

APPENDIX F: OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Project aspect	Mitigation Objectives	Management actions	Monitoring		
			Methodology	Frequency	Responsibility
A. DESIGN PHASE					
1. Loss of vegetation and habitat fragmentation.	Keeping the area cleared of vegetation to a minimum.	1.1. Clearing of vegetation should be kept to a minimum and take into consideration the sensitivities on site.	Ensure that solar panel/array design and layout is uniform and well- adapted to the surrounding environment and that no areas are cleared of vegetation that are not required as part of the construction of the various infrastructure.	Once-off during design	Project Developer
2. Permanent barriers to animal movement and habitat fragmentation.	The reduction in the impact that barrier will have on animal movement within the area.	2.1. Fencing should allow for the passage of small and medium sized mammals and all forms of mesh fencing should be avoided unless agreed otherwise with the	This should be monitored by the ECO during the construction phase to determine where these measures should be installed.	Once-off during design	Contractor
		2.2. All remaining areas that are not impacted upon by the proposed development footprint should remain unfenced to allow for movement corridors between the remainder of the farm.	This should be monitored by the ECO during the construction phase to determine whether this has been done.	Once-off during design	Contractor
		2.3. Pigtailed and/or flappers should be installed on the overhead cables where known flight paths of birds occur.	This should be monitored by the ECO during the construction phase to determine where these measures should be installed.	Once-off during design	Contractor
B. CONSTRUCTION PHASE					
3. Potential visual intrusion of construction activities on existing views of sensitive visual receptors.	Limiting negative visual impact caused by construction activities.	3.1. Preparation of the solar field area (clearance of vegetation, grading, contouring and compacting) and solar field construction should be phased in a way that makes practical sense in order to minimise the area of soil exposed and the shortest duration of exposure.	Plan activities during the construction phase so that it is optimally phased.	As required	ECO and Contractor

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4. Visual impacts of construction activities on the regional environment.	Limiting negative visual impact caused by construction activities.	4.1. Maintain good housekeeping on site to avoid litter and minimise waste.	Monitor throughout construction phase.	Continually as required	ECO and Contractor
		4.2. Demarcate clearance areas and minimise surface disturbance.	Monitor throughout construction phase.	Continually as required	ECO and Contractor
		4.3. Rehabilitation of temporarily cleared sites should start as soon as possible.	Monitor throughout construction phase.	Continually as required	ECO and Contractor
		4.4. Implement dust suppression management actions.	Monitor throughout construction phase.	Continually as required	ECO and Contractor
5. Permanent barriers to animal movement and habitat fragmentation.	The reduction in the impact that barrier will have on animal movement within the area.	5.1. Pigtails and/or flappers should be installed on the overhead cables where known flight paths of birds occur.	The flight paths and birds observed in the area should be monitored by the ECO during the construction phase to determine where these measures should be installed.	Daily	ECO and Contractor
		5.2. Fencing should allow for the passage of small and medium sized mammals and all forms of mesh fencing should be avoided unless agreed otherwise with the ECO	This should be monitored by the ECO during the construction phase to determine whether this is effective.	Once-off during construction	Contractor
C. OPERATIONAL PHASE					
6. Potential visual intrusion of the proposed solar energy facility on the views of sensitive visual receptors.	Maintain an appropriate visual quality of solar energy facility to reduce visual impact rural landscape.	6.1. Painted features should be maintained and repainted when colour fades or paint flakes.	Continually as required. Ensure a good maintenance of the paint on all painted surface of the solar facility and associated buildings.	Ad hoc during the operational phase	Operations and Maintenance Contractor

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7. Potential impact of night lighting of a large solar energy facility on the nightscape of the region.	Ensure design and layout of facility and security lighting is managed so as to minimise light spill beyond project boundaries.	<p>7.1. Develop a lighting plan that will minimise light spill beyond project boundaries, avoid up-lighting and minimise lights in line with safety and security. The lighting plan should include and consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lighting plan that documents the design, layout and technology used for lighting purposes should be prepared, indicating how nightscape impacts will be minimised; • The lighting plan should include a process for promptly addressing and mitigating complaints about potential lighting impacts; • Lighting of the facility should not exceed, in number of lights and brightness, the minimum required for safety and security; • Uplighting and glare (bright light) should be minimised using appropriate screening; • Low-pressure sodium light sources should be used to reduce light pollution; • Light fixtures should not spill light beyond the project boundary; • Where feasible, timer switches or motion detectors should be used to control lighting in areas that are not occupied continuously; and • Lights should be switched off when not in use whenever it is in line with safety and security. 	Develop lighting plan and ensure that requirements are adhered to.	Monthly for the first year and then yearly	Project Developer, Operations and Maintenance Contractor

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8. Permanent barriers to animal movement and habitat fragmentation.	Avoid or reduce bird collisions with or due to infrastructure related to the project.	8.1. The impact on birds must be monitored by environmental staff member during the first six months of the operational phase for the project and in conjunction with any efforts made by Eskom through management measures included in their OEMP in minimising bird collisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record any evidence of bird collisions, injury or other bird-related incidents (with GPS coordinates). Where necessary, a bird specialist should oversee the recording and reporting of incidents, help with species identification, assess the significance of any impacts, and if required, suggest mitigation. 	Weekly for the first month, thereafter, monthly	Operations and Maintenance Contractor
		8.2. Any avian mortality or injury at the facility should be duly recorded and reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record any bird fatalities and undertake the necessary reporting to EWT or relevant authority. 	When required	Project Developer/ Operations and Maintenance Contractor
D. DECOMMISSIONING PHASE					
9. No specific impacts are associated with the decommissioning phase other than those from the operational phase that will still be relevant for the duration of the decommissioning phase due to on-going occupation of the area.	Avoid or reduce impact on the environment.	9.1. Disturbed and transformed areas should be contoured to approximate naturally occurring slopes to avoid lines and forms that will contrast with the existing landscapes.	Final external audit of area to confirm that area is rehabilitated to an acceptable level.	Once off	Project Developer
		9.2. Stockpiled topsoil should be reapplied to disturbed areas and these areas should be re-vegetated using a mix of native species in such a way that the areas will form as little contrast in form, line, colour and texture with the surrounding undisturbed landscape.	Final external audit of area to confirm that area is rehabilitated to an acceptable level.	Once off	Project Developer
		9.3. Edges of re-vegetated areas should be feathered to reduce form and line contrasts with surrounding undisturbed landscape.	Final external audit of area to confirm that area is rehabilitated to an acceptable level.	Once off	Project Developer
		9.4. Working at night should be avoided.	This should be monitored to ensure that it is being undertaken.	Continuous	Project Developer / Decommissioning Contractor
		9.5. Night lighting of reclamation sites should be minimised within requirements of safety and efficiency.	This should be monitored to ensure that it is being undertaken.	Continuous	Project Developer/ Decommissioning Contractor