

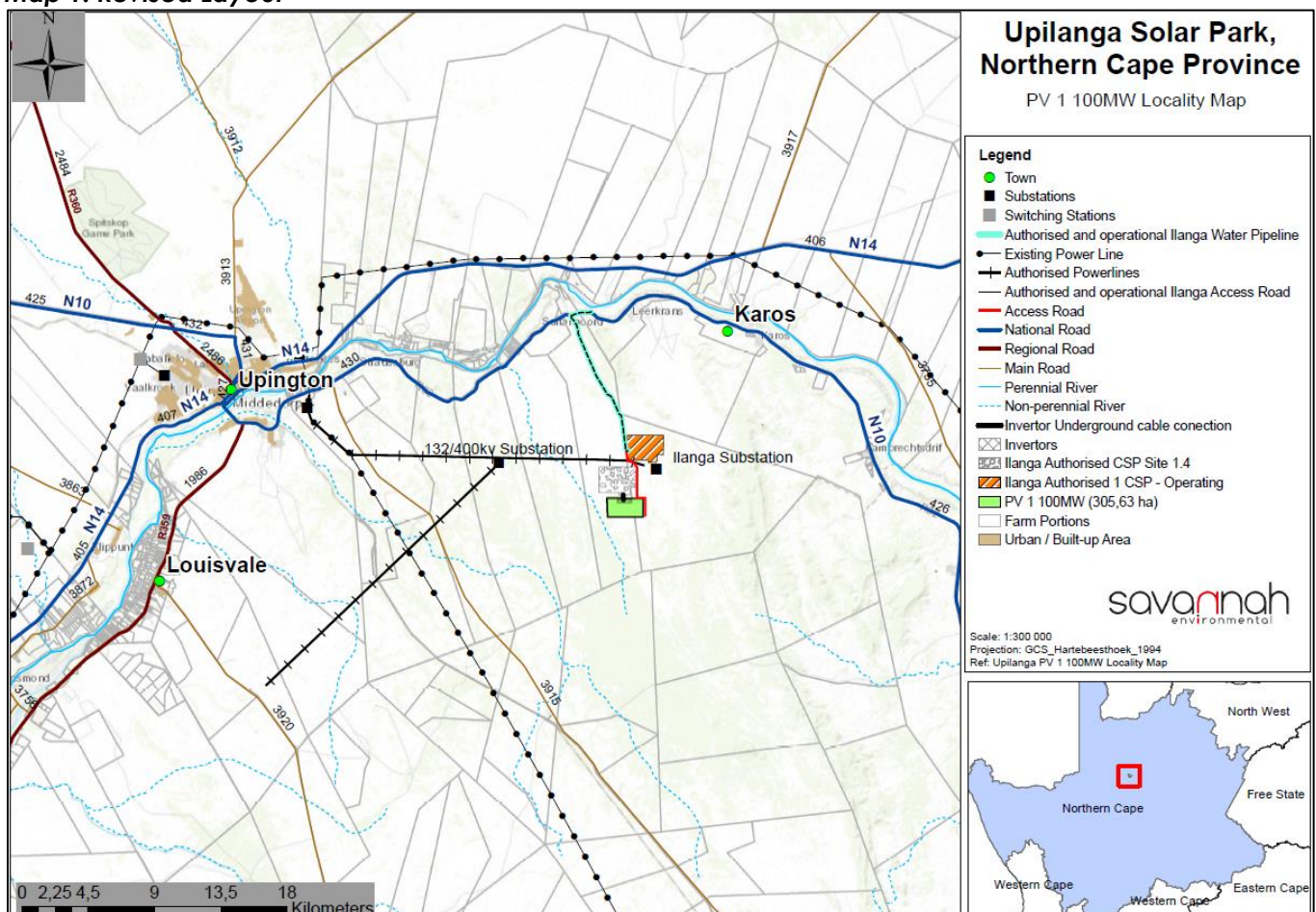
29 May 2023

Amendment to Establishment of the Karoshhoek Grid Integration Infrastructure i.e. on-site substation/switching yard and 400kV powerline from site 1.4, 3, 4, and 5 to the feature Eskom MTS 400kV power line proposed to the west of the site, as part of the larger Karoshhoek Solar Valley Development, 30km east of Upington, within the Khara Hais Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

1 INTRODUCTION

This letter is in response to a request by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd and FG Envlo for Urban-Econ to amend the Social Impact Assessment Report (completed May 2012) to reflect the changes in the EIA report as requested by the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE). The map below shows the development layout.

Map 1: Revised Layout



3 SOCIAL IMPACTS

3.1. Methodology

The methodology utilised to gain an understanding of the proposed amendment the same as the methodology followed in the initial assessment. Therefore, details of the utilised methodology are not required to be provided within this amendment letter.

3.2. Specialist Comment

The environment has not changed significantly since the original assessment, there have not been any significant developments within the affected properties that would have altered the social environment. The Ilanga CSP facility has been constructed and is operational.

The initial grid connection assessment of the development identified several impacts both during the construction phase and the operational phase, however, as the grid connection will be handed over to Eskom after construction the project will only include construction phase impacts. Thus, for the purpose of this study, Urban-Econ only amended the construction phase impacts.

Table 3: Summary of social impacts during the construction phase, 2012

| Significance of Impact before Mitigation/ Enhancement | Status | Significance before Mitigation / Enhancement | Significance after Mitigation / Enhancement |
|---|----------|--|---|
| Employment creation, Local Procurement and Economic Benefits | Positive | Low (24) | Medium (32) |
| Population Change | Negative | Low (21) | Low (14) |
| Impact on Farming Activities | Negative | Medium (33) | Low (27) |
| Impact on Daily Living and Movement Patterns | Negative | Medium (44) | Low (27) |
| Impact on Sense of Place | Negative | Low (27) | Low (21) |

Based on an understanding of the proposed amendment, it is Urban-Econ's opinion that the identified impacts for the construction phase as highlighted within Table 3, will remain the same, however, additional impacts have been identified as indicated in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of amended social impacts during the construction phase, 2023

| Significance of Impact before Mitigation/ Enhancement | Status | Significance before Mitigation / Enhancement | Significance after Mitigation / Enhancement |
|---|----------|--|---|
| Employment creation, Local Procurement and Economic Benefits | Positive | Low (24) | Medium (32) |
| Skills development | Positive | Low (27) | Medium (30) |
| Improved electricity distribution for region | Positive | Medium (30) | Medium (30) |
| Population Change | Negative | Low (21) | Low (14) |
| Impact on Farming Activities | Negative | Medium (33) | Low (27) |
| Impact on Daily Living and Movement Patterns | Negative | Medium (44) | Low (27) |
| Impact on Sense of Place | Negative | Low (27) | Low (21) |
| Safety and Security | Negative | Medium (30) | Low (21) |

Mitigation/enhancement for additional impacts identified:

Skills Development:

- In order to maximise the positive impact, it is suggested that the project company provide training courses for employees where feasible to ensure that employees gain as much as possible from the work experience.
- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge between experienced employees and the staff.
- Perform a skills audit to determine the potential skills that could be sourced in the area.

Safety and Security:

- Ensure proper 24/7 security is patrolling the construction sites, as well as controlled access.
- Ensure that proper health and safety protocols are in place.

The following impact's mitigations and/or enhancements remains the same:

Employment creation, Local Procurement and Economic Benefits:

- It is recommended that the contractor employ local semi-skilled and unskilled labour from the study area.
- Eskom should stipulate in their contracts with contractor that local labour should be used for e.g., bush clearing, road construction and fencing
- Ward councillors could assist in determining available local labourers that could be considered for possible employment.

Population Change:

- Workers should wear identity tags and uniforms to be easily identifiable
- Property owners should be notified in advance when and what type of construction activities would take place on their properties
- Workers and contractors should undergo induction training which should include the issue of general good conduct and environmentally sustainable construction practices.
- Workers and contractors on site should be monitored to ensure that no littering and/or environmental pollution or degradation occurs.

Impact on Farming Activities:

- Where possible, livestock should be moved away from the construction activities and/or be fenced off for the duration of construction activities in a specific area. Especially in the farm Vaalkoppies.
- Eskom should discuss the construction schedule and activities with the affected farmers to enable them to plan their farming activities and animal movement accordingly.
- Conditions and/or specific request relating to construction activity raised by property owners should be included in the EMP document.
- Contractors should make sure that no material is left on the properties after construction activities have been completed.
- Additional access roads should be limited.
- Construction vehicles should keep to the access roads allocated for the construction activities.

Impact on Daily Living and Movement Patterns:

- Additional access routes should be limited and where possible existing gravel roads should be used to reach the construction sites.
- Construction vehicles and those transporting materials and goods should be inspected to ensure that these are in good working order and not overloaded.
- Construction vehicles should adhere to the speed limits and traffic regulations.
- Gravel roads should be sprayed with water to limit dust creation if economically feasible and reasonable from an environmental perspective or an appropriate dust suppressant should be used.
- Normal working hours should be considered.

- Property owners that would be affected by the transmission line construction should be consulted prior to the construction phase with regards to the construction schedules, transportation corridors, construction of additional access roads and construction methods to be used.

Impact on Sense of Place:

- Soils should be replaced and the construction area, as well as laydown areas should be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction.
- The construction site should be kept litter free.
- Overall site rehabilitation should occur as soon as the construction process allows.
- The recommendations made by the Visual Impact Assessment should be adhered to.

Based on an understanding of the proposed amendment, it is Urban-Econ's opinion that the additional identified impacts for the construction phase as highlighted within Table 4, will not have a significant impact on the proposed project. The impact on skills development will have a positive effect for the regional and local workforce, due to the experience that will be transferred from skilled workers. The impact on employment creation, local procurement and economic benefits will not be altered. The additional impact of safety and security has a low significance if the necessary mitigation measures are followed.

4 CONCLUSION

To conclude, Urban-Econ assessed the proposed amendments and confirms that the time lapsed will not change the scope, nature or level of the impacts and therefore no change to the initial assessment conducted should occur. The additional impact identified will have a positive impact, whereas the safety and security impact will have a low significance if the necessary mitigations are followed. Furthermore, from a socio-economic perspective there is no reason why the proposed amendment should not be authorised.

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