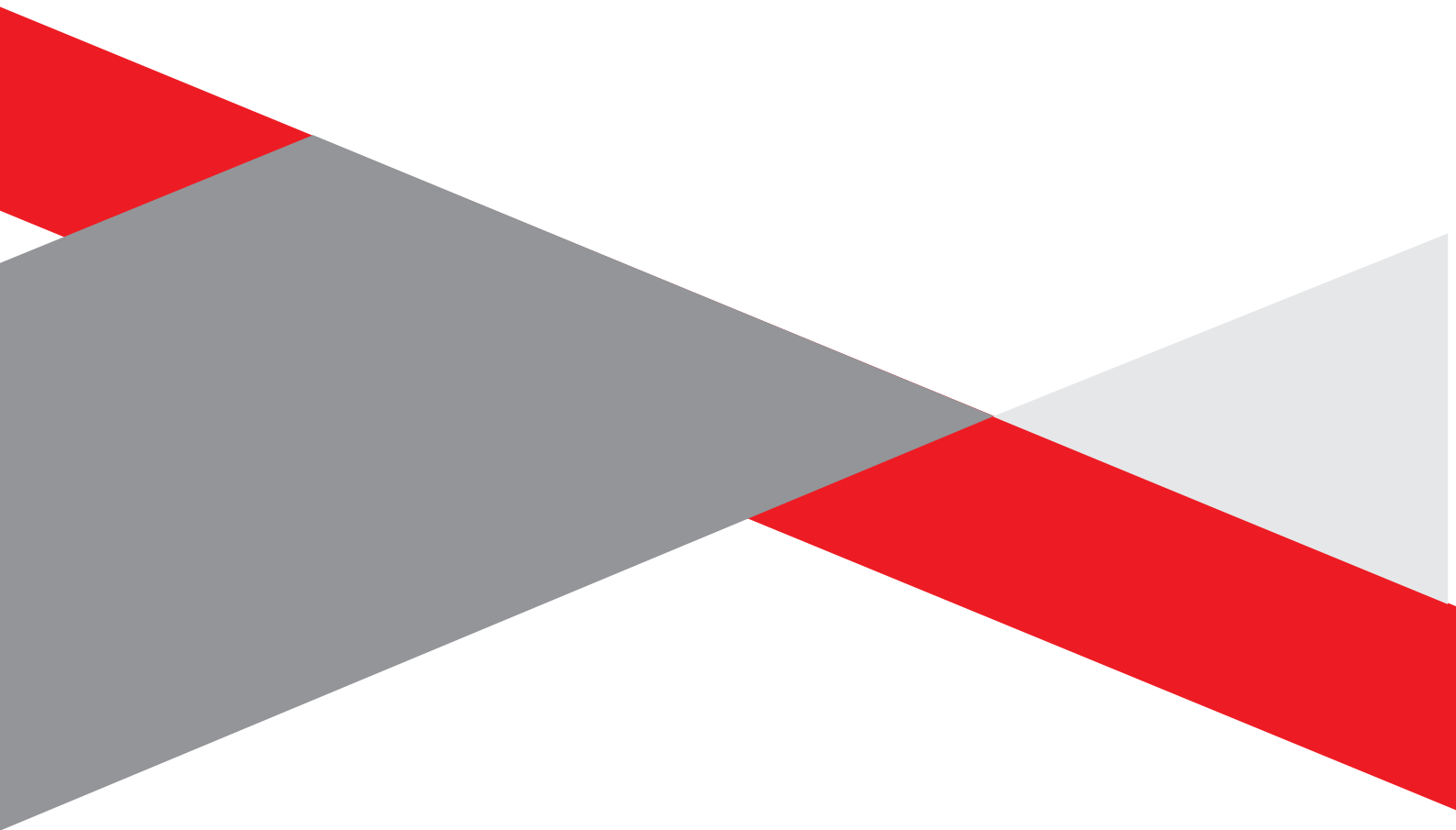


THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE BOESMANLAND SOLAR FARM.

Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Social Impact Assessment Statement

June 2023



Prepared for:

Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd
14th Floor, Pier Place,
Heerengracht Street,
Cape Town,
8001

REPORT DETAILS

Title	:	The Proposed Amendments for the Boesmanland Solar Farm: Social Impact Assessment Statement
Authors	:	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd Cornelius Holtzhausen
Peer reviewer		Dr Sithandiwe Khoza
Client	:	Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd
Report Revision	:	Revision 1
Date	:	June 2023

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

COPYRIGHT RESERVED

This technical report has been produced for Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd. The intellectual property contained in this report remains vested in Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. No part of the report may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd or Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd

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

June 2023

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The proposed project site is located near Aggeneys and falls within the jurisdiction of the Namakwa District Municipality and Khâi-Ma Local Municipality. The project is located on A Portion 6 (a Portion of Portion 2) of Farm 62 Zuurwater.

A development area of approximately 450ha forms part of the lease agreement with the landowner, Blommeland Boerdery BK, for the purpose of renewable energy generation. This development area is situated approximately 7km north of the N14 National Road, visually screened from the N14 by a series of dunes extending west from the N14 to a nearby inselberg/koppie named Hoedekop. Vehicular access to the site is either via existing roads off the Aggeneys turn off the N14 and through the Black Mountain Mine (latter with special permission) or alternatively via a series of narrow tracks (accessible by four-wheel drive) approaching the property from the east (de Kock, 2012).

The authorised Boesmanland Solar Farm will consist of solar photovoltaic panels with a feed-in capacity of 75MW (megawatts) Alternating Current (AC) / >90MW Direct Current (DC), as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- » On-site substation
- » Auxiliary buildings (administration/security, workshop, storage and ablution)
- » Inverters, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- » Access road and internal road network;
- » Overhead electrical transmission line (to connect to existing Aggeneys Substation);
- » Rainwater tanks
- » Parameter fencing

The findings of the specialist studies undertaken during the EIA undertaken in 2013, assessed both the benefits and potential negative impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed WEF development and concluded that there are no environmental fatal flaws that should prevent the proposed project from proceeding.

Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Boesmanland Solar Farm, 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.

Updated socio-economic context

The relatively low population density and remote nature of the development site meant that changes over the last decade have been slow. The demographics are rather like what they were in the early 2010s, and the same can be said about the baseline economic data, service delivery, and other facets of society. While there have been a few more solar developments in the area, the cumulative effect of these tend 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 for the area. The cumulative effect of these project being constructed and operating in the area would on the balance be positive. The visual and sense of place of the area would likely be increasingly impacted with each development. The increase of 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

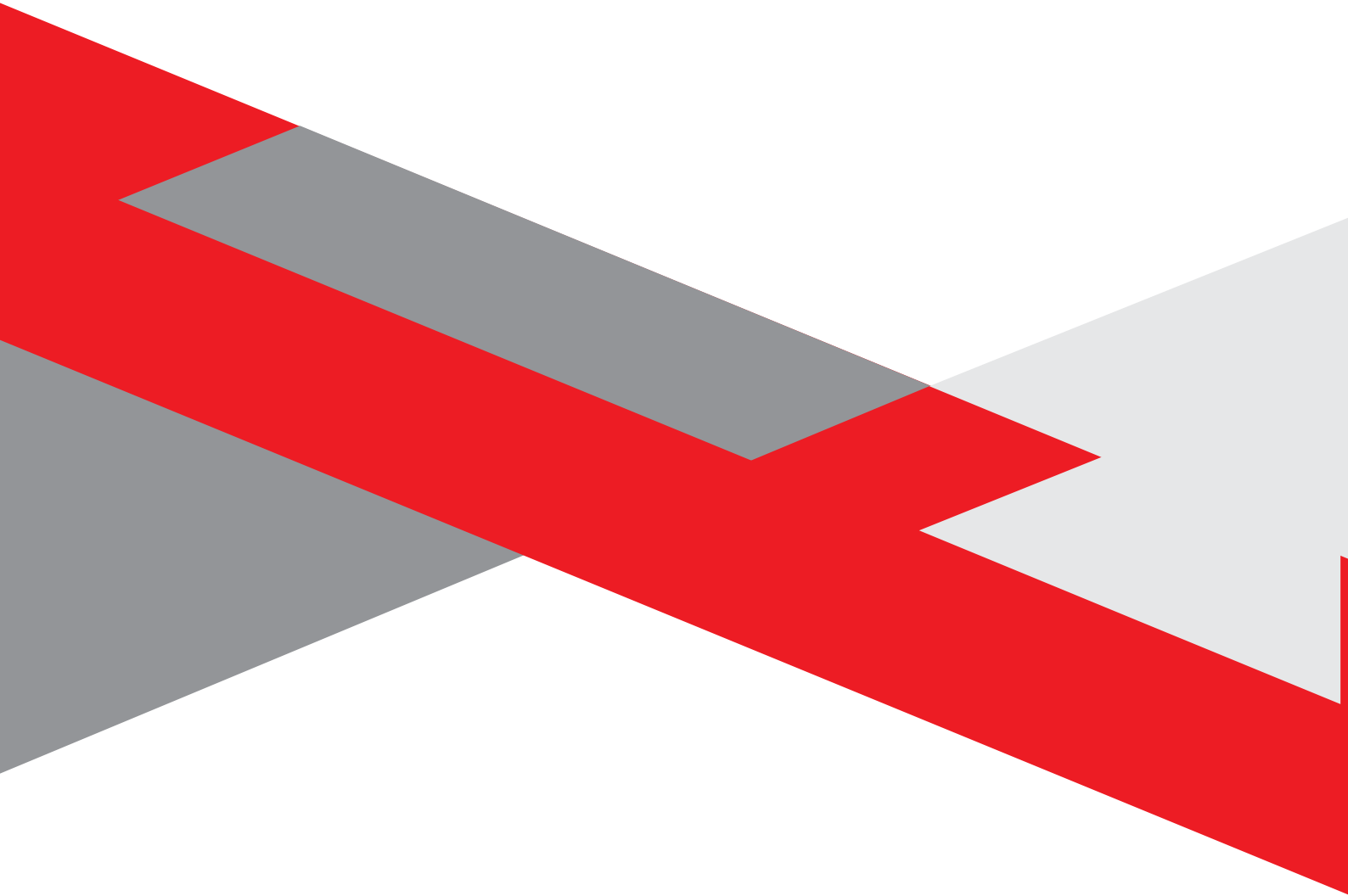
	PAGE
REPORT DETAILS	I
SPECIALIST DECLARATION OF INTEREST	II
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
FIGURES.....	V
ACRONYMS	6
1. INTRODUCTION	7
2. AMENDMENT APPROACH	9
3. UPDATED SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW	9
ECONOMIC BASELINE PROFILE	9
3.2 Employment Baseline Profile.....	10
3.3 Demographic Baseline Profile	11
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS	14
4.1 Previously identified impacts per project phase.....	14
4. CONCLUSION.....	16

FIGURES

Figure 1: Boesmanland Solar Farm Location	8
Figure 2: Formal and informal employment by broad economic sector - Namakwa District Municipality, 2018	10
Figure 3: The labour force participation rate - local municipalities and the rest of Namakwa District Municipality, 2013.....	12
Figure 4HIV+ estimates and AIDS death estimates in Namakwa, 2008-2023	13
Figure 5: Cumulative impact map.....	15

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
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LM	Local Municipality
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 Boesmanland Solar Farm.

Boesmanland Solar Farm (Pty) Ltd proposes to amend the EA for the Boesmanland Solar Farm, by extending the EA validity by an additional ten (10) years. Extensions of the validity of the EA will ensure that the EA remains valid for the undertaking of the authorised activities.

Condition 7 of the First Issue Environmental authorisation, Issued on 16 July 2013, DEA Reference 14/12/16/3/3/2/222 (12/12/20/2602) 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 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:

- » 14/12/16/3/3/2/222/AM1 – authorised on the 22 February 2016 extending the validity to 16 July 2018
- » 14/12/16/3/3/2/222/AM2 - authorised on the 30 July 2018 extending the validity to 16 July 2020
- » The most recent 14/12/16/3/3/2/222/AM3 - 12 August 2020 extending the validity to 16 July 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 16 July 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."

The applicant, Boesmanland Solar (Pty) Ltd is requesting that the Competent Authority amends Condition 7 of the original EA (Page 6) as amended (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/222/AM3; dated 12 August 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 16 July 2033). 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".

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.

Boesmanland Solar Farm is located in the North Cape Province, the map below (Figure 1) shows the proposed location of the Boesmanland Solar Farm.

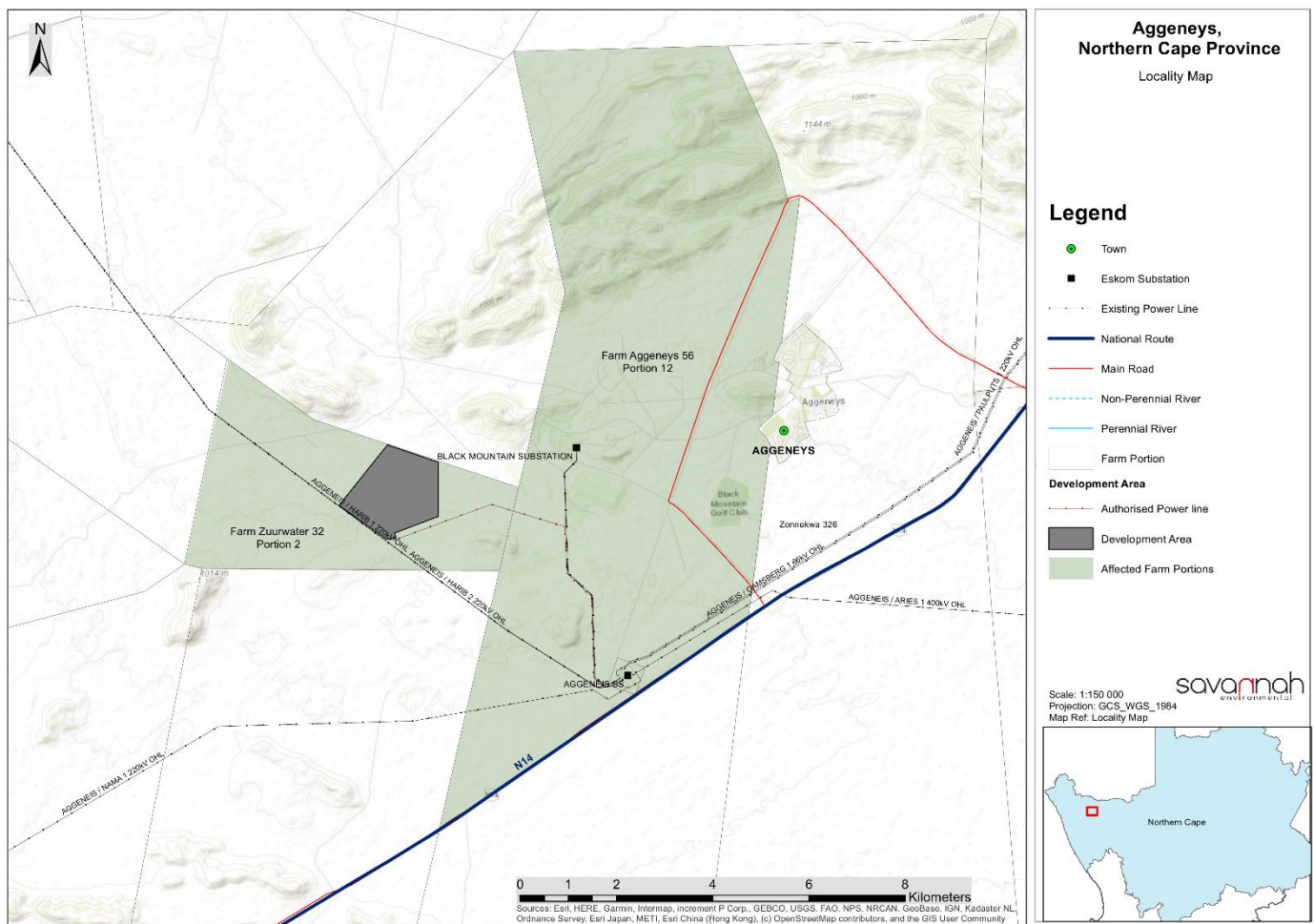


Figure 1: Boesmanland Solar Farm Location

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

This section provides the status quo of the socio-economic profile of Namakwa District Municipality (DM), Khâi-Ma Local Municipality (LM) and Aggeneys. The purpose of this section is to provide 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

The Namakwa DM had a total GDP of R10.7 billion and in terms of total contribution towards Northern Cape Province the Namakwa DM ranked lowest relative to all the regional economies to total Northern Cape Province GDP. This ranking in terms of size compared to other regions of Namakwa remained the same since 2013. In terms of its share, in 2020 (10.6%) it was significantly smaller compared to what it was in 2010 (12.3%). For the period 2010 to 2020, the average annual growth rate of -0.4% of Namakwa was the lowest relative to its peers in terms of growth in constant 2010 prices. Khâi-Ma LM similarly showed a decrease of -0.38% over the same period.

The mining sector remains the main driver of the economy for the municipality. The highest contribution to GVA is from the mining sector at 56%, followed by community services at 12%. Khâi-Ma LM's mining and quarrying sector averaged a positive annual growth rate of 3.8% which is more significant than the Provincial and District average (-1.2% and -4.3% respectively). Khâi-Ma LM is rich in mineral deposits. South Africa's main source of lead production is Aggeneys. The main zinc deposits in the Northern Cape Province can be found at Gamsberg near Aggeneys.

In 2020 the mining sector contributed R 3.94 billion or 40.4% of the total GVA in the DMs economy. This was followed by contributions from community services at 16.7%, and agriculture at 10.2%.

In terms of the percentage of people living in poverty for each of the regions within the Namakwa DM, in 2020 Khâi-Ma LM had the highest percentage of people living in poverty, using the upper poverty line definition, with a total of 44.8%. In terms of the poverty gap rate for each of the regions within the Namakwa DM, Khâi-Ma LM again had the highest poverty gap rate, with a rand value of 28.0%.

When looking at the regions within the Namakwa DM it is expected that from 2020 to 2025 the Khâi-Ma LM will achieve the highest average annual growth rate of 3.3%. Richterveld LM is expected to have the second-highest average annual growth rate of 2.69%. The Namakwa DM overall was expected to have an average of 2.65% growth over the same period, with South Africa averaging close to 2.69% growth expected.

3.2 Employment Baseline Profile

Khâi-Ma LM had the highest labour force participation rate with 62.8% in 2018 decreasing from 66.2% in 2008. Hantam LM had the lowest labour force participation rate of 48.3% in 2018, this decreased from 49.4% in 2008. Total employment can be broken down into formal and informal sector employment. Formal sector employment is measured from the formal business side, and informal employment is measured from the household side where formal businesses have not been established. Formal employment is much more stable than informal employment. Informal employment is much harder to measure and manage, simply because it cannot be tracked through the formal business side of the economy. Informal employment is however a reality in South Africa and cannot be ignored.

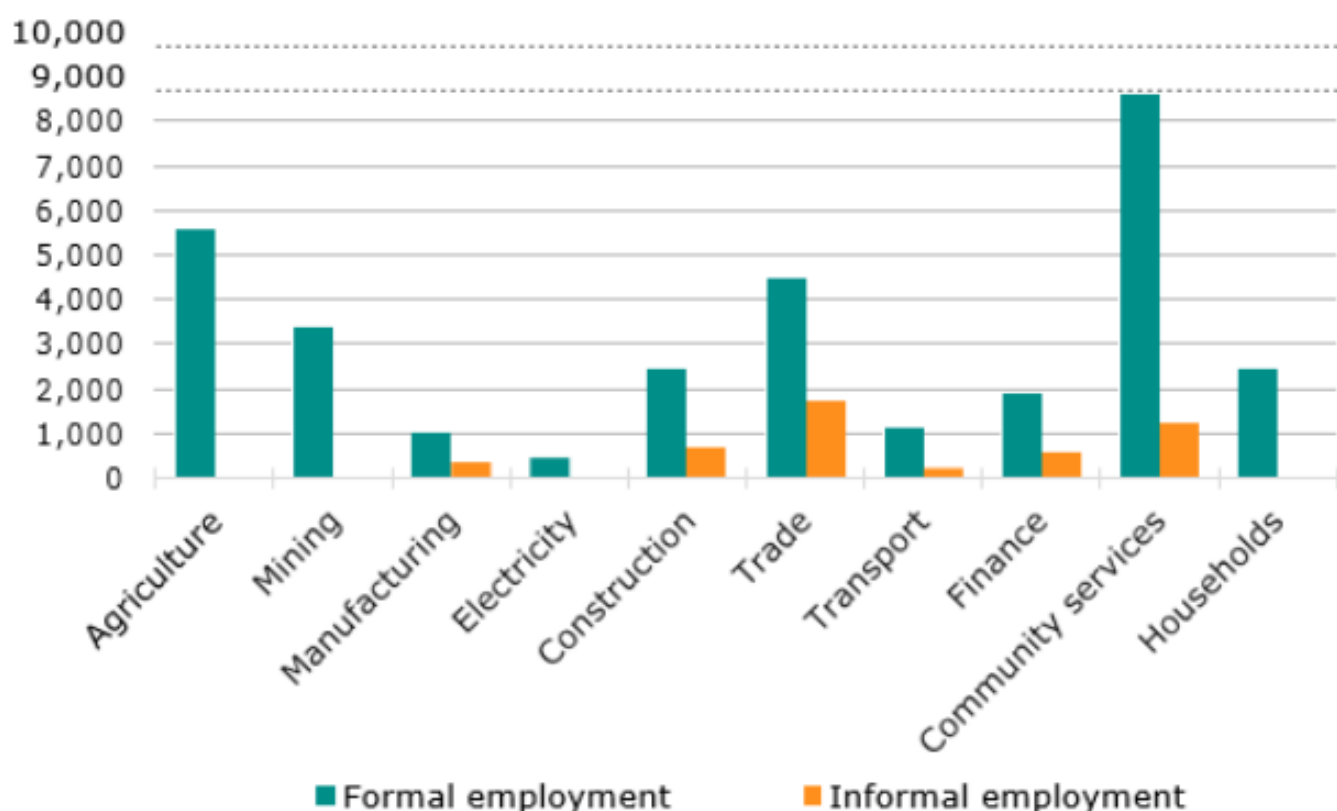


Figure 2: Formal and informal employment by broad economic sector - Namakwa District Municipality, 2018

The number of formally employed people in Namakwa DM counted 31 400 in 2018, which is about 86.74% of total employment, while the number of people employed in the informal sector counted 4 800 or 13.26% of the total employment. Informal employment in Namakwa increased from 3 420 in 2008 to an estimated 4 800 in 2018.

The mining industry, due to well-regulated mining safety policies, and the strict registration of a mine, has little or no informal employment. The Electricity sector is also strongly regulated, making it difficult to get information on informal employment. Domestic Workers and employment in the agriculture sector are typically counted under a separate heading.

In 2018 the Trade sector recorded the highest number of informally employed, with a total of 1 740 employees or 36.23% of the total informal employment. This can be expected as the barriers to entering the Trade sector in terms of capital and skills required is less than with most of the other sectors. The Transport sector has the lowest informal employment with 235 and only contributes 4.90% to total informal employment.

3.3 Demographic Baseline Profile

Population

The population of Khâi-Ma LM has increased to an estimated total of 12,465 people since the last census in 2011 (2016 Community Survey) with a growth rate of 0.83%, increasing from 9 550 persons in 1996. The municipality is sparsely populated (+/- 1 person/km²); most people are settled in its five (5) towns and surrounding farms. Most of the district's population distribution can be found in the Nama Khoi LM (40.3%), followed in population by Hanta (18.5%), Karoo Hoogland (11.3%), Richterveld (10.8%), Khâi-Ma (10.8%), and finally Kamiesberg (8.3%) local municipalities.

The population of persons under the age of 15 in 2016 is 22.2%, showing a slight decline from 25.9% in 2011. Working-age persons, considered 15 to 64, make up around 71.6% of the 2016 population in the area, showing an increase to 68.6% in 2011. The remaining portion of the population is those aged 65 and over, making up 6.2% (2016) and 5.5% (2011) of the population. The median age in the LM is 28 years old. Gender proportions remain rather similar at 6 563 males, and 5 910 females in 2016.

The percentage distribution of the population of Khâi-Ma LM municipality in 2016, where the Coloured population group accounts for 88.2% of the population in the municipality followed by the White (8.1%), Black African (2.8%) and Indian/Asian (1%) population groups respectively. The language spoken mostly by households in Khâi-Ma municipality is Afrikaans, spoken by 11 815 (96.6%) of households, followed by those who speak IsiXhosa (0.9%) and English (0.8%). The least spoken languages in Khâi-Ma are IsiZulu and Setswana.

A majority (74.3%) of the population of Khâi-Ma municipality follows the Christian religion and belongs to the Catholic religious denomination, followed by those attending the Reformed church (e.g., Dutch reformed church) and Anglican/Episcopalian at 12.2% and 2.7% respectively. Within Khâi-Ma LM, 97.1% of the population were born in South Africa, about the same as the rate in Namakwa DM at 98.83%. The majority of foreign nationals in the local municipality were from the SADC region (178 persons), followed by those from Asia (83 persons). Regarding the population group type, most of those from other regions outside South Africa are White (83), and Indian/Asian (83), followed by Coloured and Black African persons respectively.

Education

Persons aged 20 and above who had no schooling dropped from 3.8% (2011) to 2.8% (2016), a great improvement from 8.3% in 1996. Similarly, there was an increase in those who completed Matric, from 18% to 22% in the same age bracket. While it is an increase, the percentage remains low, with the South African average for persons aged 20 years and above who have a matric qualification standing at 31%. Around 5.2% of people can claim a Higher education in both 2011 and 2016 alike. 6.9% of the Black African population in

Khâi-Ma LM have no schooling when compared to other population groups, followed by the Coloured population group at 3.0%. It shows that the White population is better educated when compared to other population groups, where 30.5% have a higher education level, followed by Black African population groups at 10.8%.

Households

The Khâi-Ma LM has 4 079 households as of 2016, with an average household size being around 3 persons per household. This is an increase from the 3 787 households in 2011 with an average of 3.2 household size. Female-headed households are around 33.7% in 2016 and 34.1% in 2011. There has been an improvement in the number of the population living in formal dwellings between 2011 and 2016, increasing from 86.1% to 92.4%. Aggeneys specifically has a population of 2 262 people and 573 households. Another significant improvement is in the percentage of people in the area that own houses, from 46.6% in 2011 to 64.5% in 2016.

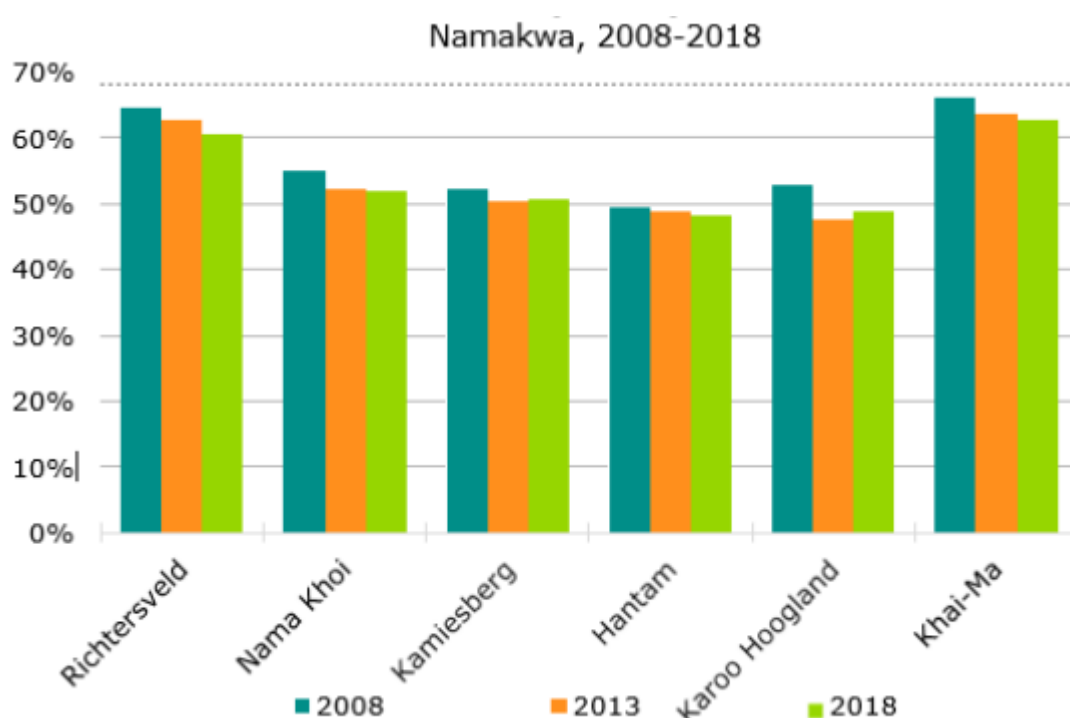


Figure 3: The labour force participation rate - local municipalities and the rest of Namakwa District Municipality, 2013

The average annual household income for the Khâi-Ma LM in 2011 was about the same as the amount in Namakwa DM at a median estimate of R29 400. In 2018 the labour force participation rate for Namakwa was at 53.0% which is slightly lower when compared to the 55.7% in 2008. The unemployment rate is an efficient indicator that measures the success rate of the labour force relative to employment. In 2008, the unemployment rate for Namakwa was 23.0% and increased overtime to 25.0% in 2018. The gap between the labour force participation rate and the unemployment rate increased which indicates a positive outlook for employment within Namakwa DM (as shown in Figure 3).

Health

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.

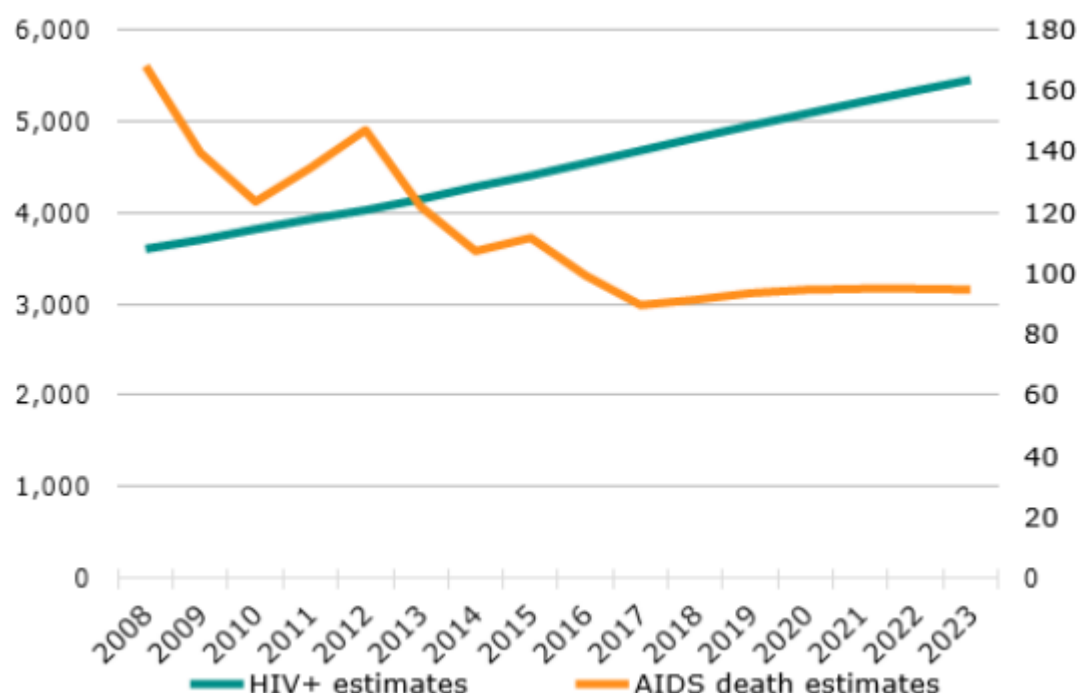


Figure 4: HIV+ estimates and AIDS death estimates in Namakwa, 2008-2023

The area has some Health-related service backlogs and needs. According to the Khâi-Ma LM Integrated Development Plans (IDP), No doctor is based in any town of Khâi- Ma LM, which means patients must wait to see one on another date. Otherwise, the more serious a case, one must be transported, on a scheduled date to Springbok for medical attention. By the way, one doctor is not enough to render services. Further, the availability of medicines at clinics and community health centres is a big challenge, although a pharmacy is situated in Aggeneys.

Security and Service Delivery

Service Delivery has seen some improvements in the LM. Access to water has seen a rise from 79.1% getting water from a regional or local service provider in 2011, compared to 90.6% in 2016. Showing a similar improvement from 2011 to 2016, access to flush or chemical toilets improved from 75.6% to 84%. Access to refuse disposal from a local authority, private company, or community member, also improved from 85.7% to 94.3% during the same period.

For the period 2007/2008 to 2017/2018 overall crime has decreased at an average annual rate of 2.21% within the Namakwa DM. Violent crime decreased by 2.75% since 2007/2008, while property crimes increased by 1.82% between the 2007/2008 and 2017/2018 financial years. Property crime is a major problem for all regions relative to violent crime. Property crime is a major problem for all the regions relative to the rest of the crime indices.

Site Details

The main activity within the local area is mining. The nearest settlement to the site is the town of Aggeneys, which is a mining town that was developed in support of the Black Mountain Mine. This mine primarily produces zinc and lead, as well as copper and silver, and is the main source of employment within the local area. BMM provides basic services (including free potable water) to the staff housed at Aggeneys, as well as water to surrounding the towns of Pofadder and Pella, and surrounding farms which comprised approximately 11 200 people as of 2013. Aggeneys itself has a small population of slightly more than 2000 people and 666 households as of 2011.

After mining, there are two other key local economic activities namely agriculture and tourism. Agricultural activities include intensive crop and fruit farming along the Orange River and extensive sheep and goat farming. Tourism-related activities are centred around the Orange River, the Namaqualand region (wildflowers, cultural and nature conservation tourism), and national wildlife reserves within the Northern Cape such as the Richtersveld and Kgalagadi National Parks.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

4.1 Previously identified impacts per project phase

Based on the understanding of the proposed amendment and extended timeframes, it is the specialist's opinion that the social environment within the study area has not changed. The construction cost of the facility is expected to have increased which will have a small impact on production, GDP, employment, and household standards of living.

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.

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.

Cumulative Impacts

The original report mentions that there is another solar facility that was planned near to the Eskom substation, and the Black Mountain Mine. The study stated that taken in the context of the broader landscape, the cumulative impacts were not likely to be highly significant given the extensive intact nature of the landscape as a whole. Further, the cumulative impacts associated with solar development were predominantly biophysical in nature and arose from the combined presence of several similar developments within an area which affect ecological processes operating at broader scales or which each have a small impact which becomes significant when combined.

Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province
Cumulative Map

Legend

- Town
- Substation
- Existing Power Line
- National Route
- Main Road
- Development Area
- Authorized Power line
- Development Area
- Other Renewable Energy Facilities
 - 75MW Korana solar energy facility
 - 140MW Korana Wind Energy Facility
 - 75MW Enamanda PV 5 project
 - Namies wind farm
 - 86 Kv Transmission Line For The Photovoltaic Solar Facility Near Aggeneys
 - 75MW PV plant on the Farm Zuurwater No 62
 - Breenmanland solar farm
 - Veld PV South substation and powerline near Aggeneys within the
 - Sol Invictus PV solar facility
 - Wind And Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facilities

Scale: 1:150 000
Projection: GCS_WGS_1984
Map Ref: Cumulative Map

0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Source:
NL Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

savannah
environments

Northern Cape

The following Solar facilities have become operational in the area:

- 75MW Korana solar energy facility
- 75MW Enamandla PV 5 project
- 66 Kv Transmission Line for The Photovoltaic Solar Facility Near Aggeneys
- 75MW PV plant on the Farm Zuurwater No 62
- Boesmanland solar farm
- Veld PV South substation and powerline near Aggeneys within the
- Sol Invictus PV solar facility

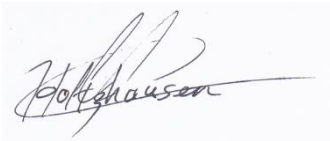
Assumptions and limitations

Assumed that information on the project and the proposed changes provided by Savannah Environmental 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

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

APPENDIX A: EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW REPORT

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE BOESMANLAND SOLAR FARM REVIEW REPORT

June 2023

Prepared by:

Dr Sithandiwe Khoza
Senior Independent Social Consultant

Pretoria, South Africa
(Cell) 071 350 3859
(E-Mail) sithandiwe.khoza@yahoo.com

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 Boesmanland Solar Farm 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 proposed Boesmanland solar farm 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

- **Report title & name of client:** Not consistent in some parts of the document, the specialist needs to review and revise as indicated in the document.
- **Executive summary:** The document should be updated to include an executive summary. The executive summary should provide an overview on what the amendments entail, implications of the proposed amendments to previously identified impacts and concluding remarks from a social specialist perspective.
- **Acronyms:** The list of acronyms table includes acronyms not used in the document, this table should be revised accordingly.
- **List of Tables:** The document should be updated to include a list of tables.
- **Cross-referencing:** The specialist should ensure that figures and tables are cross-referenced accordingly

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 update to 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 provide an overview of previously assessed impacts, this should be included in a summarised table format.

Cumulative impact

The specialist provides an overview of cumulative impacts. An overview of previously assessed cumulative impacts should be provided, if applicable.

Mitigation measures

The specialist needs to comment on the applicability of previously recommended mitigation 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
Pretoria South Africa
(Cell) 071 350 3859
(E-Mail) sithandiwe.khoza@yahoo.com

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, ESS, 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.