

## Partnerships: Key to Eskom's Climate Change Strategy

Eskom has entered into several strategic, financial and technical partnerships to achieve its Climate Change strategy.

### The Ingula Partnership

The Ingula Partnership is a model of how conservation and business organisations can work together to achieve environmental goals.

It was formed between Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and the Middelpunt Wetland Trust during the original Braamhoek (now Ingula) Pumped Storage Scheme environmental assessment process, with the aim of providing a forum for discussion and management decision-making on conservation, social and environmental protection during construction and operation. The steering committee, made up of Eskom senior management and trustees from BirdLife South Africa and the Middelpunt Wetlands Trust, provides oversight, strategic direction and guidance.

The Ingula advisory conservation committee consists of Eskom, BirdLife South Africa and

Middelpunt Wetlands Trust staff working on the project as well as representatives from various local and provincial departments, NGOs, the national Department of Agriculture, the KwaZulu-Natal and Free State environmental departments and the Ekangala Grassland Trust. This committee is intimately involved with day-to-day operations on site, and feeds back into the partnership steering committee.

A number of farms have been purchased to make up a nature reserve around the two storage dams. The Ingula Reserve Bedford Wetland Conservancy consists of 8 500 hectares of former agricultural land, scarps, rocky outcrops and wetlands. The Pumped Storage Scheme involves building two dams separated by about 450m of altitude. The top dam will be built close to several excellent high-altitude wetlands.

Over the course of the next five years, the Ingula Partnership will change focus from construction to operation. It is hoping it will be able to leave a legacy of a proclaimed nature reserve and Ramsar site. The Partnership aims to gain local and international recognition for conservation, leading to ecotourism opportunities with particular focus on bird-watchers.



## The Eskom-Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership

The Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership was initiated in 1996 to formalise a longstanding adhoc relationship between Eskom and the EWT Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP), with the overall goal of managing interactions between wildlife and Eskom's infrastructure. Within this framework, the EWT WEP goal is primarily to conserve biodiversity, while Eskom's goals are primarily to ensure continuity of supply, manage Eskom's impact on biodiversity and manage its reputation and 'licence to operate' in South Africa.

The partnership continues to be of huge benefit to, and highly valued by, both partners. Since its inception, the partnership has in many ways pioneered this specialised field worldwide and remains a highly respected collaboration internationally, achieving its goals through a range of activities including: reporting and analysis of interaction incidents; reactive mitigation of existing infrastructure; proactive mitigation of existing infrastructure; proactive input into the construction of new infrastructure; research into the relevant issues as well as training and advocacy.



## Other partnerships

Apart from these strategic environmental partnerships, Eskom has also entered into technical and financial partnerships to further its Climate Change goals. For example, its current nuclear technology is based on French PWR technology. Its technical partner is EdF who partnered with Eskom to construct Koeberg nuclear power station.

Eskom also has several financial partnerships, for example with the World Bank. Financial partners often place conditions on loans. In the case of the Clean Technology Fund, which Eskom accessed for capital to invest in its new build programme, the utility committed to conditions involving the development of renewable energy projects. The Sere wind farm is one such renewable energy initiative.

All Eskom partnerships are guided by the governance processes and principles outlined in the Public Finance Management Act. Partnerships are informed by the principles of Public Private Partnerships per the National Treasury procedures and align to corporate strategies and programmes.

