

NALEDI PV, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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The Naledi PV Basic Assessment (BA) Process was announced on Friday, 03 July 2020. The announcement letter invited Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register their interest in the project and to submit any comments / queries that they might have. All written comments received during the BA process to date have been included in the table below.

The Basic Assessment (BA) Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Wednesday, 08 July 2020** until **Friday, 07 August 2020**. The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) has been updated with written comments received during the review and comment period and included in **Appendix C9** of the final Basic Assessment Report.

NOTE:
In terms Regulation 44(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, please note that the comments raised and responses provided at the various Focus Group Meetings held during the 30-day review period of the Basic Assessment Report have not been captured in this Comments and Responses Report. The notes of the meetings are attached as **Appendix C8**.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

AMP	Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites	BA	Basic Assessment
BGG	Burial Grounds and Graves	C&RR	Comments and Responses Report
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs	DEFF	Department of Environmental Forestry Fisheries

DENC	Department of Environment, Nature and Conservation	EA	Environmental Authorisation
EMI	Electro Magnetic Interference	EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act	NC DAEARD&LR	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act	RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency	SARAO	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
SCC	Species of conservation Concern	SKA	Square Kilometre Array

1. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.1. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NALEDI PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application form and draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 08 July 2020. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 2 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Confirmation or a letter stating that MR Anthony DC Graaf is duly authorised or mandated to sign the application forms on behalf Naledi PV (Pty) Ltd;</p> <p>The outstanding information must be submitted with the final Basic Assessment Report. Failure to provide the abovementioned information will result in your application for Environmental Authorisation being refused.</p>	<p>Juliet Mahlangu Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries</p> <p>Email: 15 July 2020</p>	<p>The acknowledgement of receipt of the BA Report and the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation received by the Competent Authority is noted.</p> <p>The comment is acknowledged, and it is confirmed that the environmental impact assessment process undertaken for Naledi PV is in accordance with Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>The letters of confirmation where Mr Anthony de Graaf is mandated as the signatory for the Application for Environmental Authorisation has been included in Appendix P of the final BA Report. The requested documentation was submitted to the Department on 22nd July 2020. The proof of submission of the documentation is included in the final BA Report as Appendix B.</p> <p>The outstanding information requested for by the Department has been included in the final BA Report as Appendix P. The requested documentation was submitted to the Department on 22nd July 2020.</p>

	<p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>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 time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p>		<p>The proof of submission of the documentation has been in the final BA Report as Appendix B.</p> <p>The BA Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from, Wednesday, 08 July 2020 until Friday, 07 August 2020. As per the approved Public Participation Plan (included in Appendix C1 of the final BA Report), Interested and Affected Parties were provided with sufficient opportunity and means to comment on the BA Report. All written comments received to date have been included in final BA Report as Appendix C7.</p> <p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged and the client has been made aware of the implications for the process and the project should any of the legislated timeframes under the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) not be met.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The activities associated with the development of Naledi PV will not commence until the Minister of DEFF has granted EA for the proposed development. Therefore, the holder of the EA will ensure compliance with Section 24F(1)(a) of NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) of 1998.</p> <p>The comment is noted and the application reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2202 has been included in correspondence with the Department.</p>
2.	Kindly forward me the DEFF (DEA) reference number for these 2 proposed developments.	<p>Samantha De la Fontaine Production Scientist Grade A: District Ecologist NC DAEARD&LR</p> <p>E-mail: 03 August 2020</p>	The DEA reference number for the Naledi PV was submitted via e-mail on 07 August 2020 (refer to Appendix C5).

3.	DWS Regional Office to process WULA.	Pieter Ackerman Chief Landscape Architect DWS E-mail: 03-08-2020	It is noted that the DWS Regional Office will be the correct Department to process the water use licensing for Naledi PV. This information has been submitted to the Developer (refer to the e-mail dated 17 August 2020 included in Appendix C5 of the final BAR).
4.	<p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:</u></p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 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. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. » If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms. » It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the basic assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided, <p>(b) Lease agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A lease agreement from landowner Khi CSP South Africa (Pty) Ltd. must be obtained and submitted to the Department with the final BAR 	Lunga Dlova Case Officer DEFF Letter: 03 August 2020	<p>All listed activities applied for and included in the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation and section 6.2.1 of the final BA Report are specific and relevant to the development of Naledi PV.</p> <p>The listed activities applied for in the Application for Environmental Authorisation (submitted to DEFF on 8 July 2020) do not differ from those included in the final BA Report; therefore, an amended application is not required to be submitted.</p> <p>Proof of the BA process notification, notification of availability of the BAR for review and comment and follow-up reminder for comments to the relevant authorities are included in Appendix C6 of the final BAR.</p> <p>A copy of the signed Lease Agreement from the landowner, Khi CSP South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been included in the final BA Report as Appendix P.</p>

<p>(c) Specialist Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The approach of not undertaking the Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) and Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) studies as part of the basic assessment process is noted. However, comments from the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) office regarding this must be sought. 		<p>Written comments received from the SARAO (which includes the office of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa), are captured in this C&RR and included in Appendix C5 of the final BA Report.</p> <p>It is stated that Naledi PV presents a medium risk in terms of electromagnetic interference to the SKA radio telescope, but that the need for the implementation of RFI Control measures be determined only once the full details of all electrical equipment for Naledi PV is available. No further action is required at this time.</p>
<p>(d) Cumulative Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: 		<p>A cumulative impact assessment of other similar projects within a radius of 30km from Naledi PV is included as Chapter 9 of the final BA Report.</p>
<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. 		<p>Sections 9.1 – 9.11 of the Cumulative Impact Assessment of the Final BA Report includes the cumulative impacts identified and relevant for the development of Naledi PV within the study area, and a quantification of the impacts associated with the development of the solar PV facility in isolation and with other proposed solar PV facilities within the 30km radius.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<p>The complete reporting for all other similar developments within the area, including recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions, is not readily available for all projects. In order to compensate for this limitation, the independent specialists who undertook the relevant specialist studies were selected owing to their experience in the area, and as they had previously assessed projects in this area and the environment (within which solar energy facilities already operate). This insight of results, recommendations and mitigation measures associated with the other projects enabled robust assessments of potential cumulative impacts. In addition, the development area is located within the Upington REDZ, a node which is designed to accommodate multiple renewable energy projects. Considering this, the cumulative impact assessment undertaken for</p>

	<p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p>		<p>Naledi PV is undertaken at a level sufficient for the Department to make an informed decision.</p>
	<p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p>		<p>The significance ratings of the cumulative impacts is low and medium depending on the impact being assessed. The ratings have been included in sections 9.3 – 9.10 of the final BA Report.</p>
	<p>(e) Public Participation Process i. The following information must be submitted with the final BAR: a) A list of registered interested and affected parties as per Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended;</p>		<p>The Need and Desirability of Naledi PV included in the final BA Report (Chapter 5) has taken into consideration the presence of existing and proposed solar PV facilities within the 30km radius within the vicinity of the development area. In addition, the location of the development area of Naledi PV within the Upington REDZ (REDZ 7) – an area identified for the development of large-scale solar PV facilities was taken into consideration by the respective independent specialists for the cumulative impact assessment.</p>
	<p>b) Copies of all comments received during the Draft BAR comment period; and</p>		<p>A cumulative impact environmental statement indicating why the project should proceed from a cumulative perspective has been included in Section 9.11 of the final BA Report.</p>
	<p>c) A comment and response report which contains all comments received and responses provided to all comments and issues raised during the public</p>		<p>The I&AP database containing the contact details of the registered I&APs are included in Appendix C2 of the final BA Report. Information included in the I&AP database is protected in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act No. 13 of 2013) of 2013.</p>
			<p>All comments received during the BA process and on the BA Report, including those of the DEFF, are included in Appendix C7 of the final BA Report. Comments and queries raised by stakeholders during the Focus Group Meetings held for the project have been recorded as meeting minutes and have been included as Appendix C8 of the final BA Report.</p>
			<p>The C&RR containing all comments received, including those received from the DEFF, and responses provided by the project team, is included in Appendix C9 of the final BA Report. Meeting minutes</p>

	<p>participation process for the Draft BAR. Please note that comments received from this Department must also form part of the comment and response report.</p>		<p>for the record of the Focus Group Meetings held are included in the final BA Report as Appendix C8.</p>
	<p>ii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the Draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.</p>		<p>A summary of the issues and comments received during the circulation of the BA Report, including those from DEFF's Biodiversity Directorate have been adequately addressed in section 6.3.2 of the final BA Report.</p>
	<p>iii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326), as well as in accordance with the approved Public Participation Plan. The approved Public Participation Plan is included in the final BA Report as Appendix C1.</p> <p>The BA Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from, Wednesday, 08 July 2020 until Friday, 07 August 2020. As per the approved Public Participation Plan, the availability of the BA Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertised in the Gemsbok Newspaper on 10 July 2020 (tear sheet included in Appendix C2 of the final BA Report). • Announced on Radio Riverside 98.2FM, the local community radio station on 08, 13, 20 & 27 July and 03 & 06 August 2020 and the schedule has been included in Appendix C3 of the final BA Report. • A copy of the Radio Live Read recording was sent to the Case Officer on 26 August 2020 and the proof of correspondence has been included in Appendix B of the final BA Report. • The NC DAEA.RD&LR (previously NC DENC), as the commenting authority, and relevant Organs of State were notified that the BA Report can be downloaded from Savannah Environmental's website and could also be sent via other file transfer services i.e.

			<p>We Transfer, Dropbox, etc. or on CD, on request, from Savannah Environmental.</p>
	<p>(f) Environmental Management Programme</p> <p>i. The EMPr must also include the following:</p> <p>(a) It is drawn to your attention that for <u>substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure</u>, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realization of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management</p>		<p>The Generic EMPr for the Naledi PV on-site facility substation is included as an appendix (Appendix N to the Naledi PV Facility EMPr (Appendix M) in this final BA Report.</p> <p>The Developer will comply with the requirements included in the Generic EMPr template, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sourcing inputs from the contractor, once appointed, for Part B, Section 1 of the Generic EMPr. This is as per the requirement of the EMPr which states that "The template in this section is to be completed by the contractor, with each completed page

	<p>Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.</p>		<p>signed and dated by the holder of the EA prior to commencement of the activity."</p> <p>» The Generic EMPr will be made available to the public to provide access to the documents as per Regulation 26(h) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This is as per Section 6 of the Generic EMPr template which states that "Once completed and signed, to allow the public access to the generic EMPr, the holder of the EA must make the EMPr available to the public in accordance with the requirements of regulation 26(h) of the EIA Regulations."</p>
	<p>(b) There needs to be an EMPr for the facility, the onsite substation as well as the overhead line.</p>		<p>The EMPr for the Naledi PV facility has been included as Appendix M of the final BA Report. The Generic EMPr for the on-site facility substation is appended as Appendix N of Appendix M of the final BA Report.</p> <p>As no overhead power line forms part of this Application for Environmental Authorisation, a generic EMPr covering an overhead line is not relevant to be included. Naledi PV will however be connected to the Upington Main Transmission Substation (MTS) via a single-circuit 132kV Power Line which has been assessed and authorised in a separate BA process.</p>
	<p>(c) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>Table 4.1 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) illustrates the compliance of the EMPr with the requirements of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the relevant sections of the EMPr where the requirements have been met.</p>
	<p>(d) Please be informed that the following content must be incorporated within the EMPr's as indicated in Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended:</p>		<p>The EMPr complies with the requirements of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Table 4.1 in the EMPr illustrates the relevant sections of the EMPr where the requirements of Appendix 4 have been complied with.</p>
	<p>i. Details of the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including curriculum vitae</p>		<p>Details of the EAP who prepared EMPr and their expertise is included in Chapter 4 and section 4.2.1 of the EMPr. Curriculum Vitae of the</p>

	<p>ii. A map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers.</p> <p>iii. A description of the <u>impact management outcomes</u>, including management identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the including —</p> <p>(a) Planning and design</p> <p>(b) Pre-construction activities</p> <p>(c) Construction activities;</p> <p>(d) Rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and</p> <p>(e) Where relevant, operation activities.</p> <p>iv. A description of proposed <u>impact management actions</u>, identifying the manner in which the impact management outcomes contemplated in paragraph (d) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be achieved, and must where applicable, include actions to:</p>		<p>project team (including the EAP) are included in the EMPr as Appendix A.</p> <p>Maps superimposing the proposed layout of the solar PV facility and the environmental sensitivities within the development area and development footprint are included in the EMPr as Figures 2.3 and 2.4, as well as Appendix M of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p> <p>A description of the impact management outcomes including the mitigation measures for the impacts identified for the project life cycle of Naledi PV are included in Chapters 5 – 9 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p> <p>A description of the impact management outcomes and mitigation measures for the Planning and Design Phase (including pre-construction activities) of Naledi PV is included in Chapter 5 of the EMPr.</p> <p>A description of the impact management outcomes and mitigation measures for the Construction Phase of Naledi PV is included in Chapter 6 of the EMPr.</p> <p>A description of the impact management outcomes and mitigation measures for the Rehabilitation Phase of Naledi PV is included in Chapter 7 of the EMPr.</p> <p>A description of the impact management outcomes and mitigation measures for the Operation Phase of Naledi PV is included in Chapter 8 of the EMPr.</p> <p>The description of the impact management actions including how the actions will be achieved; and the compliance of the proposed development with prescribed environmental management standards or practices for the project life cycle of Naledi PV is included in Chapters 5 – 9 of the EMPr.</p>
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	<p>v. Avoid, modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;</p>		
<p>vi. Comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;</p>			
<p>vii. Comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable; and</p>			
<p>viii. Comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provision for rehabilitation, where applicable.</p>			
<p>ix. The <u>method of monitoring</u> the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>Methods of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions for Naledi PV are included in sections 6.4 – 6.5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>	
<p>x. The <u>frequency of monitoring</u> the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The frequency of monitoring of the implementation of the impact management actions are included in Chapter 5 – 9 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>	
<p>xi. An indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions.</p>		<p>The roles and responsibilities of the persons responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions are included in Objective 1 of the Construction Phase and Operation Phase EMPr, as well as for each of the impact management actions included in sections 6.4 – 6.5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>	
<p>xii. The time periods within which the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The time periods within which the impact management actions must be implemented for the duration of the project life cycle of Naledi PV are included in Chapters 5 - 9 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>	
<p>xiii. The <u>method of monitoring</u> with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>Methods of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions for Naledi PV are included in sections 6.4 – 6.5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>	

<p>xiv. A <u>program for reporting on compliance</u>, taking into account the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations.</p>		<p>A program for reporting on compliance of Naledi PV is included in section 6.5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report).</p>
<p>(g) Environmental Impact Statement i. It is noted that an environmental impact statement is not included in the Draft BAR, therefore you are kindly requested to include an environmental impact statement which contains -</p>		<p>An environmental impact statement for Naledi PV is included in section 10.5 of the final BA Report.</p>
<p>(a) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;</p>		<p>A summary of the key findings of the BA process undertaken of Naledi PV is included in section 10.2 of the final BA Report.</p>
<p>(b) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and</p>		<p>Maps illustrating the proposed location for the development of Naledi PV; the layout/infrastructure assessed as part of the BA Process and the environmental sensitivities identified are included as Figures 10.5 and 10.6, as well as Appendix O of the final BA Report.</p>
<p>(c) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.</p>		<p>A summary of the positive and negative environmental impact associated with the development of Naledi PV are included in section 10.2 of the final BA Report.</p>
<p>Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1(3)(1)a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The period for which the EA is required for Naledi PV is included in section 10.5 of the final BA Report.</p>
<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "<i>Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority –</i> (a) <i>a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have 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 project complies with Regulation 19(1)(a) as the final BA Report has been submitted to the competent authority within 90 days of lodging the application for Environmental Authorisation. The BA Report, which culminated in the final BA Report, was subject to a public participation process of 30 days and includes and responds to comments received, including comments of the competent authority.</p>

	<p>Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: <i>"the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority — (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, in reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 day"</i>.</p>		<p>No significant changes or new information has been included in the final BA Report submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. As a result, compliance of the project with Regulation 19(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is not applicable.</p>
	<p>Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.</p>		<p>It is noted that should the prescribed timeframes in terms of Regulation 19 not be met, the Application for Environmental Authorisation will lapse.</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>		<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged. The activities associated with the development of Naledi PV will not commence until the Minister of DEFF has granted EA for the proposed development. The project will be compliant with Section 24F(1)(a) of NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) of 1998.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:</p>	<p>Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer SAHRIS and Phillip Hine</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)a — The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the proposed development; 	<p>Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit</p>	<p>The comment and confirmation from SAHRA of no objection to the project and the support of the recommended mitigation measures are acknowledged.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)b — The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows: 	<p>Letter: 07 August 2020</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)c(i) — If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 		<p>Objective 9 of the Construction Phase (Chapter 6 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) EMPr includes the impact management action for the EO and/or the Developer to notify SAHRA should artefacts, fossils or other categories of heritage resources be found during the construction phase and the project life cycle of Naledi PV.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)c(ii) — If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 		<p>Objective 9 of the Construction Phase (Chapter 6 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report)) EMPr includes the impact management action for the SAHRA BGG Unit to be notified immediately should unmarked human remains be uncovered during the construction phase and for the rest of the project life cycle.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)d — See section 51(1) of the NHRA; 		<p>The implications of contravening the requirements of the NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999) of 1999 for the proposed development of Naledi PV are acknowledged.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38(4)e — The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists: 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or 		<p>Objective 9 of the Construction Phase (Chapter 6 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) EMPr includes the impact management action for the appointment of an archaeologist or palaeontologist by the Developer should heritage resources be identified during the project life cycle of Naledi PV. The appointment of the Archaeologist or Palaeontologist will depend on the nature of the finds uncovered.</p>

	<p>palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes; The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application. 		<p>The final BAR and updated EMPr have been uploaded onto Case ID 15218 on SAHRIS.</p> <p>Once issued, the EA and notification letter will be uploaded onto Case ID 15218 on SAHRIS.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Herewith the comments for the proposed developments:</p> <p>1. A conglomerate of PV developments is proposed for Gordonia region within the same vicinity as the proposed Naledi and Ngwedi PV developments. These developments all fall within the Bushmanland Arid Grassland and Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation units (as per Mucina & Rutherford, 2006; see Figure 1).</p> <p>1.1. Both these vegetation units' conservation status is <i>Least threatened</i> with ~ 99.4% and ~ 99.2% remaining for the Bushmanland Arid Grassland and Kalahari Karroid Grassland vegetation units respectively as per the year 2006's data (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006). Major changes have however occurred thus far as these vegetation units are under severe constraint due to agricultural activities (overgrazing, viticulture, etc.) and recent renewable energy developments.</p>	<p>Elsabe Swart Scientific Manager Gr B NC DAEARD&LR Letter: 07 August 2020</p>	<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged. The development footprint of Naledi PV falls entirely within the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation. The preferred access road alternative, which largely follows the existing main access road of the Khi CSP Solar Facility falls within the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type as illustrated in Figure 2 of the Ecological Impact (Appendix D of the Final BA Report). In addition, the National List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems was gazetted in 2011, as well as the 2018 List, which is not yet promulgated in terms of the NEM:BA, but was taken into consideration during the site selection process of the solar PV facility within the Upington REDZ. It is therefore important to note that both the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation type, as well as the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type have a status of 'Least Concern' in terms of the National List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems of 2011 and 2018. As a result, the development of Naledi PV is considered to be acceptable within the affected vegetation types / units from this perspective.</p> <p>The comment regarding the conservation status of the vegetation units, the loss thereof and the cumulative impact within the Upington area has been confirmed and identified by the specialist who undertook the Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report). The loss of habitat as a result of the development of Naledi PV and other proposed solar PV facilities in the area has been assessed as medium following the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures.</p>

	<p>1.2. This is of particular concern for the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland as the latter is considerably smaller in size when compared to the Bushmanland Arid Grassland (828 389.89 ha < 4 547 896.73 ha).</p>		<p>The majority of the development footprint of Naledi PV is located within the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation type/unit and the findings and/or outcomes of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report) indicates that the loss of approximately 300ha of this vegetation type unit is not considered unacceptable as a result of the widespread nature of the vegetation unit in the area and the low levels of transformation experienced to date.</p>
	<p>1.3. Only 0.4% of Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation unit is formally protected (although conservation land in the vegetation unit has been added since 2006) yet it has a conservation target of 21%. Furthermore, only 0.1% of the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland is protected and although it has a conservation target of 21%, no conservation land has been added to this vegetation unit since 2006.</p>		<p>The comment regarding the conservation statuses of the vegetation units within which Naledi PV is located are acknowledged, as well as the information regarding the current conservation targets of the vegetation units in the Northern Cape Province. For Naledi PV, the area within which the solar PV facility is proposed has not been earmarked for conservation planning to date.</p>
	<p>1.4. Furthermore, increased impacts on these vegetation units can result in fragmented islands which can ultimately result in the hindering of ecosystem functions and processes.</p>		<p>The comment regarding the impact of the proposed development and other facilities in the area are acknowledged. The outcomes of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report) indicate that the development footprint of Naledi PV will largely be restricted to the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland (refer to Figure 2 of the Ecological Impact Assessment (included as Appendix D of the Final BA Report)) vegetation type, apart from the preferred main access road alternative which follows the existing access road of the Khi CSP Solar Facility and is located within the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type. As a result, it is not anticipated that the development of Naledi PV will contribute to the fragmentation of vegetation types in the area since only one vegetation type (which has a status of 'Least Concern') will mainly be affected by the development of the solar PV facility.</p>
	<p>1.5. Accordingly, it is advised that the competent authority (together with the commenting authority) consider biodiversity offsets / contribution to conservation land for these 2 vegetation units (or at least prioritize this for the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation unit) through a joint effort of all the larger scale developments impacting on these vegetation units.</p>		<p>According to the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix D of the final BA Report), the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland and</p>

		<p>Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation types are considered to be Least Threatened in terms of the National List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2011 and 2018 and have been minimally impacted by transformation and more than 99% of the original extents of the vegetation units remains intact. Therefore, taking into consideration the total extent of the vegetation units affected by the development of Naledi PV, it is noteworthy to consider the following statistics regarding the development of renewable solar energy projects within these vegetation units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» The DEFF's Renewable Energy Database illustrates the boundaries of affected properties where renewable solar energy projects are proposed, existing or currently undergoing construction. From the database, it becomes clear that the development footprints of projects of this nature range between 5% and 50% of each total farm portion. Therefore, given a worst-case scenario (which is unlikely to materialise), where up to 25% of each affected property is lost to development, 88 819ha of the Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type and 19 039ha of the Kalahari Karroid vegetation type could theoretically be lost to the development of renewable energy developments in South Africa. This is approximately 1.9% and 2.3% of the total area / extent of each vegetation type respectively. Therefore, taking into consideration the allocation for solar PV projects in the IRP, 2019, it becomes clear that only a small percentage of authorised solar PV projects will be constructed. As a result, these vegetation units will be minimally impacted from an ecological perspective. <p>Although the development footprint of Naledi PV is located within a habitat of low and moderate sensitivity, typical of the Upington area, the development of the solar PV facility is considered acceptable and there were no impacts assessed that cannot be mitigated to a</p>
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			<p>medium or low significance. Ecological cumulative impacts in the area remain a concern, given the density of renewable solar energy projects in the area, the proximity of Naledi PV to existing developments is seen as a positive aspect of the development and overall cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development are considered acceptable. As a result, there are no fatal flaws or high post-mitigation impacts that should prevent the development of Naledi PV from proceeding from an ecological perspective.</p> <p>Lastly, the comment and requirement for a biodiversity offset falls outside the Scope of the BA process and the conservation targets need dealt with at a regional level through formalised processes such as systematic biodiversity/bioregional plants which will assist in quantifying/determining the need for potential offsets.</p>
	<p>2. The names of the following departments should be corrected throughout the documents:</p>		
	<p>2.1. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is now the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and the</p>		<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged and references to DAFF and the DEA in the final BA Report have been updated accordingly.</p>
	<p>2.2. Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC) is now the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform.</p>		<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged and reference to DENC in the final BA Report has been updated with the new name of the Department.</p>
	<p>3. Access Road Alternative 1 is supported as the preferable option as oppose to Alternative 2, because, from an ecological perspective, it will have a seemingly lower impact [i.e. it is shorter (8km <12km) and follows an existing road for the larger part with only 2km of new road to be built].</p>		<p>The nomination of Access Road Alternative 1 by the Department is acknowledged. It must be noted that Access Road Alternative 1 was also nominated as the preferred option in the BA process and in section 10.6 of the BA Report.</p>
	<p>4. <i>Vachellia erioloba</i>, <i>V. haematoxylon</i> and <i>Boscia spp.</i> are known to occur in the proposed development area. These trees are keystone species and provide micro-habitats to a multitude of fauna and flora species which might not be able to persevere</p>		<p>The findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report) indicates that listed and protected plant species are located within the larger drainage lines, present within the development area of Naledi PV, which have been avoided by the</p>

	<p>in the harsh environment of the Kalahari region if not for the availability of these trees.</p>		<p>development footprint of the Naledi PV facility. In addition, the Ecologist undertook careful assessment of these factors as part of the risk adverse approach of the layout determination. This ensured that areas containing high numbers or that are important for these species were avoided by the preferred alternatives. The Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report) indicates that the tree species are fairly widespread across the development area at a moderate density and the loss of the local population of these species would not be compromised by the development of the Naledi PV facility. Furthermore, Objective 2 of the Design and Planning EMPr (Chapter 5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report)) requires the Developer to obtain the required permits for the removal or translocation of the listed and protected plant species in accordance with the NFA (Act No. 84 of 1998) of 1998 and the Northern Cape Nature conservation Act (Act No. 9 of 2009) of 2009.</p>
	<p>4.1. The specialist did indicate that there will be no impact on <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> and <i>Boscia albitrunca</i>, yet there will be (unavoidable) impact on <i>Boscia foetida</i>.</p>		<p>Objective 2 of the Design and Planning EMPr (Chapter 5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report)) requires the Developer to obtain permits from the NC DAEA, RD & LR for the removal of <i>Boscia foetida</i> subsp. <i>foetida</i> species within the development footprint of Naledi PV.</p>
	<p>4.2. The specialist stated that the latter species is widespread in the Gordonia district and that the impact of this single development will not have a major impact on this species, HOWEVER, this Department processes permits for the destruction of substantial amounts of <i>Boscia foetida</i> in the Gordonia region due to developments and this is of great concern as the species is extremely slow growing and cannot be trans-located.</p>		<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged. The Developer will consult with the Department regarding the limits of removal of the listed tree species located within the footprint of the Naledi PV facility following the completion of the walkthrough survey. The Ecologist specialist has therefore made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A detailed pre-construction walk-through survey will be required to be undertaken during a favourable season to locate any listed and protected individuals of plant species within the development footprint. The survey must cover the footprint of the solar PV facility, including associated infrastructure such as the preferred access road alternative.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A Plant Rescue and Protection Plan must be compiled and be approved by the relevant authority prior to the commencement of the pre-construction and construction phase. » Permits from the office of the NC DAEA, RD & LR must be applied for by the Developer for the removal and translocation of affected protected and listed plant species prior to the commencement of the pre-construction and construction phase of the development.
	<p>4.3. A species conservation assessment will thus be requested with permit applications if large amounts of <i>Boscia foetida</i> are to be impacted on.</p>		<p>A walkthrough survey of the development footprint of Naledi PV will be undertaken to identify individual tree species that are listed and will have to be destroyed as a result of the development of the Naledi PV facility. Based on the findings of the walkthrough survey and consultations with the NC DAEA, LR&RD, the need for a conservation assessment will be determined. Furthermore, Objective 2 of the Design and Planning EMPr (Chapter 5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report)) includes a requirement for the Developer to apply and obtain comments from relevant authorities for listed plant species located within the development footprint of Naledi PV.</p>
	<p>5. As per the specialist's reports, the region favors local avifaunal diversity. Furthermore, 68 species were recorded on site during the two field surveys. Eight (8) of these species are listed as threatened (5 were recorded during the site-visits), and another four (4) are considered Near-Threatened (2 were recorded during the site-visits). Seven species are considered true near-endemics to South Africa, while twelve (12) are considered biome-restricted. In addition, Karoo Korhaan (NT) breeding pairs and their habitat was confirmed to the east of the development site. The cumulative impact the conglomerate of PV developments (proposed and already in operation) and the multiple associated overhead powerlines can thus be of significant negative impact on the birdlife within the area in question. With regard to bird mortalities at a large, well-known</p>		<p>Objective 2 of the Operation Phase EMPr (Chapter 8 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) includes a requirement for the Operations and Maintenance Contractor to record all collisions of avifauna species with the solar PV panel for Naledi PV, using video surveillance records where possible. The records of collisions of avifauna with the solar PV array will be submitted to the NC DAEA, LR & RD office by the Developer and / or the O&M Contractor.</p>

	<p>PV facility within the Northern Cape, Visser (2016) found that the only collision-related injuries were that of n large-bodied birds with the underside of the panels and entrapment between fencing, yet all of these were nonfatal. In addition, fatalities were estimated to 4.53 fatalities MW/yr (95% CI 1.51-8.50). The author did however conclude the study period was quite short and that a lack of comparable results from other sources made it difficult to provide a meaningful assessment on avian mortality at PV facilities. The author further stated that in order to fully understand the risk of solar energy development on birds, further collation and analysis of data from solar energy facilities across spatial and temporal scales, based on scientifically rigorous research designs, is required. It is thus hereby proposed that bird mortality as well as bird species richness and density within the PV facility and various sections surrounding the facility (e.g. the boundary zone, adjacent untransformed land, etc.) be monitored during the lifespan (pre-construction through to operational phases) of the development. This information should be provided to both the provincial and national conservation authorities.</p>		
	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-sets/contribution to conservation land should be considered, for the conglomerate of developments impacting on the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland and Bushmanland Arid Grassland. 		<p>The comment from the Department is acknowledged. The Naledi PV development footprint is located outside of sensitive areas and features and is located within areas of a low sensitivity, and therefore the need for an offset is not required for this project. Furthermore, it is important to consider the availability of grid connection infrastructure to connect proposed solar PV facilities to the national grid, which to a certain extent determines the number of proposed solar PV facilities that can be constructed within the surrounding area in the medium and long-term. According to the Developer, the proposed grid connection point for Naledi PV, the Upington MTS (to which Naledi PV and other project proposed in the surrounding area connect) has been designed to evacuate 2 500MW. Therefore, the Upington MTS</p>

			<p>will only be able reach this capacity once the proposed Aries-Upington 400kV power lines are constructed to connect other proposed solar PV facilities to the grid network. Therefore, until these proposed power lines are developed, the capacity of the Upington MTS remains at 1 500MW.</p> <p>In addition, the word 'conglomerate' should be understood to have a finite limit given the capacity constraints of the grid connection point. Therefore, this means only a finite number of projects within the Gordonia region can be awarded preferred bidder status by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). As a result, not all projects bid under the programme will be granted preferred bidder status by the DMRE. Taking this aspect into consideration and the extent of the vegetation units affected by the development of renewable solar energy facilities within the surrounding area, these vegetation units will be minimally affected by the development of Naledi PV and other solar PV facilities in the surrounding area.</p> <p>In general, the comment from the Department regarding the offset and contribution to biodiversity in the area falls outside of the scope of the BA process and will be dealt with through a formalised process between the competent and commenting authorities, as is appropriate.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The names of the national and provincial departments as stated above should be corrected throughout the documents. 		<p>The names of the national and provincial departments have been updated accordingly in the final BA Report and the associated appendices.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Road Alternative 1 is supported as the preferable option as oppose to Alternative 2. 		<p>The comment from the Department regarding the nomination of Access Road Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative is acknowledged. It must be noted that Access Road Alternative 1 was also nominated as the preferred option in Section 10.6 of the BA process and BA Report.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A species conservation assessment will be requested with permit applications if large amounts of <i>Boscia foetida</i> are to be impacted on. 		<p>A walkthrough survey of the development footprint of Naledi PV will be undertaken to identify individual tree species that are listed and will have to be destroyed as a result of the development of the solar PV facility. Based on the findings of the walkthrough survey and consultations with the NC DAEA, LR&RD, the need for a conservation assessment will be determined. Furthermore, Objective 2 of the Design and Planning EMPr (Chapter 5 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report)) includes a requirement for the Developer to apply and obtain comments from relevant authorities for listed plant species located within the development footprint of Naledi PV.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monitoring of bird mortality as well as bird species richness and density within the PV facility and various sections surrounding the facility during the lifespan of the development is strongly supported 		<p>Objective 2 of the Operation Phase EMPr (Chapter 8 of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) includes a requirement for the Operations and Maintenance Contractor to record all collisions of avifauna species with the solar PV panel for Naledi PV, using video surveillance records where possible. The records of collisions of avifauna with the solar PV array will be submitted to the NC DAEA, LR & RD office by the Developer and / or the O&M Contractor.</p>
<p>The following recommendation must be considered in the final report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search and rescue plan for the identified Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) must be submitted as part of the final report; 	<p>Seoka Lekota Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B:</p>	<p>A Plant and Rescue Protection Plan is included as Appendix D of the EMPr (Appendix M of the final BA Report) in the final BA Report.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A botanist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough prior to finalization of the final phase of the EIA, to identify all sensitive plant species and assist in identifying the areas that require protection; 	<p>Biodiversity Conservation DEFF Letter: 13-08-2020</p>	<p>The Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final BA Report), which includes the undertaking of fieldwork, identified areas of high environmental sensitivity, and the development footprint of Naledi PV avoids these areas considered to be unacceptable for development. Maps superimposing the footprint of Naledi PV and the identified environmental sensitivities has been included in Appendix O of the final BA Report.</p> <p>A final walk-through survey will be undertaken following the finalisation of the layout, prior to construction, in order to confirm the plant species which will be affected, and which will require translocation and/or destruction permits.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion and Alien Plan species Management Plan, and Rehabilitation Plan must be submitted as part of the final EIA report to mitigate on habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion; and 		<p>Erosion Management and Alien and Open Space Management Plan are included in the final BA Report as Appendix C and D of the EMPr.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitive areas in close proximity to the development footprint must be demarcated as no-go area i.e. drainage lines. 		<p>Sensitive ecological, avifauna and freshwater areas and features located within the development area of Naledi PV have been delineated as part of the BA process for the solar PV facility and have been avoided by the development footprint. Maps illustrating the location of environmental sensitivities associated with the development area and development footprint of the solar PV facility are included in the final BA Report as Appendix O.</p>
<p>The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Revised Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar power generating facilities on birds in South Africa.</p>		<p>The final BA Report is compliant with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The Avifauna Impact Assessment (Appendix E of the final BA Report) was undertaken for the proposed development in-line with the Best Practice Guideline for Birds and Solar Energy.</p>

7.	<p>SARAO has revised the preliminary risk assessment with regard to the electromagnetic emissions of the above mentioned solar development project and its possible impact on the SKA radio telescope.</p> <p>Based on the information provided on the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) that was provided by Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners (Pty) Ltd (Atlantic) and Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd) (Savannah), this development will present a medium risk of electromagnetic interference to the SKA radio telescope. This determination was based on the total number of solar panels and the maximum applicable CISPR 11 radiated emission levels. It therefore, represents a high level risk assessment.</p> <p>SARAO, therefore, would like to inform you that there is a possible need to implement RFI control measures on this plant and to ensure that it adheres to the prescribed compliance limits. The determination of the level of attenuation that will be required, if any, will be made when full details and information of all electrical equipment is available. We will therefore appreciate if Atlantic can inform us once these have been determined and further assessment can be undertaken. The cost of the implementation of mitigation measures will be borne by the facility.</p>	<p>Mr Selaelo Matlhane Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager South African Radio Astronomy Observatory</p> <p>Letter: 19-08-2020</p>	<p>It is noted that the development of Naledi PV presents a medium risk in terms of electromagnetic interference to the SKA radio telescope.</p> <p>The need for the implementation of RFI control measures will be determined once the full details of all electrical equipment for Naledi PV is available. The Developer will consult with the relevant parties in this regard. No further action is required at this time.</p>
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1.2. Interested and Affected Parties

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>We as an effected community from Upington and ZF Mcgawu district, it is concerning community participation for the term normally 20 years for the construction phase and the trust phase of the 2 solar plants namely.</p> <p>It is very important to work and or establish a community structure that are broadly organised, whereby solar plants have a duty to</p>	<p>Deon FJ Bezuidenhout Acting: Operational Director ZFM Integrated Community Trust Committee</p>	<p>The comments received from AFM Integrated Community Trust Committee are acknowledged and have been forwarded to the Developer, Naledi PV (Pty) Ltd for their attention.</p> <p>The project is still within the environmental permitting process. Once awarded Preferred Bidder status under the Department of Mineral</p>

<p>assist financially such structures. An organization that is accountable, transparent, politics free and operate according a constitution.</p> <p>Our experience in the last few solar plants is they create internal fights by decide to work with different organisations who normally have one objective and riots and strikes occur, that make solar plants work difficult to implement. And in that process the plant must be build according the tender who normally then contracts go to companies who are not from the effected communities. We write to you to consult us so that things never happen cos we are the losers if those unprofessional conducts happen, We are deprived from rightfully belong to us if we can measure those loses its multi millions of rands which we can call it theft.</p> <p>We write to you that we know our rights as follows and want that it must be handle proper in consultation with us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One broad community organization for participation that can prove they are democratically structure with accountability measures in place. This is most important before the plant can even start so it has community consensus as a vital part. <p>Mining effected community organisations take the dept. of minerals and energy to court and win many cases against department and mines who just start mine and decide also allow marginalisation happening in communities and lose its tender/mining rights once those happen(see section8,2 in the bill of rights)corporations responsibilities' towards communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Reason in past municipalities approves solar construction and community don't have a say and in the end without consensus communities are the losers in construction phase. 3. Once consensus its agreed then a community liaison officer be chosen by the community and not from the plant. 4. We organised ourselves with and our area that plants can come with EPC Company and the rest we got it in our area. 	<p>Letter: 06-08-2020</p>	<p>Resources and Energy (DMRE) REIPPP programme, the Developer will be in a position to engage the community, through a Community Liaison Officer, regarding the socio-economic challenges and the opportunities the development of Naledi PV can present for members of the community.</p> <p>The Social Impact Assessment (Appendix J of the final BA Report) includes mitigation measures for the construction phase of the proposed development for the adoption of a local's first recruitment policy for employment and business opportunities.</p> <p>The rights of the organisation and members of the community are acknowledged. The organisation will be engaged by the Developer, through a Community Liaison Officer (CLO), following the award of preferred bidder status by the DMRE, and prior to the commencement of construction activities on site.</p> <p>The concerns regarding the challenges experienced with previous projects in the area are acknowledged. The Developer will consult with community structures, through the correct avenues and the Community Liaison Officer (CLO), to ensure similar challenges (as previously experienced) are mitigated prior to the commencement of the construction phase. However, this process will only be undertaken</p>
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<p>5. We got white and black business chambers and others who are not part of it, so we must cater for all. Our moto is contracts must not go to those who did benefit already so much on previous plants. That decision is up to us who knows the area well.</p>		<p>when the project has been awarded preferred bidder status by the DMRE.</p>
<p>6. Legislations are that black locals must benefit, and they can sign joint venture agreements to the advanced white community.</p>		<p>The Social Impact Assessment (Appendix J of the final BA Report) includes mitigation measures for the construction phase of the proposed development for the adoption of a local's first policy business opportunities for SMMEs.</p>
<p>7. Further if a certain skill is not find in our area then it can be looked outside 50km radius. Most solar plants trust deeds is for the district so it will be best to work with district community organisations, note when I say communities it mean included SMMEs,contractors and labourers they all made the community.</p>		<p>The development of Naledi PV will present numerous employment and business opportunities for low-skilled workers and SMMEs within the surrounding communities, particularly during the construction phase of the project. In accordance with Objective 4 of the Construction Phase EMPr, the Developer is required to provide preference to workers and SMMEs within the area surrounding the Naledi PV development footprint. However, where skills are not available within the area, skills and services will be imported from elsewhere within the Province and the country.</p>
<p>8. We want a list of SMMEs and contractors the plant need and pay rates also the labourers and rates.</p>		<p>Details regarding the skills and services required from SMMEs in the area will be communicated by the Contractor appointed by the Developer for the construction of Naledi PV. This process will only be undertaken once the project has been awarded preferred bidder status under the REIPPP Programme of the DMRE.</p>
<p>9. Participation-no elected councillor or political party executives must serve as executives on community structures. It will allow marginalisation to exclude certain communities and SMMEs and favour politics. It can't be that the state tenders be run and managed by the state employees who represent the state, its conflict</p>		<p>The Developer will engage with the relevant and recognised structures regarding the employment and business opportunities presented by the project. However, it remains the onus of members of the community to ensure that they are appropriately represented in these structures and to ensure that the processes implemented are democratic.</p>
<p>10. Most important don't divide our community and rule because we will not allow that, as we said we experienced all those and we learn out of that even legally arguments of the community rights. Don't sign MOU agreements with any other none other than such a community structure, we are aware the</p>		<p>Further engagement will however take place when the project has been awarded preferred bidder by the DMRE.</p>

	<p>municipalities or departments want community trust moneys must channelled into IDP or departments ,it happen because the community are not in administration of the percentage the government give for the communities.</p>		
	<p>11. Good day, see our participation and we are directly affected according to the law. We do our part. Thank you. Reply with any enquiries. Thank you</p>	<p>E-mail: 24 August 2020</p>	<p>In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 40.(2)(d) the ZFM Integrated Community Trust Committee are an interested party and are not directly impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>The submission of the list of SMMEs are acknowledged and have been forwarded to the Developer for their information.</p>