

<p>VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY RATING – Very high sensitivity areas are likely to provide critical habitat for priority bird species¹¹ sensitive to wind energy development¹² and/or whose population is reliant on highly localized and unique roosting, nesting and/or foraging sites.</p> <p>These areas are potentially unsuitable for development owing to there being recent confirmed evidence that the priority bird species are present.</p>	<p>2. Avifaunal Specialist Assessment</p> <p>2.1. The process for undertaking the Avifaunal Impact Assessment comprises of three phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a reconnaissance study; the preparation of a pre-application avifaunal monitoring plan; and the undertaking of an avifaunal impact assessment and the preparation of a report. <p>2.2. All tasks of the Avifaunal Specialist Assessment must be undertaken by an avifauna specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professionals (SACNASP).</p> <p>2.3. All tasks are to be undertaken on the site being submitted as the preferred site and on a control site located in accordance with the latest version of the <i>Bird and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guideline</i>¹³, and must identify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the extent of the impact of the proposed development on priority bird species; and whether the proposed development will have an unacceptable impact on priority or threatened bird species. <p>2.4. The Avifaunal Specialist Assessment must be undertaken based on the results of a site specific Pre-Application Avifaunal Monitoring Plan that is informed by a Reconnaissance Study, as well as data collected over four seasons (i.e. summer, autumn, winter and spring) on the preferred site and the control site.</p> <p>3. Reconnaissance Study</p> <p>3.1. The Reconnaissance Study is to be based on a desktop study of relevant information as well as a 2 to 4-day on-site inspection of both sites.</p> <p>3.2. The occurrence of target species is to be identified, including seasonality of occurrence and migratory patterns of the species.</p> <p>3.3. The study must define the study area (avifaunal impact zone).</p> <p>3.4. The study is to produce a site specific Pre-Application Avifaunal Monitoring Plan.</p>
<p>HIGH SENSITIVITY RATING</p> <p>- High sensitivity areas include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> habitat likely to be of importance to priority bird species sensitive to wind energy developments, Critically Endangered, Endangered bird species and/or Vulnerable bird species; and habitat likely to be of importance to endemic and/or restricted-range bird species that are susceptible to impacts from wind energy facilities. These areas are potentially sensitive for development. 	

¹¹ Priority bird species sensitive to wind energy developments include those identified by BirdLife South Africa as well as those listed on South Africa's National Red List website 42, 43 as Critical Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Threatened or near Threatened according to the IUCN Red List 3.1.

¹² <https://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/terrestrial-bird-conservation/birds-and-renewable-energy/wind-farm-map>.

¹³ The Best Practice Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa is available from: <https://www.birdlife.org.za/documents>.