

**APPENDIX C5**  
**STAKEHOLDER CORRESPONDENCE**



06 January 2023

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED XHARIEP EXPORT PROGRAMME (XEP) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DESTEA Reference No.: EMS/1(ii),9(i)(ii),19,12(iv), 13, 15, 16/22/06)  
NEAS Reference No.: FSP/EIA/0000457/2022**

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

The Applicant, JN Venter Beleggings Trust, is proposing to develop the Xhariep Export Programme (XEP) Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure on a site located south-west of Luckhof in the Free State Province. The development will take place on a site of ~4276.32ha in extent across four (4) interlinked properties within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality.

The proposed agricultural development will entail the following:

- » Development of centre pivot areas (cultivation and irrigation) which is planned to take approximately 2690ha or more within the project site.
- » Two irrigation water storage dams, with a combined surface area of 82ha in extent.
- » Establishment of an internal irrigation pipeline network from the irrigation dams to the centre pivot areas.
- » A new pump station taking a total surface area of 549m<sup>2</sup>.
- » A 5MW solar PV facility occupying an area of 10ha.
- » A Battery Energy Storage System covering a surface area of 0.36ha.

The development area will affect the following properties:

- » Farm Diepdraai 754
- » Farm Weltevreden 755
- » Farm Lemoen-spruit 667
- » Portion 1 of the Farm Grootpoort 168

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

The public participation (PP) process is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is made available to I&APs for review;
- » I&AP (Interested and Affected Party) participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the project;
- » adequate review period is provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the BA Report; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the BA process.

Savannah Environmental have established an online stakeholder engagement platform, where you are invited to register your interest in the project, and view project documentation. Please visit our website (link provided above). You are also welcomed to complete the registration and comment form attached to this letter and submit it to the public participation team.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities or access to internet, alternative means for consultation and to facilitate comment on the projects will be made through the Ward Councillor and/or Ward Committee Members. I&APs are also able to make contact via the "Please call me" functionality available on our public participation mobile phone (060 978 8396).

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:**

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) is available for review and comment from **Friday, 06 January 2023 to Monday, 06 February 2023**. The report is available for download from the Savannah Environmental website (<https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/other/agricultural-development-and-associated-infrastructure/>). The due date for written comment is **Monday, 06 February 2023**.

Please submit your written comments on the EIA Report via one of the following means:

- E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)
- Post: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157xxx
- Fax: 086 684 0547
- Telephone: 011 656 3237
- Mobile: 060 978 8396 (including "please call me")

All comments should be addressed to Bregardia Rabbie at Savannah Environmental.

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report for submission to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GNR 326).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards



**Bregardia Rabbie**

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PP contact number: 060 978 839



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+27 (0)86 684 0547



[info@savannahsa.com](mailto:info@savannahsa.com)



[www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com)

Proof of Email will be included in  
the Final EIA Report

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL WEBSITE

# Agricultural Development and Associated Infrastructure

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF XHARIEP EXPORT PROGRAMME (XEP) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE

**Applicant:** JN Venter Beleggings Trust

**Proposed Activity:** The development of Xhariep Export Programme (XEP) Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure that is approximately 4690ha in extent and will consist of the following:

- Development of center pivot areas (cultivation and irrigation) which is planned to take approximately 2690ha within the project site.
- Two irrigation water storage dams, with a combined surface area of 82ha in extent.
- Establishment of an internal irrigation pipeline network from the irrigation dams to the centre pivot areas.
- A new pump station taking a total surface area of 549m<sup>2</sup>.
- A 5MW solar PV facility occupying an area of 10ha.
- A Battery Energy Storage System covering a surface area of 0.36ha.

**Project Location:** On Portion 3 of the Farm Diepdraai 754, Farm Weltevreden 755, Portion 1 of Farm Grootpoorte 168 and Farm Lemoen-Spruit 667 within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality in Free State Province.

**Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:** In terms of Sections 24 & 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with Government Notice R324 – R327, as amended, a S&EIA process is required for each renewable energy facility

and the grid connection infrastructure. Savannah Environmental is undertaking the required S&EIA and public participation processes for these projects.

***EIA Report Available for Review & Comment.*** The EIA Report is available for review and comment and can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website: <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/other/>. The 30-day review and comment period of the EIA Report is from **Friday, 06 January 2023** to **Monday, 06 February 2022**.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to:

**Bregardia Rabbie of Savannah Environmental**

P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

Website: [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com)

Documents for public review are available for download.

Please click on the "Register Interest" button to obtain the Registration Code to access the project's documents under the "View Download Page."

**REGISTER INTEREST**

**VIEW DOWNLOAD PAGE**

## Contact Savannah Environmental

If you would like further details, please do not hesitate to contact any member of our Environmental team at +27 (0)11 656 3237 / +27 (0)11 656 3256

[Email Us](#)

[Contact us](#)



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SAHRIS UPLOAD

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# **SCOPING PHASE**

## Nicolene Venter

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**From:** Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 June 2022 10:50  
**To:** Mthetheleli Maphinda  
**Cc:** Nicolene Venter  
**Subject:** SE3381: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN  
**Attachments:** SE3381-Agric\_Develo\_BID\_D1.pdf; SE3381-Agric\_Develo\_BID\_Afr\_D1.pdf; SE3381\_JN\_Venter\_Development\_Comment\_Form.pdf

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN  
FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DFFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

JN Venter Beleggings Trust proposes a development of an agricultural development and associated infrastructure on a site located Southwest of Luckhoff and Koffiefontein in the Free State Province

The development will take place on a site of approximately 2690ha in extent across 10 interlinked properties within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality.

In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with Government Notice R324 – R327, as amended, a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process is required for the proposed Agricultural development.

Savannah Environmental is undertaking the required S&EIA, and public participation processes for this Project

Additional technical information regarding the proposed agricultural development is available in the Background Information Document attached to this e-mail.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



**Nicolene Venter**  
Public Process

t: 011 656 3237  
f: 086 684 0547

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com  
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN  
FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DFFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)**

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Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Kind regards,  
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# SE3381: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN (POE)

Date: Friday,  
03 June 2022  
Time: 10:51

Company	Last Name	First Name	
	Eco Karoo Lodge		
	Jacobs	Christian	
	Joseph	Letsoetsa	
	Keswa	Morakane	
	Moalosi	Lerato	
	Ndoyisile	Fubu	
	Sehanka	Motseoa	
Agri Free State	Van Niekerk	Waldo	
AgriSA	Rabie	Janse	
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	M	Petunia	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Lekota	Seoka	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Marubini	Mashudu	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mahlatji	Khomotso	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Maphinda	Mthetheleli	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Makgalemele	Nozizwe	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Lenong	Pule	
Dept of Environment, Small Business Dev, Tourism & Environmental Affairs	Koen	N	
Dept of Environment, Small Business Dev, Tourism & Environmental Affairs	Nokwequ	M	
DESTEA	Mkosana	Grace	
Free State - DWS	Ntili	Tseliso	
Free State - DWS	Ratau	Sputnik	
Free State - Heritage Resources Authority (FSHRA)	Nel	Jeane	
Free State Agriculture	Armour	Jack	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Barnes	W	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Mokitlane	M.C	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Mokoena	Thato	
Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Mokone	Thabita	
Free State Department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Envir	Mkhosana	Grace	
Free State Department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Envir	Sello	M	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Booyse	Ms C	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Maree	Hannes	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Naude	W.A	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Naude	Willie	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Van Wyk	J.W	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Mbatha	Ntando	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Mbatha	Ntando	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Philip	L	
Letsemeng Local Municipality	Letse		
Letsemeng Local Municipality	Luckoff		
Venter Boerdery Trust	Muller	Karlien	

Venter Boerdery Trust	Venter	Nico	
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Totals:

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MEI  
2022



OMGEWINGSIMPAKASSESSERING EN OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSESSE

ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N LANDBOU-ONTWIKKELING EN VERWANTE  
INFRASTRUKTUUR, SUIDWES VAN LUCKHOFF EN KOFFIEFONTEIN

VRYSTAATPROVINSIE

JN Venter Beleggings Trust stel 'n landbou-ontwikkeling en verwante infrastruktuur voor op 'n terrein suidwes van Luckhoff en Koffiefontein in die Vrystaatprovinsie. Die ontwikkeling sal plaasvind op 'n projekgebied met 'n omvang van omtrent 2690ha, wat strek oor 10 aaneengeskakelde eiendomme binne die Letsemeng- plaaslike munisipaliteit van die Xhariep-distriksmunisipaliteit.

Die applikant stel die verbouing van gewasse (koring, mielies, soja en grondboontjies) voor, en die potensiaal vir landbou-ontwikkeling (gewasverbouing) in die gebied kan gesien word, aangesien verskeie kommersiële landbou-ontwikkelings reeds op die naburige eiendomme bedryf word. Die grond en klimaat is geskik vir gewasverbouing, en daar word verwag dat die opbrengs en gehalte van die gewasse geskik sal wees vir uitvoer en vir binnelandse verspreiding.

'n Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) van die Vrystaatse Departement van Kleinsake-ontwikkeling, Toerisme en Omgewingsake (DESTEA) in ooreenstemming met die vereistes van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) en die Omgewingsimpakassessering- (OIA) regulasies (GNR 326), 2014, soos gewysig, word vereis as deel van hierdie proses.

#### DOEL VAN HIERDIE INLIGTINGSDOKUMENT

Hierdie dokument is saamgestel om jou, as Belanghebbende en Geraakte Party (B&GP), te voorsien van:

- » 'n Oorsig van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling wat deel uitmaak van die Vrystaat-ontwikkeling, en die verwante netwerkverbindingsooplossings.
- » 'n Oorsig van die Omvangbepaling- en Omgewingsimpakassessering (OIA)-prosesse vir die sonkrag-PV-fasiliteite, verwante infrastrukture en spesialisstudies wat onderneem word om die voorgestelde ontwikkeling te assesseer.
- » 'n Oorsig van die Watergebruik-lisensie-aansoekproses.
- » Besonderhede van hoe jy betrokke kan raak by die O&OIA-prosesse, inligting kan bekom, kommentare kan lewer oor bekommernisse en/of waarin jy belangstel.

#### OORSIG VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEKTE

'n Ontwikkelbare gebied (2690ha) is oorweeg in hierdie Omvangbepalingverslag met die doel om vas te stel wat die volhoubaarheid is vanuit 'n omgewings- en sosiale perspektief en om gebiede te identifiseer wat vermy moet word gedurende die ontwikkelingsbeplanning. Binne hierdie geïdentifiseerde ontwikkelingsgebied sal 'n ontwikkelingsvoetspoor of ontwikkelingsuitleg bepaal word wat gedurende die OIA-fase geassesseer sal word. Die voorgestelde terrein is groter as wat deur die voorgestelde ontwikkeling gebruik sal word vir die optimale plasing van infrastruktuur wat sal verseker dat belangrike geïdentifiseerde omgewingsensitiwiteite en -beperkings wat deur hierdie Omvangbepaling- en OIA-prosesse geïdentifiseer word, vermy sal word.

Die potensiaal vir landbou-ontwikkeling (gewasverbouing) kan gesien word, aangesien verskeie kommersiële landbou-ontwikkelings reeds op die naburige eiendomme bedryf word. Die grond en klimaat is geskik vir gewasverbouing en daar word verwag dat die opbrengs en gehalte van die gewasse geskik sal wees vir uitvoer en vir binnelandse verspreiding.

#### KOMPONENTE VAN DIE JN VENTER BELEGGINGS-LANDBOU-ONTWIKKELING

Daar word voorgestel dat die projekgebied landbou-ontwikkeling (verbouing) sal huisves, asook die meeste van die verwante infrastruktuur wat nodig is vir so 'n ontwikkeling, en dit sal insluit:

1. Gewasverbouing (insluitend spilpuntbesproeiingstelsel);
2. Twee ondergrondse 315mm-PVC-veselglaspype met 'n deursnee van 1.4m op 'n 5.3km lange pyplynroete; die besproeiingpyplynnetwerk sal die water van die damme na die verskillende spilpuntgebiede vir besproeiing neem;
3. Twee wateropgaardamme met 'n kapasiteit van 2 miljoen kubieke meter elk; 'n nuwe pompstasie;
4. 'n 9ha-sonkrag PV met alternatiewe en 'n 5MW- oorhoofse kragdraad van 6.9km lank;
5. 'n Battery-energie-bergingstelsel wat 'n gebied van 0.36ha beslaan.



## OMGEWINGSIMPAKASSESSERINGPROSES

In ooreenstemming met die OIA-regulasies, 2017 (soos gewysig) en gepubliseer ingevolge Afdeling 24(5) van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (107 van 1998) (NEMA), benodig die applikant Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) deur die Vrystaatse Departement van Ekonomiese, Kleinsake-ontwikkeling, Toerisme en Omgewingsake (DESTEA). Ingevolge Afdeling 24(5) van NEMA, die OIA-regulasies 2017 (soos gewysig) en Lyskennisgewings (GNR 327, GNR 325 en GNR 324).

'n OIA is doeltreffende beplanning- en besluitneminginstrumente. Daardeur kan potensiële omgewingsgevolge geïdentifiseer word wat kan voortspruit uit 'n voorgestelde aktiwiteit, en dit kan dan op 'n gepaste wyse bestuur word gedurende die konstruksie-, bedryf- en buitediensstellingfases van die ontwikkeling. Dit bied ook geleentheid dat die projekapplikant bewus gemaak word van potensiële omgewingskwessies en laat toe dat kwessie(s) wat as deel van die OIA-prosesse geïdentifiseer en gerapporteer word, opgelos kan word, en dit gee geleentheid vir dialoog met sleutelbelanghebbendes en Belanghebbende en Geraakte Partye (B&GP's).

Savannah Environmental is aangestel as die onafhanklike omgewingskonsultant wat verantwoordelik is vir die bestuur van die aansoek vir OM en om die ondersteunende OIA-prosesse te onderneem wat vereis word om potensiële omgewingsimpakte te identifiseer en te assesser wat met die projekte wat hierbo uiteengesit is, verband hou, en hulle moet gepaste mitigerings- en bestuursmaatreëls voorstel wat binne die Omgewingsbestuursprogramme (OBP's) vervat moet word.

## WAT IS DIE POTENSIËLE OMGEWINGSIMPAKTE WAT MET DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEKTE VERBAND HOU?

Die ontwikkelingsgebied sal geassesseer word deur onafhanklike omgewingspesialiste om die potensiaal vir omgewingsimpakte te identifiseer. Spesialisstudies wat voorgestel word as deel van die OIA-prosesse sluit die volgende in:

- » Biodiversiteit-impakassessering – sluit in ekologie, fauna en flora, en assesser die potensiële impak en die verwante versteuring van plantegroei op die biodiversiteit van die gebied (insluitend kritieke biodiversiteitsgebiede en wyeskaal-prosesse).
- » Erfenis-impakassessering (argeologie en paleontologie) – wat argeologie en paleontologie insluit en wat die potensiaal assesser vir die versteuring of vernietiging van erfenisgebiede en fossiele tydens die konstruksiefase deur uitgrawings en ploegaktiwiteite.
- » Sosiale impakassessering – wat die positiewe en negatiewe sosiale impakte assesser wat verband hou met die konstruksie en bedryf van die JN Venter Beleggings Trust-landbou-ontwikkeling.

Terreinspesifieke studies sal onderneem word om die potensiële impak van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling te assesser, sensitiewe gebiede binne die geraakte plaasgedeeltes uit te beeld, impakte te assesser wat met die projek verband hou en om aanbevelings te maak oor vermyding, bestuur en mitigerings van impakte. Studies sal ingelig wees deur beskikbare inligting en gedetailleerde veldondersoek wat onderneem sal word ooreenkomstig die relevante riglyne en protokolle. Wanneer die beperkende omgewingsfaktore eers bepaal is, kan die voorgestelde ontwikkeling vasgestel word en in die OIA-verslag voorgelê word.

## OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES

Die deel van inligting vorm die grondslag van die openbare deelnameproses en bied B&GP's die geleentheid om aktief betrokke te raak by die OIA-prosesse. Kommentare en insette van die B&GP's word aangemoedig om te verseker dat potensiële impakte regdeur die OIA-prosesse in ag geneem word. Die doel van die openbare deelnameproses is om te verseker dat:

- » Inligting wat alle relevante feite bevat ten opsigte van die aansoek beskikbaar gemaak word vir B&GP's vir hersiening en insette.
- » B&GP-deelname op so 'n wyse gefasiliteer word dat hulle voorsien word van 'n redelike geleentheid om kommentaar te lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte.
- » Genoegsame hersieningstydperke voorsien word sodat B&GP's kommentaar kan lewer oor bevindings van die Omvangbepaling- en OIA-verslae.

Om doeltreffende deelname te verseker, sluit die openbare deelnameprosesse die volgende in:

- » Die identifisering van B&GP's, insluitend geraakte en naburige grondeienaars en grondbewoners en relevante Staatsorgane, en die vaslegging van besonderhede op 'n databasis.
- » In kennisstelling van B&GP's van die aanvang van die OIA-prosesse in die plaaslike gedrukte media en die verspreiding van hierdie Agtergrondinligtingdokument (AID) aan geregistreerde B&GP's.
- » Die voorsiening van toegang aan geregistreerde partye tot 'n aanlynplatform vir belanghebbende-deelname, wat projekinligting en belanghebbende-insette sentraliseer in 'n enkele digitale/multi-media- (WhatsApp) platform.
- » Die voorsiening van 'n geleentheid aan B&GP's om betrokke te raak by die projekspan.
- » Die plasing van terreinkennisgewings by die geraakte projek se ontwikkelingseiendom.
- » Plasing van 'n advertensie in 'n plaaslike koerant en dat 'n plaaslike radiostasie die beskikbaarheid van die verslag se hersienings- en kommentaartydperk aankondig.
- » Stel B&GP's in kennis van die vrystelling van die Verslae vir hersiening en kommentaar, sowel as teen watter datums skriftelike kommentaar ingedien moet wees, en nooi hulle om die openbare vergaderinge by te woon wat gehou gaan word.
- » Virtuele vergaderings met sleutelbelanghebbendes sal gehou word.
- » Bied geleentheid om betrokke te raak by die projekspan deur die gepaste virtuele platform (MS Teams / Zoom, ens.), multi-media (d.w.s., SMS / WhatsApp) (om die risiko's ten opsigte van COVID-19 te verminder) of telefonies.



## JOU VERANTWOORDELIKHEDE AS 'N B&GP

Ingevolge die OIA-regulasies, 2017, (soos gewysig) en die DFFE se Riglyne vir Openbare Deelname, 2017, word jou aandag gevestig op jou verantwoordelikhede as 'n B&GP:

- » Om aan die OIA-prosesse deel te neem, moet jy jou registreer op die B&GP-databasis deur die Registrasie- en kommentaarvorm in te vul wat by die AID ingesluit is.
- » Jy moet enige direkte sake-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belange openbaar maak wat jy moontlik het in die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoek.
- » Jy moet seker maak dat enige kommentare ten opsigte van die voorgestelde projekte binne die gestipuleerde tydramwerke ingedien word.

## HOE OM BETROKKE TE RAAK

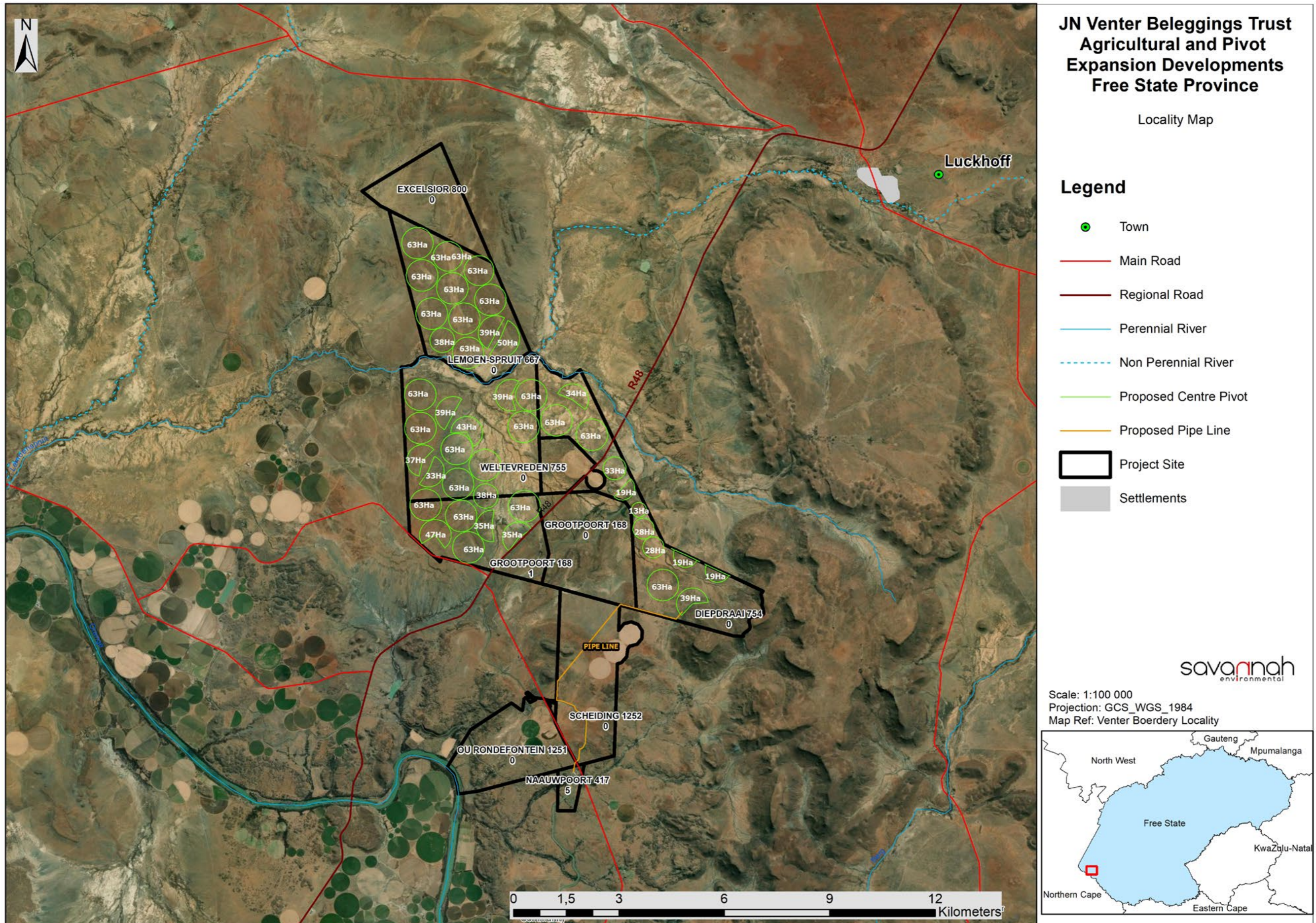
- » Deur telefonies, per faks of per e-pos te antwoord op die uitnodiging vir jou betrokkenheid.
- » Deur die antwoordvorm terug te besorg aan die relevante kontakpersoon.
- » Deur betrokke te raak by die projekspan gedurende die OIA-prosesse.
- » Deur die omgewingskonsultant te kontak oor tegniese kwessies of kommentare.
- » Deur die verslae te hersien en kommentaar te lewer binne die gestipuleerde tydperke vir hersiening en kommentaar.

Indien jy jousef as 'n B&GP vir die voorgestelde projekte beskou, spoor ons jou aan om gebruik te maak van die geleentheid wat geskep word deur die openbare deelnameproses deur kommentaar te lewer, kwessies en bekommernisse te opper wat jou raak en/of waarin jy belangstel, of om nog inligting te vra. Jou insette maak 'n sleutelement van die OIA-prosesse uit.

Deur die meegaande antwoordvorm te voltooi en in te dien, registreer jy jou outomaties as 'n B&GP vir die voorgestelde projekte, en verseker jy dat jou kommentaar, bekommernisse of navrae ten opsigte van die projek in aanmerking geneem sal word. Let asseblief wel dat alle kommentaar wat ontvang word, ingesluit sal word by die projekdokumentasie, en dit kan persoonlike inligting insluit.



Figure 1: Liggingskaart





## KOMMENTAAR EN NAVRAE

Rig alle kommentaar, navrae of antwoorde aan:

*Nondumiso Bulunga*  
*Savannah Environmental (Edms.) Bpk.*  
Posadres: Posbus 148, Sunninghill, Johannesburg, 2157  
Tel.: 011 656 3237  
Selfoon: 060 978 8396 (insluitend "please call me")  
Faks: 086 684 0547  
E-pos: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

Besoek [www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com) om die aanlyn skakelingsplatform vir belanghebbers te besoek en om die projek se dokumentasie te besigtig.

Kopiereg: Savannah Environmental (Edms.) Bpk.



MAY  
2022



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED  
INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN

FREE STATE PROVINCE

JN Venter Beleggings Trust proposes agricultural development and associated infrastructure on a site located Southwest of Luckhoff and Koffiefontein in the Free State Province. The development will take place on a project area of approximately 2690ha in extent across 10 interlinked properties within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality.

The applicant proposes to cultivate crops (wheat, maize, soya and peanuts) and potential for agricultural development (crop cultivation) in the area is apparent as several commercial agricultural developments are already occupying the neighbouring properties. The soil and climate are suited to crops cultivation, and it is anticipated that the crops yield, and quality will be fit for export and domestic distribution.

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR 326), 2014, as amended is required as part of this process.

#### **AIM OF THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with:

- » An overview of the proposed development which form part of the Free State development, and their associated grid connection solutions.
- » An overview of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes for the solar PV facilities, associated infrastructures, and specialist studies being undertaken to assess the proposed development
- » An overview of the Water Use Licence Application process.
- » Details of how you can become involved in the S&EIA processes, receive information, raise comments that may concern and/or interest you.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS**

A developable area(2690ha) has been considered within this Scoping Report with the aim of determining the suitability from an environmental and social perspective and identifying areas that should be avoided in development planning. Within this identified development area, a development footprint or development layout will be defined for assessment in the EIA Phase. The proposed site size is larger than what will be used by the proposed development, and this gives optimal placement of infrastructure, ensuring avoidance of major identified environmental sensitivities or constraints identified through this Scoping and EIA process.

The potential for agricultural development (crop cultivation) is apparent as several commercial agricultural developments are already occupying the neighbouring properties. The soil and climate are suited to crops cultivation, and it is anticipated that the crops yield, and quality will be fit for export and domestic distribution.

#### **COMPONENTS OF THE JN VENTER BELEGGINGS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The project area is proposed to accommodate agricultural development (cultivation), as well as most of the associated infrastructure, which is required for such development, and this will include:

1. Crop cultivation (including center pivot irrigation system);
2. Two Underground 315mm PVC fiberglass pipes with 1.4m diameter on 5.3Km pipeline route Irrigation pipeline network to take water from the dams to the various centre pivot areas for irrigation;
3. Two water storage dams with capacity of 2 million cubic meters each; A new pump stations;
4. A 9ha solar PV with alternatives and a 5MW overhead power line of 6.9km in length;
5. A Battery Energy Storage System covering surface area of 0.36ha.





## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2017 (as amended) published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the applicant requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Free State Department of Economic, Small Enterprise, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA). In terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA, the EIA Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Listing Notices (GNR 327, GNR 325, and GNR 324).

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tools. It allows for potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of development. It also provides an opportunity for the project applicant to be forewarned of potential environmental issues and allows for the resolution of issue(s) identified and reported on as part of the EIA processes, as well as provides opportunity for dialogue with key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant responsible for managing the application for EA and undertaking the supporting EIA processes required to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the projects detailed above, as well as propose appropriate mitigation and management measures to be contained within the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs).

## WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECTS?

The development area will be assessed by independent environmental specialists to identify the potential for environmental impacts. Specialist studies that are proposed as part of the EIA processes include the following:

- » Biodiversity Impact Assessment – includes ecology, fauna and flora and assesses the potential impact and the associated disturbance of vegetation on the biodiversity of the area (including critical biodiversity areas and broad-scale processes).
- » Heritage Impact Assessment (Archaeology and Palaeontology) – which includes archaeology and palaeontology and assesses the potential of disturbance to or destruction of heritage sites and fossils during the construction phase through excavation and ploughing activities.
- » Social Impact Assessment – which assesses the positive and negative social impacts associated with the construction and operation of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development.

Site-specific studies will be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed development, to delineate areas of sensitivity within the affected farm portions, assess impacts associated with the projects and make recommendations regarding avoidance, management, and mitigation of impacts. Studies will be informed by available information and detailed field investigations undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines and protocols. Once the constraining environmental factors have been determined, the layouts for the proposed development can be determined and presented in the EIA reporting.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers I&APs the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA processes. Comments and inputs from I&APs are encouraged to ensure that potential impacts are considered throughout the EIA processes. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application are made available to I&APs for review and inputs.
- » I&AP participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.
- » Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the Scoping and the EIA Reports.

In order to ensure effective participation, the public participation processes include the following:

- » Identifying I&APs, including affected and adjacent landowners and occupiers of land, and relevant Organs of State, and recording details within a database.
- » Notifying I&APs of the commencement of the EIA processes in the local printed media and distributing this Background Information Document (BID) to registered I&APs.
- » Providing access to registered parties to an online stakeholder engagement platform, which centralises project information and stakeholder input in a single digital / multi-media (WhatsApp) platform.
- » Providing an opportunity for I&APs to engage with the project team.
- » Placing site notices at the affected project development properties.
- » Placing an advertisement in a local newspaper and using a local radio station announcing the availability of the reports' review and comment period.
- » Notifying I&APs of the release of the Reports for review and comment, by which dates written comments must be received and inviting them to attend the public meetings to be held.
- » Virtual meetings with key stakeholders to be held.
- » Providing an opportunity to engage with the project team via appropriate virtual platform (MS Teams / Zoom, etc), multi-media (i.e., SMS / WhatsApp) (to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19) or telephone.



## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2017, as amended,) and the DFFE Public Participation Guidelines, 2017, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- » To participate in the EIA processes, you must register yourself on the I&AP database by completing the Registration and Comment Form included in the BID.
- » You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest that you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- » You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed projects are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.

## HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

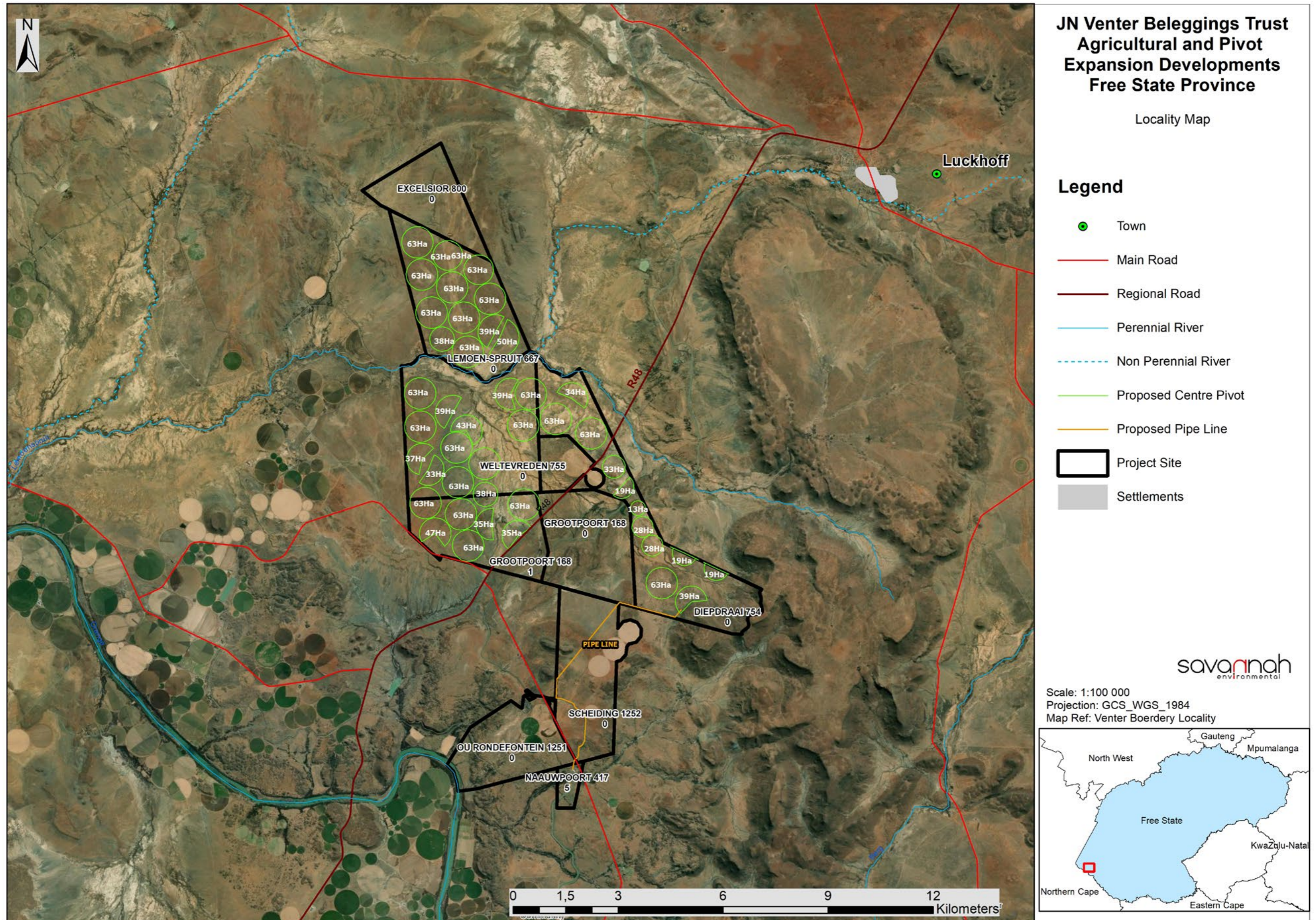
- » By responding by phone, fax, or e-mail to the invitation for your involvement.
- » By returning the reply form to the relevant contact person.
- » By engaging with the project team during the EIA processes.
- » By contacting the environmental consultant with technical queries or comments.
- » By reviewing and commenting on the reports within the stipulated review and comment periods.

If you consider yourself and I&AP for the proposed projects, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment, raise issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or request further information. Your input forms a key element of the EIA processes.

By completing and submitting the accompanying reply form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for the proposed projects, and are ensured that your comments, concerns, or queries raised regarding the projects will be noted. Please note that all comments received will be included in the project documentation, and this may include personal information.



Figure 1: Locality map





## COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

**Nondumiso Bulunga** at  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile number: 060 978 8396 (including "please call me")

Fax: 086 684 0547

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

To view project documentation, visit

[www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/](http://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/)



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**Registration & Comment Form**

June 2022

Return completed registration and comment form to: **Nondumiso Bulunga** of **Savannah Environmental**

**Phone:** 011 656 3237 / **Mobile (incl. 'please call me'):** 060 978 8396 / **Fax:** 086 684 0547

**E-mail:** publicprocess@savannahsa.com **Postal Address:** PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

**Your registration as an interested and/or affected party will be applicable for this project only and your contact details provided are protected by the POPI Act of 2013**

**Please provide your complete contact details:**

Name & Surname:		
Organisation:		
Designation:		
Postal Address:		
Telephone:		Fax:
Mobile:		
E-mail:		

**In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the projects and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):**

**Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary):**

**Please provide contact details of any other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:**

Name & Surname:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
E-mail:	