

APPENDIX C7
MEETING NOTES



Meeting Notes to be included in the
Final EIAr

SCOPING PHASE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE HARMONY GOLD PHASE 2 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH THE
OFFICIAL OF THE LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND THE
MASILONYANA AND MATJABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES
HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 09H00
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Chantelle Geyer
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position / Directorate
Lejweleputswa District Municipality	
Dewald Kirsten	District Manager for Environmental Health
Energy Group	
Jason Fairhurst	Project Manager
Harmony Gold	
Cassie Wesolowski	Project Manager
Ipeleng Sebetlele	Acting Environmental Officer: Joel Operations
Rendani Mikosi	Environmental Officer for Central, Saaiplaas & One Plants
Melani Nieuwoudt	Environmental Officer: Tshepong, Phakisa, Nyala and Eland Operations
Louis Botha	Electrical Engineer and Acting Renewable Energy Manager.
Assan Ralebona	Environmental Officer
Harmony Gold	
Ansoné Esterhuizen	Environmental Consultant
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Chantelle Geyer	Environmental Consultant

APOLOGIES

No apologies were rendered.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendee at the Focus Group Meeting for the Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities and requested the project team members to introduce themselves and thereafter the attendee introducing himself to the project team. She presented the draft Agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Ansoné Esterhuizen presented an overview of the projects and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Scoping Reports for the Harmony One Plant Solar PV, Harmony Joel Solar PV and Harmony Target Solar PV and the Basic Assessment (BA) Report for the Harmony Central Solar PV that are currently available for a 30-day review and comment period. Information regarding these projects was also shared with the attendees.

A copy of the slides presented during the Focus Group Meeting (FGM) is attached as **Appendix A**.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Dewald Kirsten	
The District Municipality will read the various Reports submitted for comment and will submit their written comments before the end of the comment period.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged Mr Kirsten's comments and responded that the project team is looking forward to the District Municipality's written comments on the various Reports.
At this stage, the District Municipality does not have any reason to derail the projects.	

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter asked whether there were any other questions or comments that the attendee would like to raise. It was noted that no further comments needed to be raised at this time.

Henk Nel made a closing statement and thanked the participant for making time available to attend the FGM and for his valuable inputs into the process.

The meeting was closed at 09h45.

APPENDIX A: Presentation

HARMONY GOLD
PHASE 2 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES

FREE STATE PROVINCE

Focus Group Meeting
September 2022



1

AGENDA


- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Description
- Need and Desirability
- Environmental Sensitivities Identified
- Way Forward
- Discussions



2

MEETING CONDUCT


- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on Chat function (name, surname, affiliation & email address)
- Equal opportunity
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation
- Please hold all verbal questions until after presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question



3

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders with an overview of the planned projects
- Summary of the **Scoping Phase, Basic Assessment & Public Participation** Process
- Present summary of the key environmental findings
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies
- Provide an opportunity to provide further input and comment
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the Reports to be submitted to the DESTEA



4

PROJECT OVERVIEW (Ansoné Esterhuizen)




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PROJECT INFORMATION

Harmony Gold Mining Company (Ltd) plans to supplement its energy supply by implementing solar PV **Four (4)** facilities located on four different Harmony Gold Mine sites within the Free State Province


- Applicant: Freegold Harmony (Pty) Ltd
 - **Harmony One Plant Solar PV Facility** near Welkom (Scoping & EIA)
 - Matjhabeng Local Municipality
 - 30MW and will tie into the Brand Gold Substation via a 2km power line
 - **Harmony Joel Solar PV Facility** near Theunissen (Scoping & EIA)
 - Masiyonyana Local municipality
 - 18MW and will Tie-in to Shafts 1 & 2 HJ Joel Mining Substation via a 1.2km power line
- Applicant: Avgold (Pty) Ltd
 - **Harmony Target Solar PV Facility** near Alanridge (Scoping & EIA)
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 - 30MW and will Tie-in to the Avgold Substation via a 2km power line
- Applicant: Harmony Gold Mining Company (Pty)
 - **Harmony Central Plant Solar PV Facility** near Virginia (BA)
 - Matjhabeng Local Municipality
 - 14MW and will tie into Harmony North Substation via an 2km power line.



6


NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- Harmony Gold aims to accomplish their decarbonisation goals by using renewable energy to reduce their carbon footprint
- Generation for own-use. PVs to provide the Mine with electricity – reduced reliance on Eskom and electricity cost savings (est. at R500 million per annum)
- Solar resource readily available at the project sites
- Properties owned by Harmony Gold
- To connect into the existing Eskom infrastructure
- Employment and business opportunities during the construction and operation, and opportunity for skills development for local communities.
- Shift towards sustainable development and pollution reduction
- National, local and regional policy supports development of renewable energy projects




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LOCAL SOLAR PV PLANTS




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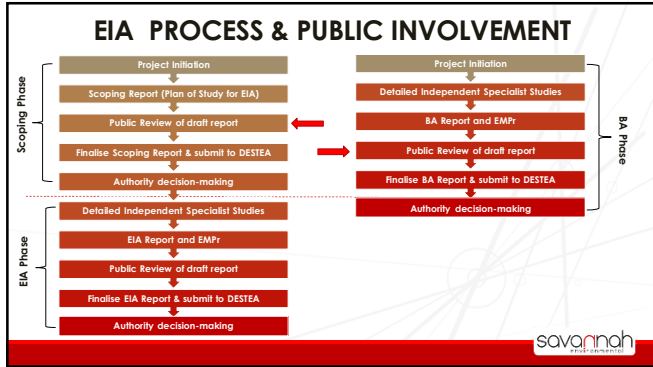
7MW RustMo1 Solar Farm near Rustenburg - Operational



50MW De Wildt Solar Power Plant near Brits – Commenced commercial operation in January 2021



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- ### APPROACH TO IMPACTS
- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
 - Potential sensitive areas identified through specialist desktop and in-field studies
 - Design of appropriate facility layout to be informed by identified sensitive areas.
 - Application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e., avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset)
 - Further micro-siting to facility layout will be addressed in EIA Phase
 - Prepare a Plan of Study for the EIA Phase

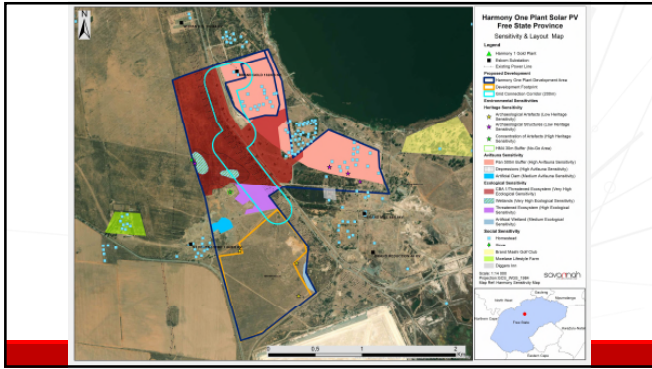
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- ### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
- Ecological Impacts
 - Loss of indigenous vegetation
 - Habitat destruction
 - Displacement and mortality of species
 - Alien invasive species
 - Fresh Water Impacts
 - Loss of wetland soils and vegetation
 - Erosion and sedimentation
 - Pollution of water sources
 - Avifauna Impacts
 - Collision and mortality
 - Displacement
 - Collision with OHL
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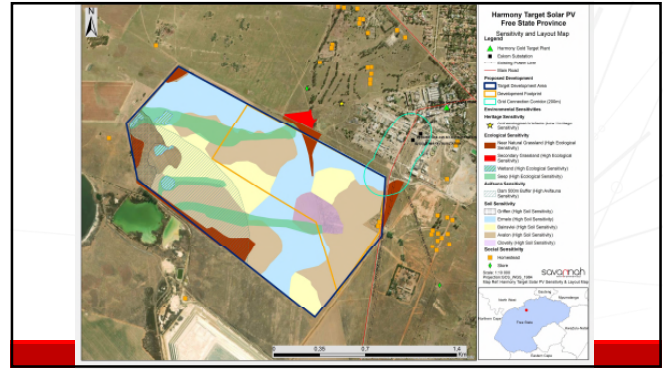
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- ### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
- Agricultural Impacts
 - Loss of soil and land capability
 - Heritage Impacts
 - Archeological significant resources
 - Paleontological resources
 - Cultural landscape resources
 - Visual Impact
 - Viewshed impacts
 - Community impacts
 - Socio Economic Impacts
 - Employment and business procurement
 - Skills development
 - Foreigners and local communities
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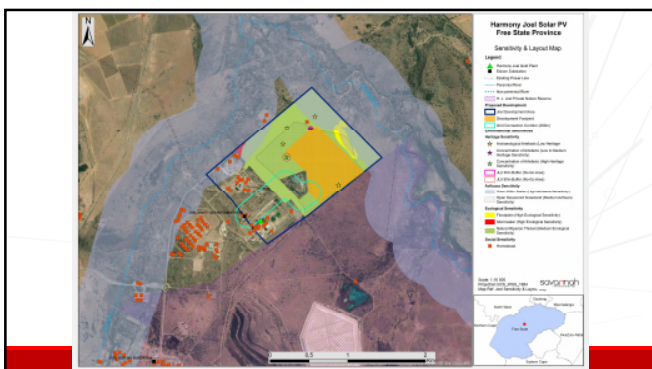
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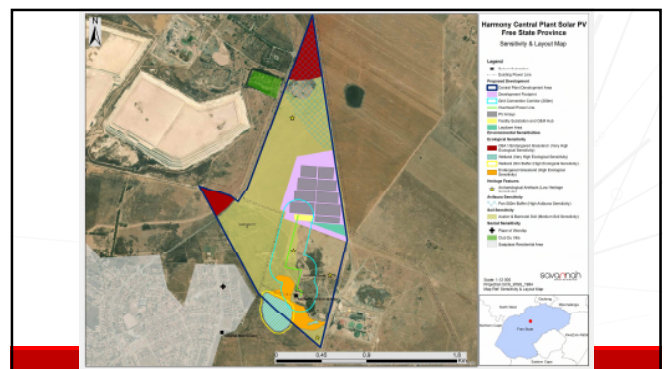
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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Costs to the environment at a site-specific level have been largely limited through the layout optimisation
- Optimised layouts avoid aquatic, avifauna, ecological and archaeological sensitivities and honour buffer zones - location of infrastructure is considered acceptable
- Where impacts cannot be avoided - appropriate mitigation proposed to minimise impacts & included in project EMPs
- Specialist studies' conclusions - development will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts (subject to mitigation measures)
- Benefits of the projects are expected to occur at a national, regional and local level

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17

WAY FORWARD (Nicolene Venter)

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18

WAY FORWARD

- Scoping Reports review period: **24 August 2022 – 23 September 2022**
- Basic Assessment Report review period: **02 September 2022 – 03 October 2022**
- Final Scoping Reports to be submitted to DESTEA – October 2022
- EIA & EMPs for review – planned November - December 2022
- Final BA Report to be submitted to DESTEA – October 2022
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.

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19

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Nicolene Venter

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

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Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

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20

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE HARMONY GOLD PHASE 2 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 09H00
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Chantelle Geyer

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
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Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position / Directorate
Department of Water Affairs	
Boitumelo Melato	Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement under the Directorate Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
Juliet Mahlangu	Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Energy Group	
Jason Fairhurst	Project Manager
David Williams	Project Manager
Harmony Gold	
Cassie Wesolowski	Project Manager
Ipeleng Sebetlele	Acting Environmental Officer: Joel Operations
Rendani Mikosi	Environmental Officer for Central, Saaiplaas & One Plants
Melani Nieuwoudt	Environmental Officer – Free State
Louis Botha	Electrical Engineer and Acting Renewable Energy Manager.
Assan Ralebona	Environmental Officer
Henk Nel	Acting Environmental Manager
Teboho	Stakeholder Relations Officer
Savannah Environmental	
Ansone Esterhuizen	Environmental Consultant
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Chantelle Geyer	Environmental Consultant

APOLOGIES

Lebo Shabe: Harmony Gold North West

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendee at the Key Stakeholder Workshop for the Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities and requested the project team members to introduce themselves and thereafter the attendee introducing himself to the project team. She presented the draft Agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Ansoné Esterhuizen presented an overview of the projects and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Scoping Reports for the Harmony One Plant Solar PV, Harmony Joel Solar PV and Harmony Target Solar PV and the Basic Assessment (BA) Report for the Harmony Central Solar PV that are currently available for a 30-day review and comment period. Information regarding these projects was also shared with the attendees.

A copy of the slides presented during the Key Stakeholder Workshop (KSW) is attached as **Appendix A**.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Teboho	
Requested that the presentation be shared via email.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged this request and confirmed that the presentation and meeting notes will be shared with all attendees.
Boitumelo Melato	
Had a query about the password protection on the reports and how the password can be obtained.	Nicolene Venter responded the copies of the unprotected reports will be shared via WeTransfer.
Requested that hard copies of the reports be sent to the Department.	Nicolene Venter responded that this has already been done and that the hard copies of the Scoping Reports have been courier to Dr Ntuli as requested.
Asked whether there will be water uses during construction of the projects.	Ansoné Esterhuizen responded that the project team is supplementing water from the existing mines and the municipality.
	Henk Nel added that no new boreholes will be drilled, and no water use licences will be applied for. Portable water is provided by local authorities and municipalities. Water will be used for drinking water, dust mitigation and cleaning.
Asked whether the rivers adjacent to the Joel project have been taken into consideration.	Ansoné Esterhuizen explained that the blue buffer areas indicate the river buffer zones as required by the DWS. She also noted that the development footprint is located outside these regulated areas. General Authorisations will be applied for, for the properties that crosses these regulated buffers. A pre-application meeting will be arranged.
Asked about Phase 1 and where it was located.	Ansoné Esterhuizen stated that this phase was located in the Free State
	Louis Botha added that there are three projects near Odendaalsrus and they consist of 3 x 10MW facilities and were developed between Harmony and other Stakeholders.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter asked whether there were any other questions or comments from the attendees. It was noted that no further comments needed to be raised at this time.

Henk Nel made a closing statement and thanked the participants for making time available to attend the KSW and for his valuable inputs into the process.

The meeting was closed at 10h00.

APPENDIX A: Presentation

**HARMONY GOLD
PHASE 2 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES**

FREE STATE PROVINCE

Key Stakeholder Workshop

September 2022



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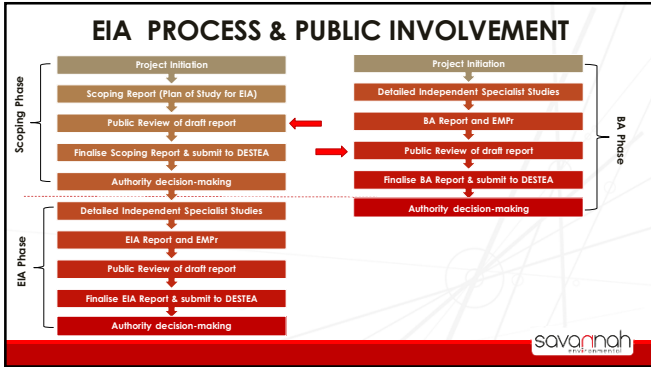
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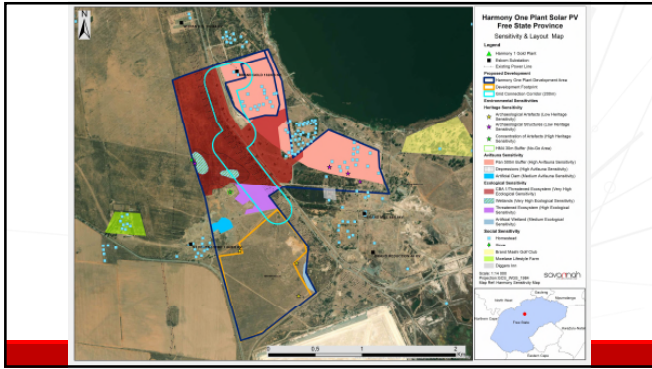
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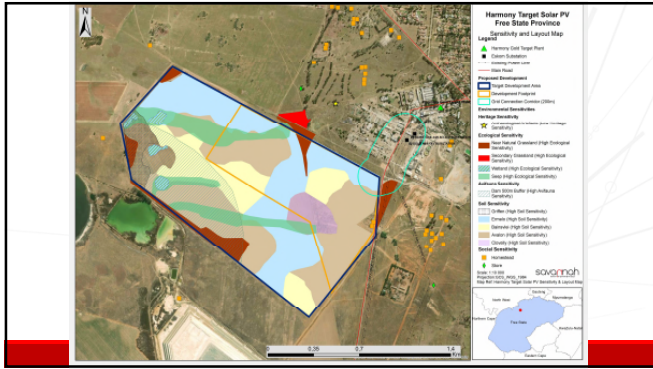
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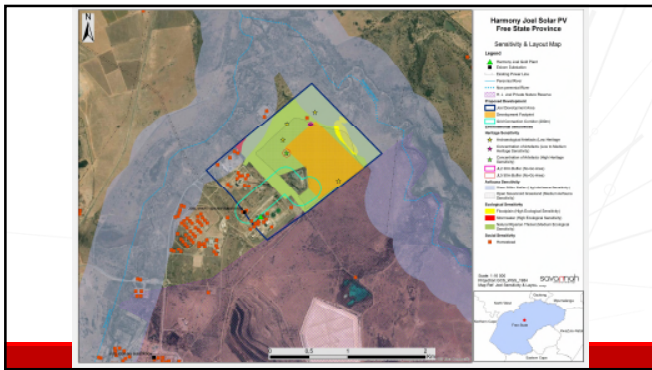
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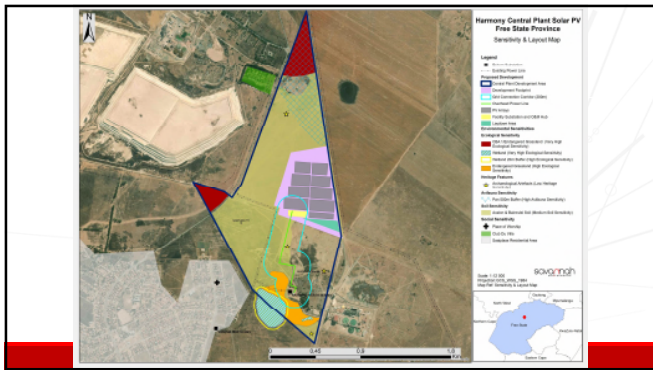
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