DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 840 **31 JULY 2020**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)

CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO IDENTIFY THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN APPLYING FOR OR DECIDING ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE WHEN OCCURRING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment hereby give notice of the intention to identify, in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and regulation 15(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the procedures to be followed in applying for or deciding on an environmental authorisation application for the development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure when occurring in *Renewable Energy Development Zones* published in the Government *Gazette*.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or input within 30 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette*, to the following address:

By post to: The Director-General
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Attention: Dr D Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: 473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083

By e-mail: dfischer@environment.gov.za

Comments or input received after the closing date may not be considered.

BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

1. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015 identified 8 *Renewable Energy Development Zones* that are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic development. These *Renewable Energy Development Zones* together with the procedures to be followed when applying for environmental authorisation for a large scale wind and solar facility within these areas were published under Government Notice No. 114, Government *Gazette* 41445 of 16 February 2018. The areas identified are included on the map provided as Appendix 1 and are as follows:

Renewable Energy Development Zone Number	**Name**	**Applicable Renewable Energy Technology**
Renewable Energy Development Zone 1	Overberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 2	Komsberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 3	Cookhouse	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 4	Stormberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 5	Kimberley	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 6	Vryberg	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 7	Upington	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 8	Springbok	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities

2. The Phase 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2019 identified 3 additional *Renewable Energy Development Zones* that are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy development. These *Renewable Energy Development Zones* were published under Government Notice No. 786 published under Government *Gazette* No. 43528 of 17 of July 2020. The areas identified are included on the map provided as Appendix 2 and are as follows:

Renewable Energy Development Zone Number	**Name**	**Applicable Renewable Energy Technology**
Renewable Energy Development Zone 9	Emalahleni	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 10	Klerksdorp	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 11	Beaufort West	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities

3. The scope of this Notice applies to an application for an amendment to an environmental authorisation contemplated in Part 2 of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and for an application for an environmental authorisation when triggering the following activities related to the development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, including any associated activities necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure, where the greater part of the activity (90% or more) is undertaken within a *Renewable Energy Development Zone* contemplated in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Schedule:

   3.1. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended:
      3.1.1. Activity 11; and
      3.1.2. Activity 47; and

3.2. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014, as amended:
3.2.1. Activity 9.

4. In order to obtain an environmental authorisation for the activities contemplated in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of this Schedule, the applicant must-
4.1. follow the basic assessment process contemplated in regulations 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended;
4.2. negotiate a route with all landowners; and
4.3. submit the route negotiated in accordance with paragraph 4.2 as part of the environmental authorisation application.

5. The *Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the Development and Expansion of Substation Infrastructure for Transmission and Distribution of Electricity* and the *Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the Development and Expansion of Overhead Electricity Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure,* published as Appendix 1 and 2 under Government Notice No. 435, Government *Gazette* 42323 of 22 March 2019, applies to an application for environmental authorisation for activities contemplated in paragraph 3 of this Schedule.

6. The timeframe for decision-making on an application contemplated in paragraphs 3 of this Schedule is 57 days.

7. If a part greater than 10% of the facilities contemplated in this Notice falls outside of a *Renewable Energy Development Zone* as identified in this Notice, the requirements as prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, apply.

8. All applications which are pending at the date of publication of these procedures for implementation must be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

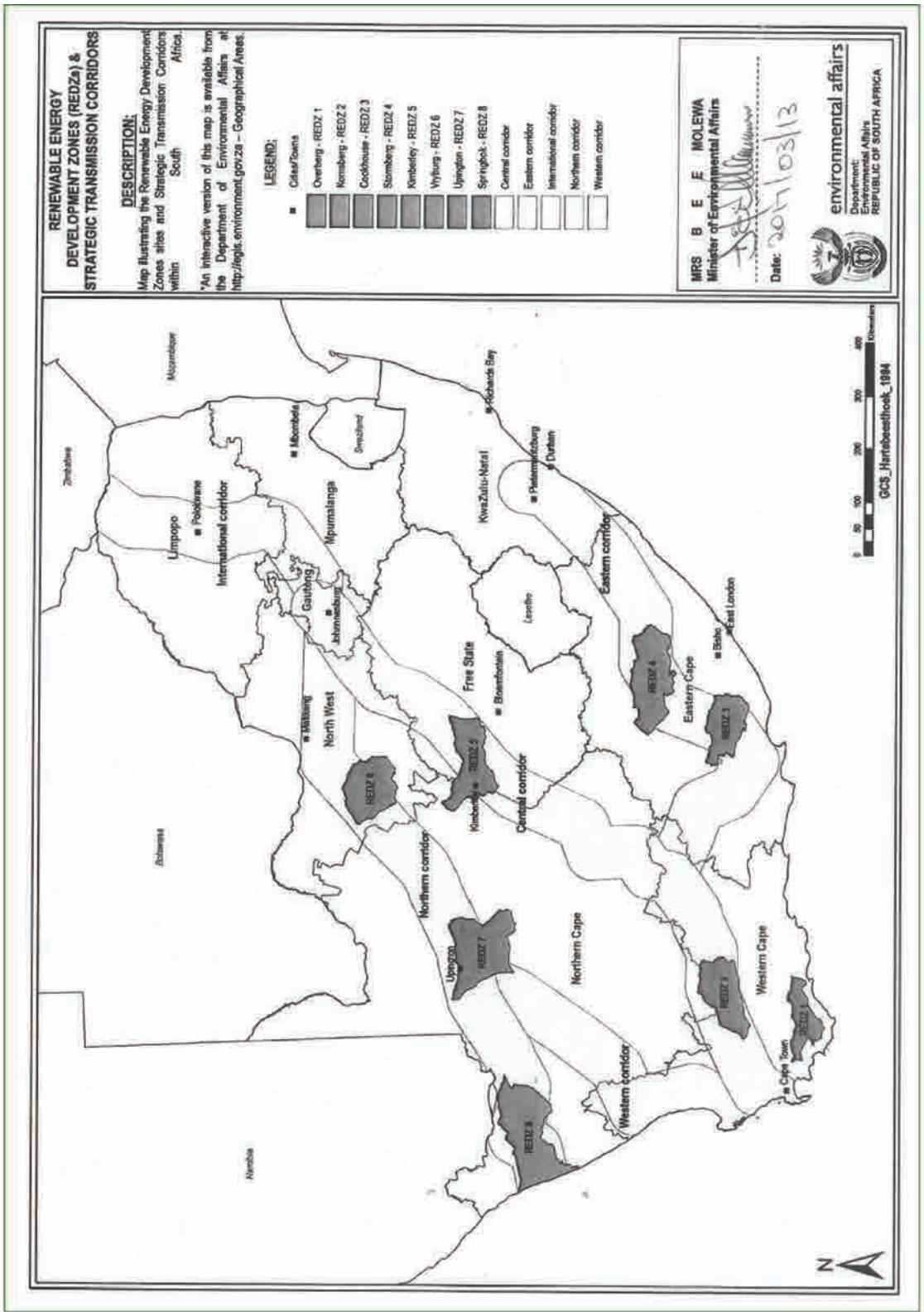
9. The *Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015* and the *Phase 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2019* can be accessed at http://redzs.csir.co.za; or https://egis.environment.gov.za/redz.

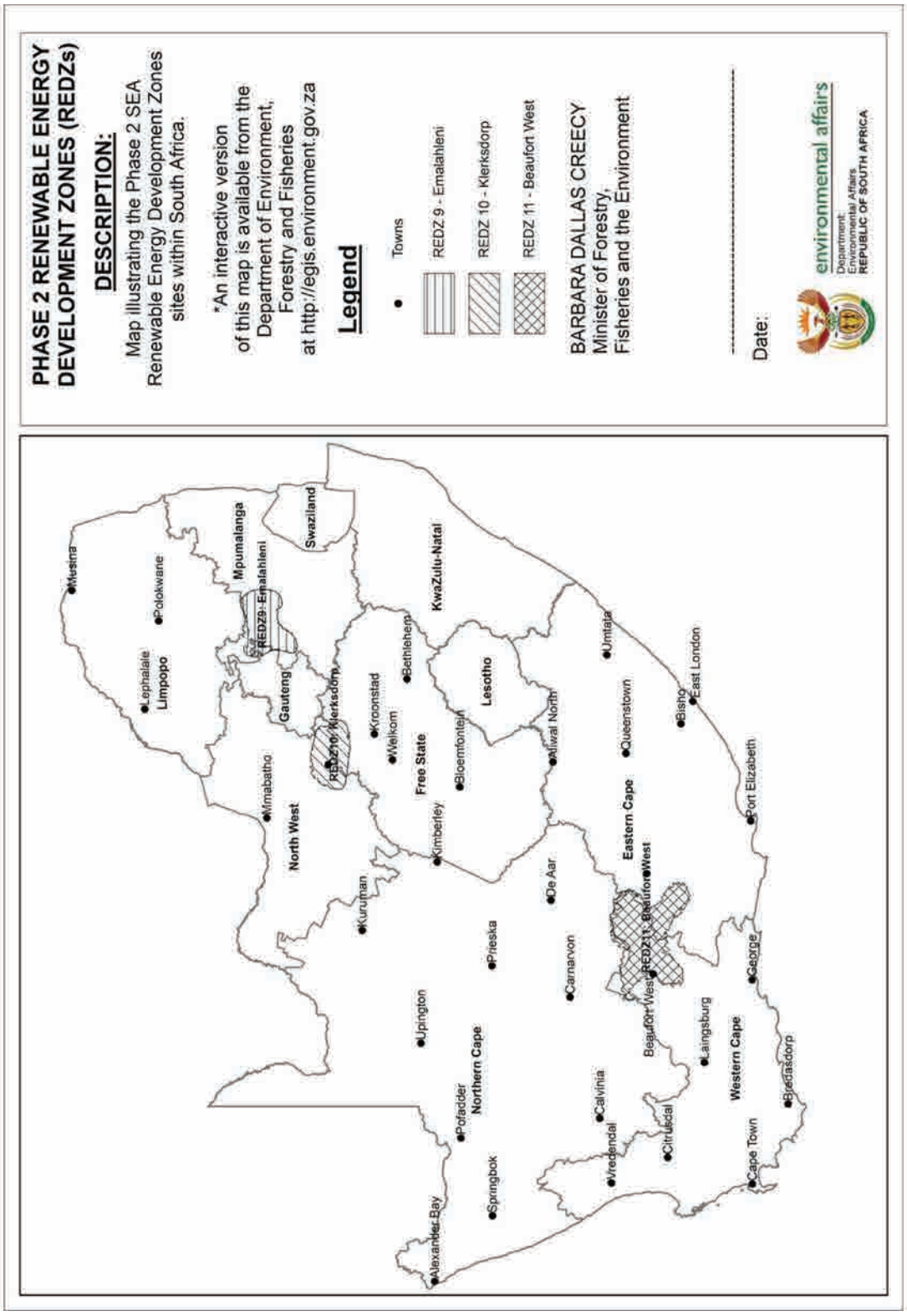
10. The boundaries of the *Renewable Energy Development Zones* referred to in this Schedule are available from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries at http://egis.environment.gov.za – Geographical Areas and hard copies of the zones can be obtained from:

PLACE	CONTACT PERSON/S	CONTACT DETAILS
Head office of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management	GazetteMapping@environment.gov.za
	Ms Marlanie Moodley Ms Lisa Pretorius	Direct Line: +27 12 399 8916/ 9301 Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

APPENDIX 1

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES 1 – 8



APPENDIX 2

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES 9 - 11