

APPENDIX C7:
Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of Meetings held during the
Environmental Impact Assessment Report's 30-
day review and comment period
will be included in the Final Environmental
Impact Assessment Report

SCOPING PHASE

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY
PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING NOTES OF AN AUTHORITIES FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10H00
VENUE: ZOOM PLATFORM**

Meeting notes 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***

KUTOLO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Peter Cloete	Research Development Officer	NC DAEARD&LR
Elsabe Swart	Scientific Manager: Research & Development Support Unit	NC DAEARD&LR
Samantha De la Fontaine	Production Scientist Grade A: District Ecologist	NC DAEARD&LR
Jacoline Mans	Chief Forester: NFA Regulations	DAFF
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Ms Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	Savannah Environmental

Please refer to **Appendix A** for proof of attendance.

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Development costing of the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi PV 4 located approximately 70kv south-west of Kenhardt in the Hantam Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. She requested that the participants introduced themselves and their representation at the FGM. She also requested the participants to register their attendance by submitting their names and roles on the chat function of Zoom.

She informed the participants that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation team

Lisa Opperman presented an overview of the projects and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the draft scoping reports.

The meeting was conducted in Afrikaans and the comments / questions raised during the FGM is captured in English for decision-making purposes.

A copy of the slides presented during the virtual meeting is attached as **Appendix B**.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Peter Cloete enquired if the developer of the CSP projects are the same developers of the proposed PV projects.	Attie Botha advised that the project applicants are the same, under the same consortium.
Jacoline Mans asked for clarification purpose whether the 600ha mentioned in the presentation is for each of the three PV facilities.	bellisa Opperman confirmed that 600ha is being assessed and considered for each one of the three (3) PV facilities.
Samantha de la Fontaine enquired whether the developer would proceed with the development of the authorised CSP projects.	<p>Attie Botha responded that the CSP projects will not be developed.</p> <p>Lisa Opperman responded that the Applicant is proposing the development of PV technology within the sites previously authorised for CSP technology. Consultation was undertaken between the Applicant and DEFF to discuss the proposed change of solar technology at the site, and the Department advised that the use of PV technology rather be authorised via new Applications for Environmental Authorisation (Scoping and EIA processes) than through an amendment application. In this way, the environmental impacts associated with the PV facilities can be presented in full to the DEFF. The Department also advised that the existing CSP EAs will then be amended to remove the CSP technology, with the associated infrastructure still remaining in the respective CSP EAs.</p>
Peter Cloete enquired whether the proposed PV projects will be developed within the same footprints as the authorised CSP projects.	Lisa Opperman responded that the proposed PV developments fall within the same areas authorised for the three CSP projects.
Peter Cloete asked what the difference is between development envelope and development area as indicated on the maps.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development area is the area within the respective affected properties within which the PV facilities can be developed (from a technical perspective); and • the development envelope is the area within the development area which avoids the areas of high sensitivity through the mitigation hierarchy. The development envelope is the area which will be further assessed within the EIA phase.

<p>Elsabe Swart asked whether DEFF informed Savannah Environmental that their screening tool must be used or was this not a requirement for this process.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman advised that DEFF did not make reference to the use of the tool during the consultation undertaken, however as the PV projects fall under new applications for environmental authorisation the screening tool was used and the respective screening reports included in the scoping reports and application forms.</p>
<p>Elsabe Swart enquired whether the associated grid connection forms part of the PV Applications or whether Eskom will apply for authorisation of the grid connection</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the grid connection has been authorised as part of the CSP projects environmental authorisations and are therefore not included in the three PV applications. However, the respective on-site facility substations of the PV projects will be assessed as part of the PV applications</p> <p>Attie Botha advised that the developer will construct the power line and substation and then transfer ownership to Eskom for the operation and maintenance thereof.</p>
<p>Jacoline Mans commented that camel thorn and "wit stinkgat" trees are protected species and it is believed that there is no high concentration trees in that area. Should protected trees require to be removed, the developer must apply for the relevant licence.</p>	<p>The comment/requirement for the relevant permits were noted by the meeting attendees.</p>
<p>Jacoline Mans advised that in terms of the National Legislation, the quiver trees are protected. She enquired whether it is known how many quiver trees would be impacted by the proposed development.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman advised that as the project is currently in the scoping phase, this information is not yet available. This information will become available in the EIA phase and within the respective Ecological Impact Assessments.</p>
<p>Elsabe Swart advised that the Northern Cape Province placed a moratorium on the process where quiver trees (formally known by its common name as <i>Aloe dichotoma</i>) need to be removed. The developer will have to apply for a deviation permit which require the approval of a much higher Official within the Department.</p>	<p>The comment/requirement for the relevant permits were noted by the meeting attendees.</p>
<p>Peter Cloete asked that the studies that are included as part of the PV applications please be confirmed. He also asked whether the studies done for the CSP projects will be carried over for the PV assessments.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman replied that the previous environmental studies were done specifically to address impacts associated with CSP developments, of which the impacts are higher than that of a PV development. She confirmed that the CSP studies will not be used for the PV developments.</p>

	<p>Full assessments will be undertaken for the PV specific impacts. The specialist studies to be undertaken for the PV developments during the EIA phase include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology (flora and fauna) • Avifauna • Freshwater resources • Soils, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential • Visual • Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology) • Social
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CLOSURE

Attie Botha, as a closing statement, informed the attendees that the CSP 200MW EAs will change to PV 200MW EAs. The EAs granted for overhead power line and grid connection, as authorised under the CSP EAs will form part of these PV applications.

Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for their valuable inputs into the scoping phase of the EIA processes and presented the way forward. The meeting was formally closed at 10h45.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document	CBA's	Critical Biodiversity Areas
CSP	Concentrating Solar Plant	DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
EA	Environmental Authorisation	EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FGM	Focus Group Meeting	NC DAEARD&LR	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development and Land Reform
PV	Photovoltaic		

APPENDIX A

**AUTHORITIES FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH THE
NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10H00
VENUE: ZOOM PLATFORM**

The screenshot shows an Outlook email window. The title bar includes 'File', 'Meeting Response', and 'PDF Architect 5 Creator'. The ribbon contains 'Delete', 'Reply', 'Reply All', 'Forward', 'Meeting', 'IM', 'More', 'Meeting Notes', 'Quick Steps', and 'Move'. The email content is as follows:

Mon 11/9/2020 2:07 PM

✓ Lisa Opperman

Accepted: Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Developments: Focus Group Meeting

To ✓ Nicolene Venter

When Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC+02:00) Harare, Pretoria.

Location <https://zoom.us/j/93717333586?pwd=NUhZU1huS1o3UE1oMW5rcWdBdjZ0QT09>

Accepted Samantha De la Fontaine <sdelafontaine@gmail.com>; Peter Cloete <peter.denc87@gmail.com>; Lisa Opperman

Tentative No attendees have tentatively accepted.

Declined No attendees have declined.

i Lisa Opperman has accepted this meeting.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there are participant thumbnails for Nicolene Venter, Samantha De la..., Peter Cloete, Lisa Opperman, and Elsabe Swart. The main content is a slide titled 'PROJECT OVERVIEW' with the following text:

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The development of three separate 200MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility infrastructure. Infrastructure associated with each solar PV facility will include:
 - Solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures.
 - Inverters and transformers.
 - Cabling between the project components.
 - On-site facility substation.
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
 - Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance storage.
 - Laydown areas and temporary man camp area.
 - Access roads, internal distribution roads and fencing around the development area.
- ~600ha is required for a 200MW PV facility

On the right side, a 'Participants (7)' window is open, listing: NV Nicolene Venter (Host, me), LO Lisa Opperman, A Attie Botha, ES Elsabe Swart, J JacolineMa, PC Peter Cloete, and SD Samantha De la Fontaine. The Zoom control bar at the bottom shows 'Start Video', 'Security', 'Participants', 'Chat', 'Share Screen', 'Record', 'Reactions', and 'End'.

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4, Northern Cape Province

Focus Group Meetings
November 2020

1

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Project Overview
- Environmental Studies & Findings
- Plan of Study for the EIA Phase
- Discussion
- Way Forward

2

CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on Chat function (name, surname & affiliation)
- Please raise your hand to indicate comment/question to raise
- Questions submitted in Chat function will be responded to after the presentation
- Equal opportunity for input and queries
- Recording of meeting
- Attendees welcome to switch video on

3

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed projects
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present summary of **Scoping Phase** key environmental findings
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity and environmental studies
- Opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final Scoping Report** to be submitted to the DEFF

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Location: Adjacent to the authorised Kotulo Tsatsi PV2 Facility, ~70km south-west of Kenhardt, Hantam Local Municipality and the Namakwa District Municipality.

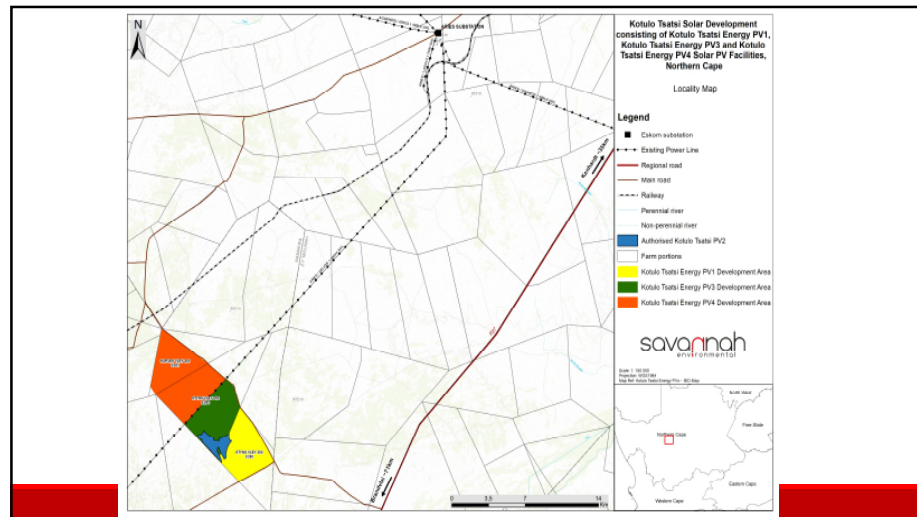
- Affected properties:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Portion 3 of Farm Styns Vley 280
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3	Portion 2 of Farm Styns Vley 280
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4	Portion 2 of Farm Kopjes Vley 281 and Portion 2 of Farm Styns Vley 280

- Applicant:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd

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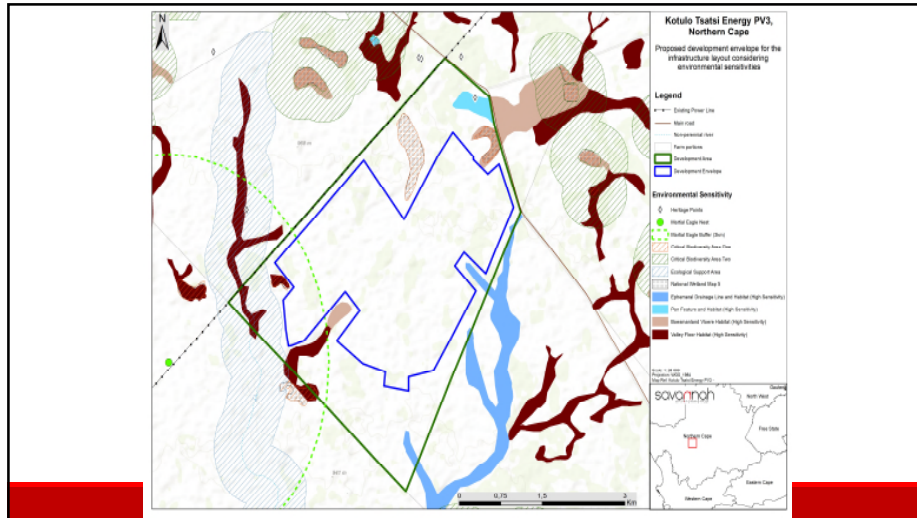


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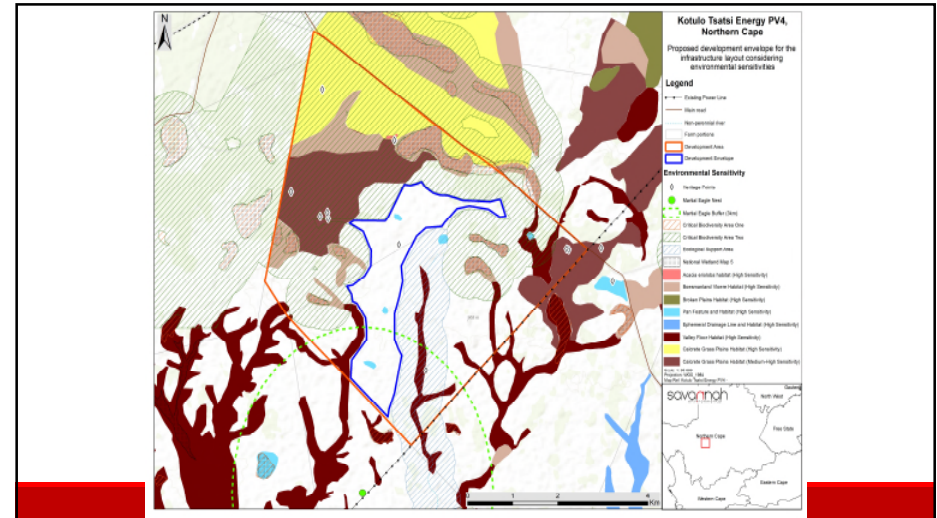
EIA PROCESS

- The proposed projects require Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended
- A Scoping Report has been prepared for each project and is available for a 30-day review period
- Following the conclusion of the 30-day review period the Final Scoping Reports will be prepared & submitted to DEFF

8



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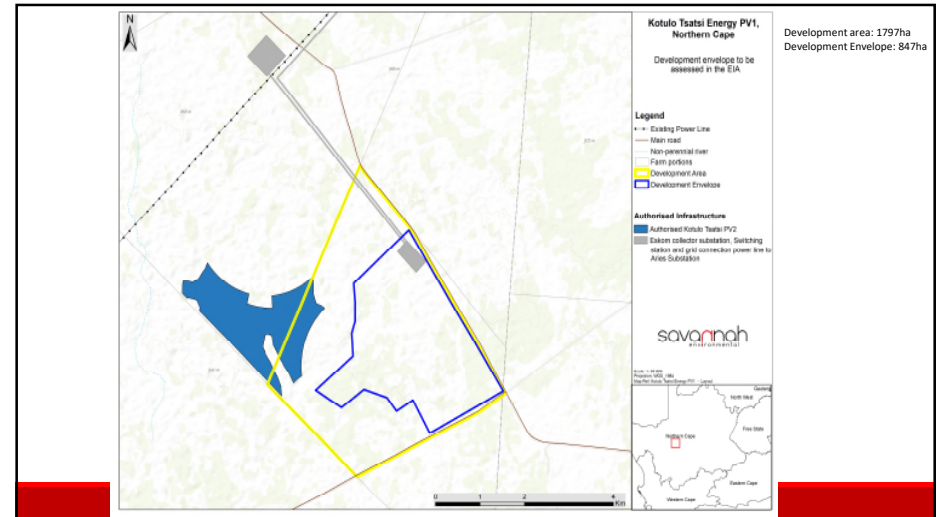


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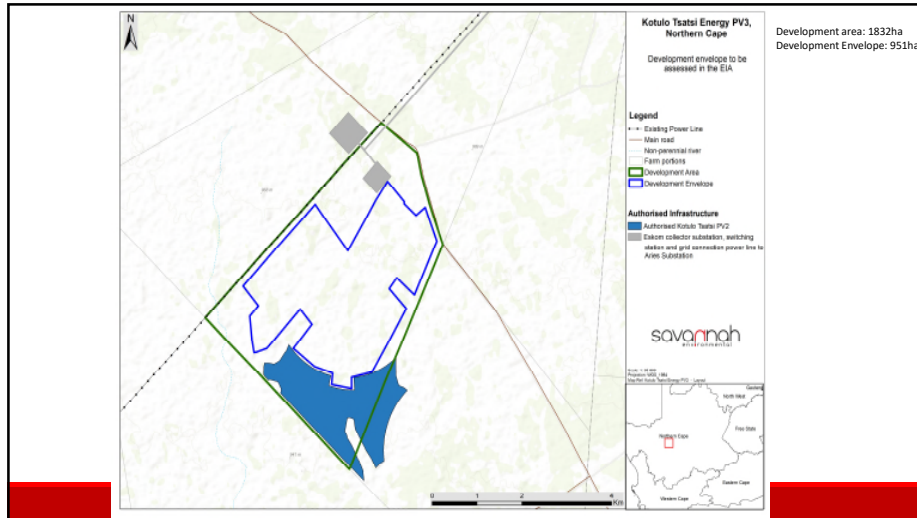
FINDINGS

- Majority of potential impacts are associated with the construction phase
- Impacts localised and restricted to the identified site
- Potential operation phase impacts/benefits range from local to regional.
- No environmental fatal flaws were identified to be associated with each development area.
- Features within the larger area have identified as 'no-go' areas or areas of high ecological sensitivity to be avoided by the development footprints.
- A development envelope has been identified for each project to avoid areas of sensitivity in development area
- The development envelope will be fully assessed during the EIA Phase for each project.

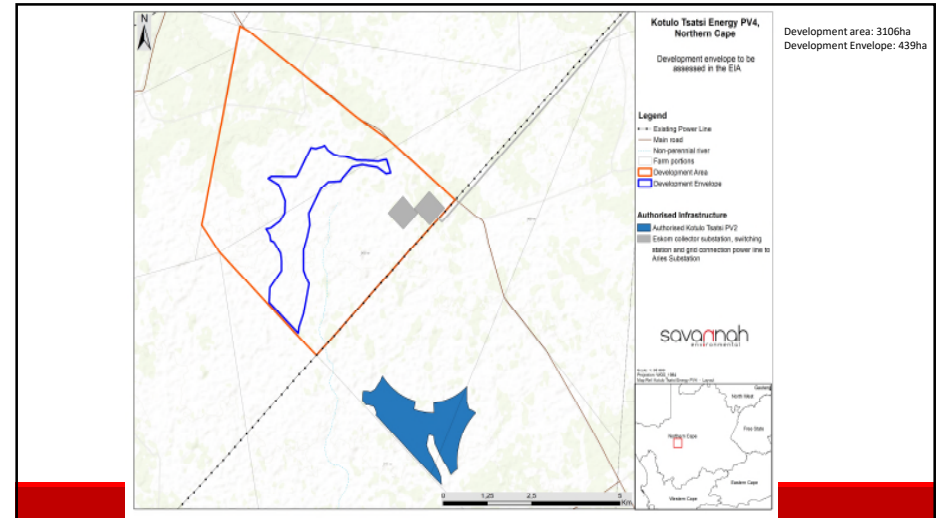
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PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

- » Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following investigations within the EIA phase are required:
 - Ecology (flora and fauna);
 - Avifauna;
 - Freshwater resources;
 - Soils, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential;
 - Visual;
 - Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology);
 - Social.

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DISCUSSION

20

WAY FORWARD

- » Meeting notes will be distributed for verification
- » Presentation will be distributed
- » Review and comment period ending **23 November 2020**
- » Submission of Final Scoping Reports to DEFF in December 2020
- » EIA Reports for 30-day review in Q1 of 2021

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Nicolene Venter

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Fax: 086 684 0547

www.savannahSA.com

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY
PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING NOTES OF AN AUTHORITIES FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND HANTAM LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 08H30
VENUE: ZOOM PLATFORM**

Meeting notes prepared by:

Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
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KUTOLO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Chris Fortuin	Municipal Manater	Namakwa DM
Shereave Felix	Head of Department: IDP & LED	Hantam LM
Riana Lock	Administrator	Hantam LM
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Ms Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	Savannah Environmental

Please refer to **Appendix A** for proof of attendance.

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Development costing of the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi PV 4 located approximately 70kv south-west of Kenhardt in the Hantam Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. She requested that the participants introduced themselves and their representation at the FGM. She also requested the participants to register their attendance by submitting their names and roles on the chat function of Zoom.

She informed the participants that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation team. All comments / questions raised at the FGM, including the responses by the project team, will be included in the comment and responses report (C&RR) of the final scoping reports.

Lisa Opperman presented an overview of the projects and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the draft scoping reports.

The meeting was conducted in Afrikaans and the comments / questions raised during the FGM is captured in English for decision-making purposes.

A copy of the slides presented during the virtual meeting is attached as **Appendix B**.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Chris Fortuin enquired where the water be sourced from for the construction and operation phases of the projects.	Attie Botha responded that water will be supplied to the development site by a water pipeline from Kenhardt. The provision of water by a water pipeline was discussed and an agreement was signed with Kenhardt Municipality for the CSP project and the agreement is still considered to be relevant for the PV projects.
Chris Fortuin enquired whether the municipality would be able to purchase electricity directly from the proposed PV developments.	Attie Botha responded that the power that will be generated by the PV facilities will be sold, as per a power purchase agreement, to Eskom. Eskom will be responsible for the distribution of electricity generated. It will therefore not be possible to sell the generated electricity directly to the municipality.
Shereave Felix asked where the labour will be sourced from.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that construction workers will be sourced from Kenhardt and Brandvlei and transported by bus to the development site where possible.</p> <p>Attie Botha advised that it is important to note that a 'man camp' to provide accommodation for construction workers has been authorised as part of the CSP projects which could be used where required.</p>
Shereave Felix enquired as to what impact would these proposed developments have on the SKA projects in the area.	Attie Botha replied that the PV sites fall outside the SKA demarcated area and is therefore not expected to have an impact on SKA.

CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for their valuable inputs into the scoping phase of the EIA processes and presented the way forward. The meeting was formally closed at 09h30.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

DM	District Municipality	IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LED	Local Economic Development	LM	Local Municipality
SKA	Square Kilometre Array		

APPENDIX A

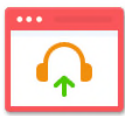
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Talking:

Meeting Topic: Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Developments: Focus Group Meeting
Host: Brenda Ton
Passcode: 500793
Invite Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95102723328?pwd=aU5FMGt1Z1VuUWt...>
[Copy Link](#)
Participant ID: 466329

Initials	Name	Mute	Video
NV	Nicolene Venter (Host, me)	🔇	📺
A	Attie Botha	🔇	📺
C	chrisf	🔇	📺
LO	Lisa Opperman	🔇	📺
SF	Shereave Felix, Hantam	🔇	📺

Buttons: Invite, Mute All, ...



Join Audio

Computer Audio Connected



Share Screen



Invite Others

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4, Northern Cape Province

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November 2020

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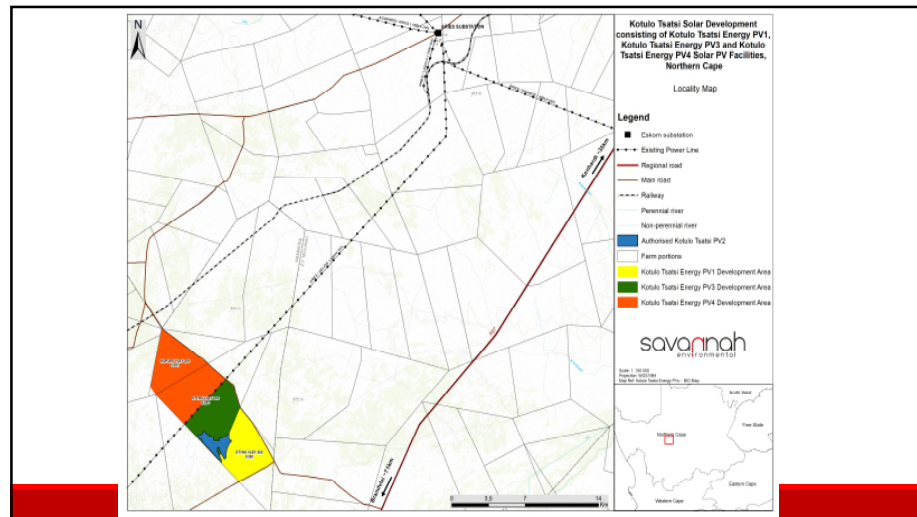
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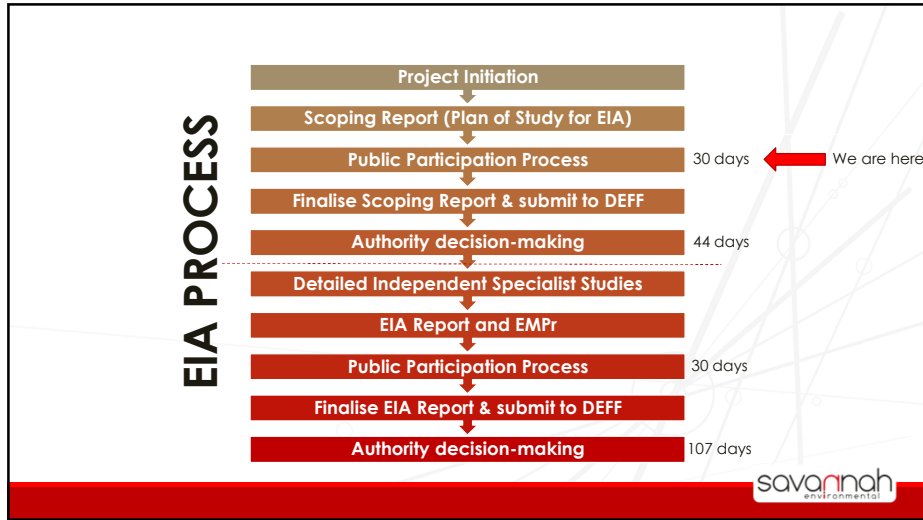


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EIA PROCESS

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of issues
Ecological Impacts (fauna & flora);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance and loss of natural vegetation Disturbance or loss of protected plants Loss of fauna habitat and replacement of species Disturbance to migration routes (Low –Medium Significance)
Impacts on avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of intact habitat due to transformation Mortality due to collision with infrastructure Disturbance during operation (Low Significance)
Impacts on Soil & Agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of agricultural land use Soil erosion Loss of topsoil Regional loss of agricultural resources and production (Low Significance)
Impacts on Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact to archaeological, historical and burial sites Damage or destruction of unmarked graves or fossil material (Low Significance)

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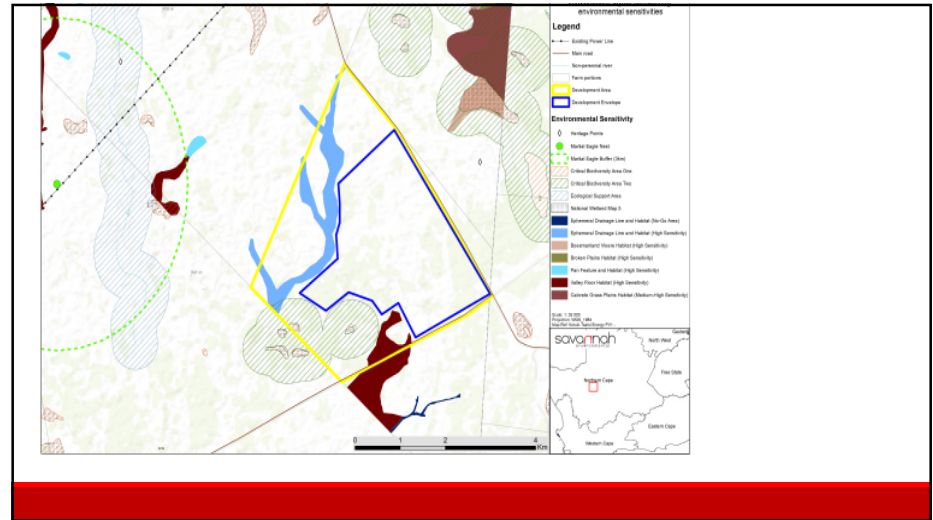
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

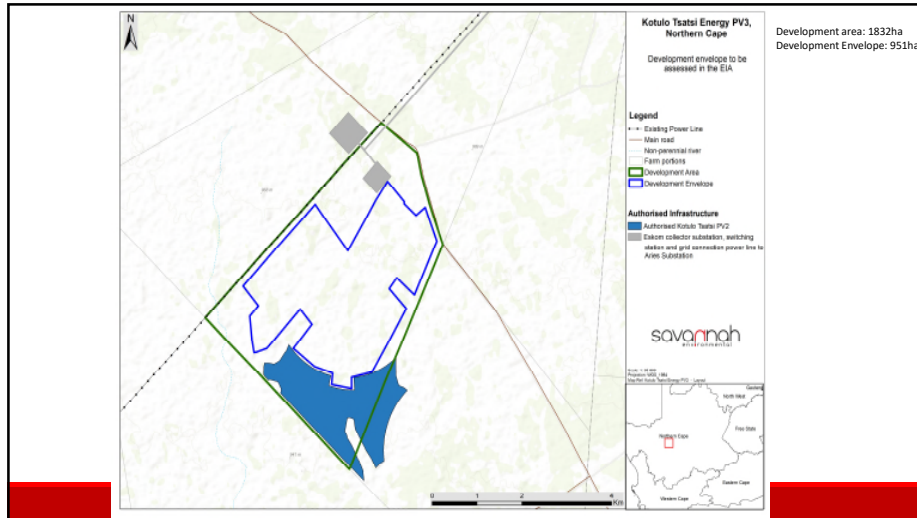
	Scoping of issues
Visual Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility of development to observers residing in rural homesteads and farmsteads Industrialisation of the landscape Visual impact of operational lighting (Low Significance)
Social Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and indirect employment, skills development opportunities Increased pressure on infrastructure and basic services, and social conflicts Temporary increase in safety and security concerns Socio-Economic Development (SED) / Enterprise Development (ED) Sense of place impacts Nuisance Impacts (Medium Significance)

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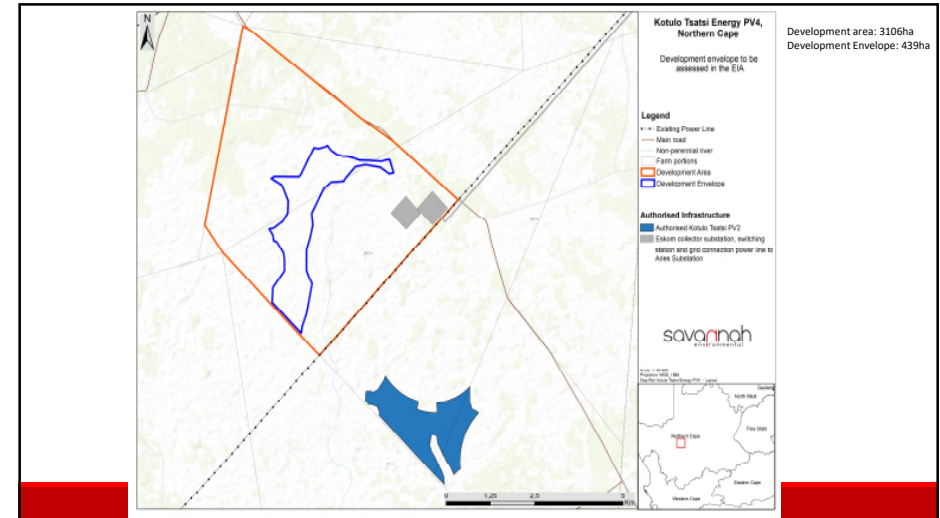
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PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY
PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH LANDOWNERS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 16H00
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM**

Meeting notes 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*

KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 AND KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV4 NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Peter Janeke	Affected Landowner	Farm Kopjes Vley
Frans van Niekerk	Adjacent Landowner	Farm Kopjes Vley
Maggie van Niekerk	Adjacent Landowner	Farm Kopjes Vley
Mari Wilson	Adjacent Landowner	Farm Melkbosch Vley
Paul Slabbert	Representative for Mr Whitey Basson: Adjacent Landowner	PHS Consulting
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	Savannah Environmental

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Development costing of the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi PV 4 located approximately 70km south-west of Kenhardt in the Hantam Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. She requested that the participants introduced themselves and their representation at the FGM. She also requested the participants to register their attendance by submitting their names and roles on the chat function of Zoom.

She informed the participants that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation team.

Lisa Opperman presented an overview of the projects and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the scoping reports available for a 30-day review and comment period.

The meeting was conducted and recorded in Afrikaans, as the preferred language of the attendees. However, the meeting notes have been captured and drafted in English for inclusion in the Scoping Report. These notes for the record are not captured verbatim.

A copy of the slides presented during the virtual meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Paul Slabbert requested confirmation whether or not the authorised CSP projects are going to be developed. It is understood that some infrastructure components of the authorised projects will be utilised by the PV applications.	Lisa Opperman responded that the Applicant is proposing the development of PV technology within the sites previously authorised for CSP technology. Consultation was undertaken between the Applicant and DEFF to discuss the proposed change of solar technology at the

	<p>site, and the Department advised that the use of PV technology rather be authorised via new Applications for Environmental Authorisation (Scoping and EIA processes) than through an amendment application. In this way, the environmental impacts associated with the PV facilities can be presented in full to the DEFF. The Department also advised that the existing CSP EAs will then be amended to remove the CSP-specific technology, with the associated infrastructure still remaining authorised in the respective CSP EAs.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert asked when does Savannah Environmental envisaged to amend the EAs to exclude the CSP technology.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that DEFF will amend the CSP EAs once sufficient information is available for consideration on the PV projects and that it is envisaged that the amendment processes will be undertaken towards the end of the EIA phase of the PVs.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert informed the project team that during the previous EIA for the CSP projects, there was also an EIA process for an Eskom power line corridor for which stakeholders requested that the corridor be shifted. He wanted to know whether the team knows whether that EIA process was concluded and if the corridor has been shifted.</p> <p>He recommended that Savannah Environmental investigate the matter and referenced the project in their reports.</p> <p>During the commenting period of the CSP projects, stakeholders submitted recommendations that the corridor be re-aligned as the corridor traversed numerous properties resulting it negative impacts for the landowners.</p>	<p>Attie Botha advised that the power line corridor referred to is the proposed Eskom 765kV transmission power line and the latest information is that Eskom, in their short term planning, does not have sufficient funds to construct the power line. The timeframe for construction of this power line is unknown.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: The EIA process for the 765kV line has been concluded by Eskom. It must be noted that the consideration of the realignment of the Eskom 765kV power line assessed and authorised as part of a separate EIA process does not form part of these EIA processes for the PV projects, and is therefore not considered further.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested confirmation whether the authorisation / permission granted for the previously authorised CSP projects to connect to the Eskom grid are still valid.</p>	<p>Attie Botha and Lisa Opperman confirmed that the EAs held are all valid.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert said that it is understood that there is an administration process associated with alternative energy source, i.e. wind or solar, in terms of the Bidding process where it is confirmed that the energy generated can be connected to an Eskom grid network.</p>	<p>Attie Botha confirmed that during the bidding process the developer consults Eskom to obtain a cost estimate letter, which provides Eskom's preferred point of connection for each project to the Eskom grid. The cost estimate letter is based on a single connection, and the actual</p>

	<p>point of connection is only finalised once a project is selected as a preferred bidder.</p> <p>Lisa Opperman noted that the next Bidding Round has not yet commenced.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert asked for confirmation whether the consultation process with Eskom for the required cost estimate letters has been undertaken.</p>	<p>Attie Botha confirmed that cost estimate letters will only be requested prior to the next Bidding round as these letters need to be current at the time of bid.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert asked Attie Botha, as the applicant for these projects, whether they had implemented any other alternative energy projects in South Africa.</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that the company has worked in the renewable energy space for 11 years. KTE has submitted a compliant bid for CSP to DMRE in 2015, during the last bidding round. Individuals within the company have been involved in both project construction and operation for other projects in South Africa.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert asked whether the projects will be financed by foreign investors or will the company finance these projects themselves.</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that the scale of these type of developments are too large to be financed by South African banks alone. It can be confirmed that foreign investors are part of the development team.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert asked Pieter Janeke, affected property owner, to confirm whether he lives on the property/ development site.</p>	<p>Pieter Janeke replied that although he is the property owner, he does not live on any of the development sites and that the properties are managed on his behalf by two farm managers, which he believes are known to Paul Slabbert. He added that he does visit the properties regularly.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert informed the project team that Whitey Basson, the adjacent property owner which he represents, requested that one of the main concerns to be raised at the meeting is safety and security of those living in the rural area of the development site.</p> <p>It was mentioned that although the developer will secure their development by fencing the property, it was requested that they invest in implementable security methods to ensure the safety and security of those residing in the area i.e. patrolling of the area.</p> <p>Paul Slabbert advised that a response is not required to this question at the meeting but requested that the environmental studies address this concern during the EIA process.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that safety and security concerns were identified as potential social impacts during the scoping phase and included in the scoping report. This impact will be considered and assessed in the Social Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the EIA Phase and appropriate mitigation measure will be proposed.</p>

<p>Paul Slabbert commented that it was noticed in the scoping report that Savannah Environmental reference water and water utilisation and that focus on the implementation of the water law will only take place should the applications receive EA.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that WUL process will only commence once the applicant is a selected preferred bidder by the DMRE. The DWS will accept and process a WUL for preferred bidder projects only. A WUL would most likely be linked to section 21c and i uses. Should a WULA be lodged for the taking of water, stakeholders would be made aware at that time. Where water is required for use on-site, this could be sourced from an alternate source which would not require a WUL.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert commented that the provision of water will be for commercial use and no longer agriculture. He asked, if that is the approach by the team, how will the stakeholders know, from a groundwater point of view, that the project will be feasible.</p>	<p>Attie Botha commented that studies considering water supply and use were conducted as part of the CSP EIA applications. The decision, after consultation held with Kenhardt Municipality, is that water will be supplied to the development site from the Municipal allocation. Should a WULA be lodged for the taking of water, stakeholders would be made aware at that time.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert pointed out that list of specialists included in the presentation does not include geohydrology and asked whether this is correct, and if so why. It was mentioned that geohydrology was one of the studies which formed part of the CSP projects EIA processes.</p> <p>Paul Slabbert requested that Savannah Environmental include a statement in their reports as to why geohydrology studies are not required for stakeholders to have a better understanding.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman confirmed that geohydrology is not considered to be applicable to the PV applications and has therefore not been identified as a specialist study required to be undertaken. The inclusion of the specialist study for the CSP projects was directly linked to the water requirements of a CSP project.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> It must be noted that even though geohydrology was undertaken for the CSP projects, it is confirmed in the DEFF Screening report that such a study will not be required for the EIA processes for the PV projects.</p>
<p>Frans van Niekerk raised the concern regarding the condition of the access road to the development site as it is currently not properly maintained and when construction commences, the conditions will deteriorate.</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that a traffic assessment was conducted for the CSP projects to consider the potential for impact to the access road. Impacts associated with use of existing access roads will be considered in the Social Impact Assessment.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> It is confirmed in the DEFF Screening report that a traffic assessment is not be required for the EIA processes for the PV projects.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert informed the project team that Savannah Environmental needs to be tasked</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman confirmed that the relevant studies required for the assessment of a PV</p>

<p>to redo the studies or amend it to be applicable for the PV plants. The transition of assessments / studies done from the CSP and which will be applicable for the PV, but just on a smaller / lesser scale needs to be captured in the scoping report.</p>	<p>facility will be considered in the EIA Phase, as required.</p>
<p>Frans van Niekerk enquired whether the project team received rights to abstract water from the Orange River for the development of the projects in the Boesmanland. He informed the project team that it is mentioned by stakeholders that the Government is in the process of enforcing strict measurements regarding abstracting water from the Orange River, whether it is for development or agriculture as the Orange River is under extreme pressure.</p>	<p>Attie Botha confirmed that the water supply to the construction site will be from the Municipal allocation. An agreement has been reached between the applicant and the Kenhardt Municipality regarding water supply.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested that an updated / revised agreement regarding the water supply as per the information provided by Attie, needs to be included in the Scoping Report for the PV projects.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman advised that the Kenhardt Municipality will be consulted through the public involvement process during the EIA process.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert said that it is obvious that a water pipeline is going to be constructed and he recalls that during the EIA for the CSP that they raised numerous questions regarding the pipeline route. It is believed that the water pipeline route will trigger an environmental listed activity and should therefore be included in the PVs' EIAs.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that a water pipeline was fully assessed through the CSP EIAs and authorised as part of the associated infrastructure for the projects.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested that it must be clearly stated in the scoping reports what infrastructure approved for the CSP projects will be applicable to the PV projects as stakeholders need to put the puzzle pieces together and currently there are no clear information regarding the inclusion / exclusion of authorised for the PV projects.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that Savannah Environmental will ensure that this is clear within the project description in the Scoping and EIA reports.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> It is confirmed that Chapter 1 and Appendix D of the final Scoping Report provides information on the associated infrastructure of the CSP projects that will be retained for the PV projects.</p>
<p>Frans van Niekerk asked whether there will be any permanent construction workers on site, and staff during the operation phase.</p> <p>He informed the project team that theft is already a problem in the area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that local construction workers will be transported to the development site, where possible. A man camp to provide accommodation for construction workers has been authorised as part of the CSP projects and will be used as required during construction. It is not expected that permanent</p>

	<p>operation and maintenance employees will be accommodated on the site during the operation phase.</p> <p>Safety and security issues will be assessed and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment report.</p>
<p>Maggie van Niekerk reiterated the concern regarding the road conditions, especially as it was mentioned that workers will be transported to the development site by bus.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman confirmed that this impact will be assessed and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment report.</p>
<p>Maggie van Niekerk asked whether there would be any advantage from the proposed developments for the surrounding landowners i.e. provision of power directly to the farms, purchasing electricity directly from the developer, etc.</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that the power that will be generated by the PV facilities will be sold to Eskom, as per a power purchase agreement. Eskom will remain responsible for the distribution of electricity.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert said that according to the maps in the scoping report that there is a 3km buffer around the areas where Martial Eagles have been spotted. However, the development envelope encroaches the 3km buffer and asked that Savannah Environmental reassess the matter.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman advised that the 3km buffer will be confirmed by the avifauna specialist through their current assessment for the PV facilities and the reports (including associated and relevant impacts) and maps will be updated in the EIA phase accordingly.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested the contact details of the landowners present at the meeting as he would like to contact them, but do not have any contact details.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter advised that Savannah Environmental needs to comply with the POPI Act and that contact details can only be provided with the consent of the landowners.</p> <p>Permission was requested from those present and verbal permission by the landowners was granted.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> The contact details were e-mailed to Paul Slabbert on Wednesday, 18 November 2020.</p>

CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for their valuable inputs into the scoping phase of the EIA processes. The meeting was closed at 17h05.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

C&RR	Comment and Responses Report	CSP	Concentrating Solar Plant
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
EA	Environmental Authorisation	EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
FGM	Focus Group Meeting	KTE	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy
POPIA	Protection of Personal Information Act	PV	Photovoltaic
WUL	Water Use Licence		

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 and Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4, Northern Cape Province

Focus Group Meetings
November 2020




AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Project Overview
- Environmental Studies & Findings
- Plan of Study for the EIA Phase
- Discussion
- Way Forward

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CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Please stay on mute during the presentation 
- Register attendance on Chat  function (name, surname & affiliation)
- Please raise your hand  to indicate comment/question to raise
- Questions submitted in Chat function will be responded to after the presentation
- Equal opportunity for input and queries
- Recording of meeting
- Attendees welcome to switch video on

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the proposed projects
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present summary of **Scoping Phase** key environmental findings
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity and environmental studies
- Opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final Scoping Report** to be submitted to the DEFF

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The development of three separate 200MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities and associated infrastructure. Infrastructure associated with each solar PV facility will include:
 - Solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures.
 - Inverters and transformers.
 - Cabling between the project components.
 - On-site facility substation.
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
 - Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
 - Laydown areas and temporary man camp area.
 - Access roads, internal distribution roads and fencing around the development area.
- ~600ha is required for a 200MW PV facility

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Location: Adjacent to the authorised Kotulo Tsatsi PV2 Facility, ~70km south-west of Kenhardt, Hantam Local Municipality and the Namakwa District Municipality.

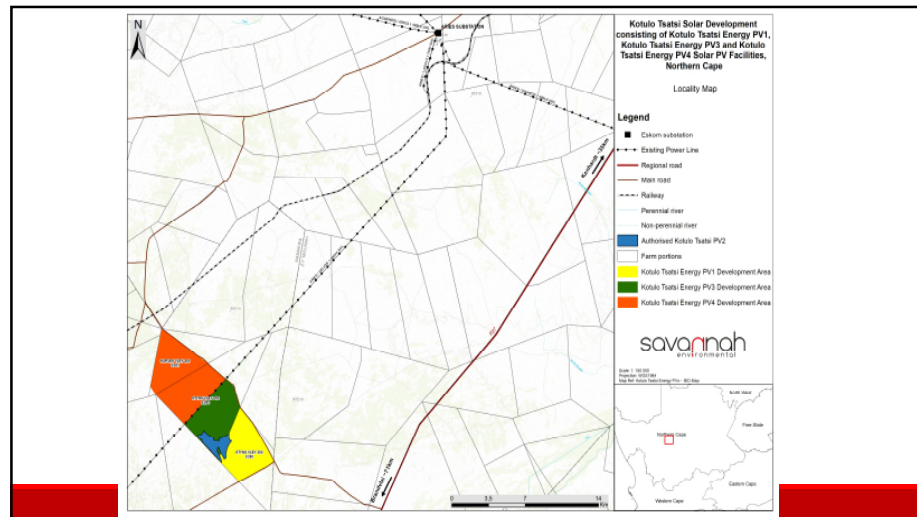
- Affected properties:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Portion 3 of Farm Styns Vley 280
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3	Portion 2 of Farm Styns Vley 280
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4	Portion 2 of Farm Kopjes Vley 281 and Portion 2 of Farm Styns Vley 280

- Applicant:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV4	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd

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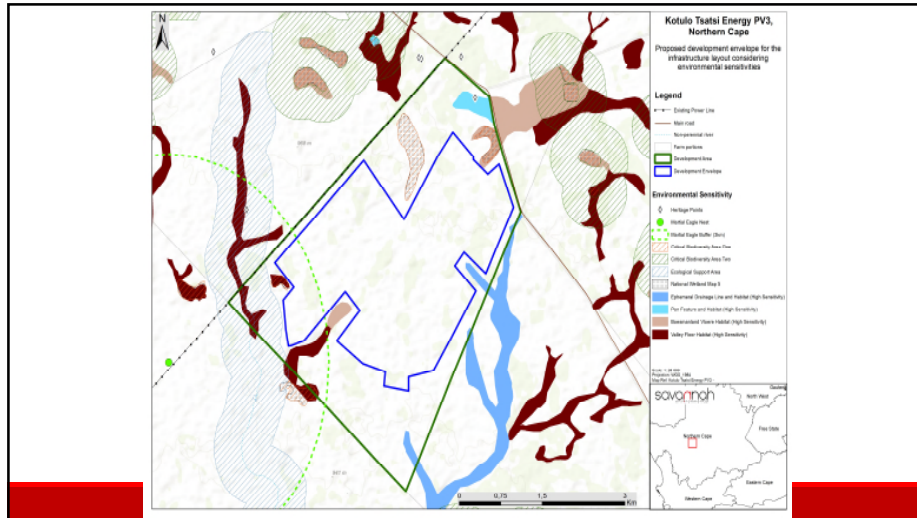


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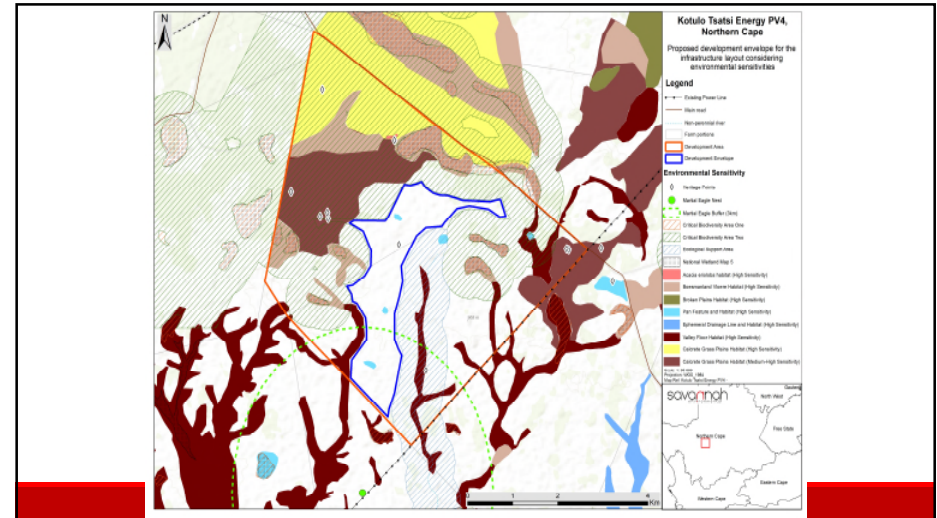
EIA PROCESS

- The proposed projects require Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended
- A Scoping Report has been prepared for each project and is available for a 30-day review period
- Following the conclusion of the 30-day review period the Final Scoping Reports will be prepared & submitted to DEFF

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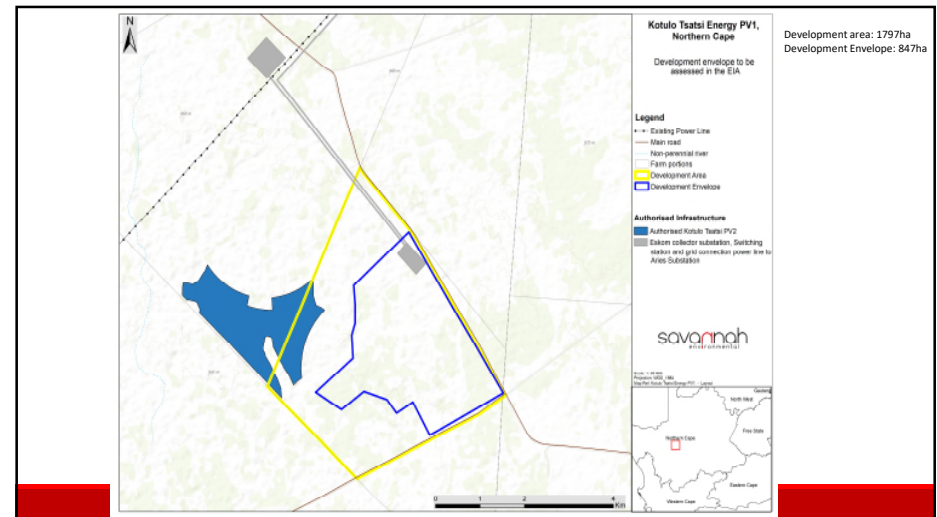


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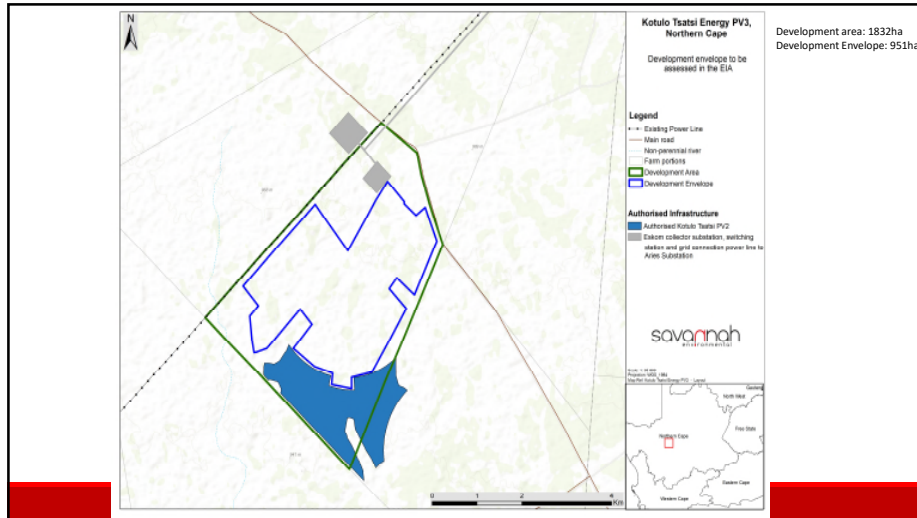
FINDINGS

- Majority of potential impacts are associated with the construction phase
- Impacts localised and restricted to the identified site
- Potential operation phase impacts/benefits range from local to regional.
- No environmental fatal flaws were identified to be associated with each development area.
- Features within the larger area have identified as 'no-go' areas or areas of high ecological sensitivity to be avoided by the development footprints.
- A development envelope has been identified for each project to avoid areas of sensitivity in development area
- The development envelope will be fully assessed during the EIA Phase for each project.

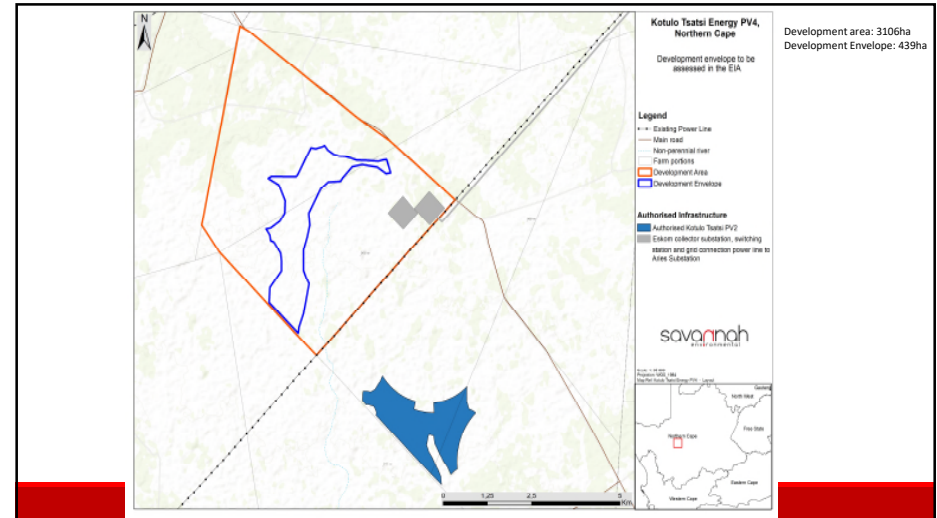
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PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

- » Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following investigations within the EIA phase are required:
 - Ecology (flora and fauna);
 - Avifauna;
 - Freshwater resources;
 - Soils, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential;
 - Visual;
 - Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology);
 - Social.

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DISCUSSION

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WAY FORWARD

- » Meeting notes will be distributed for verification
- » Presentation will be distributed
- » Review and comment period ending **23 November 2020**
- » Submission of Final Scoping Reports to DEFF in December 2020
- » EIA Reports for 30-day review in Q1 of 2021

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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