

APPENDIX C7:  
Minutes of Meetings

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
FOR THE  
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH  
LANDOWNERS  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH AT 11H00  
VENUE: ZOOM PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Jana de Jager  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
E-mail: [jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:jana@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 ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Position	Organisation
Paul Slabbert	Representative for Mr Whitey Basson: Adjacent Landowner	PHS Consulting
Japie du Toit	Landowner	Farm Klaas Jacobs Vley
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Jana de Jager	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Lisa Opperman	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	

Nicolene Venter welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1 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.

Jana de Jager presented an overview of the project and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the EIA Report (EIAR).

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

## DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Japie du Toit informed the project team that there is no additional inputs or comments as submitted during the scoping phase of the project.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged the confirmation.
Paul Slabbert commented that there are changes from the scoping phase to the impact phase and this relates to the vulture of which rare / endangered species were identified in close proximity to the KT PV1 site.	Japie du Toit responded that the appearance of the vultures can be attributed to the long drought the area has been experiencing. The vultures were previously not present and are now in the area.
Japie du Toit requested the that the specialist's do a detailed assessment as to whether vultures will still be present in the area should the environment returns to its normal state i.e. seasonal rainfall.	Lisa Opperman responded that the request will be forwarded to the specialist and addressed if applicable.
Paul Slabbert enquired to the reason as to why KT PV3 and KT PV has been retracted.	Attie Botha responded that for now, these two projects are not being considered.
Paul Slabbert requested what is the status of the authorised CSP projects.	Attie Botha responded that the EAs, as granted, stays in place.
Paul Slabbert commented that although the vultures are mentioned in the avifaunal report, it is, however, not addressed.	Lisa Opperman responded that the avifaunal studies took into account the species of concern and the impact of the technology considered for the PV facility would have and assessment it accordingly. The results of the assessment are included in the avifaunal report (included as <b>Appendix E</b> of the EIAR)
Paul Slabbert informed the project team that the information regarding the presence of the vultures in the area are new information and was not available or presented during the scoping phase and commented that as this is one of the last rounds of meetings with the public, it is a concern.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged the concern raised.  Lisa Opperman responded that this information is assessed in the avifaunal report for the EIA and is available for review and comment.
Paul Slabbert informed the project team that BirdLife South Africa and EWT are putting a programme together for a vulture restaurant in the area.	Nicolene Venter requested Mr Slabbert to share this information with the project team to which he confirmed that the information will be shared.
Paul Slabbert commented that as the area is of conservation significance and an eco-tourism destination, that the application for KT PV1 will be objected to.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged the comment and responded that once the objection letter is received, the team will respond to the content thereof.
Paul Slabbert asked how the project will connect to the grid network as the grid	Lisa Opperman responded that the grid connection for the authorised CPS projects will

<p>connection is not part of the KT PV1 application.</p>	<p>be used to connect the KT PV1 to the national grid network.</p> <p>She informed Mr Slabbert that an amendment application for CSP1 will be applicable to include the grid connection for KT PV1.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert informed the project team that at the FGM held during the scoping phase, it was requested that a concise table informing I&amp;APs how the authorised CSP projects and these new applications fit into one another i.e. the CSPs, grid connection and PVs.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded by referring Mr Slabbert to the content of Chapter 2, Table 2.4, of the EIAr in which the authorised KT CSP 1 proposed used as part of the KT Energy PV1.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert commented that the water supply to the site is not clearly defined or addressed in the EIAr as wording such as could / might etc have been used.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that although an agreement has been reached with the Hantam Local Municipality to supply water to the sight, there are still variables that might be applicable.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert reiterated the matter regarding the vultures in the study area and informed the project team that they have also been spotted on the CSP projects' sites.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that as the CSP projects have been granted authorisations, the presence of vultures is noted.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert reiterated his comment regarding the vagueness or commitment to the water supply.</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that it is important to note that PV facilities use very little water, and the water utilisation will be mainly to clean the panels.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested information regarding the official commitment / letter that was issued by the Hantam Local Municipality.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the official letter regarding water supply to the sites was issued in 2015.</p> <p>Attie Botha confirmed that the official letter is still a standing agreement.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert enquired whether the water supply agreement is still applicable considering the extended drought experienced in the area.</p> <p>If so, it was requested that an updated letter / agreement be sought by the Local Municipality</p>	<p>Attie Botha responded that the request will be taken into consideration.</p>
<p>Paul Slabbert requested confirmation that there will be no need for groundwater abstraction i.e boreholes.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that there will be no groundwater abstraction and as previously mentioned, water will be supplied by a water pipeline and where applicable by water tankers.</p>

Japie du Toit requested information regarding the mitigation measures that are being proposed during the construction phase addressing security.	Jana de Jager responded that the information is included in the EMPr but that the information will be forwarded to Mr Du Toit.
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## **CLOSURE**

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Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for their time and valuable inputs into the impact phase and presented the way forward. The meeting was formally closed at 12h05.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CSP	Concentrating Solar Plant	FGM	Focus Group Meeting
EA	Environmental Authorisation	I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme	KT	Kotulo Tsatsi
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust	PV	Photovoltaic

# Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PVI Northern Cape Province

Focus Group Meetings  
March 2021




## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Project Overview
- Environmental Studies & Findings
- Discussion
- Way Forward

1

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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 project
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present summary of **EIA Phase** key environmental findings
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity and environmental studies
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final EIA Report** to be submitted to the DEFF

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Jana de Jager

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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.

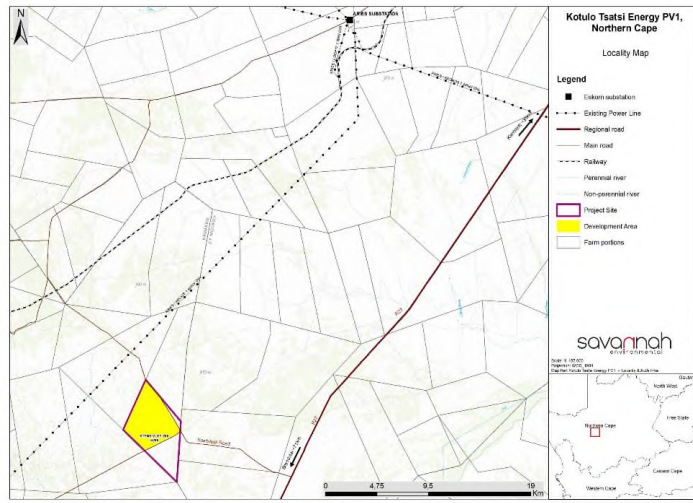
- Affected property:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Portion 3 of Farm Styns Vley 280
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- Applicant:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
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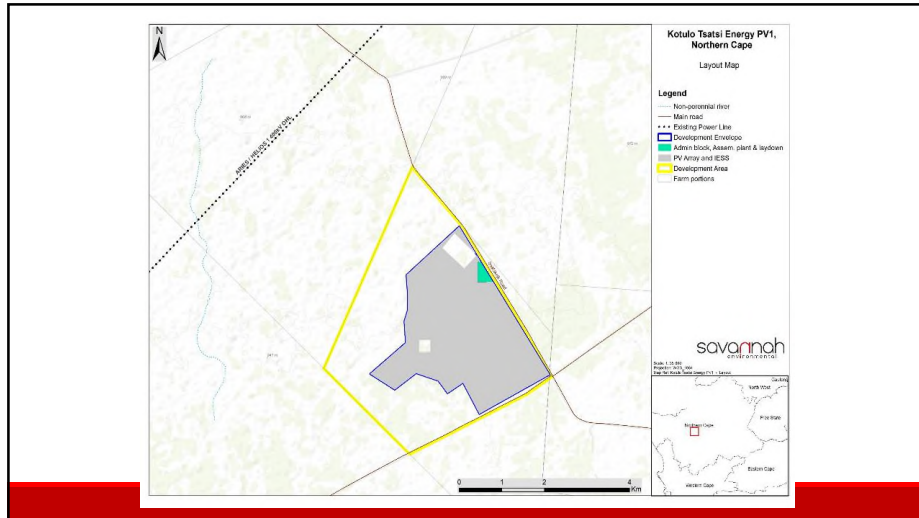
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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The development of a 200MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure. Infrastructure associated with solar PV facility will include:
  - PV modules and mounting structures
  - Inverters and transformers
  - Integrated Energy Storage System (IESS)
  - Cabling between the project components
  - Internal access roads
- Development envelope (~847ha) determined for assessment

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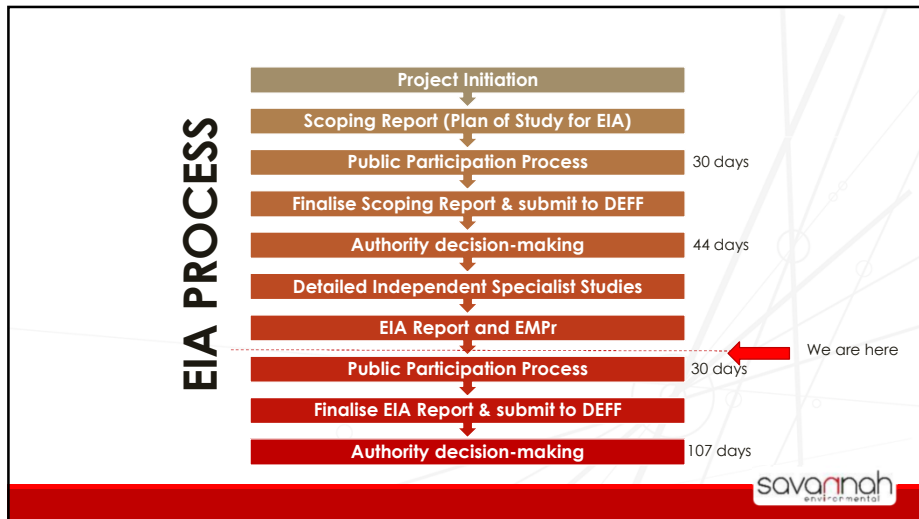
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## EIA PROCESS

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



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

Impact Report Specialist Studies	Assessment Approach
Terrestrial Biodiversity (flora & fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flora and fauna – habitat homogenous, generally low diversity.</li> <li>• Site assessment identified some high sensitivity areas (not regarded as no-go areas)</li> <li>• Development envelope falls outside of any CBAs, ESAs and NC-PAES focus areas</li> </ul>
Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site assessment identified several drainage features within the project area as well as the development envelope.</li> <li>• Depression wetland and major washes are no-go areas</li> </ul>
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red listed species identified in the area</li> <li>• Low abundance of species noted during site assessment</li> <li>• Development envelope located outside the 3km Martial Eagle nest buffer</li> </ul>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impact index modelled based on proximity of identified potential sensitive receptors (homesteads and roads).</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations of heritage sites based on field assessments and SAHRIS database.</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status quo of the area from a social and land use perspective assessed</li> <li>• Telephonic interviews undertaken with stakeholders</li> </ul>
Soils & Agricultural Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No "High" land capability sensitivities were identified</li> <li>• Specialist opinion acceptable impact on agricultural productivity</li> </ul>



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## SUMMARY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

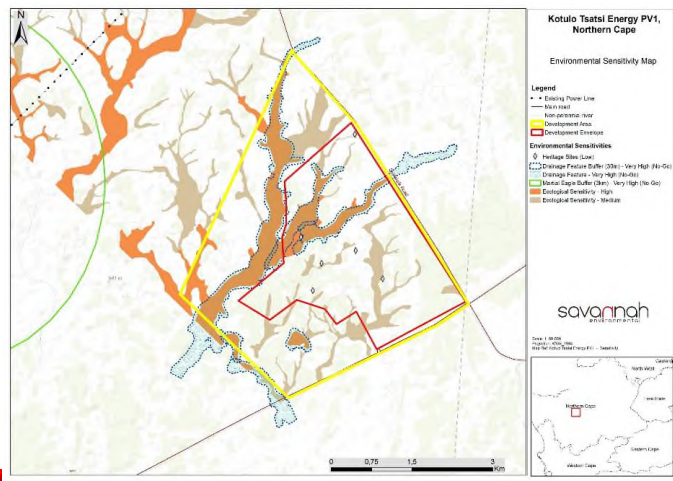
Impact Report Specialist Studies	Assessment of issues
Ecological Impacts (fauna & flora);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disturbance and loss of natural vegetation</li> <li>Disturbance or loss of protected plants</li> <li>Loss of fauna habitat and displacement of species</li> <li>Disturbance to migration routes</li> <li><b>(Low -Medium Significance)</b></li> </ul>
Impacts on avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of intact habitat due to transformation</li> <li>Mortality due to collision with infrastructure</li> <li>Disturbance during operation</li> <li><b>(Low Significance)</b></li> </ul>
Impacts on Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact to archaeological, historical and burial sites</li> <li>Damage or destruction of unmarked graves or fossil material</li> <li><b>(Low Significance)</b></li> </ul>

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## SUMMARY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

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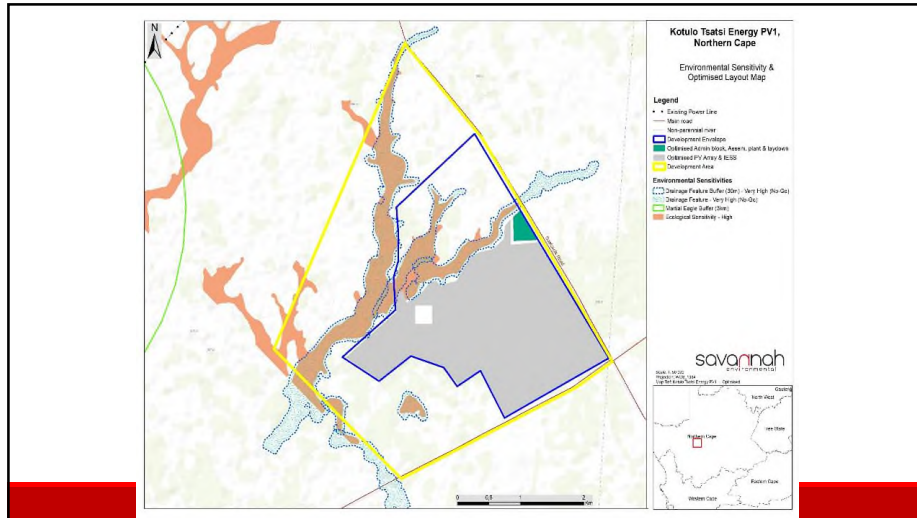


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## FINDINGS

- 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 development envelope.
- Features within the development envelope identified as 'no-go' areas or areas of high to very high sensitivity.
- Optimised layout recommended to avoid these very high/ high sensitivity or 'no-go' areas.

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## WAY FORWARD

- » Meeting notes will be distributed for verification
- » Presentation will be distributed
- » Review and comment period ending **15 April 2021**
- » Submission of Final EIA Report to DEFF in April 2021

savannah  
environmental

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## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
Nicolene Venter  
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Mobile: 060 978 8396  
Fax: 086 684 0547  
[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

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environmental

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSE  
FOR THE  
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH THE  
NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND HANTAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021 AT 10H30  
VENUE: MS TEAMS**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter  
**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

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## KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Jannie Loubser	Senior Manager: Economic Development and Planning	Namakwa District Municipality
Riana Lock	City Planning	Hantam Local Municipality
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Jana de Jager	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental

Jana de Jager welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1 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 MS Teams.

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.

Jana de Jager presented an overview of the project and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the EIAR.

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 A**.

### DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Jannie Loubser required clarity if the project is located in the Namakwa District Municipality or the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality.	Jana de Jager confirmed that the project site is located in the Namakwa District Municipality.
Jannie Loubser enquired regarding the location of the project site in relation to SKA.	Jana de Jager responded that the project site is located approximately 48km from the from the SKA buffer zone of the Brandvlei spiral. A confirmation statement regarding SKA is included as part of the EIA.
Jannie Loubser enquired whether the rezoning process for the project site has been undertaken.	Attie Botha responded that a rezoning application was previously undertaken for the CSP 1 facility. However, seeing that CSP1 is being redeveloped as PV1, a formal letter will have to be provided to the Hantam Local Municipality to confirm this change in development.

## **CLOSURE**

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Jana de Jager thanked the participants for their valuable inputs into the EIA phase of the EIA process and presented the way forward. The meeting was formally closed at 10h55.

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CSP	Concentrated Solar Project	FGM	Focus Group Meeting
EIAr	Environmental Impact Assessment Report	SKA	Square Kilometre Array

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Focus Group Meetings  
March 2021




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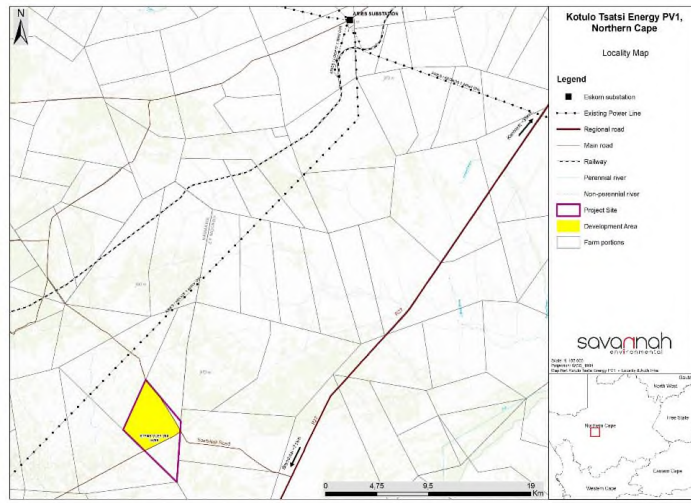
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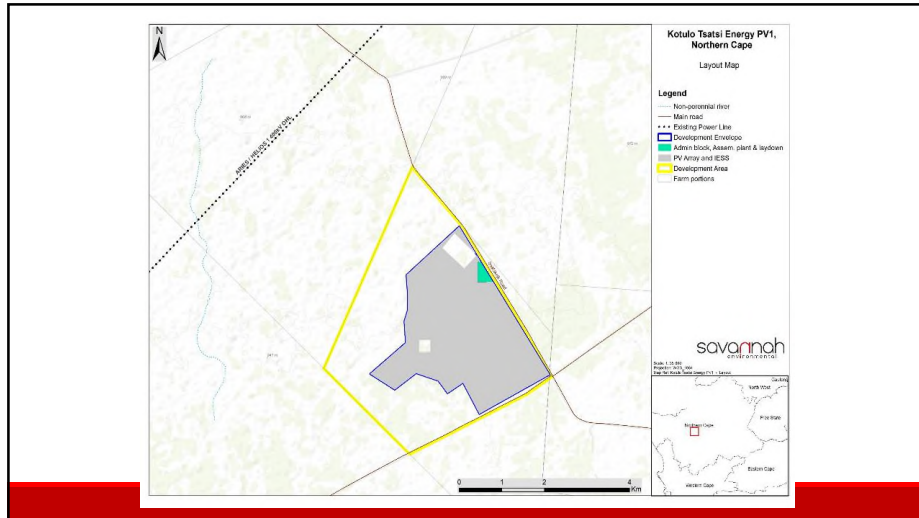
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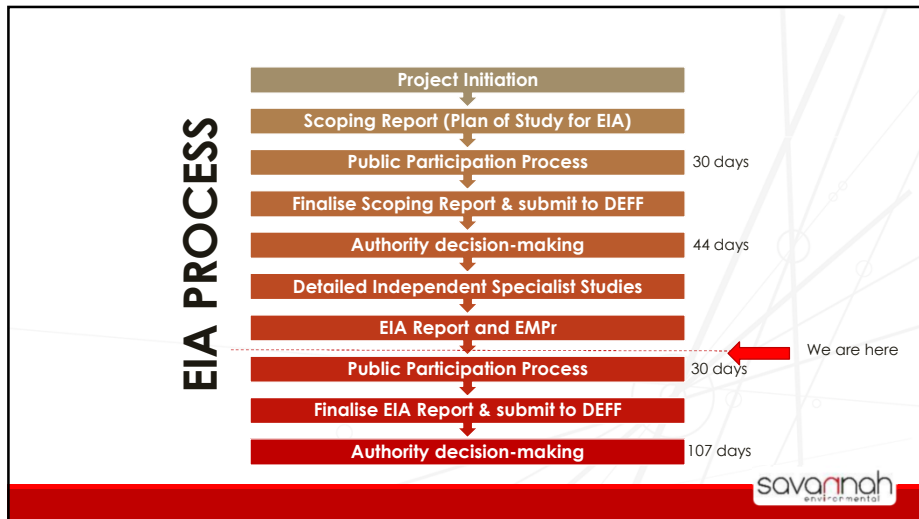
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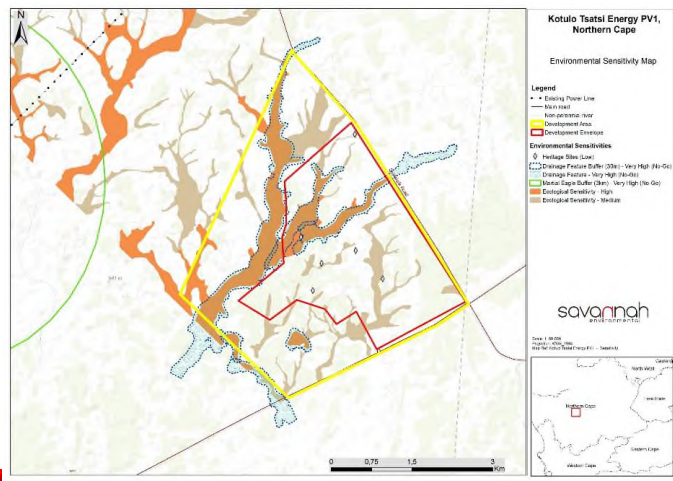
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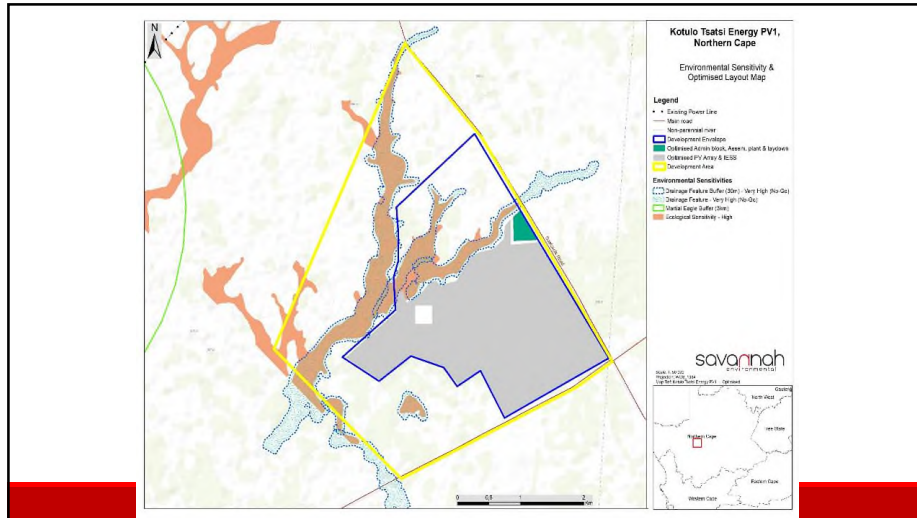


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# DISCUSSION

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## WAY FORWARD

- » Meeting notes will be distributed for verification
- » Presentation will be distributed
- » Review and comment period ending **15 April 2021**
- » Submission of Final EIA Report to DEFF in April 2021

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## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
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 Fax: 086 684 0547  
[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
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KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH THE  
NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER AND SANITATION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021 AT 11H00  
VENUE: MS TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Jana de Jager  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
E-mail: [jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:jana@savannahsa.com)

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## KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Position	Organisation
Peter Cloete	Research Development Officer	NC DAEARD&LR
Samantha De la Fontaine	Production Scientist Grade A: District Ecologist	NC DAEARD&LR
Jacoline Mans	Chief Forester: NFA Regulations	DAFF
Shaun	Water use Authorisations	DWS
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Jana de Jager	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental

Jana de Jager welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1 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 MS Teams.

She presented an overview of the project and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the EIA.

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

## DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Peter Cloete enquired whether a map is available indicating the authorised PV infrastructure and the proposed PV1 development.	Jana de Jager presented and provided an overview of a map displaying the authorised PV2 development in relation to PV1 as well the authorised CSP1 infrastructure to be retained for PV1.
Peter Cloete enquired whether the impact ratings considered other existing infrastructure in the area as part of the assessment.	Jana de Jager responded that the impact assessment only considered the infrastructure for the proposed infrastructure. However, a cumulative assessment is included in the EIA, which assesses the impact of PV1 in consideration with other related infrastructure and developments.
Shaun Cloete enquired whether the access roads for the facility will cross any of the sensitive drainage feature identified by the specialist.	Jana de Jager responded that access roads and internal cabling between components may need to cross these areas. However, the freshwater specialist has indicated that these types of linear developments may occur in the drainage features but should be limited.
Shaun Cloete enquired where water for the construction and operation of the facility will be sourced from, and what volumes of water is required.	<p>Attie Botha responded that water will be obtained from Kenhardt and will be trucked to the site via water tankers.</p> <p>The volume of water required for operation is estimated at 250 m<sup>3</sup> / annum. This will be for cleaning of PV panels as well as drinking water and sanitation purposes.</p>
Shaun Cloete enquired regarding proposed sewage disposal system for the project.	Attie Botha responded that the EPC will be advised on the proposed sewerage system. The system will then be designed based on the local regulations and requirements. However, the final design of the systems will be communicated to the relevant authorities once preferred bidder is announced. It was also noted that no groundwater contamination may not occur as a result of the proposed system.
Shaun Cloete commented that the DWS does not approve for soak-away systems and that closed system sewage disposal is the preferred method.	The comment/requirement was noted by the meeting attendees.
Samantha De la Fontaine enquired who the ecology and avifauna specialist for the project are.	Jana de Jager responded that ecology specialist is Simon Todd, and the avifauna specialist is Rob Simmons.
Samantha De la Fontaine enquired which are the 2 plant species the ecologist identified as	Jana de Jager responded that <i>Aloe claviflora</i> and <i>Hoodia gordonii</i> are protected plant species noted in the project area however, the

conservation concern in the area, and if any quiver trees were identified onsite.	specialist recommended a walkthrough of the development envelope to confirm the occurrence of these species.  Attie Botha responded that there are no quiver trees in the PV1 development site.
Peter Cloete enquired if any chemicals will be used for cleaning of the PV panels.	Attie Botha responded that no chemicals are used during the washing process. Possible 'dry-cleaning' system may also be evaluated.
Peter Cloete enquired if any arrangement has been made with municipality in terms of waste management for removal of general waste.	Attie Botha responded that an arrangement has been made with the local municipality for the removal of general waste via truck.
Jacoline Mans enquired if Simon Todd undertook a field assessment to verify the plant species located at the site.	Jana de Jager responded that Simon Todd undertook a field assessment during December 2020.  Attie Botha added that an extensive field assessment was undertaken for the authorised CSP1 facility, which is where PV1 will be located.
Samantha De la Fontaine enquired regarding the development footprints of the facilities, Peter Cloete also asked what the size is of the project site.	Jana de Jager provided the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Site: 2 560ha</li> <li>• Development Area: 1797ha</li> <li>• Development Envelope: 847ha</li> <li>• Development Footprint: 810ha</li> <li>• Optimised Development Footprint: 551ha</li> </ul>
Jacoline Mans enquired if Simon Todd were the ecologist for the CSP1 development as well.	Attie Botha confirmed that Simon Todd was the ecologist for the previous as well as current project.
Jacoline Mans suggested that herself and Samantha De la Fontaine be invited to the pre-construction walkthrough of the development.	This request was noted by Jana de Jager and will be take into account once that phase of the development has commenced.

## **CLOSURE**

Jana de Jager thanked the participants for their valuable inputs into the EIA phase of the EIA process and presented the way forward. The meeting was formally closed at 11h36.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CSP	Concentrating Solar Plant	EIAr	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	NC DAEARD&LR	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development and Land Reform
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation	PV	Photovoltaic

# Appendix A

## Attendance Register



# Appendix B Presentation

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
FOR THE  
KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH THE  
NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER AND SANITATION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021 AT 11H00  
VENUE: MS TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

Jana de Jager  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
E-mail: [jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:jana@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 ENERGY PV1, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Position	Organisation
Peter Cloete	Research Development Officer	NC DAEARD&LR
Samantha De la Fontaine	Production Scientist Grade A: District Ecologist	NC DAEARD&LR
Jacoline Mans	Chief Forester: NFA Regulations	DAFF
Shaun	Water use Authorisations	DWS
Attie Botha	Applicant	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
Jana de Jager	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental

Jana de Jager welcomed all attendees at the online focus group meeting (FGM) for the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1 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 MS Teams.

She presented an overview of the project and a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the EIA.

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DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation	PV	Photovoltaic

# Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PVI Northern Cape Province

Focus Group Meetings  
March 2021




## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Project Overview
- Environmental Studies & Findings
- Discussion
- Way Forward

1

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

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

3

4

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Jana de Jager

5

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

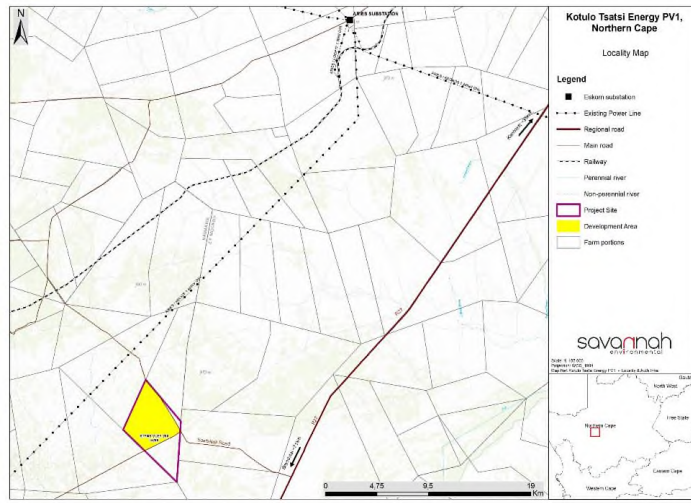
- Affected property:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Portion 3 of Farm Styns Vley 280
--------------------------	----------------------------------

- Applicant:

Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd
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6

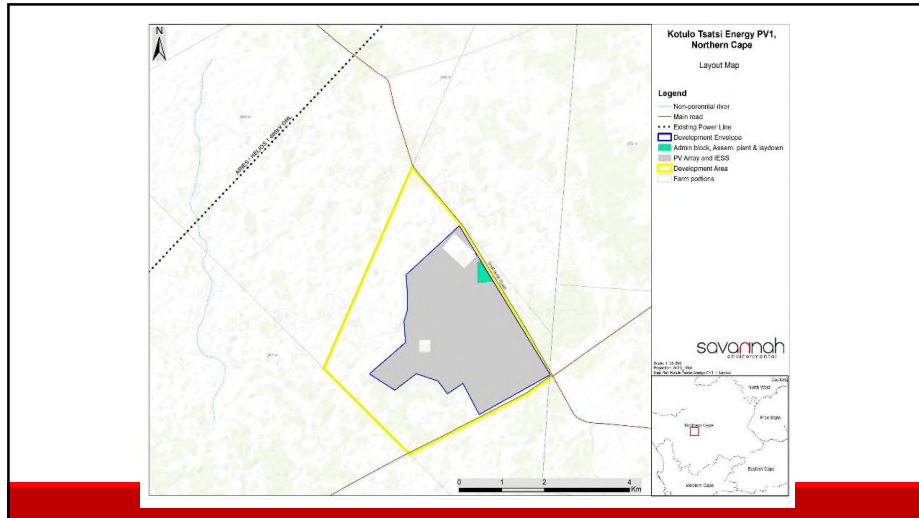


7

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The development of a 200MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure. Infrastructure associated with solar PV facility will include:
  - PV modules and mounting structures
  - Inverters and transformers
  - Integrated Energy Storage System (IESS)
  - Cabling between the project components
  - Internal access roads
- Development envelope (~847ha) determined for assessment

8



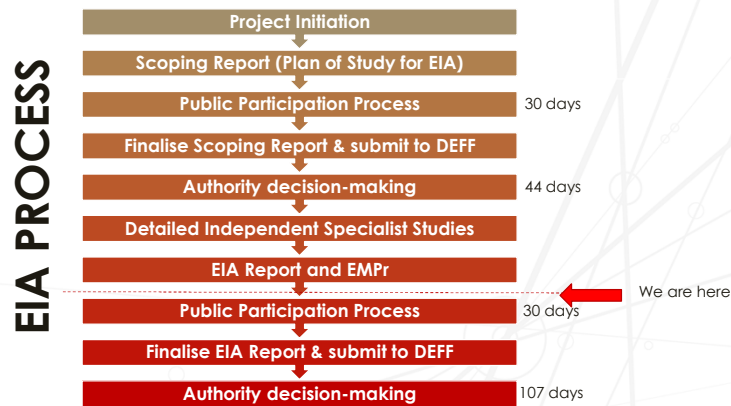
9

## EIA PROCESS

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



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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

Impact Report Specialist Studies	Assessment Approach
Terrestrial Biodiversity (flora & fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flora and fauna – habitat homogenous, generally low diversity.</li> <li>• Site assessment identified some high sensitivity areas (not regarded as no-go areas)</li> <li>• Development envelope falls outside of any CBAs, ESAs and NC-PAES focus areas</li> </ul>
Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site assessment identified several drainage features within the project area as well as the development envelope.</li> <li>• Depression wetland and major washes are no-go areas</li> </ul>
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red listed species identified in the area</li> <li>• Low abundance of species noted during site assessment</li> <li>• Development envelope located outside the 3km Martial Eagle nest buffer</li> </ul>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impact index modelled based on proximity of identified potential sensitive receptors (homesteads and roads).</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations of heritage sites based on field assessments and SAHRIS database.</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status quo of the area from a social and land use perspective assessed</li> <li>• Telephonic interviews undertaken with stakeholders</li> </ul>
Soils & Agricultural Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No "High" land capability sensitivities were identified</li> <li>• Specialist opinion acceptable impact on agricultural productivity</li> </ul>



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## SUMMARY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

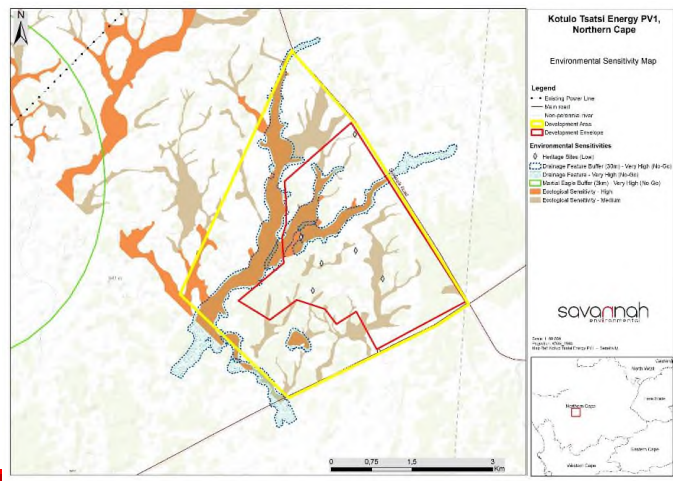
Impact Report Specialist Studies	Assessment of issues
Ecological Impacts (fauna & flora);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disturbance and loss of natural vegetation</li> <li>Disturbance or loss of protected plants</li> <li>Loss of fauna habitat and displacement of species</li> <li>Disturbance to migration routes</li> <li><b>(Low -Medium Significance)</b></li> </ul>
Impacts on avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of intact habitat due to transformation</li> <li>Mortality due to collision with infrastructure</li> <li>Disturbance during operation</li> <li><b>(Low Significance)</b></li> </ul>
Impacts on Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact to archaeological, historical and burial sites</li> <li>Damage or destruction of unmarked graves or fossil material</li> <li><b>(Low Significance)</b></li> </ul>

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## SUMMARY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

14

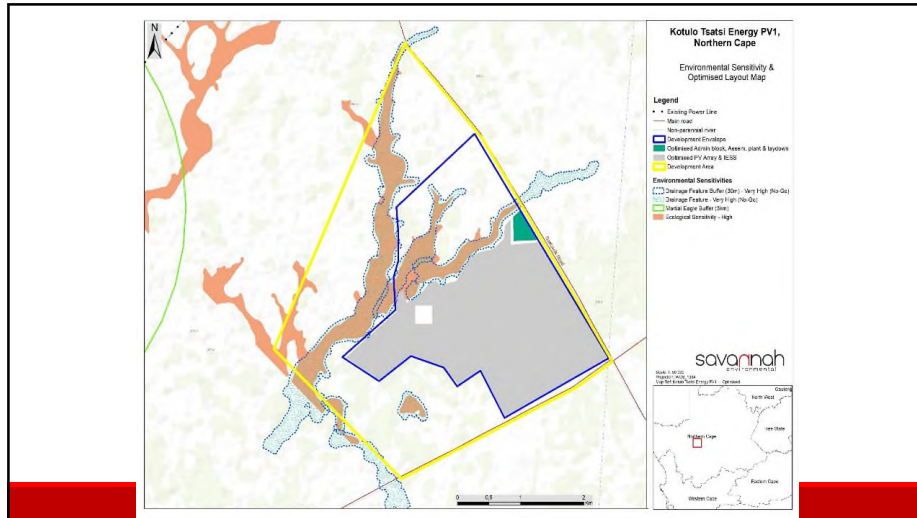


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## FINDINGS

- 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 development envelope.
- Features within the development envelope identified as 'no-go' areas or areas of high to very high sensitivity.
- Optimised layout recommended to avoid these very high/ high sensitivity or 'no-go' areas.

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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 **15 April 2021**
- » Submission of Final EIA Report to DEFF in April 2021

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## 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)

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# 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](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***

**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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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"> <li>• the development area is the area within the respective affected properties within which the PV facilities can be developed (from a technical perspective); and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

<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"> <li>• Ecology (flora and fauna)</li> <li>• Avifauna</li> <li>• Freshwater resources</li> <li>• Soils, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential</li> <li>• Visual</li> <li>• Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology)</li> <li>• Social</li> </ul>
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**CLOSURE**

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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 subject is "Accepted: Kotulo Tsatsi Solar Developments: Focus Group Meeting". The sender is Lisa Opperman. The recipient is Nicolene Venter. The meeting details are: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC+02:00) Harare, Pretoria. The location is a Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93717333586?pwd=NUhZU1huS1o3UE1oMW5rcWdBdjZ0QT09>. The email shows that Lisa Opperman has accepted the meeting, while no other attendees have tentatively or declined it.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main slide is titled "PROJECT OVERVIEW" and contains the following text:

- 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.
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  - 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

The Zoom interface shows a top bar with participant names: Nicolene Venter, Samantha De la..., Peter Cloete, Lisa Opperman, and Elsabe Swart. A "Participants (7)" window is open on the right, listing all participants with their status (muted, video off, etc.). The bottom bar shows controls for Start Video, Security, Participants (7), 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

## 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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- 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
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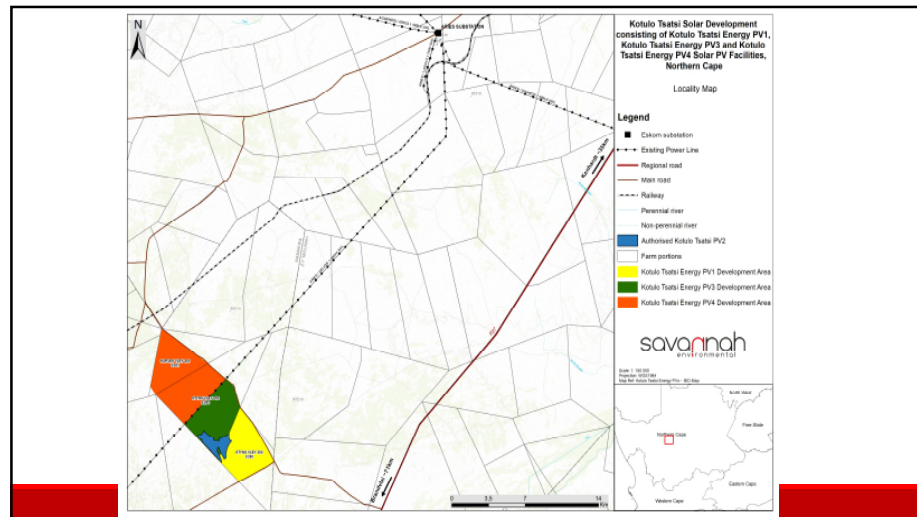
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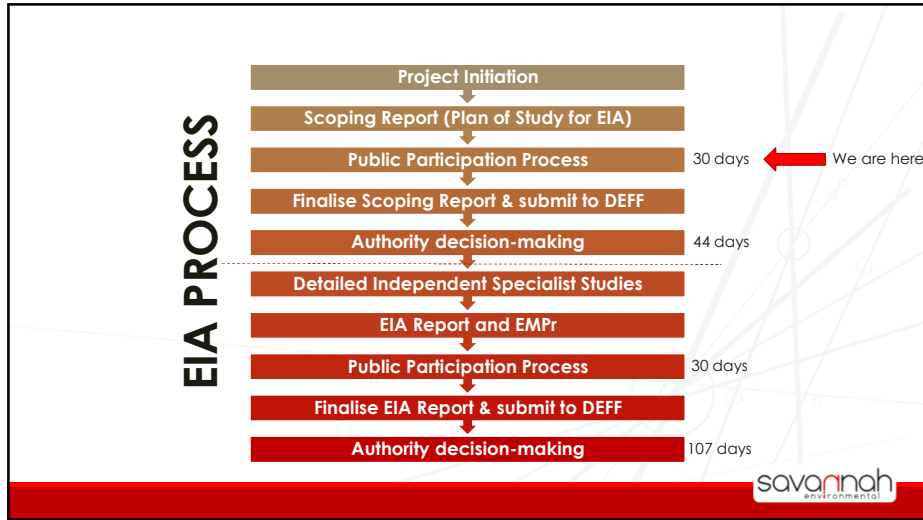


7

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- The proposed projects require Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended
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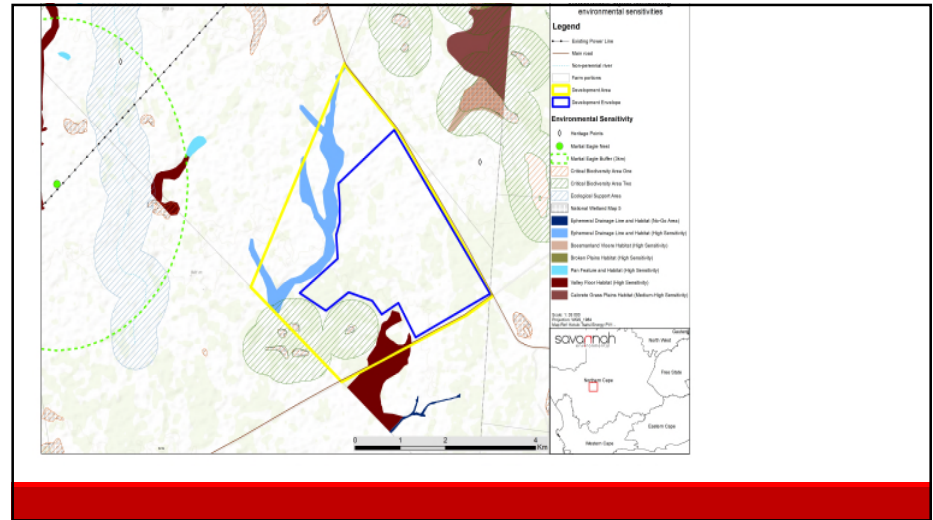
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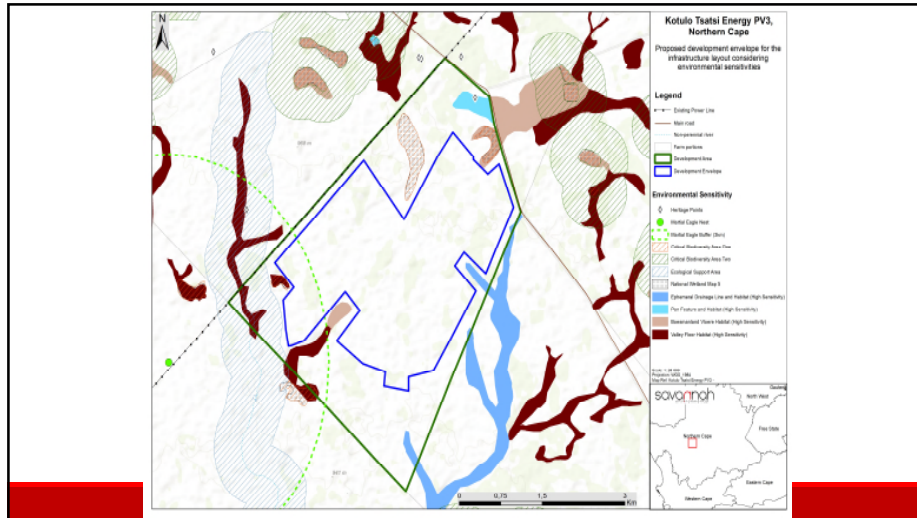
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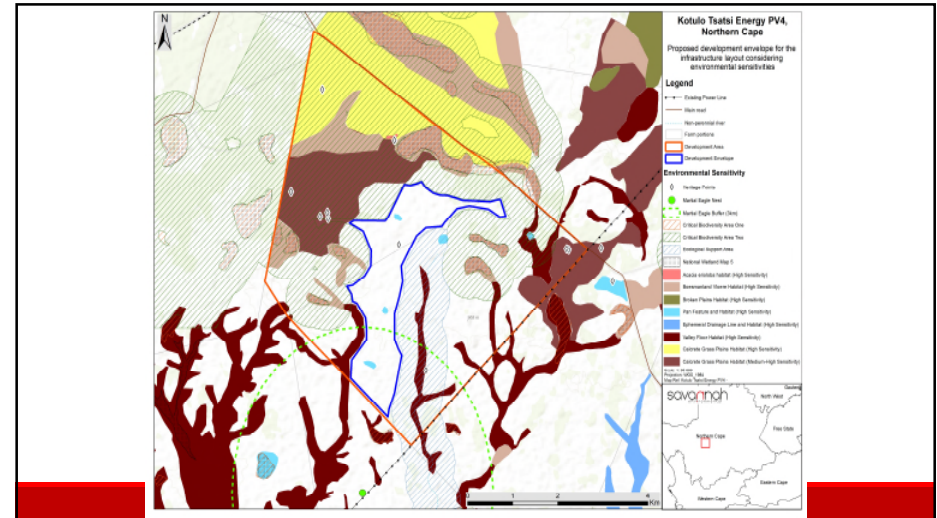
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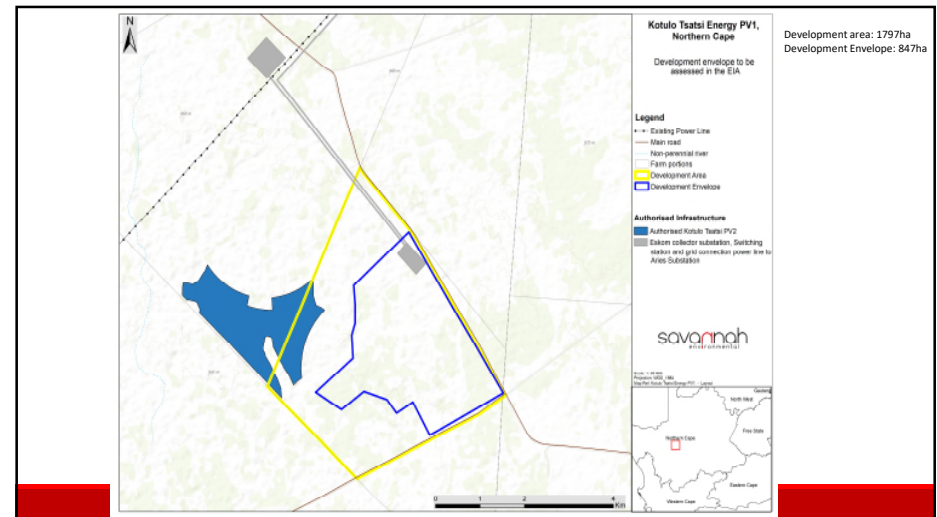


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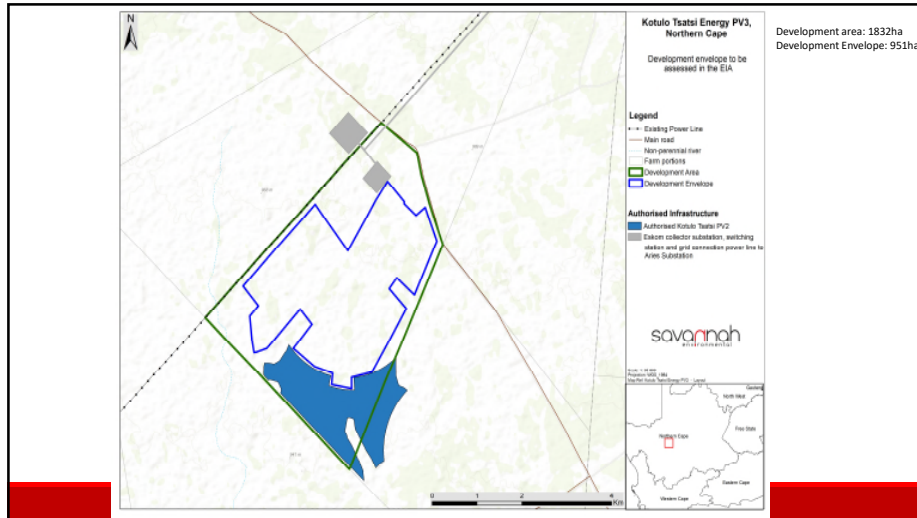
## FINDINGS

- Majority of potential impacts are associated with the construction phase
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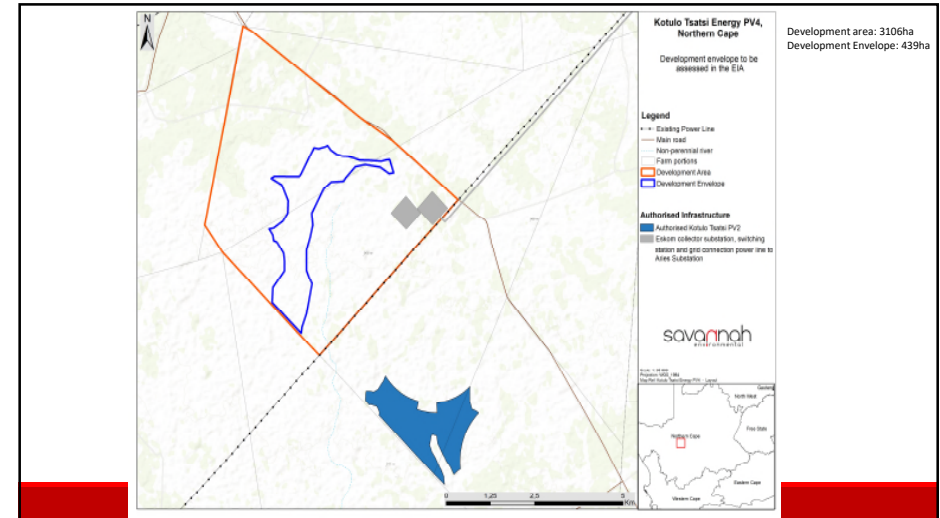
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## PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

- » Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following investigations within the EIA phase are required:
- Ecology (flora and fauna);
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  - Social.

19

## 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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PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
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KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF  
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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  
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.  
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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**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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

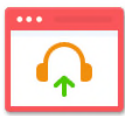
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Talking:

**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

Participant	Mute	Video
NV Nicolene Venter (Host, me)	Off	Off
A Attie Botha	Off	Off
C chrisf	Off	Off
LO Lisa Opperman	Off	Off
SF Shereave Felix, Hantam	Off	Off

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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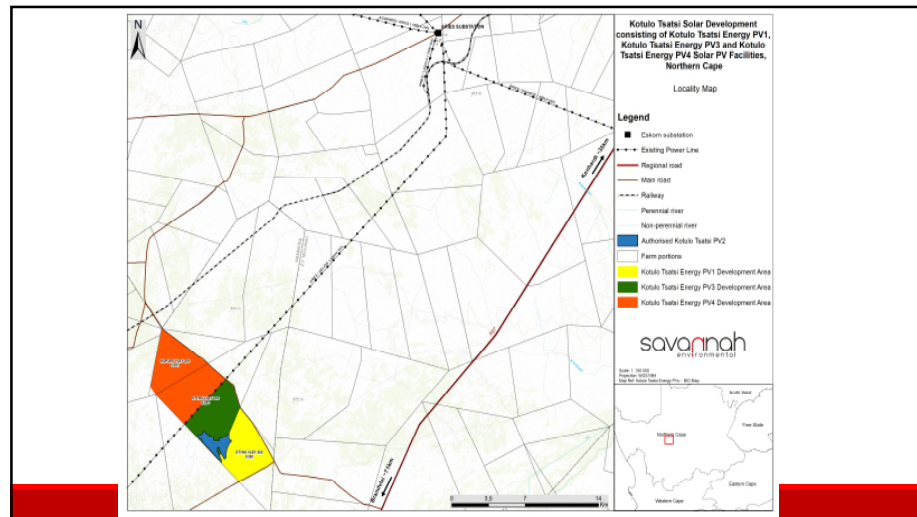
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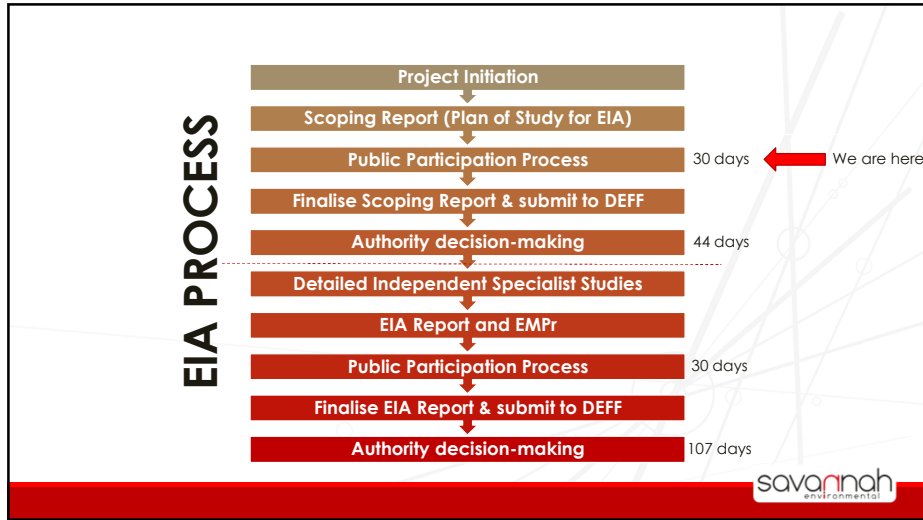


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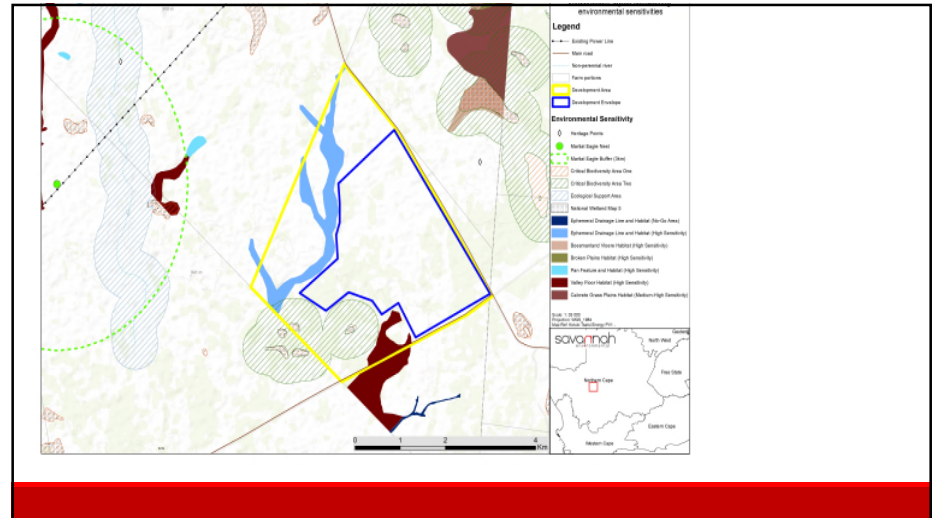
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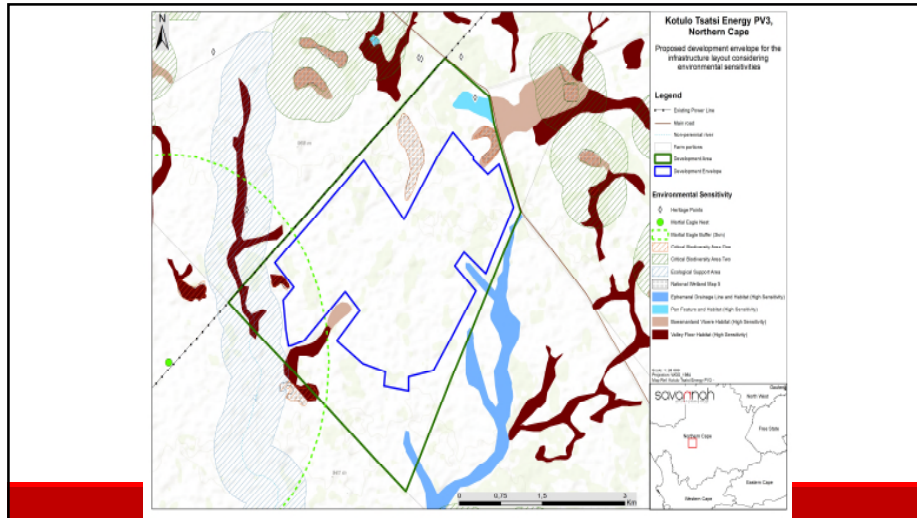
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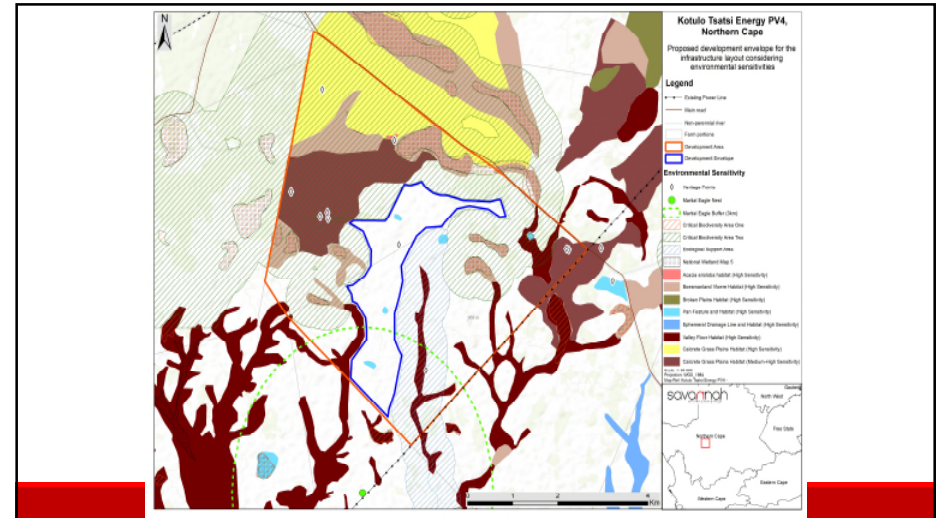
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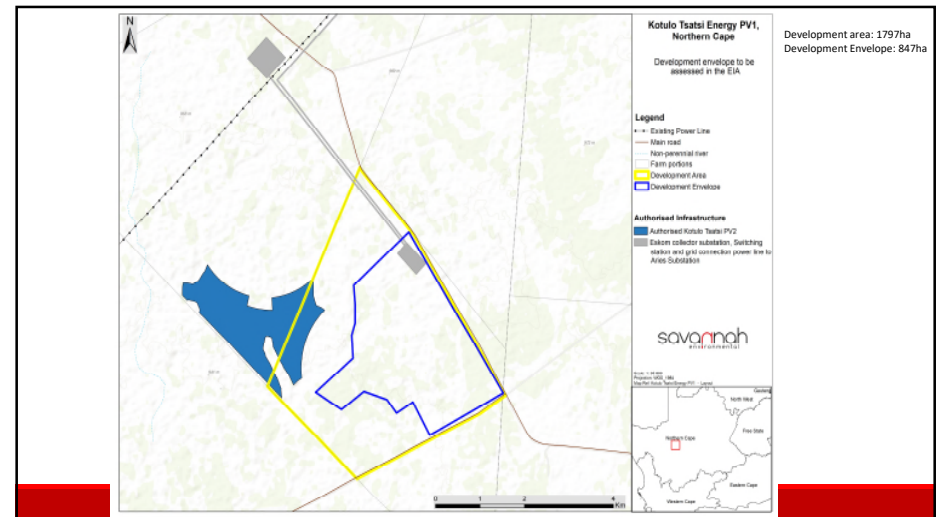


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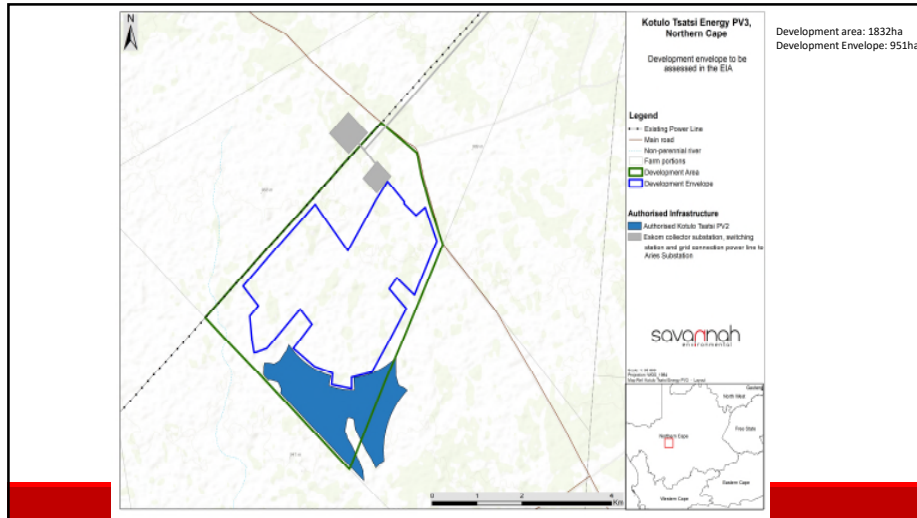
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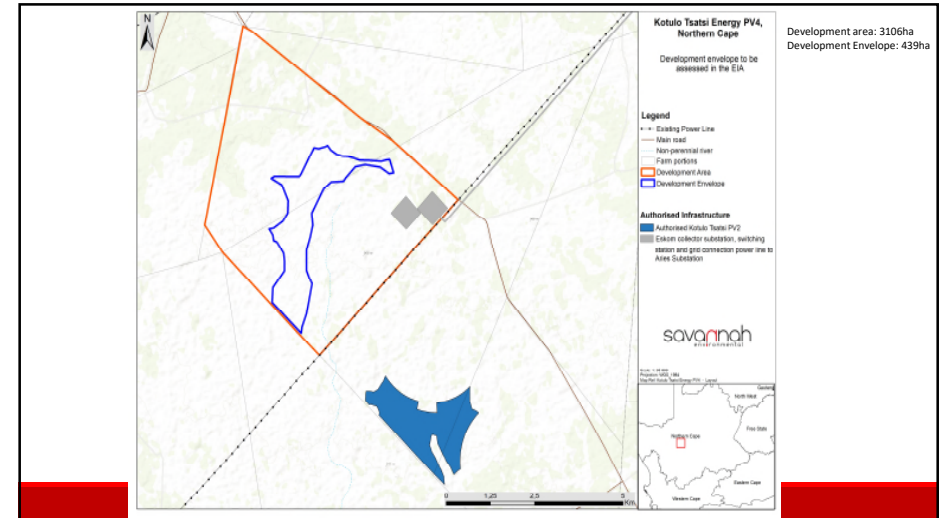
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Nicolene Venter

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PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396

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

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**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](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*

## 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

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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><b>Post-meeting note:</b> 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><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> 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><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> 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><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> 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><b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> The contact details were e-mailed to Paul Slabbert on Wednesday, 18 November 2020.</p>

## CLOSURE

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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.

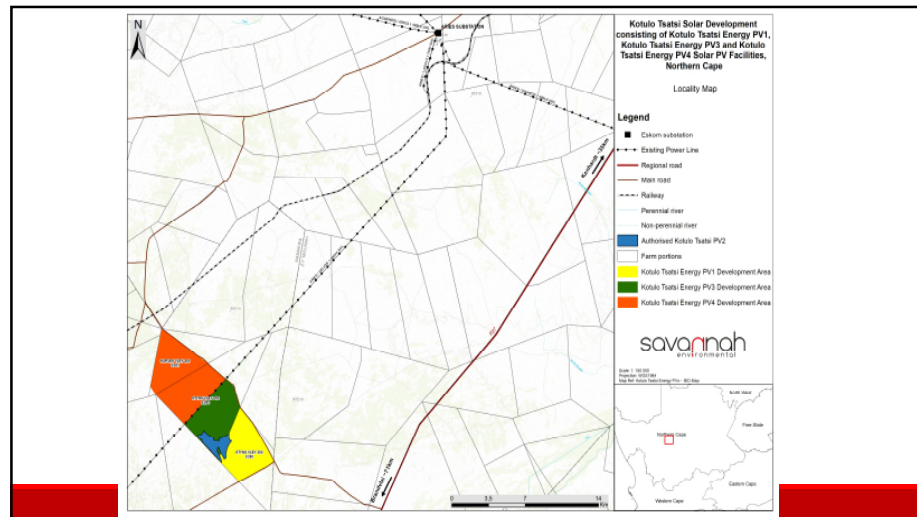
- Affected properties:

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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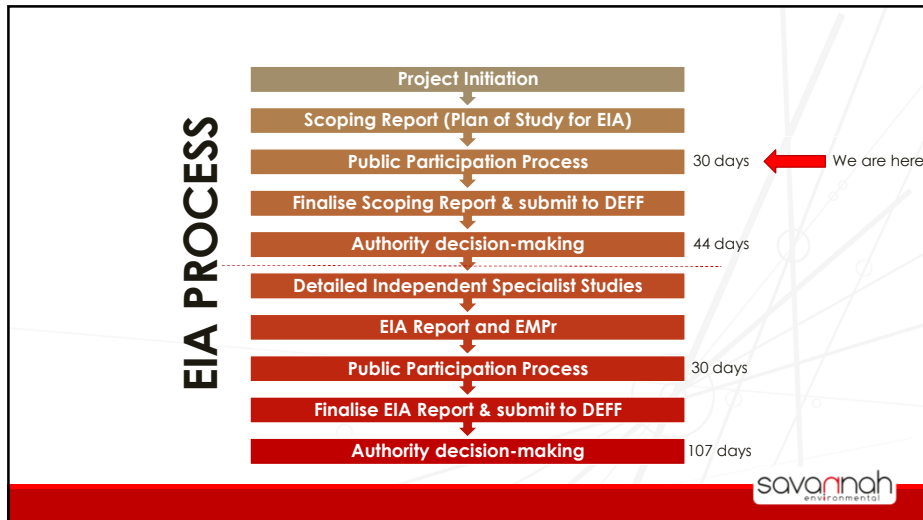


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## EIA PROCESS

- 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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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

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

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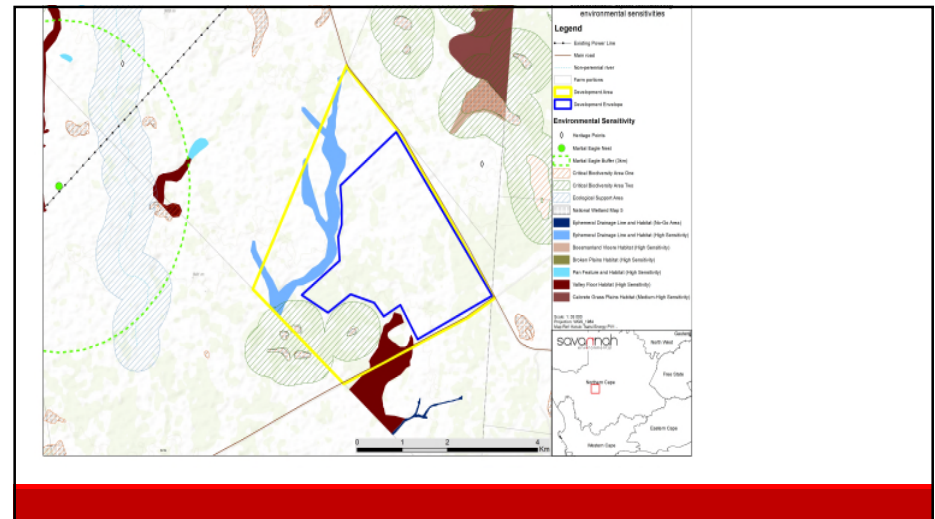
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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

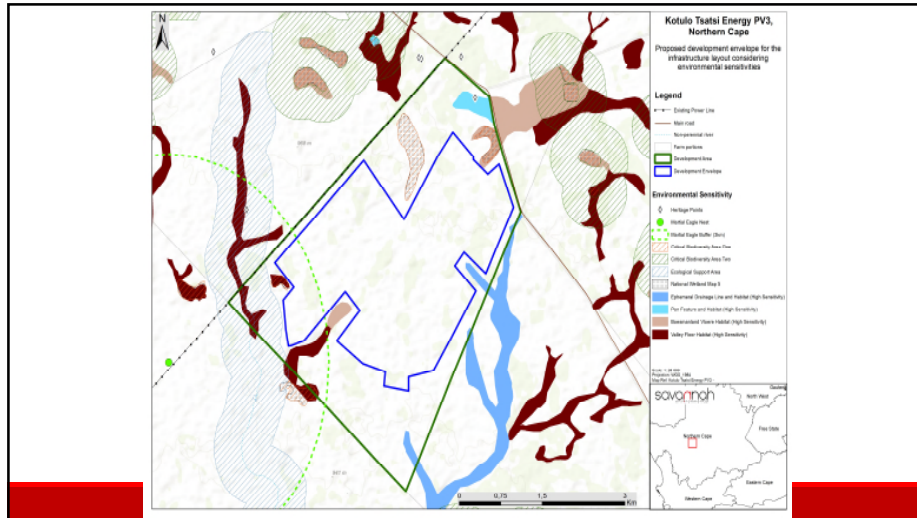
	Scoping of issues
Visual Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of development to observers residing in rural homesteads and farmsteads</li> <li>Industrialisation of the landscape</li> <li>Visual impact of operational lighting</li> <li><b>(Low Significance)</b></li> </ul>
Social Impacts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

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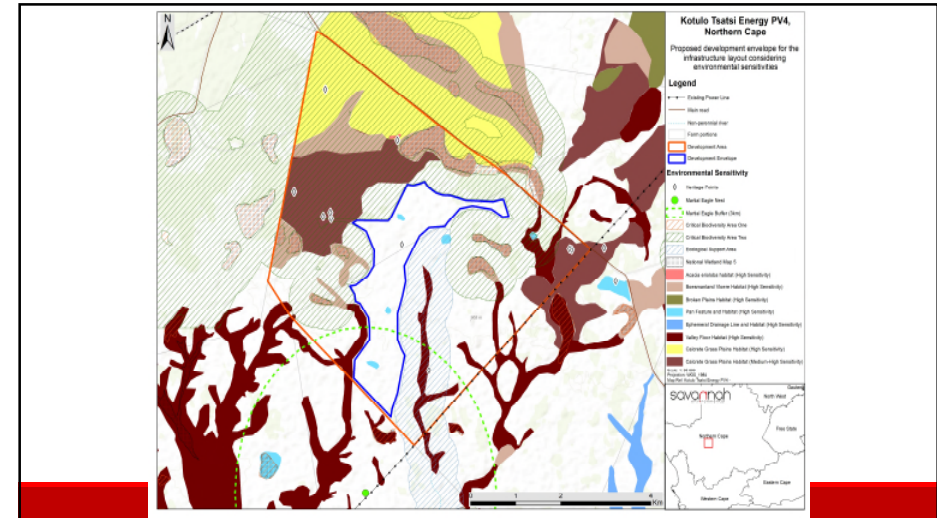
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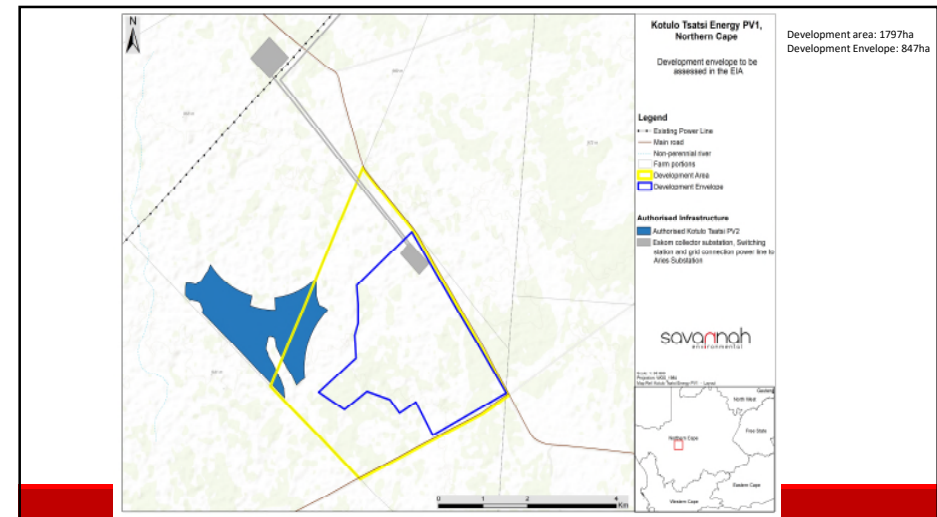


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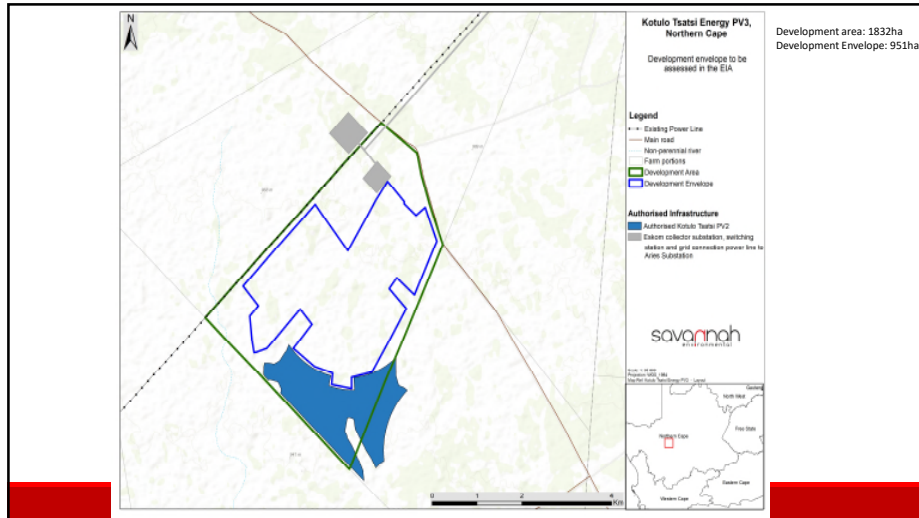
## FINDINGS

- 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.

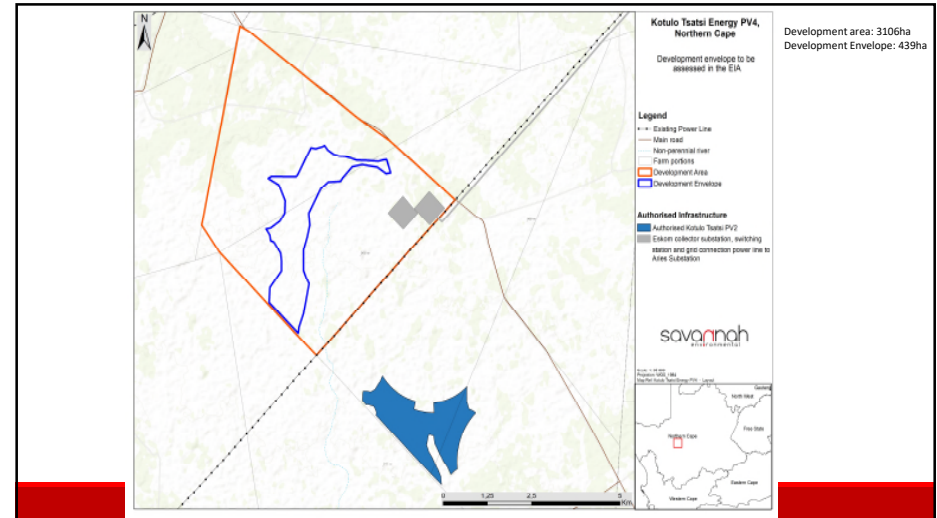
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## PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

- » 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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