



ESKOM PUTS AN END TO GIRAFFE ELECTROCUTIONS IN MARLOTH PARK

Start

In June 2011, the EWT received a report of a giraffe electrocution in Marloth Park. Constant Hoogstad, Project Coordinator of the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme conducted an investigation within five days of the incident. The EWT then advised Eskom that, due to the number of electrical transformers requiring mitigation, an additional site visit involving all stakeholders should be conducted with urgency. Subsequent site visits and meetings with Marloth Park landowners and Eskom representatives were conducted in July and December 2011, with the most recent consultation taking place in February 2012.

"The challenge for Eskom is to find a balance between the interests of industry, the residential electrification programme, and the effective use and conservation of resources. In view of the complexity, scope and persistence of the problem of interactions between birds and mammals and power lines, Eskom and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) formalized their long-standing relationship by entering into a strategic partnership in 1996 to address the problem in a systematic manner on a national basis and to establish an integrated management system to minimize these negative interactions," commented Hoogstad.

The demand for electricity within Marloth has grown significantly over the years and, in an effort to meet this demand, Eskom installed a number of additional transformers on the property that were not the appropriate height in order to accommodate the resident giraffe. This increased the likelihood of possible negative interactions and was indeed responsible for the four Giraffes electrocuted since June of 2011.

Said Hoogstad: "We are very happy to report that this matter has been concluded very successfully. Eskom heeded the advice offered by all concerned stakeholders and, on Sunday the 25th of March, virtually rebuilt both electricity lines running through Marloth Park. An army of 250 men did the work quickly and efficiently with minimum impact on the environment within which they were working. They installed new transformers where necessary and lifted those that were too low and a threat to wandering giraffes. A total of 106 transformers were moved to the correct height and intermediate poles have been replaced to increase the mid-span ground clearance where necessary. From the EWT / ESKOM Strategic partnership, the Marloth Park Property owners and especially the Giraffe, ESKOM we salute you and your commitment to the environment."

Please report all wildlife interactions with power lines to the EWT / ESKOM Strategic partnership by contacting Constant Hoogstad on constanth@ewt.org.za or 011 372 3600.

End

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

NPO Number: 015-502, **PBO number:** 930 001 777, **Member of IUCN** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is US 501(c)(3) compliant under **US IRS Registration number:** EMP98-0586801.



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