, and that mitigation of these cumulative impacts be managed accordingly.

CONSULTANT'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Andrew Jenkins (*AVISENSE* Consulting) is an independent consultant to Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd) and BioTherm Energy Resources. He has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which they were appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of this specialist performing such work.

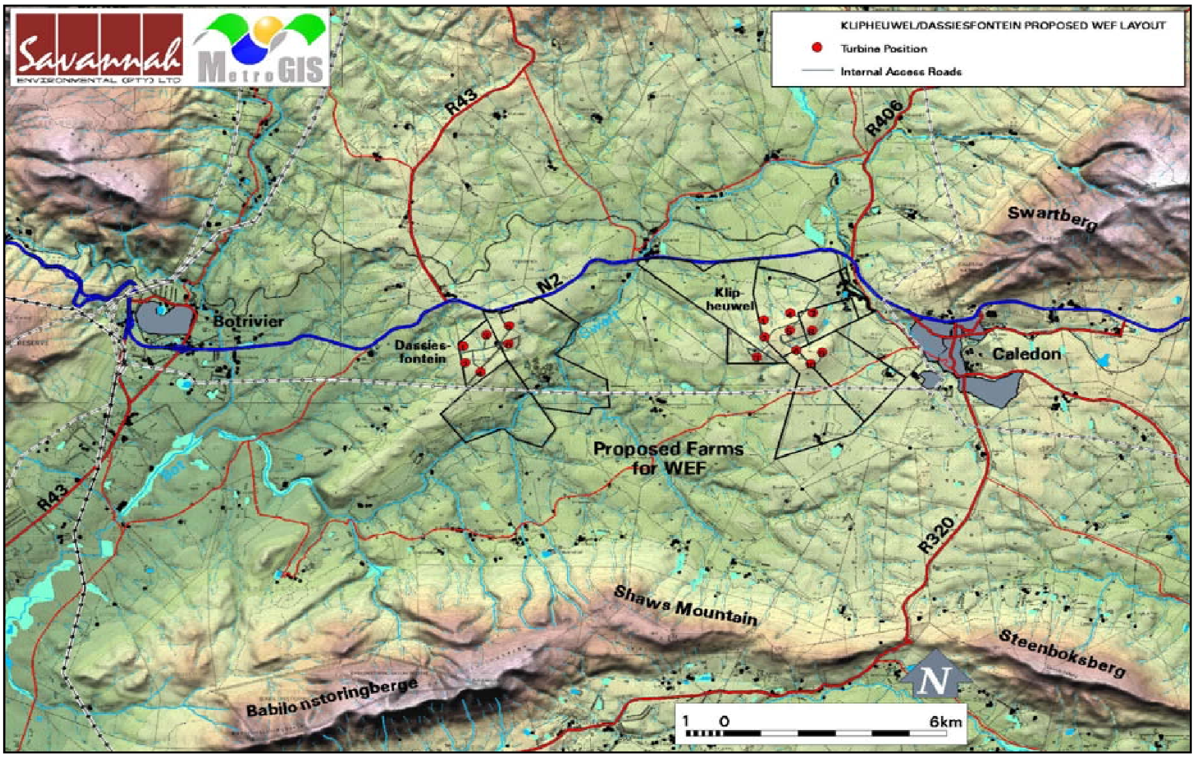
1. INTRODUCTION

BioTherm Energy Resources is planning to construct a wind energy facility (project name 'Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility') on a site located near Caledon, Western Cape Province. Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd) was appointed to do the Environmental Impact Assessment study, and subsequently appointed *AVISENSE* Consulting to conduct the specialist avifaunal assessment. The study was conducted by Dr Andrew Jenkins, an ornithologist with over 20 years of experience in avian research and impact assessment work. He has been involved in the design and/or execution of many of the completed EIA and EMP studies for wind energy facilities in South Africa to date, including two of the three operational facilities, at Darling and Klipheuwel, Western Cape Province.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for this environmental impact study, as supplied by Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd), were to provide:

- An indication of the methods used in determining the significance of potential impacts.
- A description of all the environmental issues (pertaining to birds) identified during the EIA process.
- An assessment of the significance of each of the identified direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, in terms of the expected nature, extent, duration, probability and severity of each, as well as in terms of the reversibility of impacts, and the degree to which each can be mitigated.
- A description and comparative assessment of alternatives in the development plan.
- Recommendations on practical mitigation of potentially significant negative impacts for inclusion in the Environmental Management Plan, with an indication of the expected efficacy of such mitigation measures.
- A description of any assumptions, uncertainties or knowledge gaps affecting this assessment.
- An environmental impact statement with a summary of key findings, an assessment of positive and negative implications of the proposed development, and a comparative assessment of identified alternatives.



<u>FIGURE 1. General location and layout of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility.</u>

3. STUDY METHODS

3.1. Approach

The initial scoping study, which forms the background to this report, included the following steps:

- A review of available published and unpublished literature pertaining to bird interactions with wind energy facilities is provided summarising the issues involved and the current level of knowledge in this field. Various information sources (listed below), including data on the birdlife of the area and previous studies of bird interactions with wind energy facility and electricity infrastructure, were examined.
- An inclusive, annotated list of the avifauna likely to occur within the impact zone of the proposed wind energy facility was compiled using a combination of the existing distributional data and previous experience/knowledge of the avifauna of the general area.
- A short-list of priority bird species (defined in terms of conservation status and endemism) which could possibly be impacted by the proposed wind energy facility was extracted from the total bird list. These species were subsequently considered as adequate surrogates for the local avifauna generally, and mitigation of impacts

on these species was considered likely to accommodate any less important bird populations that may also potentially be affected.

- A summary of more likely and significant impacts of the wind energy facility on the local avifauna was drawn up, and a brief methodology was devised for the EIA phase for confirming these impacts and developing an effective mitigation strategy.

The present EIA report builds on the scoping study, with emphasis on the outcome of a site visit, made on 10 September 2010. While the scoping phase identified potential avifaunal issues associated with the proposed wind energy facility and its possible associated infrastructure, the EIA investigates these issues in more detail and includes:

- Field surveys of large terrestrial species, raptors and endemic passerines within the study area to determine the relative importance of local populations of these key taxa.
- Refinement of the expected species and priority species lists based on (i), and compilation of SABAP 2 atlas lists for the pentads visited during the site visit.
- Estimates of the extent and direction of possible movements of these species within/through the anticipated impact zone of the wind energy facility, in relation to the distribution of available resources – nesting or roosting sites (wetlands, stands of trees, existing power lines), foraging areas (croplands, wetlands), sources of list for slope soaring birds (ridge lines).
- Identification of any sensitive/high risk areas to locate wind turbines within the broader study area, in terms of (i) to (iii) above.
- Recommendations on mitigation where necessary (particularly with reference to the siting of turbines).
- A comprehensive, long-term programme for monitoring actual impacts from pre- to post-construction phases of the development, and improving our understanding of the long-term effects of wind energy developments on South African avifauna.

3.2. Data sources used

The following data sources and reports were used in the compilation of this report:

- Bird distribution data of the Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP – Harrison *et al.* 1997) were obtained from the Animal Demography Unit website (http://sabap2.adu.org.za/index.php) for the relevant quarter-degree squares (SABAP 1: 3419AB Caledon - 174 cards submitted over the atlas period, 216 species recorded; 3419AD Stanford – 256 cards, 231 species) or pentads (SABAP 2: 3410_1915, 3410_1920, 3415_1915, 3415_1920 – 24 cards submitted so far for all four pentads combined). A composite list of species likely to occur in the impact zone of the wind energy facility was drawn up as a combination of these data, refined by a more specific assessment of the actual habitats affected, based on general knowledge of the avifauna of the region (APPENDIX 1).
- Conservation status and endemism of all species considered likely to occur in the area was determined as per the most recent iteration of the national Red-list for birds (Barnes 2000), informed by a more recent revision for raptors (Jenkins 2008a), the most recent iteration of the global list of threatened species (http://www.iucnredlist.org), and the most recent and comprehensive summary of southern African bird biology (Hockey *et al.* 2005).
- Data from the Animal Demography Unit's Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcount project (CAR: http://car.adu.org.za/, Young *et al.* 2003), and Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC: http://cwac.adu.org.za/, Taylor *et al.* 1999).
- Data from the Animal Demography Unit's Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcount project (CAR: http://car.adu.org.za/, Young *et al.* 2003).
- EIA reports and any subsequent monitoring reports on the potential impacts on birds of other proposed and/or constructed and operational wind energy facilities in South Africa (e.g. van Rooyen 2001a, Küyler 2004, Jenkins 2008b, 2009).

3.3. Limitations & assumptions

Any inaccuracies in the above sources of information could limit this study. The SABAP 1 data for this area are substantial (430 cards submitted over the atlas period) but are now >15 years old (Harrison *et al.* 1997). Some recent SABAP 2 data are available by way of an update on the earlier project, but probably not sufficient to pronounce conclusively on the birdlife present. This deficiency was partially addressed by the short visit to the site.

Given that there are currently only three, very small wind energy facilities operational in South Africa (totaling only 8 turbines between them), practical experience of the environmental effects of wind energy facilities in this country is extremely limited, and we must base our estimates of the possible impacts of new facilities largely on lessons learned internationally. While many of the established, general principles can probably be usefully applied here, care should be taken in adapting international knowledge and experience to uniquely South African birds and conditions.

4. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

4.1 Interactions between wind energy facilities and birds

Recent literature reviews (www.nrel.gov, Kingsley & Whittam 2005, Drewitt & Langston 2006, Kuvlevsky *et al.* 2007, Stewart *et al.* 2007, Drewitt & Langston 2008, Krijgsveld *et al.* 2009, Sovacool 2009) are essential summaries and sources of information in this field. While the number of comprehensive, longer-term analyses of the effects of wind energy facilities on birds is increasing, and the body of empirical data describing these effects is rapidly growing, scientific research in this field is still in its infancy (Madders & Whitfield 2006, Stewart *et al.* 2007), and much of the available information originates from short-term, unpublished, descriptive studies, most of which have been carried out in the United States, and more recently across western Europe, where wind power generation is a more established and developed industry.

Concern about the impacts of wind facilities on birds first arose in the 1980s when numerous raptor mortalities were detected at facilities at Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (California, USA) and Tarifa (southern Spain). More recently, there has been additional concern about the degree to which birds avoid or are excluded from the areas occupied by wind energy facilities – either because of the visible action of the turbine blades or because of the noise they generate - and hence suffer a loss of habitat (Larsen & Guillemette 2007, Stewart *et al.* 2007, Devereaux *et al.* 2008. Pearce-Higgins *et al.* 2009). With a few important exceptions, most studies completed to date suggest low absolute numbers of bird fatalities at wind energy facilities (Kingsley & Whittam 2005), and low casualty rates relative to other existing sources of anthropogenic avian mortality on a per structure basis (Crockford 1992, Colson & associates 1995, Gill *et al.* 1996, and Erickson *et al*. 2001).

4.1.1 Collisions with turbines

Collision rates

As more monitoring has been conducted at a growing number of sites, some generic standards and common units have been established, with bird collisions with turbine blades generally measured in mortalities/turbine/year, mortalities/Mega-Watt/year, or mortalities /Giga-Watt Hour (Smallwood & Thelander 2008, Sovacool 2009). Wherever possible, measured collision rates should allow for (i) casualty remains which are not detected by observers (searcher efficiency - Newton & Little 2009), and (ii) casualties which are removed by scavengers before detection, and the rate at which this occurs (scavenger removal rate). Also, although collision rates may appear relatively low in many instances, cumulative effects over time, especially when applied to large, long lived, slow reproducing and/or threatened species (many of which are collision-prone), may be of considerable conservation significance.

The National Wind Co-ordinating Committee (2004) estimates that 2.3 birds are killed per turbine per year in the US outside of California – correcting for searcher efficiency and scavenger rates. However, this index ranges from as low as 0.63 mortalities/turbine/year in Oregon, to as high as 10 mortalities/turbine/year in Tennessee (NWCC 2004), illustrating the wide variance in mortality rates between sites. Curry & Kerlinger (2000) found that only 13% of the >5000 turbines at Altamont Pass, California were responsible for all Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* collisions, but the most recent aggregate casualty estimates for Altamont run to >1000 raptor mortalities/turbine/year, and nearly 3000 mortalities/turbine/year overall (Smallwood & Thelander 2008), including >60 Golden Eagles, and at a mean rate of about 2-4 mortalities/MW/year.

At the Tarifa and Navarre wind energy facilities on the Straits of Gibraltar, southern Spain, about 0.04-0.08 birds are killed per turbine/year (Janss 2000a, de Lucas *et al.* 2008), with relatively high collision rates for threatened raptors such as Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, of particular concern (Table 1). At the same sites, collisions have also been found to be non-randomly distributed between turbines, with >50% of the vulture casualties recorded at Tarifa being killed by only 15% of the turbine array at the facility (Acha 1997). Collision rates from other European sites are equally variable, with certain locations sporadically problematic (Everaert 2003, Newton & Little 2009, Table 1).

To date, only eight wind turbines have been constructed in South Africa at two pilot wind energy facilities at Klipheuwel and Darling in the Western Cape (van Rooyen 2001, Jenkins 2001, 2003) and, more recently, in the first phase of a bigger development at Coega in the Eastern Cape. An avian mortality monitoring program was established at the Klipheuwel facility once the turbines were operational, involving regular site visits to monitor both bird traffic through the area and detect bird mortalities (Küyler 2004). This study found that (i) 9-57% of birds observed within 500m of the turbines were flying at blade height, and (ii) 0-32% of birds sighted were flying either between the turbines or within the arc of the rotors of the outermost turbines. Five bird carcasses were found on the three-turbine site during the 8-month monitoring period, of which two, a Horus Swift *Apus horus* and a Large-billed Lark *Galerida magnirostris*, were thought to have been killed by collision with turbine blades, indicating a net collision rate for birds of about 1.00 mortality/turbine/year.

It is important to note here that simple estimates of aggregate collision rates for birds are not an adequate expression of biodiversity impact. Rather, consideration must be given to the conservation status of the species affected or potentially affected, and the possibility that even relatively low collision rates for some threatened birds may not be sustainable in the long term.

Causes of collision

Multiple factors influence the number of birds killed at wind energy facilities. These can be classified into three broad groupings: (i) avian variables, (ii) location variables, and (iii) facility-related variables. Although only one study has so far shown a direct relationship between the abundance of birds in an area and the number of collisions (Everaert 2003), it would seem logical to assume that the more birds there are flying through an array of turbines, the higher the chances of a collision occurring. The nature of the birds present in the area is also very important as some species are more vulnerable to collision with turbines than others, and feature disproportionately frequently in collision surveys (Drewitt & Langston 2006, 2008, de Lucas *et al.* 2008). Species-specific variation in behaviour, from general levels of activity to particular foraging or commuting strategies, also affect susceptibility to collision (Barrios & Rodríguez 2004, Smallwood *et al.* 2009). There may also be seasonal and temporal differences in behaviour, for example breeding males displaying may be particularly at risk.

Landscape features can potentially channel birds towards a certain area, and in the case of raptors, influence their flight and foraging behaviour. Ridges and steep slopes are important factors in determining the extent to which an area is used by gliding and soaring birds (Barrios & Rodríguez 2004). High densities of prey will attract raptors, increasing the time spent hunting, and as a result reducing the time spent being observant. Poor weather affects visibility. Birds fly lower during strong headwinds (Hanowski & Hawrot 2000, Richardson 2000), so when the turbines are functioning at their maximum speed, birds are likely to be flying at their lowest, exponentially increasing collision risk (Drewitt & Langston 2006, 2008).

Larger wind energy facilities, with more turbines, are almost by definition more likely to incur significant numbers of bird casualties (Kingsley & Whittam 2005), and turbine size may be proportional to collision risk, with taller turbines associated with higher mortality rates in some instances (e.g. de Lucas *et al.* 2009, but see Howell 1995, Erickson *et al.* 1999, Barclay *et al.* 2007), although with newer technology, fewer, larger turbines are needed to generate equivalent or even greater quantities of power, possibly resulting in fewer collisions per Megawatt of power produced (Erickson *et al.* 1999). Certain turbine tower structures, and particularly the old-fashioned lattice designs, present many potential perches for birds, increasing the likelihood of collisions occurring as birds land at or leave these perch or roost sites. This generally is not a problem associated with more modern, tubular tower designs (Drewitt & Langston 2006, 2008), such as those proposed for this project.

Illumination of turbines and other infrastructure is often associated with increased collision risk (Winkelman 1995, Erickson *et al.* 2001), either because birds moving long distances at night do so by celestial navigation, and may confuse lights for stars (Kemper 1964), or because lights attract insects, which in turn attract birds. Changing constant lighting to intermittent lighting has been shown to reduce nocturnal collision rates (Richardson 2000, APLIC 1994, Jaroslow 1979, Weir 1976) and changing flood-lighting from white to red can reduce mortality rates by up to 80% (Weir 1976).

Spacing between turbines at a wind facility can have an effect on the number of collisions. Some authors have suggested that paths should be left between turbines to allow free passage through the turbine strings (Drewitt & Langston 2006, Kuvlevsky *et al.* 2007, Drewitt & Langston 2008). This approach tallies well with wind energy generation principles, which require relatively large spaces between turbines in order to avoid wake and turbulence effects. An alternative perspective suggests that all attempts by birds to fly through wind energy facilities, rather than over or around them, should be discouraged to minimise collision risk (Drewitt & Langston 2006, Kuvlevsky *et al.* 2007, Drewitt & Langston 2008). This approach effectively renders the entire footprint of the facility as lost habitat (see below).

Collision prone birds

Collision prone birds are generally either (i) large species and/or species with high ratios of body weight to wing surface area (wing loading), which confers low maneuverability (cranes, bustards, vultures, gamebirds, waterfowl, falcons), (ii) species which fly at high speeds (gamebirds, pigeons and sandgrouse, swifts, falcons), (iii) species which are distracted in flight - predators or species with aerial displays (many raptors, aerial insectivores, some open country passerines), (iv) species which habitually fly in low light conditions, and (v) species with narrow fields of forward binocular vision (Drewitt & Langston 2006, 2008, Jenkins *et al.* 2010, Noguera *et al.* 2010). These traits confer high levels of *susceptibility*, which may be compounded by high levels of *exposure* to man-made obstacles such as overhead power lines and wind turbine areas (Jenkins *et al.* 2010). Exposure is greatest in (i) very aerial species, (ii) species inclined to make regular and/or long distance movements (migrants, any species with widely separated resource areas - food, water, roost and nest sites), (iii) species that regularly fly in flocks (increasing the chances of incurring multiple fatalities in single collision incidents).

Table 1. Results of recent published studies of the effects of wind energy facilities on local avifauna.

Location	***n* wind farm/s assessed**	**Turbine hub height (m)**	***n* turbines**	**Habitat**	**Bird groups assessed**	**Evidence of displacement?**	**Collision rate (birds/turbine/year)**	**Reference**
Tarifa, Southern Spain	2	18-36	66-190	Hilly woodland	Raptors	N/A	Raptors = 0.27, Griffon Vultures = 0.12	Barrios & Rodríguez 2004
Tarifa, Southern Spain	2	28-36	66-190	Hilly woodland	Raptors	N/A	0.04-0.07, mostly Griffon Vultures	de Lucas *et al.* 2008
East Anglia, UK	2	60	8	Croplands	Gamebirds, corvids, larks and see-eaters	Minimal, only gamebirds significantly affected	N/A	Devereaux *et al.* 2008
Altamont Pass, California	1	14-43	5400	Hilly grassland	Various	N/A	4.67 , raptors = 1.94	Smallwood & Thelander 2008
Southern Spain	1	44	16	Hilly woodland	Various	Yes, >75% reduction in raptor sightings	0.03	Farfán *et al.* 2009
Netherlands	3	67-78	7-10	Farmland	Various	N/A	27.0-39.0	Krijgsveld *et al.* 2009
Northumberland, UK	1	30	9	Coastal	Seabirds	N/A	16.5-21.5, mostly large gulls	Newton & Little 2009
N England & Scotland	12	30-70	14-42	Moorland	Gamebirds, shorebirds, raptors, passerines	Yes, 53% reduction in Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* sightings, other species also decreased	N/A	Pearce-Higgins *et al.* 2009

Soaring species may be particularly prone to colliding with wind turbines where the latter are placed along ridges to exploit the same updrafts favoured by such birds - vultures, storks, cranes, and most raptors - for cross-country flying (Erickson et al. 2001, Kerlinger & Dowdell 2003, Drewitt & Langston 2006, 2008, Jenkins *et al.* 2010, Noguera *et al.* 2010). Large soaring birds – for example, many raptors and storks - depend heavily on external sources of energy for sustainable flight (Pennycuick 1989). In terrestrial situations, this generally requires that they locate and exploit pockets or waves of rising air, either in the form of bubbles of vertically rising, differentially heated air – thermal soaring - or in the form of wind forced up over rises in the landscape, creating waves of rising turbulence – slope soaring.

Certain species are morphologically specialised for flying in open landscapes with high relief and strong prevailing winds, and are particularly dependent on slope soaring opportunities for efficient aerial foraging and travel. South African examples might include Bearded *Gypaetus barbatus* and Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*, Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*, Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus*, Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* and Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* and, to a lesser extent, most other open-country raptors. Such species are potentially threatened by wind energy developments where turbines are situated to exploit the wind shear created by hills and ridge-lines. In these situations, birds and industry are competing for the same wind resource, and the risk that slope soaring birds will collide with the turbine blades, or else be prevented from using foraging habitat critical for their survival, is greatly increased. Evidence of these effects has been obtained from several operational wind energy facilities in other parts of the world – for example relatively high mortality rates of large eagles, buzzards and kestrels at Altamont Pass, California (>1100 raptors killed annually or 1.9 raptor casualties/MW/year, Smallwood & Thelander 2008), and of vultures and kestrels at Tarifa, Spain (0.15-0.19 casualties/turbine/year, Barrios & Rodríguez 2004, de Lucas *et al.* 2008, Table 1), and displacement of raptors generally in southern Spain (Farfán *et al.* 2009) and of large eagles in Scotland (Walker *et al.* 2005) – and one study has shown that the additive impact of wind farm mortality on an already threatened raptor could theoretically cause its localised extinction (Carrete *et al.* 2009).

Mitigating collision risk

The only direct way to reduce the risk of birds colliding with turbine blades is to make the blades more conspicuous and hence easier to avoid. Blade conspicuity is compromised by a phenomenon known as 'motion smear' or retinal blur, in which rapidly moving objects become less visible the closer they are to the eye (McIsaac 2001, Hodos 2002). The retinal image can only be processed up to a certain speed, after which the image cannot be perceived. This effect is magnified in low light conditions, so that even slow blade rotation can be difficult for birds to see.

Laboratory-based studies of visual acuity in raptors have determined that (i) visual acuity appears superior when objects are viewed at a distance, suggesting that the birds may view nearby objects with one visual field and objects further away with another, (ii) moderate motion of the visual stimulus significantly influences acuity, and kestrels may be unable to resolve all portions of an object such as a rotating turbine blade because of motion smear, especially under low contrast or dim lighting conditions, (iii) this deficiency can be addressed by patterning the blade surface in a way which maximises the time between successive stimulations of the same retinal region, and (v) the easiest, cheapest and most visible blade pattern for this purpose, effective across the widest variety of backgrounds, is a single black blade in an array of white blades (McIsaac 2001, Hodos 2002). Hence blade marking may be an important means to reduce collision rates by making the rotating turbine blades as conspicuous as possible under the least favourable visual conditions, particularly at facilities where raptors are known or likely to be frequent collision casualties.

Even if the turbine rotors are marked in this way, many species may still be susceptible to colliding with them, especially during strong winds (when the rotor speed is high and birds tend to fly low and with less control) and when visibility is poor (at night or in thick mist). All other collision mitigation options operate indirectly, by reducing the frequency with which collision prone species are exposed to collision risk. This is achieved mainly by (i) siting farms and individual turbines away from areas of high avifaunal density or aggregation, regular commute routes or hazardous flight behavior, (ii) using low risk turbine designs and configurations, which discourage birds from perching on turbine towers or blades, and allow sufficient space for commuting birds to fly safely through the turbine strings, and (iii) carefully monitoring collision incidence, and being prepared to shut-down problem turbines at particular times or under particular conditions.

Effective mitigation can only be achieved with a commitment to rigorous pre- and post-construction monitoring (see below), ideally using a combination of occasional, direct observation of birds commuting or foraging through and around the wind energy facility, coupled with constant, remote tracking of avian traffic using specialised radar equipment (e.g. see http://www.detect-inc.com/wind.html). Such systems can be programmed to set the relevant turbines to idle as birds enter a pre-determined danger zone around the turbine array, and to re-engage those turbines once the birds have safely passed.

4.1.2 Habitat loss – destruction, disturbance and displacement

Although the final, destructive footprint of most wind energy facilities is likely to be relatively small, the construction phase of development inevitably incurs quite extensive temporary damage or permanent destruction of habitat, which may be of lasting significance in cases where wind energy facility sites coincide with critical areas for restricted range, endemic and/or threatened species. Similarly, construction, and to a lesser extent ongoing maintenance activities, are likely to cause some disturbance of birds in the general surrounds, and especially of shy and/or ground-nesting species resident in the area. Mitigation of such effects requires that generic best-practice principles be rigorously applied - sites are selected to avoid the destruction of key habitats, and construction and final footprints, as well as sources of disturbance of key species, must be kept to an absolute minimum. Some studies have shown significant decreases in the numbers of certain birds in areas where wind energy facilities are operational as a direct result of avoidance of the noise or movement of the turbines (e.g. Larsen & Guillemette 2007, Farfán *et al.* 2009, Table 1), while others have shown decreases which may be attributed to a combination of collision casualties and avoidance or exclusion from the impact zone of the facility in question (Stewart *et al.* 2007). Such displacement effects are probably more relevant in situations where wind energy facilities are built in natural habitat (Pearce-Higgins *et al.* 2009, Madders & Whitfield 2006) than in more modified environments such as farmland (Devereaux *et al.* 2008), and are highly species-specific in operation.

4.1.3 Impacts of associated infrastructure

Infrastructure commonly associated with wind energy facilities may also have detrimental effects on birds. The construction and maintenance of substations, and roadways causes both temporary and permanent habitat destruction and disturbance, and overhead power lines substations and other live ancillary infrastructure may pose an electrocution risk to certain species (Van Rooyen 2004a, Lehman *et al.* 2007, Jenkins *et al.* 2010).

Electrocution on power infrastructure

Avian electrocutions occur when a bird perches or attempts to perch on an electrical structure and causes an electrical short circuit by physically bridging the air gap between live components and/or live and earthed components (van Rooyen 2004b, Lehman *et al.* 2007). Electrocution risk is strongly influenced by the voltage and design of the hardware installed (generally occurring on lower voltage infrastructure where air gaps are relatively small), and mainly affects larger, perching species, such as vultures, eagles and storks, easily capable of spanning the spaces between energised components. Mitigation of electrocution risk involves the use of bird-safe structures (ideally with critical air gaps >2 m), the physical exclusion of birds from high risk areas of live infrastructure, and comprehensive insulation of such areas (van Rooyen 2004b, Lehman *et al.* 2007).

4.2. Description of the proposed wind energy facility

The proposed wind energy facility will be located on the farm portions (Klipheuwel) Klip Heuvel no. 410/5 (Remaining Extent) & 410/9; Klip Heuvel no: 410/8 (alias Kruis Vley) & 410/10 (alias Haasjes Kop); Boontjieskraal no. 417/0 and Farm 418 no. 418/0 (Remaining Extent); (Dassiesfontein) farm portions 1 (Remaining Extent) & 5 Huveltjes Kraal 426; Heuwelkraal a portion of the farm Pampoenkraal 843/0, in the area immediately west of Caledon, Overberg region, Western Cape Province (Fig. 1). The facility will comprise up to 16 wind turbines, spread over an area of 602 ha, and will include two dedicated substations (which will connect the facility directly to the existing Eskom transmission line which runs through the study area), a maintenance/control building, and a network of access and service roads.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Vegetation of the study area

The study area falls within the East Coast Renosterveld Bioregion of the Fynbos Biome (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). The natural vegetation of the study area itself is Western Rûens Shale Renosterveld – moderately undulating grassy shrubland, dominated by renosterbos (Mucina & Rutherford 2006), with Overberg Sandstone Fynbos on the upper slopes to the northeast.

FIGURE 2a. Small, vestigial pockets of Renosterveld occur within the development area, in a matrix of cereal croplands.

FIGURE 2b. Wheatfields, pasture, and some areas of cultivation serviced by centre-pivot irrigation, are the dominant land-use types and avian habitats at the Klipheuwel /Dassiesfontein site.

FIGURE 2c. Stands of exotic trees, small farm dams and farmsteads dot the landscape and present alternative habitats for birds.

5.2 Avian microhabitats

The area features open, hilly heathland, heavily modified by agriculture. The site is situated immediately west of the town of Caledon, and about 17-18 km from the Atlantic coastline at Walker Bay (Fig. 1). The local climate is temperate, featuring warm, dry, windy summers, and wetter, cooler winters. The area receives about 400 mm of rain per annum, with mean temperatures ranging from about 5-10ºC on winter nights, to 25-30ºC during the day in summer. Altitude averages about 260 m above sea level, rising to just over 250 m a.s.l. at 'Bidkoppie' in the centre of Klipheuwel. Land use is mainly cereal crop (wheat, canola, lucerne) farming, with limited beef/dairy and small stock (sheep, pigs) operations. There are two main farm houses (with associated outhouses) within the development area – Klipheuwel in the east and Dassiesfontein in the west. The area is bordered by the N2 highway in the north, and a gravel road connecting Caledon and Botrivier in the south (Fig. 1), and is criss-crossed by a network of lesser, gravel roads and farm tracks. A number of Eskom power lines traverse the study area, including a transmission line running between Botrivier and Caledon (Fig. 1).

Avian habitats within the impact zone comprise (i) limited and degraded fragments of natural vegetation – mostly along drainage lines and on very steep slopes (Fig. 2a), set in a matrix of (ii) cereal cropland and pastures (Fig. 2b), with (iii) isolated stands of alien trees, (iv) scattered artificial waterbodies, and (v) the urban periphery of Caledon, with the on-site homesteads and farm buildings (Fig. 2c).

5.3 Avifauna of the impact area

The site provides a limited diversity of habitats for birds. It is almost completely covered by wheatfields, fallow lands or associated pastures. The seasonal life of these highly modified areas simulates open grassland, and attracts some significant birdlife, most importantly the threatened endemic Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*, but including a community of endemic lark species. The farm dams support limited wetland birds, particularly in winter when water levels are highest. Vestigial areas of uncultivated land have retained the natural Renosterveld vegetation. These areas still support healthy indigenous bird communities, supplemented by some woodland species associated with alien tree infestation.

The study area is located about 25-30 km south-east of the Eastern False Bay Mountain Important Bird Area (IBA, Barnes 1998), about 25-30 km of the Botriviervlei and Kleinmond Estuary IBA, some 80-90 km north-west of the De Hoop Nature Reserve IBA, and within the western periphery of the Overberg Wheatbelt IBA (Barnes 1998) (Fig. 2).

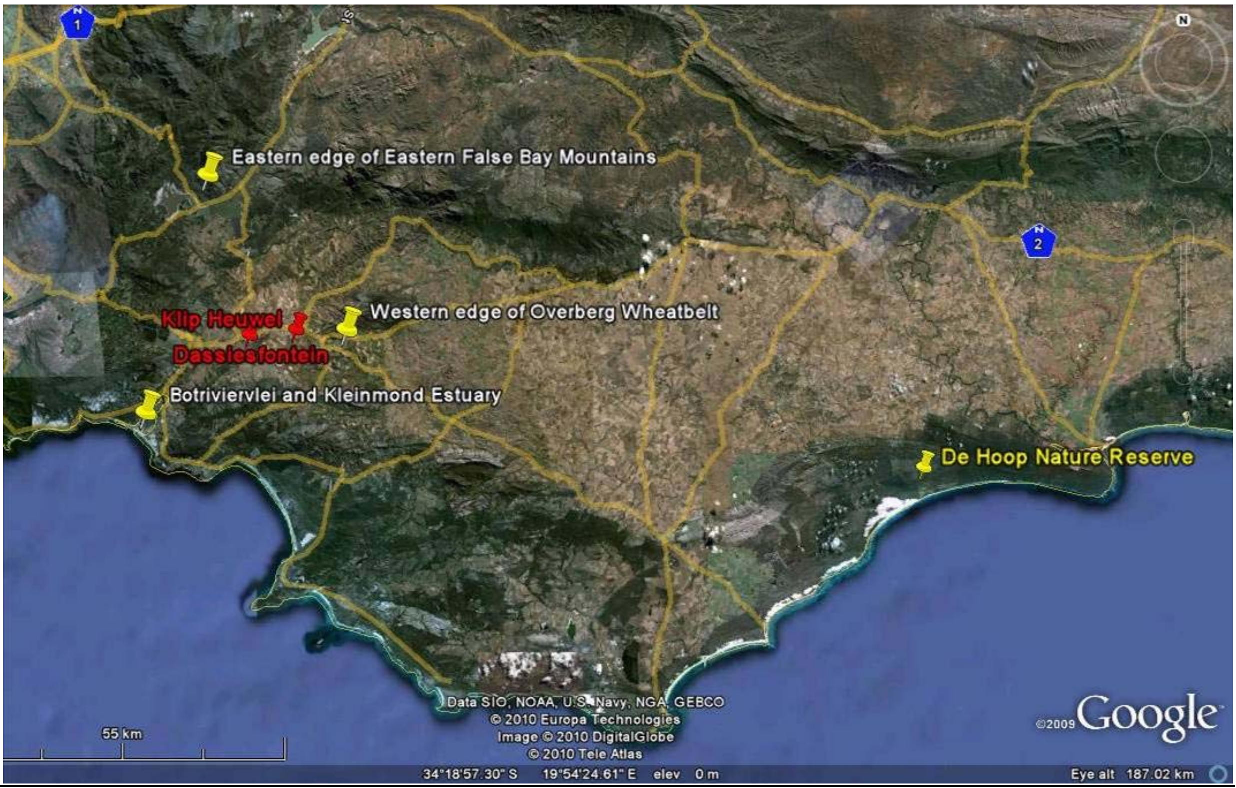


FIGURE 3. Location of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility in relation to potentially affected Important Bird Areas (Barnes 1998).

At least 187 bird species are considered likely to occur with some regularity within the broader impact zone of the proposed wind energy facility (Appendix 1), including 43 endemic or near-endemic species, 16 red-listed species, and four species – Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*, Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*, Black Harrier *Circus maurus* and Agulhas Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda brevirostris* - which are both endemic and red-listed (Barnes 1998, 2000, Table 1, Appendix 1). Three of these, Blue Crane, Black Harrier and Agulhas Long-billed Lark, might breed either on the site or nearby.

Forty-nine species were seen during a site visit on September 10 2010 (Appendix 1). Most significantly, 11 sightings of Blue Crane were made within or in the general vicinity of the development area during this site visit, in flocks of 1-113 and totaling 190 birds, all feeding in pasture or cereal croplands (Fig. 4). Given the timing of the visit, many of the cranes seen were still in off-season flocks, but there were already signs of pairs having broken away and possibly taken up residence on breeding territories for the summer (Allan 2005). These observations, coupled with CAR data for the Overberg confirm that the Caledon area (Young *et al.* 2003, >100 birds per 100 km surveyed for most routes in the Caledon precinct) is very important for Blue Cranes, and that the immediate area of the proposed development supports both large flocks of non-breeding birds, and a number of breeding pairs. Another large terrestrial species which may occur on site in small numbers is Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami*.

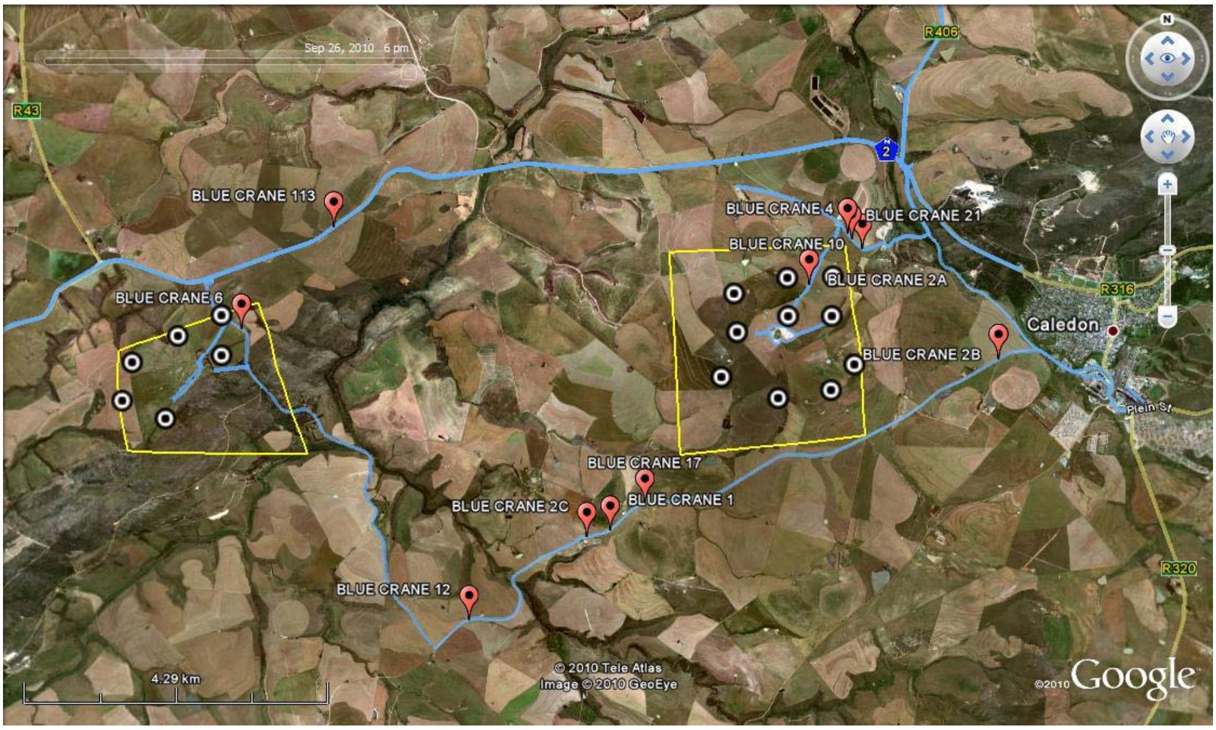


FIGURE 4. Area coverage (blue lines) and the distribution of Blue Crane sightings during the September site visit, in relation to the two proposed turbine arrays (white circles).

Also noted during the site visit was the presence of some reasonably large remnant patches of Renosterveld, particularly on the steeper slopes and drainage lines in the vicinity of the Dassiesfontein properties. While these may not hold a high diversity of birds, or even a strongly endemic avifauna, they may occasionally support breeding pairs of the endemic, red-listed Black Harrier (Curtis *et al.* 2004).

Other scarce raptors known to occur in the area include Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*, Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*, African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus* (pers. obs) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (pairs are known to breed at sites well to the north and east – pers. obs – and frequently seen hunting around the grain silos in Caledon – P. Chadwick pers. comm.). While the site is a considerable distance from both the Cape Vulture colony at Potberg (De Hoop Nature Reserve) and the nearest communal summer roost of Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (recently at Swellendam, >100 km to the east), the wide dispersal abilities of both species suggest that they could occur in the area, and SABAP data suggests that they sometimes do.

Farming practices may be an important determinant of raptor densities in this area – late summer burning of wheat stubble and ploughing may attract large numbers of raptors (Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*, Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, Booted Eagle *Aquila pennatus*, and probably Black/Yellow-billed Kites *Milvus migrans/parasitus*, Steppe

Buzzard *Buteo vulpinus* and others), storks, corvids and herons to the area to feed on unearthed or flushed rodents (most notably Cape Gerbil *Tatera afra*, which reaches plague numbers in this area in good wheat years).

Although not seen during the site visit, the study site almost certainly holds numbers of resident Agulhas Long-billed Lark. The site is located well within the western edge of the very limited range of this red-listed endemic, which probably frequents the fringes of Renosterveld patches, and seasonally on freshly ploughed fields (Ryan & Dean 2005).

On the basis of these on-site observations, and in combination with the available SABAP atlas data for the general area, 11 priority species are recognised as key in the assessment of avian impacts of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility (Table 2), and as suitable surrogates for impacts on other species. These are mostly nationally and/or globally threatened species which are known to occur, or could occur in relatively high numbers in the development area and which are likely to be, or could be, negatively affected by the wind energy project. Many (in particular Blue Crane, Black Harrier and Agulhas Long-billed Lark) are either known or likely to be resident in the area, and possibly are drawn to the development site by foraging and/or nesting opportunities available there.

In summary, the birds of greatest potential relevance and importance in terms of the possible impacts of the proposed wind energy facility are likely to be:

(i) Large terrestrial species, especially Blue Crane which regularly occurs in large, non-breeding flocks and/or as a number of breeding pairs in pastures and cultivated land within the impact area of the facility. This is a threatened, endemic species, highly susceptible to collision mortality on power lines (Shaw *et al.* 2010a & b), probably susceptible to turbine collision mortality, and possibly susceptible to disturbance and displacement by the operating wind farm (although observations made at the Eskom Klipheuwel Wind Farm site tend to refute the latter notion – Küyler 2004).

(ii) Resident and breeding and/or visiting raptors, in particular Black Harrier (likely to occur regularly on site, and may breed within it in wet years – Curtis *et al.* 2004), and including Martial Eagle, Secretarybird, Peregrine Falcon, and a variety of species drawn into the area in late summer/early winter to forage on rodents exposed by ploughing of wheat fields and/or burning off of stubble (Van Zyl *et al.* 1994).

(iii) Endemic passerines, in particular the restricted range endemic Agulhas Long-billed Lark, which probably occurs quite commonly on site and may be detrimentally affected by high levels of disturbance.

Table 2. Priority bird species considered central to the avian impact assessment process for the Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility, selected on the basis of South African (Barnes 2000) or global conservation status (www.iucnredlist.org or http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/), level of endemism, relative abundance on site (SABAP reporting rates, direct observation), and estimated conservation or ecological significance of the local population. Red-listed endemic species are shaded in grey.

Common name	Scientific name	SA conservation status / (Global conservation status)	Regional endemism	Average SABAP reporting rate (*N* = 454 cards)	Estimated importance of local population	Preferred habitat	Risk posed by		
							Collision	Electro-cution	Disturbance / habitat loss
Denham's Bustard	*Neotis denhamii*	Vulnerable	-	0.2	Low	Pasture, croplands, Renosterveld	High	-	Moderate
Blue Crane	*Anthropoides paradiseus*	Vulnerable (Vulnerable)	Endemic	33.3	High	Croplands, pasture, wetlands	High	-	High
Cape Vulture	*Gyps coprotheres*		Endemic	0.2	Low	Fly over, croplands	High	High	-
African Marsh Harrier	*Circus ranivorus*	Vulnerable	-	11.2	Moderate	Wetlands, croplands	Moderate	-	Moderate
Black Harrier	*Circus maurus*	Near-threatened (Vulnerable)	Endemic	7.9	High	Renosterveld, croplands	Moderate	-	High
Martial Eagle	*Polemaetus bellicosus*	Vulnerable (Near-threatened)	-	1.3	Moderate	Renosterveld, pasture, croplands	High	High	Moderate
Secretarybird	*Sagittarius serpentarius*	Near-threatened	-	4.0	Low	Croplands, pasture	High	-	Moderate
Lanner Falcon	*Falco biarmicus*	Near-threatened	-	3.3	Moderate	Croplands, Renosterveld, urban fringe	High	Moderate	High
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Near-threatened	-	0.4	Moderate	Croplands, Renosterveld, urban fringe	High	Moderate	High
Lesser Kestrel	*Falco naumanni*	Vulnerable (Vulnerable)	-	3.7	Low	Croplands, urban fringe	Moderate	-	-
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	*Certhilauda*	Near-threatened	Endemic	5.5	Moderate	Croplands, pasture	-	-	Moderate

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts of the proposed Wind Energy Facility are most likely to be manifest in the following ways:

(i) Disturbance and displacement of resident/breeding or non-breeding flocks of Blue Crane from nesting and/or foraging areas by construction and/or operation of the facility, and /or mortality of these birds in collisions with the turbine blades while commuting between resource areas (croplands, nest sites, roost sites/wetlands).

(ii) Disturbance and displacement of resident/breeding or visiting raptors (especially Black Harrier) from nesting and/or foraging areas by construction and/or operation of the facility, and /or mortality of these species in collisions with the turbine blades while hunting in the wheatfields, or by electrocution when perched on power infrastructure.

(iii) Disturbance and displacement of endemic passerines (especially Agulhas Long-billed Lark) from nesting and/or foraging areas by construction and/or operation of the facility

Table 3. Assessment tables for construction impacts of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility on the local avifauna.

(A) Disturbance

Nature: Noise, movement and temporary occupation of habitat during the building process. Likely to impact all birds in the area to some extent, but sensitive, sedentary and/or habitat specific species will most adversely affected.

	Without mitigation	**With mitigation**
Extent	Low-Medium (2)	Low-Medium (2)
Duration	Short (1)	Short (1)
Magnitude	Medium (5)	Medium-Low (4)
Probability	Definite (5)	Definite (5)
Significance	40 (Medium)	35 (Medium-Low)
Status	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	Medium	High
Irreplaceable loss?	Possible	Probably not
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	

Mitigation: Abbreviating construction time, scheduling activities around avian breeding and/or movement schedules, lowering levels of associated noise, and reducing the size of the inclusive development footprint.

Cumulative impacts: Considerable if, as seems likely, other wind energy developments are under construction nearby at the same time.

Residual impacts: Some priority species may move away regardless of mitigation.

(B) Habitat loss

Nature: Destruction of habitat for priority species, either temporary – resulting from construction activities peripheral to the built area, or permanent - the area occupied by the completed development.

	Without mitigation	**With mitigation**
Extent	Low (1)	Low (1)
Duration	Permanent (5)	Permanent (5)
Magnitude	Low (3)	Low (2)
Probability	Definite (5)	Definite (5)
Significance	45 (Medium)	40 (Medium)
Status	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	Low	Low
Irreplaceable loss?	Possible	Probably not
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	

Mitigation: Minimising habitat destruction caused by the construction of the facility by keeping the lay-down areas as small as possible, building as few temporary roads as possible, and reducing the final extent of developed area to a minimum. Much of the habitat on site is heavily modified anyway.

Cumulative impacts: Yes, more wind energy developments in the area will increase habitat losses exponentially.

Residual impacts: Some species may be permanently lost to the area regardless of mitigation.

Table 4. Assessment tables for operational impacts of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility on the local avifauna.

(A) Disturbance

Nature: Noise and movement generated by operating turbines and maintenance activities is sufficient to disturb priority species, causing displacement from the area, adjustments to commute routes with energetic costs, or otherwise affecting nesting success or foraging efficiency.

	Without mitigation	**With mitigation**
Extent	Low-Medium (2)	Low-Medium (2)
Duration	Lifetime of the facility (4)	Lifetime of the facility (4)
Magnitude	Medium (6)	Medium (6)
Probability	Highly probable (4)	Highly probable (4)
Significance	48 (Medium)	48 (Medium)
Status	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	Low	Low
Irreplaceable loss?	Possible	Possible
Can impacts be mitigated?	Slightly	

Mitigation: Abbreviating maintenance times, scheduling activities in relation to avian breeding and/or movement schedules, and lowering levels of associated noise.

Cumulative impacts: Considerable. Any additional wind energy facilities proposed for the same general area will substantially raise disturbance levels, and extend the displacement or barrier effect across a broader front.

Residual impacts: Some priority species may be permanently lost from the area.

(B) Mortality

Nature: Collision of priority species with the wind turbine blades lines, or electrocution of the same on new power infrastructure.

	Without mitigation	**With mitigation**
Extent	Medium (3)	Low-Medium (2)
Duration	Lifetime of the facility (4)	Lifetime of the facility (4)
Magnitude	Medium-High (7)	Low (4)
Probability	Highly probable (4)	Probable (3)
Significance	56 (Medium-High)	30 (Medium)
Status	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	Low	Low
Irreplaceable loss?	Yes	Possibly not
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	

Mitigation: Careful siting of turbines, painting turbine blades, bird friendly power hardware, monitoring priority bird movements and collisions, turbine management sensitive to these data – radar assisted if necessary.

Cumulative impacts: Yes, if more turbines are built in the same general area, more collision hot-spots are likely, and mortality rates may increase exponentially.

Residual impacts: Some casualties may be incurred regardless of mitigation.

Mitigation of these impacts will be best achieved in the following ways:

(i) Minimising the disturbance impacts associated with the construction of the facility, by abbreviating construction time, scheduling activities around avian breeding and/or movement schedules (actual timing to be refined by the results of pre-construction monitoring), and lowering levels of associated noise.

(ii) Minimising habitat destruction caused by the construction of the facility by keeping the lay-down areas as small as possible, building as few temporary roads as possible, and reducing the final extent of developed area to a minimum.

(iii) Minimising the disturbance impacts associated with the operation of the facility, by abbreviating maintenance times, scheduling activities in relation to avian breeding and/or movement schedules (actual timing to be refined by the results of pre- and post-construction monitoring), and lowering levels of associated noise.

(iv) Possibly excluding development from around certain locations where breeding by Blue Crane, Black Harrier, Agulhas Long-billed Lark and/or any other priority species is confirmed by pre-construction monitoring. At this stage, small, remote dams in open areas, and large fragments of relatively pristine Renosterveld might be good proxies for possible nesting areas of cranes and harriers respectively, but not with sufficient accuracy to delineate exclusion areas at this stage.

(v) Either changing the primary land use on the site, or else briefly shutting down the turbines situated close to areas where wheat stubble is being burned off and/or fields are being ploughed for seeding (late summer – January-March), because gerbils and other rodents are exposed to predation at this time, and numbers of associated raptors are at their peak.

(vi) Painting one blade of each turbine black to maximise conspicuousness to oncoming birds. The evidence for this as an effective mitigation measure is not conclusive, but it is suggestive. It might be best to adopt an experimental approach to blade marking, identifying a sample of pairs of potentially high risk turbines in pre-construction monitoring, and marking the blades on one of each pair. Post-construction monitoring should allow empirical testing of efficacy, which would inform subsequent decisions about the need to mark blades more widely in this and other WEFs.

(vii) Ensuring that lighting on the turbines is kept to a minimum, and is coloured (red or green) and intermittent, rather than permanent and white, to reduce confusion effects for nocturnal migrants.

(viii) Ensuring that all new power infrastructure (transformers, substations) is adequately insulated and bird friendly in configuration (Lehman *et al.* 2007).

(ix) Carefully monitoring the local avifauna both pre- and post-construction (see below), and implementing appropriate additional mitigation as and when significant changes are recorded in the number, distribution or breeding behaviour of any of the priority species listed in this report, or when collision or electrocution mortalities are recorded for any of the priority species listed in this report. An essential weakness of the EIA process here is the dearth of knowledge about the actual movements of key species (cranes, harriers, other raptors) through the impact area. Such knowledge must be generated as quickly and as accurately as possible in order for this and other wind energy proposals in the area to proceed in an environmentally sustainable way. Radar tracking systems, however expensive, may be the best and most practical solution to this problem.

(x) Ensuring that the results of pre-construction monitoring are applied to project-specific impact mitigation in a way that allows for the potentially considerable cumulative effects on the local/regional avifauna of any other wind energy projects proposed for this area, including a 300 MW site proposed for an area approximately 20 km to the north-west of the Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein facility. Viewed in isolation, each of these projects (and particularly the much smaller Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein project) may pose only a limited threat to the avifauna of the Caledon and western Overberg area. However, collectively (but particularly the much bigger site) they may result in the formation of significant barriers to energy-efficient travel between resource areas for regionally important bird populations, and/or significant levels of mortality in these populations in collisions with what may become extensive arrays of 100s of turbines across regular flight paths (Masden *et al.* 2010).

(xi) Additional mitigation might include re-scheduling construction or maintenance activities on site, shutting down problem turbines either permanently or at certain times of year or in certain conditions, or installing a 'DeTect' or similar radar tracking system to monitor bird movements and institute temporary shut-downs as and when required.

IMPACT STATEMENT

This is a small to medium-sized wind energy project, proposed for a site with few conflicting issues in terms of its avifauna. The development area does not impinge significantly on any unique landscape features, or on any known, important bird fly-ways, but it is likely to affect populations of regionally or nationally threatened (and impact susceptible) bird species likely to occur within or close to the proposed turbine arrays. The facility will probably have a detrimental impact on these birds, particularly during its operational phase, unless significant commitment is made to mitigating these effects. Careful and responsible implementation of the required mitigation measures should reduce construction and operational phase impacts to tolerable and sustainable levels, especially if every effort is made to monitor impacts throughout and to learn as much as possible about the effects of wind energy developments on South Africa avifauna. The impacts of this development must be viewed in the context of the potentially substantial cumulative effects generated by multiple wind energy projects proposed for the immediate vicinity.

PROPOSED MONITORING PROGRAMME

The primary aims of a long-term monitoring programme would be to:

(i) Determine the densities of birds (especially Blue Crane, Black Harrier and Agulhas Long-billed Lark) resident within the impact area of the wind energy facility before construction of the facility, and afterwards, once the facility, or phases of the facility, become operational.

(ii) Document patterns of bird activity and movements in the vicinity of the proposed wind energy facility before construction, and afterwards, once the facility is operational.

(iii) Identify sensitive and no-go areas for turbine placement to inform the final layout of the facility and the environmental management plan for both the construction and operational phases of the project.

(iv) Monitor patterns of bird activity and movement in relation to weather conditions, time of day and season for at least a full calendar year after the facility is commissioned.

(v) Register and as far as possible document the circumstances surrounding all avian collisions with the turbines for at least a full calendar year after the facility becomes operational.

Bird density and activity monitoring should focus on rare and/or endemic, potentially disturbance or collision prone species, which occur with some regularity in the area (Table 2, Appendix 1). Ultimately, the study should provide much needed quantitative information on the effects of the facility on the distribution and abundance of birds, and the actual risk it poses to the local avifauna, and serve to inform and improve mitigation measures to reduce this risk. It will also establish a precedent and a template for research and monitoring of avian impacts at possible, future wind energy sites in the region. This programme outline is informed by monitoring studies established in other countries (e.g. Erickson *et al.* 1999, Scottish National Heritage 2005), but is based substantially on those developed for both the Darling and the Klipheuwel wind power demonstration facilities in South Africa (Jenkins 2003, Küyler 2004). The bulk of the work involved should be done by an expert ornithologist or under the supervision of such.

7.1 Monitoring protocols

7.1.1 Avian densities before and after

A set of at least 10 walk-transect routes, each of at least 1000 m in length, should be established in areas representative of all the avian habitats present within a 10 km radius of the centre of the development site. Each of these should be walked at least once every two months over at least six months immediately preceding construction, and at least once every two months over the same calendar period, at least six months after the facility is commissioned. The transects should be walked after 06h00 and before 09h00, and the species, number and perpendicular distance from the transect line of all birds seen should be recorded for subsequent analysis and comparison.

In addition, any cliff-lines or quarry faces within the broader development area (for e.g. the quarry immediately north-east of the site) should be surveyed for cliff-nesting raptors at least once every six months using documented protocols (Malan 2009), all sightings of key species (Table 2) on site should carefully plotted and documented, and the major waterbodies on and close to the development area should be surveyed for wetland species on each visit to the study area, using the standard protocols set out by the CWAC initiative (Taylor *et al.* 1999).

7.1.2 Bird activity monitoring

Monitoring of bird activity in the vicinity of the facility should be done over a 2-3 day period at least every two months for at least the six months preceding construction, and at least once per quarter for a full calendar year starting at least six months after the facility is commissioned. Each monitoring day should involve:

(i) Half-day counts of all priority species flying over or past the impact area (see passage rates below)

(ii) Opportunistic surveys of large terrestrial species and raptors seen when travelling around the site.

7.1.3 Passage rates of priority bird species

Counts of bird traffic over and around the proposed/operational facility should be conducted from suitable vantage points (and a number of these should be selected and used to provide coverage of avian flights in relation to all areas of the site), and extend alternately from dawn to midday, or from midday to dusk, so that the equivalent of four full days of counts is completed each count period. This should provide an adequate (if minimal) sample of bird movements around the facility in relation to a representative cross-section of conditions and times of day, for all seasons of the year.

Once in position at the selected count station, the observer should record (preferably on a specially designed data sheet) the date, count number, start-time and conditions at start - extent of cloud cover, temperature, wind velocity and visibility – and proceed with the count. The counts should detail all individuals or flocks of the stipulated priority bird species, all raptors, and any additional species of particular interest or conservation concern, seen flying within 500 m of the envisaged or actual periphery of the facility. Each record should include the following data: time, updated weather assessment, species, number, mode of flight (flapping, gliding, soaring), flight activity (commuting, hunting other), direction of flight, vertical zoning relative to the envisaged or actual turbine string (low – below or within the rotor arc, medium – within *c.*100 m of the upper rotor arc, high – >100 m above the upper rotor arc), and horizontal zoning relative to the envisaged or actual turbine string (near – through the turbine string or within the outer rotor arc, middle – within *c.*100 m of the outer rotor arc, distant - >100 m beyond the outer rotor arc) and, for post construction monitoring, notes on any obvious evasive behaviour or flight path changes observed in response to the wind energy facility. The time and weather conditions should again be noted at the end of each count.

7.2 Avian collisions

Collision monitoring should have two components: (i) experimental assessment of search efficiency and scavenging rates of bird carcasses on the site, and (ii) regular searches of the vicinity of the wind farm for collision casualties.

7.2.1 Assessing search efficiency and scavenging rates

The value of surveying the area for collision victims only holds if some measure of the accuracy of the survey method is developed (Morrison 2002). To do this, a sample of suitable bird carcasses (of similar size and colour to the priority species – e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*, domestic waterfowl and pigeons) should be obtained and distributed randomly around the site without the knowledge of the surveyor, some time before the site is surveyed. This process should be repeated opportunistically (as and when suitable bird carcasses become available) for the first two months of the monitoring period, with the total number of carcasses not less than 20. The proportion of the carcasses located in surveys will indicate the relative efficiency of the survey method.

Simultaneous to this process, the condition and presence of all the carcasses positioned on the site should be monitored throughout the initial two-month period, to determine the rates at which carcassess are scavenged from the area, or decay to the point that they are no longer obvious to the surveyor. This should provide an indication of scavenge rate that should inform subsequent survey work for collision victims, particularly in terms of the frequency of surveys required to maximise survey efficiency and/or the extent to which estimates of collision frequency should be adjusted to account for scavenge rate (Osborn *et al.* 2000, Morrison 2002). Scavenger numbers and activity in the area may vary seasonally so, ideally, scavenge and decomposition rates should be measured twice during the monitoring year, once in winter and once in summer.

7.2.2 Collision victim surveys

The area within a radius of at least 50 m of each of the turbines at the facility should be checked regularly for bird casualties (Anderson *et al.* 1999, Morrison 2002). The frequency of these surveys should be informed by assessments of scavenge and decomposition rates conducted in the initial stages of the monitoring period (see above), but they should be done at least weekly for the first two months of the study. The area around each turbine, or a larger area encompassing the entire facility, should be divided into quadrants, and each should be carefully and methodically searched for any sign of a bird collision incident (carcasses, dismembered body parts, scattered feathers, injured birds). All suspected collision incidents should be comprehensively documented, detailing the precise location (preferably a GPS reading), date and time at which the evidence was found, and the site of the find should be photographed with all the evidence *in situ*. All physical evidence should then be collected, bagged and carefully labeled, and refrigerated or frozen to await further examination. If any injured birds are recovered, each should be contained in a suitably-sized cardboard box. The local conservation authority should be notified and requested to transport casualties to the nearest reputable veterinary clinic or wild animal/bird rehabilitation centre. In such cases, the immediate area of the recovery should be searched for evidence of impact with the turbine blades, and any such evidence should be fully documented (as above).

In tandem with surveys of the wind farm for collision casualties, sample sections of any new lengths of power line associated with the development should also be surveyed for collision victims using established protocols (see Jenkins *et al.* 2009, Jenkins *et al.* 2010, Shaw *et al.* 2010 a & b).

7. INPUTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

OBJECTIVE:	A wind energy facility that is sustainable in terms of its impacts on local avifauna
Project components	Conducting comprehensive pre- and post-construction monitoring of local avifauna (as per 7. Above) Getting the monitoring protocols right Securing the strategic use of radar

AVISENSE CONSULTING

	Selecting and training a good monitoring team Collecting and collating sufficient accurate survey data pre-construction Analysing the pre-construction survey data to inform the final layout and the construction schedule Collecting and collating sufficient accurate survey data post-construction Analysing the post-construction survey data to inform the sustainable management of the facility
Activity / risk source	Starting pre-construction monitoring too late Appointment of unqualified personnel to do the monitoring Results of pre-construction monitoring not integrated into the final layout and/or the mitigation scheme Lack of clear communication between the scientist analysing the monitoring data and the client Misinterpretation of either the pre- or post-construction monitoring data
Mitigation: Target / Objective	The delivery of an effective impact mitigation scheme for the facility, informed initially by influence of pre-construction monitoring on final construction plans, and refined by post-construction monitoring of actual impacts, and resulting adjustments in management practices and mitigation measures applied

Mitigation: Action / control	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Appoint advising scientist and agency to conduct pre- and post-construction monitoring	Client	As soon as possible / practical
Refine monitoring protocol and determine the extent of radar deployment required	Advising scientist, in negotiation with the client	As soon as possible / practical
Appoint radar technologists to service the project, and acquire/hire hardware, software and relevant expertise, IF radar use is approved	Advising scientist, in negotiation with the client	As soon as possible / practical
Start pre-construction monitoring	Monitoring agency	1 year before construction is due to start
Periodically collate an analyse pre-construction monitoring data	Advising scientist and radar specialist (if applicable)	Every 3 months of monitoring
Review report on the 6-12 months of pre-construction monitoring, and integrate findings into construction EMP and broader mitigation scheme	Advising scientist, monitoring agency and radar specialist (if applicable), in negotiation with the client	After a year of pre-construction monitoring
Ensure construction EMP is applied	Relevant Environmental Control Officer	During construction

Mitigation: Action/control	Responsibility	Timeframe
Refine post-construction monitoring protocol in terms of results pre-construction, and determine the extent of radar deployment required	Advising scientist, monitoring agency and radar specialist (if applicable), in negotiation with the client	As soon as possible / practical after construction completed
Start post-construction monitoring	Monitoring agency	6 months after construction is completed
Periodically collate and analyse post-construction monitoring data	Advising scientist and radar specialist (if applicable)	Every 3 months of monitoring
Review report on the full year of post-construction monitoring, and integrate findings into operational EMP and broader mitigation scheme	Advising scientist, monitoring agency and radar specialist (if applicable), in negotiation with the client	1 year post-construction
Review the need for further post-construction monitoring	Advising scientist, monitoring agency and radar specialist (if applicable), in negotiation with the client	1 year post-construction

Performance indicator	Regular provision of clearly worded, logical and objective information on the interface between the local avifauna and the proposed/operating wind energy facility Clear and logical recommendations on why, how and when to institute mitigation measures to reduce avian impacts of the development, from pre-construction to operational phase Quantifiable reductions in avian impacts once the facility is operational
Monitoring	3-monthly and annual reports produced by the scientist advising the monitoring project

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Appendix 1. Annotated list of the bird species considered likely to occur within the impact zone of the proposed Klipheuwel/Dassiesfontein Wind Energy Facility. Species seen during the July site visit appear in **bold**.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Common Ostrich	*Struthio camelus*	-	-	X	X	X	X	
Grey-winged Francolin	*Francolinus africanus*	-	Endemic		X	X		
Cape Spurfowl	*Pternistis capensis*	-	Endemic		X			
Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	-	-		X	X		
Helmeted Guineafowl	***Numida meleagris***	**-**	**-**	**X**		**X**		
Egyptian Goose	***Alopochen aegyptiaca***	**-**	**-**	**X**		**X**		**X**
South African Shelduck	*Tadorna cana*	-	Endemic	X				
Spur-winged Goose	***Plectropterus gambensis***	**-**	**-**	**X**		**X**		
Cape Teal	*Anas capensis*	-	-	X				
African Black Duck	*Anas sparsa*	-	-	X				
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	-	-	X			X	
Yellow-billed Duck	***Anas undulata***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Cape Shoveler	*Anas smithii*	-	-	X				
Red-billed Teal	*Anas erythrorhyncha*	-	-	X				
Hottentot Buttonquail	*Turnix hottentottus*	-	Endemic		X			
Greater Honeyguide	*Indicator indicator*	-	-					X
Lesser Honeyguide	***Indicator minor***	**-**	**-**					**X**
Ground Woodpecker	*Geocalaptes olivaceus*	-	Endemic		X			
Cardinal Woodpecker	*Dendropicos fuscescens*	-	-					X
Acacia Pied Barbet	*Tricholaema leucomelas*	-	-					X
African Hoopoe	*Upupa africana*	-	-				X	X

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Malachite Kingfisher	*Alcedo cristata*	-	-	X				
Giant Kingfisher	*Megaceryle maximus*	-	-	X				
Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	-	-	X				
White-backed Mousebird	*Colius colius*	-	Endemic		X			X
Speckled Mousebird	*Colius striatus*	-	-		X			X
Red-faced Mousebird	*Urocolius indicus*	-	-		X			X
Jacobin Cuckoo	*Clamator jacobinus*	-	-		X			X
Red-chested Cuckoo	*Cuculus solitarius*	-	-					X
Klaas's Cuckoo	*Chrysococcyx klaas*	-	-					X
Diderick Cuckoo	*Chrysococcyx caprius*	-	-					X
Burchell's Coucal	*Centropus burchellii*	-	-	X				
Alpine Swift	***Tachymarptus melba***	**-**	**-**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	
Common Swift	*Apus apus*	-	-					
African Black Swift	*Apus barbatus*	-	-					
Little Swift	***Apus affinis***	**-**	**-**				**X**	
Horus Swift	*Apus horus*	-	-					
White-rumped Swift	*Apus caffer*	-	-				X	
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	-	-		X	X	X	X
African Grass-Owl	*Tyto capensis*	Vulnerable	-	X				
Cape Eagle-Owl	*Bubo capensis*	-	-		X			
Spotted Eagle-Owl	*Bubo africanus*	-	-		X			X
Rock Dove	***Columba livia***	**-**	**-**			**X**	**X**	
Speckled Pigeon	***Columba guinea***	**-**	**-**			**X**	**X**	
Laughing Dove	***Streptopelia senegalensis***	**-**	**-**			**X**	**X**	

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Cape Turtle-Dove	***Streptopelia capicola***	**-**	**-**		**X**	**X**	**X**	
Red-eyed Dove	*Streptopelia semitorquata*	-	-			X	X	X
Namaqua Dove	***Oena capensis***	**-**	**-**			**X**		
Denham's Bustard	*Neotis denhami*	Vulnerable	-		X	X		
Karoo Korhaan	*Eupodotis vigorsii*	-	Endemic		X	X		
Southern Black Korhaan	*Afrotis afra*	-	Endemic		X	X		
Blue Crane	***Anthropoides paradiseus***	**Vulnerable**	**Endemic**	**X**		**X**		
Red-chested Flufftail	*Sarothrura rufa*	-	-	X				
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	-	-	X				
Red-knobbed Coot	*Fulica cristata*	-	-	X				
African Snipe	*Gallinago nigripennis*	-	-	X				
Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatilis*	-	-	X				
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	-	-	X				
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	-	-	X				
Spotted Thick-knee	*Burhinus capensis*	-	-	X		X		
Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	-	-	X				
Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	-	-	X				
Kittlitz's Plover	***Charadrius pecuarius***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Three-banded Plover	*Charadrius tricollaris*	-	-	X				
Blacksmith Lapwing	***Vanellus armatus***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Crowned Lapwing	*Vanellus coronatus*	-	-	X		X		
Kelp Gull	*Larus dominicanus*	-	-			X		
Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	-	-			X		X
African Fish-Eagle	***Haliaeetus vocifer***	**-**	**-**	**X**		**X**		

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Cape Vulture	*Gyps coprotheres*	Vulnerable	Endemic			X		
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	*Circaetus pectoralis*	-	-		X	X		
African Marsh-Harrier	*Circus ranivorus*	Vulnerable	-	X	X	X		
Black Harrier	*Circus maurus*	Near-threatened	Endemic		X	X		
African Goshawk	*Accipiter tachiro*	-	-				X	X
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter rufiventris*	-	-					X
Black Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter melanoleucus*	-	-			X		X
Steppe Buzzard	*Buteo vulpinus*	-	-		X	X		X
Jackal Buzzard	*Buteo rufofuscus*	-	Endemic		X	X		X
Verreauxs' Eagle	*Aquila verreauxii*	-	-					
Booted Eagle	*Aquila pennatus*	-	-			X		
Martial Eagle	*Polemaetus bellicosus*	Vulnerable	-		X	X		
Secretarybird	*Sagittarius serpentarius*	Near-threatened	-		X	X		
Lesser Kestrel	*Falco naumanni*	Vulnerable	-		X	X		X
Rock Kestrel	***Falco rupicolus***	**-**	**-**		**X**	**X**	**X**	
Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	-	-					
Lanner Falcon	*Falco biarmicus*	Near-threatened	-		X	X	X	
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Near-threatened	-		X	X	X	
Little Grebe	***Tachybaptus ruficollis***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Great-crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	-	-	X				
Reed Cormorant	***Phalacrocorax africanus***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
White-breasted Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax lucidus*	-	-	X				

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	-	-	X				
Yellow-billed Egret	*Egretta intermedia*	-	-	X				
Grey Heron	***Ardea cinerea***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Black-headed Heron	*Ardea melanocephala*	-	-	X		X		X
Cattle Egret	***Bubulcus ibis***	**-**	**-**	**X**				**X**
Hamerkop	*Scopus umbretta*	-	-	X				X
Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus ruber*	Near-threatened	-	X				
Lesser Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus minor*	Near-threatened	-	X				
Hadeda Ibis	***Bostrychia hagedash***	**-**	**-**	**X**				**X**
African Sacred Ibis	***Threskiornis aethiopicus***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
African Spoonbill	***Platalea alba***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Great White Pelican	*Pelecanus onocrolatus*	Near-threatened	-	X				
Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	Near-threatened	-	X				
White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	-	-			X		
Fork-tailed Drongo	***Dicrurus adsimilis***	**-**	**-**					**X**
Southern Tchagra	*Tchagra tchagra*	-	-		X			X
Southern Boubou	*Laniarius ferrugineus*	-	Endemic		X			X
Bokmakierie	*Telophorus zeylonus*	-	Near-endemic		X			X
Cape Batis	*Batis capensis*	-	Endemic					X
Cape Crow	***Corvus capensis***	**-**	**-**			**X**		**X**
Pied Crow	***Corvus albus***	**-**	**-**			**X**		**X**
White-necked Raven	*Corvus albicollis*	-	-		X	X		
Common Fiscal	***Lanius collaris***	**-**	**-**		**X**			**X**
Grey Tit	*Parus afer*	-	Endemic		X			

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Brown-throated Martin	***Riparia paludicola***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Banded Martin	*Riparia cincta*	-	-					
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	-	-	X				
White-throated Swallow	***Hirundo albigularis***	**-**	**-**	**X**				
Pearl-breasted Swallow	***Hirundo dimidiata***	**-**	**-**	**X**	**X**	**X**		
Greater Striped Swallow	***Hirundo cucullata***	**-**	**-**	**X**			**X**	
Rock Martin	*Hirundo fuligula*	-	-					
Cape Bulbul	*Pycnonotus capensis*	-	Endemic		X			
Cape Grassbird	*Sphenoeacus afer*	-	Endemic		X			
Long-billed Crombec	*Sylvietta rufescens*	-	-		X			
Little Rush-Warbler	*Bradypterus baboecala*	-	-	X				
African Reed-Warbler	*Acrocephalus baeticatus*	-	-	X				
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*	-	-	X				
Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler	*Parisoma subcaeruleum*	-	-		X			
Cape White-eye	***Zosterops virens***	**-**	**Endemic**		**X**			**X**
Grey-backed Cisticola	*Cisticola subruficapilla*	-	-		X			
Levaillant's Cisticola	*Cisticola tinniens*	-	-	X				
Zitting Cisticola	*Cisticola juncidis*	-	-			X		
Cloud Cisticola	*Cisticola textrix*	-	Near-endemic			X		
Karoo Prinia	*Prinia maculosa*	-	Endemic		X	X		
Bar-throated Apalis	*Apalis thoracica*	-	-					X
Cape Clapper Lark	*Mirafra apiata*	-	Endemic		X	X		

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	ENDEMICITY	HABITAT				
				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	*Certhilauda brevirostris*	Near-threatened	Endemic		X	X		
Grey-backed Sparrowlark	*Eremopterix verticalis*	-	-		X	X		
Red-capped Lark	***Calandrella cinerea***	**-**	**-**			**X**		
Large-billed Lark	***Galerida magnirostris***	**-**	**Endemic**			**X**		
Cape Rock Thrush	*Monticola rupestris*	-	Endemic		X			
Sentinel Rock Thrush	*Monticola explorator*	-	Endemic		X			
Olive Thrush	*Turdus olivaceus*	-	-					X
Fiscal Flycatcher	*Sigelus silens*	-	Endemic					X
African Dusky Flycatcher	*Muscicapa adusta*	-	-					X
Cape Robin-Chat	***Cossypha caffra***	**-**	**-**		**X**			**X**
Karoo Scrub-Robin	*Cercotrichas coryphoeus*	-	Endemic		X			
African Stonechat	***Saxicola torquatus***	**-**	**-**		**X**	**X**		
Capped Wheatear	***Oenanthe pileata***	**-**	**-**			**X**		
Familiar Chat	*Cercomela familiaris*	-	-					
Red-winged Starling	*Onychognathus morio*	-	-				X	
Pied Starling	*Spreo bicolor*	-	Endemic			X		
Wattled Starling	*Creatophora cinerea*	-	-			X		
Common Starling	***Sturnus vulgaris***	**-**	**-**				**X**	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	*Anthobaphes violacea*	-	Endemic		X			
Malachite Sunbird	***Nectarinia famosa***	**-**	**-**		**X**			
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	*Cinnyris chalybeus*	-	Endemic		X			X
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	*Cinnyris afra*	-	Endemic		X			
Cape Sugarbird	*Promerops cafer*	-	Endemic		X			

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				Farm dams, wetlands & surrounds	Natural vegetation fragments	Grain croplands or pasture	Towns, farmsteads, or out-buildings	Alien trees
Cape Weaver	***Ploceus capensis***	**-**	**Endemic**	**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**
Southern Masked-Weaver	*Ploceus velatus*	-	-	X	X	X		X
Southern Red Bishop	***Euplectes orix***	**-**	**-**	**X**	**X**	**X**		
Yellow Bishop	*Euplectes capensis*	-	-	X	X			
Swee Waxbill	*Coccopygia melanotis*	-	Endemic					
Common Waxbill	*Estrilda astrild*	-	-	X		X		
Pin-tailed Whydah	*Vidua macroura*	-	-	X		X		
House Sparrow	***Passer domesticus***	**-**	**-**				**X**	
Cape Sparrow	***Passer melanurus***	**-**	**Near-endemic**		**X**	**X**		
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	***Passer diffusus***	**-**	**-**		**X**	**X**		**X**
African Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla aguimp*	-	-	X				
Cape Wagtail	***Motacilla capensis***	**-**	**-**	**X**				**X**
Cape Longclaw	*Macronyx capensis*	-	Endemic		X			
African Pipit	***Anthus cinnamomeus***	**-**	**-**		**X**	**X**		
Plain-backed Pipit	*Anthus leucophrys*	-	-		X	X		
Long-billed Pipit	*Anthus similis*	-	-		X	X		
Cape Canary	***Serinus canicollis***	**-**	**Endemic**		**X**	**X**		**X**
Yellow Canary	***Crithagra flaviventris***	**-**	**Near-endemic**		**X**	**X**		**X**
Brimstone Canary	*Crithagra sulphuratus*	-	-		X			X
White-throated Canary	*Crithagra albogularis*	-	Near-endemic			X		X
Streaky-headed Seedeater	*Crithagra gularis*	-	-			X		
Cape Siskin	*Crithagra totta*	-	Endemic		X	X		
Cape Bunting	*Emberiza capensis*	-	Near-endemic		X			