



# COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOYUZ SOLAR PV PARK CLUSTER 1-6 NEAR BRITSTOWN, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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SOYUZ 3 SOLAR PV PARK (PTY) LTD  
SOYUZ 4 SOLAR PV PARK (PTY) LTD  
SOYUZ 5 SOLAR PV PARK (PTY) LTD  
SOYUZ 6 SOLAR PV PARK (PTY) LTD

CONTACT: MR. MICH NIEUWOUDT

APRIL 2023

DFFE REF NOS: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2333  
14/12/16/3/3/2/2334  
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14/12/16/3/3/2/2337  
14/12/16/3/3/2/2338

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## REPORT CONTEXT

Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd intends to develop the Soyuz Solar PV Cluster 1-6 comprising of six (6) Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facilities (PVSEFs). The purpose of this Solar PV Cluster is to generate clean electricity from a renewable energy source (i.e., solar radiation) with minimal environmental impact to contribute to the National energy grid and/or any Private off takers (where applicable).

This development is situated approximately 14km South-east of Britstown in the Northern Cape Province. Each of the six (6) PVSEFs will fall under a different applicant.

The applicant names with respective generating capacities are as follows:

- Soyuz 1 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd - 240MW
- Soyuz 2 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 300MW
- Soyuz 3 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 240MW
- Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 300MW
- Soyuz 5 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 150MW
- Soyuz 6 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 240MW

The proposed PVSEFs consist of large arrays of solar panels, which are made up of individual solar cells that convert sunlight into electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. The panel design is based on bifacial solar photovoltaic modules installed on single axis tracker mounting structure at a height of up to 6 metres (m) above ground level. A Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”) will be installed to optimize the PVSEF’s energy output and reduce curtailment. The Direct Current (DC) electricity generated via the solar arrays will be converted into alternating current (AC) electricity through an inverter. The on-site substation will manage the flow of electricity from the solar panels and battery energy storage system to the power grid. Supporting infrastructure includes an operations and maintenance (O&M) building, access roads, fencing, and security measures to protect the facility.

Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”) to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process to obtain environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (“NEMA”) Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Regulations (2014), as amended. The Project is in the Scoping Phase of the S&EIA Process.

Due to the proximity of the six Soyuz Solar PV Parks to each other, a common developer and the fact that the applications are running concurrently, an integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted for all six developments

This report serves as the Comments and Responses Report documenting the scoping phase PPP and recording all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state and the responses thereto for all six of the PVSEFs that form part of the Soyuz Solar PV Cluster 1-6.

## I&AP NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE

The draft Scoping Report and supporting documentation was issued to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for the statutory 30-day Public Participation Process (PPP). This period commenced on 20 March 2023 and concluded 21 April 2023. Comments were accepted up to and including 24 April 2023.

A summary of the representatives of the various **Commenting Authorities** recorded in the Project I&AP Database that were contacted and an indication of the response is provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of the Commenting Authorities Notified

SURNAME	NAME	COMPANY/ORGANISATION/ETC	RESPONSE
<b>National</b>			
Dlamini	Samkelisiwe	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Dlova	Lunga	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Hlengani	Alexia	Department of Water and Sanitation	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Kika	Ntsikelelo	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Kutu</b>	<b>Lydia</b>	<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</b>	<b><i>Comment Provided</i></b>
Lekota	Seoka	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<i>Added to the I&amp;AP Database after the scoping PPP period</i>
Litsoane	Masina	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Mahunonyane	Moses	Department of Water and Sanitation	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Mohapi	Sedabatso	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Morudu</b>	<b>Masina</b>	<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</b>	<b><i>Comment Provided</i></b>
Mxaku	Bongiwe	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Ncube	Bathandwa	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Ratikane	Mamello	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Streuders	Kobus	Department of Water and Sanitation	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Provincial</b>			

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<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COMPANY/ORGANISATION/ETC</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
Badenhorst	Dewald	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Chistians	Darryl	Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Cloete	Peter	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
De la Fontaine	Samantha	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Diteme	Ali	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Fisher	Bryan	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Higgitt</b>	<b>Natasha</b>	<b>Manager: Development Applications SAHRA</b>	<b><i>Comment Provided</i></b>
Mabilo	GS	Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Moleko	Dineo	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Mogorosi	Zanele	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Mothibi	Viljoen	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Mothibi	Wonders Dimakatso Vil	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Ndzumo	Onwabile	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Phete	A	Northern Cape Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Robertson	Crystal	Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Swart	Elsabe	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>

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SURNAME	NAME	COMPANY/ORGANISATION/ETC	RESPONSE
Uys	Natalie	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>Comment Provided</i>
van Heerden	Denver	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Local</b>			
Bosch	Beatrice	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Felix	Shereave	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Jaggers	Rachel	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Joka	Humphrey	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	<i>Added to the I&amp;AP Database after the scoping PPP period</i>
Mbombo	Petrus Madoda	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Msengana</b>	<b>Themsile</b>	<b>Emthanjeni Local Municipality Municipal Manager</b>	<b><i>Response Provided</i></b>
Moloi	Napo	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Pieterse	Rodney	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Present	Passie	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Sibeko	Asanda	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
<b>Government Bodies and State Owned Companies</b>			
De Kock	Rene	South African National Roads Agency	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Gxasheka	Andile	National Energy Regulator of South Africa	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Jardine	Rydall	South African Weather Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Khumalo	Siphiwe	National Energy Regulator of South Africa	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Lekabe	Winnie	Air Traffic Navigation Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Magogotya	Zamikhaya	South African Weather Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Matlhane	Selaelo	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory	<i>No Comment Provided</i>

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SURNAME	NAME	COMPANY/ORGANISATION/ETC	RESPONSE
Mofokeng	Puseletso	South African Weather Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Monama	Tshegofatso	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Nape	Thato	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Ngoepe	Webster	South African Weather Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Petlane	Bernard	South African Weather Services	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Sithole	Busang	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Stroh	Lizell	South African Civil Aviation Authority	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Tiplady	Adrian	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory	<i>No Comment Provided</i>

A summary of the representatives of the various **Conservation Groups** recorded in the Project I&AP Database that were contacted and an indication of the response is provided in Table 2.

*Table 2 Summary of the Conservation Groups Notified*

SURNAME	NAME	COMPANY/ORGANISATION/ETC	RESPONSE
Anthonissen	Eben	Agri Noord Kaap	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
De Wet	Hannes	Agri Noord Kaap	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Hoogstad	Constant	Endangered Wildlife Trust	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Huntly	Philippa	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Ralston	Samantha	Birdlife South Africa	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Symington	Willem	Agri Noord Kaap	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
van Rensburg	Wiaan	Agri Noord Kaap	<i>No Comment Provided</i>

A summary of the representatives of the various **Landowners and Adjacent Landowners** recorded in the Project I&AP Database that were contacted and an indication of the response is provided in Table 3.

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*Table 3 Summary of the Landowners and Adjacent Landowners Notified*

SURNAME	NAME	LANDOWNER	RESPONSE
Grove	Andries Christiaan	Portion 3 of Farm 145 Portion 1 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek Remaining portion of Farm 146	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Oloff	JM Paul	<b>JC Paul Familietrust</b> <b>Portion 1 of Farm 91</b> <b>Portion 5 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek</b> <b>Portion 7 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek</b> <b>Remaining portion of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek</b> <b>Windpoort Country Guest house</b>	<b><i>Comments Provided</i></b>
Blomerus	Zacharias	Witfontein Trust Portion 2 of Farm 97 Pettspot Portion 9 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Viljoen	Francois	FBC Viljoen Boerdery Pty Ltd Remaining portion of Farm 96	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
du Plessis	Totius	Portion 1 of Farm 97 Pettspot	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Van Zyl	Jurie Johannes Wilhelm	Smouspoort Boerdery Pty Ltd Remaining portion of Farm 129	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Raath	Bernard Edgar	Portion 1 of Farm 169 Perdepoort	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Dippenaar	Neethling	De Kruin Boerdery Pty Ltd Remaining portion of Farm 90	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Jansen van Rensburg	Jacques	Remaining portion of Farm 91	<i>No Comment Provided</i>
Lambrechts	Jan Sauer	Portion 3 of Farm 92 Sweetfontein Portion 4 of Farm 92 Sweetfontein	<i>No Comment Provided</i>

A summary of the representatives of the **various I&APs** recorded in the Project I&AP Database that were contacted and an indication of the response is provided in Table 4.

*Table 4 Summary of the Various I&APs Notified*

SURNAME	NAME	AFFILIATION	RESPONSE
Clarke	Caryn	<b>G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd</b>	<b><i>Request to be registered as an I&amp;AP for the Project</i></b>



SURNAME	NAME	AFFILIATION	RESPONSE
Nunez	David	Sirius Power	<i>Request to be registered as an I&amp;AP for the Project</i>

## COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The comments and issues received above have been recorded verbatim in Table 5. The responses from the EAP, Specialist and/or Applicant are recorded alongside the respective comments and issues.

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*Table 5 Comments and Responses Record*

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
20 March 2023 Email Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (Natalie Uys)	Dear Wendy  Thank you for the notification. Could you please provide a shapefile/ google kml/kmz file for the proposed developments?	<p align="right">23 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b>                      Good Day Natalie,                       I trust that this email finds you well.                       Kindly receive as per your request undercover, the kmz file                      indicating the footprints of the six PVSEFs that make up the Soyuz                      Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6.                       Please let me know you have any queries and/or require additional                      information.                       Warm regards                      Wendy Mey</p>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
<p>22 March 2023 Email Landowner of Portion 5 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek &amp; Windpoort Country Guest house (Oloff JM Paul)</p>	<p>Attention: Wendy Mey</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>Windpoort Country Guesthouse and Cottage (search on Google Maps) is situated on Portion 5 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek- Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park. According to the planned layout of the solar park the panels come almost right up to the boundary of the guest house.</p> <p>It is quite clear that the guest house will not be able to operate as usual during the construction phase which may last up to 2,5 years. I, Oloff JM Paul in my capacity as trustee of JC Paul Family Trust which is the owner of the Portion 5 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek and Windpoort</p> <p>Country Guest house would thus like to propose the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the guest house known as Windpoort Country Guest House and Cottage be made available for lease by the construction company at an agreed upon monthly rental during the construction phase</li> <li>- the guest house and cottage will also be available for office/administrative purposes for the entire lifespan of the project at an agreed upon monthly rental.</li> </ul> <p>Kind regards, Oloff JM Paul</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Dear Oloff JM Paul,</p> <p>We trust that this email finds you well.</p> <p>We would like to take this opportunity to share with you that the application for environmental application for the Soyuz 4 Solar PV ensures that a 500m buffer is applied to the Windpoort Country Guest house. The proposed development footprint is provided in the attached layout drawing for your information and reference.</p> <p>In response to your proposal undercover, we have shared this with the Applicant for future consideration.</p> <p>Please contact us if you have any queries or concerns.</p> <p>Warm regards, Wendy Mey</p> <div data-bbox="1442 963 1924 1299" data-label="Image"> </div>

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<p>22 March 2023 SAHRA Manager: Development Applications (Natasha Higgitt)</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <a href="http://sahra.org.za/sahris/">http://sahra.org.za/sahris/</a>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.</p> <p>Please create <b>separate applications on SAHRIS</b> and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case.</p> <p>Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.</p> <p><b>**PLEASE NOTE**</b> <b>An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <a href="https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details">https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details</a>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided.</b></p>	<p align="right">22 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Good Day Natasha,</p> <p>I trust that this email finds you well.</p> <p>Thank you for your email below outline the SAHRIS Applications Process. Our Heritage Specialist will be following through with the requirements in due course.</p> <p>Warm regards, Wendy Mey</p> <p align="right">20 April 2023</p> <p><b>Heritage Specialist</b> Hi Chane</p> <p>It's been a bit of a mission with loadshedding and some issues with SAHRIS but I just wanted to let you know that the Soyuz 1-6 Scoping Report cases have been loaded onto the SAHRIS and submitted.</p> <p>For your records, the SAHRIS case numbers are: 21130 and 21132 - 21136.</p> <p>All the best</p> <p>John</p>
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<p>24 March 2023 Email Chairman of the Vatvyf non-profit organization (Oloff JM Paul)</p>	<p>Attention Wendy</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>I would like to make the following proposal in my capacity as Chairman of the Vatvyf non-profit organization which hosts an annual charity event that benefits the local community of Britstown:</p> <p>- the Britstown showgrounds known as Erf 516 which is approximately 8 hectares of open space and 2 large sheds, be made available for lease by the developers of the Soyuz Solar and Wind projects. The site is ideal for the storage of trucks and earth-moving equipment and also has buildings which can be used for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Oloff JM Paul- chairman- Vatvyf Jag- Britstown</p>	<p align="right">24 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Good Day Oloff,</p> <p>I trust that this email finds you well and that the Vatvyf Jag organisation is thriving.</p> <p>Thank you for your proposal in the email undercover regarding potential use of the Britstown Showgrounds availability for lease during the construction phases of the Soyuz Projects. I have forwarded your recommendation to the Applicant for due consideration.</p> <p>I wish you a lovely day further.</p> <p>Warm regards Wend Mey</p> <p align="right">24 March 2023</p> <p>Hi Janine,</p> <p>Kindly receive the proposal in the email below for consideration by the Applicant.</p> <p>Warm regards Wendy Mey</p> <p align="right">19 April 2023</p> <p><b>Applicant</b> Hi Wendy,</p> <p>The below is noted and the non-profit organisation will be contacted should the project require this proposed location for use.</p> <p>Kind regards, Janine</p>
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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
<p>30 March 2023 Email G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd Environmental Intern (Shonese Bloy)</p>	<p>Good day Wendy,</p> <p>Hope you are well. Could you please register Caryn Clarke with email address eia@g7energies.com as an I&amp;AP for the proposed Soyuz Solar Energy Facility 1 through to 6 and Langhoogte Wind Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/260).</p> <p>Would you kindly send through any relevant documents and reply with confirmation of registration.</p> <p>Thanks so much.</p>	<p align="right">30 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Hi Shonese,</p> <p>Thank you for making contact and for sharing G7's interest in the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 Project. I have registered Caryn Clarke on our I&amp;AP database and will forward our email detailing all the information relating to the Public Participation Process that is currently underway to eia@g7energies.com. Kindly provide a contact number for Caryn Clarke for our records.</p> <p>Regarding the request to be included as an I&amp;AP for the Langhoogte Wind Energy Facility, I herewith confirm that the Public Participation Process has ended 22 February 2023 and that the Application for the Part 2 Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation has been submitted to the Competent Authority for Decision.</p> <p>Warm regards, Wendy Mey</p>
	<p>31 March 2023 Hi Wendy,</p> <p>Thank you very much. You may use the following number as a contact number for Caryn Clarke, +27 (0)21 300 0610.</p> <p>Thanks again and happy Friday!</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	<p align="right">31 March 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Hi Shonese,</p> <p>Happy Friday to you too!</p> <p>Thank you for the contact number. I have updated the database accordingly.</p> <p>Warm regards, Wendy Mey</p>

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<p>30 March 2023          Email          G7 Renewable Energies          (Pty) Ltd          (Caryn Clarke)</p>		<p><b>EAP</b>          Dear Caryn,</p> <p>As per the request from Shonese Bloy in the email 30 March 2023, we have registered you on the Interested &amp; Affected Parties database for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 Environmental Authorisation Process.</p> <p>Please take note of the following important information, for your consideration.</p> <p>Project Proposal: Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd intends to develop the Soyuz Solar PV Cluster 1-6 (“the Project”) comprising of six (6) Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facilities (PVSEFs). The purpose of this Project is to generate clean electricity from a renewable energy source (i.e., solar radiation) with minimal environmental impact to contribute to the National energy grid and/or any Private off takers (where applicable).</p> <p>This development is situated approximately 14km South-east of Britstown in the Northern Cape Province. Each of the six (6) PVSEFs will fall under a different applicant.          The applicant names with respective generating capacities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soyuz 1 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd - 240MW</li> <li>• Soyuz 2 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 300MW</li> <li>• Soyuz 3 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 240MW</li> <li>• Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 300MW</li> <li>• Soyuz 5 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 150MW</li> <li>• Soyuz 6 Solar PV Park (Pty) Ltd – 240MW</li> </ul> <p>The proposed PVSEFs consist of large arrays of solar panels, which are made up of individual solar cells that convert sunlight into electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. The panel design is based on bifacial solar photovoltaic modules installed on single axis tracker mounting structure at a height of up to 6 metres (m) above</p>
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		<p>ground level. A Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”) will be installed to optimize the PVSEF’s energy output and reduce curtailment. The Direct Current (DC) electricity generated via the solar arrays will be converted into alternating current (AC) electricity through an inverter. The on-site substation will manage the flow of electricity from the solar panels and battery energy storage system to the power grid. Supporting infrastructure includes an operations and maintenance (O&amp;M) building, access roads, fencing, and security measures to protect the facility.</p> <p>Property Location: The proposed development will be located on:          Portion 3 of Farm 145 - Soyuz 1 Solar PV Park (30°45'26.29"S; 23°32'9.10"E)          Portion 2 of Farm 97 Pettepot - Soyuz 2 Solar PV Park and Soyuz 3 Solar PV Park (30°42'28.41"S; 23°34'49.07"E)          Portion 5 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek - Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (30°41'33.54"S; 23°37'10.01"E)          Portion 1 of Farm 127 Twyfelhoek - Soyuz 5 Solar PV Park (30°43'36.85"S; 23°33'45.76"E)          Portion 1 of Farm 91 - Soyuz 6 Solar PV Park (30°40'32.67"S; 23°45'27.71"E).</p> <p>Notice of a 30-day Public Participation Process is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended).</p> <p>Project Progress: This notification forms part of the public consultation process as required by the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014, as amended).</p> <p>Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”) to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&amp;EIA) process to obtain environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (“NEMA”) Environmental Impact</p>
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		<p>Assessment (“EIA”) Regulations (2014), as amended. The Project is in the Scoping Phase of the S&amp;EIA Process.</p> <p>Opportunity to Participate: Stakeholders are hereby invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (“I&amp;APs”) for this Project. I&amp;APs should please use 221101 as the reference number when commenting. All comments must be accompanied by the name of the I&amp;AP, contact details (preferred method of notification, e.g. e-mail address or fax number) and a disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application, to the contact persons indicated below.</p> <p>The draft Scoping Report will be made available electronically for comment at the following website link for a period of 30 calendar days from 20 March 2023 up to and including 21 April 2023:  <a href="https://terramanzi.egnyte.com/fl/Eujj33H3DU">https://terramanzi.egnyte.com/fl/Eujj33H3DU</a></p> <p>Please note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should you require any assistance with interpreting this notice, please contact the EAP at the contact details below, accordingly.</li> <li>• Should you require any assistance with interpreting the documentation noted above, including the language used, the terminology used, the outcomes and recommendations, please contact the EAP at the contact details below, accordingly.</li> </ul> <p>All comments must be submitted directly to Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd, the “EAP”, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic mail: <a href="mailto:comments@terramanzi.co.za">comments@terramanzi.co.za</a>; or</li> <li>• Post: Postnet Suite 211, Private Bag X26, Tokai, Cape Town, 7966</li> <li>• For Attention: Wendy Mey</li> <li>• Tel no: (021) 701 5228</li> <li>• Visit us at <a href="http://www.terramanzi.co.za">www.terramanzi.co.za</a></li> </ul> <p>We look forward to your valued participation.          Warm regards, Wendy Mey</p>
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**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

<p>21 April 2023 Email Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments (Lydia Kutu)</p>	<p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letters for the above mentioned.</p> <p><b>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</b></p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu</p>	<p align="right">24 April 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Good Morning Lydia,</p> <p>Thank you for the letters relating to the requirements for the upcoming submission of the Final Scoping Report for the Soyuz 3 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2335) and Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2335). They are well received.</p> <p>Kindly advise if we can expect the letters for Soyuz 1 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2333), Soyuz 2 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2334), Soyuz 5 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2337) and Soyuz 6 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2338) during the course of the day.</p> <p>Warm regards Wendy Mey</p> <p align="right">24 April 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> Hi Bathandwa,</p> <p>I trust that this email finds you well,</p> <p>The 30 day public participation process period for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 concluded 21 April 2023. I am compiling the final scoping reports and completing the Comments and Responses Report for submission later this week.</p> <p>I have received letters from your department for Soyuz 3 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2335) and Soyuz 4 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2335). The purpose of this email is to enquire as to</p>
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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
		<p>when we can expect the letters for Soyuz 1 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2333), Soyuz 2 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2334), Soyuz 5 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2337) and Soyuz 6 Solar PV Park (14/12/16/3/3/2/2338).</p> <p>Your support and assistance in following up on this is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Warm regards Wendy Mey</p>
<p>21 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisations</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOYUZ 3 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA</b></p> <p>The application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated 17 March 2022 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final SR:</p>	

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b>Listed activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is thus on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the relevant listed activities based on the assessment of the scope of the proposed development in comparison to GNR 327 - Listing Notice 1, GNR 325 - Listing Notice 2 and GNR 324 - Listing Notice 3 (as applicable to the Northern Cape) and the guidance provided in the Pre-Application Meeting held 28 February 2023 are included in Section 4.3 of the FSR and are linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</li> </ul>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Alternatives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of Appendix 1 (3) (1) (h) (i) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) and (x) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, you are required to provide details of all the alternatives considered and if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such as well as concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity must be submitted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 8 of the FSR described the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location within the site. Based on the available information the following feasible and reasonable alternatives as described in the FSR for the Project have been identified and, in conjunction with reference to various specialist opinions have considered that the following alternatives are comparatively assessed during the S&amp;EIA Process of the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Alternative</li> <li>Activity Alternative</li> <li>Design or Layout Alternative</li> <li>Technology Alternatives</li> <li>Operational Alternative</li> <li>The “No-Go” consideration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Layout and sensitivity map</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the layout and environmental sensitivity map must be submitted with the final SR and all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalization of these maps.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout and environmental sensitivity map is included in Section 9 of the FSR and all available biodiversity information at the end of the scoping phase has been used in the configuration of the developable footprint for the PVSEF.</li> </ul>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map must indicate the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerline corridor,</li> <li>All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed),</li> <li>Permanent laydown area footprint,</li> <li>Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint,</li> <li>Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map depicts the developable footprint. All supporting onsite infrastructure, permanent laydown area footprint, substation and transformers will be sited within this area. Further details will be included during the EIA phase of the Project.</li> <li>The OHPL connecting this PVSEF will follow a Basic Assessment (BA) process apart from this S&amp;EIA and therefore the powerline corridor and connection routes are not shown at this stage.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental sensitivity map must indicate the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected,</li> <li>Buffer areas; and</li> <li>All “no-go” areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout and environmental sensitivity map is included in Section 9 of the FSR and the sensitive environmental features are indicated in the maps included in this section of the report. All buffer and “no-go” areas as prescribed by the respective specialists are clearly demarcated and the proposed development footprint falls outside of these areas.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are advised to indicate the location of sensitive area and the buffer zone from the edge of sensitive areas (not as one shaded area).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The locations of sensitive areas / features are indicated, and the buffer zones are shaded in the respective maps.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map must have a clear legend with information communicating with that on the map, be overlain with the sensitivity map which shows neighboring existing and proposed facilities, if any.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps depicting the layout and the site sensitivities include a clear legend. The map is shown on a 1:25000 scale and all existing and proposed facilities are indicated thereon.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Specialist Assessments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is acknowledged that the screening tool report has been included in the draft SR, however, there is no compiler signature. You are advised to sign the screening tool report and include it in the FSR.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Screening Tool Report has been signed by the Specialist that compiled the report. The signed version will be submitted with the FSR.</li> </ul>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Cumulative Impact Assessment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are advised to ensure the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</li> <li>➤ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</li> <li>➤ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</li> <li>➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts will be refined as per the guidance provided during the EIA phase of the Project and the outcomes and information will be included in the draft EIA Report that will be submitted for public review and comment.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is noted that activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 has been applied for. Please ensure that the generic EMPr that include the management of impacts and outcomes due to the proposed development of the power line ad substation are submitted with the final report.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The generic EMPr for the substation will be submitted with the final report.</li> <li>• The OHPL connecting this PVSEF will follow a BA process apart from this S&amp;EIA and the generic EMPr will be submitted as part of the BA application process.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPRs must be completed, and a copy of an originally signed EMPRs must be submitted with the final EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form and EIAR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements for the completion of the generic EMPr will be adhered to and the applicant's details aligned with the application form and EIAR.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EMPr for the facility must comply with the requirements of Appendix 4 in the EIA Regulation, as amended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements of Appendix 4 in the EIA Regulation, as amended, will be followed during the compilation of the EMPr for the PVSEF.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Public Participation Process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are required to attach copies of newspaper adverts, images of site notices and provide proof of notification letters in the final SR. You only provided this department contents of site notices, adverts and notification letters as contained in Appendix C of the draft BAR.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the newspaper advertisement in the NoordKaaapBulletin 16 March 2023 is included in APPENDIX C.</li> <li>A document has been compiled with the photographs of the six site notices together with the respective site co-ordinates and this record is included in APPENDIX C.</li> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Areas Section), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comments and response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Comments and Responses Report services as the separate document in support of the FSR and contains all comments and the responses thereto for the proposed development.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please refrain from summarizing comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP’s comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All comments from I&amp;APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment(DFFE): Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); DFFE: Protected Areas; Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), National Energy regulator of South Africa (NERSA), The South Africa Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR), Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAEARD&amp;LR), Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokone (NBKB), Emthanjeni Local Municipality (ELM), Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality (PKSDM), and etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent. The listed authorities were included in these communications, and it is confirmed that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>General</b>            You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:  <i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p>The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with APPENDIX 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.</p>

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	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Date:21/04/2023</p>	<p>The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
<p>21 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisations</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOYUZ 4 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA</b></p> <p>The application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated 17 March 2022 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final SR:</p>	

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	<p><b>Listed activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is thus on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the relevant listed activities based on the assessment of the scope of the proposed development in comparison to GNR 327 - Listing Notice 1, GNR 325 - Listing Notice 2 and GNR 324 - Listing Notice 3 (as applicable to the Northern Cape) and the guidance provided in the Pre-Application Meeting held 28 February 2023 are included in Section 4.3 of the FSR and are linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b><u>Alternatives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of Appendix 1 (3) (1) (h) (i) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) and (x) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, you are required to provide details of all the alternatives considered and if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such as well as concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity must be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 8 of the FSR described the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location within the site. Based on the available information the following feasible and reasonable alternatives as described in the FSR for the Project have been identified and, in conjunction with reference to various specialist opinions have considered that the following alternatives are comparatively assessed during the S&amp;EIA Process of the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Alternative</li> <li>Activity Alternative</li> <li>Design or Layout Alternative</li> <li>Technology Alternatives</li> <li>Operational Alternative</li> <li>The “No-Go” consideration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Layout and sensitivity map</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the layout and environmental sensitivity map must be submitted with the final SR and all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalization of these maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout and environmental sensitivity map is included in Section 9 of the FSR and all available biodiversity information at the end of the scoping phase has been used in the configuration of the developable footprint for the PVSEF.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map must indicate the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The powerline corridor,</li> <li>All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed),</li> <li>Permanent laydown area footprint,</li> <li>Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint,</li> <li>Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map depicts the developable footprint. All supporting onsite infrastructure, permanent laydown area footprint, substation and transformers will be sited within this area. Further details will be included during the EIA phase of the Project.</li> <li>The OHPL connecting this PVSEF will follow a Basic Assessment (BA) process apart from this S&amp;EIA and therefore the powerline corridor and connection routes are not shown at this stage.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental sensitivity map must indicate the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected,</li> <li>Buffer areas; and</li> <li>All “no-go” areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout and environmental sensitivity map is included in Section 9 of the FSR and the sensitive environmental features are indicated in the maps included in this section of the report. All buffer and “no-go” areas as prescribed by the respective specialists are clearly demarcated and the proposed development footprint falls outside of these areas.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are advised to indicate the location of sensitive area and the buffer zone from the edge of sensitive areas (not as one shaded area).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The locations of sensitive areas / features are indicated, and the buffer zones are shaded in the respective maps.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout map must have a clear legend with information communicating with that on the map, be overlain with the sensitivity map which shows neighboring existing and proposed facilities, if any.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps depicting the layout and the site sensitivities include a clear legend. The map is shown on a 1:25000 scale and all existing and proposed facilities are indicated thereon.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Specialist Assessments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is acknowledged that the screening tool report has been included in the draft SR, however, there is no compiler signature. You are advised to sign the screening tool report and include it in the FSR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Screening Tool Report has been signed by the Specialist that compiled the report. The signed version will be submitted with the FSR.</li> </ul>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Cumulative Impact Assessment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are advised to ensure the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</li> <li>➤ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</li> <li>➤ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</li> <li>➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts will be refined as per the guidance provided during the EIA phase of the Project and the outcomes and information will be included in the draft EIA Report that will be submitted for public review and comment.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is noted that activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 has been applied for. Please ensure that the generic EMPr that include the management of impacts and outcomes due to the proposed development of the power line ad substation are submitted with the final report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The generic EMPr for the substation will be submitted with the final report.</li> <li>• The OHPL connecting this PVSEF will follow a BA process apart from this S&amp;EIA and the generic EMPr will be submitted as part of the BA application process.</li> </ul>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPRs must be completed, and a copy of an originally signed EMPRs must be submitted with the final EIAr. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form and EIAr.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements for the completion of the generic EMPr will be adhered to and the applicant’s details aligned with the application form and EIAr.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EMPr for the facility must comply with the requirements of Appendix 4 in the EIA Regulation, as amended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements of Appendix 4 in the EIA Regulation, as amended, will be followed during the compilation of the EMPr for the PVSEF.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Public Participation Process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are required to attach copies of newspaper adverts, images of site notices and provide proof of notification letters in the final SR. You only provided this department contents of site notices, adverts and notification letters as contained in Appendix C of the draft BAR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the newspaper advertisement in the NoordKaaapBulletin 16 March 2023 is included in APPENDIX C.</li> <li>A document has been compiled with the photographs of the six site notices together with the respective site co-ordinates and this record is included in APPENDIX C.</li> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state (including this Department’s Biodiversity and Protected Areas Section), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.</li> <li>An email was sent to Mr. Seoka Lekota (BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za) on 25 April 2023 notifying the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of the environmental authorisation application process for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Proof of this email is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> </ul>



**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comments and response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Comments and Responses Report serves as the separate document in support of the FSR and contains all comments and the responses thereto for the proposed development.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refrain from summarizing comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP’s comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All comments from I&amp;APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.</li> </ul>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment(DFFE): Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); DFFE: Protected Areas; Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), National Energy regulator of South Africa (NERSA), The South Africa Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR), Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAEARD&amp;LR), Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokone (NBKB), Emthanjani Local Municipality (ELM), Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality (PKSDM), and etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent. The listed authorities were included in these communications, and it is confirmed that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.
	Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).	Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours faithfully                      Mr Sabelo Malaza                      Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations                      Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment                      Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu                      Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation                      Date:21/04/2023</p>	The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
<p>24 April 2023 Email Emthanjeni Local Municipality Municipal Manager (Themsile Msengana)</p>	<p>Good day Colleague,  Trust that you are well.  Kindly note that from 03 April 2023 I will no longer be with Emthanjeni LM. Please direct your e-mails as follows:  For the Municipal Manager: Mr. Humphrey M Joka (Acting Municipal Manager) E-mail: mjoka@emthanjeni.co.za Contact Number: 053 632 9100 / 073 105 4631  For Senior Manager Corporate Services: Mrs Shereave Felix (Acting Senior Manager Corporate Services) E-mail: shereavef@emthanjeni.co.za Contact number: 084 295 6356  Regards and keep well.  TW Msengana</p>	<p align="right">24 April 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b> The I&amp;AP database has been updated to include Mr. Humphrey M Joka (Acting Municipal Manager) in place of Mr Themsile Msengana.  Mrs Shereave Felix was included as an I&amp;AP prior to the scoping phase public consultation and was invited to submit comments and inputs during the PPP held 20 March to 21 April 2023.</p>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
<p>21 April 2023 Email Sirius Power (David Nunez)</p>	<p>Dear Wendy,</p> <p>Can you please include me as an interested and affected party to the 6 solar projects in the cluster mentioned above?</p> <p>Name: David Nunez Company: Sirius Power Email: David.nunez@siriuspower.co.za</p> <p>Thanks and regards, David</p>	<p align="right">24 April 2023</p> <p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>Good Day David,</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the development of the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Kindly provide your mobile contact number and nature of your interest in the project for registration as an I&amp;AP in the environmental authorisation processes. The documentation made available to the public can be accessed via <a href="https://terramanzi.egnyte.com/fl/Eujj33H3DU">https://terramanzi.egnyte.com/fl/Eujj33H3DU</a>.</p> <p>The scoping phase public consultation period for the proposed development concluded 21 April 2023. We will however provide an opportunity for you to participate in the EIA phase public participation process when the environmental authorisation processes.</p> <p>Warm regards Wendy Mey</p>
<p>24 April 2023 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries &amp; the Environment Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Masina Morudu)</p>	<p>Dear Wendy,</p> <p>Attached please find comments on draft Scoping Reports for Soyuz Solar Energy Facilities (1,2,5 and 6) for your attention.</p> <p>Regards, MASINA MORUDU</p>	

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
24 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu National Integrated Authorisations	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOYUZ 1 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2023 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report:</p>	
	<p><b><u>Specific comments</u></b></p> <p>1. It is noted that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones.</p>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>1. It is confirmed that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones.</p>
	<p>2. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.</p>	<p>2. The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</p>
	<p><b><u>Specialist Assessments</u></b></p> <p>3. The screening tool submitted as Appendix 11 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.</p>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>3. The Screening Tool Report has been signed by the Specialist that compiled the report. The signed version will be submitted with the FSR.</p>
	<p>4. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).</p>	<p>4. Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species) are used to inform the planning and execution of the pertinent specialist studies.</p>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	5. Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department’s Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. A sample of the table of specialist studies is listed in Annexure 1 of this letter.	5. Section 7.1 of the FSR includes a table summarising the specialist studies required by the Department’s Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted.
	6. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (administered/ witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.	6. Signed copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (administered/ witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted are included in APPENDIX F of the FSR.
	7. The Heritage Impact Assessment (and any amendments thereof) must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).	7. The Heritage Impact Assessment was submitted to the SAHRA for comments, via SAHRIS, 20 April 2023. Case numbers for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster are 21130 and 21132 - 21136 .
	8. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.	8. None of the specialists specified contradicting recommendations in their scoping phase assessment reports.
	<b>Public Participation Process</b> 9. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	<b>EAP</b> 9. Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.
	10. Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. The contact details are as follows: i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za	10. An email was sent to Mr. Seoka Lekota ( <a href="mailto:BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za">BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</a> ) on 25 April 2023 notifying the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of the environmental authorisation application process for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Proof of this email is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	11. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.	11. All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.
	12. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final SR.	12. A list of the letters with comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity is provided at the end of this report and copies thereof are available in APPENDIX C.
	13. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	13. A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.
	14. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	14. All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR and included in this Comments and Responses Report.
	15. The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	15. This Comments and Responses Report serves as the separate document in support of the FSR and this table format is aligned with that indicated in Annexure 1 of the comments letter.
	16. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	16. Comments from each submission are recorded chronologically in this table and are responded to individually.



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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	17. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comment.	17. All comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.
	18. Please submit photo evidence of on-site notices, and their coordinates in degrees, minutes, and seconds.	A document has been compiled with the photographs of the six site notices together with the respective site co-ordinates and this record is included in APPENDIX C.
	19. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	A copy of the newspaper advertisement in the NoordKaaapBulletin 16 March 2023 is included in APPENDIX C.
	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>
	You are are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.
	Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).	Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Date:24/04/2023</p>	<p>The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
<p>24 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu National Integrated Authorisations</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOYUZ 2 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2023 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report:</p>	
	<p><b><u>Specific comments</u></b></p> <p>1. It is noted that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones.</p>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <p>1. It is confirmed that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones.</p>
	<p>2. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.</p>	<p>2. The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</p>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Specialist Assessments</u></b> 3. The screening tool submitted as Appendix 11 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.</p>	<p><b>EAP</b> 3. The Screening Tool Report has been signed by the Specialist that compiled the report. The signed version will be submitted with the FSR.</p>
	<p>4. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).</p>	<p>4. Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species) are used to inform the planning and execution of the pertinent specialist studies.</p>
	<p>5. Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department’s Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. A sample of the table of specialist studies is listed in Annexure 1 of this letter.</p>	<p>5. Section 7.1 of the FSR includes a table summarising the specialist studies required by the Department’s Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted.</p>
	<p>6. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (administered/ witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted.</p>	<p>6. Signed copies of the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (administered/ witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths) for each specialist study conducted are included in APPENDIX F of the FSR.</p>
	<p>7. The Heritage Impact Assessment (and any amendments thereof) must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).</p>	<p>7. The Heritage Impact Assessment was submitted to the SAHRA for comments, via SAHRIS, 20 April 2023. Case numbers for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster are 21130 and 21132 - 21136 .</p>
	<p>8. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>	<p>8. None of the specialists specified contradicting recommendations in their scoping phase assessment reports.</p>

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Public Participation Process</u></b>                      9. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p><b>EAP</b>                      9. Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.</p>
	<p>10. Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. The contact details are as follows:                      i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate                      Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota                      Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</p>	<p>10. An email was sent to Mr. Seoka Lekota (<a href="mailto:BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za">BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za</a>) on 25 April 2023 notifying the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of the environmental authorisation application process for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Proof of this email is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</p>
	<p>11. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.</p>	<p>11. All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.</p>
	<p>12. Copies of original comments received from I&amp;APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final SR.</p>	<p>12. A list of the letters with comments received from I&amp;APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity is provided at the end of this report and copies thereof are available in APPENDIX C.</p>
	<p>13. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>	<p>13. A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</p>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	14. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	14. All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR and included in this Comments and Responses Report.
	15. The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	15. This Comments and Responses Report serves as the separate document in support of the FSR and this table format is aligned with that indicated in Annexure 1 of the comments letter.
	16. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	16. Comments from each submission are recorded chronologically in this table and are responded to individually.
	17. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comment.	17. All comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.
	18. Please submit photo evidence of on-site notices, and their coordinates in degrees, minutes, and seconds.	A document has been compiled with the photographs of the six site notices together with the respective site co-ordinates and this record is included in APPENDIX C.
	19. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	A copy of the newspaper advertisement in the NoordKaaapBulletin 16 March 2023 is included in APPENDIX C.

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	<p><b>General</b>            You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:  <i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p><b>EAP</b>            The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.</p>

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DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Date:24/04/2023</p>	<p>The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
<p>24 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu National Integrated Authorisations</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 150 MW SOYUZ 5 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated 17 March 2023 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report:</p>	

**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE FROM EAP/ APPLICANT/ SPECIALIST
	<p><b><u>Specific comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the relevant listed activities based on the assessment of the scope of the proposed development in comparison to GNR 327 - Listing Notice 1, GNR 325 - Listing Notice 2 and GNR 324 - Listing Notice 3 (as applicable to the Northern Cape) and the guidance provided in the Pre-Application Meeting held 28 February 2023 are included in Section 4.3 of the FSR and are linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been noted that according to figure 9 (consolidated sensitive map) of the DSR there is an area that the proposed project should not be developed on. Can you please provide a consolidated map with other cluster PV facilities that show that this area will not be affected and possibly the buffers proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consolidated sensitivity map has been updated in the FSR and is shown on a 1:25000 scale with all existing and proposed facilities indicated thereon.</li> </ul>



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	<p><b><u>Specialist Assessments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. <b>Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., “the Protocols”), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e., protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species) are used to inform the planning and execution of the pertinent specialist studies.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Public Participation Process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.</li> <li>A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> <li>Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comments and response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP’s comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Comments and Responses Report serves as the separate document in support of the FSR and contains all comments and the responses thereto for the proposed development.</li> <li>All comments from I&amp;APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent. The listed authorities were included in these communications, and it is confirmed that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> <li>An email was sent to Mr. Seoka Lekota (BCAdmin@dfffe.gov.za) on 25 April 2023 notifying the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of the environmental authorisation application process for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Proof of this email is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b><u>Alternatives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including the following content:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) details of all the alternatives considered;</li> <li>(b) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;</li> <li>(c) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;</li> <li>(d) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</li> <li>(e) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts—</li> <li>(f) (aa) can be reversed;</li> <li>(g) (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 8 of the FSR describes the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location within the site.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Based on the available information the following feasible and reasonable alternatives as described in the FSR for the Project have been identified and, in conjunction with reference to various specialist opinions have considered that the following alternatives are comparatively assessed during the S&amp;EIA Process of the Project:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Alternative</li> <li>• Activity Alternative</li> <li>• Design or Layout Alternative</li> <li>• Technology Alternatives</li> <li>• Operational Alternative</li> <li>• The “No-Go” consideration</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) Section 13 of the FSR details the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations. Copies of the supporting documents are available in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> <li>(c) The issues raised by I&amp;APs during the scoping phase PPP have not presented alternatives in addition to the opportunities and constraints identified by the respective specialists.</li> <li>(d) Section 7 of the FSR details the environmental attributes of the site.</li> <li>(e) A preliminary impact assessment for the proposed development footprint in comparison to the no-go alternative is recorded in Section 11 of the FSR.</li> <li>(f) , (g) and (h) Section 9 of the FSR describes the opportunities and constraints process adopted for the identification of the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>(h) (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated;</p> <p>(i) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;</p> <p>(j) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</p> <p>(k) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;</p> <p>(l) the outcome of the site selection matrix;</p> <p>(m) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and</p> <p>(n) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.</li> </ul>	<p>developable areas that ensures up front that the preferred layout does not encroach on environmentally sensitive areas. This minimizes the potential negative impacts that may be incurred by the development and addresses (aa), (bb) and (cc).</p> <p>(i) Section 10 of the FSR describes the methodology adopted in the assessment of potential impacts during the scoping phase.</p> <p>(j) Section 7 of the FSR describes the positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects.</p> <p>(k) Section 11 of the FSR proposes preliminary mitigation measures that could be applied alongside the level of risk.</p> <p>(l) The opportunities and constraints identified by the various specialist studies are consolidated to produce a map for the Technical Team to design the PVSEF layout. This is described in Section 9 of the FSR and provides the outcome of the site selection process.</p> <p>(m) Alternatives have been considered.</p> <p>(n) Section 17 of the FSR provides a concluding statement for the scoping phase of the proposed development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable and feasible alternatives have been investigated.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>General</b>            You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:  <i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p><b>EAP</b>            The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.</p>

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	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Date:24/04/2023</p>	<p>The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
<p>24 April 2023 Letter DFFE Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu National Integrated Authorisations</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 150 MW SOYUZ 6 SOLAR PV PARK AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR BRITSTOWN, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</b></p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated 17 March 2023 and received by the Department on 20 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report:</p>	

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	<p><b><u>Specific comments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the relevant listed activities based on the assessment of the scope of the proposed development in comparison to GNR 327 - Listing Notice 1, GNR 325 - Listing Notice 2 and GNR 324 - Listing Notice 3 (as applicable to the Northern Cape) and the guidance provided in the Pre-Application Meeting held 28 February 2023 are included in Section 4.3 of the FSR and are linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities applied for in the application form received by DFFE 20 March 2023 are the same as those described Section 4.3 of the FSR.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been noted that according to figure 9 (consolidated sensitive map) of the DSR there is an area that the proposed project should not be developed on. Can you please provide a consolidated map with other cluster PV facilities that show that this area will not be affected and possibly the buffers proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consolidated sensitivity map has been updated in the FSR and is shown on a 1:25000 scale with all existing and proposed facilities indicated thereon.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b><u>Public Participation Process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state as applicable to the scoping phase are addressed in the FSR.</li> <li>A pdf file of the email correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> <li>Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended were followed for the PPP that was conducted for the Scoping Phase.</li> </ul>



**221101 – Comments & Responses Report – Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6 – SEIA – April 2023**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comments and response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP’s comments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Comments and Responses Report serves as the separate document in support of the FSR and contains all comments and the responses thereto for the proposed development.</li> <li>All comments from I&amp;APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly in this Comments and Responses Report.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pdf file with the emails sent to the Commenting Authorities, Landowners and Adjacent Landowners and Conservation Groups as per the I&amp;AP Database compiled prior to the PPP is available in APPENDIX C as evidence of the notification letters sent. The listed authorities were included in these communications, and it is confirmed that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</li> <li>An email was sent to Mr. Seoka Lekota (BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za) on 25 April 2023 notifying the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of the environmental authorisation application process for the Soyuz Solar PV Park Cluster 1-6. Proof of this email is included in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b><u>Alternatives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including the following content:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(o) details of all the alternatives considered;</li> <li>(p) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;</li> <li>(q) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;</li> <li>(r) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</li> <li>(s) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts—</li> <li>(t) (aa) can be reversed;</li> <li>(u) (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 8 of the FSR describes the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location within the site.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Based on the available information the following feasible and reasonable alternatives as described in the FSR for the Project have been identified and, in conjunction with reference to various specialist opinions have considered that the following alternatives are comparatively assessed during the S&amp;EIA Process of the Project:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Alternative</li> <li>• Activity Alternative</li> <li>• Design or Layout Alternative</li> <li>• Technology Alternatives</li> <li>• Operational Alternative</li> <li>• The “No-Go” consideration</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) Section 13 of the FSR details the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations. Copies of the supporting documents are available in APPENDIX C of the FSR.</li> <li>(c) The issues raised by I&amp;APs during the scoping phase PPP have not presented alternatives in addition to the opportunities and constraints identified by the respective specialists.</li> <li>(d) Section 7 of the FSR details the environmental attributes of the site.</li> <li>(e) A preliminary impact assessment for the proposed development footprint in comparison to the no-go alternative is recorded in Section 11 of the FSR.</li> <li>(f) , (g) and (h) Section 9 of the FSR describes the opportunities and constraints process adopted for the identification of the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>(v) (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated;</p> <p>(w) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;</p> <p>(x) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;</p> <p>(y) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;</p> <p>(z) the outcome of the site selection matrix;</p> <p>(aa) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and</p> <p>(bb) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.</li> </ul>	<p>developable areas that ensures up front that the preferred layout does not encroach on environmentally sensitive areas. This minimizes the potential negative impacts that may be incurred by the development and addresses (aa), (bb) and (cc).</p> <p>(o) Section 10 of the FSR describes the methodology adopted in the assessment of potential impacts during the scoping phase.</p> <p>(p) Section 7 of the FSR describes the positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects.</p> <p>(q) Section 11 of the FSR proposes preliminary mitigation measures that could be applied alongside the level of risk.</p> <p>(r) The opportunities and constraints identified by the various specialist studies are consolidated to produce a map for the Technical Team to design the PVSEF layout. This is described in Section 9 of the FSR and provides the outcome of the site selection process.</p> <p>(s) Alternatives have been considered.</p> <p>(t) Section 17 of the FSR provides a concluding statement for the scoping phase of the proposed development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable and feasible alternatives have been investigated.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>General</b>            You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:  <i>“If S&amp;EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</i></p>	<p><b>EAP</b>            The application is acknowledged as being received 20 March 2023 and the draft SR was made available for review and comment by I&amp;AP’s 20 March to 21 April 2023. I&amp;AP comments up till 24 April 2023 have been included in the Comments and Responses Report. The FSR will be submitted to the Competent Authority for decision before 30 April 2023.</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended have been followed in the compilation and finalisation of the FSR.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>Cognizance of the Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, is taken in the planning and execution of the Project programme for the application for environmental authorisation for the proposed PVSEF.</p>

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	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter signed by: Ms Masina Morudu Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Date:24/04/2023</p>	<p>The Applicant understands and adheres to the requirements as stipulated in Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>

## LIST OF LETTERS

The DFFE submitted their comments and issues in the form of a letter. The comments and responses are included in Table 5. Copies of these letters are included in Appendix C of the Final Scoping Report.

The list is as follows:

- 14-12-16-3-3-2-2335
- 14-12-16-3-3-2-2336
- 03 Comments on DSR\_Soyuz 1 SEF\_2333\_Signed
- 03 Comments on DSR\_Soyuz 2 SEF\_2334\_Signed
- 03 Comments on DSR\_Soyuz 5 SEF\_2337\_Signed
- 03 Comments on DSR\_Soyuz 6 SEF\_2338\_Signed