

CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE: LANDSCAPE CENTRAL

postal Private Bag X5014 Stellenbosch 7599
physical Assegaibosch Nature Reserve Jonkershoek
website www.capenature.co.za
enquiries **Alana Duffell-Canham**
telephone +27 21 866 8000 **fax** +27 21 866 1523
email aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za
reference **SSD14/2/6/1/9/2/481-12_Cult&Dam_exp_ScherpenHeuvel**
date **06 August 2021**

Clinton Geyser
EnviroAfrica
PO Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: clinton@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Mr Geyser

RE: Proposed agricultural development and dam expansion on portion 12 of Farm Scherpen Heuvel No. 481, Worcester – Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR).
DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1022/21

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report for this application and wish to make the following comments:

Agricultural expansion:

1. In our previous comments we noted that the cultivation should be focussed within the northern section of Area 2. In the latest report, it states that this area is not suitable for agriculture and that Area 1 will be the focus area. We accept this providing that (as stated in the DBAR and botanical specialist report) the expansion will not occur north of the cut off trench. This northern area must be clearly indicated as a no-go area in the Environmental Authorisation and not expansion may be applied for in this section in future.
2. The “waaisand” area which is to be used as a source of sand for construction has been determined as a Critical Biodiversity Area as it is within a floodplain area. However, this area is not currently functioning as such and has already been previously disturbed. We do not object to the use of this area providing that the footprint is kept as small as possible and after construction is stabilised in terms of slope and groundcover.
3. Search and rescue has been recommended. Note that this does not necessarily reduce the impact ratings but can be considered good practice if the species are tolerant to relocation, a suitable receiving area is identified in advance; it does not

create additional disturbance in areas which are in food ecological condition; and are to be kept natural; and the success of the plants is monitored and assisted as necessary.

Dam expansion:

4. The dam expansion area is largely degraded. We agree that Dam Option A should be considered as the preferred alternative.
5. Thank you for providing information of all the sub-catchments in the study area. We note that the proposed dam will only receive water form one of these sub-catchments and that not all water will be captured by the dam. We therefore agree that given the nature of the watercourse and the ecological integrity that an Ecological Flow reserve is not necessary.

The Environmental Management Programme and Maintenance Management Plan have adequately addressed our concerns around monitoring, alien invasive eradication and erosion prevention.

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

Yours sincerely



Alana Duffell-Canham