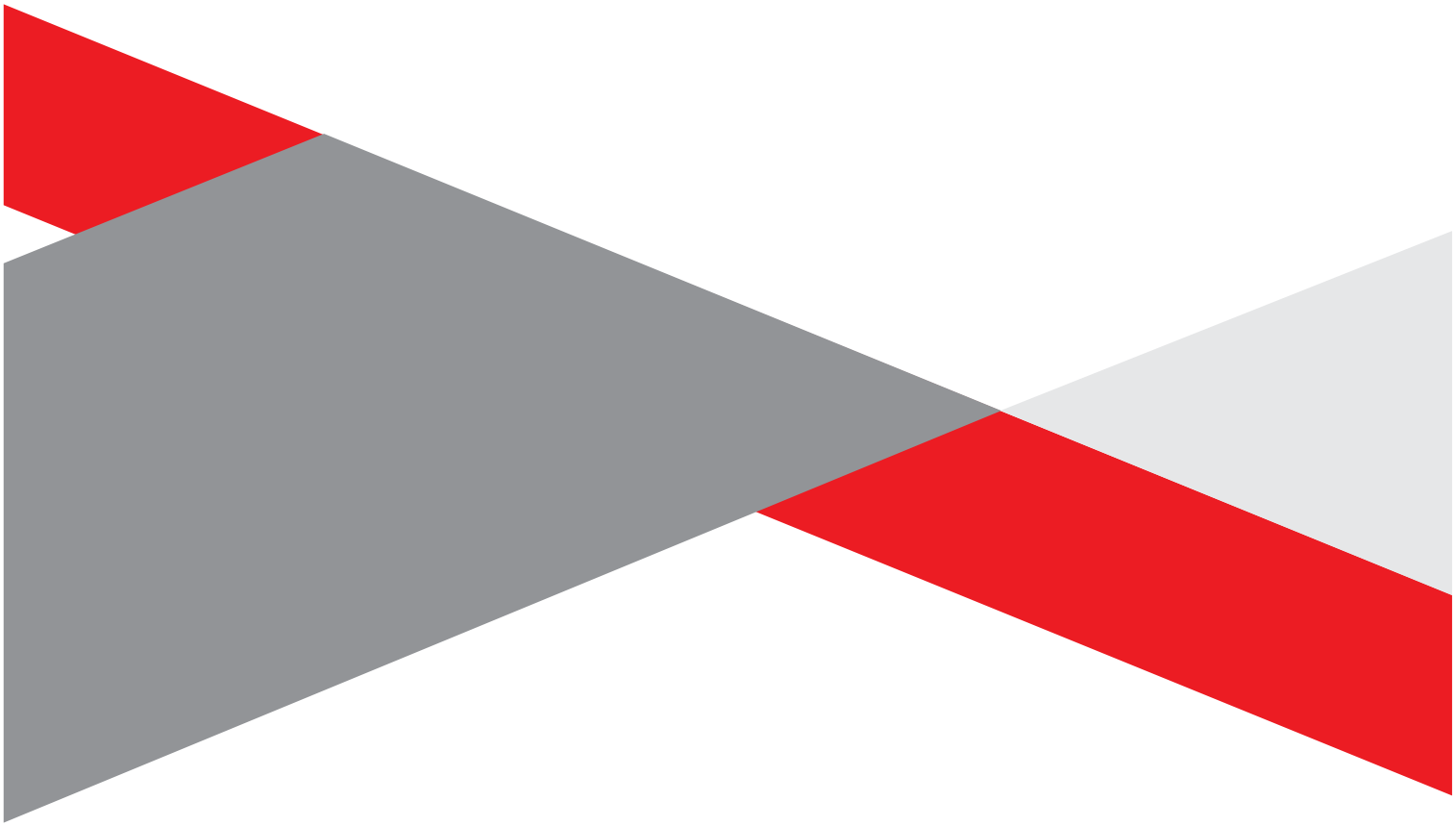
APPENDIX C6
MEETING NOTES



Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd | Directors: KM Jodas, J Thomas, M Matsabu
Company Reg No.: 2006/000127/07
VAT Reg No.: 4780226736

BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE HIGHVELD SOLAR PV FACILITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 11H00 VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter
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

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position / Directorate
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Biodiversity Conservation	
Matlala Rabothata	EIA Mainstreaming
Department of Water and Sanitation	
Zoleka Mathiso	Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement
Makhura Maite	Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	
Nolan Dominick	
Rosina Ndou	
North West Department of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
Kgosietsile Mojahi	
MTN	
Dennis Govender	
South African Weather Services	
Bernard Petlane	
Transnet SOC Ltd	
Jean-Pierre Bbenkele	Transnet Properties
Millicent Skosana	
Vodacom	
Nicollen Malatji	
Marius van Zyl	
Solly Mamabolo	
PROJECT TEAM	
WKN Windcurrent	
Gordon Kernick	Project Developer
Savannah Environmental	
Karen Jodas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Chantelle Geyer	Environmental Consultant
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

Name	Department / Company / Organisation
A Van Straaten	North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
Charles Hlebela	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
Cynthia Ranjapedi	Transnet SOC Ltd
Esther Howard	SANParks
Futhi Mathebula	Transnet SOC Ltd
John Geeringh	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
Matlhodi Mogorosi	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Mike Mangnall	WKN Windcurrent
Pule Lenong	Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State
Samantha Ralston-Paton	BirdLife SA
Wietsce Roets	Department of Water and Sanitation

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop for the Highveld 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 Basic Assessment and public participation process followed to date, and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Basic Assessment Report for the Highveld 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
Matlala Rabothata informed the project team that the area around Red Listed plant species within the development area should be considered as no-go areas. It was noted that in the Screening Report showed Red Listed sensitive plant species in this area.	Chantelle Geyer confirmed that the location of the Red Listed species has been raised with the Applicant and the development layout has been optimised to avoid these areas.
Matlala Rabothata requested that a sensitivity map for the grid line to be included in the grid line BA Report.	Chantelle Geyer responded that the BA Report for the grid line would be available in the first quarter of 2023 and the sensitivity map, as requested, will be included in the BA Report.
Makhura Maite enquires as to where will the water be sourced for the construction and operation phase of the project.	Gordon Kenrick replied that the source is still being finalised. The developers is looking to import water to the site (ie tanker to the site). The taking of water (eg borehole) is not considered at this stage. Karen Jodas added that the Applicant is aware that should water be taken from the site, that a WULA would be required.
Matlala Rabothata asked whether the Screening Tool Report is included in the BA Report and if so, what does it states? Matlala Rabothata informed the project team that their Directorate would like to see the results of the biodiversity studies.	Chantelle Geyer responded that the DFFE's Screening Tool is included as **Appendix K** of the BA Report and that the area has been identified as being very high sensitivity by the specialist. Chantelle Geyer responded that the development area has been demarcated to avoid the sensitive areas by the development footprint and that Mitigation Hierarchy and avoidance of very high sensitivity areas have also been applied. Gordon Kernick added that the solar panels would only be placed in medium sensitivity areas.

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.

Gordon Kernick made a closing statement and thanked the participants for making time available to attend the KSW and for his valuable input into the process.

The meeting was closed at 13h30.

Table of Abbreviations / Acronyms

DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	WULA	Water Use License Application
KSW	Key Stakeholder Workshop		

APPENDIX A: Presentation

HIGHVELD SOLAR PV FACILITY AND HIGHVELD PV GRID CONNECTION SOLUTION

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Key Stakeholder Workshop

November 2022

1

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Description
- 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

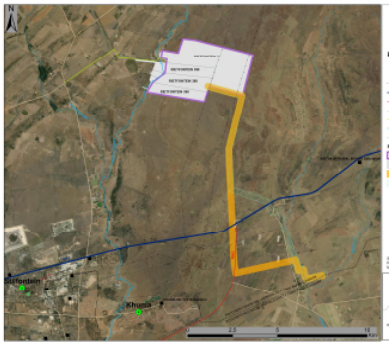
PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders with an overview of the **Highveld Solar PV Facility and Highveld PV Grid Connection Solution**
- Summary of the **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 DFFE

4

PROJECT OVERVIEW
(Chantelle Geyer)

5



- Solar PV facility up to 240MW
- Located ~15km northeast of Stilfontein, JB Marks LM, Dr Kenneth Kaunda DM, North West
- Highveld Solar PV Facility is located within the Klerksdorp Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) = BA process
- Highveld PV Grid Connection is located in the Central Corridor of the Strategic Transmission Corridors = Separate BA report

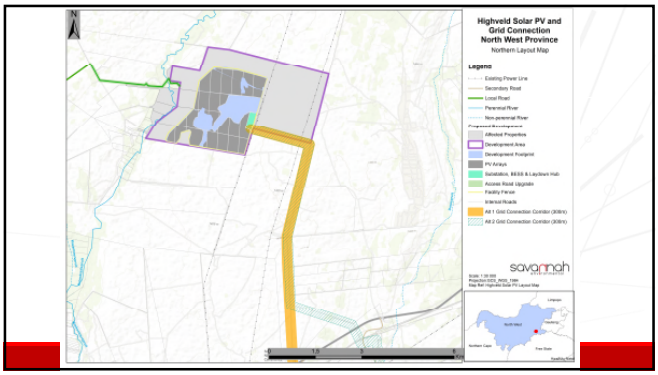
6

PROJECT COMPONENTS

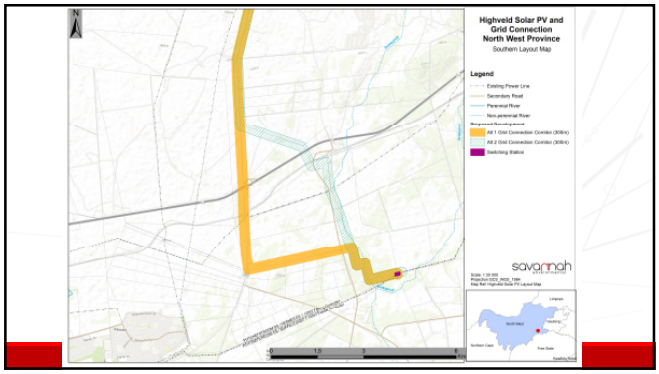
Infrastructure/components relevant to each project:

- Highveld Solar PV Facility:
  - Solar PV arrays to generate up to 240MW, PV modules and mounting structures.
  - Inverters and transformers.
  - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
  - On-site facility substation
  - Cabling between the project components
  - Site and internal access roads up to 6m in width, where required
  - Temporary and permanent laydown areas and O&M buildings and fencing around the development area
- Highveld PV Grid Connection Solution (two alternative grid lines assessed):
  - 2x132kV switching substations
  - 132kV power line within a 300m wide and 20km long corridor
    - To connect the facility substation to a point of connection on the Hermes DS - Potchefstroom DS 1 and Buffels East 1 - Potchefstroom 132kV Feeder lines located east of Khuma and the R502.

7

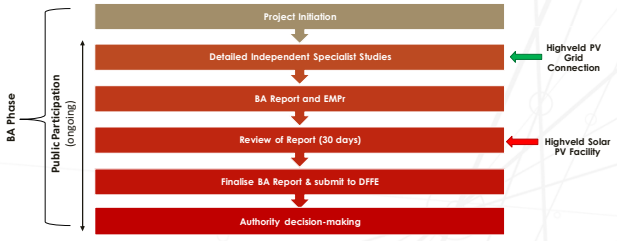


8



9

BA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



savannah

10

SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Field of study
Daniel Meintjies and Andrew Husted of The Biodiversity Company	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)
Lourens du Plessis of LOGIS	Visual
Brogan Geldenhuys of Eco-Thunder Consulting	Social

savannah

11

APPROACH TO IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 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)

savannah

12

PV FACILITY: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

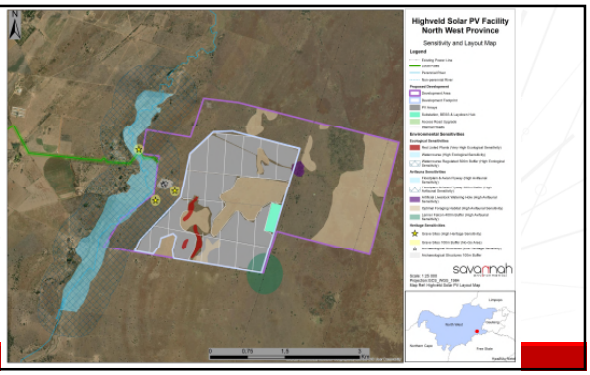
- Ecological Impacts
  - Loss of indigenous vegetation
  - Alien invasive species
  - Habitat destruction
  - Displacement and mortality of species
- Wetland Impacts
  - Loss of wetland soils and vegetation
  - Erosion and sedimentation
  - Pollution of water sources
- Avifauna Impacts
  - Collision and mortality
  - Displacement
  - Collision with OHL

13

PV FACILITY: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

- Agricultural Impacts
  - Loss of soil and land capability
  - Change in land use
  - Soil erosion, compaction and pollution
- 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

14



15

PV FACILITY: IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESULTS

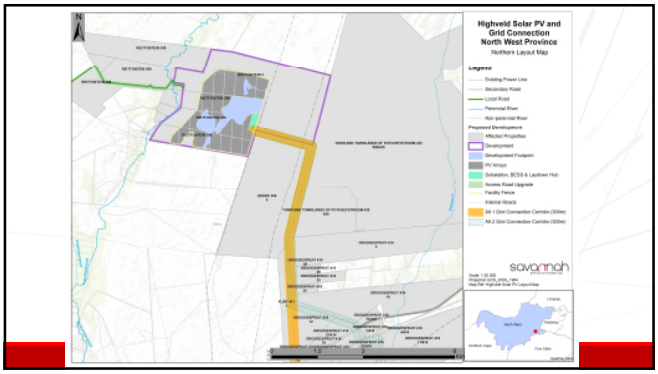
Specialist Field	Significance of impacts (after mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium to Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium	High to Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Medium to Low	Low
Heritage	Low	Low
Visual	Low	Medium to Low
Social	Medium to Low	Medium to Low

16

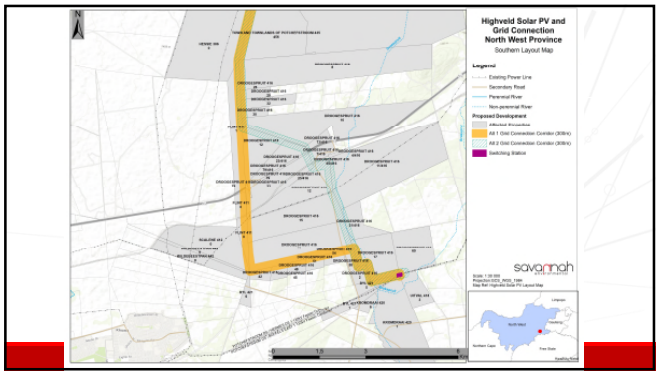
GRID CONNECTION: ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

- Technical considerations taken into account by the Applicant regarding the preferred grid connection alternative:
  - **Grid Connection Corridor Alternative 1** exits the facility and follows a farm boundary for approximately 2km, before turning south for a further 10km. This corridor follows farm boundaries and traverses the N12. Where the route meets the R502, the corridor turns right for a further 6km to the designated point of connection on the Hermes DS - Potchefstroom DS 1 and Buffels East 1 - Potchefstroom 132kV Feeder lines.
  - **Grid Connection Corridor Alternative 2** follows the same route as Alternative 1 to a point approximately 7km south of the facility. The route deviates to the right, following farm boundaries for approximately 6km, before joining the Alternative 1 corridor at a point 3km north of the designated point of connection on the Hermes DS - Potchefstroom DS 1 and Buffels East 1 - Potchefstroom 132kV Feeder lines.

17



18



19

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Current layout does not result in unacceptable environmental impacts
- Optimised layouts avoid aquatic, avifauna, ecological and archaeological sensitivities and honour buffer zones - location of PV infrastructure is considered acceptable
- Where impacts cannot be avoided - appropriate mitigation proposed to minimise impacts & included in project EMPrs
- Specialist study 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
- The grid connection corridors are currently being assessed.

savannah

20

WAY FORWARD
(Nicolene Venter)

21

WAY FORWARD

- **PV Facility:**
  - Basic Assessment Report review period: **11 November 2022 – 12 December 2022**
  - Final BA Report to be submitted to DFFE – December 2022
- **Grid Connection:**
  - Basic Assessment Report review period: **Q1 2023** (Date to be communicated)
- 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.

22

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Nicolene Venter
Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
Tel: 011 656 3237
Mobile: 060 978 8396
Fax: 086 684 0547
www.savannahSA.com

23