

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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reference	SSD14/2/6/1/9/6/415-Re_SR_Dam_Toeka_Ceres
date	31 October 2018

Inge Erasmus
EnviroAfrica
P O Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Inge,

RE: CapeNature comment on Pre-Application Scoping Report for the proposed construction of the new Toeka Dam on Re of Farm Houdenberg No 415, Ceres.

DEADP reference number: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B5/2/1366/17

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application and wish to make the following comments. Please note that our comments pertain only to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.

1. It is confirmed that our comments of 27 July 2017 based on the Background Information Document sent out at the time have been included in this, the Pre- Application Scoping Report for the construction of a new dam (Toeka dam) on the remainder of Farm Houdenberg 415 Ceres.
2. As noted in our comments of 27 July 2017, CapeNature does not support new instream dams or enlargement of existing instream dams unless it can be shown that the ecological condition of the river/stream in which the dam is located can be improved and no significant terrestrial or aquatic habitat will be lost. It is noted that a Freshwater Specialist and a Botanical Specialist have been appointed to conduct assessments and that the results of these studies will be used to determine the impact on terrestrial and aquatic habitat and on overall ecological condition.
3. The proposed site of the Toeka dam falls within an Ecological Support Area (ESA2). The desired management objectives for ESA2 areas is that they are restored and or managed to minimise impact on ecological infrastructure functioning, especially soil and water related services, which will be particularly relevant in this case. The findings of the Freshwater and the Botanical assessments currently underway will assist with a better understanding of the potential impacts on the ESA.
4. The vegetation type mapped for the site of the proposed Toeka Dam is Kouebokkeveld Shale Fynbos which is categorised as Vulnerable according to criterion A1: Irreversible

loss of natural habitat. It is important that further loss of loss of this vegetation type is avoided however if avoidance is not possible then there should be reasonable mitigation for any impacts caused by the proposed development. Please note the possible incorrect reference to Kouebokkeveld Alluvium Fynbos on page 15 of the Pre-Application Scoping Report for the proposed Toeka dam.

5. It is noted that a concurrent process is being followed for the Harmony Dam application on the same property and a separate but similar comment is submitted for that however the DEA&DP communication of 10th November 2017 recommended that one process be followed for both applications. Please confirm the reasoning behind the two separate processes.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Huntly For: Manager (Scientific Services)