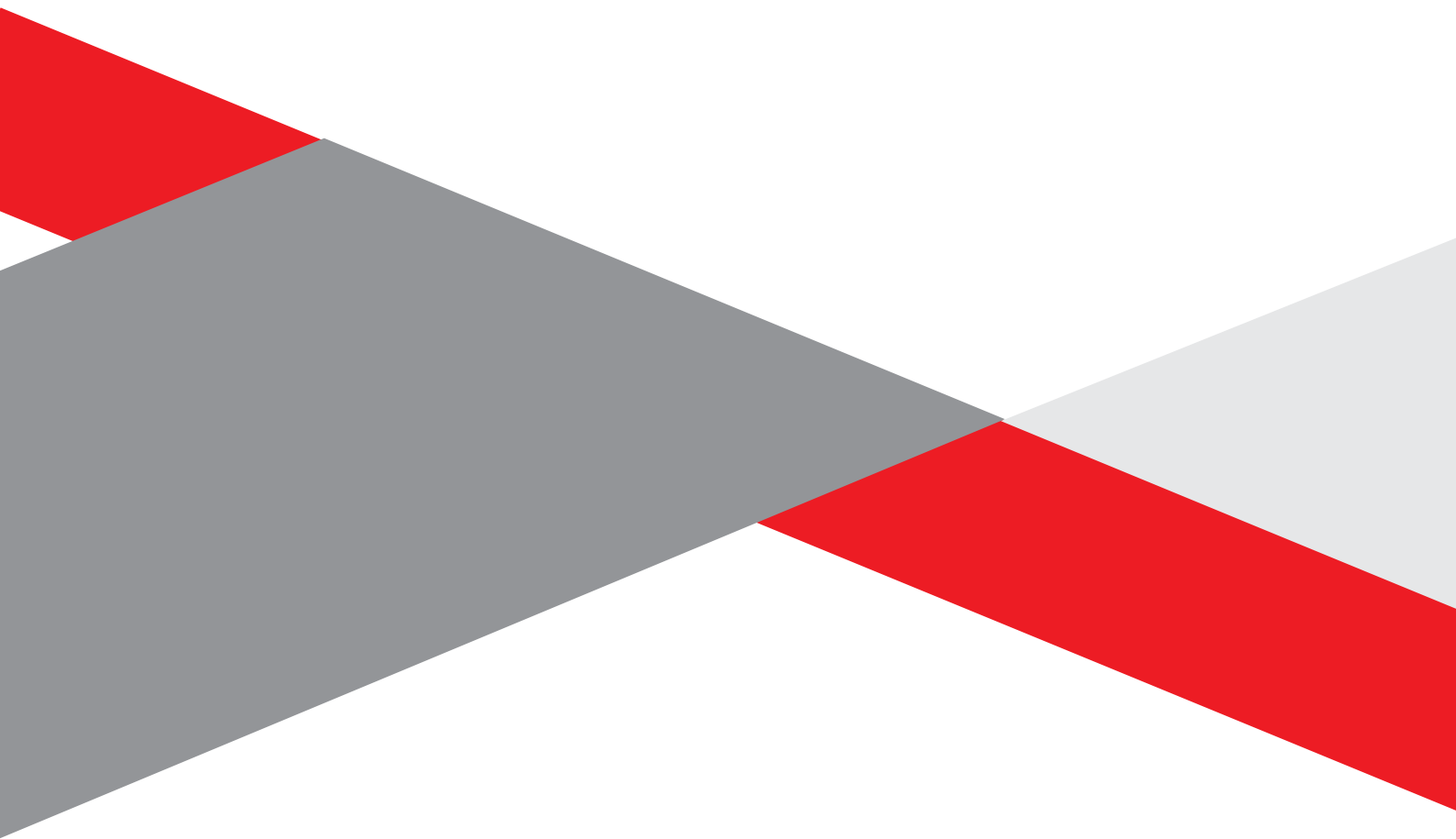


THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE SKUITDRIFT 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY.

Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Social Impact Assessment Statement

July 2023



Prepared for:

Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd
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8001

REPORT DETAILS

Title	:	The Proposed Amendments for the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV energy Facility: Social Impact Assessment Statement
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Client	:	Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd
Report Revision	:	Revision 1
Date	:	July 2023

When used as a reference this report should be cited as: Savannah Environmental's (2023) Social Impact Assessment Statement for the proposed Skuitdrift 2 Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province.

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SPECIALIST DECLARATION OF INTEREST

I, Cornelius Holtzhausen, declare that –

- » I act as the independent specialist in this application.
- » I will perform the work relating to the application objectively, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant.
- » I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work.
- » I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity.
- » I will comply with the Act, Regulations, and all other applicable legislation.
- » I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity.
- » I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing – any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority, and – the objectivity of any report, plan, or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority.
- » All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct.
- » I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Cornelius Holtzhausen

Name



Signature

July 2023

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Khoi-Sun Development (PTY) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a commercial solar energy facility initially known as the Khoi-Sun Development and later renamed the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility. The Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility is located on a Portion of the Farm 426 Skuitdrift, located directly south of the Orange River and west of the Augrabies National Park within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The proposed site is approximately 100 km northwest of Kakamas. The facility is planned to have a power production capacity of 75MW. The purpose of this facility is to generate electricity from a renewable energy source (i.e., solar radiation) to provide electricity to the national electrical grid.

Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction of the proposed Skuitdrift 2 Solar Development on 26 June 2013. The applicant is requesting the validity of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) to be extended by an additional 10 years such that the EA would be valid for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of issue of the authorisation. This process triggers a part 1 amendment.

Updated socio-economic context.

Based on the available secondary data sources, the demographics in the area are similar to the early 2010s, and the same can be said about the baseline economic data, service delivery access, and other facets of society. While there have been a few more solar developments in the area, the cumulative effect of these tends to have a positive impact on the environment and the social status of the area.

Implications of the proposed amendments on previously identified impacts, including mitigation & enhancement measures

The amendment as stated above is simply to adjust the Environmental Authorisation period and has little material bearing on the project or its function or footprint. The amendment is unlikely to add additional social impacts to what is currently understood in the area. An amendment would likely give the developer more time to implement and follow through on the construction and operation of the solar facility.

Cumulative impacts

A few other solar facilities have been proposed in the area. The cumulative effect of these projects being constructed and operating in the area would on balance be positive. The visual and sense of place of the area would likely be increasingly impacted with each development. The increase in these developments would also mean an increase in job opportunities for local workers. It would also give an opportunity to SMMEs to supply goods and services to those who work at the sites, or to the sites themselves. The ancillary benefits of clean renewable energy, and indirect economic benefits are hard to calculate but are significant.

Concluding remarks

The specialist assessed the proposed amendments and confirms that there is no significant change to the affected social environment or the scope and nature of the proposed project. Therefore, from a socio-economic perspective, there is no reason why the proposed amendment should not be authorised.

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ACRONYMS

DFFE	Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
DM	District Municipality
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Add
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LM	Local Municipality
MW	Mega Watt
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
PV	Photovoltaic
SIA	Social Impact Assessment

1. INTRODUCTION

This document serves as an amendment to the social impacts identified through the needs & desirability assessment, which was undertaken by the Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners in 2013, as part of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility. Savannah Environmental have been appointed as the Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to prepare the Application for the following:

Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility 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.

Condition 6 of the First Issue EA, Issued on 26 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. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for EA 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:

- » 12/12/2600/AM1 – authorised on the 19 February 2016 extending the validity to 26 June 2018
- » 12/12/2600/AM1 AM2 – authorised on the 29 June 2018 extending the validity to 26 June 2020
- » The most recent 12/12/20/2600/AM3 – 8 June 2020 extending the validity to 26 June 2023 which states the following.

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

The applicant, Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd thus requests that the Competent Authority amends Condition 6 of the original EA (Page 6) as amended (DFFE Reference: 12/12/20/2600/AM3; dated 8 June 2020) as follows:

"This activity must commence within a period of twenty (20) years from the date of issue of the authorisation (i.e., the EA lapses on 26 June 2033). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for EA must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken".

As such, the proposed amendments will trigger Part 1 of chapter 5 of the EIA regulations (2014 as amended), because the proposed amendment will not change the scope of a valid EA, nor increase the level or nature of previously identified impacts when the application was made for EA.

The Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility is located in the North Cape Province, the map below (Figure 1) shows the proposed location of the development.

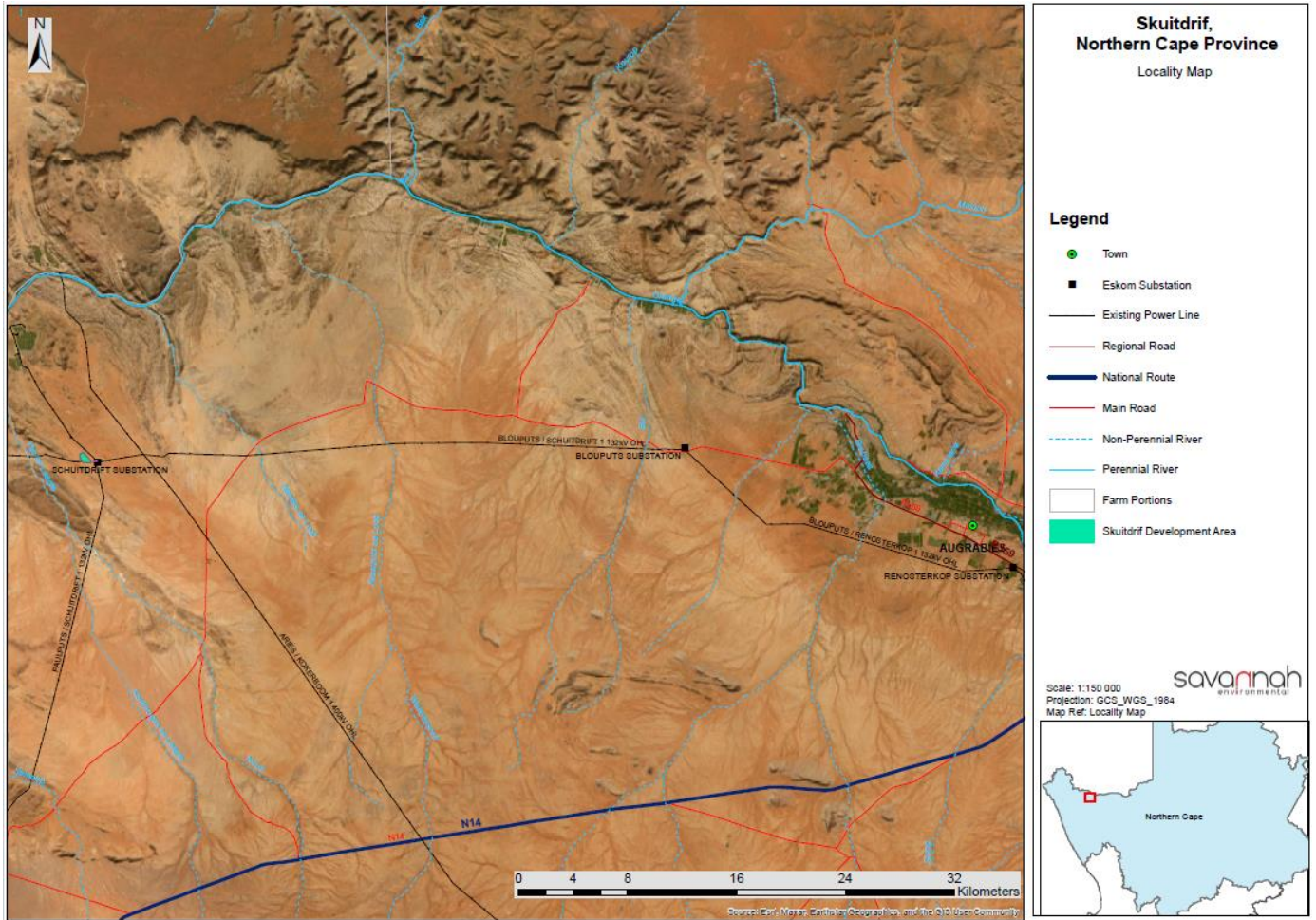


Figure 1: Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility Location

2. AMENDMENT APPROACH

In line with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIA) Regulations of 2014 as well as the new NEMA GN 320 regulations, and since the EA validity will be extended beyond 10 years, this amendment report needs to:

- » Confirm the status of the environment compared to that at the time of the original assessment to make a statement as to whether the environment has changed since the original assessment. Since the original report was completed in 2013, an updated socio-economic profile has therefore been undertaken.
- » Provide an indication as to whether the impact rating as provided in the initial assessment remains valid and if mitigation measures provided are still applicable or if new ones need to be included.
- » An indication if any new assessments/guidelines which were not included as part of the initial assessment must be taken into consideration and addressed in the report.
- » A description and assessment of any changes to the environment that has occurred since the initial EA was issued.
- » A description and an assessment of the surrounding environment in relation to new developments or changes in land use which might impact the project:
 - Within a 30km radius
 - Cumulative impacts

3. UPDATED SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The purpose of this section is to provide an update on the previously presented socio-economic context of ZF Mgcawu District Municipality (DM), Kai !Garib Local Municipality (LM) and Aggeneys. This section provides insight into the relative size and structure of the local economy. Various demographic and economic indicators will be discussed and analysed to assess potential impacts that are bearing on the surrounding areas under study. The data available at the time of the original study is compared to the latest available data to identify any specific indicator changes that could have an impact on the socio-economic conditions of the study area.

ECONOMIC BASELINE PROFILE

With a GDP of R 5.62 billion in 2018 (up from R 3.05 billion in 2008), the Kai !Garib LM contributed 22.80% to the ZF Mgcawu DM GDP of R 24.6 billion in 2018 increasing in the share of the ZF Mgcawu from 23.60% in 2008. The Kai !Garib LM contributes 5.72% to the GDP of Northern Cape Province and 0.12% the GDP of South Africa which had a total GDP of R 4.87 trillion in 2018 (as measured in nominal or current prices). It's contribution to the national economy stayed similar in importance from 2008 when it contributed 0.13% to South Africa, which was also its peak contribution. Thereafter the LM contributed 0.12% consistently from 2009 to 2018.

In 2018, the community services sector is the largest within Kai !Garib Local Municipality accounting for R 1.14 billion or 22.9% of the total GVA in the LMs economy. The sector that contributes the second most to the GVA of the Kai !Garib LM is the agriculture sector at 19.1%, followed by the finance sector with 14.7%. The sector that contributes the least to the economy of Kai !Garib Local Municipality is the electricity sector with a contribution of R 170 million or 3.43% of the total GVA.

For the period between 2008 and 2018, the GVA in the finance sector had the highest average annual growth rate in Kai !Garib at 2.11%. The industry with the second highest average annual growth rate is the construction sector averaging at 1.94% per year. The trade sector had an average annual growth rate of 0.77%, while the

agriculture sector had the lowest average annual growth of -0.32%. Overall a negative growth existed for all the industries in 2018 with an annual growth rate of -0.69% since 2017.

It is expected that Kai !Garib LM will grow at an average annual rate of 0.09% from 2018 to 2023. The average annual growth rate in the GDP of ZF Mgcawu DM and Northern Cape Province is expected to be -0.87% and 0.39% respectively. South Africa is forecasted to grow at an average annual growth rate of 1.60%, which is higher than that of the Kai !Garib LM. In 2023, Kai !Garib's forecasted GDP will be an estimated R 3.72 billion (constant 2010 prices) or 22.6% of the total GDP of ZF Mgcawu DM. The ranking in terms of the size of the Kai !Garib LM will remain the same between 2018 and 2023, with a contribution to the ZF Mgcawu DM GDP of 22.6% in 2023 compared to the 21.5% in 2018. At a 0.09% average annual GDP growth rate between 2018 and 2023, Kai !Garib ranked the highest compared to the other regional economies.

3.2 Employment Baseline Profile

The working age population in Kai !Garib in 2018 was 51 000, increasing at an average annual rate of 1.21% since 2008. For the same period the working age population for ZF Mgcawu District Municipality increased at 1.81% annually, while that of Northern Cape Province increased at 1.68% annually. South Africa's working age population has increased annually by 1.50% from 32.1 million in 2008 to 37.2 million in 2018.

The Kai !Garib LM IDP suggest that out of the working age group, 68.1% are participating in the labour force, meaning 34 700 residents of the LM form currently part of the economically active population (EAP). Comparing this with the non-economically active population of the LM: full-time students at tertiary institutions, disabled people, and those choosing not to work sum to 16 300 people. Out of the economically active population, there are 4 170 that are unemployed, or when expressed as a percentage, an unemployment rate of 12.0%.

The majority of the formal employment lies in the Primary industry, with 12 900 jobs. When including the informal, agricultural and domestic workers, we have a total number of 27 900 jobs in the area. Formal jobs make up 35.1% of all jobs in the Kai !Garib LM. The difference between the employment measured at the place of work, and the people employed living in the area can be explained by the net commuters that work outside of the LM.

The Kai !Garib LMs labour force participation rate decreased from 71.45% to 68.09% which is a decrease of - 3.4 percentage points. The ZF Mgcawu DM decreased from 62.40% to 60.57%, Northern Cape Province decreased from 56.56% to 55.71% and South Africa increased from 57.39% to 59.38% from 2008 to 2018. The Kai !Garib LM labour force participation rate exhibited a lower percentage point change compared to the Northern Cape Province from 2008 to 2018.

3.3 Demographic Baseline Profile

Population

The census report of 2011 showed that the ZF Mgcawu DM had a population of 236 783, increasing to 252 692 in 2016 (community Survey) with a population growth of 1.48% per annum. In 2016, the DM had a little more than a quarter of the population under the age of 15 (26.9%), down from the 2011 figure of 28.4%. The working age population (considered 15 to 64) made up 66.4% in 2011 and increased to 68.1% in 2016. The percentage of people over the age of 65 however stayed stable over that time period at around 5%.

The language most spoken at home in the DM (2016) is Afrikaans at 83%, followed by Setswana (11%), IsiXhosa (2%), "other" makeup around 3% of the population. English and Sesotho make up 1% each. In 2011 Afrikaans was still the most spoken language at home at 75.5%, followed by Setswana (15.6%), IsiXhosa (2.7%), English made up 1.7% and Sesotho made up 1%.

The language most spoken at home in the Khai !Garib LM as indicated in the 2016 community survey showed that Afrikaans was the highest at 89%, followed by Setswana at 7%, and IsiXhosa and English both at 1%. The remaining 3% were marked as other or not applicable. This 2011 census showed that Afrikaans made up 71.1% of the population, followed by 23.9% speaking Setswana, 1.2% English, 0.7% IsiXhosa, and 0.7% Sesotho.

In 2018, the Kai !Garib Local Municipality's population consisted of 28.46% African (20 100), 7.00% White (4 930), 63.32% Coloured (44 600) and 1.23% Asian (865) people. The largest share of the population is within the young working age (25-44 years) age category with a total number of 24 200 or 34.4% of the total population. The age category with the second largest number of people is the babies and kids (0-14 years) age category with a total share of 21.3%, followed by the teenagers and youth (15-24 years) age category with 14 900 people. The age category with the least number of people is the retired / old age (65 years and older) age category with only 4 500 people is indicated by the statistics.

With the Coloured population group representing 63.3% of the Kai !Garib Local Municipality's total population, the overall population pyramid for the region will mostly reflect that of the African population group. The chart below compares Kai !Garib's population structure of 2018 to that of South Africa.

- » There is a significantly larger share of young working age people - aged 20 to 34 (32.8%) - in Kai !Garib, compared to the national picture (27.5%).
- » The area appears to be a migrant receiving area, with many of people migrating into Kai !Garib, either from abroad, or from the more rural areas in the country looking for better opportunities.
- » Fertility in Kai !Garib is significant lower compared to South Africa as a whole.
- » The share of children between the ages of 0 to 14 years is significant smaller (21.3%) in Kai !Garib compared to South Africa (29.0%). Demand for expenditure on schooling as percentage of total budget within Kai !Garib Local Municipality will therefore be lower than that of South Africa.

Education

Within the FZ Mgcawu DM there was a decrease in the people aged above 20 that had no schooling, from 9.5% in 2011 to 6.1% in 2016. People who had matric increased from 21.8% to 28.5% during the same period. The rate of people who had a higher education decreased however, from 6.3% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2016. In 2016, 63.8% of people completed grade 9 or higher, about the same as the rate in the Northern Cape, though lower than the national average of 71.77%. Approximately 33% completed matric or higher in the DM, again at a similar rate as the province (34%), though less than the rate in the nation (43.37%).

Within Kai !Garib Local Municipality, the number of people without any schooling decreased from 2008 to 2018 with an average annual rate of -3.17%, while the number of people within the 'matric only' category, increased from 6,420 to 8,920. The number of people with 'matric and a certificate/diploma' increased with an average annual rate of 1.35%, with the number of people with a 'matric and a Bachelor's' degree increasing with an average annual rate of 0.07%. Overall improvement in the level of education is visible with an increase in the number of people with 'matric' or higher education.

The number of people without any schooling in Kai !Garib Local Municipality accounts for 29.53% of the number of people without schooling in the district municipality, 5.26% of the province and 0.15% of the

national. In 2018, the number of people in Kai !Garib Local Municipality with a matric only was 8,920 which is a share of 20.33% of the district municipality's total number of people that has obtained a matric. The number of people with a matric and a Postgrad degree constitutes 15.53% of the district municipality, 2.59% of the province and 0.03% of the nation.

A total of 42 800 individuals in Kai !Garib Local Municipality were considered functionally literate in 2018, while 13 400 people were considered to be illiterate. Expressed as a rate, this amounts to 76.11% of the population, which is an increase of 0.1 percentage points since 2008 (66.12%). The number of illiterate individuals decreased on average by -2.27% annually from 2008 to 2018, with the number of functionally literate people increasing at 2.63% annually.

Kai !Garib Local Municipality's functional literacy rate of 76.11% in 2018 is lower than that of ZF Mgcau at 79.67% and is lower than the province rate of 78.61%. When comparing to the national total as whole, which has a functional literacy rate of 84.42%, it can be seen that the functional literacy rate is higher than that of the Kai !Garib Local Municipality.

Households

Households in the DM increased from 61 097 in 2011 to 74 091 in 2016. The average household decreased from 3.5 to 3.4 during the same period. The amount of female headed households remained stable at just above 35% for both periods. There was a slight decrease in the number of formal dwellings in the district from 79.4% to 75.9%. There was however a drastic increase in the amount of people who owned, or are paying off their homes, from 49% in 2011 to 62.5% in 2016.

In 2018, the Kai !Garib Local Municipality comprised of 18 400 households. This equates to an average annual growth rate of 0.24% in the number of households from 2008 to 2018. With an average annual growth rate of 0.87% in the total population, the average household size in the Kai !Garib Local Municipality is by implication increasing. This is confirmed by the data where the average household size in 2008 increased from approximately 3.6 individuals per household to 3.8 persons per household in 2018.

Health

In the ZF Mgcau district 10.8% (2005) of the total population were diagnosed as HIV positive. The Northern Cape experienced a steady growth of the number of people were infected with HIV between 1996 (6.6%) and 2006 (17.6%).

The number of HIV+ people against the number of people living with AIDS, the people with AIDS added up to 168 in 2008 and 91 in 2018. This number denotes a decrease from 2008. to 2018 with a high average annual rate of -5.91% (or -77 people). For the year 2018, they represented 0.07% of the total population of the entire district municipality.

In 2018, 3 270 people in the Kai !Garib Local Municipality were infected with HIV. This reflects an increase at an average annual rate of 2.12% since 2008, and in 2018 represented 4.64% of the local municipality's total population. The ZF Mgcau District Municipality had an average annual growth rate of 3.31% from 2008 to 2018 in the number of people infected with HIV, which is higher than that of the Kai !Garib Local Municipality. The number of infections in the Northern Cape Province increased from 46,400 in 2008 to 65,400 in 2018. When looking at South Africa as a whole it can be seen that the number of people that are infected increased from 2008 to 2018 with an average annual growth rate of 2%.

Presenting the number of HIV+ people against the number of people living with AIDS, the number of people with AIDS added up to 122 in 2008 and 57 in 2018. This number denotes a decrease from 2008 to 2018 with a high average annual rate of -7.28% (or -65 people). For the year 2018, they represented 0.08% of the total population of the entire local municipality.

Security and Service Delivery

The ZF Mgcawu District Municipality had 63.9% of houses with access to a flush toilet connected to sewage in 2011, with a slight increase to 65.7% in 2016. The access in the DM to weekly refuse removal fell from 70.3% to 67.6% during the same period. A similar trend can be seen with piped water inside dwellings, decreasing from 48.5% in 2011 to 45.6% in 2016. The district saw a slight decrease in households with access to electricity for lighting from 86.6% to 85.5% during the same period.

Whilst the LM has tried to address the issues of basic service delivery and the provision of housing, large portions of the population still lack these services. Access to appropriate modes of transport is also a Provincial issue and concern. Issues such as culture and heritage have been raised as important for consideration in the future planning of human settlements.

Kai !Garib Local Municipality had a total number of 8 480 (or 44.46%) households with piped water inside the dwelling, a total of 7 910 (41.49%) households had piped water inside the yard and a total number of 1 460 (7.64%) households had no formal piped water in 2017. This low rate is as a result of the municipality's consistent delivery of bulk and reticulation water purification programme through the MIG. However, a slow increase is experienced due to the rapid informality in the area.

Kai !Garib Local Municipality had a total number of 11 500 (60.47%) households which had their refuse removed weekly by the authority, a total of 575 (3.02%) households had their refuse removed less often than weekly by the authority and a total number of 5 110 (26.80%) households which had to remove their refuse personally (own dump). When looking at the number of households with no formal refuse removal, it can be seen that in 2007 the households with no formal refuse removal in Kai !Garib Local Municipality was 7 660, this decreased annually at -0.95% per annum to 6 960 in 2017.

Kai !Garib Local Municipality had a total number of 1 160 (6.10%) households with electricity for lighting only, a total of 15 800 (82.95%) households had electricity for lighting and other purposes and a total number of 2 090 (10.95%) households did not use electricity. When looking at the number of households with no electrical connection over time, it can be seen that in 2007 the households without an electrical connection in Kai !Garib Local Municipality was 2 090, this increased annually at 0.01% per annum to 2 090 in 2017.

Site Details

The municipal area of Kai !Garib is situated in the midst of a landscape along the Orange River, characterised by contrasts between semi-desert with sandy plains and wavy hills. The Orange River is the life vein of this Community and on both sides of the river, green cultivated land occurs, forming the largest economic base of this area. The main towns of Kakamas and Keimoes are situated in the midst of an intensive Irrigation Farming Community stretching from Groblershoop in the east up to Blouputs in the west. Farming includes crops like vineyards, pecan nut- and citrus plantations. The area surrounding the proposed Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility is located well outside the Kakamas urban edge, within a low output farming area.

Farm 426 Skuitdrift is located directly south of the Orange River and west of the Augrabies National Park and has a surface area of approximately 8019ha. Via road, the subject solar site is approximately 106km northeast of the town of Pofadder and 115km northwest of Kakamas respectively. Access to the solar facility site is off the N14 National Road (Nous turn-off 60km east of Pofadder; 70km west of Kakamas) via a 46km long gravel track.

The terrain is dotted with a few shrubs, spars grassland and a few acacia trees. A few granite outcrops can be seen around the space. The area is used as feeding grounds for small livestock, predominantly sheep.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

4.1 Previously identified impacts per project phase

The previous study identified the devastating effect on the economy and employment the region was facing as a result of the closing of a number of zinc and copper mines in the area since the 1990's. The study notes that power generation is one of the rare growth opportunities for the Northern Cape due to the high solar irradiation levels and its strategic position relative to the National Transmission Network. Thus, the proposed development at the time was considered essential to the economic development of the region.

The site is located far outside of the Kakamas urban edge and as a result it was deemed unlikely to impact negatively on the community's health and wellbeing. More specifically, due to the remote nature of the site, visual impact was deemed to be negligible. Further, it was deemed unlikely that the proposed activity on the land would result in unacceptable loss of opportunities. The other use for the land, as mentioned above, is for limited agricultural use. The proposed solar development site does not have any significant agricultural value however, as it was in a degraded state due to overgrazing and had thus not been used for any extensive agricultural purposes.

4.2 Specialist opinion on previously identified impacts

Based on the understanding of the proposed amendments, it is the specialist's opinion that the identified impacts will not change. The construction cost might increase which will have a small impact on production, GDP, employment, and household standards of living, however due to the very small changes and the extent of these impacts the significance will not be affected. The visual impact will also not be altered during the construction phase. Similarly, based on an understanding of the proposed amendments and extended timeframes, it is this specialist opinion that the identified impacts for the operation phase will also not change.

Previously recommend mitigation and enhancement measures

The study noted that there was no skilled labour in the field of renewable energy as of yet and that the employment structure will consist of local and overseas capacity. To ensure success, the study suggested that the developers utilise the skills of outside labour to cross-train local specialists. This training and skills development was to focus on technical maintenance and administration.

As mentioned, the demographic profile of the area remained largely stable from 2008 to 2018, with general but slow progress. There have been some improvements in the local education level, however with the persistent low population density the previous reports recommendations are mostly still relevant. As such this study would also suggest that the developers utilise the skills of outside labour and to cross-train local

specialists. However, the beginning point of this process should be to seek local skilled labour before broadening the search to fill specialised and skilled positions further afield.

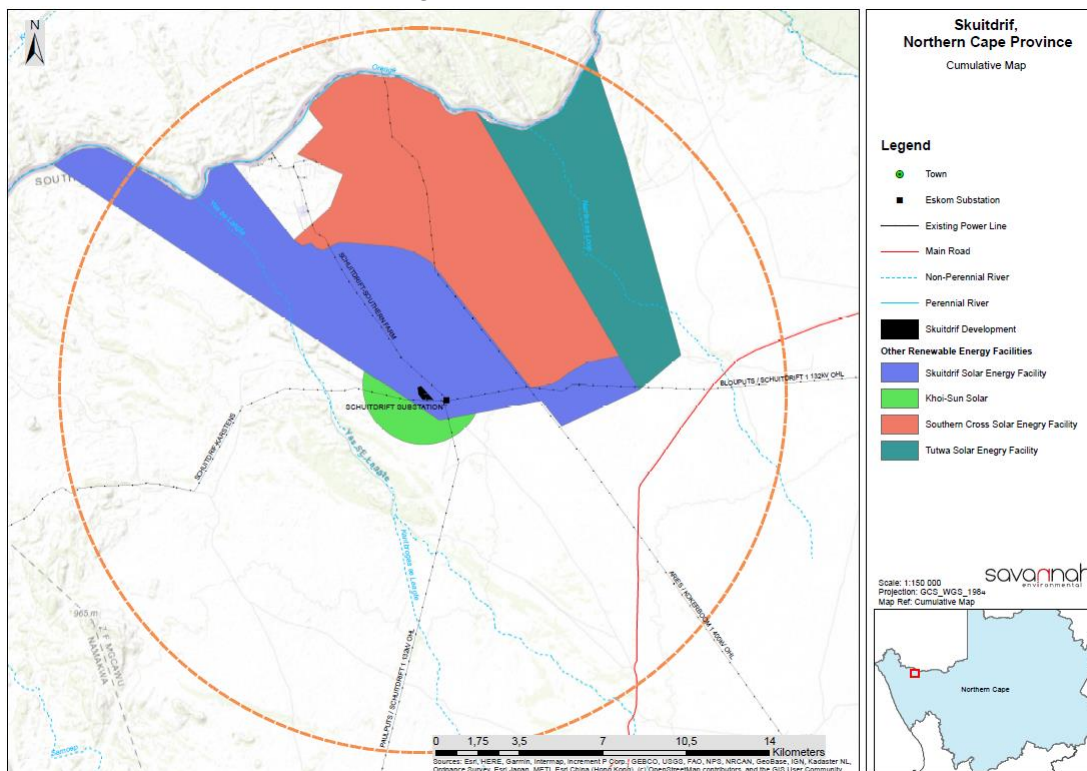
Cumulative Impacts

The previous report noted the following:

That there were already a number of on-going applications in the region. The potential for further, future solar developments near the site could not be discounted, already a smaller 10MW project had been authorised on the same property.

The previous report suggested that cumulative impacts of the facility along with others (authorised and future planned) in the area could result in benefits for the economy and growth of the area, while the contributing to cumulative habitat loss in the area associated with this and potential future solar development could be managed through proper planning (strategic location, avoidance of sensitive habitats etc.), and therefore would be relative.

More recently, there were several renewable energy facilities approved. The ones in the vicinity of the proposed site are illustrated in Figure 3.



The following Solar facilities have become operational in the area:

- Skuitdrift Solar Energy Facility
- Khoi-Sun Solar
- Southern Cross Solar Energy Facility
- Tutwa Solar Energy Facility

The proposed Skuitdrift Solar PV Facility together with existing and proposed renewable developments will assist in the enabling of efficient and effective expansion of key infrastructure to satisfy local and national grid requirements. The implementation of this project would therefore assist/ strengthen the electricity network of the South African National Grid, meeting the growing demand for electricity in the area and improving service quality and reliability. Reliable, i.e., uninterrupted, supply of electricity to the country is one of the prerequisites for development and economic growth as businesses.

Having a concentration of these kind of developments in the area would likely mean an increase in the of visual impact and sense of place. The area is however very rural, with a low population density, meaning the extent of the impact would be mitigated. Further, having the developments concentrated in one area means that the larger landscape surrounding the proposed developments will largely remain untouched.

Assumptions and limitations

- It is assumed that information on the project and the proposed changes provided by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd is accurate and up to date.
- Based on the experience of the consultant there are no limitations that have a material impact on the social statement.

4. CONCLUSION

To conclude, the specialist assessed the proposed amendments and confirms that there is no significant change to the affected social environment or the scope and nature of the proposed project. Therefore, from a socio-economic perspective, there is no reason why the proposed amendment should not be authorised.



Cornelius Holtzhausen

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

**SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE
SKUITDRIFT 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY**

REVIEW REPORT

July 2023

Prepared by:

Dr Sithandiwe Khoza
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INTRODUCTION

Savannah Environmental appointed Dr Sithandiwe Khoza to undertake an independent Peer Review of the Social Impact Assessment Statement prepared for the proposed amendments for the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy facility in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. This document presents the outcomes of the Peer Review of the mentioned statement.

The sub-sections below provide an overview on the terms of reference as provided by Savannah Environmental, the reviewing approach employed by the independent reviewer and independent reviewer's professional experience.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND APPROACH

The terms of reference as provided by Savannah Environmental where to undertake an independent review of the SIA amendment statement for the Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility to ensure that the report meets the following;

- The general acceptable standards for technical report writing including the contents of the amendment document; and
- General acceptable standards for preparing SIA amendment statements.

The approach used by the independent reviewer entailed the following key aspects:

- Technical review, which entailed reviewing the following;
 - Structure and flow of the document;
 - Quality of the amendment document contents
- Approach used to prepare the SIA amendment statement

INDEPENDENT REVIEWER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr Khoza is an independent social consultant with practical experience associated with undertaking Social Impact Assessments and associated review for quality assurance, a copy of Dr Khoza's CV has been attached as Annexure B. From 2013-2017, she has provided agricultural services to government beneficiaries in the agricultural sector with the mandate of improving food and nutrition security in rural communities. During this period, she has also conceptualized, implemented (using qualitative and quantitative research methods) and managed a number of socio-economic research projects, including Social Impact Assessments. From 2018-present, she has worked and currently works in the environmental consulting space providing social services to clients in Africa, who are in the financial, infrastructure, mining, energy and oil & gas sectors with the mandate of either obtaining environmental authorisation, obtaining investment funding from international financial institutions (*World Bank, African Development Bank and*

European Bank for Reconstruction & Development) or maintaining their environmental and social license to operate as per in-country legislation and regulations, while contributing positively to the local economic development of the communities in which they operate. As such, undertaking Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) is one her core skills.

FINDINGS OF THE PEER REVIEW

This section presents the outcomes of the review, taking into consideration the technical and adopted approach findings.

TECHNICAL FINDINGS

STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENT

- **List of figures:** Some figures are missing from the list, update accordingly
- **Executive summary:** The ES does provide a summary of the contents of the document. The specialist should also mention that the proposed amendments trigger Part 1 amendments.

AMENDMENT STATEMENT APPROACH

The approach adopted by the specialist is of an acceptable standard, the following is recommended for consideration;

Baseline data

The specialist has provided sufficient overview on the socio-economic profile of the study area. Although outdated sources are also used, it is assumed that this is the latest available data otherwise the specialist should consider revising the baseline to include latest data.

Impact assessment

The specialist has provided conclusions in terms of the implications of the proposed amendments to previously assessed impacts. The specialist did not clearly provide an overview of previously assessed impacts, this should be included in section 4.1, to avoid confusion

Mitigation and enhancement measures

The specialist needs to comment on the applicability of previously recommended mitigation and enhancement measures considering the proposed amendments.

Conclusion

The approach adopted by the specialist is of an acceptable standard, it is however recommended that the specialist should action the recommendations made by the independent reviewer.

ANNEXURE B: DR SITHANDIWE KHOZA'S CV

Dr Sithandiwe Khoza
Senior Independent Social Consultant
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Background

Dr Khoza is an independent social consultant with practical experience associated with undertaking Social Impact Assessments and associated review for quality assurance. From 2013-2027, she has provided agricultural services to government beneficiaries in the agricultural sector with the mandate of improving food and nutrition security in rural communities. During this period, she has also conceptualized, implemented (using qualitative and quantitative research methods) and managed a number of socio-economic research projects, including Social Impact Assessments. From 2018-present, she has worked and currently works in the environmental consulting space providing social services to clients in Africa, who are in the financial, infrastructure, mining, energy and oil & gas sectors with the mandate of either obtaining environmental authorisation, obtaining investment funding from international financial institutions (*World Bank, African Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction & Development*) or maintaining their environmental and social license to operate as per in-country legislation and regulations, while contributing positively to the local economic development of the communities in which they operate. As such, undertaking Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) is one her core skills.

EDUCATION

Higher education:

- PhD (Research), UKZN, 2018
- MA (Research), UKZN, 2015
- PGDip (Research), UKZN, 2014
- BSS Geography and Environmental Management, UKZN, 2013

Certificates:

- Sustainability Reporting with GRI standards 2021 update, 2023
- ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), Corporate Finance Institute, 2021
- Certificate of Merit (Research methods), UKZN, 2015

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

2022-Present: Senior Independent Consultant

2022- Present: Zutari Pty Ltd, Senior Social Consultant

2020-2022: Senior Independent Consultant

2018-2020: Golder Associates Pty Ltd, Social Consultant

2018-2018: Digby Wells Environmental Pty Ltd, Social Consultant

2015-2017: Agricultural Research Council, Researcher

2013-2015: CEDARA FET college of agriculture of the KwaZulu-Natal department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, socio-economic development specialist

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.