

MEDIA RELEASE

9 June 2015

Investec and BirdLife South Africa renew their partnership and commitment to responsible renewable energy development

The 2015 theme for World Environment Day, which was celebrated on 5 June, was *Sustainable consumption and production*, in line with this, Investec's Power and Infrastructure Finance team is pleased to announce the renewal of its partnership with South Africa's largest non-profit bird conservation organisation in the country, BirdLife South Africa.

The original partnership, forged in 2012, has been extended for three years and affords Samantha Ralston, the first person appointed as BirdLife South Africa's Birds and Renewable Energy Manager, the opportunity to continue to actively participate in the renewable energy sector. The extension will enable both parties to carry on with their work towards ensuring the responsible development of a renewable energy industry in South Africa and minimising the impact of renewable energy developments on birds and their habitats.

Samantha Ralston said *"While renewable energy is an important and necessary part of our response to climate change, it can have unintended negative impacts on birds. Our partnership with Investec has allowed BirdLife South Africa to support project developers, decision-makers, bird specialists and environmental consultants in their efforts to reduce the effects of renewable energy on birds at all stages of the project lifecycle."*

The Power and Infrastructure Finance team specialises in the financing and development of environmentally-sustainable infrastructure, particularly clean and renewable energy projects and is committed to ensuring appropriate preventative measures are in place to protect endangered and high risk bird species.

"The renewal of the BirdLife partnership is in line with our on-going global commitment to supporting renewable energy initiatives. While the initial partnership was focused on wind energy's impact on birds, work is now being extended into the solar energy space. Both are areas where Investec Power and Infrastructure has been active and we are proud that due to our partnership with BirdLife South Africa, the transactions completed in this space are sustainable with regards to more than just the energy they provide," explained Fazel Moosa Africa Head of Project and Infrastructure Finance at Investec.

The key goals of the partnership between Investec and BirdLife South Africa are to ensure the free flow of information and that minimum standards for impact assessment and monitoring are applied to local, and potentially international, green energy initiatives that provide a responsible framework for their development and align the costs of environmental management.

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Notes to Editors

About Investec Corporate and Institutional Banking

Investec's Corporate and Institutional Banking division provides a wide range of products, services and solutions to select corporate clients, public sector bodies and financial institutions. The division undertakes the bulk of Investec's proprietary trading activities, as well as all non-private client deposit taking, corporate and public sector lending, project finance, acquisition and leveraged finance as well as advisory and structuring activities. Corporate and Institutional Banking a division of Investec Bank Limited. Reg. No. 1969/004763/06. An Authorised Financial Services Provider and registered Credit Provider. A member of the Investec Group. The Investec Project and Infrastructure Finance team develops local and international renewable energy projects, through its debt and advisory services.

About BirdLife South Africa

The vision of BirdLife South Africa is to promote the conservation, research, understanding, observation of and enjoyment of natural birds, and their habitats. BirdLife South Africa is the largest non-profit bird conservation organization in the country. It relies on donor funding and financial support from the public to carry out its critical conservation work. BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy in South Africa through facilitating the exchange of information between bird specialists, project developers, government and environment assessment practitioners. BirdLife South Africa provides advice at all stages of project development, from site selection through to operational-phase monitoring and research. Among the key resources produced are guidelines for impact assessment and monitoring of birds at wind and solar energy facilities (the former guidelines were developed in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust). These guidelines are based on international best practice and outline the scope of work required to ensure impacts are adequately identified and assessed. A team of experts, the Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group, guides BirdLife South Africa's work on renewable energy. For more information, visit www.birdlife.org.za

Issued by:

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