

Training mini-workshops *Management of Wildlife Interactions with Power Line Networks*

Report 6: Omaruru
(17 February 2010)



NamPower



Erongo Red

1. Contact details of participants

(*Note: two separate meetings were held)

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2. Workshop programme

Introduction to NamPower/NNF partnership and the Environmental Information System (EIS)
Electrocutions/collisions
Birds nesting on power lines
Bird species at risk from mortalities on power line structures
Incident reporting
Discussion and actions

3. General discussion (NamPower and Erongo Red combined)

Collisions/electrocution

- Two eagles were electrocuted on an A-frame structure two weeks ago (Erongo Red)

Problems caused by bird nesting

- Nesting by Black Crows causes outages – this is an ongoing problem.
- Sociable Weaver nests on power lines also cause outages and need to be removed regularly.
- There are many trees in area – natural nesting and perching sites.
- Egyptian Geese nest on transformers.

Other wildlife / power line interactions

- Baboons have caused outages on the 11 kV Otjompaue line, blowing fuses.
- Genets climb up to birds' nests on transformers and cause outages. Transformers are expensive to replace.
- Dangerous snakes (e.g. black mamba) are found on Sociable Weaver nests; sometimes snakes are electrocuted on structures.

- Termites cause damage to creosoted poles, which eventually collapse (see photographs below).

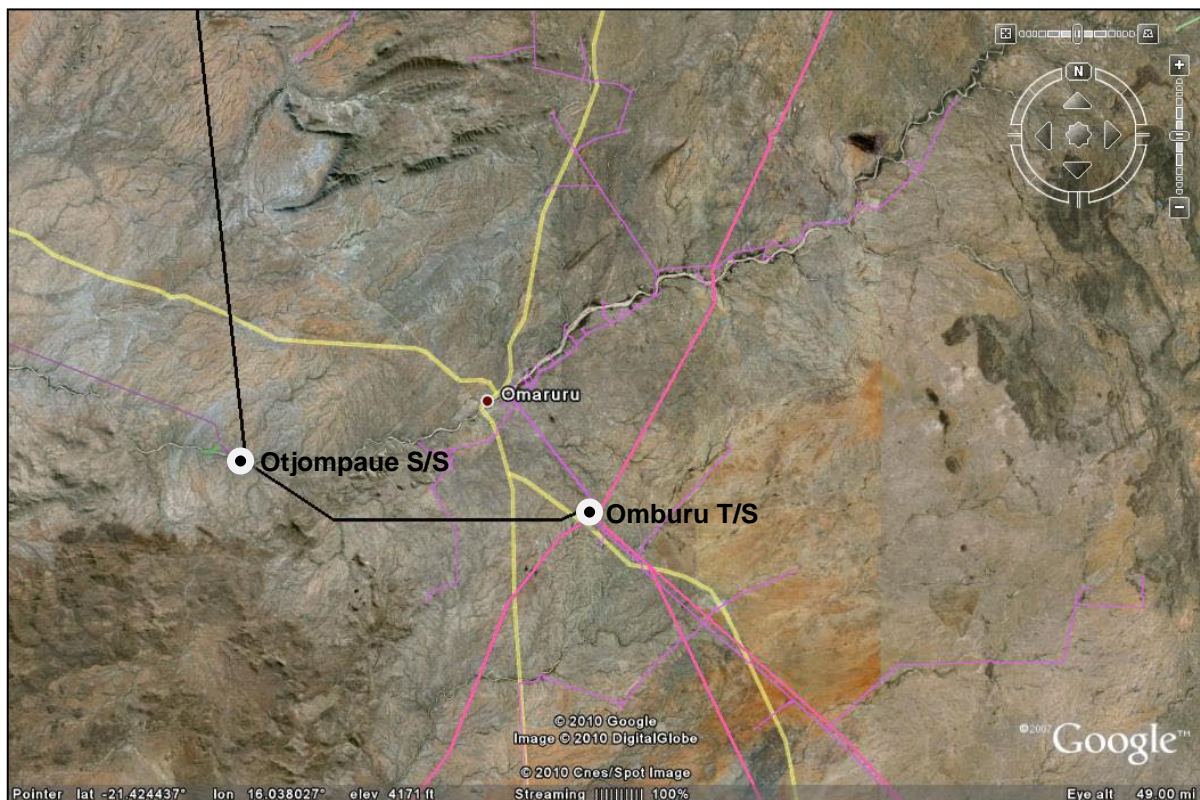


4. Summary of actions

- Complete and forward incident forms on wildlife/power line interactions.
- Investigate solutions for Black Crow nesting problems.
- Investigate the relocation of Sociable Weaver nests on dummy poles.
- Promote awareness about reporting and mitigating wildlife/power line interactions amongst NamPower and Erongo Red staff, and also involve farmers.

5. Power line inspection

No inspection was done at this stage.



Power line grid in the Omaruru area (based on a Google map generated by Alice Jarvis [EIS])
 Key: Black - 400 kV; Pink - 220 kV; Green - 66 kV (Omburu to Uis); Purple - 22 kV; Yellow - roads

6. Acknowledgements

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- Training materials/inputs: Chris van Rooyen, Liz Komen (NARREC) and Alice Jarvis (EIS)
- Alice Jarvis of the project's Environmental Information Service (EIS) for generating the Google map on page 3 of this report
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Photographs by Ann Scott