

REDZ & POWER CORRIDOR GAZETTING

25 July 2017



Environmental Advisory Services



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PURPOSE

- To provide general progress on the REDZs and Power corridor gazetting process
- To provide a range of comments received
- Responses to major issues identified



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SEAs for REDZs and Power Corridors

- SEAs for wind, solar and Electricity Grid expansion undertaken 2014-2015
- Identified REDZs and power corridors
- Identified environmental sensitivity within REDZs and power corridors
- Produced draft assessment protocols
- Cabinet approved REDZs and Power Corridors in November 2015:
 - BA would apply to applications in REDZs and power corridors
 - Assessment protocols would apply
 - Reduced review timeframes
 - Pre-negotiated route would apply in power corridors
 - Generic EMP for overhead electricity grid infrastructure and sub-stations
- EIA regulations amended to allow for Cabinet's decisions – March 2017



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REDZs and Power Corridors Gazetting

- REDZs and Power Corridors were gazetted on the 13 April 2017 for comment
- Gazette identified the REDZs and Power Corridors and the implications associated with them
- No comments were received for the power corridors
- Comments received on REDZs from
 - Savannah Environmental;
 - Endangered Wildlife trust;
 - Birdlife Africa;
 - Andre van der Spuy;
 - South African Wind Energy Association; and
 - Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust



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REDZs & POWER CORRIDORS GAZETTING - MAIN ISSUES

- Inter-departmental work group set up to consider comments and prepare responses
- Additional investigation on vultures was undertaken
- Main issues submitted to DEA:
 - Cape Vultures and red lark (4 vultures killed);
 - Incompatibility with game farms;
 - No “alternatives” considered during the SEA;
 - No “legislated adoption process”;
 - “BA” = “Reduced vigour of assessment”;
 - Concern that applications outside of SEA’s would not be approved;
 - Insufficient consultation with land owners; and
 - Renosterveld protection



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REDZs & POWER CORRIDORS GAZETTING – RESPONSES

- Cape Vultures and red lark:
 - BLA vulture guideline to be utilised in EC REDZs,
 - 12 month study to be undertaken – including vultures in EC specifically
 - Roosts (sleeping sites) and colony (breeding sites) information to be updated
 - Buffer around roosts and colonies expanded
 - vulture risk from risk modelling to be included on screening and updated
- Phase II of SEA
 - Will identify how vulture risk model for EC can be rolled out for the country
 - Will undertake additional research on vultures through Phase II
 - Engaging with BLA to identify a citizens science programme in the EC
- 3 REDZs to be gazetted only for solar (Upington, Vryburg and Kimberley)



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- BA will require ground-truthing and specialist site visits which will address issues of incompatible land-use with game farms
- Alternatives were considered during the SEA with study areas and focus areas prior to the identification of REDZs
- The SEA itself is not being adopted, but the outcomes of the SEA are - EIA regulations provide for adoption of outputs
- The BA assessment will not require scoping however the protocols will specify required specialists assessment, site visits and verification of sensitivities – further requirement for specialist assessments based on SEA will be identified



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- The concern that applications outside of SEA's would not be approved will be addressed in the gazetting notice
- Stakeholder consultation at provincial level was done during the SEA and the site consultation (landowners) will be done at level of BA
- Renosterveld protection: mapped as very high sensitivity thus specialist assessment still required if Renosterveld is affected



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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Note the comments received & responses
2. Note further vulture work to be undertaken in phase II



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Thank You



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