
15 May 2023

Attention:

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (Pty) Ltd

Candy Mahlangu: candy@savannahsa.com

To whom it may concern:

SPECIALIST INPUT FOR THE PART 1 AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE SKUITDRIFT 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY ON THE FARM 426 SKUITDRIF, IN THE KAI GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

1. Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend the Environmental Authorization (EA) for the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility, on the Farm 426 Skuitdrif in the Northern Cape Province, approximately 68 km north of Pofadder by extending the EA validity by an additional ten (10) years. Extension of the validity of the EA will ensure that the EA remains valid for the undertaking of the authorised activities.
2. Savannah Environmental have been appointed as the Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to prepare the Application. The EA Amendment will be completed in terms of Regulation 30(1)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, including additional specialist studies and public participation required by the DFFE. Condition 6 of the First Issue Environmental Authorisation, Issued on the 26th of June 2013, DEA Reference 12/12/20/2600 states that:

“This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.”

Consequent amendments to extend the validity of the authorisation have been made as follows:

- 12/12/20/2600/AM1 – authorised on the 19 February 2016 extending the validity to commence within two (2) years from the date of expiry of the EA issued on 26 June 2013.
- 12/12/20/2600/AM2 – authorised on the 29 June 2018 extending the validity to commence within seven (7) years from the date of expiry of the EA issued on 26 June 2013.
- 12/12/20/2600 /AM3 – authorised on the 8 June 2020 extending the validity to the 26 June 2023 which states the following:

“This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this authorisation (i.e. the EA lapses on 26 June 2023). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.”

3. The 2012 agricultural potential assessment compiled by Hendri Beukes (Solek Renewable Energy Engineers) (Pty) Ltd): Environmental Impact Assessment Process Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Proposed Khoi-Sun Development Solar Facility (up to 75MW) on the farm 426 Skuitdrif, near Poffader in the Kenhardt District, Northern Cape Province. DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/2600, refers.
4. The 2012 study as part of the Environmental Authorisation Amendment process (DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/2600) has been reviewed by The Biodiversity Company who conducted a site assessment on the farm 426 Skuitdrif, near Poffader in the Kenhardt District, Northern Cape Province, during May 2023.
5. The construction date of the proposed Khoi-Sun Development Solar Facility project is still awaiting finalization. In addition, following the 2012 agricultural potential report, DEA Screening tool (see Figure 1) and the recent 2023 site verification, no further amendments will be required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2012.
6. The dominant soil forms found within the proposed project area during the 2023 survey include Glenrosa and Mispah soil forms (see Figure 2). Glenrosa soil form consists of an orthic topsoil on top of a lithic horizon; and Mispah soil form consists of a shallow orthic layer on top of a fractured rock or solid rock. The identified soil forms are associated with low land capability and low land potential. Furthermore, the available climate conditions of the proposed project area are not favorable for intense agricultural production due to the low precipitation and high temperature and high evapotranspiration.
7. Therefore, the current (2023) soil and agricultural survey reports that the EIA (2012) soil and agricultural baseline findings for the Khoi-Sun Development Solar Facility are still applicable and invariable, therefore the predicted impacts and provided mitigation measures still applies to the proposed land capability of the assessment site. It should be noted that the current soil and agricultural potential were classified using the updated soil taxonomic "Soil Classification Working Group, 2018."
8. We hereby confirm that the proposed project activities will not result in any additional impacts and will not increase the level or nature of the impact on the available land resources, which was initially assessed and considered when application was made for an EA and subsequent amendments. The significance ratings will remain unchanged, and the proposed mitigation and management measures proposed as part of the EIA process will still suffice.
9. We trust you find the above in order. If there are any uncertainties or additional information required, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Kind regards,



Andrew Husted

Project Management (SACNASP 400213/11)

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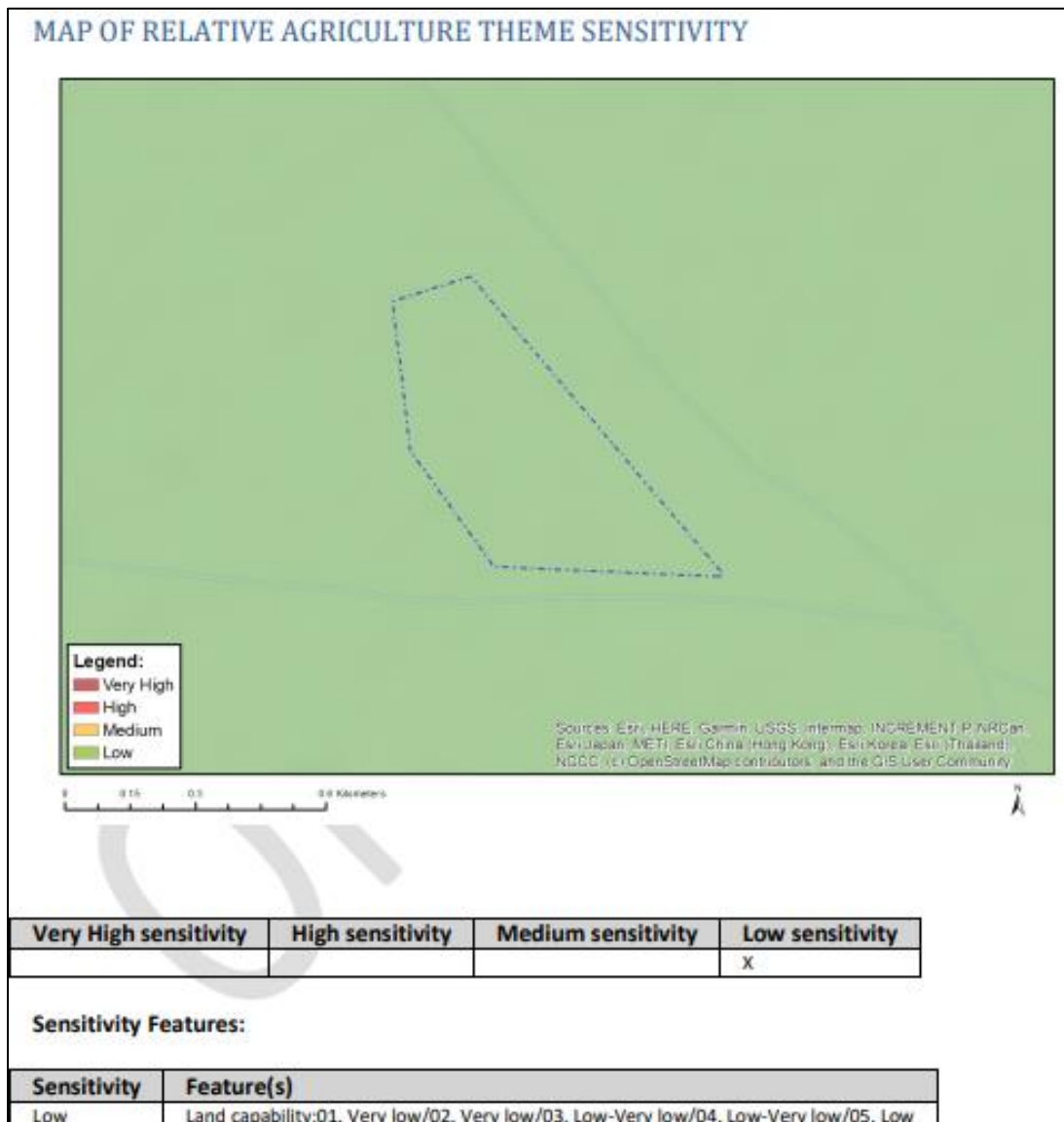


Figure 1: DEA Screening tool (2023)



Figure 2: Soil forms identified within the proposed project area including shallow rocky Glenrosa and Mispah soil forms