

Inge Erasmus

From: Dave McDonald <grootberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 January 2018 4:04 PM
To: Inge Erasmus; Bernard de Witt
Subject: Re: Sangasdrift dam: Hut dam

Hi Inge,

Your enquiry refers.

In fact I did know about the weir and went there during the field-work exercise. However, I thought it would be covered by the freshwater study so I did not include it in my report. Peet was a bit vague about whether it should have formed part of my study or not.

The weir was difficult to find, and in fact I did not find it but walked around close by. There has been considerable erosion (wash-away) in Eksteenkloof and I think the original weir has been damaged or washed away. The area is **heavily overgrown** with vegetation and there are lots of alien trees. Yes, the vegetation is supposedly North Sonderend Sandstone Fynbos but that has little bearing on the river itself which is an azonal ecosystem. Although I think that the description of the freshwater ecologist could have been more precise, I cannot give you much more information. I do not believe that the weir is located in a "floodplain wetland". It is within an eroded riverbed in my view.

I think that reconstructing the weir would not result in any significant negative impact seeing that the site is already so heavily invaded by alien trees and so disturbed by erosion and wash-aways. It should not have too much influence on the stream either, as long as some water is allowed to continue flowing down the stream.

I fail to see why CapeNature is making such a fuss about this project. I think their reaction to the reports is significant overkill and they are chasing after things that are not of conservation importance.

I'm sorry I cannot give you more assistance. This is all I can offer.

Kind regards,

Dave

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In the hopes of reaching the moon men fail to see the flowers that blossom at their feet.
Albert Schweizer 1875--1965

The fight for beauty is "not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress"
John Muir 1838--1914

On Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 3:34 PM, Inge Erasmus <inge@enviroafrica.co.za> wrote:

Dear Dave

I have been working through your report today. I realized that no Botanical assessment was done for in Remaining extent of Farm 234 where the existing weir will be upgraded and a pipeline will extend from the weir to the proposed dam.

I am not sure if this was not communicated to you in the project brief?

The department and Cape Nature is giving me grief with regards to the weir upgrade in Eksteenskloof, so I believe your input here from a Botanical point of view will be valuable. From your maps I can see that the weir falls within North Sonderend Sandstone Fynbos, but I have no idea what the status of this type of vegetation is?

The following information was taken from the Freshwater Impact report (See attached as Appendix 4.1) and it is all the "Botanical information" I have about that area.

Existing weir:

The weir, which is to be rehabilitated is located within a floodplain wetland, which is within a moderately modified condition, as per the Fresh Water report conducted by EnviroSwift. The watercourse in which the weir is located is associated with an encroachment of alien vegetation. Lack of vegetation with good soil binding capability resulted in erosion of the banks. Indigenous vegetation is only identified up stream of the weir, with an abundance of alien vegetation downstream.

Please also refer to the maps that I included.

I would really appreciate your input. Please give me a call if there is any confusion.

Kind regards

Inge

Inge Erasmus



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