

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

SAN SOLAR PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NOTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

AUGUST 2022

By

Tony Barbour

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Tony Barbour was appointed by Savannah Environmental to undertake an independent Peer Review of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report for the proposed San Solar PV Solar Energy Facility (WEF), located 16km north west of Kathu in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. This report contains the findings of the Peer Review of the SIA for the San Solar PV SEF prepared by Savannah Environmental (Savannah, July 2022).

1.2 EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Tony Barbour has undertaken in the region of 300 SIAs, including approximately 150 SIAs for renewable energy projects, including wind and solar energy facilities. Tony has also undertaken a number of SIAs for solar projects in the study area and is therefore familiar with the local socio-economic conditions and social issues affecting renewable energy projects in the area. In addition, he is the author of the Guidelines for undertaking SIAs as part of the EIA process commissioned by the Western Cape Provincial Environmental Authorities in 2007. These guidelines have been used throughout South Africa. A copy of Tony Barbour's CV is attached in Annexure A.

1.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND APPROACH

The terms of reference for the Peer Review were to review the SIA prepared by Savannah Environmental to ensure that the report met the accepted standards. The approach to the review involved:

- A review of the approach adopted in preparing the SIA Report.
- A review of the type and quality of information contained in the SIA Report.
- A review of the key findings contained in the SIA Report.
- Assessment of conformance of the Specialist Report with the requirements for Specialist Reports (Appendix 6, Regulation GNR 326 of 4 December 2014, as amended 7 April 2017).

1.4 FINDINGS OF PEER REVIEW

The findings of the Peer Review indicate that the SIA provides decision makers with the information required to identify the key socio-economic issues and risks associated with the proposed project. The findings of the Peer Review also support the findings of the SIA, namely that there are likely to be no fatal flaws.

Introduction and Approach

The approach adheres to and meets the requirements for SIAs. The SIA provides a detailed description of the proposed project and the location (Section 1). Section 2, Methodology and Approach (p6), provides an overview of the approach to the SIA, including the identification of key stakeholders and the collection and review of baseline information, and the impact assessment method (p12). The limitations and assumptions are also clearly spelt out.

Policy and Baseline Socio-economic Information

Section 3, Legislation and Policy Review (p16), provides an overview of the relevant National, Provincial and Local policies and planning documents, while Section 4, Socio-economic Profile (p19), provides baseline socio-economic information at a Provincial, Municipal, and local site level.

Assessment

Section 8, Assessment of Potential Social Impacts (p26), identifies, describes, and assess the potential social impacts associated with the construction (Section 5.1, p26) and operation (Section 5.2, p34. phases of the project. Based on the authors experience with wind projects, the relevant potential social impacts that are likely to have a bearing on the decision-making process have been identified and assessed. Section 5.3, Cumulative Impacts (p37), identifies and address the relevant potential cumulative impacts. The assessment ratings for the construction and operation phase impacts with enhancement and or mitigation measures are all regarded as accurate. The same finding applies to the assessment of cumulative impacts.

Conclusion

The key findings and recommendations (Section 6, p43-44) of the SIA as summarised in Table 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3. The overall conclusion that “the proposed project and associated infrastructure will create a number of potential socio-economic opportunities and benefits and is unlikely to result in permanent damaging social impacts. From a social perspective it is concluded that the project is acceptable subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation and enhancement measures and management actions identified for the project. Considering the findings of the report and potential for mitigation it is the reasoned opinion of the specialist that the project can be authorised from a social perspective”, is also supported by the findings of the Peer Review.

The findings of the Peer Review also confirm that the SIA complies with the requirements for Specialist Reports (Appendix 6, GNR 326 of 4 December 2014, as amended 7 April 2017).

ANNEXURE A: CV

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Tony Barbour's experience as an environmental consultant includes working for ten years as a consultant in the private sector followed by four years at the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit. He has worked as an independent consultant since 2004, with a key focus on Social Impact Assessment. His other areas of interest include Strategic Environmental Assessment and review work.

EDUCATION

- BSc (Geology and Economics) Rhodes (1984);
- B Economics (Honours) Rhodes (1985);
- MSc (Environmental Science), University of Cape Town (1992)

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

- Independent Consultant: November 2004 – current;
- University of Cape Town: August 1996-October 2004: Environmental Evaluation Unit (EEU), University of Cape Town. Senior Environmental Consultant and Researcher;
- Private sector: 1991-August 2000: 1991-1996: Ninham Shand Consulting (Now Aurecon, Cape Town). Senior Environmental Scientist; 1996-August 2000: Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten (SRK Consulting) – Associate Director, Manager Environmental Section, SRK Cape Town.

LECTURING

- University of Cape Town: Resource Economics; SEA and EIA (1991-2004);
- University of Cape Town: Social Impact Assessment (2004-current);
- Cape Technikon: Resource Economics and Waste Management (1994-1998);
- Peninsula Technikon: Resource Economics and Waste Management (1996-1998).

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

Tony Barbour has undertaken in the region of 240 SIA's, including SIA's for infrastructure projects, dams, pipelines, and roads. All of the SIAs include interacting with and liaising with affected communities. In addition he is the author of the Guidelines for undertaking SIA's as part of the EIA process commissioned by the Western Cape Provincial Environmental Authorities in 2007. These guidelines have been used throughout South Africa.

Tony was also the project manager for a study commissioned in 2005 by the then South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry for the development of a Social Assessment and Development Framework. The aim of the framework was to enable the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to identify, assess and manage social impacts associated with large infrastructure projects, such as dams. The study also included the development of guidelines for Social Impact Assessment, Conflict Management, Relocation and Resettlement and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Countries with work experience include South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Armenia, Mozambique, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan and Armenia.