

<p><b>MEDIUM SENSITIVITY RATING</b> - Medium sensitivity areas have limited potential for supporting priority populations of threatened species that are susceptible to impacts from wind energy facilities.</p>	<p><b>4. Pre-application Avifaunal Monitoring Plan</b></p> <p>4.1. The plan, as a minimum, must include<sup>14</sup>:</p> <p>4.1.1. the study area and its characteristics which must be mapped including the extent, habitat, special features including topographical and water features, quarries, drainage lines, known breeding sites, existing uses of land, existing infrastructure such as power lines and roads, and existing operational wind energy facilities within 30km of the site;</p> <p>4.1.2. target avifaunal species that are likely to occur on the preferred site and for which monitoring is required;</p> <p>4.1.3. pre-application monitoring requirements for both the site as well as the control site, that must include the following:</p> <p>4.1.3.1. the monitoring intervals including the number and duration of monitoring events which must be based on the latest version of the <i>BirdLife South Africa Bird and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guideline</i> or a motivation provided for the deviation;</p> <p>4.1.3.2. the location of monitoring points;</p> <p>4.1.3.3. aspects to be monitored (for example, bird abundance and flight activity, presence of target species, proportion of flying time each target species spends at turbine rotor height, preferred flight paths, risk of identified target species to collision, areas for specific monitoring if any, etc.);</p> <p>4.1.3.4. equipment to be used;</p> <p>4.1.3.5. monitoring methodology for the abundance or activity monitoring and for direct observation or vantage point surveys, the latest version of the <i>BirdLife South Africa Bird and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guideline</i> must be followed or a motivation provided for the deviation;</p> <p>4.1.3.6. numbers of observers to be used; and</p> <p>4.1.3.7. data to be captured including a pro-forma data capturing template consistent with that envisaged by the national bird monitoring database, once operational.</p> <p><b>5. Implementation of the site specific Pre-Application Avifaunal Monitoring Plan</b></p> <p>5.1. Monitoring according to the plan is to be carried out for a period of <b>not less than four seasons</b>.</p> <p>5.2. Data on pre-application monitoring must be captured on the national bird monitoring database accessed at <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/birddatabase">https://www.environment.gov.za/birddatabase</a>, once operational.</p> <p><b>6. Avifaunal Specialist Assessment</b></p> <p>6.1. Based on the outcome of the reconnaissance study and the findings of the pre-application avifaunal monitoring, an <b>Avifaunal Specialist Assessment</b> must be undertaken. The assessment, as a minimum, must include the following aspects:</p> <p>6.1.1. discussion on bird abundance and movement within the site;</p> <p>6.1.2. discussion on presence of target or threatened species and their occurrence on the site at heights which could pose risks to collision;</p>
<p><b>LOW SENSITIVITY RATING</b> - Low sensitivity areas possibly do not support priority populations of threatened species that are susceptible to impacts from wind energy facilities. These areas are probably suitable for development.</p>	

<sup>14</sup> It is advisable to discuss the content of the plan with BirdLife South Africa before its finalisation.