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Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 09:39
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Subject: Objection to the Strategic Biodiversity Offset Framework Plan – Aalwyndal & Hartenbos Mossel Bay

Objection to the Strategic Biodiversity Offset Framework Plan – Aalwyndal & Hartenbos Mossel Bay

Objection Closing date: 22 September 2025

Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (WCDEDT)

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WHO IT MAY CONCERN

I am a Property Owner in Mossel Bay

We strongly oppose the adoption of the proposed Strategic Biodiversity Offset Framework Plan. While conservation is a shared imperative, this framework unfairly burdens private landowners with disproportionate financial obligations and strips them of fundamental property rights. The imposition of annual levies reaching R16,500 per hectare, compulsory membership in a Master Homeowners Association, and rezoning mandates—without adequate public consultation or opt-out mechanisms—amounts to coercive governance.

This plan shifts the cost of ecological stewardship from developers to the broader community, creating a funding gap that is irresponsibly filled by ordinary residents. It weaponizes rezoning and servitude registration to enforce compliance, while offering minimal transparency or accountability in the management of conservation funds.

We reject the notion that biodiversity protection must come at the expense of affordability, autonomy, and fairness. Conservation must be collaborative—not punitive. This framework, as it stands, is deeply flawed and must be reconsidered.

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