

Jersey Solar Power Plant Project: Comments and Response Report (Appendix C7)

Comments received during the 30-day review and commenting period of the Draft Scoping Report

Organisation	Person	Issue or comment raised (see Appendix C5 & C6 of the Final Scoping report)	Addressing or incorporation of issue or comment
<p>North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (NWDEDECT)</p>	<p>Ms. Obiteseng</p>	<p>In an email dated 15 December 2022, Ms. Obiteseng provided the following feedback on the circulation of Draft Scoping report:</p> <p>Good morning Sir/Madam You are kindly requested to submit a hard copy of the report by courier to this physical address: Ms Eva Mahlangu, Agricentre Building, Cnr, Dr. James Moroka & Stadium Road, Mmabatho, 2735. For any query please call me on 018 389 5095. Kind Regards Ms. Obiteseng</p>	<p>The request was acknowledged by Environamics and a hard copy of the report were couriered to the address supplied.</p> <p>It can be confirmed that the report was delivered by 15 December 2022. Please see Appendix C5 for proof of delivery.</p>
<p>Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</p>	<p>Coenrad Agenbach</p>	<p>In a letter dated 25 January the following comments were issued by the DFFE on the draft scoping report:</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 350MW JERSEY SOLAR POWER FACILITY NORTHEAST OF THE TOWN OF VENTERSDORP WITHIN THE JB MARKS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE NORTHWEST PROVINCE</p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft draft Scoping Report (SR) dated December 2022 and received by the Department on 12 December 2022, refer.</p>	<p>The comments submitted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on the draft Scoping Report are noted. Responses to the comments and requirements raised by the Department are provided below.</p>

		<p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:</u></p>	
		<p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <p>(i) 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.</p>	<p>The listed activities included in the final Scoping Report and the <u>Amended</u> Application for Environmental Authorisation are correct and includes specific details which are relevant to the project.</p>
		<p>(ii) The listed activities represented in the final SR and the application form must be the same and correct.</p>	<p><u>The listed activities in the Final SR and the Amended application form are the same and correct.</u></p>
		<p>(iii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.</p>	<p>The listed activities included in the Application for Environmental Authorisation and the final Scoping Report differ slightly and therefore an amended Application for Environmental Authorisation has been <u>has been</u> submitted to the Department with the submission of the final Scoping Report.</p>
		<p>(iv) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms.</p>	<p><u>The most recent application form template dated April 2021 have been used for the amended application form.</u></p>

	<p>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>(i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p> <p>(ii) The final SR must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p> <p>— Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <p>—) The envisioned area for the solar facility, i.e., placing of panels and all associated infrastructure; b) Permanent laydown area footprint;</p> <p>— All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);</p> <p>b) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</p> <p>b) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and f) All existing infrastructure on the site.</p> <p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>—) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</p> <p>—) Buffer areas; and,</p> <p>—) All “no-go” areas.</p> <p>(iii) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows</p>	<p>The layout and environmental sensitivity map is included as Appendix H of the final Scoping Report and includes all available biodiversity information.</p> <p><u>The coordinate points for the development site and linear activities have been included in Section 2 and Table 2.4 of the final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The coordinates were also included as Section 2 and Table 2.4 of the Draft SR submitted to the DFFE and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u></p> <p>The layout map (Appendix H of the final Scoping Report) has been updated accordingly and includes all the required information as available at this stage of the project.</p> <p>The environmental sensitivity map (Appendix H of the final Scoping Report) has been updated accordingly and includes all the required information as available at this stage of the project.</p> <p>The layout map has a clear legend and has been overlain with the sensitivity map, as well as other energy developments and existing grid</p>
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		<p><u>(ii) The final SR must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</u></p>	<p><u>The technical details for the proposed facility have been included under Section 2, Table 2.3 of the Final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The technical details were also included in Section 2. Table 2.3 of the Draft SR submitted to the DFFE and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u></p>
		<p><u>(iii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) The envisioned area for the solar facility, i.e., placing of panels and all associated infrastructure;</u></p> <p><u>b) Permanent laydown area footprint;</u></p> <p><u>c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);</u></p> <p><u>d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</u></p> <p><u>e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</u></p> <p><u>f) All existing infrastructure on the site.</u></p>	<p><u>The draft layout map has been included in the Final SR as Figure I1 and Figure I2. The layout map was also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u></p>

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		<p><u>(iv) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</u></p> <p><u>a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</u></p> <p><u>b) Buffer areas; and,</u></p> <p><u>c) All “no-go” areas.</u></p>	<p><u>Environmental sensitivity maps have been included as Figures H1 -H5 of the Final SR. The environmental sensitivity map was also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u></p>
		<p><u>(v) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</u></p>	<p><u>An environmental sensitivity, cumulative and layout map has been included as Figure H6 of the Final SR.</u></p>
		<p><u>(vi) Google maps will not be accepted</u></p>	<p><u>The maps provided in the Final SR has been produced using ArcGIS mapping software.</u></p> <p><u>The maps included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period were also produced using the ArcGIS mapping software.</u></p>
		<p>c) Alternatives</p> <p>(i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected</p>	<p><u>A full description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative is included in Section 5.1 of the Final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The details of the of all alternatives considered are included in Section 5.1 of the Final SR.</u></p>

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		<p>by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).</p>	<p><u>The description and details of all alternatives considered were also included as Section 5.1 of the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u></p>
		<p><u>(ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation</u></p>	<p><u>Motivation for not considering alternatives for the Jersey Solar Power Plant have been included under Section 5.4 of the final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The assessment of the alternatives is included in Section 5 of the Final SR. Concluding remarks on the alternatives are included in Section 5.5 of the Final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The above mentioned were also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period</u></p>

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	<p>d) Public Participation Process</p> <p>(i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Section), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.</p> <p>(i) 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.</p> <p>(ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>(ii) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R 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.</p> <p>(ii) 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 I&APs' comments.</p> <p>(ii) 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 North West Department of Economic Development, Environment,</p>	<p><u>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 (including this Department's Biodiversity Directorate), as listed in the I&APs Database (Appendix C3), and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity have been adequately addressed and included in the final SR. Please refer to Appendix C5 for proof of correspondence and Appendix C7 for written comments received.</u></p> <p><u>All comments received have been addressed in this Comments and Responses Report included as Appendix C6 of the Final SR, and the final SR has been updated accordingly (where relevant).</u></p> <p><u>Comments have been obtained from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate. Please refer to Appendix C5 for proof of correspondence and Appendix C7 for the written comments received.</u></p> <p><u>The comments from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate have been addressed in this Comments and Responses Report submitted to the Department as Appendix C6</u></p>
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		<p><u>(i)</u></p> <p><u>(i)</u></p>	<p>of the Final SR.</p>
		<p><u>(ii) 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.</u></p>	<p><u>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders have been included in the Final SR under Appendix C5. Proof of attempts to obtain comments have also been included under Appendix C5 of the Final SR. Proof of written notice of the availability of the Draft SR for comment has been included in Appendix C7.</u></p> <p><u>Proof of written notification of the availability of the Draft SR for comment was also included in Appendix C5 of the Draft SR submitted to the Department for the 30-review and commenting period.</u></p>
		<p><u>(iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>	<p><u>The Public Participation process has been undertaken in line with Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u></p>

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		<p><u>(iv) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R 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.</u></p>	<p><u>A comments and responses trail report (C&R) has been included in the Final SR. The report incorporates all historical comments from the development, as well as all comments received during the 30-day review and commenting period of the Draft Scoping Report.</u></p> <p><u>The Comments and Responses Report has been included in the Final SR as a separate document under Appendix C6 and is structured in a table format.</u></p>
		<p><u>(v) 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 I&APs’ comments.</u></p>	<p><u>Comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to adequately. No responses such as “noted” are provided.</u></p>
		<p><u>(vi) 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 North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, and the District and Local Municipalities.</u></p>	<p><u>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders have been included in the Final SR under Appendix C5. Proof of attempts to obtain comments have also been included under Appendix C5 of the Final SR. Proof of written notice of the availability of the Draft SR for comment has been included in Appendix C5.</u></p> <p><u>The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism have been provided with a hard copy of the report as requested during the 30-day</u></p>

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			<p><u>review and commenting period. Proof of delivery to Ms. Eva Mahlangu has been included under Appendix C4 of the Final Scoping Report. The Ditsobotla Local Municipality and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality have been included as I&APs for the project and were provided with a copy of the Draft SR. No comment have been received from the above-mentioned stakeholders. Please refer to Appendix C4 for the list of I&APs and Appendix C5 for proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders.</u></p>
		<p><u>(vii) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.</u></p>	<p><u>The need for a public meeting with the I&APs did not arise for the project. Therefore, no minutes and attendance registers have been submitted. This comment is therefore not relevant to this Scoping Process.</u></p>
		<p><u>(e) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <p>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).</p> <p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated</p>	<p><u>Specialist declaration of interest forms are included under Appendix E of the Final SR.</u></p> <p><u>The specialist declaration of interest forms were also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department and I&APs for the 30-day review and commenting period. The requirements of the DFFE for the specialist assessments to be conducted in the EIA phase</u></p>

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		<u>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:</u>	
		<u>(a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</u>	<u>All specialist study reports conducted for the project includes a detailed description of the methodology used for the respective studies. The specialist studies are included under Appendix E of the final SR. The specialist reports also include an indication of the project description in terms of what is being proposed and what has been assessed within the respective specialist studies.</u>
		<u>(b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</u>	<u>All specialist assessments and reports include a detailed description of all limitations associated with the respective studies. The specialist studies are included under Appendix E of the final SR.</u>
		<u>(c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development</u>	<u>The definition of the 'no-go' areas is noted and applied within the specialist reports.</u>

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		<u>of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</u>	
		<u>(d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</u>	<u>The definition of 'no-go' areas within the specialist reports corresponds with the Department's definition.</u>
		<u>(e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</u>	<u>All specialist studies submitted along with the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be final and practical/detailed mitigation measures and recommendations for the preferred alternative have been included in the specialist studies. No further studies have been recommended post EA. The specialist studies are included under Appendix E of the final SR.</u>
		<u>(f) Bird specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.</u>	<u>The Avifauna Assessment included under Appendix E2 of the Final Scoping report have been conducted according to the guidelines and principles for Avifaunal Impact Assessments within the context of Solar Energy Facility (SEFs) as outlined by BirdLife South Africa (2017).</u> <u>BirdLife South Africa have also been included as an I&AP and were provided the opportunity to comment on the Draft SR. Please refer to Appendix C4 for the List of I&APs and Appendix C5 for proof of correspondence.</u>

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		<p><u>(iii) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</u></p>	<p><u>The specific mitigation measures provided the specialists are included under Section 6.2 of the final SR. These mitigation measures will be included in the Facility EMPR, Power Line and Substation Generic EMPRs to be submitted with the Draft Environmental Impact Report.</u></p>
		<p><u>(iv) 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.</u></p>	<p><u>No contradicting recommendations have been made by specialists.</u></p>
		<p><u>(v) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.</u></p>	<p><u>All commissioned specialist assessments and mitigation recommendations are in accordance with the latest protocols and most recent guideline, where relevant. Please refer to the specialist studies included as Appendix E for reference.</u></p>

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		<p><u>(vi) 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. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</u></p>	<p><u>The Procedures for Assessment and Minimum Criteria for reporting as identified for the Environmental themes have been adhered to.</u></p> <p><u>All commissioned specialist assessments are in accordance with the protocols, where relevant. Please refer to the specialist studies included as Appendix E for reference.</u></p>
		<p><u>(vii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.</u></p>	<p><u>The Specialist Declaration of Interest forms indicates the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist where registration is required. The specialist declaration of interest forms are included under Appendix E.</u></p>
		<p><u>(viii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.</u></p>	<p><u>The final SR includes a Site Verification Report and specialist studies (Appendix E) as required by the relevant themes identified by the DFFE Screening Tool. Please refer to Section 1.5 of the final SR. No additional assessments are relevant to the development based on the site verification of the area under assessment.</u></p>

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			<u>The site verification report was also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u>
		<u>(ix) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.</u>	<u>The specialists have included Curriculum Vitae in their respective reports (Appendix E) which indicates their relevant registration to professional bodies. All studies which require SACNASP registration have been conducted by SACNASP registered specialists.</u>
		<u>(x) We note that the screening tool indicates that thirteen specialist studies need to be undertaken or conducted. We note that the SR does not include thirteen specialist reports. Please kindly peruse the protocols and provide in the SR site sensitivity reports for each theme/study listed, as well as compliance statements for assessments not needed to be conducted based on your site sensitivity verification</u>	<u>The final SR includes a Site Verification Report and specialist studies (Appendix E) as required by the relevant themes identified by the DFFE Screening Tool. Please refer to Section 1.5 of the final SR. No additional assessments are relevant to the development based on the site verification of the area under assessment.</u> <u>The site verification report was also included in the Draft SR submitted to the Department for the 30-day review and commenting period.</u>
		(f) Cumulative Assessment	
		<u>(i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</u>	<u>The requirements of the DFFE for the cumulative assessment to be conducted in the EIA phase of the project are noted. All independent specialists will also be informed of these requirements and the independent specialist studies to be included as part of the EIA report for the project will be in-line with</u>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○(a) 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. ○(b) 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. ○(c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ○—A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 	<p><u>these requirements. The EIA Report for the project will also cover these requirements in order to ensure compliance.</u></p> <p><u>It must be noted that the Scoping Report covers these requirements in Section 7 of the report</u></p>
		<p><u>(g) General</u></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&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 submission of the final Scoping Report to the DFFE is in line with and falls within the prescribed timeframe of Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>

		<u>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.</u>	<u>The final Scoping Report submitted to the DFFE complied with the requirements of Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</u>
		<u>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).</u>	<u>The submission of the final Scoping Report to the DFFE is still within the prescribed timeframe of the EIA Regulations.</u>
		<u>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.</u>	<u>It is noted and acknowledged by the Applicant that no activity may commence prior to obtaining an Environmental Authorisation.</u>

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<p><u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Biodiversity and Conservation</u></p>	<p><u>Ms M Rabothata / Mr K Mathetja</u></p>	<p><u>In a letter dated 31 January 2023, the following comments were received on the Draft SR:</u></p> <p><u>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED JERSEY AND NGUNI SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR VENTERSDORP, NORTHWEST PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the report.</u></p> <p><u>Based on the information provided in the reports, the project area is located within the Northern Strategic transmission corridor. In addition, the area of interest is directly located northwest of the Fred Coertzee Private Nature reserve and falls within the 5 KM Protected Area Buffer Zone. According to the North West CBA and ESA map dataset the project area overlaps with ESA1 areas.</u></p> <p><u>The project area and its 500 m regulated area does not overlap with any NBA nor NFEPA wetlands or rivers. There are also plant and animal species of conservation concern which have the potential to occur within the project area with occurrence likelihood ranging from low to moderate.</u></p> <p><u>The southern portion of the project area is predominantly comprised of alien and invasive species of <i>Acacia mearnsii</i> that is listed as category 2 species in terms of the NEMBA. <i>Euphorbia inaequilatera</i>, were found within the project area and is listed as protected under Schedule 2 of the Northwest Biodiversity Management Act No 4 (2016).</u></p>	<p><u>The comments made by the DFFE: Biodiversity and Conservation is acknowledged. It is noted that there are no objections to the proposed project. The recommendations will be included in the EMPRs to be submitted with the Draft Environmental Impact Report, which will be made available to the DFFE: Biodiversity and Conservation for comment.</u></p>
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		<p><u>The Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not have any objection with the proposed plan of study provided that the following recommendations are considered:</u></p>	
		<p><u>Comments from the nature reserve management authority must be obtained and submitted as part of the final scoping report.</u></p>	<p><u>Comments from the nature reserve management authority will be sought during the 30-day review and commenting period of the Draft EIR.</u></p>
		<p><u>Comments must be obtained from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness at Email TNethononda@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Thivhulawi Nethononda.</u></p>	<p><u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness have been consulted. However, no comments were received on the draft SR.</u></p> <p><u>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness will also be consulted during the circulation of the Draft EIR.</u></p>
		<p><u>The Directorate does not support any development within highly sensitive areas that will result in significant negative impacts prior mitigation measures.</u></p>	<p><u>The layout of the development will avoid high sensitive areas. Mitigation measures will be included in the Facility EMPR and Generic EMPRs to be submitted with the Draft EIR.</u></p>

		<u>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</u>	<u>The process for the submission of Public Participation Process Documents is noted.</u>
I&AP	Donne Krause	<p>In an email dated 31 January 2023 the following comment was received:</p> <p>Dear Environamics, I would kindly like to request to be registered as an I&AP on all renewable projects run by your team. Will this be possible?</p> <p>Thanks so much</p>	Environamics has acknowledged the request and has added the I&AP to the database.