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Dear Ms Mahumela,

RE: PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY OFFSET FOR 400KV POWERLINE FROM ORANJEMUND – GROMIS – JUNO (KUDU INTEGRATION PROJECT).

The Eskom Kudu Integration project was previously authorised with the condition that in order to offset the impacts on the botany on site, land be purchased at the Orange River Mouth Ramsar Site. It has subsequently emerged that it will not be practical to purchase this land for various reasons. An alternative offset area has instead been identified which consists of an eastern portion of 'Vyftienmyl se Berg' to the east of Port Nolloth.

Jon Smallie (currently director of WildSkies Ecological Services) conducted the original avifaunal impact assessment study for the project (whilst in the employ of the Endangered Wildlife Trust) (Endangered Wildlife Trust 2006). Nsovo Environmental therefore asked WildSkies to prepare a comment on the implications for avifauna of the above proposed change in offset area.

Specifically we were asked to assess the following. Our findings are presented in italics next to each item:

- Assess all impacts related to the change in off-set area. *The offset area procurement and management will not impact on avifauna negatively. Although difficult to measure, in the long term securing this land for biodiversity management will probably benefit avifauna conservation in general.*



- Discuss any advantages or disadvantages associated with the change. *From a purely avifaunal perspective there does not seem to be any difference between the two proposed areas. In terms of general environmental perspective it seems to make more sense to use the new proposed area as it is less impacted and there is less uncertainty around land tenure.*
- Discuss any measures to avoid, manage or mitigate impacts associated with the change. *There are no impacts associated with the change, therefore no need to manage.*
- Highlight any necessary changes to the EMPR. *There are no changes to the EMPR necessary as the result of the change in offset area.*

We conclude that the proposed change to the offset area will have no impact on avifauna, nor will it make any difference to the significance of the impacts previously assessed, the necessary mitigation measures or the EMPR.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if any more detail is required.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Smallie', is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Jon Smallie