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Kathu Solar Park Nature Reserve Annual Plan of Operations

Prepared For:

Kathu Solar Park (Pty) Ltd

By Endemicvision Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

Directive

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1 Introduction

The Annual Plan of Operation gives life to the Operational Management Framework on an annual basis.

2 Annual plan of operations

APO period	
Year	2024
Period start	01/01/2024
Period end	31/12/2024

2.1 Scope of the APO

2.1.1 Objectives and targets for the current year

The APO focus on the objectives and targets prioritized for the current year.

Table 1: Current APO Objectives and Targets

Objectives and Targets
Complete the offset edict
Initiate Process to Declare KFNR under NEMPAA
Amend title deed to ensure the long-term protection of the required offset areas by 2026
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024
Manage site access and security
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wildfires caused by trespassers
Improve infrastructure
Re-establish management roads
Reinstate watering points
Upgrade fences and firebreaks

Besides the objectives, the following annual management measures are fulfilled in the APO.

2.1.2 Maintenance of the nature reserve infrastructure

After the initial upgrading of infrastructure, maintenance of infrastructure makes out the basis of the APO.

2.1.3 Progress tracking

This APO allows for progress to be tracked. The tracking takes place by means of monitoring, annual review and updating.

2.1.3.1 Monitoring

The following continues monitoring actions is incorporated into the APO.

-  Access and security monitoring
-  Rainfall monitoring
-  Fire monitoring
-  Alien and vagrant species monitoring

2.1.3.2 Annual review

The annual audit will form the basis of the management plan review. This includes records of recommendations for updating or changing the annual management schedules as well as the five-year plan.

Annual reviews are carried out using the spreadsheet-based Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).

The purpose of the review is to:

-  Determine how effectively the management plan has been implemented.
-  Assist in determining the focus for the annual plan of operation and the setting of appropriate time frames and budgets.
-  Enable effective adaptive management by identifying changes and modifying management interventions.

2.1.3.3 Updating of plans

The APO and NRMP must be updated, relevant and accurate.

APO updating (progress against targets) should take place annually with each audit report.

A NRMP review (rewriting objectives, targets and baseline data) should take place every three years.

2.2 Annual priorities

The annual priorities are further broken down where each target has detailed management actions according to specific requirements and key deliverables. Color coding indicates priority. Blue = high priority, strategic items. Black indicates medium priority management actions; orange indicates low priority basic actions.

Target	Management Actions	Requirements	Key Deliverables
Amend title deed to ensure the long-term protection of the required offset areas by 2026	Finalise offset area. Title deed amendment submission to the Deeds registrar.	Incorporate the 29 hectares of woodland area South of the CSP that is not currently offset. Appoint attorney and complete amendment process as per DEFF requirements.	Both the eastern and southern woodland portions are formally secured for conservation. Updated title deed available upon request.
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024	ENGIE and KSP verification of the NRMP.	The NRMP should be verified internally at the highest possible level to ensure resourcing and compliance.	KSP has a final NRMP.
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024	Stakeholder process completed with landowners and community forums.	Identify relevant stakeholders, communicate the NRMP and allow for feedback or formal engagement as may be requested by the stakeholders.	NRMP stakeholder engagement record available upon request.
Initiate Process to Declare KFNR under NEMPAA	Submit formal intent to declare and action plan	As per DAERL process and NEMPAA requirements	Declaration process commenced.
Re-establish management roads	Reinstate all boundary roads	Brush cut all single-track areas to allow for access along boundary fences.	NRMP area can be patrolled and accessed at any time for management and maintenance purposes.
Reinstate watering points	Reinstate watering points to the east and west of the property	Review condition of boreholes and cribs. Install game friendly watering points, install solar pumps.	At least one watering point is available for every 250 hectares.
Upgrade fences and firebreaks	Prioritise upgrade of fence along public road; Review and upgrade internal fences	Stock proof fence of 1.4m; DEFF standard for Steenbok, Duiker, Oryx, Warthog, Springbok, Wildebeest, Zebra.	KSP game is contained and protected within its boundary fences.
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wildfires caused by trespassers	Access control: locked gate. Controlled Access and Sign Boards (x2).	Area is safe; secured and patrolled.	Illegal access, hunting or wood collecting is reported and dealt with to prevent re-occurrence.
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wildfires caused by trespassers	Routine Security Inspections	Area is safe; secured and patrolled.	Illegal access, hunting or wood collecting is reported and dealt with to prevent re-occurrence.

2.3 Annual budget

Objectives and Targets	Budget	
Complete the offset edict	R	170 000
Initiate Process to Declare KFNR under NEMPAA	R	50 000
Amend title deed to ensure the long-term protection of the required offset areas by 2026	R	25 000
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024	R	95 000
Manage site access and security	R	70 000
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wildfires caused by trespassers	R	70 000
Improve and maintain NR infrastructure	R	572 000
Re-establish management roads	R	142 000
Reinstate watering points	R	30 000
Upgrade fences and firebreaks	R	400 000
Grand Total	R	812 000

2.4 Annual schedule

Target	Management Action	Progress	Assigned to	Start Date	End Date	Days
Amend title deed to ensure the long term protection of the required offset areas by 2026	Finalise offset area. Title deed amendment submission to the Deeds registrar.	15%	Jonathan	2024/06/01	2024/08/30	90
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024	ENGIE and KSP of the NRMP.	50%	Jonathan	2023/12/15	2024/06/12	180
Develop, communicate and submit final NRMP in 2024	Stakeholder process completed with landowners and community forums.	100%	Jonathan	2024/05/01	2024/06/30	60
Initiate Process to Declare KFNR under NEMPAA	Submit formal intent to declare and action plan	50%	Jonathan	2024/07/05	2024/07/12	7
Re-establish management roads	Reinstate all boundary roads	25%	Jonathan	2024/06/01	2024/12/15	197
Reinstate watering points	Reinstate watering points to the east and west of the property	50%	Jonathan	2024/02/01	2024/10/30	272
Upgrade fences and firebreaks	Prioritise upgrade of fence along public road; Review and upgrade internal fences	25%	Jonathan	2024/03/01	2024/12/15	289
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wild fires caused by trespassers	Access control: locked gate. Controlled Access and Sign Boards (x2).	10%	Jonathan	2024/07/01	2024/10/30	121
Prevent illegal access, wood collecting, snaring and potential wild fires caused by trespassers	Routine Security Inspections	5%	Jonathan	2024/05/01	2024/12/31	244
Complete KFNR proclamation process	Finalise proclamation process	1%	Jonathan	2024/07/05	2024/07/12	7

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