Praxos Ref: 220707A_Ndau & Nyala S&EIA

12 September 2023

Dear Landowner,

RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO NDAU SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY 1 & 2, LOCATED WITHIN THE POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

This serves as a formal notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for comments. Kindly note that this is a re-submission of the same Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the same proposed development which was initially lodged on 21 July 2023.

Project Description and Location:

Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd, has been appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd on behalf of ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd and ABO Ndau Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd (referred to as the Applicants). The purpose is to undertake an application for EA, subject to a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the Proposed Development of the ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 and 2. Each facility requires separate applications for EA and is therefore undergoing separate S&EIR processes. Both facilities are located within the Polokwane Local Municipality and Capricorn District Municipality in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) serves as the Competent Authority (CA) for these applications. The details of the Applicants and each facility is tabulated below.

Name of Applicants:	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd
Company Registration No.:	2023/594016/07	2023/594100/07
Project Name:	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Affected Properties:	- portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 - Remaining Extent of Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).	- Portion 5 (Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Portion 7 (a portion of portion 4) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 (access road only). - Portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only). - Remaining Extent of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).
Total Development Footprint:	~ 128 ha	~ 94 ha
Generation Capacity of Facilities:	120 MW	80 MW

The solar energy facilities will comprise of the following:

- Solar Field/Solar Arrays [Note that the mounting structures will be either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking or double-axis tracking PV. Module types would be either mono-facial or bi-facial (details to be confirmed during detailed design stage).
- Main access roads.
- Internal service roads.
- Internal electrical reticulation (i.e., low and medium voltage lines) to be placed underground where feasible.
- An on-site substation hub and associated infrastructure (such as substation, transformation infrastructure, collector infrastructure, step-up infrastructure, Battery Energy Storage Facility etc.) including auxiliary buildings (such as operation

& maintenance buildings, admin buildings, workshops, gatehouse, security building, offices, visitor centre, warehouses, etc.).
- Perimeter fencing.

A temporary laydown area would be established during the construction period but would be within the development footprint i.e., within the fenced area allocated for development. The laydown area would move as required while construction is underway.

No bulk service infrastructure is proposed and any required pipelines to connect to the municipal network will be located within roadway.

Application for grid connection will be made through a separate process and assessed accordingly. An on-site grid connection to integrate into the national network via a 132 kV or 275 kV line is under consideration.

Alternatives under consideration:

	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 1	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 2
Alternatives	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will also be assessed as technology alternatives.	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will be assessed as technology alternatives. - Two alternative positions for the on-site substation hub and adjoining auxiliary buildings are under consideration.

Need and Desirability:

Solar energy facilities contribute to energy diversification and enhance energy security. By expanding the renewable energy mix, South Africa reduces its dependence on imported fuels and mitigates the risks associated with fluctuating global energy prices. It provides a clean and renewable source of energy, helping to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and decreasing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. This supports national and global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

The following factors contribute further to the desirability of the site's location:

- **Solar resource**: The solar resource in the area is high. Solar GIS data shows that the site has GHI (Global Horizontal Irradiation) values of between 2197 and 2216 kWh/m2 making it very suitable for PV.
- **Road network**: The site is accessible via district roads which are of sufficient standard to allow for easy access. These district roads connect to the N1 which is approximately 6 km from the site by road.
- **Size and land-use**: The farm/property is of a suitable size to provide a viable solar PV/BESS facility, while ensuring that environmental sensitivities present on the property are not compromised. The location of the site within a rural area is preferable to an urban area where dense development would shade the proposed facility, and where there would be several neighbours in close proximity that could be impacted. The proposed land-use is considerate appropriate, given that the developable area of the site was selected based on it not being used for (or able to be used) for viable agricultural production, nor does it hold environmental conservation value (in terms of conservation planning and specialist assessment).
- **Landowner Consent**: The landowner/s have provided consent for the proposed development.
- **Topography and Existing power transmission infrastructure:** the topography and slope of the site lends itself to development of a PV facility. Two 132 kV lines runs past the site and there is an Eskom substation located in close proximity to the site (some 2km) which provides good opportunity to the national electricity grid.

Investing in solar energy infrastructure creates job opportunities and stimulates economic growth. The development, installation, and maintenance of solar PV facilities generate employment across various skill levels, contributing to job creation and local economic empowerment. The proposed projects are envisaged to create the following employment opportunities during the construction and operational phases:

Employment Opportunities	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Construction	Approximately 150 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.	Approximately 100 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.
Operational	Approximately eight operational staff opportunities are expected. Skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 70 % low skilled, 25 % semi-skilled and 5 % skilled.	

Legislative Requirements:
The S&EIR process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the following legislation:

- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The specific Listed Activities corresponding to each facility are provided in the table below.

FACILITIES	LISTING NOTICE 1 (GNR 983)	LISTING NOTICE 2 (GNR 984)	LISTING NOTICE 3 (GNR 985)
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.

Specialist Studies:
The following Specialist Studies will be conducted as part of the S&EIR Process:

- Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment.
- Aquatic Assessment and Wetland Delineation.
- Avifauna Impact Assessment.
- BESS Risk Assessment.
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
- Geohydrological Impact Assessment.
- Geotechnical Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (including glint and glare).
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.
- Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (including plant and animal species).
- Traffic Impact Assessment.

Public Involvement:
All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to participate by registering written comments on the abovementioned project to Praxos. Comments should include your name, contact information, and a clear indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interests you hold in relation to the project. You may submit your comments via post, fax, or email to the Public Participation Office, the contact details of which are provided below.

Praxos Public Participation Office
Attention: Richard Myburgh
Email: publicparticipation@praxos373.co.za
Tel: (031) 700 2500
Fax: 086 414 3312
Post: 31 Saint Margaret Street, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, 1611

Public Review of the DSR:

The Public is afforded a 30 (thirty) day period from **Wednesday, 13 September to Monday, 16 October 2023** (inclusive) to register and/or comment on the DSR for the above-mentioned project. The report has been made available at the following location:

Place	Address	Telephone
Polokwane City Library	71 Hans Van Rensburg Street & Corner Jorissen Street, Polokwane, 0700.	Granny Manaka 015 290 2155
Mogalakwena Public Library	Corner of Van Riebeeck Street & Ruiter Road	Refilwe Madisha 015 491 9729
The DSR is also available on: • https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ivtm41ci5fuwm7h/AAAD4H0pdt3zeq0EIhZy7jKha?dl=0 • A CD copy is available upon request. Please contact the Public Participation Office.		

Praxos will distribute further information and correspondence regarding the project to all registered I&APs and will offer further opportunities for comments during the S&EIR process. Notifications to registered I&APs for comments on the Draft EIR's will be conducted at a later stage.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards
For and on behalf of Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd

Richard Myburgh
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

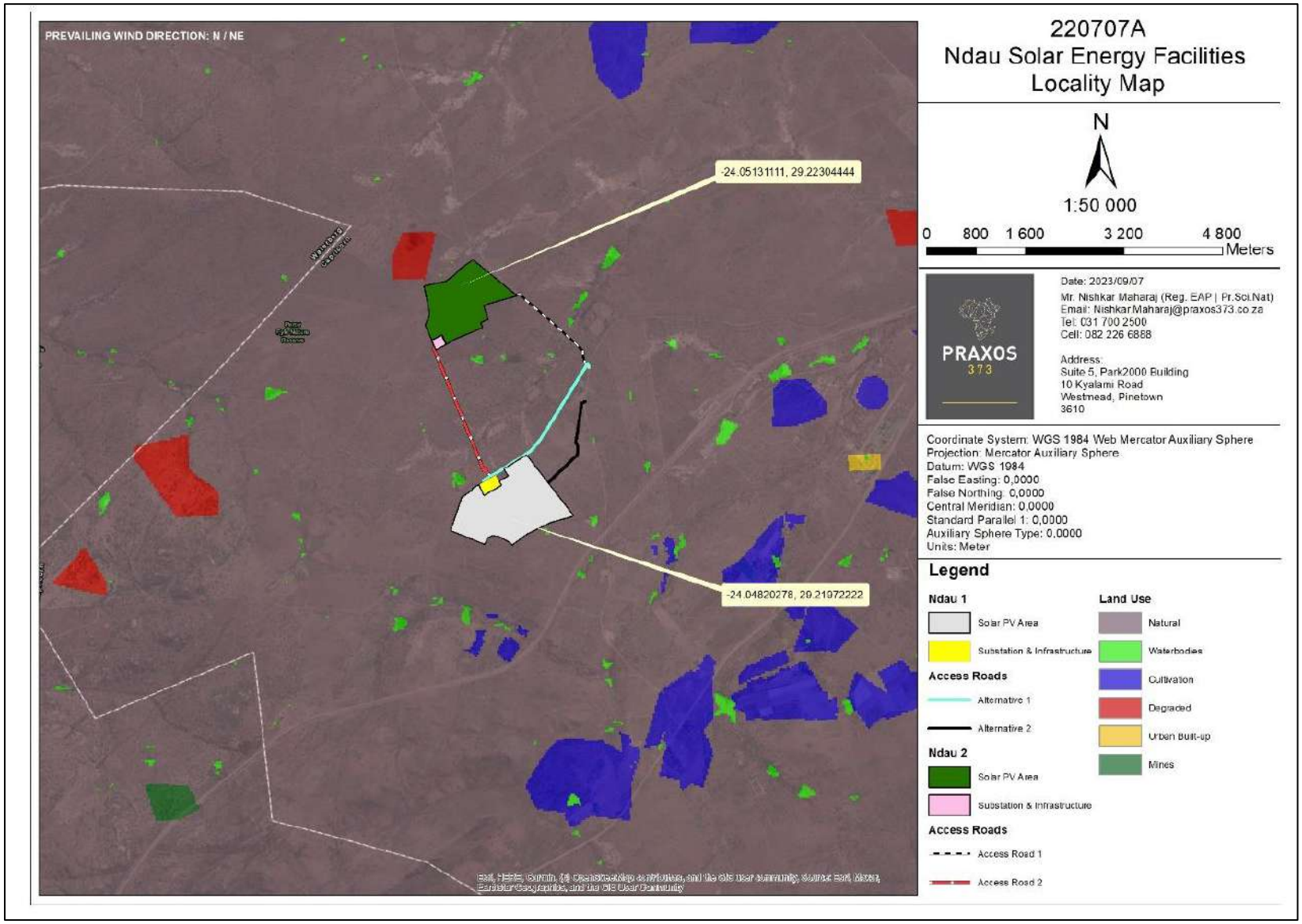

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development area

Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting Process Explained

Step 1: Completion of the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (EA)

Step 1 of the S&EIR process constitutes the compilation of the application form for EA. The application form will be submitted to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) for their consideration. Once the Department accepts the application, the S&EIR process may commence.

Step 2: Compilation of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)

During Step 2 of the process, a site visit will take place and the DSR will be prepared. The purpose of the DSR will be to provide detailed information relating to the proposed activities to be undertaken on site, the context within which the development is to take place, aerial extent of the development activities, timeframes, detailed motivation as to why it is important for the development to take place etc. The DSR will also outline the Plan of Study (PoS) for the detailed impact assessment to be undertaken during the EIR phase of the project should the Competent Authority (CA) (the DFFE) accept the Scoping Report and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Specialist Studies.

Deliverables associated with a DSR will include the following:

- DSR (completed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014).
- GIS scan and maps – the maps will indicate the facility illustrations, location and aerial extent of the proposed development in relation to surrounding environmental conditions.
- Potential impacts and mitigation measures to be assessed during the EIR phase.
- PoS for the EIR phase including Specialist Studies and detailed impact assessment.

Step 3: Public Participation – DSR

Upon completion of the DSR, the document will be made available to the general public for their review and inputs for a period of 30 days. The project will be announced to the public via newspaper adverts, site notice placements and letters to I&APs indicating the means by which they could access the document (hard copies will be made available at various public venues as well as electronically via a drop box link). The notifications will also explain how to provide comments on the project.

All inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the DSR will be captured and responded to as part of the Comments and Response Report (CRR) that will be submitted to the DFFE as part of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).

Step 4: Compilation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) & Specialist Studies

Step 4 involves the compilation of the Draft EIR and undertaking of the required Specialist Studies. The Draft EIR includes a detailed EIA that will be informed by the findings of the various Specialist Studies. The impact assessment and Specialist Studies will determine and assess the potential impacts associated with the project and alternatives.

The findings of the detailed impact assessment and associated Specialist Studies will also inform the compilation of the EMPr. The EMPr will remain a 'Draft' until Environmental Authorisation (EA) is granted for the project due to the fact that the Department may have additional mitigation measures that they want to have included in the EMPr as part of the conditions of the EA (if approved).

Step 5: Public Participation – Draft EIR and EMPr

Once the Draft EIR has been completed constituting all the core information, the document will then be made available for public review over a period of 30 days. All registered I&APs will then be notified of the availability of the Draft EIR as well as where and how they can access the document and provide their comments and inputs. If it is deemed necessary, Praxos will undertake a public meeting during the public review period for the Draft EIR, where the findings of the detailed impact assessment and Specialist Studies will be presented and explained to the public.

The minutes of the public meeting held (if applicable) as well as all inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the Draft EIR will be captured and responded to as part of the CRR.

Step 6: Compilation of the Final EIR, EMPr and CRR

Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period, the Final EIR will be prepared along with the CRR. The Final EIR will

capture the key concerns / interests raised by I&APs during the public review period, as well as all the measures taken to undertake the public participation process effectively and meaningfully. The Final EIR will furthermore include the proof of all incoming and outgoing correspondence with I&APs together with the CRR.

The Final EIR and EMPr, as well as the associated CRR will then be submitted to the CA for their review and decision making. Following the Department's review of the Final EIR, they will communicate in writing whether they have granted of refused the application for EA.

Step 7: Notification of decision on the application

Once the Department informs the applicant of the decision relating to the project (whether they grant or refuse authorisation), Praxos will notify all registered I&APs of the decision within 14 days. The notification letter will include the details of the appeals procedure to be followed should anyone wish to lodge an appeal against the decision.

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION SHEET

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone number	
Physical address	
Postal address	
Fax number	
Email address	

Please state your interest (i.e., direct business, financial, personal or other interest) with respect to the approval or refusal of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

Please state any concerns, suggestions and/or potential impacts that should be considered during the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process and associated Application for Environmental Authorisation.

All comments must be submitted to Praxos by no later than Monday, 16 October 2023.

Praxos Public Participation Office:

Attention: Richard Myburgh

Email: **publicparticipation@praxos373.co.za**

Tel: **(011) 453 8727**

Fax: **086 414 3312**

Post: **31 Saint Margaret Street, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, 1611**

The Public Participation Office is open during office hours (08:00 – 17:00) from Monday to Friday, excluding Public Holidays.

Praxos Ref: 220707A_Ndau & Nyala S&EIA

12 September 2023

Dear Interested and Affected Party

RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO NDAU SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY 1 & 2, LOCATED WITHIN THE POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

This serves as a formal notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for comments. Kindly note that this is a re-submission of the same Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the same proposed development which was initially lodged on 21 July 2023.

Project Description and Location:

Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd, has been appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd on behalf of ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd and ABO Ndau Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd (referred to as the Applicants). The purpose is to undertake an application for EA, subject to a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the Proposed Development of the ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 and 2. Each facility requires separate applications for EA and is therefore undergoing separate S&EIR processes. Both facilities are located within the Polokwane Local Municipality and Capricorn District Municipality in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) serves as the Competent Authority (CA) for these applications. The details of the Applicants and each facility is tabulated below.

Name of Applicants:	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd
Company Registration No.:	2023/594016/07	2023/594100/07
Project Name:	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Affected Properties:	- portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 - Remaining Extent of Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).	- Portion 5 (Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Portion 7 (a portion of portion 4) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 (access road only). - Portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only). - Remaining Extent of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).
Total Development Footprint:	~ 128 ha	~ 94 ha
Generation Capacity of Facilities:	120 MW	80 MW

The solar energy facilities will comprise of the following:

- Solar Field/Solar Arrays [Note that the mounting structures will be either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking or double-axis tracking PV. Module types would be either mono-facial or bi-facial (details to be confirmed during detailed design stage).
- Main access roads.
- Internal service roads.
- Internal electrical reticulation (i.e., low and medium voltage lines) to be placed underground where feasible.
- An on-site substation hub and associated infrastructure (such as substation, transformation infrastructure, collector infrastructure, step-up infrastructure, Battery Energy Storage Facility etc.) including auxiliary buildings (such as operation

& maintenance buildings, admin buildings, workshops, gatehouse, security building, offices, visitor centre, warehouses, etc.).
- Perimeter fencing.

A temporary laydown area would be established during the construction period but would be within the development footprint i.e., within the fenced area allocated for development. The laydown area would move as required while construction is underway.

No bulk service infrastructure is proposed and any required pipelines to connect to the municipal network will be located within roadway.

Application for grid connection will be made through a separate process and assessed accordingly. An on-site grid connection to integrate into the national network via a 132 kV or 275 kV line is under consideration.

Alternatives under consideration:

	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 1	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 2
Alternatives	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will also be assessed as technology alternatives.	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will be assessed as technology alternatives. - Two alternative positions for the on-site substation hub and adjoining auxiliary buildings are under consideration.

Need and Desirability:

Solar energy facilities contribute to energy diversification and enhance energy security. By expanding the renewable energy mix, South Africa reduces its dependence on imported fuels and mitigates the risks associated with fluctuating global energy prices. It provides a clean and renewable source of energy, helping to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and decreasing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. This supports national and global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

The following factors contribute further to the desirability of the site's location:

- **Solar resource**: The solar resource in the area is high. Solar GIS data shows that the site has GHI (Global Horizontal Irradiation) values of between 2197 and 2216 kWh/m2 making it very suitable for PV.
- **Road network**: The site is accessible via district roads which are of sufficient standard to allow for easy access. These district roads connect to the N1 which is approximately 6 km from the site by road.
- **Size and land-use**: The farm/property is of a suitable size to provide a viable solar PV/BESS facility, while ensuring that environmental sensitivities present on the property are not compromised. The location of the site within a rural area is preferable to an urban area where dense development would shade the proposed facility, and where there would be several neighbours in close proximity that could be impacted. The proposed land-use is considerate appropriate, given that the developable area of the site was selected based on it not being used for (or able to be used) for viable agricultural production, nor does it hold environmental conservation value (in terms of conservation planning and specialist assessment).
- **Landowner Consent**: The landowner/s have provided consent for the proposed development.
- **Topography and Existing power transmission infrastructure:** the topography and slope of the site lends itself to development of a PV facility. Two 132 kV lines runs past the site and there is an Eskom substation located in close proximity to the site (some 2km) which provides good opportunity to the national electricity grid.

Investing in solar energy infrastructure creates job opportunities and stimulates economic growth. The development, installation, and maintenance of solar PV facilities generate employment across various skill levels, contributing to job creation and local economic empowerment. The proposed projects are envisaged to create the following employment opportunities during the construction and operational phases:

Employment Opportunities	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Construction	Approximately 150 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.	Approximately 100 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.
Operational	Approximately eight operational staff opportunities are expected. Skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 70 % low skilled, 25 % semi-skilled and 5 % skilled.	

Legislative Requirements:
The S&EIR process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the following legislation:

- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The specific Listed Activities corresponding to each facility are provided in the table below.

FACILITIES	LISTING NOTICE 1 (GNR 983)	LISTING NOTICE 2 (GNR 984)	LISTING NOTICE 3 (GNR 985)
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.

Specialist Studies:
The following Specialist Studies will be conducted as part of the S&EIR Process:

- Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment.
- Aquatic Assessment and Wetland Delineation.
- Avifauna Impact Assessment.
- BESS Risk Assessment.
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
- Geohydrological Impact Assessment.
- Geotechnical Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (including glint and glare).
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.
- Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (including plant and animal species).
- Traffic Impact Assessment.

Public Involvement:
All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to participate by registering written comments on the abovementioned project to Praxos. Comments should include your name, contact information, and a clear indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interests you hold in relation to the project. You may submit your comments via post, fax, or email to the Public Participation Office, the contact details of which are provided below.

Praxos Public Participation Office
Attention: Richard Myburgh
Email: publicparticipation@praxos373.co.za
Tel: (031) 700 2500
Fax: 086 414 3312
Post: 31 Saint Margaret Street, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, 1611

Public Review of the DSR:

The Public is afforded a 30 (thirty) day period from **Wednesday, 13 September to Monday, 16 October 2023** (inclusive) to register and/or comment on the DSR for the above-mentioned project. The report has been made available at the following location:

Place	Address	Telephone
Polokwane City Library	71 Hans Van Rensburg Street & Corner Jorissen Street, Polokwane, 0700.	Granny Manaka 015 290 2155
Mogalakwena Public Library	Corner of Van Riebeeck Street & Ruiter Road	Refilwe Madisha 015 491 9729
The DSR is also available on: • https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ivtm41ci5fuwm7h/AAAD4H0pdt3zeq0EIhZy7jKha?dl=0 • A CD copy is available upon request. Please contact the Public Participation Office.		

Praxos will distribute further information and correspondence regarding the project to all registered I&APs and will offer further opportunities for comments during the S&EIR process. Notifications to registered I&APs for comments on the Draft EIR's will be conducted at a later stage.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards
For and on behalf of Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd

Richard Myburgh
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

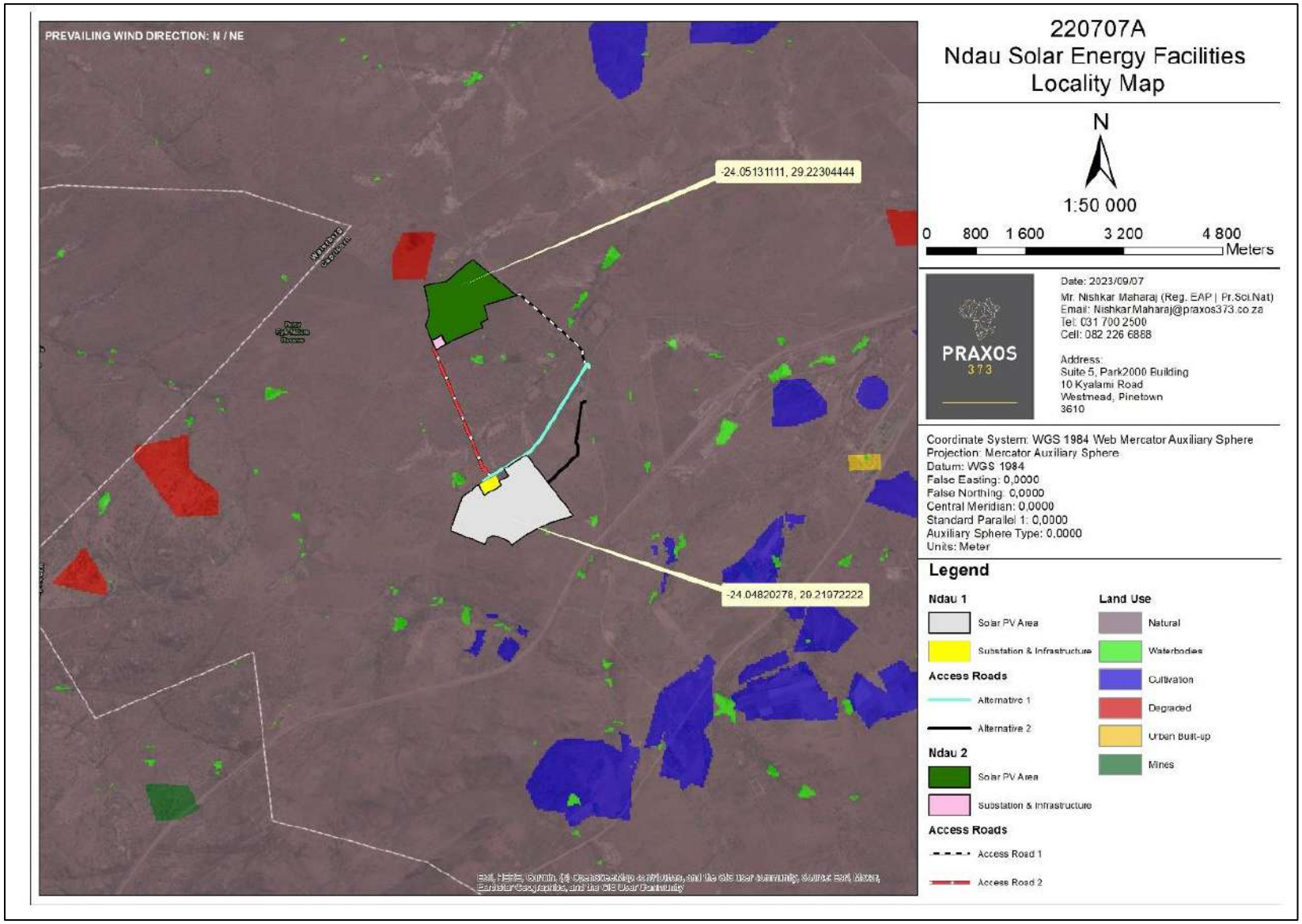

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development area

Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting Process Explained

Step 1: Completion of the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (EA)

Step 1 of the S&EIR process constitutes the compilation of the application form for EA. The application form will be submitted to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) for their consideration. Once the Department accepts the application, the S&EIR process may commence.

Step 2: Compilation of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)

During Step 2 of the process, a site visit will take place and the DSR will be prepared. The purpose of the DSR will be to provide detailed information relating to the proposed activities to be undertaken on site, the context within which the development is to take place, aerial extent of the development activities, timeframes, detailed motivation as to why it is important for the development to take place etc. The DSR will also outline the Plan of Study (PoS) for the detailed impact assessment to be undertaken during the EIR phase of the project should the Competent Authority (CA) (the DFFE) accept the Scoping Report and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Specialist Studies.

Deliverables associated with a DSR will include the following:

- DSR (completed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014).
- GIS scan and maps – the maps will indicate the facility illustrations, location and aerial extent of the proposed development in relation to surrounding environmental conditions.
- Potential impacts and mitigation measures to be assessed during the EIR phase.
- PoS for the EIR phase including Specialist Studies and detailed impact assessment.

Step 3: Public Participation – DSR

Upon completion of the DSR, the document will be made available to the general public for their review and inputs for a period of 30 days. The project will be announced to the public via newspaper adverts, site notice placements and letters to I&APs indicating the means by which they could access the document (hard copies will be made available at various public venues as well as electronically via a drop box link). The notifications will also explain how to provide comments on the project.

All inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the DSR will be captured and responded to as part of the Comments and Response Report (CRR) that will be submitted to the DFFE as part of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).

Step 4: Compilation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) & Specialist Studies

Step 4 involves the compilation of the Draft EIR and undertaking of the required Specialist Studies. The Draft EIR includes a detailed EIA that will be informed by the findings of the various Specialist Studies. The impact assessment and Specialist Studies will determine and assess the potential impacts associated with the project and alternatives.

The findings of the detailed impact assessment and associated Specialist Studies will also inform the compilation of the EMPr. The EMPr will remain a 'Draft' until Environmental Authorisation (EA) is granted for the project due to the fact that the Department may have additional mitigation measures that they want to have included in the EMPr as part of the conditions of the EA (if approved).

Step 5: Public Participation – Draft EIR and EMPr

Once the Draft EIR has been completed constituting all the core information, the document will then be made available for public review over a period of 30 days. All registered I&APs will then be notified of the availability of the Draft EIR as well as where and how they can access the document and provide their comments and inputs. If it is deemed necessary, Praxos will undertake a public meeting during the public review period for the Draft EIR, where the findings of the detailed impact assessment and Specialist Studies will be presented and explained to the public.

The minutes of the public meeting held (if applicable) as well as all inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the Draft EIR will be captured and responded to as part of the CRR.

Step 6: Compilation of the Final EIR, EMPr and CRR

Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period, the Final EIR will be prepared along with the CRR. The Final EIR will

capture the key concerns / interests raised by I&APs during the public review period, as well as all the measures taken to undertake the public participation process effectively and meaningfully. The Final EIR will furthermore include the proof of all incoming and outgoing correspondence with I&APs together with the CRR.

The Final EIR and EMPr, as well as the associated CRR will then be submitted to the CA for their review and decision making. Following the Department's review of the Final EIR, they will communicate in writing whether they have granted of refused the application for EA.

Step 7: Notification of decision on the application

Once the Department informs the applicant of the decision relating to the project (whether they grant or refuse authorisation), Praxos will notify all registered I&APs of the decision within 14 days. The notification letter will include the details of the appeals procedure to be followed should anyone wish to lodge an appeal against the decision.

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION SHEET

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone number	
Physical address	
Postal address	
Fax number	
Email address	

Please state your interest (i.e., direct business, financial, personal or other interest) with respect to the approval or refusal of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

Please state any concerns, suggestions and/or potential impacts that should be considered during the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process and associated Application for Environmental Authorisation.

All comments must be submitted to Praxos by no later than Monday, 16 October 2023.

Praxos Public Participation Office:

Attention: Richard Myburgh

Email: **publicparticipation@praxos373.co.za**

Tel: **(011) 453 8727**

Fax: **086 414 3312**

Post: **31 Saint Margaret Street, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, 1611**

The Public Participation Office is open during office hours (08:00 – 17:00) from Monday to Friday, excluding Public Holidays.

Praxos Ref: 220707A_Ndau & Nyala S&EIA

12 September 2023

Dear Departments, Municipalities and Wards

RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABO NDAU SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY 1 & 2, LOCATED WITHIN THE POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

This serves as a formal notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for comments. Kindly note that this is a re-submission of the same Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the same proposed development which was initially lodged on 21 July 2023.

Project Description and Location:

Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd, has been appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd on behalf of ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd and ABO Ndau Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd (referred to as the Applicants). The purpose is to undertake an application for EA, subject to a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the Proposed Development of the ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 and 2. Each facility requires separate applications for EA and is therefore undergoing separate S&EIR processes. Both facilities are located within the Polokwane Local Municipality and Capricorn District Municipality in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) serves as the Competent Authority (CA) for these applications. The details of the Applicants and each facility is tabulated below.

Name of Applicants:	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd	ABO Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd
Company Registration No.:	2023/594016/07	2023/594100/07
Project Name:	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Affected Properties:	- portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 - Remaining Extent of Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).	- Portion 5 (Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 - Portion 7 (a portion of portion 4) of the Farm Rotterdam No. 12 (access road only). - Portion 19 of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only). - Remaining Extent of the Farm Rietvley No. 13 (access road only).
Total Development Footprint:	~ 128 ha	~ 94 ha
Generation Capacity of Facilities:	120 MW	80 MW

The solar energy facilities will comprise of the following:

- Solar Field/Solar Arrays [Note that the mounting structures will be either fixed-tilt, single-axis tracking or double-axis tracking PV. Module types would be either mono-facial or bi-facial (details to be confirmed during detailed design stage).
- Main access roads.
- Internal service roads.
- Internal electrical reticulation (i.e., low and medium voltage lines) to be placed underground where feasible.
- An on-site substation hub and associated infrastructure (such as substation, transformation infrastructure, collector infrastructure, step-up infrastructure, Battery Energy Storage Facility etc.) including auxiliary buildings (such as operation

& maintenance buildings, admin buildings, workshops, gatehouse, security building, offices, visitor centre, warehouses, etc.).
- Perimeter fencing.

A temporary laydown area would be established during the construction period but would be within the development footprint i.e., within the fenced area allocated for development. The laydown area would move as required while construction is underway.

No bulk service infrastructure is proposed and any required pipelines to connect to the municipal network will be located within roadway.

Application for grid connection will be made through a separate process and assessed accordingly. An on-site grid connection to integrate into the national network via a 132 kV or 275 kV line is under consideration.

Alternatives under consideration:

	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 1	Nyala Solar Energy Facility 2
Alternatives	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will also be assessed as technology alternatives.	- Two battery technologies i.e., lithium-ion and redox flow will be assessed as technology alternatives. - Two alternative positions for the on-site substation hub and adjoining auxiliary buildings are under consideration.

Need and Desirability:

Solar energy facilities contribute to energy diversification and enhance energy security. By expanding the renewable energy mix, South Africa reduces its dependence on imported fuels and mitigates the risks associated with fluctuating global energy prices. It provides a clean and renewable source of energy, helping to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and decreasing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. This supports national and global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

The following factors contribute further to the desirability of the site's location:

- **Solar resource**: The solar resource in the area is high. Solar GIS data shows that the site has GHI (Global Horizontal Irradiation) values of between 2197 and 2216 kWh/m2 making it very suitable for PV.
- **Road network**: The site is accessible via district roads which are of sufficient standard to allow for easy access. These district roads connect to the N1 which is approximately 6 km from the site by road.
- **Size and land-use**: The farm/property is of a suitable size to provide a viable solar PV/BESS facility, while ensuring that environmental sensitivities present on the property are not compromised. The location of the site within a rural area is preferable to an urban area where dense development would shade the proposed facility, and where there would be several neighbours in close proximity that could be impacted. The proposed land-use is considerate appropriate, given that the developable area of the site was selected based on it not being used for (or able to be used) for viable agricultural production, nor does it hold environmental conservation value (in terms of conservation planning and specialist assessment).
- **Landowner Consent**: The landowner/s have provided consent for the proposed development.
- **Topography and Existing power transmission infrastructure:** the topography and slope of the site lends itself to development of a PV facility. Two 132 kV lines runs past the site and there is an Eskom substation located in close proximity to the site (some 2km) which provides good opportunity to the national electricity grid.

Investing in solar energy infrastructure creates job opportunities and stimulates economic growth. The development, installation, and maintenance of solar PV facilities generate employment across various skill levels, contributing to job creation and local economic empowerment. The proposed projects are envisaged to create the following employment opportunities during the construction and operational phases:

Employment Opportunities	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2
Construction	Approximately 150 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.	Approximately 100 construction staff expected at peak of construction skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 60% low-skilled, 25% semi-skilled and 15% skilled.
Operational	Approximately eight operational staff opportunities are expected. Skills split would be in line with applicable procurement requirements but would be roughly 70 % low skilled, 25 % semi-skilled and 5 % skilled.	

Legislative Requirements:
The S&EIR process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the following legislation:

- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The specific Listed Activities corresponding to each facility are provided in the table below.

FACILITIES	LISTING NOTICE 1 (GNR 983)	LISTING NOTICE 2 (GNR 984)	LISTING NOTICE 3 (GNR 985)
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 1	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.
Ndau Solar Energy Facility 2	11, 12, 19, 24, 28 and 56.	1 and 15.	3, 4, 14 and 18.

Specialist Studies:
The following Specialist Studies will be conducted as part of the S&EIR Process:

- Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment.
- Aquatic Assessment and Wetland Delineation.
- Avifauna Impact Assessment.
- BESS Risk Assessment.
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
- Geohydrological Impact Assessment.
- Geotechnical Assessment.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (including glint and glare).
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.
- Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (including plant and animal species).
- Traffic Impact Assessment.

Public Involvement:
All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to participate by registering written comments on the abovementioned project to Praxos. Comments should include your name, contact information, and a clear indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interests you hold in relation to the project. You may submit your comments via post, fax, or email to the Public Participation Office, the contact details of which are provided below.

Praxos Public Participation Office
Attention: Richard Myburgh
Email: publicparticipation@praxos373.co.za
Tel: (031) 700 2500
Fax: 086 414 3312
Post: 31 Saint Margaret Street, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, 1611

Public Review of the DSR:

The Public is afforded a 30 (thirty) day period from **Wednesday, 13 September to Monday, 16 October 2023** (inclusive) to register and/or comment on the DSR for the above-mentioned project. The report has been made available at the following location:

Place	Address	Telephone
Polokwane City Library	71 Hans Van Rensburg Street & Corner Jorissen Street, Polokwane, 0700.	Granny Manaka 015 290 2155
Mogalakwena Public Library	Corner of Van Riebeeck Street & Ruiter Road	Refilwe Madisha 015 491 9729
The DSR is also available on: • https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ivtm41ci5fuwm7h/AAAD4H0pdt3zeq0EIhZy7jKha?dl=0 • A CD copy is available upon request. Please contact the Public Participation Office.		

Praxos will distribute further information and correspondence regarding the project to all registered I&APs and will offer further opportunities for comments during the S&EIR process. Notifications to registered I&APs for comments on the Draft EIR's will be conducted at a later stage.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards
For and on behalf of Praxos 373 (Pty) Ltd

Richard Myburgh
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

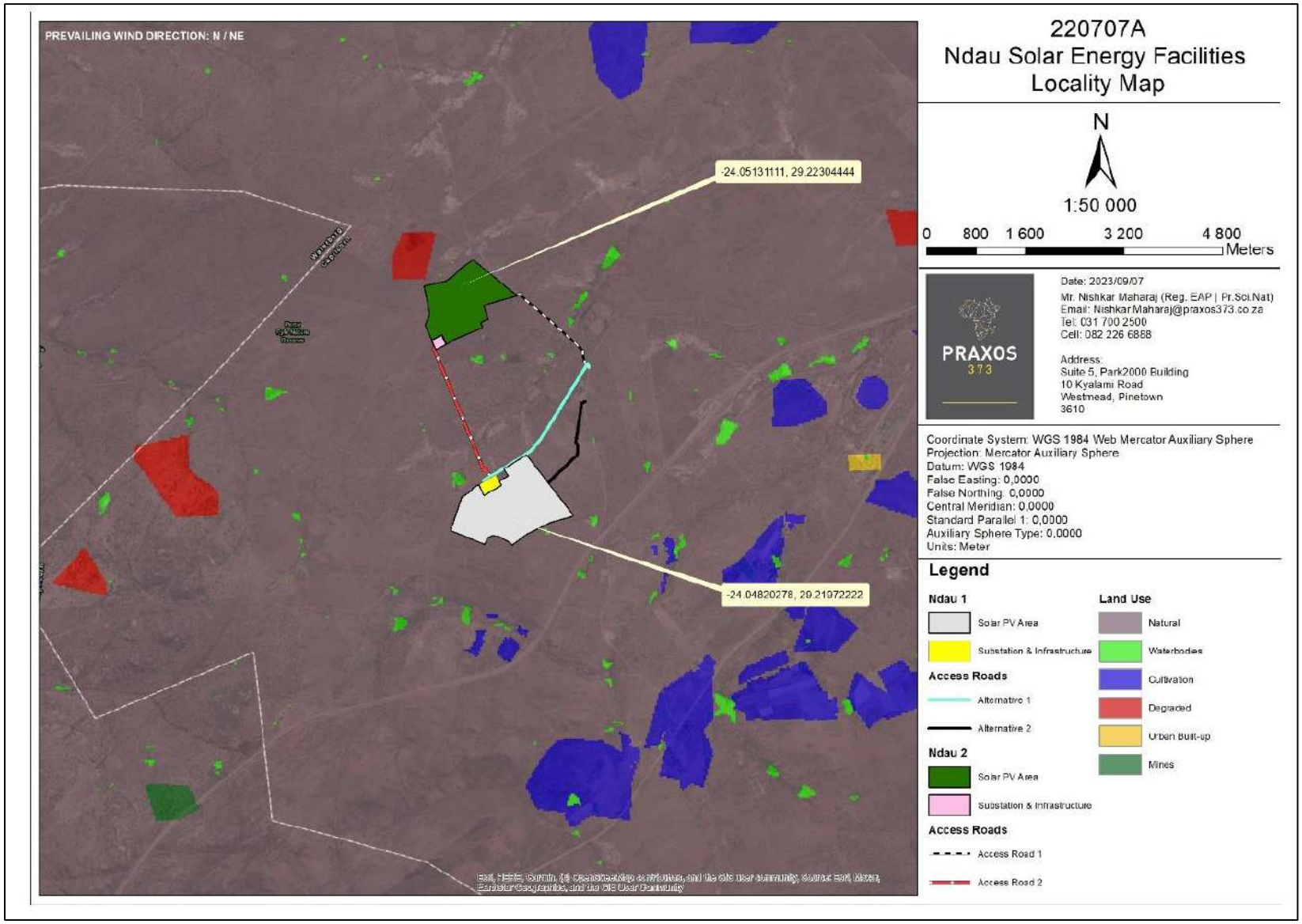

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development area

Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting Process Explained

Step 1: Completion of the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (EA)

Step 1 of the S&EIR process constitutes the compilation of the application form for EA. The application form will be submitted to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) for their consideration. Once the Department accepts the application, the S&EIR process may commence.

Step 2: Compilation of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)

During Step 2 of the process, a site visit will take place and the DSR will be prepared. The purpose of the DSR will be to provide detailed information relating to the proposed activities to be undertaken on site, the context within which the development is to take place, aerial extent of the development activities, timeframes, detailed motivation as to why it is important for the development to take place etc. The DSR will also outline the Plan of Study (PoS) for the detailed impact assessment to be undertaken during the EIR phase of the project should the Competent Authority (CA) (the DFFE) accept the Scoping Report and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Specialist Studies.

Deliverables associated with a DSR will include the following:

- DSR (completed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014).
- GIS scan and maps – the maps will indicate the facility illustrations, location and aerial extent of the proposed development in relation to surrounding environmental conditions.
- Potential impacts and mitigation measures to be assessed during the EIR phase.
- PoS for the EIR phase including Specialist Studies and detailed impact assessment.

Step 3: Public Participation – DSR

Upon completion of the DSR, the document will be made available to the general public for their review and inputs for a period of 30 days. The project will be announced to the public via newspaper adverts, site notice placements and letters to I&APs indicating the means by which they could access the document (hard copies will be made available at various public venues as well as electronically via a drop box link). The notifications will also explain how to provide comments on the project.

All inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the DSR will be captured and responded to as part of the Comments and Response Report (CRR) that will be submitted to the DFFE as part of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).

Step 4: Compilation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) & Specialist Studies

Step 4 involves the compilation of the Draft EIR and undertaking of the required Specialist Studies. The Draft EIR includes a detailed EIA that will be informed by the findings of the various Specialist Studies. The impact assessment and Specialist Studies will determine and assess the potential impacts associated with the project and alternatives.

The findings of the detailed impact assessment and associated Specialist Studies will also inform the compilation of the EMPr. The EMPr will remain a 'Draft' until Environmental Authorisation (EA) is granted for the project due to the fact that the Department may have additional mitigation measures that they want to have included in the EMPr as part of the conditions of the EA (if approved).

Step 5: Public Participation – Draft EIR and EMPr

Once the Draft EIR has been completed constituting all the core information, the document will then be made available for public review over a period of 30 days. All registered I&APs will then be notified of the availability of the Draft EIR as well as where and how they can access the document and provide their comments and inputs. If it is deemed necessary, Praxos will undertake a public meeting during the public review period for the Draft EIR, where the findings of the detailed impact assessment and Specialist Studies will be presented and explained to the public.

The minutes of the public meeting held (if applicable) as well as all inputs and comments received from I&APs during the public review period of the Draft EIR will be captured and responded to as part of the CRR.

Step 6: Compilation of the Final EIR, EMPr and CRR

Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period, the Final EIR will be prepared along with the CRR. The Final EIR will

capture the key concerns / interests raised by I&APs during the public review period, as well as all the measures taken to undertake the public participation process effectively and meaningfully. The Final EIR will furthermore include the proof of all incoming and outgoing correspondence with I&APs together with the CRR.

The Final EIR and EMPr, as well as the associated CRR will then be submitted to the CA for their review and decision making. Following the Department's review of the Final EIR, they will communicate in writing whether they have granted of refused the application for EA.

Step 7: Notification of decision on the application

Once the Department informs the applicant of the decision relating to the project (whether they grant or refuse authorisation), Praxos will notify all registered I&APs of the decision within 14 days. The notification letter will include the details of the appeals procedure to be followed should anyone wish to lodge an appeal against the decision.