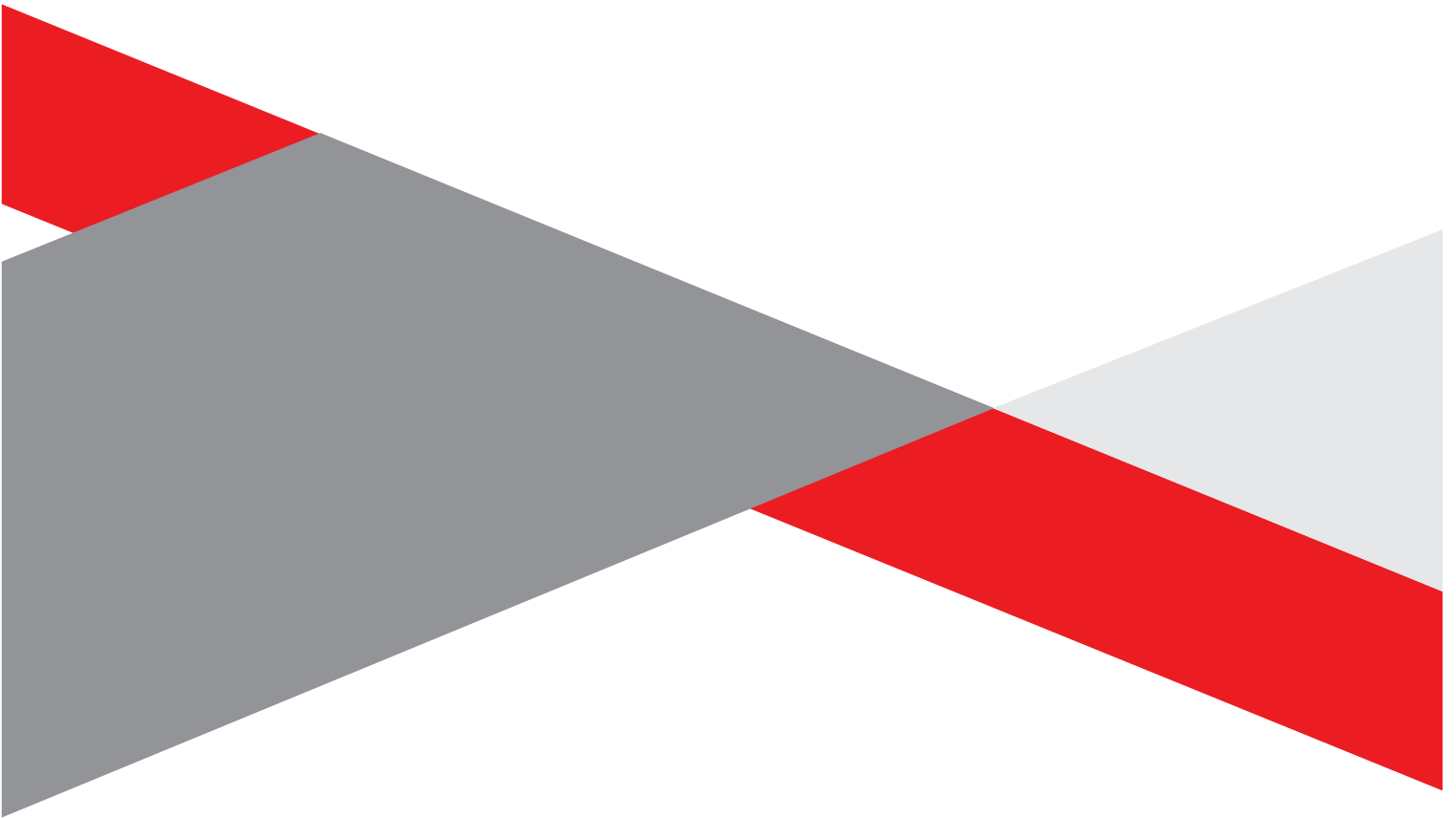


**APPENDIX C7**  
**MEETING NOTES**



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

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 09H00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto: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                                   |
|--|--|
| <b>Department of Water Affairs</b>                           |  |
| Willem Grobler   | Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement                      |
| <b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</b> |  |
| Mashudu Mudau  | Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA                         |
| Kamogelo Mathetja  | Intern   |
| <b>Energy Group</b>  |  |
| Jason Fairhurst  | Project Manager  |
| David Williams   | Project Manager  |
| <b>Eskom SOC Ltd</b>   |  |
| Debbie Harding   | Northern Cape Land Development Manager                   |
| <b>Matjhabeng Local Municipality</b>                         |  |
| Igor Scheurkogel   | Ward Councillor  |
| <b>South African Heritage Resources Agency</b>               |  |
| Sityhilo Ngcatsha  | Heritage Officer   |
| <b><u>PROJECT TEAM</u></b>                                   |  |
| <b>Harmony Gold</b>  |  |
| Rendani Mikosi   | Environmental Officer: Free States                       |
| Melani Nieuwoudt   | Environmental Officer – Free State                       |
| Louis Botha  | Electrical Engineer and Acting Renewable Energy Manager. |
| Henk Nel   | Acting Environmental Manager                             |
| Mpho Moloko  | Environmental Manager: Free State Operations             |
| <b>Savannah Environmental</b>                                |  |
| Karen Jodas  | Environmental Assessment Practitioner                    |
| Chantelle Geyer  | Environmental Consultant                                 |
| Nicolene Venter  | Public Participation & Social Consultant                 |

### APOLOGIES

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Dudzile Ratshefola | Harmony Gold  |
| M Wilkinson        | Harmony Gold  |
| Evelyn Shogole     | South African Civil Aviation Authority                |
| Melissa Lewis      | BirdLife SA   |
| Matlhodi Mogorosi  | Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment |
| Pule Lenong        | Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State        |
| Melato Boitumelo   | Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State        |
| Charles Hlebela    | National Energy Regulator of South Africa             |
| Cynthia Ranjapedi  | Transnet SOC Ltd                                      |
| Futhi Mathebula    | Transnet SOC Ltd                                      |
| John Geeringh      | Eskom SOC Ltd   |

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop for the Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities: Harmony One Plant Solar PV Facility and requested the project team members to introduce themselves and thereafter the attendees introducing themselves to the project team. She presented the draft Agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Chantelle Geyer presented an overview of the project, the Environmental Impact Assessment and public participation process followed to date, and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Harmony One Plant Solar PV that is currently available for a 30-day review and comment period.

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

## DISCUSSION SESSION

| Question / Comment   | Response  |
|--|---|
| <b>Igor Scheurkogel</b>  |   |
| For the Nyala and Eland PV projects, there have been on-going issues relating to employment for the PV projects under construction in the local community, resulting in delays in the construction of the facilities. These interruptions relate to employment opportunities.<br>How will these projects be handled differently?<br>This is not my ward, but one of my Councilors has an adjacent ward. This is where the interest lies. | Louis Botha responded that these projects are different, as they are built by private companies, and they are only on Harmony properties.<br><br>Harmony Gold has a standard policy and guidelines regarding procurement that would be followed. Local communities would be involved upfront once the project gets to the construction phase. |
| <b>Sityhilo Ngcatsha</b>   |   |
| How will comments be made by SAHRA. There is a case ID for this project on SAHRIS.   | Nicolene Venter responded that the report and appendices have been uploaded onto SAHRIS and the SAHRIS CaseID will be communicated with the Heritage Officer.<br><br><b>Post-meeting note:</b><br>The SAHRIS CaseID 19408 has been emailed to Mr Ngcatsha on 29 November 2022.  |

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

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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 closed at 10h00.

**Table of Abbreviations / Acronyms**

|       |   |        |   |
|-------|---|--------|---|
| KSW   | Key Stakeholder Workshop                | SAHRIS | South African Heritage Resources Information System |
| SAHRA | South African Heritage Resources Agency |        |   |

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**HARMONY GOLD  
PHASE 2 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES  
HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY  
FREE STATE PROVINCE**

Key Stakeholder Workshop

November 2022

# AGENDA

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

# 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

# PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide an overview of the **Harmony One Plant Solar PV Facility**
- Present a summary of the **Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process**
- Present a summary of the key environmental findings of the **EIA process**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the project and environmental studies, as well as the opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Provide an opportunity to provide further input and comment
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the FEIA Report to be submitted to the DESTEA

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Chantelle Geyer)



**Harmony One Plant Solar PV  
Free State Province  
Locality Map**

**Legend**

- Town
- ▲ Harmony 1 Gold Plant
- ▲ Bambanani Mine Welkom
- Eskom Substation
- Existing Power Line
- Thabong Game Farm
- Harmony Proposed Development**
- ▭ Harmony One Plant Development Area
- ▭ Grid Connection Corridor (300m)
- ▭ Development Footprint
- ▭ Affected Properties

Scale: 1:50 000  
Projection: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
Map Ref: Harmony Locality Map

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- Solar PV facility up to 30MW
- Located southwest of the Witpan Dam, south of the Harmony One Gold Plant operations
- Located ~14km north west of Virginia, Matjhabeng LM, Lejweleputswa DM, Free State

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environmental



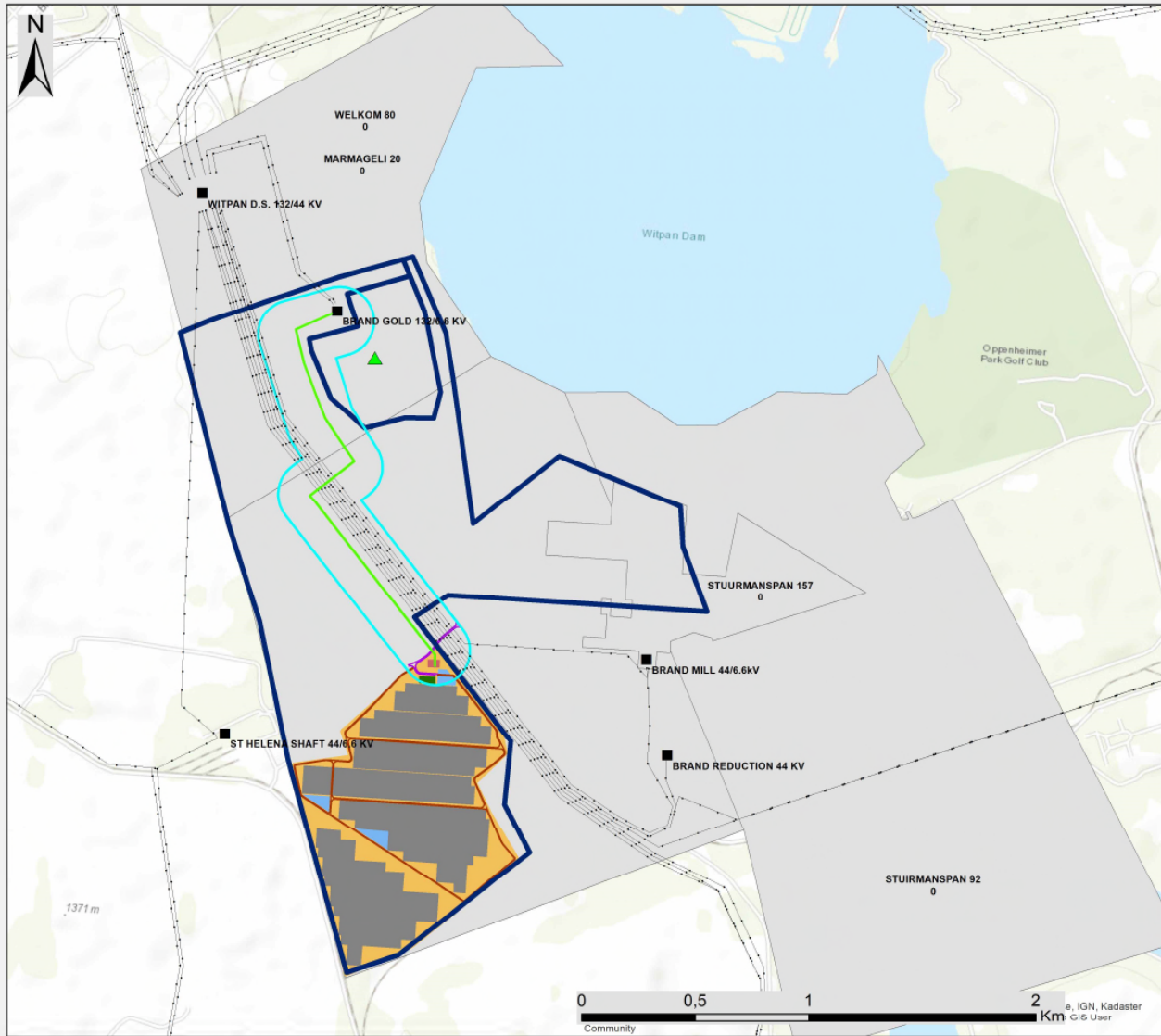
# PROJECT COMPONENTS

Solar PV facility up to 30MW

The on-site infrastructure includes:

- PV modules and mounting structures.
- Inverters and transformers a SCADA room, and maintenance room.
- Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- Access roads, internal roads and fencing around the development area.
- Temporary and permanent laydown areas and O&M buildings.
- Grid connection solution including an on-site facility substation, switching station, to be connected to the Brand Gold Substation via a power line (located ~2km North of the site).





### Harmony One Plant Solar PV Free State Province Layout Map

- Legend**
- ▲ Harmony 1 Gold Plant
  - Eskom Substation
  - Existing Power Line
  - Proposed Development**
  - Affected Properties
  - ▭ Harmony One Plant Development Area
  - ▭ Development Footprint
  - ▭ O&M and Storage Hub
  - ▭ PV
  - ▭ Laydown
  - ▭ On-Site Facility Substation & Switching Station Hub
  - Internal Roads
  - Access Road
  - ▭ Grid Connection Corridor (300m)
  - Power Line

Scale: 1:15 000  
 Projection: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
 Map Ref: Harmony Layout Map



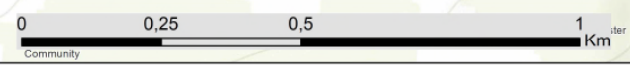
0 0,5 1 2 Km  
 e. IGN, Kadaster  
 Community GIS User



### Harmony One Plant Solar PV Free State Province Layout Map

- Legend**
- ▲ Harmony 1 Gold Plant
  - Eskom Substation
  - - - Existing Power Line
- Proposed Development**
- Affected Properties
  - ▭ Harmony One Plant Development Area
  - ▭ Development Footprint
  - ▭ O&M and Storage Hub
  - ▭ PV Arrays
  - ▭ Laydown Areas
  - Internal Roads
  - Access Road
  - ▭ Grid Connection Corridor (300m)
  - ▭ On-Site Facility Substation & Switching Station Hub

Scale: 1:15 000  
 Projection: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
 Map Ref: Harmony Layout Map



# NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- Harmony Gold aims to accomplish their decarbonisation goals by using renewable energy to reduce their carbon footprint
- Generation for own-use. PV 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

# WHAT IS A SOLAR PV PLANT?

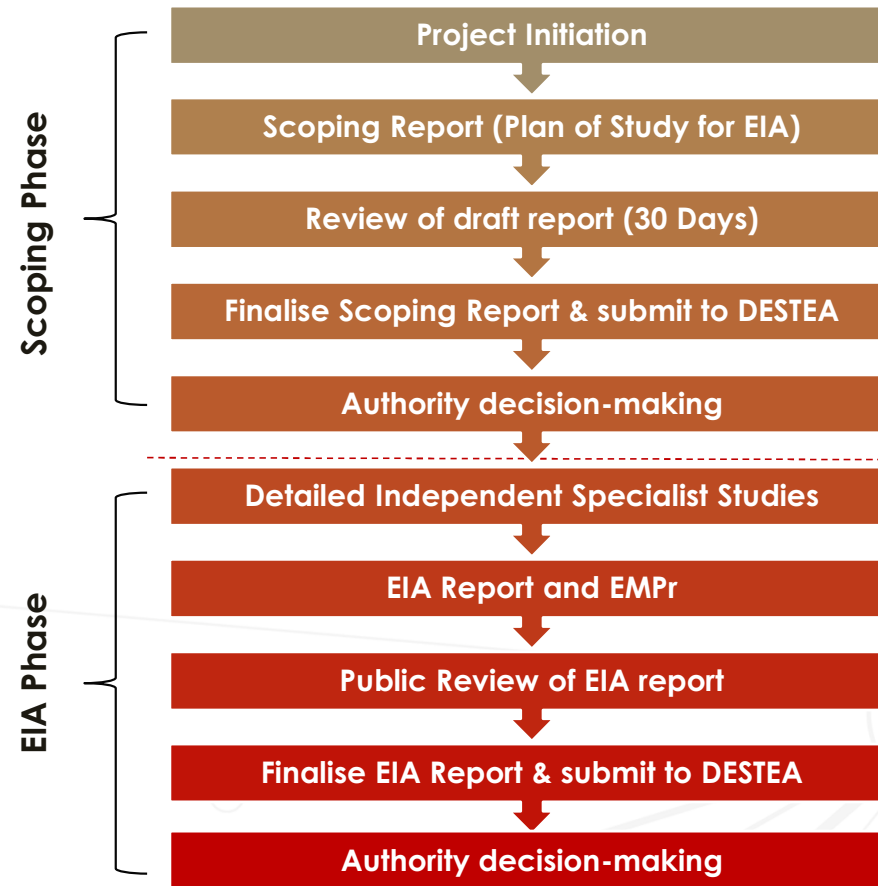


**7MW RustMo1 Solar Farm near Rustenburg -  
Operational**



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

# EIA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT





# SPECIALIST STUDIES

| Specialist   | Field of study   |
|--|--|
| Darius Van Rensburg of DPR Ecologists & Environmental Services | Terrestrial Ecology (including fauna and flora) & Freshwater Ecology   |
| Lukas Niemand of Pachnoda Consulting CC                        | Avifauna (including monitoring)  |
| Marinè Pienaar of Terra Africa Environmental Consultants       | Soil, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential             |
| Jenna Lavin & Prof Marion Bamford of CTS Heritage              | Heritage (including archaeology, palaeontology and cultural landscape) |
| Brogan Geldenhuys of Eco-Thunder Consulting                    | Visual   |
| Marti Le Roux of Eco-Thunder Consulting                        | Social   |

# APPROACH TO IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
- Potential sensitive areas identified through detailed specialist and in-field studies
- Design of appropriate facility layout informed by identified sensitive features and/or areas
- Application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e., avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset)
- Micro-siting of facility layout

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

- Ecological Impacts
  - Loss of indigenous vegetation
  - Habitat destruction
  - Displacement and mortality of species
  - Alien invasive species
- Freshwater Impacts
  - Loss of wetland soils and vegetation
  - Erosion and sedimentation
  - Pollution of water sources
- Avifauna Impacts
  - Habitat destruction
  - Collision and mortality
  - Disturbance and displacement
  - Electrocution

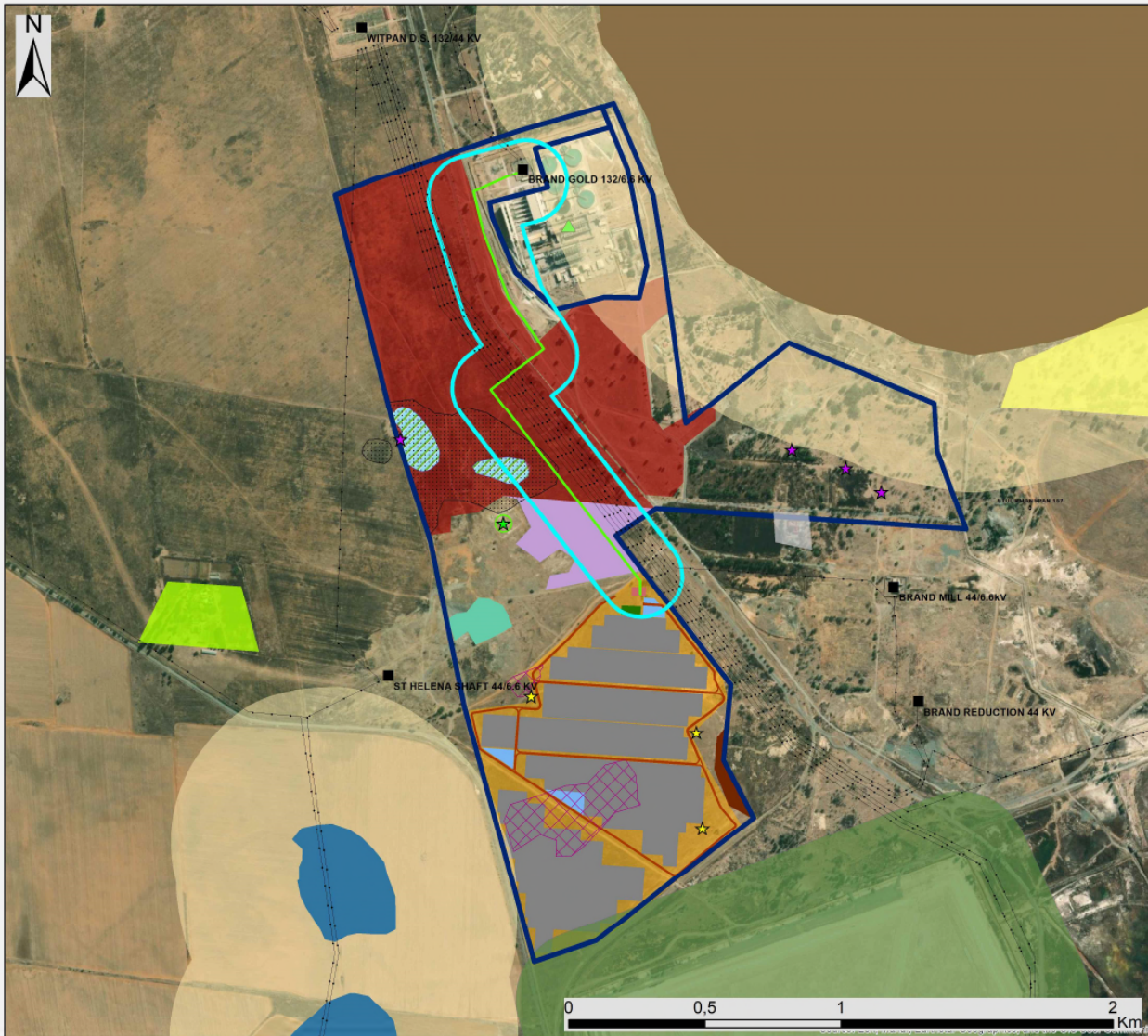




# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

- 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





## Harmony One Plant Solar PV Free State Province Sensitivity & Layout Map

### Legend

- ▲ Harmony 1 Gold Plant
- Eskom Substation
- Existing Power Line
- Proposed Development**
- Harmony One Plant Development Area
- Development Footprint
- PV Arrays
- Laydown Areas
- O&M and Storage Hub
- On-Site Facility Substation & Switching Station Hub
- Internal Roads
- Grid Connection Corridor (300m)
- Power Line
- Environmental Sensitivities**
- Heritage Sensitivity**
- ★ Archaeological Artefacts (Low Heritage Sensitivity)
- ★ Archaeological Structures (Low Heritage Sensitivity)
- ★ Concentration of Artefacts (High Heritage Sensitivity)
- HM4 30m Buffer (No-Go Area)
- Artificial Dam (Medium Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Ecological Sensitivity**
- CBA 1/Threatened Ecosystem (Very High Ecological Sensitivity)
- Wetlands (Very High Ecological Sensitivity)
- Threatened Ecosystem (High Ecological Sensitivity)
- Artificial Wetland (Medium Ecological Sensitivity)
- Avifaunal Sensitivities**
- Depressions (High Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Pan (High Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Witpan Dam (High Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Pans 500m Buffer (High Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Tailings Dam 250m Buffer (High Avifauna Sensitivity)
- Soil forms, sen**
- Bainsvlei Soil (High Soil Sensitivity)
- Social Sensitivity**
- Brand Mashi Golf Club
- Mvelase Lifestyle Farm
- Diggers Inn

Scale: 1:14 000  
Projection: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
Map Ref: Harmony Sensitivity Map

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environmental



# IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESULTS

| Specialist Field             | Significance of impacts |                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                              | Construction Phase      | Operation Phase |
| Ecology                      | Medium to Low           | Medium to Low   |
| Avifauna                     | Low                     | High to Low     |
| Land Use, Soil & Agriculture | Medium to Low           | Low             |
| Heritage                     | Low                     | Low             |
| Visual                       | Medium to Low           | Medium          |
| Social                       | Medium to Low           | Medium to Low   |



# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Current layout does not result in unacceptable environmental impacts
- The optimised layout avoids aquatic, avifauna, ecological and archaeological sensitivities and honours buffer zones - location of infrastructure is considered acceptable
- Where impacts cannot be avoided - appropriate mitigation proposed to minimise impacts & included in project EMPs
- Specialist study conclusions - development will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts (subject to mitigation measures)
- Benefits of the project is expected to occur at a national, regional and local level

# **WAY FORWARD**

**(Nicolene Venter)**



# WAY FORWARD

- EIA Report review period: **11 November 2022 – 12 December 2022** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Final EIA Report to be submitted to DESTEA – December 2022
- Registered parties will be notified of decision once issued
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register any additional I&APs to receive important project information as it becomes available.

# WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

## **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nicolene Venter

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

# **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](mailto: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   |
|--|--|
| <b>Lejweleputswa District Municipality</b> |  |
| Dewald Kirsten                             | District Manager for Environmental Health                            |
| <b>Energy Group</b>                        |  |
| Jason Fairhurst                            | Project Manager  |
| <b>Harmony Gold</b>                        |  |
| 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  |
| <b>Harmony Gold</b>                        |  |
| Ansoné Esterhuizen                         | Environmental Consultant   |
| Nicolene Venter                            | Public Participation & Social Consultant                             |
| Chantelle Geyer                            | Environmental Consultant   |

### APOLOGIES

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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  |
|--|---|
| <b>Dewald Kirsten</b>  |   |
| 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)




5

## 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)
    - Matjhabeng Local Municipality
    - 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




7

## LOCAL SOLAR PV PLANTS




28/06/2023 12:45 PM

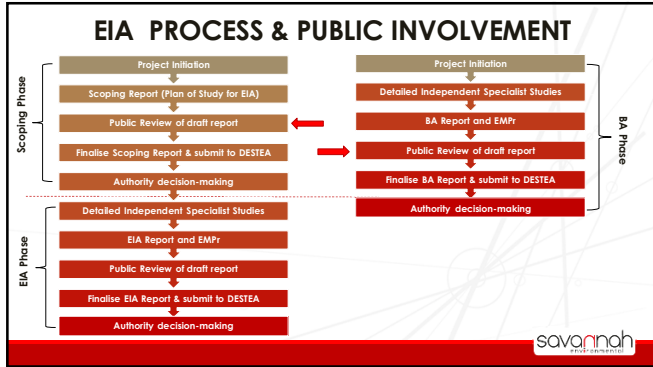
**7MW RustMo1 Solar Farm near Rustenburg - Operational**



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



8



9

- ### 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

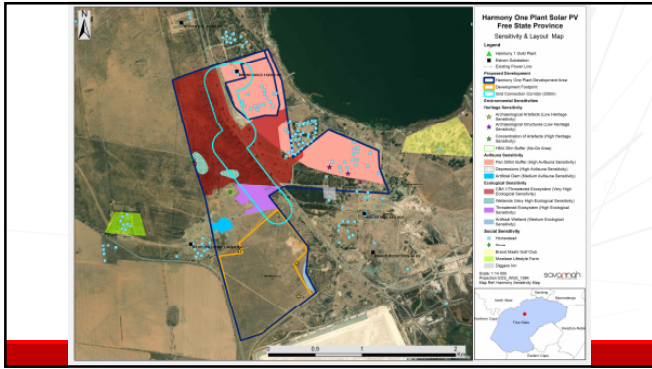
10

- ### 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
- 

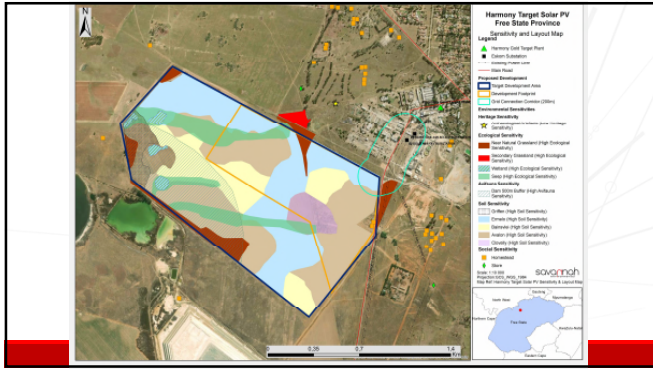
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- ### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
- Agricultural Impacts
    - Loss of soil and land capability
  - Heritage Impacts
    - Archeological significant resources
    - Paleontological resources
    - Cultural landscape resources
  - Visual Impact
    - Viewshed impacts
    - Community impacts
  - Socio Economic Impacts
    - Employment and business procurement
    - Skills development
    - Foreigners and local communities
- 

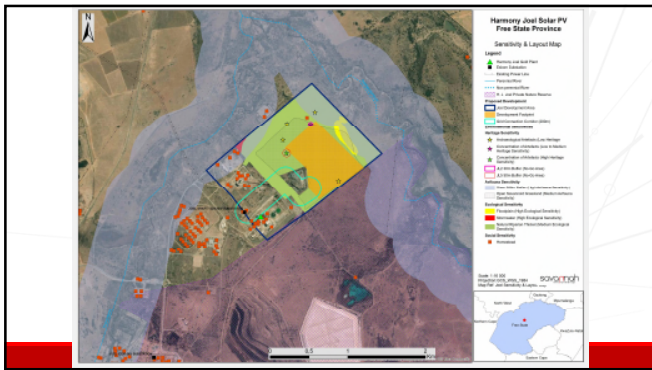
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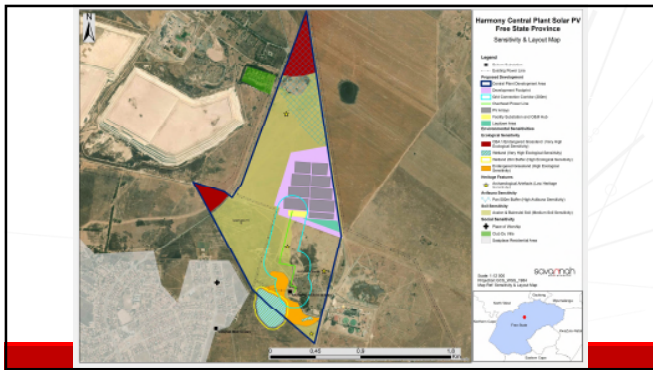
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15



16

## 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](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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20



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

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

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**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.  
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

## Harmony Gold Phase 2 Renewable Energy Facilities

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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| Name   | Position / Directorate   |
|--|--|
| <b>Department of Water Affairs</b>                           |  |
| Boitumelo Melato   | Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement under the Directorate Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement |
| <b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</b> |  |
| Juliet Mahlangu  | Integrated Environmental Authorisations  |
| <b>Energy Group</b>  |  |
| Jason Fairhurst  | Project Manager  |
| David Williams   | Project Manager  |
| <b>Harmony Gold</b>  |  |
| 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  |
| <b>Savannah Environmental</b>                                |  |
| Ansone Esterhuizen   | Environmental Consultant   |
| Nicolene Venter  | Public Participation & Social Consultant   |
| Chantelle Geyer  | Environmental Consultant   |

### APOLOGIES

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Lebo Shabe: Harmony Gold North West

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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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   |
|--|--|
| <b>Teboho</b>  |  |
| 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.   |
| <b>Boitumelo Melato</b>  |  |
| 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



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)




5

## 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)
    - Matjhabeng Local Municipality
    - 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




7

## LOCAL SOLAR PV PLANTS




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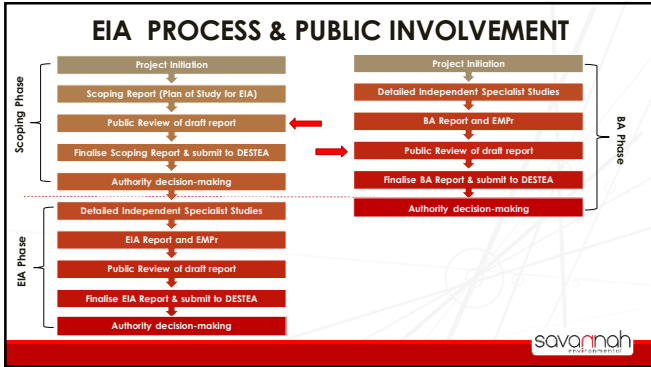
**7MW RustMo1 Solar Farm near Rustenburg - Operational**



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



8



9

- ### 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

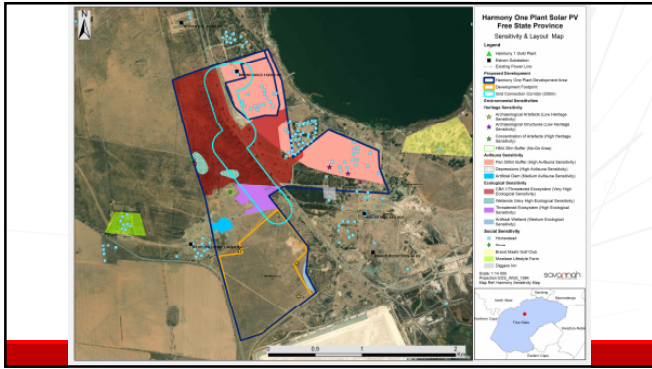
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- ### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
- Ecological Impacts
    - Loss of indigenous vegetation
    - Habitat destruction
    - Displacement and mortality of species
    - Alien invasive species
  - Fresh Water Impacts
    - Loss of wetland soils and vegetation
    - Erosion and sedimentation
    - Pollution of water sources
  - Avifauna Impacts
    - Collision and mortality
    - Displacement
    - Collision with OHL
- 

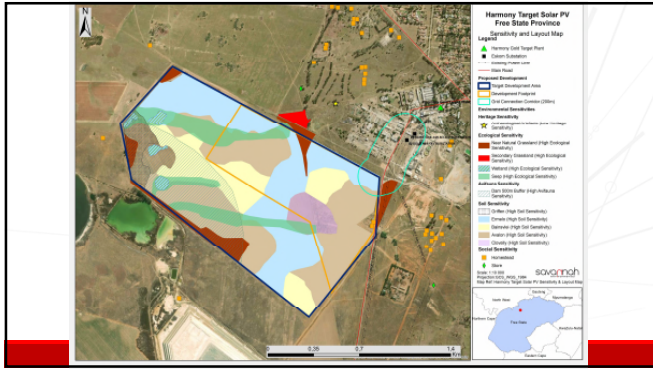
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- ### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
- Agricultural Impacts
    - Loss of soil and land capability
  - Heritage Impacts
    - Archeological significant resources
    - Paleontological resources
    - Cultural landscape resources
  - Visual Impact
    - Viewshed impacts
    - Community impacts
  - Socio Economic Impacts
    - Employment and business procurement
    - Skills development
    - Foreigners and local communities
- 

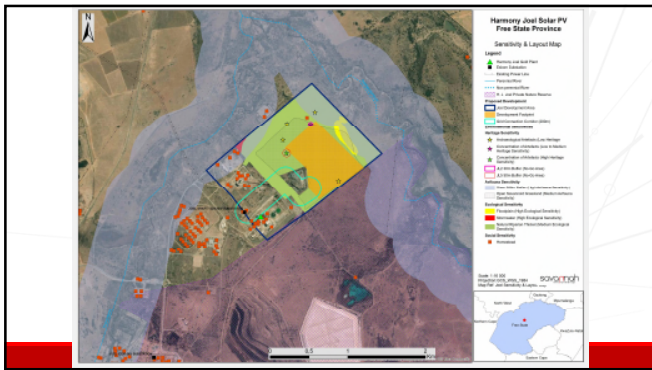
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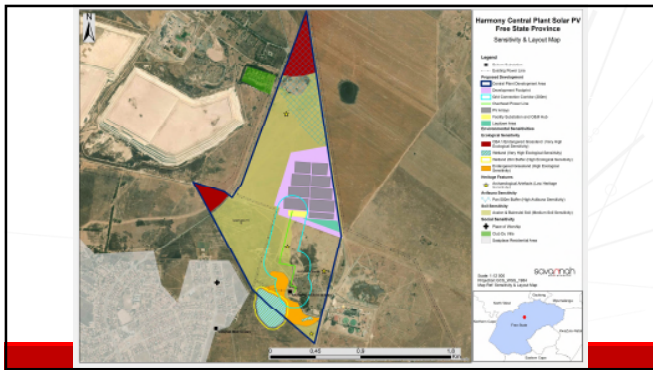
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14



15



16

## 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

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20