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reference LE14/2/6/1/5/1/KOUP EIAR_WEF_Beaufort West
date 31 May 2022

SiVEST SA (PTY) Ltd,
P.O Box 1899,
Umhlanga Rocks,
4320

Attention: Ms Michelle Guy
By email: michelleg@sivest.co.za

Dear Ms Michelle Guy

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOUP WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (WEF) AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.**

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2120

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above application. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.

CapeNature provided detailed inputs on the environmental sensitivity (*CapeNature references: LE14/2/6/1/5/1/KOUP 1&2_WEF_Beaufort West*). CapeNature wishes to make the following comments:

CapeNature maintains minimal habitat loss is acceptable if this will be in line with the WCSBP Land Use Guidelines Handbook (Pool-Stanvliet *et.al.* 2017)¹ provided the underlying biodiversity objectives and ecological functioning, as set in the WCBSP, are not compromised.

The aquatic report stated all sensitive watercourses will be buffered and demarcated as no-go areas, which is supported by CapeNature. We do reiterate the importance of planning the footprint of the WEF and associated infrastructure outside of these sensitive habitat and vegetation of high sensitivity.

The alien invasive eradication and control plan must be on-going for the duration of this project. CapeNature recommends that the alien invasive eradication and control plan should include a buffer area of 50 m around the development area to consider the edge effects. The existing alien infestation is a risk to surrounding properties and impacting on water availability.

¹ Pool-Stanvliet, R., Duffell-Canham, A., Pennc, G. & Smart, R. 2017. The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook. Stellenbosch: CapeNature.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Associate Prof Denver Hendricks (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Loubser, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis, Mr Paul Slack

The aquatic rehabilitation and monitoring plan is supported by CapeNature. On-going monitoring throughout the various phases of this project is important to assess the impacts of these developments on different species biodiversity and the impact these facilities will have on habitat fragmentation and associated ecological corridors.

Stormwater run-off and soil disturbance might affect the watercourse, especially in periods with high run-off. For that reason, manage water and pollution run-off properly to minimise or prevent erosion. Discharging stormwater directly into the watercourse, without reducing velocity must be prohibited.

The Environmental Control Officer must monitor the various phases associated with the proposed development (i.e., construction, operation, decommissioning) and ensure the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures as recommended by the specialist.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Simons', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Megan Simons
For: Manager (Landscape Conservation Intelligence)