

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST

Request for a pre-application meeting in terms of Regulation 8 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF TWO (02) SOLAR FARMS AT NDAU, NEAR POLOKWANE, POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND TWO (02) SOLAR FARMS AT NYALA EAST AND TWO (02) SOLAR FARMS AT NYALA WEST, NEAR NORTHAM, THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

Kindly note the following:

- 1. This form must always be used for pre-application meeting requests where this Department is the Competent Authority.
- 2. This application form is current as of **April 2021.** It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.
- 3. The onus on Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in GN R983, R984 and R98 of 04 December 2014, as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
- 4. Be reminded that it is not compulsory in terms of the EIA Regulations that a pre-application meeting must take place prior to an application being lodged with the Department.
- 5. This form must be lodged with the Department at least **one (1) month** prior to the requested meeting date.
- 6. Please note that the proposed date and time will be confirmed prior to the meeting.
- 7. A detailed motivation and agenda must be appended to this meeting request.
- 8. This form must be marked "for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations" and submitted to the Department via email.
- 9. All fields are compulsory.
- 10. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g. Arial 10).
- 11. Note that the EAP is required to submit minutes of the meeting to the Department for approval as per the timeframes agreed to in the meeting.
- 12. The Department reserves the right to refuse the pre-application meeting based on the information provided in this request.

Departmental Details

Online Submission:

EIAapplications@environment.gov.za

Please read the process for uploading files to determine how files are to submitted to this Department

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road

Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:

Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

1. APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS

Name of the Applicant:	To be confirmed (TBC) prior to the Basic Assessment (BA) or Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as each proposed renewable energy facility will have a project company as the Proponent.
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	N/A
Name of contact person for applicant (if other):	Zandri Hill
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	9206110151085
Responsible position, e.g. Director, CEO, etc.:	Senior Project Manager
Company/ Trading name (if any):	See "applicant" above.
Company Registration Number:	TBC, company registration numbers will be provided as soon as received.
BBBEE status:	None
Physical address:	Unit B1, Mayfair Square, Century Way, Century City, Cape Town
Postal address:	Unit B1, Mayfair Square, Century Way, Century City, Cape Town
Postal code:	7441 Cell: 076 104 1372
Telephone:	021 276 3620 Fax: N/A
E-mail:	zandri.hill@abo-wind.com
	capetown@abo-wind.com

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd			
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or	4	Percentage	1250/
	non-compliant)	•	Procurement recognition	135%
EAP name:	Nishkar Maharaj			
EAP Qualifications:	BSc Hons. Environmental Science			
Professional	SACNASP Pri.Sci.Nat (Reg. No. 116421)			
affiliation/registration:	EAPASA (Reg No. 2019/1447)			
Physical address:	10 Kyalami Road, Park 2000 Building, Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal			
Postal address:	10 Kyalami Road, Park 2000 Building, Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal			

Postal code: 3610 Cell: 082 226 6888 031 700 2500 Fax: 086 414 3312 Telephone: Nishkar.Maharaj@praxos373.co.za E-mail:

3. **COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application: Reason(s) in terms of

S24C of NEMA:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Government Notice No. 779 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) identifies the Minister as the Competent Authority in instances where the activities related to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010-2030 as the IRP 2010-2030 is a plan, among others, through which commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding CO₂ mitigation action are being implemented. The IRP for electricity 2010 - 2030 identifies the energy mix balance between renewable and non-renewable energy sources for the generation of electricity. The proposed development projects are large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities to generate electricity.

Purpose of the meeting request	The Proponent seeks guidance from DFFE to determine the
	application processes and legislative timeframes required
	for the six above-mentioned solar PV projects (i.e. Ndau = 2)
	Nyala East = 2; Nyala West = 2). The purpose of the Pre-
	Application Meeting includes the following:
	To provide the DFFE with an overview of the project description for the abovementioned projects;
	 To discuss and confirm the approach towards the application processes and legislative timeframes/proposed project schedule, including the applicable listed activities;
	 To ascertain whether multiple Solar PV facilities within close proximity to one another may be clustered into combined reports and/or procedural tasks for each Environmental Authorisation (EA) application;
	 To confirm the Public Participation Process and proposed combination of tasks;
	 To discuss and confirm the specialist assessments and compliance statements to be undertaken, including the approach to reporting;
	 To discuss and confirm the approach towards the S&EIA reporting, including a request for combination of the projects, in terms of Regulation 11 of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) EIA Regulations (as amended), and the issuing of multiple EAs (should they be granted) in terms of Regulations 25 (1) and (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended);
	 To confirm the approach towards including lithium ior or redox flow Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS in the project description; and
	 To discuss and confirm cumulative impact assessment

approach (i.e., assess cumulative impacts based on a 30

	km buffer and based on renewable energy projects with a positive EA issued at the start of this EIA.		
Any advice requested before from the Department on this project i.e., from IQ or via email (attached response received)	Yes X	No	
Applicant Category	Application by Parastatal		
	Organ of State		
	Private Individual/Parties		X
Application type	Application for EA		X
	Application for Integrated EA		
	Application for Amendment EA		
Proposed meeting date and time-slot. Provide three at least a month due to logistical arrangements)	alternative dates and time-slots (n	ote that the Depart	tment requires
Date	Time-slot		
	Start time	End time	
14 March 2022	10:00	11:00	
16 March 2022	09:00	10:00	
16 March 2022	11:00	12:00	
Duration of the meeting	1 HOUR	1	
Estimated number of people attending meeting	8		

Please attach a proposed agenda as **APPENDIX 1**. If the Applicant or EAP intends to discuss several projects in one meeting, separate agendas must be drafted for each proposed project and the project details for each project. Please note that a detailed agenda is required.

5. PROJECT DETAILS

Project description

The Proponent proposes to develop solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities and associated infrastructure within three (3) clusters (i.e., Ndau, Nyala East and Nyala West). The proposed Ndau Solar PV farms are located within the Capricorn District Municipality, whereas the Nyala East and West Solar PV farm facilities are located within the Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo province.

The proposed developments comprise of the Ndau site which is made up of three (3) properties (maximum development footprint of 617 ha), whilst the Nyala East (maximum development footprint of 369 ha) and Nyala West (maximum development footprint of 261 ha) sites are made up of eight (8) properties in total. The Ndau site is proposed to consist of up to two (2) Solar PV farms, whereas the Nyala East and West site are proposed to consist of two (2) and two (2) Solar PV farms respectively. The typical components associated with Solar PV Farms include:

- Solar field/arrays
- Internal service roads
- Main access roads
- Internal underground (where possible) reticulation (i.e., low medium voltage lines up to 33kV)
- On site electrical and associated infrastructure (such as on-site substation, collector infrastructure, BESS)
- Perimeter fencing
- Auxiliary buildings (including, but not limited to, O&M buildings, admin, workshop, gatehouse, security, control centre, offices, warehouses, etc.)
- Temporary laydown areas

	Considering the information above, it is of the EAP's opinion that the PV farm projects will follow the S&EIA procedure. At this stage, the proponent wishes to discuss the possibility of combining the aforementioned developments into clusters, such that separate applications for environmental authorisation may be submitted with combined reporting as well as other process-related matters.
Indicate if any screening has taken place on site	Site verification assessments are currently being undertaken by specialists to inform the facility layouts. An update can be provided at the pre-application meeting. Screening tool reports have been generated for each site via the DFFE screening tool (refer to Appendix 3).
Physical Address where the	No physical address, please refer to property details provided in Appendix 3.
development will take place	The proposed Ndau development site is situated between the town of Mokopane and the city of Polokwane. The proposed Nyala East and Nyala West development sites are located near the town of Northam.
Farm name(s)/ Erf No	Refer to Appendix 3.
Local Municipality	Ndau: Polokwane Local Municipality Nyala East & West: Thabazimbi Local Municipality
District Municipality	Ndau: Capricorn District Municipality Nyala East & West: Waterberg District Municipality

Locality map:	A locality map must be attached to the application form, as APPENDIX 2 . The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:
	, ,
	• an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
	• road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s)
	a north arrow;
	a legend;
	the prevailing wind direction;
	• site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and
	GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site.
	The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection)

6. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

For an application for authorisation that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be provided below.

NOTE THAT THE FULL LIST OF TRIGGERED LISTED ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONFIRMED IN THE S&EIA PROCESS AND THE REPORTING AND APPLICATION FORMS RELATED TO EACH PROPOSED FACILITY.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment	Describe the portion of the proposed project to
	Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	which the applicable listed activity relates.
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;	The proposed development will most likely include the construction of some internal overhead lines within the range of 33 – 275kV connecting to sub-stations and collector stations. As well as a line connecting to the grid, within the site footprint.
	excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is — (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; (b) 2 kilometers or shorter in length; (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.	This Listed Activity may be triggered.
12	The development of (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m² or more; Where such development occurs –	While the layout is being designed to avoid these features as far as possible. Some infrastructure may still be developed within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse.
	(a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;	Therefore, this listed activity may be triggered.

14	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	The project will include a battery storage facility. The battery technology to be used is not yet confirmed. Once the proposed technology is confirmed an opinion will be sought from DFFE to confirm if this activity is triggered. During the operational phase, the proposed battery energy storage system area may temporarily store hydrocarbons/electrolytes for maintenance/replacement purposes with a combined total exceeding 30 cubic meters. Therefore, this listed activity may be
19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse; But excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving— (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this notice, in which case that activity applies; (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or (e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in listing notice 2 of 2014 applies.	triggered. The proposed development may require the removal of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.
24	The development of a road— (i) for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; But excluding a road— (a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014; (b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or (c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.	The proposed development may require the development of access roads.
28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:	The proposed development may be defined as an industrial development. The current land use within the development footprint is for agriculture. Therefore, this listed activity may be triggered.

56	(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional purposes. The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometer— (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; excluding where widening or lengthening occur	The main access roads may be approximately 8 - 10m wide. Where possible existing access roads will be updated. Therefore, this listed activity may be triggered.
Activity No(s):	inside urban areas. Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
4	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres. e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (ee) critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas;	The proposed development may require the development of access roads in a critical biodiversity area.
10	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. e. Limpopo i. All areas.	During the operational phase, the proposed battery energy storage system area may temporarily store hydrocarbons/electrolytes for maintenance/replacement purposes with a combined total exceeding 30 cubic meters Therefore, this listed activity may be triggered and needs to be discussed with the DFFE.
12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. e. Limpopo i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of Section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the national spatial biodiversity assessment 2004;	The proposed development may result in the clearance of more than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation in a critical biodiversity area.

	ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;	
14	The development of - (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;	The proposed development may require the development of infrastructure within 32 metres of a watercourse.
	Where such development occurs—	
	(a) within a watercourse;	
	(b) in front of a development setback; or	
	(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.	
	e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (ff) critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	
	(hh) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;	
18	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 Kilometre.	The proposed development may require the widening and lengthening of existing roads.
	e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (ee) critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	
	(gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas;	
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIR Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such	The proposed development will have an electricity output greater than 20 megawatts.

	development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs —	
	(a) within an urban area; or	
	(b) on existing infrastructure.	
4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic metres.	The proposed development may utilise a battery energy storage technology that requires replacement of electrolytes during the operational phase and dangerous goods storage in excess of 500 cubic metres may be required during construction phase.
		Depending on the confirmed combined capacity, this listed activity may be triggered and needs to be discussed with the DFFE.
9	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such Bypass infrastructure is —	The proposed development may require facilities/infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more.
	(a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;	
	(b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length;	
	(c) within an existing transmission line Servitude; and	
	(d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.	
15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—	The proposed development may result in the clearance of more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.
	(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or	
	(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	

Be reminded that the onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity.

7. ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY

Please attach any additional information as **APPENDIX 3**.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMI	TTED
APPENDIX 1	Proposed Agenda	YES X	NO
APPENDIX 2	Locality map	YES X	NO
APPENDIX 3	Additional info	YES X	NO

APPENDIX 1

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA

(Please note that a generic agenda will not be accepted. Please submit a detailed agenda)

- 1. Welcome and Introduction
- 2. Project Locality and Description of the proposed Ndau and Nyala sites
- 3. Discussion on the possibility of clustering facilities into combined reports
- 4. Discussion and Confirmation of Environmental Process Application (BA/S&EIA)
 - a. Process Related Queries
 - b. Confirmation of Applicable Listed Actions
 - c. Confirmation of Legislative Timeframes
 - d. Confirmation of combined Public Participation Process
- 5. Relevant Specialist Studies
- 6. Update on Solar PV Exclusion Legislation
- 7. Way forward
- 8. Questions

APPENDIX 2 LOCALITY MAP

APPENDIX 3 ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY

PROPERTY DETAILS	
NDAU	NYALA
1. Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Rotterdam 12 KS	 Remaining Extent of Farm Leeuwkopje 415 KQ Portion 5 (Bralbin) of Farm Leeuwkopje 415 KQ
2. Portion 5 (Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Rotterdam 12 KS	3. Remaining Extent of Farm Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ
3. Portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley 13 KS	 Portion 2 of Farm Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ Portion 9 (Portion of Portion 3) of Farm Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ Remaining Extent of Farm De Deur 419 KQ Portion 1 of Farm De Deur 419 KQ Portion 2 of Farm De Deur 419 KQ

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING REPORTS