

Background Information Document



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Environmental Impact Assessment Process

KIMBRATRAX SOLAR PROJECT

23 May 2013

Introduction

Kimbratrax (Pty) Ltd. is proposing the construction of the **Kimbratrax Solar Project**, over an approximate area of 500 hectare (ha), with a maximum generation capacity of approximately 250 MegaWatts (MW) Alternating Current (AC), for input into the Eskom electrical grid.



The solar facility will consist of Photovoltaic (PV) panels, which will be mounted on either fixed-tilt or tracking structures (to be confirmed), orientated north. Associated infrastructure will include a 132kV transmission line, an internal road network, minisubstations & transformers.

Description of the site & environment

The proposed solar facility site is on a portion of **Portion 12 of Farm 454 Dyason's Klip**, located off the N14, approximately 15km north-east of Keimoes in the Northern Cape (see location map attached).

The majority of the farm is located within the Bushmanland Arid Grassland, while the northern portion is located within the Kalahari Karroid Shrubland vegetation type, as identified in the National Vegetation Map of Southern Africa (Mucina, 2006). Both these vegetation types are classified as Least Threatened in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA, 2011).

The Orange River aligns to the south-east of the property and is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area. The solar site will however avoid this sensitive system.

What is the purpose of this document?

The main purpose of this **Background Information Document (BID)** is to:

- Provide potential “Interested and Affected Parties” (I&APs) with information regarding the proposed project and project site;
- Describe the environmental process being undertaken and the way forward;
- Provide I&APs with the opportunity to highlight potential issues or concerns regarding the proposal or proposed site.

Note that this information document is the first in a series of information sharing reports for this application. Further documentation, with detailed information, will be made available during the process for comment.

Why is an environmental process necessary?

Good planning of any activity is important to ensure that the resultant environmental footprint is limited and met by mitigation measures that can ensure sustainability. The environmental process will inform layouts, technological options and designs, assessed against the environmental, social and cultural resources, in order to have the least possible impact on the receiving environment.

The proposed solar development ‘triggers’ several “listed activities” as stipulated in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA No. 107 of 1998). In order to determine whether the Applicant may commence with the proposed solar facility a **Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR)** environmental process must be followed.

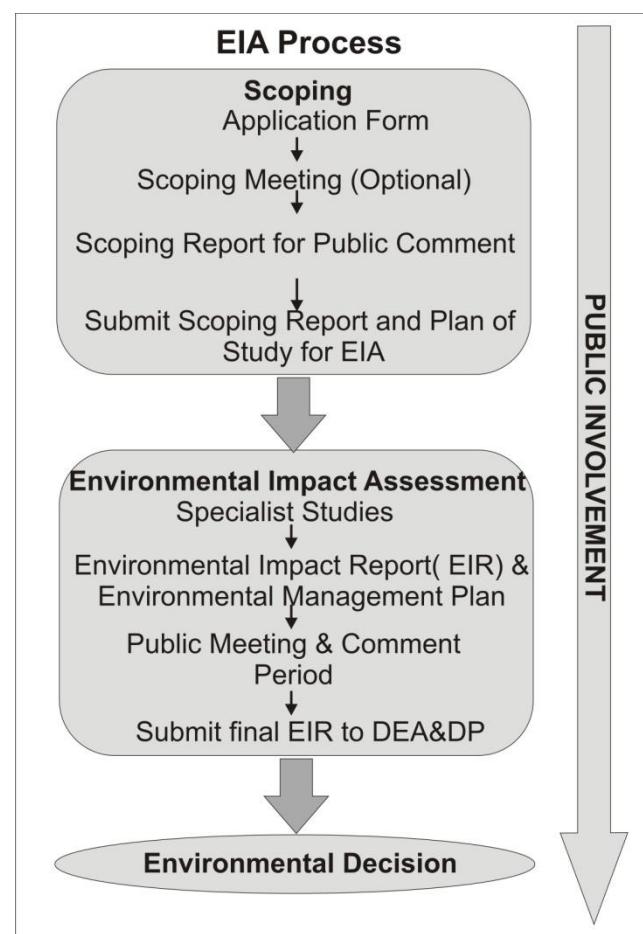
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) has been appointed, as independent environmental assessment practitioners (EAP), to facilitate the legally required environmental process and to ensure that the Public, key Stakeholders, relevant Authorities and Organs of State are presented an opportunity to participate and give input into the process and proposal.

What legislation applies?

The environmental process is undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No.107 of 1998 as amended) including the 2010 Environmental Regulations. An application has been submitted to the competent authority for Environmental Authorisation. In this case the authority is the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

Other relevant legislation pertaining to agricultural, heritage, biodiversity and planning aspects will be considered, and where relevant, permits/licenses applied for.

What process will be undertaken?



The following steps will be undertaken as part of the Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process:

Scoping Phase:

- Submission of the **Application Form** to DEA (Reference No. **14/12/16/3/3/2/538**);
- Identifying key Interested and Affected Parties (“I&AP’s”);
- Make available the **BID**, briefly explaining the process and project (**this document**): at Keimoes Library, !Kai!Garib municipal offices and online: www.cape-eaprac.co.za/active (from 24 May 2013);
- **Advertising** a ‘Call for Registration’ in a local newspaper (*Gemsbok newspaper*) with a registration period of 21-days ending 14 June 2013;
- Put up **Site Notices** and notices at relevant local venues to inform the general public of the process and invite them to register and participate;
- Open and maintain a **Registered Stakeholder database**;

- Appointment of specialists to determine the current environmental status of the site and the constraints for development (baseline studies);
- Compilation and public availability of a **Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Plan of Study for the EIR**, highlighting preliminary layouts based on identified constraints.
- Compilation of **Final Scoping Report (FSR)** based on public comment for submission to the competent authority (DEA).

Environmental Impact Reporting Phase:

- Specialists undertake assessment of alternatives to determine the significance of potential impact(s);
- Specialist findings and recommendations detailed in the **DRAFT Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**, as well as the **DRAFT Environmental Management Programme (EMP)**, to be circulated for public comment;
- Compile the **FINAL Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and EMP** detailing the preferred alternative / project proposal. The FEIR & EMP will be made available to registered I&APs for final review / comment.
- Submit the FINAL EIR and EMP to DEA for decision-making (authorisation, with conditions, or refusal);
- Notification of registered I&APs and Stakeholders of **Environmental Decision**, and details of appeal process / period.

Why and how should you get involved?

In the event that you have an **interest** in the project, or feel that you **may be affected** by the proposed development, you are invited to **register** as an I&AP for the environmental process. A vital part of the EIA Process is **public consultation** as it provides stakeholders with an opportunity to get a better understanding of what is being proposed and provide input. In order to do so, any interested and/or affected party (I&AP) **MUST REGISTER**.

How does one register for the EIA process?

Forward your full **contact details** (name, postal address, email address, fax and telephone numbers) and any preliminary written comment &/ concerns you may have to *Cape EA Prac* within the 21-day registration period, i.e. by no later than **14 June 2013**. In order to be registered, you must also **disclose** any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the proposed project (please see form attached). Future correspondence (after this BID) will only be distributed to **registered I&AP's**.

What issues have been identified to date?

Potential issues that have already been identified by the Project Team, include but are not limited, to:

- Potential impact on flora & fauna;
- Potential impact on cultural landscape or resources;
- Potential impact on agricultural activities;
- Visual impacts;

What kind of specialist studies?

The following specialist impact assessments, among others, will inform the EIA process:

- Specialist Engineering input to inform PV Solar facility;
- Biophysical / Ecological Assessment;
- Heritage Impact Assessment;
- Topographical Survey;
- Agricultural Potential Study Etc.

Alternatives

In terms of the NEMA legislation, alternatives must be considered during an environmental assessment. These may be site, activity, operational or technological alternatives. As such, alternatives to the development concept and layout will be investigated / revised and developed throughout the environmental process.

The No Go Alternative (Status Quo) must be considered as a baseline against which the impacts of any other Alternatives are measured.

Stakeholders are requested to provide details of any reasonable and/or feasible Alternatives that they may be aware of. These will be considered by the Specialists in their scoping and assessments studies.

Application for Deviation & Exemption

Cape EAPrac has applied for deviation from the following public participation regulations:

- R54(1)(a)(ii) – placing site notices at alternative site/s (*no alternative sites are to be considered*);
- R54(1)(b)(ii) – giving notice to occupiers of the site or alternative sites (*there are currently no people living on the site*).

Cape EAPrac has applied for exemption from Regulation 54(10)(2)(d) - Advertising the environmental decision in a newspaper. Notifications will be provided to all registered I&APs.

Way Forward

On completion of all the required Specialist Baseline / Scoping Studies, the Draft Scoping Report will be made available to all **registered** I&APs for a review and comment period of 40-days.

Based on the level of public / stakeholder interest in this project, Open House Meetings may be arranged to present project information, specialist findings and recommendations to the public during the process.

Please quote the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Reference Number for this application, on all correspondence: 14/12/16/3/3/2/538.

TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP, SEND YOUR REGISTRATION REQUEST, NAME & CONTACT DETAILS, AND ANY PRELIMINARY COMMENTS:

Cape-EAPrac
ATT: Dale Holder

PO Box 2070 George 6530
Telephone: 044 874 0365 Fax: 044 874 0432
E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

COMMENTS MUST REACH US ON OR BEFORE
THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2013

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING PROCESS
FOR THE PROPOSED KIMBRATRAX SOLAR PROJECT, KEIMOES, NORTHERN CAPE
REGISTRATION / INITIAL COMMENT SHEET on BID

Should you have any preliminary comments and would like to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party ("I&AP"), please complete this form and return it to *Cape EAPrac* at P O Box 2070, George, 6530. Tel: 044 874 0365, Fax: 044 874 0432, Email: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za, **on or before, 14 June 2013**. Registration may also be done online at www.cape-eaprac.co.za/active on the project page.

TITLE & NAME	
ORGANISATION / FARM / ERF	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
TEL NO.	
FAX NO.	
CELL NO.	
E-MAIL	

COMMENTS

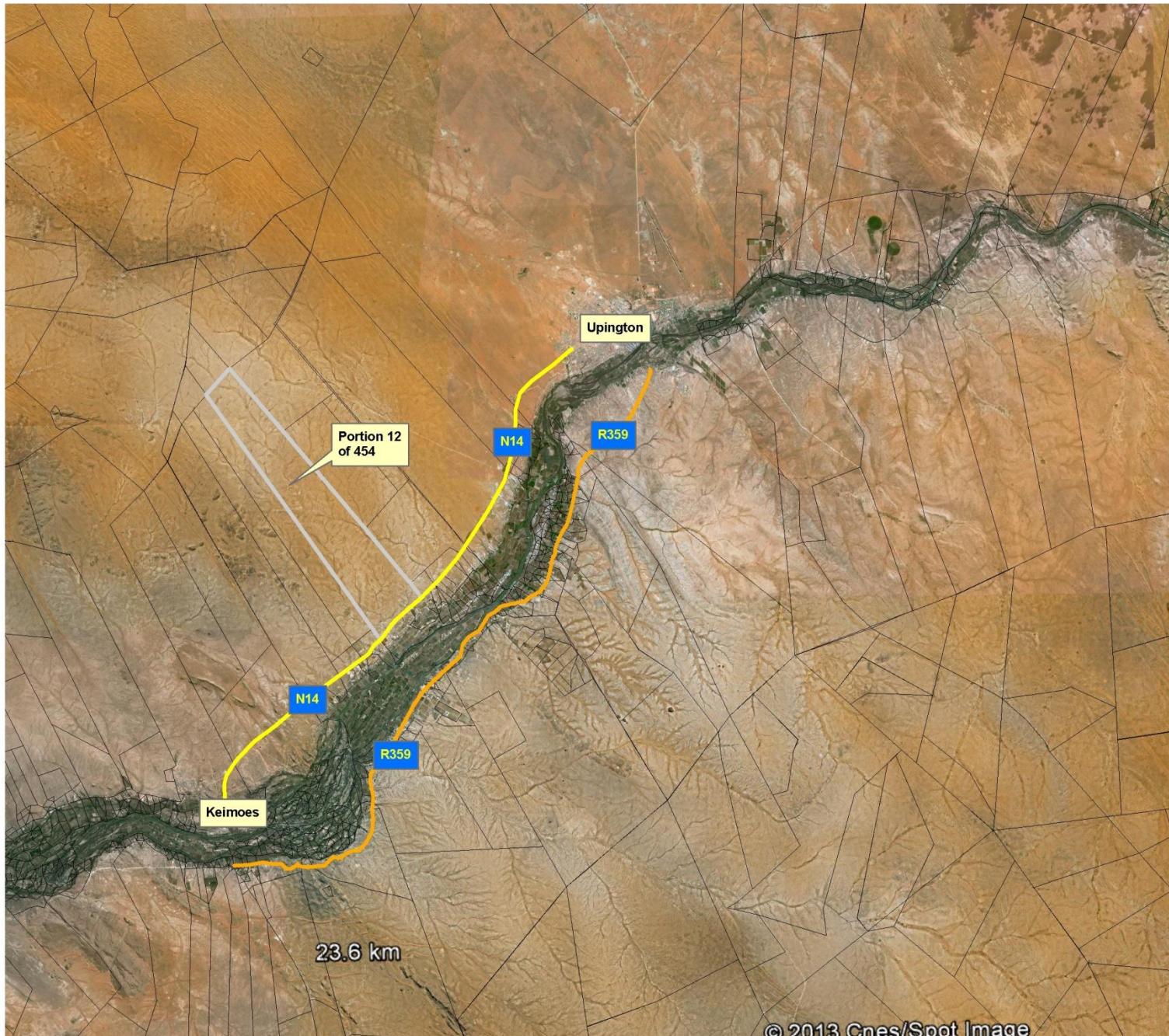
1. List any **key issues or concerns** relating to the proposed development:

3. Describe your **reason/motivation** for participating in this environmental process (disclose any interest):

4. List any potential (reasonable and / or feasible) **alternatives** for the site or proposal:

5. List **interested & affected parties** (I&APs) or Stakeholders that you feel should be registered (provide their **full contact details (name, telephone, fax, email and postal details)** and who they represent in order that we may contact them):

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR YOUR COMMENTS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS



Notes

- Map Scale is 1 : 225 000 when printed on A3.
- Aerial Image courtesy of Google Earth Pro 2012
- Imagery date July 2005.



Map Index



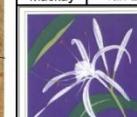
Location Plan

Kimbratrax Solar Project
Portion 12 of 454 Dyasons Klip

Legend

Portion_12_of_454

Drawn	Checked	Date	Reference
Melissa Mackay	Louise-Mari van Zyl	4 April 2013	KAI230



Cape Environmental Assessment
Practitioners (Pty) Ltd



AGTERGRONDINLINGSDOKUMENT (AID)

Omgewingsimpakstudie Proses

KIMBRATRAX SONKRAK PROJEK

23 Mei 2013

Inleiding

Kimbratrax (Pty) Ltd. is van voorneme om die **Kimbratrax Sonkrag Projek** op te rig, oor 'n geskatte oppervlakte van 500 hektaar (ha), met 'n maksimum kapasiteit van ongeveer 250 megawatt (MW) Wisselstroom (AC), vir invoer in die Eskom elektriesiteitsnetwerk.



Die sonkragaanleg sal uit Fotovoltaïese (PV) panele bestaan, wat op vaste-kantel of roterende basis (wag op bevestiging), in 'n Noordelike rigting opgerig sal word. Gepaardgaande infrastruktuur sluit in 'n 132kV transmissie lyn, interne padnetwerk, mini-substasies en transformators.

Beskrywing van terrain & omgewing

Die voorgestelde sonkragaanleg terrein is op 'n gedeelte van **Gedeelte 12 van Plaas 454 Dyasons Klip**, geleë langs die N14, ongeveer 15km noord-oos van Keimoes, in die Noord-Kaap (sien terreinkaart aangeheg).

Die meerderheid van die plaas vorm deel van die Boesmanland Arid Grasland, terwyl die noordelike gedeelte in die Kalahari Karroid Shrubland plantegroei tipe geleë is, soos geïdentifiseer in die Nasionale plantegroei kaart van Suider-Afrika (Mucina, 2006). Beide hierdie tipes plantegroei word geklassifiseer as mins-bedreig (Least Threatened) in terme van die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur: Wet op Biodiversiteit (NEM: BA, 2011).

Die Oranjerivier vloei aan die Suid-ooste kant van die eiendom en word geklassifiseer as 'n Kritiese Biodiversiteit Area. Die sonkragaanleg sal egter hierdie sensitiewe stelsel vermy.

Wat is die doel van hierdie dokument?

Die hoofdoel van hierdie **Agtergrond-inligtingsdokument (AID)** is om:

- potensiële "Belangstellende en Geaffekteerde Partye" (B&GPe) met inligting oor die voorgestelde projek en ligging te voorsien;
- Die voorgenome omgewingsimpakstudie wat onderneem gaan word, en die proses vorentoe te beskryf,
- B&GPe die geleentheid te bied om moontlike probleme of bekommernisse rakende die voorstel of voorgestelde terrein te opper.

Let daarop dat hierdie inligtingsdokument die eerste in 'n reeks van inligting verslae vir hierdie proses sal wees. Verdere dokumentasie met meer besonderhede, sal tydens die proses vir kommentaar beskikbaar gestel word.

Hoekom is 'n omgewingsimpakstudie proses nodig?

Goeie beplanning van 'n aktiwiteit is belangrik om te verseker dat die gevolglike impak op die omgewing beperk word en dat die projek volhoubaar is. Die omgewingproses sal uitleg, tegnologiese opsies en ontwerp inligting beoordeel, asook die omgewings-, sosiale en kulturele hulpbronne, om te help verseker dat die voorgestelde projek die mins moontlike impak op die omgewing sal hê.

Die voorgestelde sonkragaanleg betrek 'n paar "gelyste handelinge" soos vervat in die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA 107 van 1998). Ten einde te bepaal of die aansoeker met die voorgestelde sonkragaanleg mag begin, is 'n **Omvangsbepaling en Omgewingsinvloedbepaling (O&OIV)** omgewing proses nodig.

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) is aangestel as onafhanklike omgewings assessering praktisys ('EAP'), om die omgewingproses te fasiliteer en om te verseker dat die publiek, sleutelbelanghebbendes, betrokke owerhede en staatowerhede 'n billike geleentheid kry om deel te neem en insette te gee in die proses en die voorstel.

Watter wetgewing is van toepassing?

Die omgewingproses word onderneem in terme van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA, Wet 107 van 1998, soos gewysig), insluitend die 2010 Environmental Regulases. 'n Aansoek is ingedien by die bevoegde owerheid, in hierdie geval is die nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake (DO).

Ander toepaslike wetgewing ten opsigte van landbou, erfenis, biodiversiteit en beplanning

sal in ag geneem word, en waar toepaslik, permitte / lisensies bekom word.

Watter proses sal onderneem word?



Die volgende stappe sal onderneem word as deel van die Omvangsbepaling en Omgewingsinvloedbepaling (O&OIV) proses:

Omvangsbepaling Fase:

- Indiening van die **Aansoekvorm** te DO (Verwysings Nr 14/12/16/3/3/2/538);
- Die identifisering van sleutel Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye ("B&GPs");
- Beskikbaarheid van die agtergrondinligtingsdokument (**AID**), met kort verduideliking van die proses en projek (**hierdie dokument**): by Keimoes Biblioteek, !Kai!Garib munisipale kantore en aanlyn: www.cape-eaprac.co.za/active (van 24 Mei 2013);
- 'n 'Oproep vir Registrasie' in die plaaslike koerant (*Gemsbok koerant*) met 'n registrasie periode van 21-dae wat eindig 14 Junie 2013;

- Terrein Kennisgewings en kennisgewings by relevante plaaslike plekke om die algemene publiek van die proses in te lig en hulle te nooi om te regstreer en deel te neem;
- Open 'n **Geregistreerde Belanghebbede Register**;
- Aanstel van spesialiste om die huidige omgewings status van die terrein en die beperkinge vir ontwikkeling (basislyn studies) te bepaal;
- Die opstel en beskikbaarheidstelling van 'n **Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag (OBV)** en **Plan van Studie**, wat die voorlopige uitleg bespreek, gebaseer op geïdentifiseerde beperkings.
- Saamstel van **Finale Omvangbepalingsverslag (FOBV)** gebaseer op openbare kommentaar vir voorlegging aan die bevoegde owerheid (DO).

Omwingsinvloedbepalingsverslag Fase:

- Spesialiste onderneem evaluering van alternatiewe om die beduidendheid van potensiële impak(te) te bepaal;
- Spesialis bevindinge en aanbevelings moet omskryf word in die **Konsep Omgewings-impakverslag (KOIV)**, sowel as die Konsep-Omgewingsbestuursplan (OBP), wat vir openbare kommentaar versprei word;
- Stel die **FINALE Omgewings-invloedverslag (FOIV)** en OBP saam met besonderhede van die voorkeur alternatief / projek voorstel. Die FOIV & OBP sal beskikbaar gestel word aan geregistreerde B&GP vir finale hersiening / kommentaar.
- Indiening van die finale OIV en OBP aan die DO vir besluitneming (magtiging, met voorwaardes, of weiering);
- Kennisgewing van geregistreerde B&GP's en Belanghebbendes van die **Omgewings Besluit**, en besonderhede van appèl proses / tydperk.

Hoekom en hoe moet u betrokke raak?

In die geval dat u in die projek belangstel, of voel dat u moontlik geaffekteer mag word deur die voorgestelde ontwikkeling, word u uitgenooi om te regstreer as 'n B&GP vir die omgewingsproses. 'n Belangrike deel van die OIB-proses is openbare raadpleging omdat dit belanghebbendes die geleentheid bied om 'n beter begrip te vorm van wat voorgestel word, en om insette te lewer. Om dit te kan doen, moet 'n belanghebbende en/of geaffekteerde party (B & GP) **REGISTREER**.

Hoe moet iemand regstreer vir die OIBproses?

Stuur asseblief u volledige kontakbesonderhede (naam, posadres, e-posadres, faks en telefoon nommers) en enige voorlopige kommentaar / bekommernisse skriftelik na Cape EAPrac binne die 21-dag-registrasie tydperk, nie later as 14 Junie 2013 nie. Ten einde om geregistreer te word, moet u ook enige regstreekse sake-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat u dalk mag hê in die goedkeuring of afkeuring van die voorgestelde projek **bekend maak** (sien asseblief vorm aangeheg). Toekomstige korrespondensie (na hierdie dokument) sal slegs aan **geregistreerde B&GP's** gestuur word.

Watter kwessies is tot datum geïdentifiseer?

Moontlike kwessies wat deur die projekspan geïdentifiseer is, sluit in, maar is nie beperk tot:

- Potensiële impak op plantegroei en diere;
- Potensiële impak op kulturele landskap of hulpbronne;
- Potensiële impak op landbou-aktiwiteite;
- Visuele impak.

Watter tipe spesialis studies?

Die volgende spesialis-impakstudies, onder andere, sal die OIE-proses:

- Spesialis Ingeneurs insette om PV Solar fasilitet in te lig;
- Biofisiiese / Ekologiese Assessering;
- Erfenisimpakbeoordeling;
- Topografiese Opname;
- Moontlike landbou-potensiaal Studie.

Alternatiewe

In terme van die NEMA wetgewing, moet alternatiewe oorweeg word tydens 'n omgewing assessering. Dit kan terrein, aktiwiteit, operasionele of tegnologiese alternatiewe wees. As sodanig, sal alternatiewe vir die ontwikkeling konsep en uitleg deurlopen ondersoek / hersien word gedurende die omgewingproses.

Die Status Quo (sogenaamde No-Go opsie) moet in ag geneem word as 'n basislyn waarteen die impak van enige ander alternatief gemeet word. Belanghebbendes word versoek om besonderhede van enige redelike en/of haalbaar Alternatiewe wat hulle van bewus is te voorsien. Dié sal oorweeg word deur die spesialiste in hul omvangs en assessering studies.

Aansoek vir Afwyking & Kwytskelding

Cape EAPrac het aansoek gedoen om afwyking van die volgende openbare deelname regulasies:

- R54(1)(a)(ii) - die plasing van terrein kennisgewings op alternatiewe terreine (geen alternatiewe terreine word oorweeg);
- R54(1)(b)(ii) - kennisgewing aan inwoners van die terrein of alternatiewe terreine (daar is tans geen mense wat op die terrein woon).

Cape EAPrac het aansoek gedoen vir kwytskelding van Regulasie 54(10)(2)(d) - adverteer die Omgewingbesluit in 'n koerant. Kennisgewings van die besluit sal wel aan alle geregistreerde B & GP verskaf word.

Pad Voorentoe

Na voltooiing van al die nodige spesialis ondersoeke en omvangstudies, sal die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag beskikbaar gestel

word aan alle geregistreerde B&GP vir 'n hersiening en kommentaar periode van 40-dae. Afhangende van die vlak van openbare / belanghebbende belangstelling in hierdie projek, sal openbare vergaderings oorweeg word as deel van die ondersoekproses.

Meld asseblief die Departement van Omgewingsake (DO) se verwysingsnommer vir hierdie aansoek, op alle korrespondensie: 14/12/16/3/3/2/538.

OM AS 'N B&GP TE REGISTREER, STUUR U REGISTRASIE VERSOEK, NAAM & KONTAK BESONDERHEDE, EN VOORLOOPINGE KOMMENTAAR AAN:

Cape-EAPrac
Vir Aandag: Dale Holder
 Posbus George 6530
 Telefoon: 044 874 0365 Faks: 044 874 0432
 E-pos: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

REGISTRASIE & VOORLOPIGEI KOMMENAAAR MOET ONS BEREIK OP OF VOOR DONDERDAG
14 JUNIE 2013

OMVANGBEPALING & OMGEWINGINVLOEDBEPALINGPROSES

VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE KIMBRATRAX SONKRAK PROJEK, KEIMOES, NOORD KAAP

REGISTRASIE / AANVANKLIK KOMMENTAART BLAD op AID

Indien u enige voorlopige kommentaar het of wil geregistreer as 'n Belangstellende en Geaffekteerde Party ("B & GP"), voltooi asseblief hierdie vorm en stuur dit terug na *Cape EAPrac* by Posbus 2070, George, 6530, of faks na 044 874 0432, Epos: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za, **op of voor, 14 Junie 2013**. Registrasie kan ook aanlyn gedoen word by www.cape-eaprac.co.za/active op die projek bladsy.

TITEL & NAAM	
ORGANISASIE / PLAAS / ERF	
POSADRES	
TEL NR.	
FAKS NR.	
SELL NR.	
E-POS	

KOMMENTAAR

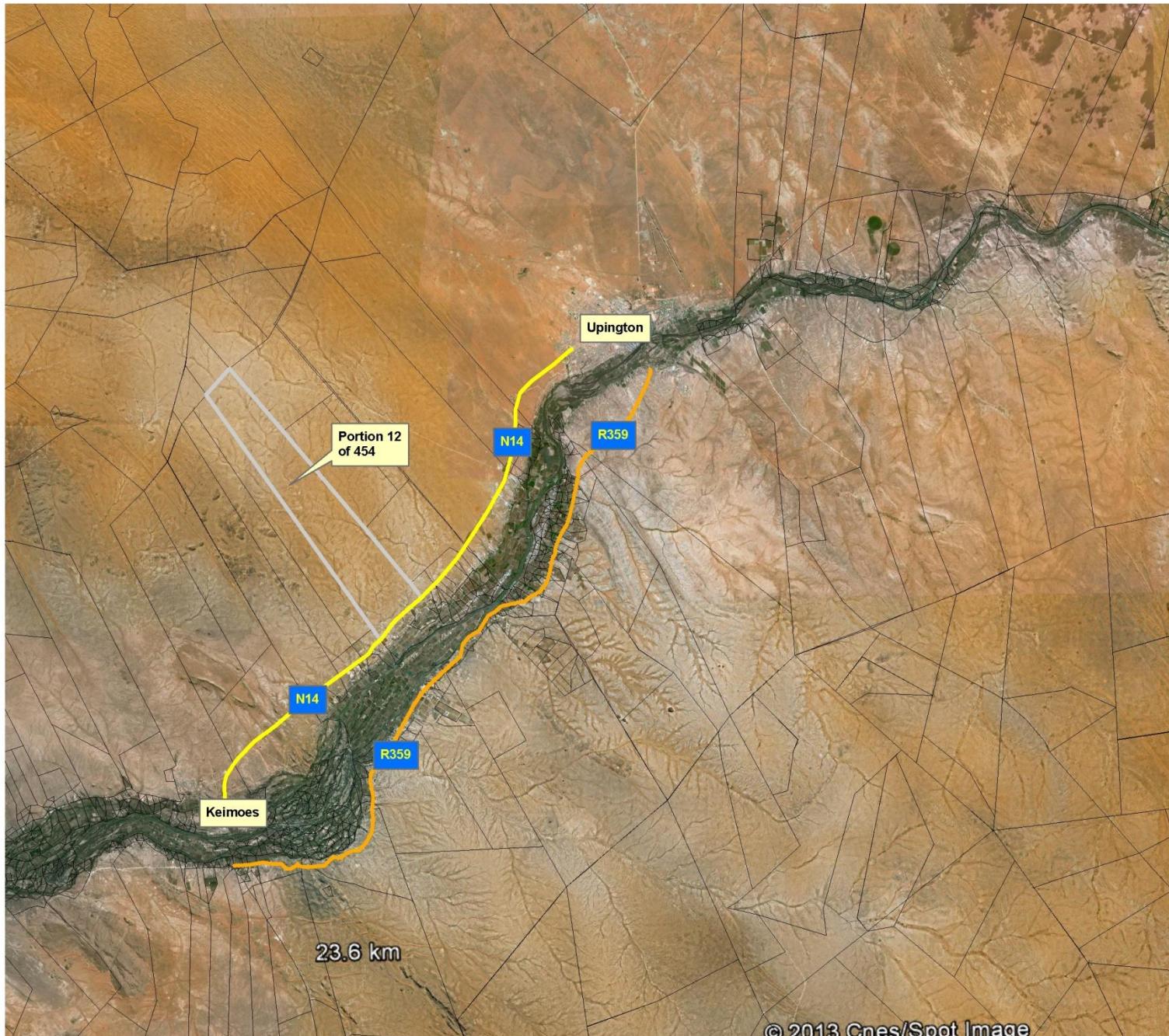
1. Dui asseblief enige **kwessies of bekommernisse** met betrekking tot die voorgestelde ontwikkeling aan:

3. Beskryf jou **rede / motivering** vir deelname in die omgewingsproses (openbaar enige belangsteling):

4. Noem enige potensiële (redelike en / of haalbaar) **alternatiewe** vir die terrein of voorstel:

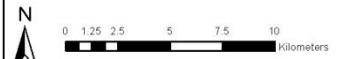
5. Lys **belanghebbende en geaffekteerde partye** (B & GP) of Belanghebbendes wat jy voel moet geregistreer word (voorsien hul volle kontakbesonderhede (naam, telefoon, faks, e-pos en posadres) en wie hulle verteenwoordig, sodat ons hulle kan kontak:

INDIEN JY EKSTRA RUIMTE VIR JOU KOMMENTAAR BENODIG, VOEL ASSEBLIEF VRY OM ADDISIONELE BLADSYE BY TE VOEG AAN DIE VORM. DANKIE VIR U DEELNAME AAN DIE OMGEWINGSPROSES



Notes

- Map Scale is 1 : 225 000 when printed on A3.
- Aerial Image courtesy of Google Earth Pro 2012
- Imagery date July 2005.



Map Index



Location Plan

Kimbratrax Solar Project
Portion 12 of 454 Dyasons Klip

Legend

Portion_12_of_454

Drawn	Checked	Date	Reference
Melissa Mackay	Louise-Mari van Zyl	4 April 2013	KAI230

Background Information Documents Available at the Khai Garib Municipality and Keimoes Library.

