

APPENDIX C8:
Meeting Notes

Notes of Meetings held during the 30-day
review and comment period of the EIA Report
to be included in the Final EIA Report

SCOPING PHASE

**HOUTHAALBOMEN PHOTOVOLTAIC CLUSTER CONSISTING OF
THE BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV AND SETARIA PV FACILITIES &
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
NORTH WEST**

**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUSED GROUP MEETING HELD WITH WARD 1 &
16 COUNCILLORS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2021 AT 09H00
VENUE: WIMPY - LITCHENBURG**

Meeting notes prepared by:

Nondumiso Bulunga
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

HOUTHAALBOMEN PHOTOVOLTAIC CLUSTER CONSISTING OF THE BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV AND SETARIA PV FACILITIES & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Captured alphabetically according to surname

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr Moheta	Councillor	Ward 16
Mr Mongale	Councillor	Ward 1
Savannah Environmental		
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Consultant & Social Consultant	
Nondumiso Bulunga	Social Consultant	

WELCOME AND INTRODCUTION

Nicolene Venter introduced the Savannah Environmental team and thanked the Councillors for attending the Focus Group Meeting (FGM) for the Houthaalboomen Photovoltaic Cluster consisting of the Barleria PV, Dicoma PV and Setaria PV Facilities & Associated Infrastructure, North West Province.

Nicolene Venter provided the purpose of the meeting. The following items were presented as part of the meeting:

- Project description
- Project location
- Environmental process
- Public Participation Process

DISCUSSION SESSION

Comment	Response
Cllr Moheta	
For clarification and orientation purposes, it was enquired as to where on the map is Elandsfontein?	Nicolene Venter presented the location of the project site as being adjacent to Talene Agricultural Holding along the Elandsfontein gravel road off the R505, the road leading to Bakerville. The project site was presented by using Google Earth.
Nicolene Venter enquired whether Cllr Moheta is an ANC candidate for the Municipal Election.	Cllr Moheta responded that there is a strong possibility that Mr Izak Groenewald could be elected as the new Councillor for Ward 16.
What happened to the other project that had the substation? This project was approximately 3km from Bakerville.	Nicolene Venter responded that Savannah Environmental was not the appointed environmental consultant for the project in question and can therefore not provide any feedback or information.
When preparing for the meetings, the following need to be considered/prepared as the community will ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is there a new project when the other projects presented to the	Nicolene Venter responded that the DMRE opened round 5 recently allowing IPPs to submit their renewable projects and the Lichtenburg PV projects presented in September 2018 was submitted in round

Comment	Response
communities in September 2018 have not yet commenced.	5. The DMRE had not yet announced the preferred bidders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of employment will this proposed projects bring? 	Nicolene Venter responded that information regarding the envisaged employment opportunities would be presented at the meetings to be conducted during the scoping phase of the project and it is also forming part of the SIA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face meetings is required as virtual meetings is not suitable for community members. <p>It was mentioned that the meeting would need to take place both in Bakerville and Graskop. Bakerville does not have a community hall but Graskop has, Arrangements for support of the meeting (i.e. chairs and tables) would need to be arranged with the municipality. Savannah Environmental will need to secure a sound system.</p> <p>It was suggested that the meeting at Bakerville takes place at 10:00am and the meeting at Graskop take place at 13:00pm</p>	Nicolene Venter thanked the Councillor for the information provided to Savannah Environmental for preparation for the public meetings.
When will the projects commence?	Nicolene Venter responded that an exact date as to when construction would commence cannot be responded to at this stage and the environmental studies just commenced and this could take about a year until an Environmental Authorisation is issued. Thereafter the developer would need to bid their projects in the next bidding rounds as and when announced by the DMRE. It is envisaged that it could take up to 3 to 5 years.
It is important to know that there were issues with the Watershed Substation project and that commencement of the project was interrupted due to community unrest.	Nicolene Venter thanked Mr Moheta for sharing this information.
Nondumiso Bulunga asked from a social perspective whether community members were opposed to this Photovoltaic kind of projects.	Cllr Moheta responded that community members are not against these types of developments as they do not have experience impacts associated with these type projects in the area.
Cllr Mongale	
Ward 1 community members have been benefitting from many projects happening in both Ward 1 and Ward 16, therefore for this project it is better that the opportunities be given to the community members of Ward 16 and that the power lies Councillor from Ward 16.	Nicolene thanked Mr Mongale for the information shared.

Comment	Response
Savannah Environmental was informed that no process notices regarding these projects will be erected within Ward 1 as it would create unnecessary expectations.	Nicolene Venter thanked Cllr Mongale for the recommendation and the team agreed to the approach as not to create expectations regarding employment opportunities.

CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked the Councillors for attending the meeting and the insightful suggestions on the public participation consultation to be undertaken.

The meeting was closed at 09h45.

Nicolene Venter

From: Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Thursday, 14 October 2021 18:42
To: Buti Moheta; Lebogang Mongale
Cc: Nondumiso Bulunga; Nicolene Venter; Tumelo Mathulwe; Nicolene Venter
Subject: SE3107: Houthaalbomen PV Cluster - Focus Group Meeting Notes
Attachments: SE3107-FGM Councillors W1&16 - 13Oct2021-FINAL.pdf

HOUTHAAALBOOMEN PV CLUSTER CONSISTING OF BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV AND SETARIA PV FACILITIES, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

(DEFF Reference Nos.: To be Issued)

Dear Councilor Moheta and Councilor Mongale,

Thank you once again for making time available in your busy schedules to attend our Focus Group Meeting.

Attached, please find the meeting notes of the Focus Group Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 at 09h00 at the Wimpy in Lichtenburg.

Please submit any comments that you may have on the meeting notes to Savannah Environmental.

Kind regards,



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)

HOUTHAALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV NORTH WEST PROVINCE

**MEETING NOTES OF KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 October 2021 at 14:00
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com**

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**HOUTHAALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV**

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	
Mmatlala Rabothata	Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation
Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners	
Amy Hill	Project Developer
Savannah Environmental	
Rendani Rasivhetshela	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nondumiso Bulunga	Lead Consultant: Social, Stakeholder Engagement & GIS
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Tumelo Mathulwe	Public Participation Consultant

APOLOGIES

No apologies were tender.

The Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

Nondumiso Bulunga welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop (KSW) and thanked them for their attendance.

Rendani Rasivhetshela presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Houthaalboomen Solar PVs and Associated Infrastructure;
- the approach to the Scoping Phase;
- Scoping and public participation processes followed to date;
- The environmental studies to be undertaken;
- the desktop environmental studies undertaken;
- key summary of the results of the various desktop environmental studies undertaken;
- the Environmental Impact Assessment process

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
No questions or comments were raised regarding the environmental aspects of the project.	

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nondumiso Bulunga asked all the attendees if there were any further comments or questions and all the attendees stated that there were no further comments.

She thanked the participants for making time available to attend the Key Stakeholder Workshop. The workshop was closed at 14h30.

**HOUTHALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE
BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV**

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Key Stakeholder Workshop
October 2021



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the meeting
- Project Overview
- Discussion
- Way Forward



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MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on Chat function (name, surname & affiliation)
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation.
- Please hold all verbal questions until after the presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question and state your name.



PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders with an overview of the planned project
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the environmental studies
- Opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Record comments for inclusion in the submissions to DFFE.



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PROJECT OVERVIEW (Rendani Rasivhetsele)



PROJECT DETAILS

Applicant	Farm Portions	Contracted Capacity
Barleria PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW
Setaria PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW
Dicoma PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW

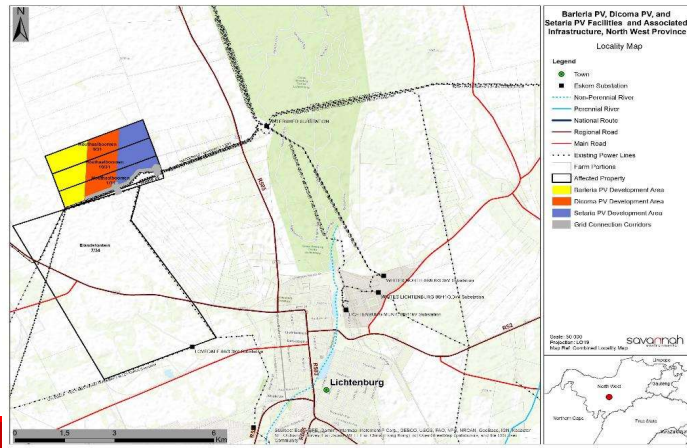
The projects are located ~5km north west of the town Lichtenburg within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, North West Province.



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COMBINED LOCALITY MAP



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

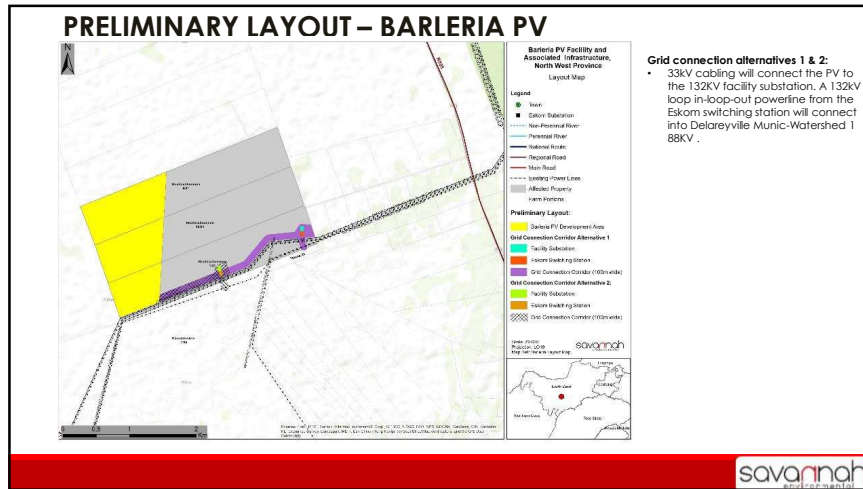
Proposed infrastructure/components:

- PV modules and mounting structures
- Inverters and transformers
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide)
- Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- Temporary and permanent laydown area
- Grid connection solution (two alternative locations assessed) within a 100m wide corridor, including:
 - 33kV cabling between the project components and the facility substation
 - A 132kV facility substation
 - A 132kV Eskom switching station
 - A Loop-in-Loop out (LILO) overhead 132kV power line between the Eskom switching station and the existing Delareyville Munic–Watershed 1 88kV 1 power line.

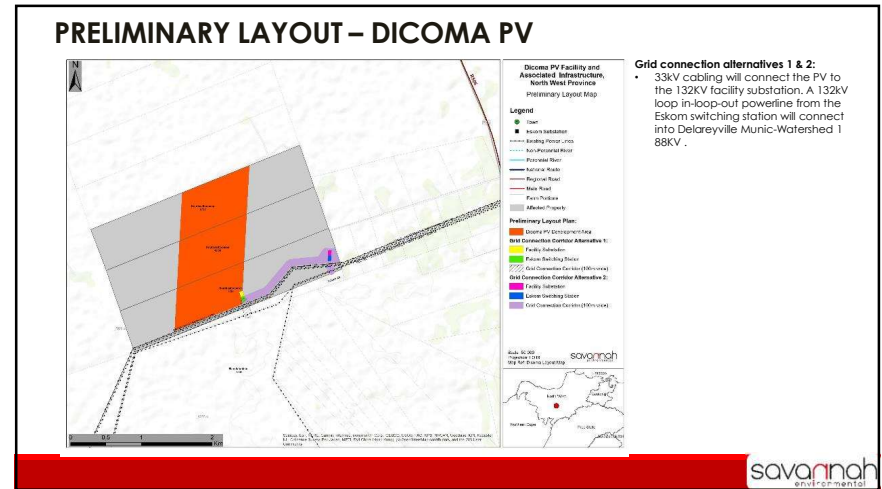


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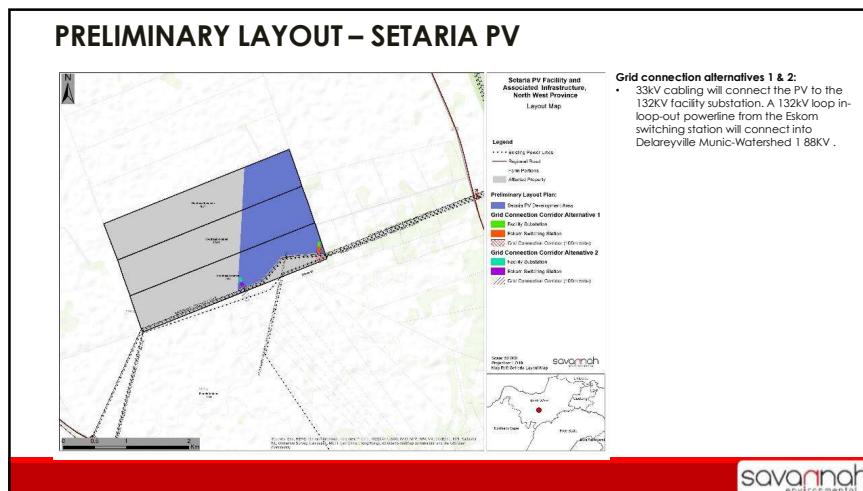
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APPROACH TO SCOPING

- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
- Potential sensitive areas identified through specialist desktop and in-field studies
- Prepare a Plan of Study for the EIA phase
- Design of appropriate facility layout to be informed by sensitive areas identified through the EIA process
- Preliminary facility layout based on technical considerations - considered by all specialists at Scoping
- A revised facility layout to be presented and considered in EIA Phase
- Application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e. avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset)
- Any further micro-siting required to facility layout will be addressed in EIA phase

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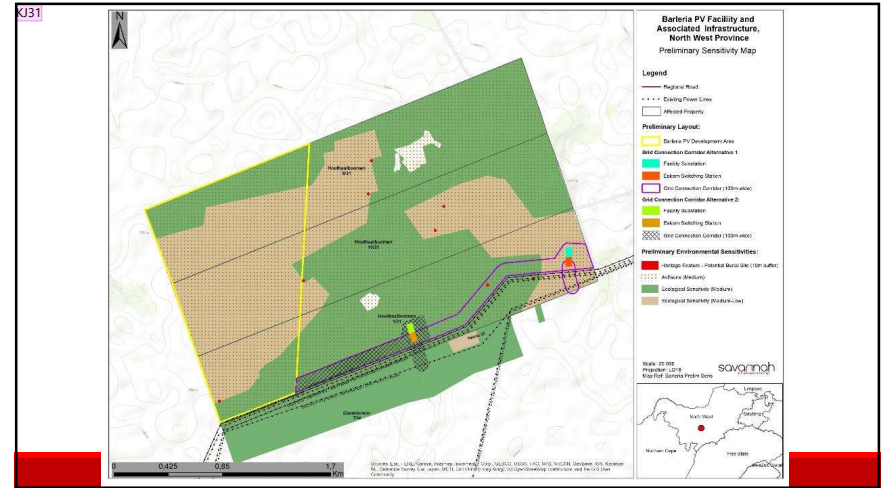
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

• Assessments undertaken as part of the EIA process:

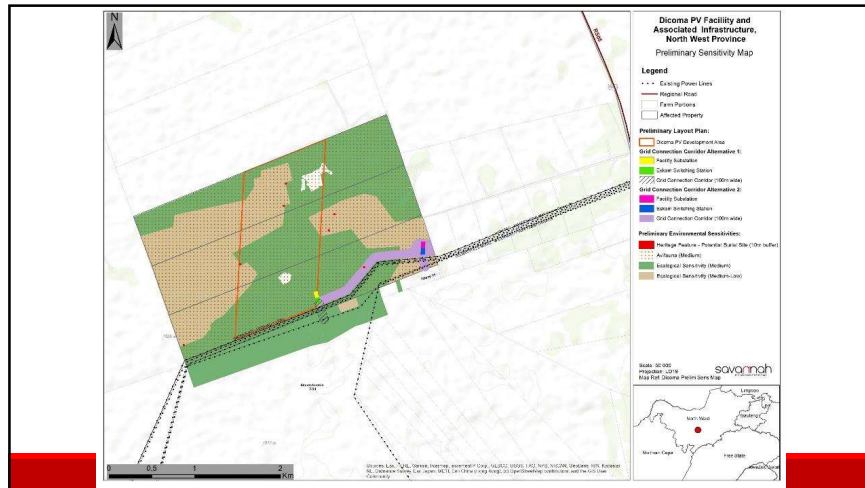
- Ecology (fauna, flora and freshwater)
- Avifauna (incl. a dry season and wet season bird monitoring)
- Soils and Agricultural Potential
- Heritage
- Visual
- Noise
- Social



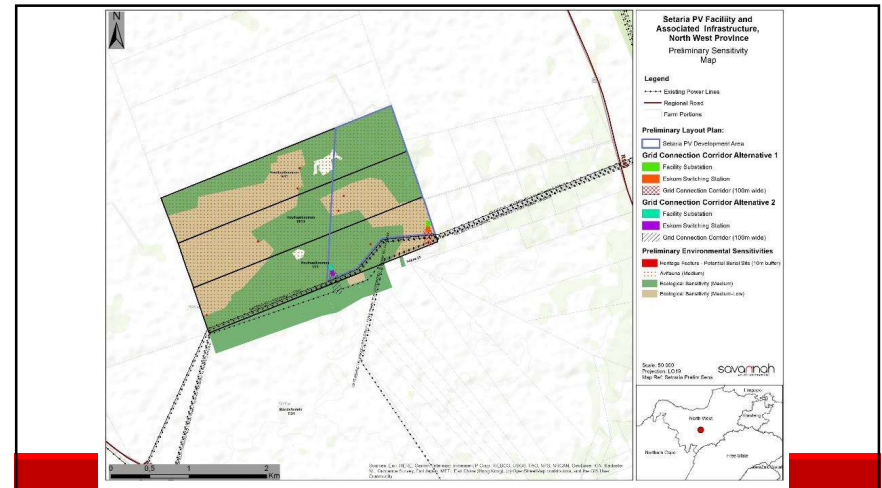
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Slide 14

KJ31 order of maps; maps are fuzzy (except one). edit please
Karen Jodas, 26-Oct-21

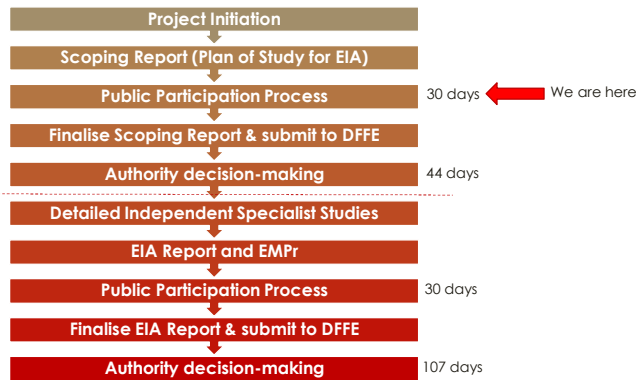
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of issues
Ecological Impacts (fauna & flora) and Freshwater impacts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance and loss of natural vegetation Disturbance or loss of protected plants Loss of fauna habitat and displacement of species Disturbance to migration routes It was concluded in the desktop scoping assessment that no surface freshwater resource features will be impacted by the proposed PV facilities and as such further assessments relating to freshwater resource features (during the EIA phase) will not be necessary.
Impacts on avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of intact habitat due to transformation Mortality due to collision with infrastructure Disturbance during operation
Impacts on Soil & Agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of areas where livestock can be produced Soil chemical pollution Soil compaction and erosion

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of issues
Impacts on Heritage, archaeology, and palaeontology (Inc cultural landscape)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact to archaeological, and historical and burial sites Damage or destruction of unmarked graves or fossil material The proposed project site has not been identified as part of special/recognised cultural landscape, and as such there is no impact in the cultural landscape.
Visual Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility of development to observers residing in rural homesteads and farmsteads Industrialisation of the landscape Visual impact of operational lighting
Social Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and indirect employment, skills development opportunities Temporary increase in safety and security concerns Socio-Economic Development (SED) / Enterprise Development (ED) Sense of place impacts Nuisance Impacts

EIA PROCESS



WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE (Nondumiso Bulunga)

WAY FORWARD

- Scoping Report review period: **15 October 2021 – 15 November 2021**
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Final Scoping Report to be submitted to DFFE – November 2021
- EIA & EMPr for review – January 2022 (TBC)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Nicolene Venter / Tumelo Mathulwe

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396 (*including "please call me"*)

Fax: 086 684 0547

www.savannahSA.com

Participants



Type a name



 Share invite

▼ In this meeting (7)

Mute all



Tumelo Mathulwe



amy@atlanticep.com
External



MMatlala Rabothata
External



Nicolene Venter



Nondumiso Bulunga



Rendani Rasivhetshele



The following responses to this meeting have been received:

	Name	Attendance	Response
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Savannah Public Process	Meeting Organizer	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rendani Rasivhetshela	Required Attendee	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nondumiso Bulunqa	Required Attendee	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Tumelo Mathulwe	Required Attendee	Accepted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jana de Jaeger	Optional Attendee	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nicolene Venter	Optional Attendee	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> amy@atlanticep.com	Resource (Room or Equipment)	Accepted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> jacovennas@gmail.com	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> wanda@agrinw.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> marlize@agrinw.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> ebianwyk@gmail.com	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> janse@agrisa.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> energy@birdlife.org.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	Declined
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> CherityG@daff.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> mashuduma@daff.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Pkrisian@nwpq.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> sambulom@nda.agric.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> SelekaneP@daff.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> thokob@daff.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> BCAdmin@environment.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	Accepted

The following responses to this meeting have been received:

	Name	Attendance	Response
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Pieter.Swart@dmr.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> mabuzap@dws.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> rataus@dws.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> mudau@eims.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> marecc@eskom.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	Declined
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> john.geeringh@eskom.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> SeboleMD@eskom.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> GalelaN@eskom.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> marietteL@iburst.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> ThokoB@nda.agric.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> slekota@environment.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> lpeleng.Wesi@dmr.gov.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> GeerinJH@eskom.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	Declined
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> support@sentech.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> MotlhakeS@sentech.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> caroline@iws-sa.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> kate@iws-sa.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> nkhumalo@sahra.org.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> YorkeHM@nra.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> botav@nra.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> inbadmin@wessa.co.za	Resource (Room or Equipment)	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> MMatlala Rabothata <MR>	Optional Attendee	Accepted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Aulicia Maifo <amaifo@er>	Optional Attendee	Declined
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Portia Makitla <PMakitla@>	Optional Attendee	Declined

HOUTHAALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV NORTH WEST PROVINCE

**MEETING NOTES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 18H00
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com**

***Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address***

**HOUTHAALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position
Estelle Wessels	Spouse to Wessel Wessels	Adjacent Landowner
Mulalo Sundani	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Forestry Regulation and Oversight
Itumeleng Setshoane	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Forestry Branch
Collen Mbengo	Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality	Town & Regional Planning
Kabelo Pulenyane	Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality	Technical Services
Paseka Monaisa	Ditsobotla Local Municipality	Town Planner
Kgalalelo Mothibedi	Ditsobotla Local Municipality	Planning and Development
Lesley Morubane	Ditsobotla Local Municipality	Housing and Land Reform
Amy Hill	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners	Project Developer
Peter Smith	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners	Project Developer
Savannah Environmental		
Rendani Rasivhetshela	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nicolene Venter	Savannah Environmental	Public Participation and Social Consultant
Tumelo Mathulwe	Savannah Environmental	Public Participation Consultant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the **Public Participation Process Meeting (PPPM)** for the **Houthaalboomen Solar PVs and Associated Infrastructure**.

The agenda and purpose of the meeting was presented by **Nicolene Venter**.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were tendered.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rendani Rasivhetshela provided an overview of the proposed **Houthaalboomen Solar PVs and Associated Infrastructure** projects are located ~5km north-west of the town of Lichtenburg, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality and in the greater Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, **North**

West Province, as well as a summary of the environmental findings during the Scoping process undertaken. **Rendani Rasivhetshela** presented the following key information:

- project description for the **Houthaalboomen Solar PVs and Associated Infrastructure**
- the locality of the PV Facilities and its respective development footprint as assessed during the scoping process;
- the Scoping and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies that have been undertaken to date;
- the results of the various environmental studies undertaken during the scoping process as documented in the Scoping Reports; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

A copy of the stakeholders invited to the virtual meeting and record of the participants' attendance is attached as **Appendix A** and the presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
Collen Mbengo	Has the amount of labour required per project been quantified for construction and operational phases?	<p>Rendani Rasivhetshela responded that approximately 350 labourers will be required during the construction phase, however this will be informed by the final layout of the facilities as well as the detailed Social Impact Assessment to be undertaken during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.</p> <p>Amy Hill added that the amount of labour will be assessed and quantified in the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SIA) report. It is envisioned that during the 18-month construction phase, 350 temporary workers will be required and 50 full time staff during the operational phase. The operational workforce will be a mixture of low skilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers.</p>
	Have these projects been bid in the previous round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) programme?	<p>Amy Hill responded that it is envisaged that the projects will be bid in Round 6 and if not selected as a preferred bidder, the projects will be bid in future bidding windows of the REIPPP programme.</p>

	Is this project going to be included in Round 6 or any future bidding rounds of the REIPPP programme?	She added that they are still in the process of acquiring licenses and permits as part of the bidding process.
	What is the current land use and what commodities are being produced on the properties?	Rendani Rasivhetshele responded that the current land use is grazing and it is planned for this to continue after construction. She added that the rental fees paid to the landowners may add value to the regional agricultural activities as this will supplement the income of the property owner and that of the agricultural workers and mitigate any potential agricultural losses.
	What impact would these projects have on food security, and would it eliminate the agricultural use of the properties?	Amy Hill responded that an Agricultural and Soil Specialist assessed the grazing and soil capacity and the agricultural potential of the land. The sites are currently zoned for agricultural use. As part of the bidding process a rezoning application will be submitted to Ditsobotla Local Municipality.
	Is the applicant considering operating the facility as an agrivoltaic facility?	Amy Hill replied that she would liaise with the Agricultural Specialist to consider the recommendation based on the outcomes of the impact assessment.
Nicolene Venter	Asked Collen Mbengo to share the literature he has reviewed on agrivoltaic facilities.	Post Meeting Note: Collen Mbengo shared the paper, and it will be distributed with the meeting notes as Appendix C .
Kgalalelo Mothibedi	Suggested that the Social Specialist liaise with the local municipality's Local Economic Development (LED) Departmental to ascertain labour statistics, SMME's etc which will inform the SIA.	Nicolene Venter responded that the contact details of the LED Departmental Officials will be shared with the Social Specialist.
Collen Mbengo	Is there a buffer around PV developments or can facilities be adjacent to one another?	Amy Hill responded that the locality of solar PV facilities are determined by the grid connection availability in the area, and the capacity of the MTS in proximity to the solar PV

		<p>location. However, multiple facilities can be built adjacent to one another and in the same area.</p> <p>She added that the facilities do not impact on one another but rather the cumulative impact of the facilities on the environment. The impacts on sense of place are being considered as part of the Visual Impact Assessment for these projects.</p> <p>She further added that no technical buffers have been identified for these projects. The only buffer around a solar PV development would be where the SARAO has infrastructures.</p>
	<p>What are the impacts on the commercial viability of a facility if there are multiple developments in the same area?</p>	<p>Peter Smith responded that the Watershed MTS located north of Lichtenburg has sufficient capacity for several projects in the area, and as such there would not be a commercial impact on neighbouring projects.</p>
	<p>How far are these projects from the Botswana–South Africa Transmission Powerline project.</p>	<p>Peter Smith responded that there is no competition between these projects and that of the Botswana-South Africa Transmission Powerline project. As mentioned, the closest grid connection is the Watershed MTS, and the project will not connect to the Transmission project.</p> <p>Nicolene Venter added that she worked on the proposed Eskom Transmission Powerline between Klerksdorp and Mahikeng and confirm that these projects will not form part of the Botswana-South Africa grid connection.</p>
	<p>Raised concern at not seeing farmers and the Department of Agriculture attending the meeting.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that Officials from the Department of Agricultural were invited however the rescheduling of the meeting due to Stage 4 loadshedding may have</p>

		<p>affected their availability to join the meeting.</p> <p>Landowners have a separate meeting as their comments and participation differ from other stakeholders.</p>
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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter asked whether there were any further environmental related comments. It was confirmed by the attendees that there are no further comments on the proposed project and the environmental studies.


Nicolene Venter reminded the attendees that they are most welcome to submit further comments per e-mail should any arise. She thanked the participants for making time available to attend the PPPM and for their valuable inputs into the process.


The meeting was closed at 19h20.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS


EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PPPM	Public Participation Process Meeting
LED	Local Economic Development	REIPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement
MTS	Main Transmission Substation	SIA	Socioeconomic Impact Assessment


Appendix A – Attendance

 Estelle (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


 amy@atlanticep.com (External) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Mulalo Sundani (External) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Collen Mbengo (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Paseka Monaisa (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Kgalalelo Mothibedi (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Kabelo Pulenyane (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


 Collen Mbengo has temporarily joined the chat.

 Collen Mbengo (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

 Lesley Morubane (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

 Itumeleng Setshoane (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

 Itumeleng Setshoane (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

 Itumeleng Setshoane (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

**HOUTHALBOOMEN SOLAR PVs AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE
BARLERIA PV, DICOMA PV, & SETARIA PV**

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Public Participation Process Meeting
November 2021



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the meeting
- Project Overview
- Key Environmental Findings
- Discussion
- Way Forward



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MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on Chat function (name, surname & affiliation)
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation.
- Please hold all verbal questions until after the presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question and state your name.



3

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders with an overview of the planned project
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the environmental studies
- Opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Record comments for inclusion in the submissions to DFFE.



4

PROJECT OVERVIEW (Rendani Rasivhetsele)



PROJECT DETAILS

Applicant	Farm Portions	Contracted Capacity
Barleria PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW
Setaria PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW
Dicoma PV (Pty) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 9 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 Portion 10 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 	75MW

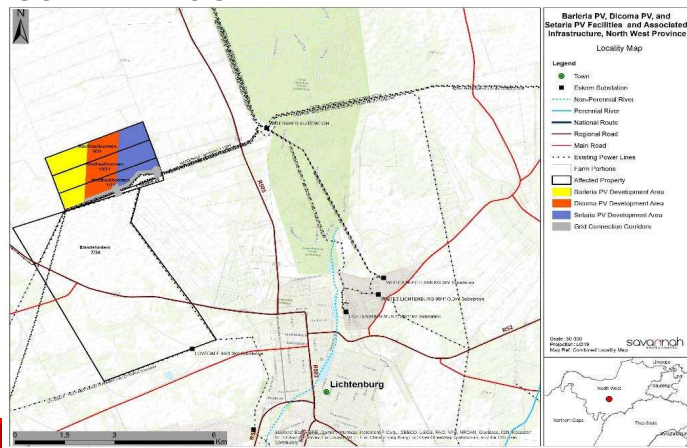
The projects are located ~5km north west of the town Lichtenburg within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, North West Province.



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COMBINED LOCALITY MAP



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

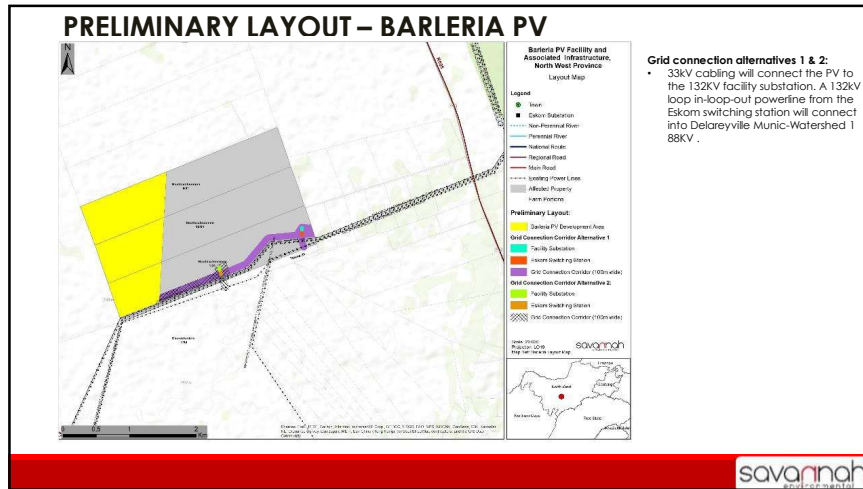
Proposed infrastructure/components:

- PV modules and mounting structures
- Inverters and transformers
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide)
- Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- Temporary and permanent laydown area
- Grid connection solution (two alternative locations assessed) within a 100m wide corridor, including:
 - 33kV cabling between the project components and the facility substation
 - A 132kV facility substation
 - A 132kV Eskom switching station
 - A Loop-in-Loop out (LILO) overhead 132kV power line between the Eskom switching station and the existing Delareyville Munic–Watershed 1 88kV 1 power line.

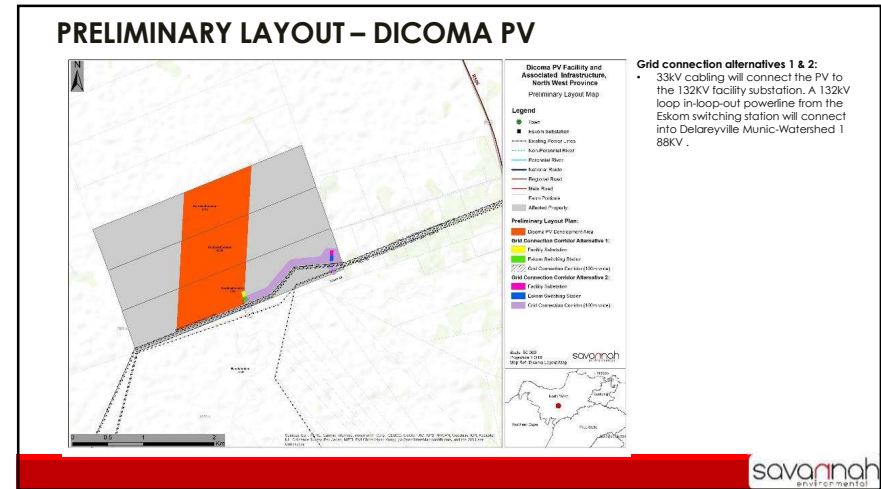


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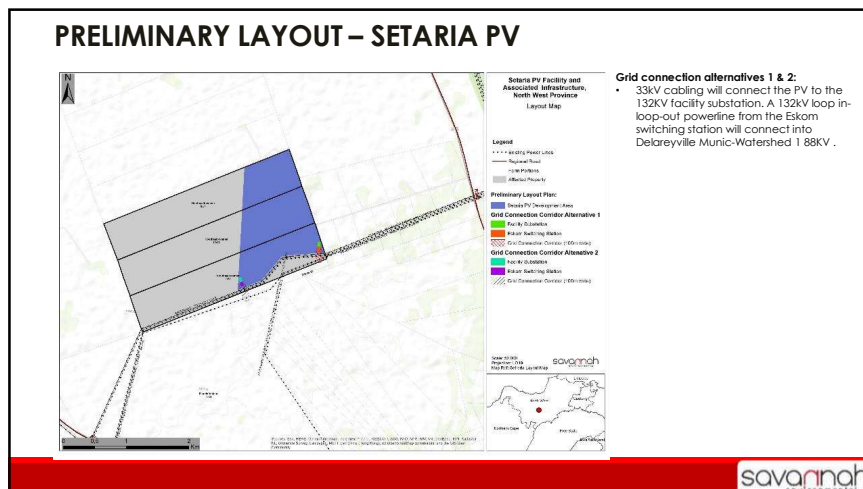
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APPROACH TO SCOPING

- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
- Potential sensitive areas identified through specialist desktop and in-field studies
- Prepare a Plan of Study for the EIA phase
- Design of appropriate facility layout to be informed by sensitive areas identified through the EIA process
- Preliminary facility layout based on technical considerations - considered by all specialists at Scoping
- A revised facility layout to be presented and considered in EIA Phase
- Application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e. avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset)
- Any further micro-siting required to facility layout will be addressed in EIA phase

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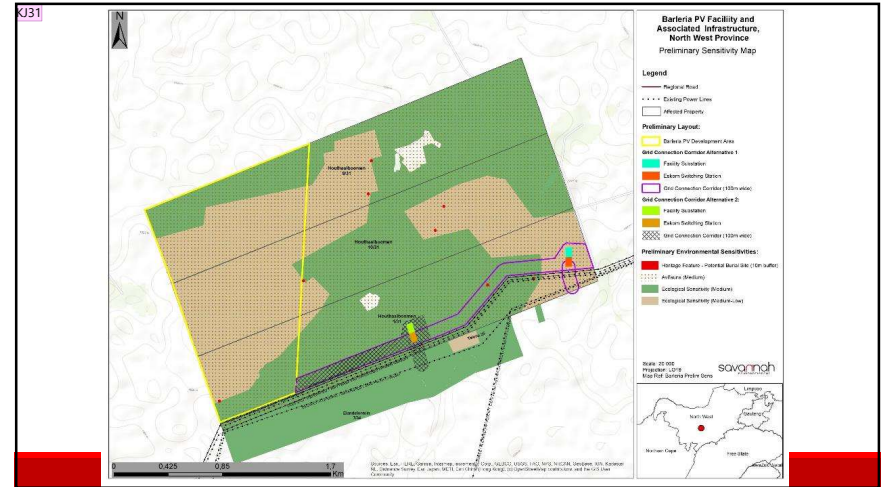
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

• Assessments undertaken as part of the EIA process:

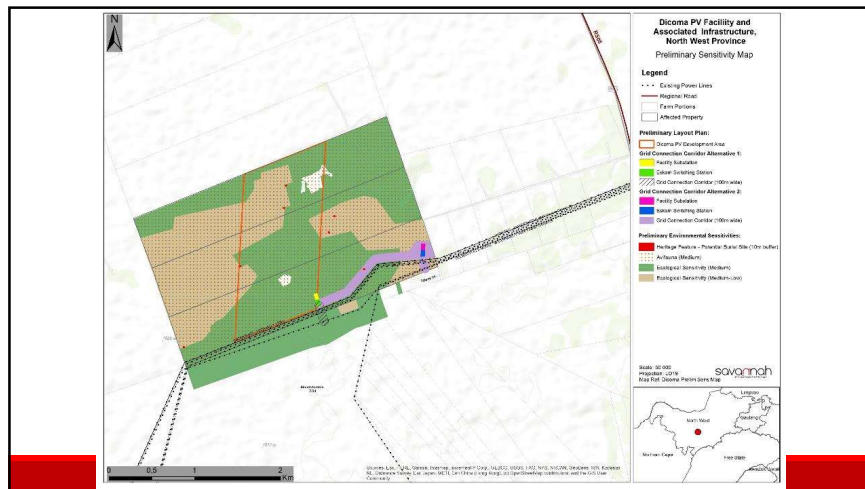
- Ecology (fauna, flora and freshwater)
- Avifauna (incl. a dry season and wet season bird monitoring)
- Soils and Agricultural Potential
- Heritage
- Visual
- Social
- Traffic



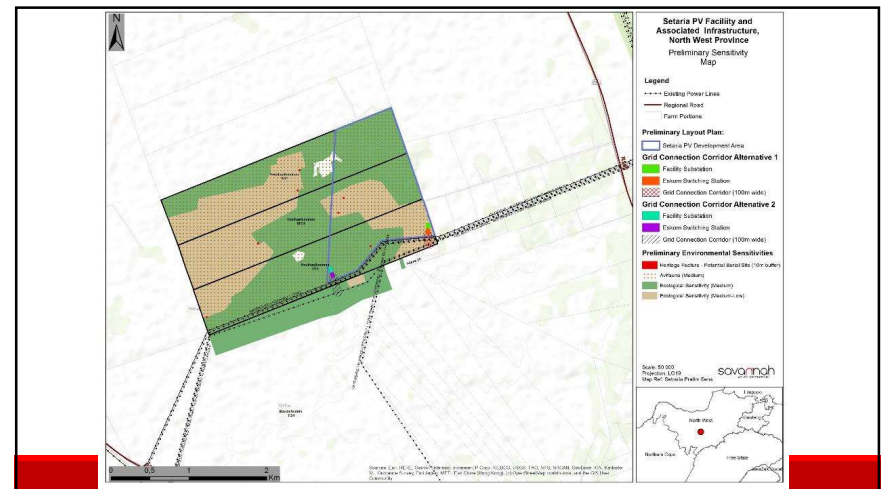
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Slide 14

KJ31 order of maps; maps are fuzzy (except one). edit please
Karen Jodas, 26-Oct-21

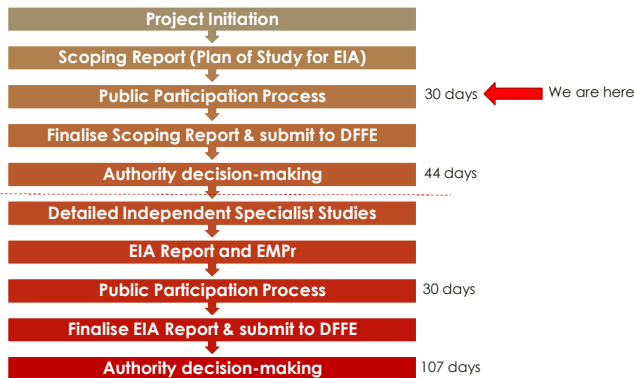
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of issues
Ecological Impacts (fauna & flora) and Freshwater impacts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance and loss of natural vegetation Disturbance or loss of protected plants Loss of fauna habitat and displacement of species Disturbance to migration routes It was concluded in the desktop scoping assessment that no surface freshwater resource features will be impacted by the proposed PV facilities and as such further assessments relating to freshwater resource features (during the EIA phase) will not be necessary.
Impacts on avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of intact habitat due to transformation Mortality due to collision with infrastructure Disturbance during operation
Impacts on Soil & Agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of areas where livestock can be produced Soil chemical pollution Soil compaction and erosion

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of issues
Impacts on Heritage, archaeology, and palaeontology (Inc cultural landscape)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact to archaeological, and historical and burial sites Damage or destruction of unmarked graves or fossil material The proposed project site has not been identified as part of special/recognised cultural landscape, and as such there is no impact in the cultural landscape.
Visual Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility of development to observers residing in rural homesteads and farmsteads Industrialisation of the landscape Visual impact of operational lighting
Social Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and indirect employment, skills development opportunities Temporary increase in safety and security concerns Socio-Economic Development (SED) / Enterprise Development (ED) Sense of place impacts Nuisance Impacts

EIA PROCESS



WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE (Nicolene Venter)

WAY FORWARD

- Scoping Report review period: **15 October 2021 – 15 November 2021**
(can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Final Scoping Report to be submitted to DFFE – November 2021
- EIA & EMPr for review – envisaged January 2022 (TBC)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Nicolene Venter / Tumelo Mathulwe

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Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396 (*including "please call me"*)

Fax: 086 684 0547

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