

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE MUTSHO  
SOLAR POWER PROJECT (4x100 MW  
FACILITY) ON A SITE NEAR MUSINA,  
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**Socio-Economic Impact Assessment  
Scoping Report - (4x100 MW Solar PV)  
May 2022**

**Prepared for:**



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## Abbreviations

MSPP	Mutsho Solar Power Project
NERSA	National Energy Regulator South Africa
JET	Just Energy Transition
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
TIPS	Trade & Industry Policy Strategies
MW	Mega Watt
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
WGBI	World Government Bond Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SACCI	South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BCI	Business Confidence Index
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GVA	Gross Value Added

CAGR	Compound Average Growth Rate
AOI	Area of Impact
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
DMRE's	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's
REIPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement

## Specialist Details

<b>Company Name:</b>	<b>Urban-Econ Development Economists (Pty)Ltd</b>
<b>Company Profile:</b>	<p><b>URBAN-ECON</b> Development Economists (Pty) Ltd is a professional consultancy firm specialising in the field of development economics. Development economics, as advocated by URBAN-ECON, refers to the field of research where spatial principles are applied in an economic context. <b>URBAN-ECON</b> combines specialised skills, extensive experience, professional ethics and personal service delivery to provide appropriate and practical economically viable solutions. A personal approach in efficient service delivery ensures that project deliverables align with the clients' needs, therefore equipping the client with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions.</p>
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Description

Urban-Econ Development Economist (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the client Mutsho Power (Pty) Ltd, to provide specialist socio-economic impact assessment inputs for the proposed 4x100MW Solar PV Facilities near Musina.

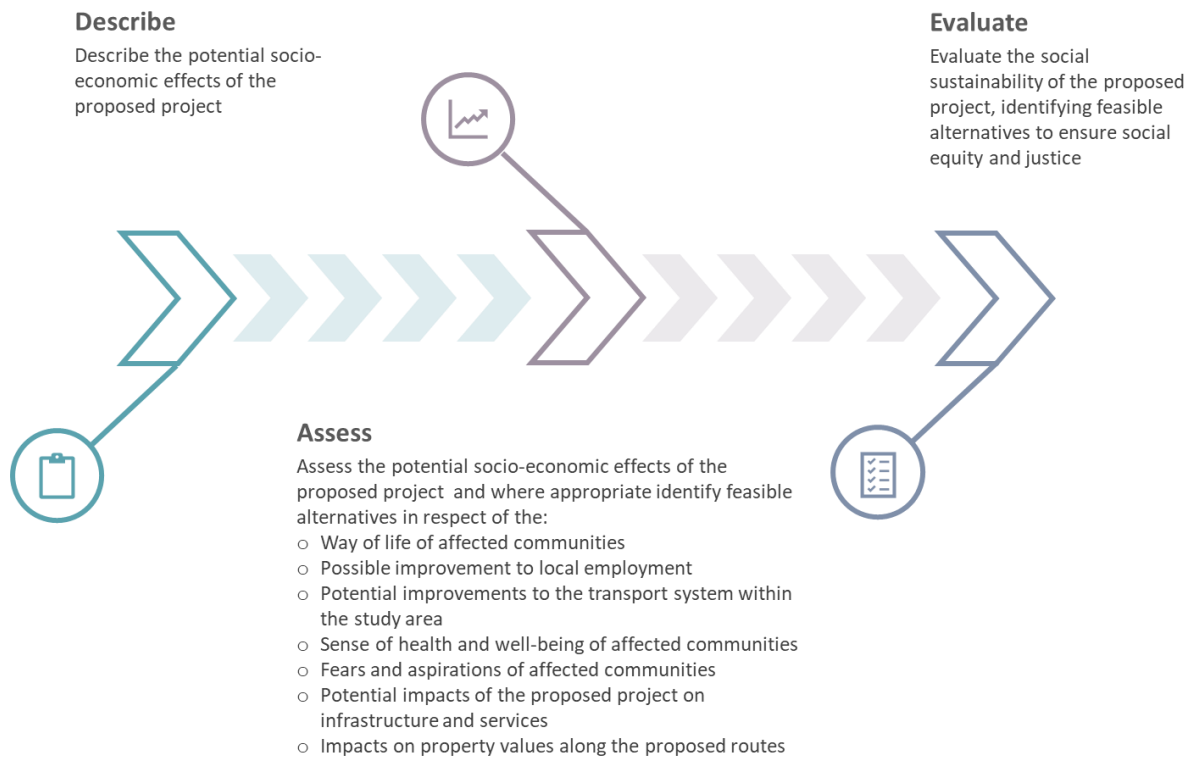
Mutsho Power (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on the Farm Vrienden 589 MS, located approximately 8km south-west of Mopane and 39km south-west of Musina, within the Musina Local Municipality and the Vhembe District Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The project is planned as part of a cluster of Solar PV Facilities with a total capacity of up to 400MW (100MW each) and will be connected to the electricity grid via a 132kV on-site and a 132kV double circuit overhead power line to the Nzhelele Substation. The grid connection infrastructure is the subject of a separate Basic Assessment process.

## 1.2 Overall Project Objective

The objective of this project is to undertake a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) for the Scoping and EIA phases for the Mutsho Solar Power Project (MSPP). This report deals with the scoping phase of the EIA Process for the proposed 4x100MW Solar PV Facilities.

A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) aims to assess any potential socio-economic impacts, either positive or negative, that may arise as a result of a proposed development. The socio-economic impacts will be analysed for the construction and operation phases of the proposed development. Additionally, mitigation measures to reduce the severity of negative impacts and measures to optimise the positive impacts will be included in the report.

**Figure 1-1: Project Objective**



### 1.3 Scope of Work

The scope of work for this assessment quote is in line with the NEMA protocols released in March 2020.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment will:

- » Identify and assessment the socio-economic impacts associated with:
  - the construction phase,
  - the operational phase
  - if relevant, the decommissioning, abandonment or rehabilitation phase of the proposed project
- » Provide a general overview of the baseline conditions associated with the affected community
- » Identify and assess any potential socio-economic impacts, either positive or negative, that may arise because of the proposed project on individuals, households, and agricultural related activities, including forestry and commercial businesses
- » To identify and assess the economic impacts of the proposed project during construction and its operation (gross value added, income generation and employment due to the implementation of the project)



- » Identify and include mitigation measures to reduce the severity of negative impacts and measures to optimise the positive impacts

## 1.4 Methodology

The following sections outline the research methods that have been employed in the study.

### 1.4.1 Project description and study area delineation

This step involves the description of the proposed projects and delineation of the core study areas for basic social impact assessment.

### 1.4.2 Data collection

This step will involve collection of both primary and secondary data. The former will involve virtual and/or telephonic interviews with the local government authorities, local community representatives, and affected landowners. The latter will encompass the collection and review of relevant policies, local and provincial strategic documents, and statistics presented by Stats SA and Quantec.

### 1.4.3 Baseline profiling

This step will focus on a description of the study areas' socio-economic environment based on the data collected in the previous step. The baseline profile will be used to interpret the impacts and measure the extent of socio- economic impacts that could ensue from the establishment of the proposed development.

### 1.4.4 Identification and description of the anticipated impacts

This step will include the description of the potential socio-economic impacts that could be expected to ensue considering the development's components.

### 1.4.5 Quantification of OPEX and CAPEX

Economic impact modelling will be undertaken for both the construction and operational phase of the project in order to quantify all upstream and downstream impacts to the local and national economy through the application of economic multipliers developed for the Limpopo Province. This will allow for impacts to be forecasted through the various sectors of the economy and provide for the magnitude of the development from a GDP\_R, Production, Job creation and tax perspective. In addition, the economic impacts of the proposed SED infrastructure spend will also be modelled.

### 1.4.6 Interpretation and evaluation

Once the impacts are identified, they will be interpreted in the context of the affected environments, i.e., baseline profiles, and evaluated. The impacts and extent thereof will be assessed and categorised in line with the rating provided by the environmental specialist.

## 1.5 Source of Information

The following information will be sourced from various sources to inform the study:








- » From the client:
  - Start of construction and operations
  - Cost of development and operating expenses
  - Construction methodology
  - Number of people to be employed during construction and operations
  - Contact details of I&APs as well as surrounding landowners
  - Percentage of jobs to be allocated to the local communities
  - Types of skills required and to be filled by people from the local communities
  - Small business development programme during both construction and operational phase
- » From the site visit/interviews:
  - Socio-economic challenges experienced by the affected stakeholders
  - Need and desirability of the proposed developments
  - Concerns and issues related to the developments
  - Affected stakeholders' expectations
  - Alignment with the local government vision and objectives
  - Other projects planned for the area
- » From secondary sources:
  - Previously completed studies and reports
  - Stats SA Census 2011 and Community Survey 2016
  - StatsSA Labour Force Survey
  - Quantec Research database
  - Integrated Development Plans (IDP)
  - Spatial Development Frameworks
  - Local Municipal and Provincial strategic documents where applicable.

## 1.6 Assumptions, limitations and gaps in knowledge

- » The secondary data sources used to compile the socio-economic baseline (demographics, dynamics of the economy) although not exhaustive, can be viewed as being indicative of broad trends within the study area.
- » The study was done with the information available to the specialist within the time frames and budget specified.

- » Possible impacts and stakeholder responses to these impacts cannot be predicted with complete accuracy, even when circumstances are similar, and these predictions are based on research and years of experience, taking the specific set of circumstances into account.
- » It is assumed that the motivation and ensuing planning and feasibility studies for the project were done with integrity and that all information provided to the specialist by the project proponent and its consultants to date is accurate.

## 1.7 Outline of the Report

<b>Section 1:</b> <i>Introduction</i>	Describe the project objectives and scope of work as well as the research methodology and source of information	
<b>Section 2:</b> <i>Description of Proposed Project</i>	Describe the project in terms of the location, activities taking place, equipment and facilities, and anything else that constitutes the project such as the needs and desirability analysis	
<b>Section 3:</b> <i>Policy Review</i>	Analyse the relevant national, provincial and local policies and evaluate the project alignment within those policies	
<b>Section 4:</b> <i>Socio-Economic Analysis</i>	Identify and analyse the socio-economic and economic analysis of the study areas	
<b>Section 5:</b> <i>Area of Impact</i>	Define the area of impact, the zones of influence as well as the socio-economic profile of the area	
<b>Section 6:</b> <i>Preliminary Impacts Identification</i>	Assesses the positive and negative impacts, their duration and extent, as well as the intensity of the impacts	
<b>Section 7: Conclusion and Recommendations</b>		

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In this section a description of the proposed 4x100MW Solar PV Facilities is provided. The site where the proposed project will be located and the activities that will take place on and off the site will be discussed. A preferred project site with an extent of ~1 237ha has been identified by Mutsho Power (Pty) Ltd as a technically suitable area for the development of the MSPP.

Infrastructure associated with each of the Solar PV Facilities, which will enable the facility to supply a contracted capacity of up to 100MW (400MW combined), will include:

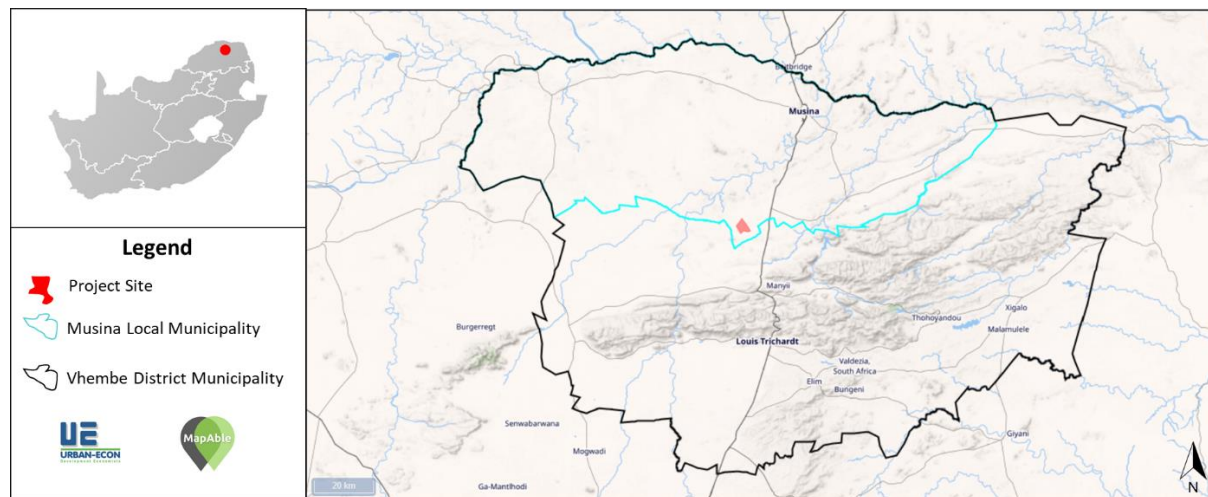
- Solar PV array comprising PV panels and mounting structures.
- Inverters and transformers.
- Cabling between the project components.
- 33/132kV onsite substation (IPP Portion), including associated equipment and infrastructure – the onsite substation will be completely constructed as part of phase 1 but only equipped for the first 100MW. When such a time comes that the next 100 MW is constructed, the existing substation will be equipped for the additional 100MW generation capacity (i.e., additional transformers, extending the busbars, etc.). This approach will be followed as each 100MW facility is added to the cluster.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) - In a similar manner to the onsite substation, one BESS will be constructed for the entire 400MW project. The BESS will be added in a phased approach as required. Each project phase may or may not require a BESS, depending on the Power Purchase Agreement requirements.
- Site offices, warehouses, and guardhouses.
- Water storage tanks at admin block for human consumption.
- Laydown areas.
- Internal gravel distribution roads.

The Solar PV Facilities are proposed in response to the identified objectives of the national and provincial government and local and district municipalities to develop renewable energy facilities for power generation purposes. It is the developer's intention to bid the facilities under the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE's) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme, or a similar programme, with the aim of evacuating the generated power into the national grid. This will aid in the diversification and stabilisation of the country's electricity supply, in line with the objectives of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the facilities set to inject up to 4x100MW into the national grid.

## 2.1 Site Location

The project is located in the Musina Local Municipality and within the Vhembe District Municipality in Limpopo. Map 2-1 below indicates the locations of the proposed MSPP on a macro-level.

**Map 2-1: Mutsho Solar Power Project Location**



## 2.2 Description of Planned Construction Activities and Methodology

**\*Still waiting for the information**

## 2.3 Needs and Desirability

South Africa is currently experiencing electricity supply challenges, which in turn is leading to periodic load shedding. The impact of load shedding has had massive effects on the economy and society at large. Furthermore, impacts of COVID-19, reduced business confidence and national sub-investment downgrades have all had impacts on the economy of the country. This section outlines the need and desirability of the proposed MSPP based on the above-mentioned aspects.

### 2.3.1 South African electricity supply

South Africa's energy mix is largely focused on the use of non-renewable fossil fuels. The Department of Energy (DoE) notes that 83% of electricity production in South Africa is supplied by coal followed distantly by 6% pumped storage, 5% gas, 4% nuclear, 2% hydroelectric and 0,2% wind (National Department of Energy (DOE), 2019). It is noted by the DoE that renewables are the future of energy generation in South Africa especially as the costs of generating electricity through traditional means increases (National Department of Energy (DOE), 2019).

South Africa is also considered to be the world's 14th largest emitter of greenhouse gases (McSweeney & Timperley, 2018). The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are principally due to a heavy reliance on coal to produce energy. South Africa has also pledged (through the Paris Accord) to reduce emissions and cap the amount of greenhouse gases that would be emitted. This commitment was aligned to the national planning policy which promoted the utilisation of renewable resources to generate energy (McSweeney & Timperley, 2018).

Globally, there has been an increasing shift towards the responsible utilisation of non-renewable energy sources and towards sustainable and non-polluting methods of energy production. The Renewables 2019 Global Status Report GSR (The Renewables 2019 Global Status Report, 2019) noted that there has been an increase of utilisation of renewable energy around the world and there has been a steady increase in the amount of MW produced by sustainable sources (REN21, 2019). Renewables made up 29% of global electricity generation by the end of 2020. Led by wind power and solar PV, more than 256 GW of capacity was added in 2020, an increase of nearly 10% in total installed renewable power capacity (Renewables 2021, 2021).

Most areas in South Africa average more than 2 500 hours of sunshine per year, and average solar-radiation levels range between 4.5 and 6.5kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in one day. The southern African region, and in fact the whole of Africa, has sunshine all year round. The annual 24-hour global solar radiation average is about 220 W/m<sup>2</sup> for South Africa, compared with about 150 W/m<sup>2</sup> for parts of the USA, and about 100 W/m<sup>2</sup> for Europe and the United Kingdom. This makes South Africa's local resource one of the highest in the world (Department of Energy, 2022). The use of solar energy is the most readily accessible resource in South Africa. It lends itself to a number of potential uses and the country's solar-equipment industry is developing. Annual photovoltaic (PV) panel-assembly capacity totals 5MW, and a number of companies in South Africa manufacture solar water-heaters.

Additionally, the supply of electricity in South Africa is currently exceptionally constrained. Load shedding in South Africa began in 2007 as a result of insufficient electricity generating capacity by the government-owned national power utility, Eskom. The advent of load shedding has brought numerous direct economic impacts, indirect economic impacts and social impacts to South Africa. These are outlined in the table below:

**Table 2-1: The consequences of power interruptions**

Direct Economic Impacts	Indirect Economic Impacts	Social Impacts
Loss of business and manufacturing production	Cost of postponed income	Loss of leisure time
Restart costs	Loss of market share	Risks to health and safety
Equipment damage	Limitations to expansion and growth of production	
Raw material spoilage	Loss of competitive advantages	
Cost of backup systems	Loss of investor confidence	

Source: (Goldberg, 2015)

These costs are associated with losses to productivity and limitation of growth for companies and as a result limit the growth of the country (Goldberg, 2015). Load shedding thus threatens jobs, economic recovery, and the livelihood of many South Africans around the country.

Local research done through government agencies has also noted the need for change in the electricity industry. The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), (National Electricity Industry Regulation: A different focus on the electricity supply industry challenges and possible solutions, 2020) has examined the electricity supply industry challenges and possible solutions for those challenges and has maintained that continued price increases for electricity is unsustainable as it reduces demand. The increase in electricity prices has led to an increase in export of un-beneficiated ore which is likely to increase as the electricity price increases (NERSA, 2020).

It has also been noted that there has been a reduction in export volumes of minerals which is likely a result of the increased price of electricity and unstable electricity supply. It has also been noted that the negative trend in exports mimic the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth trends, which seems to be inversely proportional to electricity prices (NERSA, 2020). NERSA has also noted that electricity price is a significant cost driver for some sectors. The increase in electricity cost has a greater impact on some sectors such as the metals, steel and mining industry and less of an impact on other industries such as the transport industry.

New energy trends have also been noted by NERSA (NERSA, 2020). Their position is that the obligation to supply the majority of domestic, commercial, and small industries energy (day load) should be removed from Eskom and be supplied by renewable energy IPP sources (NERSA, 2020). It can thus be deduced that at a national level any additional energy production which is sustainable, and renewable would improve energy security, further South Africa's goals towards international agreements, provide employment and assist in improving investor confidence in the country.

### 2.3.2 Just Energy Transition (JET)

According to International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), (Strategies for just energy transitions, 2018), energy transitions are shifts in the way people produce and consume energy using different technologies and sources. A low-carbon energy transition is a type of energy transition involving a shift from high-carbon energy sources such as oil, gas and coal to low-carbon and zero-carbon energy sources such as renewables.

A just energy transition is a negotiated vision and process centred on dialogue, supported by a set of guiding principles, to shift practices in energy production and consumption. It aims to minimize negative impacts on workers and communities with stakes in high-carbon sectors that will wind down, and to maximize positive opportunities for new decent jobs in the low-carbon growth sectors of the future. It strives to ensure that the costs and benefits of the transition are equitably shared.

Acting sooner rather than later can make energy transitions less expensive and more equitable, while also providing new opportunities for countries to build low-carbon industries. Nonetheless, overcoming "carbon lock-in" is difficult, and targeted political and media efforts are required to speed up just energy transitions. Much may be done to help these processes, which are either underway or in the early stages in many nations. Based on case studies and research, the table below lists concrete steps that governments can take to begin or accelerate a just energy transition (IISD, 2018).

**Table 2-2: Implementation Steps for JET**

<b>Understanding the context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Map the political economy of an energy transition</li><li>• Use detailed analyses of positive and negative impacts of an energy transition (at national, regional or even plant level)</li></ul>
<b>Identifying champions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate international and regional exchange and peer learning between countries at different stages of energy transition processes, including engagement with labour, businesses, civil society, especially for developing country contexts</li><li>• Round tables at the country level to start or enhance a conversation on a just transition between all concerned stakeholders</li><li>• High-level dialogue between countries in similar situations to promote the idea of a just transition at the highest levels of government (e.g., at the EU, OECD or G20 level or bilaterally)</li></ul>
<b>Making the case</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop communications strategies for just energy transitions</li><li>• Set up inclusive processes for "two-way communications"</li><li>• Train government officials in communications</li></ul>
<b>Implementing just transition measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote localized green jobs, including in decentralized energy and energy efficiency, and link this explicitly to the energy transition</li><li>• Mobilize additional funding to promote visible and tangible just transition measures, and communicate about the benefits</li><li>• Share best practices of just transition measures</li></ul>

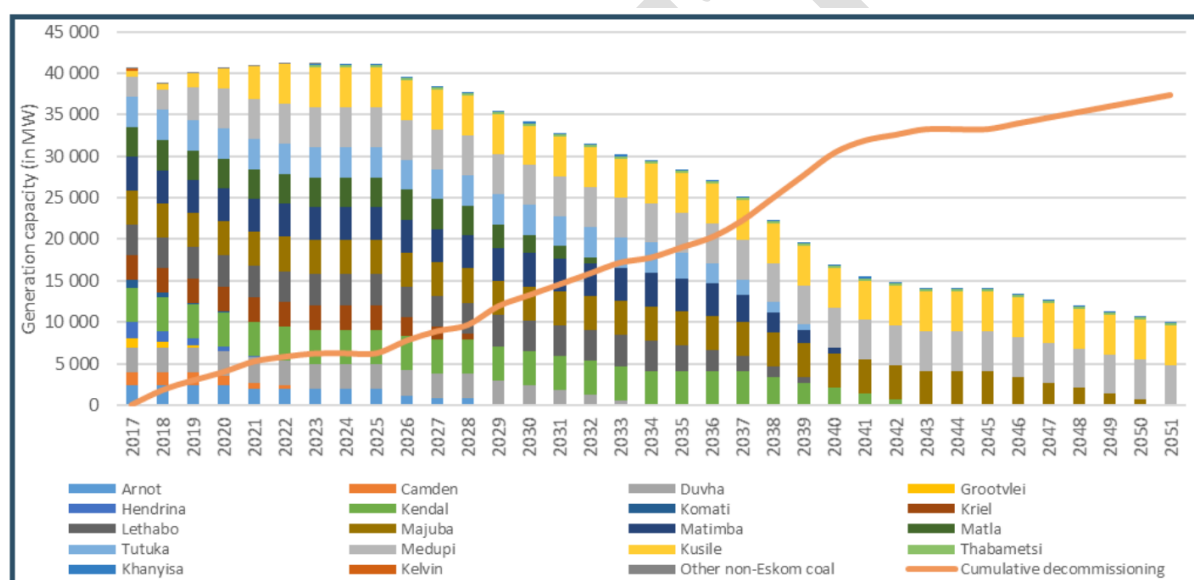
**Source: (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2018)**



According to Trade & Industry Policy Strategies (TIPS) (Making sense of jobs in South Africa's just energy transition: Managing the impact of a coal transition on employment, 2021), South Africa's just transition plan is both essential and conspicuously absent as the reality of a coal transition and coal power decommissioning approaches. The need to manage the transition's effects on employees and local economic development, particularly in coal-dependent regions and communities, is urgent. It is necessary to have a credible fact base from which to make suitable and widely supported decisions.

Several specific political consensuses must be brokered in this conceptual clearing in order to enable policy creation and execution, as well as investment, for a green and just transition.

**Figure 2-1: South Africa's coal-based generation capacity and scheduled decommissioning**



Source: (Trade & Industry Policy Strategies, 2021)

The 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for electricity scheduled the decommissioning of Eskom's fleet of coal-fired power stations, stipulating that 5 200 MW of coal-based generation capacity will be decommissioned by 2022, 11 000 MW by 2030, and 35 000 MW by 2050. This trajectory will fundamentally alter the energy mix in South Africa with broad socio-economic implications.

### 2.3.3 Likely impact of COVID-19 on the South African economy

As stated above, the impact of COVID-19 has yet to be fully quantified as the pandemic is still ongoing at the time of drafting this report. Predictions from various sources indicate that the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy may be similar or slightly worse than the global financial crisis of 2007-2008. Indeed, at this point the large declines in bank equity prices since mid-January 2020 suggest that

investors are concerned about profitability and prospects for the banking sector (Adrian & Natalucci, 2020). For example, measures of bank capitalisation based on market prices are now worse than during the 2008 global financial crisis in many countries. The concern is that banks and other financial intermediaries may act as an amplifier should the crisis deepen further (Adrian & Natalucci, 2020). Emerging markets risk bearing the heaviest burden in this time of distress. In fact, emerging markets have experienced the sharpest portfolio flow reversal on record—about \$100 billion or 0.4 percent of their GDP—posing stark challenges to more vulnerable countries (Adrian & Natalucci, 2020). South Africa has not been spared this burden, which has been exacerbated as a result of the sub-investment downgrade by credit ratings agencies in 2017 and 2020.

At a local level, sources expect the GDP of South Africa to contract between 4%-8% e-SEK (Making sense of COVID-19's impact on South African businesses, 2020) and van Week (SA's "big bazooka" stimulus package explained, 2020), with a revenue shortfall of between R 70 and R 100 billion. The budget deficit is expected to accelerate from an initial forecast of 6.8% of GDP to more than 10% (van Wyk C. , 2020). Once this shock to the economic and social system has been dealt with at a national and international level, there will be a need to strengthen and develop the South African economy. One of the necessary components of a functional economy will be the provision of a stable electricity supply. The South African energy provision system is currently and has in the past decade been, notoriously unreliable which has had a major impact on investor confidence and the overall development of the country.

#### 2.3.4 National sub-investment downgrades

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Moody's Investor Service (Moody's) downgraded South Africa's long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer ratings to Ba1 from Baa3 (Junk Status). Moody's is the third and last of the major credit rating agencies to downgrade South Africa to junk status after Standard & Poor's and Fitch's both downgraded South Africa in 2017 (Duvenage, 2020).

While these sub-investment ratings are worrying for the country, it is difficult to understand and predict what will happen to the currency in the short and medium term and currency fluctuations may occur. This is largely as a result of global dynamics that are currently in play, in particular the appetite for safe haven assets which is a far more powerful force than any of the local challenges that are emerging (Duvenage, 2020).

One of the known impacts of the downgrade was that South Africa fell out of the World Government Bond Index (WGBI) and other popular bond indexes, an index that measures the performance of fixed-rate, local currency, investment-grade sovereign bonds. The sub-investment rating means that South Africa has dropped out of some of the widely used global bond indexes and forced international funds which track these indexes to sell South African bonds. It is estimated that between \$22-\$28 billion in capital has already flowed out of local markets since 2018 with the recent downgrade account for between \$1,5 and \$8 billion (Duvenage, 2020).

This will likely result in a rise in government debt-servicing costs which could bring strain to the already frail economic system with revenue shortfalls and contraction in GDP (Duvenage, 2020). Furthermore, on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Standard & Poors Global Ratings further downgraded South Africa's sovereign credit rating into non-investment grade citing the impact of COVID-19 on South Africa's public finances and economic growth as one of the reasons for its ratings action (Swart & Goncalves, 2020).

The downgrade casts further doubt over South Africa's ability to recover post COVID-19. Some other impacts expected from the downgrade, include the deterioration of South Africa's credit reputation, less access to conventional credit markets; deterioration in consumer and business confidence leading to a potential contraction in private investment and consumption demand; South Africa losing its status in various bond indices whereby some bond investors with mandate limitations are prohibited from buying the country's bonds; and a large forex outflow as foreign investors dump South African debt (Swart & Goncalves, 2020).

In terms of direct impacts on the construction of the proposed MSPP is that of currency fluctuations. With an unstable local currency, there may be unexpected and unplanned costs involved when importing technology for the project. The development and utilisation of local supply chains could go a long way in minimising the risks associated with currency fluctuations.

#### 2.3.5 Assessment of business confidence levels in South Africa

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined by 2.9 index points from 95.1 index points in January 2019 to 92.2 index points in January 2020. This was followed by a slight increase in BCI to 92.7 in February 2020. However, BCI levels dropped significantly to 89.9 making it the lowest level since August 2019. This was due to lower sales of new vehicles, a weaker rand exchange rate and lower share prices highlighting the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the country's trading partners and on the domestic economy.

Additionally, the local demand of goods and services declined due to the national lockdown imposed by the Government in order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 (SACCI, 2020a) (SACCI, 2020b). The BCI increased from an average of 86.5 to 93.9 between 2020 and 2021, indicating an improvement and recovery imposed by COVID-19. The BCI in January 2022 was calculated at 94.1, which is 0.4 points lower than January 2021 (SACCI, 2022). This resulted from unfavourable economic conditions facilitated by the external COVID-19 health shock and its impact which resulted in a restricted business climate and a restricted South African economy. The following indicators should be taken into consideration when analysing the business environment as they negatively contributed to the BCI:

- » Manufacturing
- » Imports
- » Construction
- » Inflation
- » Precious metal prices
- » Rand exchange rate
- » Energy Supply

However, there were positive contributors to the BCI, including:

- » Exports
- » Vehicle sales
- » Share prices
- » Real financing costs

Thus, the business confidence levels in South Africa have been uncertain owing to the abovementioned conditions. Overall, the SACCI BCI trended downwards from 103.2 to 94.0 index points between March 2013 and March 2021. Furthermore, business confidence levels in the country plunged to their lowest levels in more than two decades in the first quarter of 2020 and could weaken even further due to the effects of the COVID-19 and oil price drops. These issues affect both the local and global economies (SAPOA, 2020). The further development of renewable energy would likely lead to improved supply of electricity for the development of the economy.

This is likely to improve business confidence in the country as sustainable energy supply is one of the key concerns of business moving forward. International investors have also noted, with concern, that the lack of availability of a consistent energy system does not lend itself to growth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (Santander, 2020). The development of renewable energy systems is seen by local and foreign business owners as the future of energy generation and may increase business confidence both locally and internationally (Kovaleski, 2019).

### 3 POLICY REVIEW AND PROJECT ALIGNMENT

This chapter examines the key legislation and policies relevant to the proposed development and includes a review of pertinent national, provincial and local policies that have a direct bearing on the development. Following this the chapter outlines the needs and desirability of such a development accordingly.

#### 3.1 Policy and Planning Environment

The overall aim of this review process is to provide insight into the government's priorities and plans in terms of renewable energies. This assists in determining the relevance of the project with regard to the development objectives of the various spheres of government as well as in identifying potential developmental conflicts that the project might create. A brief review of the most relevant documents is provided in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1: Brief Overview of relevant policies**

Policy	Key Policy Objectives	Source
<b>National Policy: South Africa</b>		
National Development Plan 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating jobs and livelihoods</li> <li>• Expanding infrastructure</li> <li>• Transitioning to a low-carbon economy</li> <li>• Transforming urban and rural spaces</li> <li>• Improving education and training</li> <li>• Providing quality health care</li> <li>• Building a capable state</li> <li>• Transforming society and uniting the nation</li> <li>• Fighting corruption and enhancing accountability</li> </ul>	(NPC, 2012)
New Growth Path Framework 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure investment</li> <li>• Main economic sectors as employment sectors</li> <li>• Seizing the potential of new economies</li> <li>• Investing in social capital and public services</li> <li>• Fostering rural development and regional integration</li> </ul>	(South African Government, 2011)
Renewable Energy Vision 2030 South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy as an exceptional source of flexible supply within the context of uncertain energy demand</li> <li>• Comprehensive renewable energy base will support a resilient South African future</li> <li>• A sustainable energy mix that excludes undue risks for the environment of society</li> </ul>	(World Wildlife Fund, 2014)
Integrated Resource Plan 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IRP (2019) has indicated that South Africa should continue to track a diversified energy mix which lessens reliance on a few primary energy sources.</li> <li>• The IRP document expects a total of 9 980 MW of additional wind capacity to be introduced in South Africa by 2030. The wind Independent Power Producers (IPPs) constitute the largest single renewables technology procured to date under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.</li> </ul>	(Department of Energy, 2019)

Policy	Key Policy Objectives	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocations to safeguard the development of wind energy projects aligned with the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 should continue to be pursued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure energy security and supply</li> <li>Reduce environmental impacts</li> <li>Endorse job creation and localisation</li> <li>Lessen cost of energy</li> <li>Reduce water consumption</li> <li>Diversify supply sources</li> <li>Promote energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote energy access</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Additionally, the IRP (2019) indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind energy will be 22.5% of the energy mix compared to solar at 11% by 2030</li> </ul>	
The Constitution of South Africa 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being” (S24)</li> <li>The environment should be protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent pollution and ecological degradation</li> <li>Promote conservation</li> <li>Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	(Republic of South Africa, 1996)
White Paper on Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks to ensure that an equitable level of national resources is invested in renewable technologies, given their potential and compared to investments in other energy supply options</li> <li>Aims to create energy security by diversifying the energy supply and energy carriers</li> </ul>	(Department of Minerals and Energy, 1998)
White Paper on the Renewable Energy Policy of RSA 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pledges government support for the development, demonstration and implementation of renewable energy sources for both small and large-scale applications</li> </ul>	(Department of Minerals and Energy, 2003)
<b>Provincial Policy: Limpopo</b>		
Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan, 2009 – 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlights the current economic landscape of Limpopo with a view of the future growth and development of the province.</li> <li>The LEGDP prioritise sustainable resource management by diversification of the energy mix in pursuit of renewable energy alternatives and the promotion of energy efficiency</li> </ul> <p>The Limpopo province will prioritise the key challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authoritative voice for renewable energies across the province</li> <li>Regulatory and capacity support in facilitating the use of renewable energy</li> <li>High expertise in the use of all forms of renewable energy and integration into energy systems covering technological, economical and institutional, cultural, social and environmental aspects</li> <li>Relevant information including reliable data on the potential of renewable energy, best practices, effective financial mechanisms and state-of-the-art technological expertise.</li> </ul>	(Limpopo Provincial Government, 2009)

Policy	Key Policy Objectives	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LEGDP further promotes renewable energy in the province and is prioritising (REP) Renewable Energy Partnership.</li> </ul>	
Limpopo Development Plan 2015 - 2019	<p>The purpose of the LDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines the contribution from Limpopo to the NDP</li> <li>Provide a framework for strategic plans</li> <li>Create a structure for the constructive participation of private sector business and organised labour towards the achievement of provincial growth and development objective</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP supports the increase in interest of renewable energy</li> <li>Solar PV electricity generation is listed as a priority infrastructure project within the LDP.</li> <li>The LDP states that the LEDET department (Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism) will be responsible for implementing the Green Economy Strategy.</li> <li>The Green Economy Unit will also be responsible to drive the provincial electricity risk mitigation strategy by way of new solar photovoltaic projects, as well the promotion of co-generation and a provincial electricity conservation campaign.</li> </ul>	(Limpopo Provincial Government, 2015)
<b>District &amp; Local Municipal Policy: Vhembe DM &amp; Musina LM</b>		
Vhembe District Municipality IDP, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vhembe District IDP acknowledges green economy development as a primary objective. The IDP further states that investment in research for new technologies will be prioritised.</li> <li>The IDP confirms that the district together with UNIVEN/Gondal/CLGH and Eskom are engaged in supporting the Bio energy projects and manufacturing of Solar power in the district.</li> </ul>	(Vhembe District Municipality, 2021)
Musina Local Municipality IDP, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar energy is listed as an opportunity within the local municipalities' IDP.</li> </ul>	(Musina Local Municipality, 2022)

The review of the policy environment suggests that utilisation, application and investment in renewable energy sources in South Africa is considered to be an integral means of reducing the carbon footprint of the country, diversifying the national economy, reducing poverty and creating much-needed additional sources of energy. Any project contributing to the above-mentioned objectives can therefore be considered strategically important to South Africa.

From a provincial and municipal policy perspective the facilitation of renewable energy projects and interventions that relate to the broader green economy are seen as a priority in terms of the policies and strategies developed. However, Local Economic Development Plans in both the district and local municipalities should be updated, to ensure clear objectives for these areas to be developed and sustainable economic development.

## 4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

This section documents various aspects of the primary study area including, population and household numbers, income levels and employment. In addition, the chapter also reviews the economic structure and performance of the study area.

The intention of this review is to provide an overview of the socio-economic context of the area so as to better understand the dynamics of the area and to inform the SEIA process. The Limpopo Province has been identified, as well as Musina local municipality that falls within the Vhembe district.

### 4.1 Population, Income and Employment Profile

The Musina Local Municipality falls within the Vhembe District Municipality, whereas Musina accounts for 24% of the population and of the households in the district.

Population growth between 2010 and 2020 was 3,0% year-on-year for the local municipality which compared favourably to the district municipality (1,1%) and Limpopo (0,9%) over the same period. The high population growth in Musina indicates that the municipality offers several opportunities, attracting people towards the area, this can also be motivated by the higher average monthly household income, which is the highest (R5 450).

**Table 4-1: Overview of the primary study areas population structure**

Indicator	Limpopo	Vhembe District Municipality	Musina Local Municipality
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	125 753	25 596	7 576
Population	5 953 748	1 458 007	79 224
Number of Households	1 555 907	375 966	23 401
Population density (km <sup>2</sup> )	47	56	10
Average household size	3,8	3,8	3,3
Annual population growth (2010-2020)	0,9%	1,1%	3,0%
<b>Average monthly household income</b>	<b>R4 713</b>	<b>R3 887</b>	<b>R5 450</b>

Source: Quantec Standardised Regional (2022); Stats SA (2011) forecast to 2022

The average household income for the Vhembe District Municipality in 2022 is estimated to be R3 887,00. The proposed MSPP will also attract additional population to the study area as several employment opportunities will be created through the development, this will ensure a sustainable population growth.



**Table 4-2: Employment profile of the study areas**

Indicator	Limpopo	Vhembe District Municipality	Musina Local Municipality
Employed	1 028 379	225 033	28 374
Unemployment Rate	35,9%	37,1%	20,2%
Not Economically Active	1 907 905	501 670	18 209
Labour force participation rate	29,3%	26,2%	52,8%

Source: Quantec Standardised Regional (2022)

Table 4-2 indicates the number of people employed and not economically active, the percentage of the population unemployed as well as the labour force participation rate for areas in review. The relatively lower unemployment rate and higher labour force participation relative to the district averages further suggests that the local municipality are subject to inward migration due to the employment opportunities available within the local municipalities.

## 4.2 Economic Profile

The following subsection outlines the economic profile at a national as well as a provincial, district municipal and local municipal level.

Nationally, South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded its fourth consecutive quarter growth, expanding with 1,2% in the second quarter of 2021 (April-June), this followed the increase of 1% in the first quarter (January-March). However, despite the gains made over the last four quarters, the economy is 1,4% smaller than what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic (StatsSA, 2021).

### 4.2.1 Regional economic profile

The GVA (Gross Value Added) of the Musina Local Municipality was R9,8 million in 2020 (constant prices), which collectively accounts for just over 12% of the district economy's GVA, and 1,8% of the Limpopo's. The proposed MSPP will contribute further to the economy and ensure sustainability.

**Table 4-3: Economic structure between 2010 and 2020 (constant 2015 prices; R' millions)**

Sector	Limpopo		Vhembe District Municipality		Musina Local Municipality	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Agriculture and hunting	4,76%	7,52%	5,49%	9,29%	20,86%	29,41%
Mining and quarrying	26,55%	26,25%	3,19%	2,26%	14,43%	8,45%
Manufacturing	6,40%	5,91%	4,94%	3,97%	4,88%	3,89%
Electricity, gas and water	4,12%	3,38%	4,78%	3,55%	2,00%	1,61%
Construction	6,27%	4,93%	8,42%	5,28%	5,19%	3,74%
Trade	13,03%	11,54%	17,07%	15,55%	19,68%	21,24%
Transport and communication	5,20%	4,50%	6,77%	5,70%	7,07%	4,59%
Finance and business services	15,00%	16,61%	18,20%	20,71%	14,95%	16,27%
Community services	4,95%	5,38%	8,49%	9,45%	3,95%	4,18%
General government	13,72%	13,97%	22,65%	24,25%	6,98%	6,61%
<b>TOTAL GVA</b>	<b>R495 071</b>	<b>R547 117</b>	<b>R77 736</b>	<b>R82 798</b>	<b>R7 428</b>	<b>R9 857</b>

Source: Quantec Standardised Regional (2022)

The growth of the local municipality over the last few years was largely due to the strong performance of the agriculture, trade, finance business services sectors. Mining and quarrying indicated a contraction in the last 10-years in the district and local municipalities but remains a large contributor in the economy. Electricity is a small sized industry in the municipality, any new development would likely greatly increase the contribution of the utilities and construction sectors to the GVA.

**Table 4-4: GVA per sector for the Musina Local Municipality (2015 constant prices; in R' millions)**

Sector	Musina Local Municipality		
	2010	2020	Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)
Agriculture and hunting	R1 550	R2 899	6,46%
Mining and quarrying	R1 072	R833	-2,49%
Manufacturing	R363	R384	0,57%
Electricity, gas and water	R149	R159	0,68%
Construction	R385	R368	-0,45%
Trade	R1 462	R2 093	3,65%
Transport and communication	R525	R453	-1,48%
Finance and business services	R1 111	R1 603	3,74%
Community services	R293	R412	3,46%
General government	R518	R652	2,32%
<b>TOTAL GVA</b>	<b>R7 428,4</b>	<b>R9 857,1</b>	<b>2,87%</b>

Source: Quantec Standardised Regional (2022)

Over the last ten years, the Compound Average Growth Rate (CAGR) of Musina Municipality increased with 2,87%. The sectors responsible for the increase of the overall GVA a growth over the 10-year period in Musina Local Municipality was agriculture and trade. The mining, construction and transport sectors indicated a contraction. The utilities sector indicates a growth of 0,68%, the proposed MSPP will further increase this sector's performance.

As evident by Table 4-5 the agriculture sector employs the most with a 38,92% contribution in 2020 in the Musina Local Municipality. The utilities sector employs the least to employment in the municipality, the proposed MSPP will increase the number of employees in this sector. The local agricultural sector includes limited subsistence (informal) farming, unlike other areas in Limpopo, where this practice is more dominant. The presence of this subsistence agricultural activity means that the number of households that are dependent on agricultural activities for income could be slightly greater than the figures presented in Table 4-5. This is due to the fact that the table only indicates those individuals that are formally employed in the agricultural sector.

**Table 4-5: Employment structure and contribution of the Musina Local Municipality between 2010 and 2020 per economic sector**

Sector	Musina Local Municipality	
	2010	2020
Agriculture and hunting	41,32%	38,92%
Mining and quarrying	1,15%	0,86%
Manufacturing	3,99%	3,52%
Electricity, gas, and water	0,18%	0,21%
Construction	3,37%	3,26%
Trade	18,22%	22,41%
Transport and communication	3,22%	3,45%
Finance and business services	8,80%	9,48%
Community services	3,91%	4,12%
General government	15,85%	13,77%
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>23 110</b>	<b>28 374</b>

Source: Quantec Standardised Regional (2022)

In general, agricultural activities are relatively labour intensive, thus a small decline in the size of the sector would generally lead to greater job losses than for example in manufacturing or utilities, which tend to be more capital intensive in nature. The agricultural sector is also frequently one of the largest employers in rural areas and it is for these two reasons that the sector is generally prioritised in development strategies.

## 5 THE AREA OF IMPACT

### 5.1 Introduction

In this section a description of the area that will be impacted on is provided. The geographic area (referred to hereafter as the Area of Impact/Influence - AOI) for which the socio-economic baseline is developed is based on the assumption that the people, communities and businesses immediately surrounding the projects are likely to experience the greatest socio-economic impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project.

The socio-economic AOI is determined based on the following:

- » Assessment of the area of impact based on the construction and operation activities on the sites.
- » The nature of the activities such as the operation of heavy machines and equipment described in the preceding section, heavy vehicles and trucks moving to and from the site.
- » Distances of communities and people living from the site and areas where the activities including the transport activities will take place.
- » The likely impact of air quality, visual and noise generated on the site and along the transport routes. Note that separate air, noise and visual specialist reports are prepared that deals with these impacts in more detail.

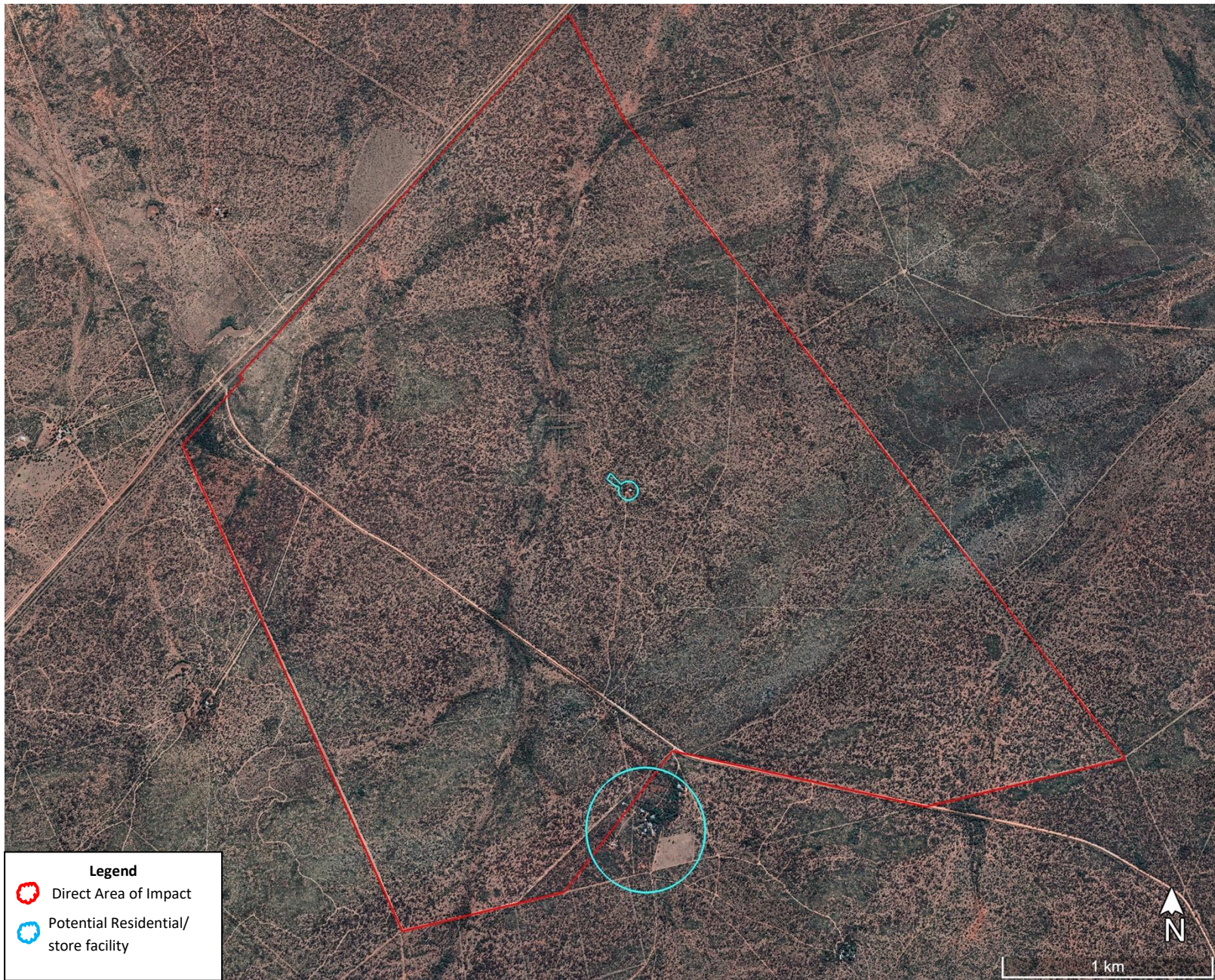
### 5.2 Direct Area of Impact

The direct or immediate socio-economic Area of Impact (AOI) of the proposed MSPP is indicated in Map 5-1 by the red line. At this stage of the project, the direct AOI is seen as the total site and the roads giving access to the site this will be adjusted as the detailed layout plans are made available.

The majority of the direct AOI covers bushveld (game farms), with very few buildings. There are two sites identified where buildings are situated, it is still to be confirmed if it is permanent residents or only store facilities.



Map 5-1: AOI and Zone of Influence





## 6 IMPACT ANALYSIS

### 6.1 Introduction

The Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment (1998) defines social impacts as:

*“The consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organise to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society.”*

### 6.2 Social and Socio-Economic Impacts

Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIA) are instruments intended to identify and where possible quantify both economic and socio-economic impacts. Typically, socio-economic impacts are assessed from the perspective of the specific local people, households, community, business and other land-uses in the environment.

### 6.3 Economic Impacts

Typically, economic impacts are assessed from the perspective of the national and regional economy within which the proposed development is to be implemented. Economic impacts can be defined as the effects (positive or negative) on the level of economic activity in a given area(s). The net economic impact is usually measured as the expansion or contraction of an area's economy, resulting from the changes in (i.e. opening, closing, expansion or contraction of a facility, project or programme).

All new projects have two basic types of investments, namely an initial capital injection/expenditure which can take the form of either a greenfield development (i.e. new construction project on vacant land) or brownfield development (i.e. a modification of an existing structure and there is an annual investment made to maintain/operate the investment).

The economic impacts created by a capital injection are once-off impacts that will occur for the duration of construction. Thus, economic impacts associated with the construction phase are not sustainable economic impacts. Operational economic impacts, unlike capital expenditure economic impacts, are sustainable and thus are calculated as an annual impact based on operational expenditure for a given year.

Hence the temporal nature of capital expenditure and long-term nature of operational expenditure impacts cannot be added together to determine the total economic impact.

The net economic impact of an exogenous change in the economy will be translated according to various direct and indirect economic effects, as outlined below:

**Direct economic impacts:** The changes in local business activity as a direct consequence of public or private activity in the economy. Furthermore, increased user benefits lead to monetary benefits for some users and non-users within the geographical area:

- » For affected residents, benefits may include reduced costs for obtaining goods and services, increased income from selling goods and services to outsiders, and/or increased variety of work and recreational opportunities associated with greater location accessibility. For affected businesses, there may be economic efficiency benefits in terms of product cost, product quality or product availability, stemming from changes in labour market access, cost of obtaining production inputs and/or cost of supplying finished products to customers.

**Indirect and induced impacts:** The direct benefits to business and the residents of communities and regions may also have broader indirect/induced impacts:

- » Indirect – Growth of municipal revenues due to raised taxes and service levies.
- » Induced – Business growth as the additional workers (created by direct and indirect economic impacts/effects) spend their income on food, clothing, shelter and other local goods and services.

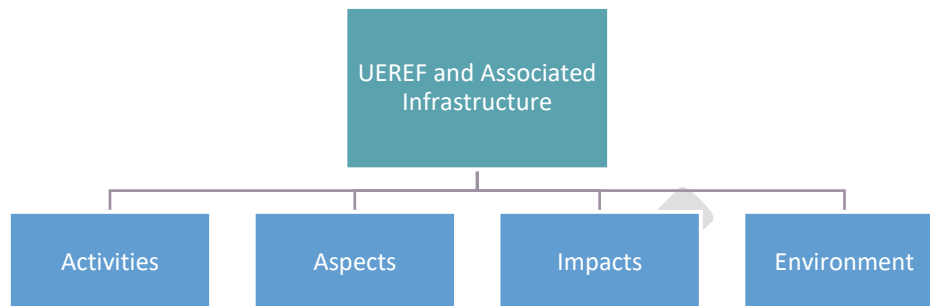
Economic impacts refer to the impact that the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the proposed development will have on the economy, as measured by the following economic indicators:

- » **Contribution to Regional GDP:** Regional GDP is a broader measure of the full income effect. This measure reflects the sum of wage income and corporate profit generated in the study area due to an exogenous change in the regional economy.
- » **Employment Creation:** The employment resulting from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project under investigation. The skill level of employment created is also considered.
- » **Production/Business Sales:** The value of all inter- and intra-sectoral business sales generated in the economy because of the introduction of an exogenous change in the economy. Explained more simply, new business sales equate to additional business turnover as a result of the introduction of an exogenous change in the economy (e.g. the construction of a powerline and substation).

## 6.4 Identification of Socio-Economic Issues and Potential Impacts

The process of identifying potential impacts is illustrated in Figure 6-1.

Figure 6-1: Process of Identifying Potential Impacts



## 6.5 Preliminary Impact Assessment

The following sub-section will determine the preliminary impacts that the proposed 4x100 MW Solar PV Facility will have.

### 6.5.1 Construction Phase Impacts

The following sub-sections indicate the impacts that are likely to occur during the construction phase of the proposed MSPP. Since the facility are expected to have both positive and negative effects in terms of the same indicator, the evaluation of impacts has been grouped accordingly.

#### Positive impacts during construction:

- Temporary stimulation of the national and local economy (GDP and Production)
- Temporary increase employment in the national and local economies
- Contribution to skills development in the country and local economy
- Temporary increase in household earnings
- Temporary increase in government revenue

#### Potential negative impacts during construction:

- Negative changes to the sense of place
- Temporary increase in social conflicts associated with the influx of people
- Impacts on daily movement patterns



### 6.5.2 Operation Phase Impacts

The following sub-section describes the impact that the proposed MSPP will have once it is operational. The facility is envisaged to have a long lifespan, which means that the impacts observed during this phase, regardless of whether the impacts are positive or negative, will be long-lasting.

#### **Positive impacts during operations:**

- Sustainable increase in production and GDP nationally and locally
- Creation of sustainable employment positions nationally and locally
- Improved standards of living for benefiting households
- Sustainable increase in national and local government revenue
- Sustainable rental revenue for farms where the Solar PV Facility is located
- Sustainable increase in electricity available for the local region and South Africa

#### **Potential negative impacts during operations:**

- Negative changes to the sense of place
- Negative impact on farming operations

### 6.5.3 Decommissioning Phase Impacts

Upon the expiry of the facility's lifespan, the facility would need to be disbanded, although the facility would likely be upgraded in order to maintain and prolong the lifespan of the facility. If the facility is decommissioned, the land will be rehabilitated in order to return it to pre-project conditions. This also means that all impacts whether positive or negative, which take place during the operation phase will cease to exist. At the same time spending on the disassembly of the components and rehabilitation of land will increase the demand for construction services and other industries, thus stimulating economic activity in the local area, albeit over a temporary period. Socio-economic impacts stimulated during the decommissioning phase are expected to be similar to those that took place during the construction phase. However, people who were permanently employed at the facility during the operational phase will lose their jobs during the decommissioning phase.

## 6.6 Identification of Social and Economic Impacts

This sub-section presents the analysis of the socio-economic impacts that are expected to ensue as a result of the development of the proposed MSPP and an evaluation of these impacts according to the predefined criteria. The potential socio-economic impacts identified arise as a consequence of construction, operation, and closure of the MSPP.

### 6.6.1 Impacts Ensued During Construction

#### Increased Production

<b>Impact</b> Expenditure associated with the construction of the proposed MSPP will impact on the production of the local economy.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The economic impact arising from the initial investment will be felt throughout the economy with windfall effects benefitting related sectors in the economy. The effect is allocated according to direct, indirect and induced impacts, together forming the “multiplier effect”	<b>Positive</b> – The initial investment spend on the project will inject significant business sales/ production for the local and regional economy.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The estimated capital expenditure of the project will provide a significant injection into the local and regional economies. The CAPEX is estimated to be R500 million for the project. The impact will be positive, temporary, short-term, local to national extend, and the significance is high.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the exact direct and indirect employment impact on business output / production will be determined during the EIA phase of the impact assessment.			

#### Impact on GDP

<b>Impact</b> Temporary increase in country's GDP due to capital expenditure during construction			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The primary method of expanding GDP levels is through investment into infrastructure and enterprises that generate goods and services. Investment into the creation of new and improved goods and services, creates heightened levels of value added within the economy. Industries that will experience the largest temporary growth in value added, as a result of this, will include the building and construction, manufacturing and trade and accommodation sectors.	<b>Positive</b> – The initial investment spend on the project will create significant value added for the local and regional economy.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b>			

The estimated capital expenditure of the project (R500 million) will create significant value added to the local and regional economy. The exact value of that impact will be determined during the EIA phase of the impact assessment. The impact will be positive, short term, have local to national extend and the significance is high.

**Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study**

- » Information on the exact direct and indirect value added will be determined during the EIA phase when the economic modelling is done.

## Employment Creation

**Impact**

The construction of the project will positively impact the community and beyond by creating a number of job opportunities (albeit temporary).

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

No sensitivity identified.

Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The unemployment rate in the local municipality is around 20%. The development of this facility create significant employment opportunities during the construction period.	<b>Positive</b> – The construction period will create a significant number of employment opportunities for the local economy.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	N/A

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The number of employment opportunities for the construction phase is estimated at 600 jobs.

**Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study**

- » Information on the exact number of job opportunities will be determined during the EIA phase when the economic modelling is done.

## Positive Impact on Skills Development

**Impact**

Employees will develop and enhance skills thereby increasing experience and knowledge

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

No sensitivity identified.

Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Skills are imperative for satisfying job requirements and adequately performing tasks that ultimately boost the economy. The construction of the Solar PV Facility requires a variation of skill sets ranging from semi-skilled construction workers to highly skilled engineers.	<b>Positive</b> – The transfer of skills to the workers, especially the semi-skilled workers will create a more capable workforce.	The impact will occur at a local, regional level.	N/A

**Description of expected significance of impact**

Employees who are new to the market will develop and attain new skills, whilst workers adept in particular skills will sharpen their abilities. In addition, the employees will improve their marketability for future employment and will be perceived positively by future employers. The impact will be long term, the extent will be local to regional and the significance is medium.

## Positive impact on household income and improved standard of living

**Impact**

Employed individuals will increase the income of their respective households and thereby experience an improvement in their standard of living

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The employment creation during the construction period will temporarily increase affected households' income	<b>Positive</b> – The increased income earned during the construction for workers will improve their standard of living as well as those of their households.	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and National.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> Employed individuals will increase the income of their respective households and therefore improve their standard of living during the construction period. In the context of the MSPP, workers employed in the construction as well as their households can expect an improvement in their quality of life and standard of living. The impact will be short term, local in extent and of medium significance.			

### Temporary Increase in Government Revenue

<b>Impact</b> The investment in the facility will generate revenue for the government during the construction period through a combination of personal income tax, VAT, companies' tax etc.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Government earnings will be distributed by national government to cover public spending which includes amongst others the provision and maintenance of transport infrastructure, health, and education services as well as other public goods.	<b>Positive</b> – The increased income earned during the construction for workers will generate revenue for government.	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and National.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The impact will be short term, local in extent and of medium significance.			

### Negative Changes in Sense of Place

<b>Impact</b> Sense of place impacts (visual, noise and dust).			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Sense of place impacts in terms of visual change of the area, increase in noise and dust levels due to construction activities.	<b>Negative</b> – The impact will negatively impact sensitive receptors and could cause disruptions for neighbouring properties.	The impact will occur at a local level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> Impacts associated with construction related activities include visual, noise and dust to adjacent properties. Site clearing activities increase the risk of dust and noise being generated, which can in turn negatively impact on adjacent properties. The impact is likely to be negative, local in extent, short-term, and of low significance.			

### Demographic shift due to influx of migrant labour

<b>Impact</b> An impact on the demographics of the area as a result of in-migration in response to job opportunities will occur			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas

Increased pressure on infrastructure and basic services, and social conflicts during construction as a result of in-migration of people.	<b>Negative</b> – The in-migration of job seekers to the area could result in increased pressure being placed on infrastructure and basic services, and a rise in social conflicts.	The impact will occur at a local and regional level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The in-migration of people to the area as either non-local workforce and / or jobseekers could result in increased pressure being placed on infrastructure and basic services on the local population (rise in social conflicts). An influx of people into the area, could lead to a temporary increase in crime levels, cause social disruption, and put pressure on basic services. An influx of people looking for economic opportunities could result in pressure on the local population such as rise in social conflicts and change in social dynamics, increase in HIV, pregnancies and drug abuse. Adverse impacts could occur if a large in-migrant workforce, which is culturally different from the local population, is brought in during construction. The impact is likely to be negative, local in extent, short-term, and of low significance due to the number of jobs expected to be created, and the proportion of which would accrue to the non-local workforce.			

### Impacts on daily movement patterns

<b>Impact</b> Impacts on daily living and movement patterns.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Temporary increase in traffic disruptions and movement patterns during the construction period.	<b>Negative</b> – An increase in traffic due to construction vehicles and heavy vehicles could create short-term disruptions and safety hazards for current road users.	The impact will occur at a local level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> Increased traffic due to construction vehicles and heavy vehicles could cause disruptions to road users and increase safety hazards. The use of local roads and transport systems may cause road deterioration and congestion. The impact is likely to be negative, local in extent, short-term, and of low significance.			
<b>Significance – Low (28)</b>			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Number of vehicle trips anticipated during construction.			

### 6.6.2 Impacts Ensued During Operations

#### Increased Production

<b>Impact</b> Expenditure associated with the operation of the proposed MSPP will have a positive impact on production			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Once operational, it is estimated that the proposed project will stimulate production.	<b>Positive</b> – The operational spend on the project will inject business sales/ production for the local and regional economy.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The operational expenditure will provide an injection into the local and regional economies. The project will have to acquire inputs from a variety of sectors such as trade and accommodation, transport and storage, and government services. It is estimated that the project has an OPEX of R20 million per year.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the exact direct and indirect employment impact on business output / production will be determined during the EIA phase of the impact assessment.			

## Impact on GDP

<b>Impact</b> Positive impact on GDP due to operating expenditure during operations			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The primary method of expanding GDP levels is through investment into infrastructure and enterprises that generate goods and services. Industries that will experience the largest growth in value added, as a result of this, will include the transport, storage and manufacturing sectors.	<b>Positive</b> – The operational spend on the project will create significant value added for the local and regional economy.	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and national.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The operational expenditure will create value added to the local and regional economy. The exact value of that impact will be determined during the EIA phase of the impact assessment. The impact will be positive, long term, local to national in extent and of medium significance.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the exact direct and indirect value added will be determined during the EIA phase when the economic modelling is done.			

## Employment Creation

<b>Impact</b> The project will create additional employment due to maintenance of the solar panels.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The operation of the project will create employment opportunities during the operational period.	<b>Positive</b> – The operations of the facility will create a number of employment opportunities for the local economy.	The impact will occur at a local, regional, and national level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The operation of this project will create minor employment opportunities during the operational period. Only maintenance will be needed, as the solar panels operate independently. The estimated employment for the operational phase of the project are 100 jobs.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the exact number of job opportunities will be determined during the EIA phase when the economic modelling is done.			

## Positive impact on household income and improved standard of living

<b>Impact</b> Employed individuals will increase the income of their respective households and thereby experience an improvement in their standard of living			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The employment creation during the operational period will permanently increase affected households' income	<b>Positive</b> – The increased income earned during the operations for workers will improve their standard of	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and National.	N/A

	living as well as those of their households.		
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> Employed individuals will increase the income of their respective households and therefore improve their standard of living during the operational period. In the context of the proposed facility, workers employed in the operations as well as their households can expect an improvement in their quality of life and standard of living. The impact will be long term, local in extent and of medium significance. <b>Significance – Medium (48)</b>			

### Increase in Government Revenue

<b>Impact</b> The investment in the project will generate revenue for the government during the operational period through a combination of personal income tax, VAT, companies' tax etc.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Government earnings will be distributed by national government to cover public spending which includes amongst others the provision and maintenance of transport infrastructure, health, and education services as well as other public goods.	<b>Positive</b> – The increased income earned during the operations for workers will generate revenue for government.	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and National.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The impact will be long term, local in extent and of medium significance.			

### Sustainable rental revenue for land owners

<b>Impact</b> Increase in revenue due to rental paid for land owners where the solar panels will be located			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
It is anticipated that farms where the solar panels will be located on will enter into a rental agreement with the developer. The owners will likely thus receive rental revenue as a result of hosting the panels on their property.	<b>Positive</b> – The increased income earned	The impact will occur at a local and regional level and National.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The impact will be long term, local in extent and of medium significance.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the amount to be paid to land owners could change the significance of the impact.			

### Improvement in Energy Sector Generation

<b>Impact</b> Improved energy security and energy sector will result due to the development of the MSPP.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas

The project will provide the important national service of providing new electricity capacity into the national grid. Strategically, the proposed project will assist in improving electricity security and reducing transmission losses in the national grid.	<b>Positive</b> – The operational phase of the project will improve energy and grid security.	The impact will occur at a local and regional and national level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The ability and operational flexibility are to be ramped up or down to suit the system demand on an hourly or daily basis, will additionally increase efficiency. The impact will be positive, long term, local to national extend and of high significance.			

## Visual and Sense of Place Impacts

<b>Impact</b> Visual and sense of place impacts.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Sense of place impacts from a social perspective associated with the operation phase of the facility (solar panels)	<b>Negative</b> – The project could alter the areas sense of place which could negatively impact on sensitive receptors.	The impact will occur at a local level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The presence of the solar panels could impact the “sense of place” for the local community. The impact is likely to be negative, local in extent, long-term, and of medium significance considering it is located within an agricultural dominated area.			

## Negative Impact on farming activities

<b>Impact</b> Loss of game farming space			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b> No sensitivity identified.			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
The solar panels will take up a certain amount of space, this will result in loss of game farming space.	<b>Negative</b> – Loss of land to generate income	The impact will occur at a local level.	N/A
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b> The impact is likely to be negative, local in extent, long-term, and of medium significance.			
<b>Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further study</b> » Information on the number of solar panels will determine to approximate land that is lost.			

## 7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Scoping Report focused on the collection of available secondary information in order to provide a social baseline against which potential social impacts which may be associated with the development of the MSPP could be identified.

The potential social and economic impacts identified for the project and listed in the scoping evaluation tables above have been identified based on an assessment of available information and the current understanding of the proposed project and are not exhaustive. The possibility therefore



exists that additional impacts may be identified as part of the public review period, or during the collection of primary data as part of the EIA level. All potential social impacts identified as part of the process will be assessed in detail during the EIA Phase.

## 7.1 Conclusion

A number of potential positive and negative social impacts have been identified for the project, which require further investigation as part of the EIA phase. Based on the findings of this Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Scoping Report, no red flags or fatal flaws have been identified from a socio-economic perspective which could preclude the development of the MSPP.

## 7.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that a full EIA level Socio-Economic Impact Assessment be conducted as part of the EIA phase. The following activities should be undertaken as part of this process:

- Review comments pertaining to social impacts received from members of the key stakeholders, and any organ of state during the public review of the Scoping Report. Where applicable, comments received from DEA on the Final Scoping Report, which may pertain to socio-economic impact assessment, will also be reviewed.
- Collect primary data. Interview key stakeholders to obtain primary information related to the project site, socio-economic environment, and to gain their inputs on the proposed project and its perceived impact (positive and /or negative).
- Update the baseline information with information received during the data collection, as well as any additional information received from the client, or updates to the project description.
- Assess impacts identified for the project in terms of their nature, extent, duration, magnitude, probability, status, and significance; as well as the degree to which the impact can be reversed, may cause irreplaceable loss of resources, and can be mitigated.
- Identify mitigation measures with which to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts for inclusion in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
- Provide a reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the project, and whether the proposed project should be authorised.
- Prepare a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report for inclusion in the EIA Report to be prepared for the project.

## Appendix A: Impact Methodology

In terms of **Appendix 6 of 2014 EIA Regulations**, as amended;

- » A specialist report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain—
  - details of—
    - (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and
    - (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae;
- » a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;
- » an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;
- » the date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;
- » a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process;
- » the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the activity and its associated structures and infrastructure;
- » an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;
- » a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;
- » a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;
- » a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives on the environment;
- » any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;
- » any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;
- » any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;
- » a reasoned opinion—
  - (i) as to whether the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised; and
  - (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;
- » a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;
- » a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and
- » any other information requested by the competent authority.

### **Assessment of Impacts:**

Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with the projects must be assessed in terms of the following criteria:

- » The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- » The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with 1 being low and 5 being high):
- » The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
  - \* the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
  - \* medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
  - \* long term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
  - \* permanent - assigned a score of 5;
- » The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10, where 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment, 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes, 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes, 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way, 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease), and 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- » The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1–5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
- » the **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
- » the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- » the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
- » the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
- » the *degree* to which the impact can be *mitigated*.

The **significance** is calculated by combining the criteria in the following formula:

$$S=(E+D+M)P$$

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- » < 30 points: Low (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- » 30-60 points: Medium (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- » > 60 points: High (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

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