**MASA-NGWEDI TRANSMISSION POWER LINES**

**SOCIAL SPECIALIST INPUT**

On the

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

For the

**CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

**DRAFT REPORT**

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# INTRODUCTION

Eskom Holdings Limited (Eskom) is aiming to construct the Masa-Ngwedi transmission power lines, which include 1x765kV and 1x400kV transmission power line that are under scrutiny in this report. In preparation for the construction of these lines, the proposed tower positions and route alignment have to be assessed from a heritage, avifauna, visual, social, and biophysical perspective.

This report records the findings of the social assessment for the first 40km of the route, from the Rhenosterpan to the Klippan farm portions.

# Objectives

The primary objectives of the social assessment are to ensure that potential social issues, that may delay the physical construction of the power lines, are identified and addressed. To answer these primary objectives, the secondary objectives are to:

* Identify sensitive areas from a social perspective;
* Determine the status quo of these sensitive areas;
* Determine the potential impact of these sensitive areas on the physical construction of the lines; and,
* Develop management strategies to ensure these potential impacts are mitigated.

# approach and methodology

The tower point positions and the proposed route of the Masa-Ngwedi transmission power lines were received from Eskom in Google Earth format (\*.kml). The social specialist then did a virtual walkthrough of the proposed route to identify sensitive areas from a social perspective. Satellite imagery from 2008 was used.

A field trip to get a better understanding of the complexities of the alignment from a social perspective was then conducted. The field trip did not include formal visits to any of the farm portions, but consisted of a vehicle trip following public roads in proximity to the route alignment.

The social specialist also assessed the documents provided by Eskom, including the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) conducted by said specialist in 2009. (A complete list of documents is provided in the EMPR). Based on the Social Impact Assessment of 2009, the criteria for an area to be considered sensitive from a social perspective were identified as follows:

* Human settlement within the servitude;
* Mining operations within the servitude;
* Agricultural areas (mostly cultivated and irrigated land) within the servitude; and
* Current or possible settlement encroachment on the servitude area.

Feedback from the relevant Eskom representative was sought to discuss the identified social sensitive areas to determine the status quo in terms of servitude negotiations on these points. Unfortunately, no feedback was received yet at the time of writing this report.

# Assumptions and limitations

* This study was undertaken with the information available to the specialist at the time of executing the study, within the available period and budget. The sources consulted are not exhaustive, and additional information that might strengthen arguments or contradict information in this report might exist.
* It was assumed that the motivation for, and the feasibility studies for the project were done with integrity.
* This report should be considered in the context of the Social Impact Assessment Report that was compiled for the Delta-Epsilon project (2009). The mitigation measures for construction, as identified in the social impact assessment and the environmental management plan will be implemented during construction.
* The proposed mitigation measures contained in the social impact assessment and the social impacts addressed in the social management plan have been considered in the final route alignment, the placement of towers and the negotiations with farmers.
* It is not possible to, at this stage, propose alternative route alignments or tower positions, since these have been determined.
* The resettlement of people and compensation of structures have been negotiated.

# management of sensitive areas

Sensitive points and mitigation measures were identified as per the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nearest tower** | **GPS points** | **Farm Portion** | **Sensitivity** | **Management** |
| Tower 44, 1x765kV | 23°58'31.54"S  27°23'33.34"E  27°23'32.02"E  27°23'32.02"E | Groenland 3947LQ | Structures within the servitude and in close proximity to the servitude | Construction will not start prior to the resettlement of project affected people living within the servitude and the demolishment of structures within the servitude in accordance with the agreements between Eskom and the relevant landowner.  Landowners will be informed timeously when construction will take place, the duration of construction and what sort  of construction activities to expect. |

# general management between towers

General mitigation measures that should be considered along the first 40km length of the route from towers are discussed in this section.

**Communication**

* Inform landowners timeously when construction will take place on their property, the duration of construction and what sort of construction activities to expect during this time.

**Animals**

* Land owners should be consulted regarding the measures needed to ensure safety of their animals during the construction period. These measures should be implemented as agreed.

**Roads**

* Access gates on private property must be used with consent from the landowner.
* Roads should be maintained.
* Speed limits should be adhered to.
* Roads should must be rehabilitated after construction.
* Existing road infrastructure should be used as far as possible.
* Should it be necessary to construct new access roads to the servitude, the landowners will be consulted to determine the preferred site for the access road.

# Conclusions

Only one sensitive point was identified which is sensitive in light of the occurrence of structures within the servitude. Construction may not commence on these properties unless the resettlement has taken place and structures have been demolished.