

The SiVEST logo consists of the word "SiVEST" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a red rectangular background.

Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project (TTLIP)

MINUTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING ELANDS RIVER CONSERVANCY

**Held on
Monday 17 September 2012, Waverley Hills
Conference Centre, Elands River Valley**

SiVEST Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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Draft Minutes prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Please address any comments to Nicolene Venter at the above address

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MINUTES

Your comments on these draft Minutes will be appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. It is important to note that the draft Minutes are not verbatim. Please address your comments, in writing, before or on **THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2013** to Nicolene Venter at the address given on the cover page.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING: ELANDS RIVER CONSERVANCY

Venue: Waverley Hills Conference Centre, Elands River Valley

Date: Monday 17 September 2012

Time: 18h00

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nicolene Venter, SiVEST, thanked attendees for attending the Focus Group Meeting.

The project team was requested to introduce themselves and to inform the attendees of their respective roles for the proposed project. The attendees were also requested to introduce themselves and to inform the project team of their portfolios in the Elands River Conservancy.

2 MEETING ATTENDEES

A copy of the Attendance Records is attached as Annexure A.

3 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Nicolene informed the attendees that the purpose of the Focus Group Meeting is to:

- present feedback from the fly-over undertaken in June 2012;
- present revised / updated EIA Team-preferred routing and helicopter fly-over routing: Northern Corridor – Longmore Forest area;
- present outcome of additional Visual and tourism Studies undertaken
- presenting brief overview of Economic Study undertaken
- summary of the revised EIR recommendations
- additional information/input from Elands River Conservancy not yet provided to the TTLIP team;
- way forward; and
- record comments, issues and concerns raised at the meeting.

4 HELICOPTER FLY-OVER FEEDBACK UNDERTAKEN IN JUNE 2012

Due to flight delays, Sanjeev Hirachund could not present the feedback. Apologies were submitted to the attendees on behalf of Mr Hirachund.

5 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize, presented a brief overview of the additional Economic studies undertaken for the proposed project and specifically for the Elands River Valley and Longmore Forest areas.

His presentation consisted of:

- The Terms of Reference
- Should the power lines be constructed in the fire break of Longmore Forest's northern border:
 - valuation of Tourism vs Forestry; and
 - valuation of Tourism
- Strategic Risks to forestry should the proposed power lines traverse forestry pockets
- Forestry land vs Agriculture

A copy of the presentation is attached as Annexure B.

6 SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL VISUAL AND TOURISM STUDIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE ELANDS RIVER VALLEY

Paul da Cruz, Royal HaskoningDHV, presented a summary of the additional Elands River Visual and Tourism Amendment Studies.

Summary of the Visual Impact Study Amendment

Paul da Cruz presented the visual context of the Elands Valley which was summarized as:

- it is highly natural area
- there is a low density of human settlement and limited anthropogenic objects
- limited physical change to landscape of agricultural land-uses over the past few years
- the valley is enclosed by mountains
- the Southern side of the valley is enclosed' by a ridge with is the location of Longmore Forest's northern firebreak
- the valley is adjacent to protected areas such as Groendal Nature Reserve, Stinkhoutberg and the Baviaanskloof; and
- the valley is managed by the Elands Valley Conservancy

Visual sensitivity of Elands River Valley

The visual sensitivity is based on the following factors:

- highly natural character of the valley;
- the scenic beauty of the area; and
- eco-tourism activities are taking place in the valley

Property bought in the valley is because of its natural context and scenic beauty

The context of the Elands River Conservancy's vision is:

- to conserve the environmental of the valley;
- to rehabilitate land to a pre-impacted condition (40-50 years ago); and
- to establish an environment where people can experience spiritual and physical upliftment

Receptor Locations

- Receptor locations in the area are:
 - private farmsteads;
 - tourism facilities (mainly eco-tourism)
 - access road
- many of these receptors locations area lower down in the valley where topography will restrict views to the ridge to the south;
- however, all accesses in the area traverses the higher ground to the Elands River road; and
- a number of receptors locations would be visually exposed to the power lines should it be constructed on Longmore Forest's northern fire break.

A copy of the presentation is attached as Annexure C.

7 REVISED EIA TEAM-PREFERRED ROUTING (NORTHERN CORRIDOR: LONGMORE FOREST AREA)

Paul da Cruz presented the proposed power line routing options and they are:

Alternative 1

The proposed power lines would run close to the edge of the ridge and down onto the northern-facing ridge in places which would avoid Longmore Forest's forestry compartments completely.

Alternative 2 (current EIA Team-preferred alignment)

This EIA preferred alignment largely avoids Longmore Forest's forestry compartments as it is set back as far as possible from the ridge top/edge.

Alternative 3 (previous EIA Team-preferred alignment)

This alternative is aligned largely within Longmore Forest's forestry compartments to avoid the visual impact from the valley.

A copy of the presentation is attached as Annexure C, which include the map showing the proposed alternatives.

8 METHODOLOGY FOR ADDITIONAL VISUAL AND TOURISM ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS THEREOF

Paul da Cruz outlined the methodology used for the additional Visual and Tourism studies as well as the results of the studies for all three alternatives.

The results are included in the copy of the presentation as attached as Annexure C.

9 SUMMARY OF REVISED EIR RECOMMENDATIONS

Paul da Cruz presented a summary of the recommendations of the assessment as follows:

- **Alternative 1**

It was found to be completely unsustainable in the context of the visual environment of the Elands River Valley.

- **Alternative 2**

This alternative is found to be sustainable in the western parts of the affected area of the Elands River Valley but it would have a high visual impact in the Bulk river Dam area. It is therefore recommended to route the power lines further away from the ridge in the area to the east and west of the Bulk River Dam.

- **Alternative 3**

From a visual perspective this is the most sustainable alternative and is strongly recommended.

10 DISCUSSION SESSION AND QUESTIONS

Please refer to Annexure D.

11 CLOSURE AND THE WAY FORWARD

Rebecca Thomas informed attendees that the draft Focus Group Meeting minutes will be distributed to the attendees and those who submitted apologies.

All present were thanked for their attendance and the valuable inputs received at the meeting. All were informed that the meeting would not be the only opportunity to submit comments on the proposed project. At any time throughout the EIA process they can submit comments and/or concerns.

The meeting was closed at 13h00.

Annexure A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) and ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION
LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**Attendance Record
FOCUS GROUP MEETING: ELANDS RIVER CONSERVANCY
(alphabetically according to Surname)
IMPACT PHASE**

| TITLE | SURNAME | NAME or INITIALS |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Mr | Badenhorst | Christo |
| Mr | Da Cruz | Paul |
| Mr | De Villiers | Raoul |
| Mrs | Dodd | Llise |
| Mr | Dodd | Mark |
| Mr | Henning | Wimpie |
| Mr | Hirachund | Sanjeev |
| Ms | Kalibbala | Faith |
| Ms | Mokgwatlheng | Lerato |
| Mr | Smith | Graham |
| Ms | Solomon | Bernadette |
| Ms | Thomas | Rebecca |
| Ms | Venter | Nicolene |
| Ms | Wozniak | Janina |

Annexure B

PRESENTATION: ECONOMIC STUDIES

Economic Addendum – Thyspunt Transmission Lines Project Tourism, Forestry and Farming

TOR

- Economic preference for the northern firebreak – tourism or forestry impacts assoc. with routing
- Strategic economic risks for any forestry routing
- General economic avoidance preference – agriculture or forestry impacts

world-wise

Northern Firebreak - Valuation of Tourism vs. Forestry

• Tourism

- Investment in the valley
- Tourism revenues or output
- Tourism employment

VS

• Forestry

- Investment in the plantation
- Forestry revenues or output
- Forestry employment

world-wise

Northern Firebreak - Valuation of Tourism

- Not enough quantitative information
- Tourist preferences and offering not understood
- For example -> Pristine vs. Rural?



world-wise

Strategic Risks to forestry routings

- Indications that power lines aggravate forest fire hazard
- Power lines may also be more vulnerable to line outage in forests
- Needs to be investigated further

world-wise

Forestry Land vs. Agriculture

• Forestry

- Investment in the valley
- Forestry revenues or output
- Forestry employment

VS

• Agriculture

- Investment in irrigation
- Agricultural revenues
- Agricultural employment

- Clear indication: Avoid irrigated agriculture
- But can route over dry land agriculture areas instead of forestry

world-wise

Annexure C

PRESENTATION: ADDITIONAL VISUAL AND TOURISM STUDIES

Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project

Elands Valley Visual and Tourism Amendment Studies

Visual Impact Study Amendment

Visual Context – Elands Valley

- Highly Natural Context
- Low density of human settlement and limited anthropogenic objects
- Limited physical change to landscape of agricultural landuses
- Enclosed on both sides by mountains
- Southern side of valley 'enclosed' by ridge (location of Longmore Northern Firebreak)
- Adjacent to protected areas (Groendal, Stinkhoutberg & Baviaanskloof)
- Elands Valley Conservancy

Visual Sensitivity of Elands Valley

- Sensitivity based on:
 - highly natural character of the valley
 - Scenic beauty of the area
 - practising of eco-tourism activities in the valley
- Property bought because of natural context and scenic beauty
- Elands Valley Conservancy Context – Vision:
 - To conserve the environment of the Valley
 - To rehabilitate land to a pre-impacted condition (40-50 yrs ago)
 - To establish an environment where people can experience spiritual and physical upliftment

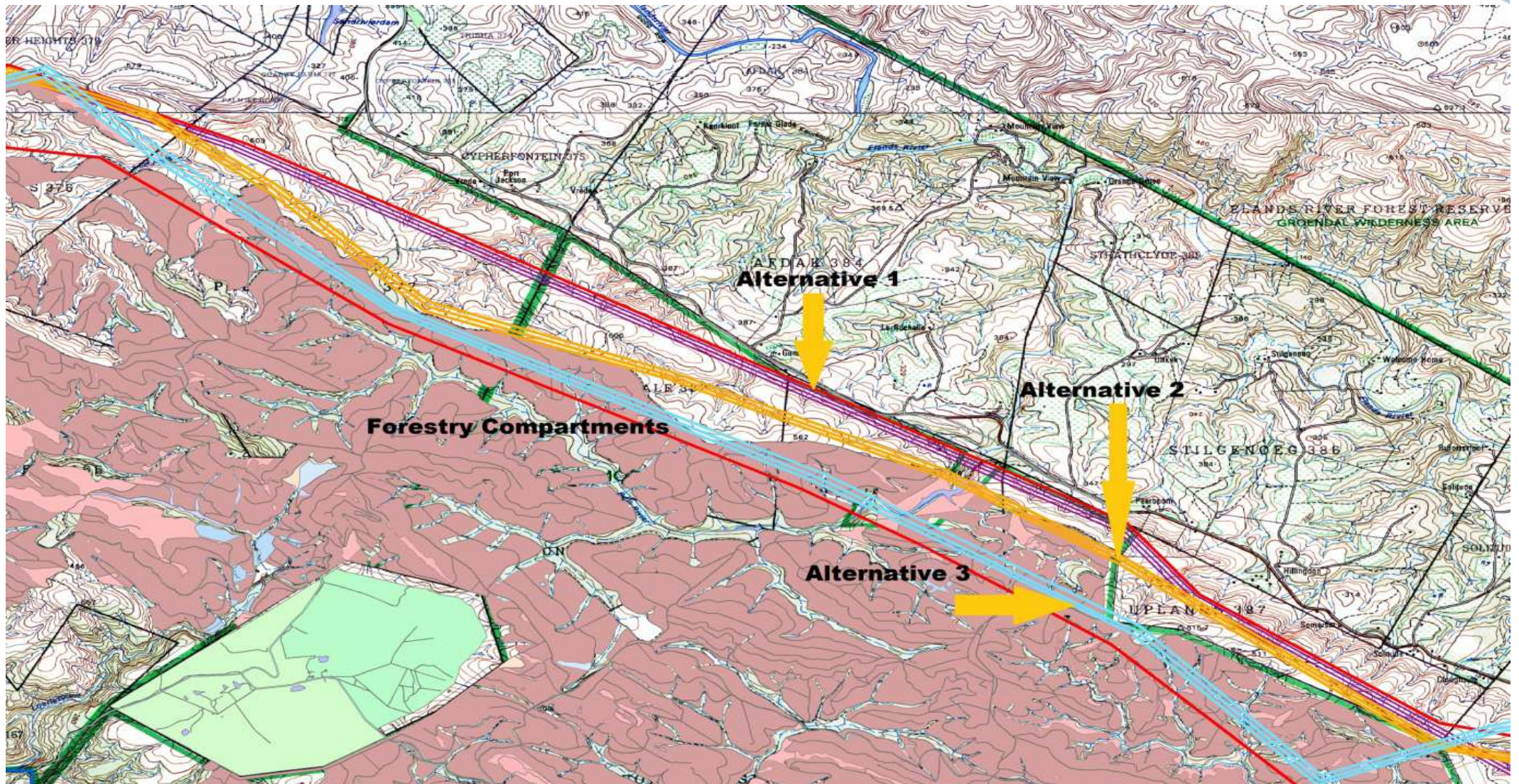
Receptor Locations

- Receptor locations:
 - Private Farmsteads
 - Tourism Facilities (mainly eco-tourism)
 - Access roads
- Many receptor locations located lower down in valley where topography restricts views to the ridge to the south
- However all accesses traverse the higher ground to the Elands Valley Road
- A number of receptor locations would be visually exposed to the lines on the firebreak

Proposed Power line Routing Options

- Alternative 1 – runs close to edge of ridge, down onto northern-facing ridge in places; completely avoids compartments
- Alternative 2 – (current EIA Team-preferred alignment) – largely avoids compartments, set back from ridge top / edge where possible
- Alternative 3 – (older EIA Team-preferred alignment) – aligned largely within compartments to avoid being visible from the valley

Proposed Power line Routing Options



Methodology for Assessment

- Visual Contrast Rating Methodology
- Assesses the visual baseline in terms of a number of landscape sub-elements and how these will be affected by the proposed development = degree of visual contrast created
- Assessment examines whether degree of visual contrast is in keeping or outside of the visual tolerance level for the view site
- Tolerance level based on visual context
- 6 Key Observation Locations chosen (reflective of different parts of valley)

Results of Assessment

- Alternative 1:
- largely creates Moderate to Strong degree of contrast,
- high visual exposure to receptor locations across the valley
- Thus **inconsistent with visual tolerance level = greatest degree of visual impact of the 3 alternatives**

Results of Assessment

- Alternative 2:
- largely creates Weak and some Moderate degree of visual contrast,
- high visual exposure to receptor locations around and east of Bulk River Dam, other areas to west less affected
- Thus largely **consistent** with visual tolerance level, **but inconsistent** with visual tolerance level around and east of the Bulk River Dam
- Thus better option than Alternative 1, **but high degree of visual impact around Bulk River Dam**

Results of Assessment

- Alternative 3:
- creates some Weak and mostly **No degree of visual contrast**, due to the very limited visibility of the line
- Thus completely **consistent** with visual tolerance level across the affected area
- Thus most optimal option from a visual perspective

Recommendations of Assessment

- Alternative 1 – completely unsustainable in the context of the visual environment of the Elands River Valley
- Alternative 2 – sustainable in the western parts of the affected area of the Valley, but high visual impact in the Bulk River Dam area – thus consider routing lines further back away from ridge in the area to the east and west of the Bulk River Dam
- Alternative 3 – from a visual perspective is the most sustainable alternative and strongly recommended

Annexure D

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

EIA FOR THE PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT: FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Monday, 17 September 2012: Waverley Hills, Elands River Valley, Uitenhage

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Comments captured alphabetically according to surname under each category.

| Issue/Comment | Raised By | Response |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Agricultural Potential Related Comments | | |
| It was mentioned that there are now a new generation of farmers that emerged after the wheat farmers and they take cognisance of the environmental and try to adapt their farming activities to be more environmental friendly. | Dodd, Llize Secretariat: Elands River Conservancy | Comment noted. |
| 2. Social and Socio-Economic Related Comments | | |
| It was stated that the moment there are pylons erected, land value drops. | Dodd, Llize Secretariat: Elands River Conservancy | Initially there could be a decline in property value but studies have indicated that, depending on the use of the land, power value increase after a period of time. <i>Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize</i> |
| It is recommended that much more studies needs to be done as the authorities need more information to be able to make an informed decision. | | One needs to quantify the level of economic study to be conducted and SiVEST discussed this with Eskom and the economic study conducted was prioritised. The Economic Report will be made available once the Revised DEIR is out for public review and this will be indicated in the Revised DEIR notification letter. <i>Rebecca Thomas, SiVEST</i> <u>Post-meeting note:</u> Eskom further requested quotations for the undertaking of primary research field surveys in an effort to quantify impacts of power lines on tourism activities. Due to the fact there has been no precedent set with regards to such research, quotations were not received timeously. The consultants requested additional time to develop potential methodologies to achieve the task. One proposal was received for the undertaking of a baseline study, to serve as a standard for power line development across South Africa. The study proposed would require 9 to 12 months of work and would aim to quantify the impacts on tourism, by means of percentage increase or decrease over certain period from pre-construction to a number of years after construction of power lines. Eskom would be willing to commission such a study for consideration in future power line developments. |
| It was asked whether there is a graph / scale available that indicates what impact pylon (indicating single power line and multiple power lines) will have on land value. | | There are no such table available as each area in the country has difference property values. It can be mentioned that power lines do have an impact on property value. <i>Wimpie Henning, Eskom</i> |

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| The property pool is becoming smaller and smaller and it was asked of the project team whether they will purchase a property where a power line crosses over it. | | It can be said with confidence that with all the research done to date, there will be people interested in the property depending on the need for the property i.e. the type of land-used they need it for. It also needs to be noted that over time such an impact will diminish. Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize |
| If the nuclear generation plant is constructed at Coega it will have an economic benefit for Eskom as they will save R3m per power line (as per information previously provided). | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Comment noted. Information regarding this question and comment has been recorded in Nuclear-1 Project Reports. Nicolene Venter, SiVEST |
| It was asked as to how MTO calculated their investment as the forest burnt down completely in 2005 and it is believed that this fact needs to be taken into account. | Wozniak, Dr Nina Vice Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Comparisons are not made directly between one figure to the next. There should be a judgement call in line of an argument. Forestry value is generally based on effort and purchase, and the investment made to get to 1ha of forestry to grow trees, i.e. roads and firebreaks. The calculation of investment on forestry was done by taking the current South African figures, on average, for pine forestry. Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize |
| The following financial questions were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the expenses are for growing trees over a 20 year period; and • has the calculation been done with the current figures in place or over a 20 year period. | | No expenses are associated with growing forestry. The investment made is probably more associated with the establishment and maintenance of roads and other structures to ensure productive yields. It needs to be noted that should established forestry areas be lost or potential forestry land, compensation needs to be paid. The production cycle is very important as on average land is only productive every 10 years. By calculating the average revenue per hectare per year for every 10 years, and that would be the possible compensation figure. Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize |
| The project team was informed that the forestry labours are lowly paid and asked whether this will count against Elands River Valley when a decision regarding the power line routing is made. | | Forestry does not require an intensive work force. On average it is 0.5 jobs per hectare i.e. should about 405 hectares of forestry be lost it is envisaged that there would be about 25 job losses. Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize |
| In response to SiVEST's notification that the Economic Report will be included in the Revised DEIR for review, it was asked whether this would be another desktop study. | | It needs to be noted that the specialist report as per the Revised DEIR and FEIR are not desktop study reports but detailed assessments. Rebecca Thomas, SiVEST To do an in-depth Economic Study one will have to do a door-to-door survey and at this stage of the EIA it would not be feasible to undertake such a study. The information gather and assessed as per the Economic Report cover what is required for the Department to make an informed-decision. |

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| | | <p>However, it is recommended, as mentioned in the presentation that Eskom consider a Tourism Impact Study on the same basis as the EMF.</p> <p>Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize</p> |
| 3. Technical Related Comments | | |
| The attendees were informed that Eskom is weary of the objections raised. Fire is a huge risk to Eskom especially in terms of its network stability and it is for this reason that Eskom would like to stay clear of forestry. For this proposed project, there are areas that the power lines are going into forestry areas and this pose a huge risk for Eskom. | Hirachund, Sanjeev Technical Engineer, Eskom | <p>In response it was asked whether this risk out-weight all the other risks.</p> <p>Dr Nina Wozniak, Elands River Conservancy</p> <p>All risks were evaluated equally and in accordance to the required legislation.</p> <p>Sanjeev Hirachund, Eskom</p> |
| Eskom was informed that by placing the power lines on top of the ridge would be more hazardous as the power lines could be hit by lightning. | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | <p>It is for that reason why an alternative is being considered that is not right on top of the ridge. Weather patterns of the area will also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Sanjeev Hirachund, Eskom</p> |
| 4. Visual Related Comments | | |
| The project team was informed that it would be impossible to carry on with her artwork as a painter of the natural environment if there are these monstrosities sticking out. | Dodd, Llize Secretariat: Elands River Conservancy | Comment noted. |
| 5. Fauna & Flora Related Comments | | |
| In the Conservancy's extensive comments submitted on the Draft Scoping Report, it was pointed out the possible detrimental affect the power lines could have on agricultural activities, especially on bees. | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | <p>It is difficult to provide an answer on long term impact i.e EMF as this is the only impact that could be associated with bees.</p> <p>It needs to be mentioned that Eskom has commissioned additional research to be done regarding EMFs and the Report compiled has been peer reviewed and is now available to the public. It is not an easy task to research something that is mobile i.e. you can pick it up and move it somewhere else.</p> <p>Paul da Cruz, Royal Haskoning</p> <p>Post- meeting note: In addition further information regarding EMFshas beenprepared by an independent scientist, Dr PH Pretorius and is included in the Revised Draft EIR - Appendix 15 Electric and Magnetic Fields.</p> <p>Lerato Mokgwatlheng, Eskom</p> |
| It is believed that the Elands River Valley can be referred to as <i>pristine</i> and to confirm why this statement is made is that on a walk a few days ago six mountain reedbucks were spotted. Also, DWA's Working for Water team is in the area busy clearing out the alien invasions. | Wozniak, Dr Nina Vice Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | <p>In principle, the word <i>pristine</i> is used for an area where there is absolutely no development in sight at all and the natural habitat was never disturbed.</p> <p>Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize</p> |

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| | | <p>It is also important to note that the baseline of the area has been changing over the past five years due to the removing of the alien invasions which resulted in changing the aesthetics of the area.</p> <p>Paul da Cruz, Royal Haskoning</p> |
| 6. Tourism Related Comments | | |
| Expressed the Conservancy's thank and appreciation that Eskom is looking at undertaking further studies regarding the impact of power lines on Tourism. | <p>Dodd, Llize Secretariat: Elands River Conservancy</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Eskom further requested quotations for the undertaking of primary research field surveys in an effort to quantify impacts of power lines on tourism activities. Due to the fact there has been no precedent set with regards to such research, quotations were not received timeously. The consultants requested additional time to develop potential methodologies to achieve the task. One proposal was received for the undertaking of a baseline study, to serve as a standard for power line development across South Africa. The study proposed would require 9 to 12 months of work and would aim to quantify the impacts on tourism, by means of percentage increase or decrease over certain period from pre-construction to a number of years after construction of power lines. Eskom would be willing to commission such a study for consideration in future power line developments.</p> |
| The project team was informed that the Elands River Conservancy Committee represents 13 000ha and within one year the tourism ventures in the area grew from nine (9) to 14 and these are all loose entities. It would therefore be more difficult to do a comprehensive study on Tourism income/loss than that of Cape Pines. | | |
| It was commented that it is more difficult to assess the impact on tourism than the impact on possible income loss that might be endured by Cape Pines. | | |
| <p>The project team was informed that what the specialists see from the road are neglected municipal areas next to the road. There is a treasure further from the road onto the farm and the studies cannot be done in 2 or 3 hours.</p> <p>It is believed that the point has now been reached where the services of students need to be called in to do 5 to 10 year studies of real potential impacts.</p> | | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| The project team was informed that on a certain base cost, 15% could be profit or you could lose 15% of visitors and not make money. One would need 85% occupancy to cover input cost. | <p>Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy</p> | <p>In agreement that 15% could make all the difference in profit or loss.</p> <p>Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize</p> |
| The project team was informed that the two entities' nature of business differ vastly i.e. in the Elands River Valley there are a wide range of tourism facilities and it would be difficult for the Economic Specialist to evaluate their income. | <p>Smith, Graham Member: Elands River conservancy</p> | <p>The attendees were informed that there would be no need for them to open their books to him as an Economist, and that the figures can be aggravated from information such as how many beds does the establishment have multiply by their daily cost.</p> <p>Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize</p> |
| It was mentioned that at the start of the EIA it was stated that the power lines could traverse the valley and taking that into consideration the power lines will have a negative impact on Tourism as it will still be | <p>Wozniak, Dr Nina Vice Chairman: Elands River Conservancy</p> | <p>It was recommended that the various Reports, especially the Economic, Visual and Tourism Reports) in the Draft EIR be consulted as the presentation is only a <u>summary</u> of the</p> |

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| visible. | | environmental findings. There are much more detail in these Reports. Paul da Cruz, Royal HaskoningDHV |
| 7. Corridor Related Comments | | |
| It was requested that the team inform the attendees which one of the three alternatives within the Southern Corridor traversing MTO's property is the preferred one. | Dodd, Llize Secretariat: Elands River Conservancy | Alternative two, which avoids forestry compartments as far as possible, but also set back from the ridge's top/edge – where possible – to minimise any possible negative visual impact from the valley. Paul da Cruz, Royal Haskoning |
| 8. Project Related Comments | | |
| <p>The project team was informed that a cost comparison regarding the construction of the Nuclear Generation project at Coega vs the long distance of transmission power lines required to evacuate the power generated at the Nuclear plant.</p> <p>To date this information was not received. It was recommended that the saving of the cost on the much shorter power lines be invested in renewable energy.</p> | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | <p>Renewable energy comes with its own negative impacts i.e a large size of property is required for a much reduced electricity capacity, power lines are still required to evacuate the power generated by solar or wind. Rebecca Thomas, SiVEST</p> <p>It would be interesting to take note that most of the renewable energy companies are looking at properties / sites close to Nuclear-1 or any other generation site and transmission power line grids. Wimpie Henning, Eskom</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Even though a cost comparison for the construction of Nuclear Projects (<i>i.e.</i> Nuclear power plant and Nuclear power lines) at Coega instead of Oyster Bay could prove to be less, it is important to note that cost is not the only consideration. Other factors considered to determine sites for Nuclear power plants included requirements in terms of legislation and authorities (including NERSA). Such information has been provided in Nuclear-1 site application report. Lerato Mokgwatheng, Eskom</p> |
| It was mentioned at a previous meeting, Eskom said that once power lines are erected in an area, that area is considered degraded, which means it opens the area up for additional lines to be constructed, probably parallel or close by. | | This is correct. Generally when looking at a power line route Eskom does consider placing it next to an existing power line especially for maintenance purposes. Wimpie Henning, Eskom |
| The project team was informed that the Conservancy is carefully looking at the various BA & EIA Reports of environmental studies being conducted in the area as all these developments will have a cumulative impact. | | Comment noted. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| It was said that a number of factors are also at play and not purely forestry's possible economic loss vs tourism economic loss. Fauna also needs to be considered and it is believed that should fauna be brought into the equation that it would tip the scale. | | It needs to be noted that all environmental factors (biophysical and social) are considered through an EIA process and fauna has been addressed for the area in question and is reported on accordingly within the DEIR. The comparison between Tourism and Economic impacts was a specific request by the DEA and to be considered accordingly and as such it was a stand-alone assessment. Rebecca Thomas, SiVEST |
| It was mentioned that at a previous key meeting it was said that there is already a clear indication that in the future several other lines may follow the Thyspunt Transmission Lines and this is why the Conservancy needs to prepare themselves to prevent the Thyspunt Transmission Lines from being constructed. | Wozniak, Dr Nina Vice Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Comment noted. |
| It was recommended that Eskom consider focusing on renewable energy progressively. | | Eskom does have a Renewable and Sustainability Department in Eskom which looks at this type of developments. At the latest COP17 conference held, Eskom committed to look at an energy mix. Bernadette Solomons, Eskom |
| 9. General Comments | | |
| The project team was informed that international material that is available it is a well-known fact that home owners are allowed to put up generation units to generate electricity for their own use and any excess are put into the local electricity network. It is recommended that Eskom assess such an option. | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Eskom is committed to renewable energy and it was mentioned that mills are using renewable energy and any excess electricity generated is purchased by Eskom. Wimpie Henning, Eskom |
| The attendees were requested that should the power lines be constructed 'out of sight' would that be an agreeable option to the Conservancy. | Thomas, Rebecca Project Manager: SiVEST | The Conservancy prefers that no power lines be constructed at all, whether they are visual or not. All Members of the Elands River Conservancy |
| It was commented that the Conservancy is pleased to see that the assessments and considerations has not only been done around figures. | Wozniak, Dr Nina Vice Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Comment noted. |
| The project team was cautioned not to buy out only certain individuals in the Conservancy, but to look at the Conservation area as a whole. | | It is noted that land is people's best investment and one would like to try and avoid losing that invest. Raoul de Villiers, World-Wize |
| 10. Nuclear 1 (Proposed Thyspunt Nuclear Power Station) Related Comments | | |
| The project team was informed that they are aware that the Conservancy is not directly affected by the power lines and their concern lies mostly with the Nuclear Generation project at Thyspunt. It is believed that it needs to be raised again. It is believed that there could be something sinister regarding the energy generation world in that they rely so heavily on fossil fuel. There is a constant drive towards oil and coal and those | Dodd, Mark Chairman: Elands River Conservancy | Comment will be forwarded to Arcus GIBB, the independent environmental consultants conducting the EIA for the Nuclear-1 Project. Nicolene Venter, SiVEST Attendees attention is drawn to the fact that Nuclear-1's updated |

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| <p>resources are not safe or clean.</p> <p>The Conservancy strongly support that Eskom moves away from nuclear and rather look at renewable energy.</p> <p>If nuclear is unavoidable and there is really no other alternative, the Conservancy recommends that the generation facility be moved closer to Grassridge as that area is already industrialized. By constructing the nuclear facility in that area it will do away with the transmission power lines and the visual issue will disappear and from an economic point of view</p> | | <p>report is currently out for public review and informed the attendees that they take the matter regarding Nuclear-1 issues up with Arcus GIBB.</p> <p><i>Lerato Mokgwatlheng, Eskom</i></p> |
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