

JN VENTER BELEGGINGS TRUST AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Free State Province

Social Assessment – Baseline Report

May 2022

savannah
environmental

t +27 (0)11 656 3237

f +27 (0)86 684 0547

e info@savannahsa.com

w www.savannahsa.com

Prepared for:

JN Venter Beleggings Trust



REPORT DETAILS

Title	:	Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report: JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development, Free State Province
Authors	:	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd Nondumiso Bulunga
External Peer Review	:	Dr Neville Bews
Client	:	JN Venter Beleggings Trust
Report Revision	:	Revision 0
Date	:	May 2022

When used as a reference this report should be cited as: Savannah Environmental (2022) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report for the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development, Free State Province

COPYRIGHT RESERVED

This technical report has been produced for JN Venter Beleggings Trust. The intellectual property contained in this report remains vested in Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. No part of the report may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd or JN Venter Beleggings Trust.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
REPORT DETAILS	I
SPECIALIST DECLARATION OF INTEREST	II
TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
FIGURES.....	III
ACRONYMS	IV
1. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	1
1.1. Project Description	1
1.2. Objective of the Scoping Process.....	1
1.3. Details of the Independent Specialist.....	2
1.4. Structure of the SIA Report	4
2. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH	6
2.1. Purpose of the Study	6
2.2. Approach to the Study	6
2.2.1. Collection and Review of Existing Information	7
2.3. Limitations and Assumptions.....	7
3. LEGISLATION AND POLICY REVIEW	9
3.1. National Policy and Planning Context.....	9
3.2. Provincial Policies.....	12
3.3. District and Local Municipalities Policies	14
3.4. Conclusion	16
4. SOCIAL PROFILE	18
4.1. Free State Province	18
4.2. Xhariep DM	19
4.3. Letsemeng LM.....	20
4.4. Baseline Description of the Social Environment	20
5. OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL ISSUES	22
5.1. Social Impacts during the Construction Phase	22
5.2. Potential Social impacts during the Operation Phase.....	26
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	28
6.1. Key findings and Recommendations	28
6.2. Conclusion	29
7. REFERENCES.....	30

FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Locality map illustrating the location of agricultural development and associated infrastructure, Free State Province.	3
Figure 4.1: Map showing the districts of the Free State Province (Source: www.municipalities.co.za). 19	
Figure 4.2: Map showing the Xhariep District Free State Province (Source: www.municipalities.co.za). 20	

ACRONYMS

DESTEA	Free State Department of Economic, Small Enterprise, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
DoE	Department of Energy
DM	District Municipality
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNR	Government Notice
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEP	Integrated Energy Plan
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
km	Kilometre
LM	Local Municipality
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NDP	National Development Plan
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PGDS	Provincial Growth and Development Strategy
PICC	Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee
PSDF	Provincial Spatial Development Framework
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIP	Strategic Infrastructure Project

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by JN Venter Beleggings Trust to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of an agricultural development and associated infrastructure on a site located Southwest of Luckhoff and Koffiesfontein in the Free State Province. The development will take place on a site of ~2690ha in extent across 10 interlinked properties within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality.

The potential for agricultural development (crop cultivation) is apparent as several commercial agricultural developments are already occupying the neighbouring properties. The soil and climate are suited to crops cultivation, and it is anticipated that the crops yield, and quality will be fit for export and domestic distribution.

Nondumiso Bulunga of Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent social consultant responsible for undertaking a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the EIA process being conducted for the project.

1.1. Project Description

The JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is located on the following properties:

Agricultural development, including associated infrastructure	Portion 3 of Farm Dieodraai 754 Farm Excelsior 800 Farm Weltevreden 755 Farm OU Ronderfontein 1251 Farm Lemoen- spruit 667 Farm Scheiding 1252 Portion5 of Farm Naauwpoort 417 Farm Vinger Kraal 368 Portion 1 and RE of Farm Grootpoorte 168
--	--

A technically feasible project site with an extent of ~ 2690ha has been identified by the JV Venter Beleggings Trust as a suitable area for the agricultural development and the associated infrastructure. The agricultural development will entail the following:

- » Development of centre pivot areas (cultivation and irrigation) which is planned to take approximately 2154ha or more within the project site.
- » Construction of two bulk water pipes running on same pipeline route of approximately 5.93km from the canal to the proposed two irrigation dams.
- » Two irrigation water storage dams, with three proposed alternatives (the capacity and dams characteristic not yet confirmed; however, they are all covering surface area ranging from 7ha to 46ha)
- » A new pump stations taking a total surface area of 549m²
- » A 9ha solar PV with 3 alternatives sites and a 5MW overhead power line of 6.9km in length
- » A Battery Energy Storage System covering surface area of 0.36ha

1.2. Objective of the Scoping Process

This SIA Report has been prepared as part of the Scoping Process being undertaken for JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure. The purpose of this SIA Report is to provide details on the nature and extent of JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure, and the potential social impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project. The inputs contained within this SIA Scoping Report are intended to provide a high-level overview of the social environment within which the project is proposed and identify potential social issues which will be addressed in detail as part of the EIA Phase specialist investigations.

The objective of this SIA Report is therefore to:

- » Identify and review policies and legislation which may have relevance to the activity from a social perspective.
- » Provide comment on the need and desirability of the proposed activity from a social perspective.
- » Identify potential impacts and risks associated with the preferred activity and technology alternatives.
- » Identify key social issues to be addressed in the EIA phase.
- » Agree on the level of assessment to be undertaken, including the methodology to be applied to determine the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site through the life of the activity, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts to inform the location of the development footprint within the preferred site.
- » Identify suitable measures to avoid, manage or mitigate identified social impacts and determine the extent of residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

1.3. Details of the Independent Specialist

This SIA Report has been undertaken by Nondumiso Bulunga of Savannah Environmental.

- » **Nondumiso Bulunga** – holds a Master's degree in advanced Geographical Information System and has eight years of experience in the environmental field. Her key focus is on environmental and social impact assessments, public participation, stakeholder engagement environmental management screening as well as mapping using ArcGIS for a variety of environmental projects.

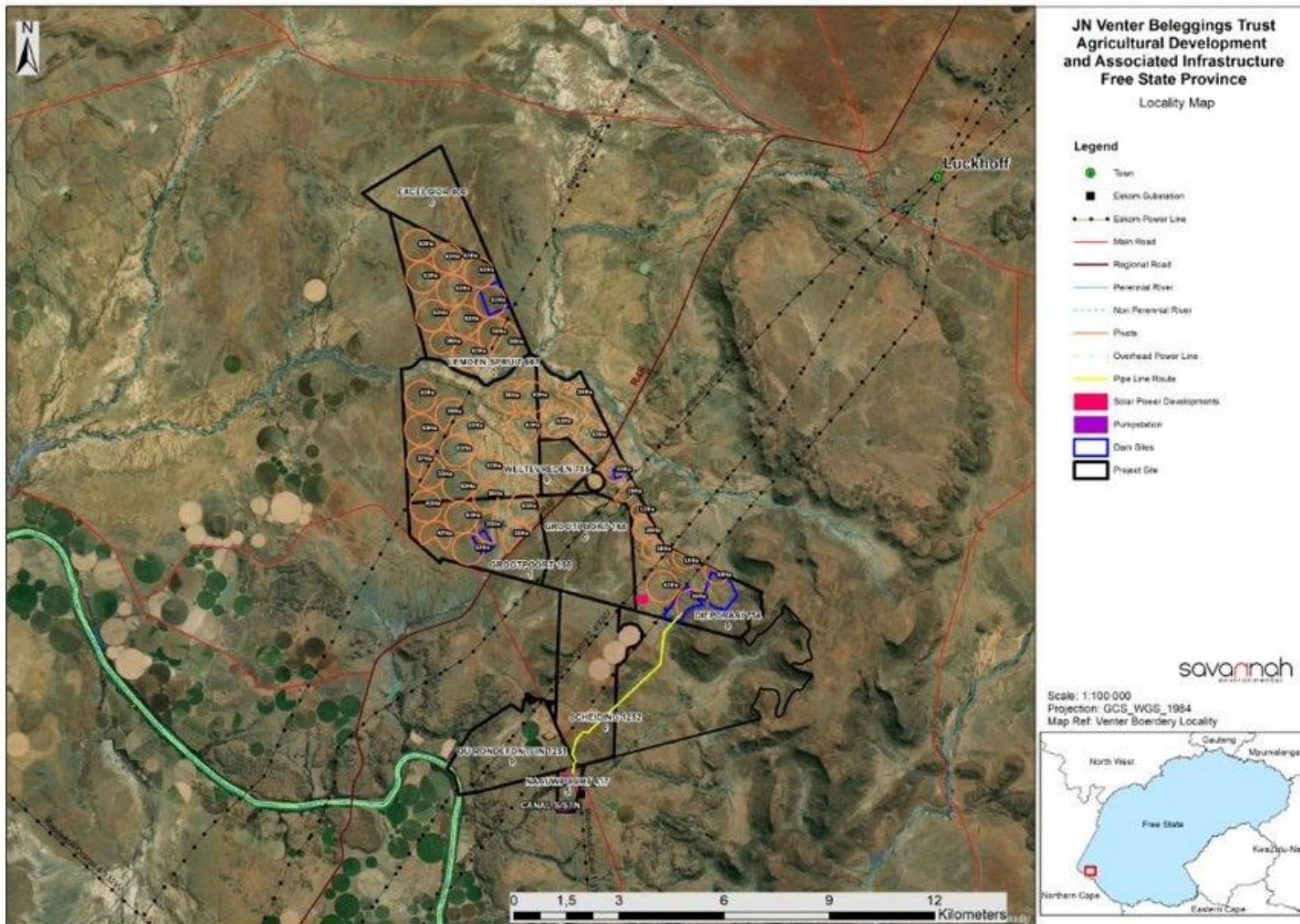


Figure 1.1: Locality map illustrating the location of agricultural development and associated infrastructure, Free State Province.

1.4. Structure of the SIA Report

This SIA Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. An overview of the contents of this SIA Report, as prescribed by Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (GNR 326), and where the corresponding information can be found within the report is provided in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Summary of where the requirements of Appendix 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 326), as amended, are provided within this Specialist Report.

Requirement	Location in Report
(a) Details of – (i) The specialist who prepared the report. (ii) The expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae.	Section 1
(b) A declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority.	Specialist Declaration of Interest
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared.	Section 2
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report.	Section 4
(cB) A description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change.	Section 5
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment.	Section 2
(e) A description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used.	Section 2
(f) Details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives.	Section 4 Section 5
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers.	N/A
(h) 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	N/A
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge.	Section 2
(j) A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity or activities.	Section 5
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr.	Appendix A
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation.	Section 6
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation.	Appendix A
(n) A reasoned opinion – (i) Whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised. (iA) Regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities. (ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures.	Section 6
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report.	Section 2
(p) A summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto.	N/A
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A

Requirement	Location in Report
2. Where a government notice gazetted by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	N/A

2. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

2.1. Purpose of the Study

The International Principles for Social Impact Assessment define SIA as:

"The processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions".

The International Principles for Social Impact Assessment define social impacts as changes to one or more of the following:

- » People's way of life – that is, how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis.
- » Their culture – that is, their shared beliefs, customs, values and language or dialect.
- » Their community – its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities.
- » Their political systems – the extent to which people are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives, the level of democratisation that is taking place, and the resources provided for this purpose.
- » Their environment – the quality of the air and water people use, the availability and quality of the food they eat, the level of hazard or risk, dust and noise they are exposed to, the adequacy of sanitation, their physical safety, and their access to and control over resources.
- » Their health and wellbeing – health is a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- » Their personal and property rights – particularly whether people are economically affected, or experience personal disadvantage which may include a violation of their civil liberties.
- » Their fears and aspirations – their perceptions about their safety, their fears about the future of their community, and their aspirations for their future and the future of their children.

The purpose of this SIA Report is therefore to:

- » Provide baseline information describing the social environment within which the project is proposed, and which may be impacted (both positively and negatively) as a result of the proposed development.
- » Identify, describe and assess possible social risks / fatal flaws and social impacts that may arise as a result of the proposed development (in terms of the detailed design and construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project).
- » Recommend ways in which negative impacts can be avoided, minimised, or their significance reduced, and positive impacts maximised or enhanced.

2.2. Approach to the Study

This SIA Report provides a snapshot of the current social setting within which the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is proposed. It provides an overview of the manner and degree to which the current status quo is likely to change or be impacted by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project, as well as the manner in which the social environment is likely to impact on the development itself.

An overview of the assessment methodology utilised as part of this SIA is provided below.

The SIA process comprised the following:

- » Collection and review of existing information, including national, provincial, district, and local plans, policies, programmes, census data, and available literature from previous studies conducted within the area. Project specific information was obtained from the project proponent.
- » Identification of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts likely to be associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed project. Impacts associated with construction can also be expected to be associated with the decommissioning phase (however, to a lesser extent as the project site would have previously undergone transformation and disturbance during construction)
- » Preparation of a SIA Report for inclusion in the Scoping Report to be prepared for the project.

2.2.1. Collection and Review of Existing Information

Existing desktop information that has relevance to the proposed project, project area and / or surrounds was collected and reviewed. The following information was examined as part of this process:

- » Project maps and layouts.
- » Google Earth imagery.
- » A description of the project (as provided by the project proponent).
- » Responses to questions posed to the project proponent regarding employment and social upliftment and local economic development opportunities (as provided by the project proponent).
- » Census Data (2011), and the Local Government Handbook (2019).
- » Planning documentation such as Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDSs), Local and District Municipality Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs), and development goals and objectives.
- » Relevant legislation, guidelines, policies, plans, and frameworks.

2.3. Limitations and Assumptions

The following assumptions and limitations are applicable to this SIA Report:

- » It was assumed that information provided by JN Venter Beleggings Trust and Savannah Environmental team was accurate and that the technical specifications of the Project and site selection are in accordance with the relevant requirements.
- » This report and assessment are dependent on the accuracy of the publicly available secondary information such as Statistics South Africa (StatsSA, 2011).
- » This SIA Report was prepared based on information that was available to the specialist at the time of preparing the report. The sources consulted are not exhaustive, and the possibility exists that additional information which might strengthen arguments, contradict information in this report, and / or identify additional information might exist. Additional information available from the public participation undertaken during the Scoping process will be included and considered within the final report, where relevant.

- » Some of the project projections reflected in this SIA Report may be subject to change, and therefore may be higher or lower than those estimated by the project proponent.
- » It is assumed that the motivation for and planning and feasibility study of the project were undertaken with integrity, and that information provided by the project proponent was accurate and true at the time of preparing this SIA Report.

3. LEGISLATION AND POLICY REVIEW

The legislative and policy context applicable to a project plays an important role in identifying and assessing the potential social impacts associated with the development. In this regard a key component of the SIA process is to assess a proposed development in terms of its suitability with regards to key planning and policy documents.

The following key pieces of documentation were reviewed as part of this legislation and policy review process:

National Policy and Planning Context:

- » Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- » National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)
- » White Paper on the Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa (1998)
- » National Energy Act (No. 34 of 2008)
- » Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) (2015)
- » National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 (2012)
- » Strategic Infrastructures (SIPs)

Provincial Policy and Planning Context:

- » Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS) (2005 – 2014)
- » Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS), Revised October 2007
- » Free State Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) - Executive Summary (Inception Report)
- » Free State Green Economy Strategy (2014)
- » Free State Investment Prospectus (2019)

Local Policy and Planning Context:

- » Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Xhariep District Municipality 2016-2017
- » Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Letsemeng Local Municipality 2021/2022

3.1. National Policy and Planning Context

Any project which contributes positively towards the objectives mentioned within national policies could be considered strategically important for the country. A review of the national policy environment suggests that the agricultural development is considered integral to contributing towards social upliftment and economic development, even if only limited in extent.

A brief review of the most relevant national legislation and policies is provided in table format (**Table 3.1**) below.

Table 3.1: Relevant national legislation and policies for the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Relevant legislation or policy	Relevance to the proposed project
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996	Section 24 of the Constitution pertains specifically to the environment. It states that Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being, and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through

Relevant legislation or policy	Relevance to the proposed project
	<p>reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.</p> <p>The Constitution outlines the need to promote social and economic development. Section 24 of the Constitution therefore requires that development be conducted in such a manner that it does not infringe on an individual's environmental rights, health, or well-being. This is especially significant for previously disadvantaged individuals who are most at risk to environmental impacts.</p>
<p>National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)</p>	<p>This piece of legislation is South Africa's key piece of environmental legislation, and sets the framework for environmental management in South Africa. NEMA is founded on the principle that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being as contained within the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>The national environmental management principles state that the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated, and decisions must be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.</p> <p>The need for responsible and informed decision-making by government on the acceptability of environmental impacts is therefore enshrined within NEMA.</p>
<p>National Development Plan 2030 (2012)</p>	<p>The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 is a plan prepared by the National Planning Commission in consultation with the South African public which is aimed at eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030.</p> <p>In terms of the Energy Sector's role in empowering South Africa, the NDP envisages that, by 2030, South Africa will have an energy sector that promotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Economic growth and development through adequate investment in energy infrastructure. The sector should provide reliable and efficient energy service at competitive rates, while supporting economic growth through job creation. » Social equity through expanded access to energy at affordable tariffs and through targeted, sustainable subsidies for needy households. » Environmental sustainability through efforts to reduce pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change. <p>The NDP aims to provide a supportive environment for growth and development, while promoting a more labour-absorbing economy.</p>
<p>White Paper on the Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa (1998)</p>	<p>The White Paper on Energy Policy places emphasis on the expansion of energy supply options to enhance South Africa's energy security. This can be achieved through increased use of RE and encouraging new entries into the generation market. South Africa has an attractive range of cost-effective renewable resources, taking into consideration social and environmental costs. Government policy RE is thus concerned with meeting the following challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ensuring that economically feasible technologies and applications are implemented. » Ensuring that an equitable level of national resources is invested in renewable technologies, given their potential and compared to investments in other energy supply options. » Addressing constraints on the development of the renewable industry.

Relevant legislation or policy	Relevance to the proposed project
	<p>The policy states that the advantages of renewable energy include; minimal environmental impacts during operation in comparison with traditional supply technologies, generally lower running costs, and high labour intensities. Disadvantages include; higher capital costs in some cases; lower energy densities; and lower levels of availability, depending on specific conditions, especially with sun and wind based systems. Nonetheless, renewable resources generally operate from an unlimited resource base and, as such, can increasingly contribute towards a long-term sustainable energy future. The White Paper on Energy Policy therefore supports the advancement of RE sources and ensuring energy security through the diversification of supply.</p>
<p>National Energy Act (No.34 of 2008)</p>	<p>The purpose of the National Energy Act (No. 34 of 2008) is to ensure that diverse energy resources are available, in sustainable quantities and at affordable prices, to the South African economy in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation; while taking environmental management requirements into account. In addition, the Act also provides for energy planning, and increased generation and consumption of Renewable Energies (REs). The objectives of the Act, are to amongst other things, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ensure uninterrupted supply of energy to the Republic. » Promote diversity of supply of energy and its sources. » Facilitate energy access for improvement of the quality of life of the people of the Republic. » Contribute to the sustainable development of South Africa's economy. <p>The National Energy Act therefore recognises the significant role which electricity plays growing the economy while improving citizens' quality of life. The Act provides the legal framework which supports the development of RE facilities for the greater environmental and social good, and provides the backdrop against which South Africa's strategic planning regarding future electricity provision and supply takes place. It also provides the legal framework which supports the development of RE facilities for the greater environmental and social good.</p>
<p>Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) (2016)</p>	<p>The Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) (which was developed under the National Energy Act (No. 34 of 2008)), recognises that energy is essential to many human activities, and is critical to the social and economic development of a country. The purpose of the IEP is essentially to ensure the availability of energy resources, and access to energy services in an affordable and sustainable manner, while minimising associated adverse environmental impacts. Energy planning therefore needs to balance the need for continued economic growth with social needs, and the need to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>The IEP is a multi-faceted, long-term energy framework which has multiple aims, some of which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To guide the development of energy policies and, where relevant, set the framework for regulations in the energy sector. » To guide the selection of appropriate technologies to meet energy demand (i.e. the types and sizes of new power plants and refineries to be built and the prices that should be charged for fuels). » To guide investment in and the development of energy infrastructure in South Africa.

Relevant legislation or policy	Relevance to the proposed project
Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs)	<p>To propose alternative energy strategies which are informed by testing the potential impacts of various factors such as proposed policies, introduction of new technologies, and effects of exogenous macro- economic factors.</p> <p>The Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (PICC) are integrating and phasing investment plans across 18 Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) which have the following 5 core functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To unlock opportunity. » Transform the economic landscape. » Create new jobs. » Strengthen the delivery of basic services. » Support the integration of African economies. <p>A balanced approach is being fostered through greening of the economy, boosting energy security, promoting integrated municipal infrastructure investment, facilitating integrated urban development, accelerating skills development, investing in rural development and enabling regional integration.</p> <p>SIP 8 of the energy SIPs supports the development of RE projects as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SIP 8: Green energy in support of the South African economy: <p>Support sustainable green energy initiatives on a national scale through a diverse range of clean energy options as envisaged in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2010) and supports bio-fuel production facilities.</p> <p>The development of the proposed project is therefore also aligned with SIP 8 as it constitutes a green energy initiative which would contribute clean energy in accordance with the IRP 2010 – 2030.</p>

3.2. Provincial Policies

This section provides a brief review of the most relevant provincial policies. The proposed JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is considered to align with the aims of these policies, even if contributions to achieving the goals therein are only minor.

A brief review of the most relevant provincial policies is provided in table format (**Table 3.2**) below.

Table 3.2: Relevant provincial policies for the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Relevant policy	Relevance to the proposed project
<p>Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS) (2005 – 2014)</p>	<p>The overarching goal of the Free State Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS) is to align the provincial and national policies and programmes and to guide development in terms of effective and efficient management and governance to achieve growth and development. The strategy is a living document that uses the latest business planning and evaluation tools in order to maximise the effect of all spending.</p> <p>Based on the social and economic development challenges of the province, the Strategy identifies a few primary objectives, including stimulating economic development and developing and enhancing the infrastructure for economic growth and social development, poverty alleviation through human and social development, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all and the promotion of effective and efficient governance and administration.</p> <p>The development of the agricultural and infrastructure development supports the overall objective of stimulating economic development and infrastructure investment towards growth and social development, by contributing to the energy mix, supply and infrastructure of the province. The development of the facility will also contribute (albeit limited) to the alleviation of poverty through the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities and well as skills development</p>
<p>Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS), Revised October 2007</p>	<p>The revised FSGDS refers to specific imperatives which sets the tone and pace for shared growth and development in the Province. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The need to effectively use scarce resources within the Province, whilst addressing the real causes of development challenges. » The need to accelerate service delivery based on a common provincial development agenda as the basis for provincial strategic direction. » The need to identify investment opportunities and provide an environment of certainty critical for private-sector investment. » The need to promote intergovernmental coordination between the three spheres of government. » The need to facilitate the implementation of the People's Contract within the Province. » The need to provide a common vision as the basis for common action amongst all stakeholders, both inside and outside government. » The need to provide a framework for budgets, implementation, performance management and spatial development. <p>The development of the agricultural and infrastructure development will assist with the need to effectively use scarce resources and the need to identify investment opportunities, including private sector-investment. The development of a solar facility reduces the need to make use of non-renewable resources for the generation of electricity and opens up the Province to further future solar energy development.</p>
<p>Free State Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) - Executive Summary (Inception Report)</p>	<p>The Free State PSDF is a provincial spatial and strategic planning policy that responds to and complies with, in particular, the National Development Plan Vision 2030 and the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP). The latter encourages all spheres of government to prepare spatial development plans and frameworks (such as the PSDF) that promote a developmental state in accordance with the principles of global sustainability as is advocated by, among others, the South African Constitution and the enabling legislation.</p>

Relevant policy	Relevance to the proposed project
	<p>The Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy states that sustainable economic development is the only effective means by which the most significant challenge of the Free State, namely poverty, can be addressed. The PSDF gives practical effect to sustainable development, which is defined as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>The PSDF is prepared in accordance with bioregional planning principles that were adapted to suit the site-specific requirements of the Free State. It incorporates and complies with the relevant protocols, conventions, agreements, legislation and policy at all applicable levels of planning, ranging from the international to the local.</p> <p>The agricultural and infrastructure development will contribute to sustainable and economic development goals of the Free State PSDF, once completed and formally adopted.</p>
Free State Green Economy Strategy (2014)	<p>This green economy strategy for Free State Province (FSGES) was developed in alignment with the national green economy strategy elaborated in the National Green Economy Framework and Green Economy Accord, as well the Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. The development process was spearheaded by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA).</p> <p>The objective was to develop a green economy strategy to assist the province to, amongst others, improve environmental quality and economic growth, and to develop green industries and energy efficiency within the province.</p> <p>The agricultural and infrastructure development will contribute to the aim of energy efficiency and green industry whilst promoting economic growth, and is therefore consistent with this strategy.</p>
Free State Investment Prospectus (2019)	<p>The Premier of the Free State considers providing access to individual investors' to accurate and pertinent information makes it easier for investors to glean investor ready opportunities that are currently available in the Free State.</p> <p>Opportunity of the development of renewable energy is considered in the key sectors overview. The prospectus states that opportunities are opening up in the Province for the energy sector, including renewable energy. Rezoning for the development of multiple solar energy facilities has already been undertaken in the province. The development of a Solar Park in the Xhariep region is seen as a driver of growth along the banks of the Orange River.</p> <p>Considering the future opportunities available for the development of renewable energy facilities (including solar PV facilities) the development of the agricultural and infrastructure development is considered to be in-line with the Investment Prospectus of the Province.</p>

3.3. District and Local Municipalities Policies

The strategic policies at a district and local level have similar objectives for the respective areas, namely, to accelerate economic growth, create jobs, and uplift communities proposed JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is considered to align with the aims of these policies, even if contributions to achieving the goals therein are only minor.

A brief review of the most relevant district and local municipal policies is provided in table format (**Table 3.3**) below.

Table 3.3: Relevant district and local municipal policies for the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Relevant policy	Relevance to the proposed project										
Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Xhariep District Municipality 2016-2017	<p>The Vision of the Municipality is for a community-orientated municipality characterized by a sound political and administrative capacity with sustainable and enabling business environment. The key development challenges experienced by the municipality is high poverty and unemployment – 46.03% (STATSSA 2011); Inadequate access to basic services (water, sanitation, refuse collection, electricity, housing and primary health care); infrastructure, maintenance and service backlogs; HIV and AIDS – 30.8% prevalence rate (Antenatal Care Statistics) and TB; Substance abuse; Illegal dumping; Lack of integrated planning between the three spheres of government; Unfunded mandates; Housing shortage and rectification of incomplete houses; and lack of integrated and sustainable human settlements.</p> <p>Opportunities provided by the municipality are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gariep Dam (Biggest dam in Southern Africa) » Popular tourism destination with rich biodiversity » Friendly and vibrant people, with a rich diversity of culture and languages » National routes linking the district to other provinces » Fish hatchery » Solar hub project partnering with Free State Development Corporation <p>Key Spatial Issue within the municipality is:</p>										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="373 1021 740 1055">Key Spatial Issue</th> <th data-bbox="740 1021 1452 1055">Brief Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="373 1055 740 1301">Access to Land</td> <td data-bbox="740 1055 1452 1301">The issue of access to land relates the local authorities as well as individuals and groups. As far as individuals and groups are concerned, the burning issues are access to residential land in urban areas and to agricultural land for emerging farmers. Various local authorities experience a shortage of land for residential expansion and other social functions.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="373 1301 740 1621">Land Development</td> <td data-bbox="740 1301 1452 1621">Land Development relates to the availability, preparation and funding of certain key land uses such as sites for housing developments, land for needed social amenities and economic activities. The key issues requiring attention in this regard include: the generation of proper information of projected land development needs, funding, co-operation and local capacity to evaluate development applications.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="373 1621 740 1868">Spatial Integration</td> <td data-bbox="740 1621 1452 1868">Spatial integration has to focus on both a macro and a micro level. On a macro level there is a need for a more focused development at key nodal points to develop the region strategically within current resource constraints. On a micro level, most town areas are still geographically segregated and direct intervention within former buffer strip areas will be required to integrate communities.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="373 1868 740 1998">Sustainable land management</td> <td data-bbox="740 1868 1452 1998">The long-term sustainability of all land development practices will be the key factor in the environmental and economic future of this predominantly agricultural region. Specific attention will have to be</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key Spatial Issue	Brief Description	Access to Land	The issue of access to land relates the local authorities as well as individuals and groups. As far as individuals and groups are concerned, the burning issues are access to residential land in urban areas and to agricultural land for emerging farmers. Various local authorities experience a shortage of land for residential expansion and other social functions.	Land Development	Land Development relates to the availability, preparation and funding of certain key land uses such as sites for housing developments, land for needed social amenities and economic activities. The key issues requiring attention in this regard include: the generation of proper information of projected land development needs, funding, co-operation and local capacity to evaluate development applications.	Spatial Integration	Spatial integration has to focus on both a macro and a micro level. On a macro level there is a need for a more focused development at key nodal points to develop the region strategically within current resource constraints. On a micro level, most town areas are still geographically segregated and direct intervention within former buffer strip areas will be required to integrate communities.	Sustainable land management	The long-term sustainability of all land development practices will be the key factor in the environmental and economic future of this predominantly agricultural region. Specific attention will have to be
	Key Spatial Issue	Brief Description									
	Access to Land	The issue of access to land relates the local authorities as well as individuals and groups. As far as individuals and groups are concerned, the burning issues are access to residential land in urban areas and to agricultural land for emerging farmers. Various local authorities experience a shortage of land for residential expansion and other social functions.									
	Land Development	Land Development relates to the availability, preparation and funding of certain key land uses such as sites for housing developments, land for needed social amenities and economic activities. The key issues requiring attention in this regard include: the generation of proper information of projected land development needs, funding, co-operation and local capacity to evaluate development applications.									
Spatial Integration	Spatial integration has to focus on both a macro and a micro level. On a macro level there is a need for a more focused development at key nodal points to develop the region strategically within current resource constraints. On a micro level, most town areas are still geographically segregated and direct intervention within former buffer strip areas will be required to integrate communities.										
Sustainable land management	The long-term sustainability of all land development practices will be the key factor in the environmental and economic future of this predominantly agricultural region. Specific attention will have to be										

Relevant policy	Relevance to the proposed project	
		given to the building of capacity amongst especially emerging land users and the provision of a management framework to all land users within the district.
	Proper distribution network	The vast distances between the various towns in the district make all communities dependent on the regional distribution roads for social as well as economic functioning. Most of these roads are however in a state of disrepair and especially the routes falling within the corridor areas will have to be upgraded and maintained as a matter of urgency.
	Land reform and restitution	The two land restitution cases within the municipality (namely Bethany and Oppermans) still need to be finalised and will require infrastructural intervention to provide proper infrastructure not presently available due to past neglect. The further land redistribution effort within the region will also have to be co-ordinated proactively in order to ensure legal and systematic address of the land shortage within the area
	Land Conservation	Various areas along the southern border of the district, adjacent to the Orange river as well as surrounding regional dams are well suited for tourism and agricultural development alike. These areas are however sensitive to over utilization and pollution and will have to be protected and conserved to ensure long-term benefits thereof.
<p>Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Letsemeng Local Municipality 2021/2022</p>	<p>The municipality aligns their priorities with the key government priorities which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Education » Health » Rural development » Fight against crime » Decent employment and inclusive economy to promote sustainable livelihoods & growth » Infrastructure development <p>Issues that require special attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Waste collection & illegal dumping sites » Sewer spillages and maintenance » Unemployment » SMME development » Roads and infrastructure <p>Spatial proposals for the local municipality include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The whole of Xhariep district as a 'solar corridor' » Vanderkloof dam and the Rolfontein nature reserve as a tourism node » The potential of the N8 as development corridor » Agricultural beneficiation potential of the VanderKloof dam and Riet river irrigation networks, serving Oppermansgronde and Jacobsdal, respectively. 	

3.4. Conclusion

The review of relevant legislation, policies and documentation pertaining to the proposed development indicates that the establishment of the agricultural development and associated infrastructure is supported

at a national, provincial, and local level, and that the proposed project will contribute positively towards a number of targets and policy aims.

4. SOCIAL PROFILE

The JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development will be located Southwest of Luckhoff and Koffiesfontein in the Free State Province. The development will take place on a site of ~2690ha in extent across in 10 interlinked properties within the Letsemeng Local municipality of the Xhariep District Municipality.

Table 4.1: Spatial Context of the study area for the development of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Province	Free State Province
District Municipality	Xhariep District Municipality
Local Municipality	Letsemeng Local Municipality
Ward number(s)	11
Nearest town(s)	Luckhoff (~9km north- east) and Petrus Ville (~15km south- west)

This Chapter provides an overview of the socio-economic environment of the province, DM, and LM within which the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is proposed and provides the socio-economic basis against which potential issues can be identified.

4.1. Free State Province

The Free State Province lies in the centre of South Africa, located between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south. The region is one of flat, rolling grassland and fields of crops, rising to mountains in the north-east.

The province is the granary of South Africa, with agriculture central to its economy, while mining in the goldfield reefs is its largest employer.

Economic towns include Welkom, Kroonstad, Parys, QwaQwa, and Bethlehem. The Free State is the third-largest Province in South Africa, but it has the second-smallest population and the second-lowest population density. The culture is centred on traditional cultures but built on the influences of the early European settlers.

Close to 2.8-million people live in the Free State, with two-thirds speaking Sesotho, followed by Afrikaans, Zulu, Tswana, Xhosa and English.

The Free State is strategically placed to take advantage of the national transport infrastructure. Two corridors are of particular importance: the Harrismith node on the N3 corridor between Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, and the N8. The N1 connects Gauteng to the Western Cape. Bram Fischer International Airport in Bloemfontein handles about 250 000 passengers and 221 000 tons of cargo a year. Manufacturing

also features in the provincial economic profile. This sector makes up 14% of the provincial output, with petrochemicals (via Sasol) accounting for more than 85% of the output.

The Free State Province comprises of four(4) Districts, namely Fezile Dabi, Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyana and Xhariep (refer to **Figure 4.1**).

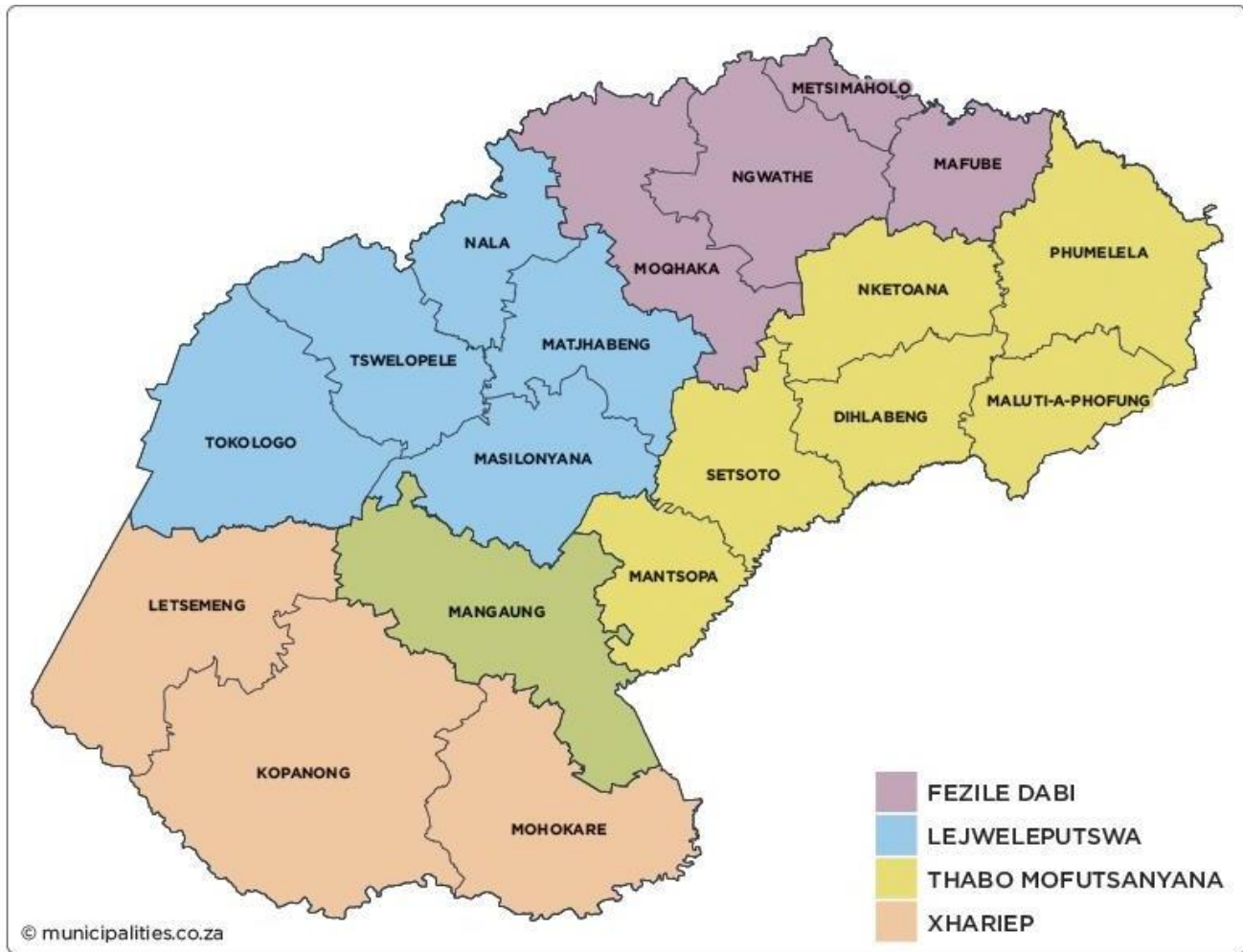


Figure 4.1: Map showing the districts of the Free State Province (Source: www.municipalities.co.za).

4.2. Xhariep DM

The Xhariep District Municipality is a Category C municipality situated in the southern part of the Free State. It is bordered by the Mangaung Metro to the north, Eastern Cape to the south, Lesotho to the east, and Northern Cape to the west.

It is the largest district in the province, making up just more than a third of its geographical area. It is comprised of three local municipalities: Letsemeng, Kopanong and Mohokare, which include 21 towns. Its administrative headquarters are in Trompsburg, which lies 125km south of Bloemfontein.

The towns in this district boast abundant natural resources such as water and agricultural land. The largest dam in South Africa is situated at the southern tip of the district. Three national roads (N1 – Gauteng to Cape Town, N6 – Eastern Cape to Bloemfontein and N8 – Bloemfontein to Kimberley) pass through this area (refer to **Figure 4.2**).

4.3. Letsemeng LM

The Letsemeng Local Municipality is a Category B municipality situated in the south-western Free State Province within the Xhariep District. It is bordered in the north by the Lejweleputswa District, in the south by Kopanong, in the east by the Mangaung Metro, and in the west by the Northern Cape Province (refer to **Figure 4.2**). It is one of three municipalities in the district, making up almost a third of its geographical area. Koffiefontein is the municipal head office.

The socio-economic growth of the municipality is centred on agriculture. The municipal area also has mining activities, with diamond minerals being the major natural resource that helps with employment creation.



Figure 4.2: Map showing the Xhariep District Free State Province (Source: www.municipalities.co.za).

4.4. Baseline Description of the Social Environment

Table 4.2 provides a baseline summary of the socio-economic profile of the Letsemeng LM within which the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development is located. In order to provide context against which the LM's socio-economic profile can be compared, the socio-economic profiles of the Xhariep DM, Free State Province, and South Africa as a whole have also been considered. The data presented in this section have been derived from the 2011 Census, the Local Government Handbook South Africa 2019, and the Xhariep DM and Letsemeng LM IDPs.

Table 4.2: Baseline description of the socio-economic characteristics of the area within which the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Location characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The project is proposed within the Free State Province, which is the third-largest province in South Africa and has the second-smallest population and the second lowest population density. » The project is proposed within the Letsemeng LM of the Xhariep DM. » The Letsemeng LM is approximately 9 826km² in extent, whilst Xhariep is 34 250km² in extent.
Population characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » According to the Statistics SA Letsemeng had a population growth per annum of 0.82%. the total population is 40 444 which is about one-third of the figure in Xhariep (125,884). » From the StatsSA in 2016 it shows that males were more than females in age group 15-34, 35-64 and females were more than males in age groups 1-14,65+ (adults) » Males have the highest portion, particularly the highest portion are the males in the youth between 15-34. » For every 100 (ages 15-64) the dependency ratio in 2016 was 111.8 whilst in 2011 it was 105.7. » The growth rate according to 2011 census data is -1.04% (between 2001-2011)
Economic, education and household characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In terms of houses/brick structures on a separate stand dominate by far in all urban areas (83%0 » Second largest number of households type is shacks (14%) » The vast majority live in dwellings that are fully paid off (66%); 12% occupy their dwellings rent free and 11% rent through a private individual. » There is 36.6% rate on employment which is about the same as the rate in Xhariep 36.47%. » Discouraged work-seeker is about 7% (1,745), other not economically active is 46% (11,518), unemployed 10,5% (2,624). » The annual income average is R15 000 which is about the same as the amount in Xhariep (R15 000) » Those that earn between R10k – R20K is about 31% (the highest). » 57.6% have completed Grade 9 or higher which is about the same as rate in Xhariep (56.38%) » 31.9% completed matric or higher which is about the same rate in Xhariep 31.7%. » Employment for those between 15-17 years is about R7 500 an average annual income of employed about the same as the amount in Xhariep R1 500. » 14% of children between 15 and 17 are in the labour force which is a little higher than the rate in Xhariep (13.28%).
Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 78.3% are getting water from a regional or local service provider which is about 90 percent of the rate in Xhariep (85.7%). » Those with piped water inside the house is 47.1% (18,875); piped water inside yard is 46.1% (18,455); borehole in yard 2.2% (869; borehole outside yard is 1.8% (710) and other is 2.8% (1,136). » 2.4% have no access to electricity which is about three quarters of rate in Xhariep (3.23%) » Those with in-house prepaid meter is 79.2% (31,728); in-house conventional meter is 13.3% (5,324); other source (no paying for) is 3.1% (1,234); no access to electricity is about 2.4% (942) whilst on other is 2% (816) » 87.2% have access to flush or chemical toilets a little less than rate in Xhariep (90.4%). » 1.4% have no access to any toilets which is about half the rate in Xhariep 2.73%. » 61.1% are getting refuse disposal from a local authority, private company or community members about 80 percent of the rate in Xhariep (75.22%).

5. OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL ISSUES

This Chapter provides a detailed description and evaluation of the potential social impacts that have been identified for the detailed design and construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, of the proposed JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development.

This assessment considered the following points:

- » The nature, extent and significance of the features within the social landscape being considered.
- » The existing disturbance already present within the social landscape (i.e. mining activities and other industrial developments/infrastructure).

Social impacts are expected to occur during both the construction and operation phases of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development. The status of the impacts will either be positive or negative and either mitigation or enhancement measures are recommended for the management of the impacts depending on the status of the impacts.

5.1. Social Impacts during the Construction Phase

The majority of social impacts associated with the project are anticipated to occur during the construction phase of the development and are typical of the type of social impacts generally associated with construction activities. These impacts will be temporary and short-term (~12 months), but could have long-term effects on the surrounding social environment if not planned or managed appropriately. It is therefore necessary that the detailed design phase be conducted in such a manner so as not to result in permanent social impacts associated with the ill-placement of project components or associated infrastructure or result in the mismanagement of the construction phase activities.

The positive and negative social impacts identified and assessed for the **construction phase** includes:

- » Direct and indirect employment opportunities
- » Economic multiplier effects
- » Influx of jobseekers and change in population
- » Safety and security impacts
- » Impacts on daily living and movement patterns
- » Nuisance impacts, including noise and dust
- » Visual impacts and sense of place impacts

Table 5.1: Impact assessment on direct and indirect employment opportunities

Impact Creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities and skills development			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Construction of the project will result in the creation of a number of direct and indirect employment opportunities, which will assist in addressing unemployment levels within the area and aid in skills development of communities in the area.	Positive – the creation of employment opportunities will assist to an extent in alleviating unemployment levels within the area.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	None identified at this stage
Description of expected significance of impact At its peak, the construction is likely to result in the creation of approximately 100-120 employment opportunities. Of those employment opportunities available, approximately 60% will comprise opportunities for low skilled workers, 25% for semi-skilled workers, and 15% for skilled workers. Skills developed through experience in the construction of the facility will be retained by the community members involved. The impact is likely to be positive, local to national in extent, short-term, and of medium significance			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collection on exact direct and indirect employment opportunities and skills development opportunities. » Collection of information on local hospitality and services sector Recommendations with regards to general field surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Site visits and interviews with representatives from local municipality, and the hospitality and services sector. » Site visit and interviews with local farmers and local community 			

Table 5.2: Economic multiplier effects

Impact Economic multiplier effects			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Economic multiplier effects from the use of local good and services during the construction phase.	Positive – There are likely to be opportunities for local businesses to provide goods and services during the construction phase of development.	The impact will occur at a local and regional.	None identified at this stage
Description of expected significance of impact Economic multiplier effects from the use of local goods and services opportunities include but are not limited to, the provision of construction materials and equipment, and workforce essentials such as services, safety equipment, ablution, accommodation, transportation and other goods. The increase in demand for goods and services may stimulate local business and local economic development (however locally sourced materials and services may be limited due to availability). There is likely to be a direct increase in industry and indirect increase in secondary businesses. The impact is likely to be positive, local to regional in extent, short-term, and of medium significance.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collection on exact direct and indirect employment opportunities and skills development opportunities. » Collection of information on local hospitality and services sector Recommendations with regards to general field surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Site visits and interviews with representatives from local municipality, and the hospitality and services sector. » Site visit and interviews with local farmers 			

Table 5.3: Assessment of impacts from an influx of jobseekers and change in population

Impact Influx of jobseekers and change in population			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Issue Increased pressure on infrastructure and basic services, and social conflicts during construction as a result of in-migration of people.	Low Negative – 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 level.	None identified at this stage
Description of expected significance of impact An influx of people looking for employment or other economic opportunities could result in increased pressure being placed on economic and social infrastructure, and a change in the local population. Population change refers to the size, structure, density as well as demographic profile of the local community. An influx of jobseekers into an area, could lead to a temporary increase in the level of crime, cause social disruption and put pressure on basic services. It could also potentially create conflict between locals and outsiders due to potential differences in racial, cultural and ethnic composition. A further negative impact that could result due to an influx of jobseekers into an area is an increase in unemployment levels due to an oversupply of available workforce, particularly with respect to semi- and unskilled workers.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study » Collection of information on existing community challenges and needs Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visit and interviews with representatives from local municipality and community representative			

Table 5.4: Assessment of safety and security impacts

Impact Safety and security impacts			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Temporary increase in safety and security concerns associated with the influx of people during the construction phase.	Negative – The in-migration of job seekers to the area could be perceived to result in increased criminal activity.	The impact will occur at a local level.	None identified. No workers should be allowed to reside on-site during construction.
Description of expected significance of impact The commencement of construction activities can be associated with an increase in crime within an area. The perceived loss of security during the construction phase of a project due to an influx of workers and / or outsiders to the area (as in-migration of newcomers, construction workers or jobseekers are usually associated with an increase in crime), may have indirect effects such as increased safety and security concerns for neighbouring properties, damage to property, increased risk of veld fire, stock theft, poaching, crime and so forth. The labour force will not permanently reside within the construction site.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study » Information on existing crime levels within the area. » Mechanisms for employment of local labour and minimisation of in-migration. Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visit and interviews with local farmers and community members			

Table 5.5: Assessment of impacts on daily living and movement patterns.

Impact Impacts on daily living and movement patterns			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Temporary increase in traffic disruptions and movement patterns during construction	Low Negative – 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.	None identified.
Description of expected significance of impact 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 given the proximity of the project to existing mining operations within the area			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study Gaps in Knowledge » Number of vehicle trips anticipated during construction. Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visit and interviews with local farmers and local community			

Table 5.6: Assessment of nuisance impacts (noise and dust)

Impact Nuisance impacts (noise and dust)			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Nuisance impacts in terms of temporary increase in noise and dust, and wear and tear on access roads to the site.	Negative – The impact will negatively impact sensitive receptors and could cause disruptions for neighbouring properties.	The impact will occur at a local level.	None identified.
Description of expected significance of impact Nuisance impacts associated with construction related activities include noise, dust, and possible disruption 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 movement of heavy construction vehicles and construction activities and equipment also have the potential to create noise, as well as impacts on travellers travelling along the via the Swartklip Road which branches off the R510 provincial road on the south-eastern side of the SBPM development area. The primary sources of noise during construction would be from construction equipment, vehicle and truck traffic. Noise levels can be audible over a large distance although are generally short in duration. Dust would be generated from construction activities as well as trucks / vehicles driving on gravel access roads. This impact will negatively impact sensitive receptors. The impact of noise and dust on sensitive receptors can be reduced through the application of appropriate mitigation measures.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study » Impact of noise and dust on surrounding landowners. Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visit and interviews with farmers and local agricultural representatives			

Table 5.7: Assessment of visual impacts and impacts on the sense of place

Impact
Visual and sense of place impacts

Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Intrusion impacts from construction activities will have an impact on the area's "sense of place".	Low Negative – The project could alter the area's sense of place which could impact on sensitive receptors.	The impact will occur at a local level.	None identified.
Description of expected significance of impact Intrusion impacts such as aesthetic pollution (i.e. building materials, construction vehicles, etc.), noise and light pollution will impact the "sense of place" for the local community. Construction related activities have the potential to negatively impact a local area's "sense of place". Such an impact is likely to be present during the construction phase.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study » Collection of information on location of existing farming.			
Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visit and interviews with local farmers.			

5.2. Potential Social impacts during the Operation Phase

It is anticipated that the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development will operate for approximately 20 – 50 years, or as long as required by the development.

The potential positive and negative social impacts that could arise because of the operation of the proposed project include the following:

- » Direct and indirect employment opportunities
- » Visual impact and sense of place impacts

Table 5.8: Employment opportunities and skills development

Impact Direct and indirect employment opportunities and skills development			
Issue	Nature of Impact	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Creation of direct and indirect employment and skills development opportunities and skills development as a result of the operation of the project.	Positive – The creation of employment opportunities and skills development will assist to an extent in alleviating unemployment levels within the area.	The impact will occur at a local, regional and national level.	None identified at this stage
Description of expected significance of impact During operation a number of direct full time employment opportunities will be created. Of those employment opportunities created approximately 70% will comprise opportunities for low-skilled workers, 25% will comprise opportunities for semi-skilled workers, and approximately 5% will comprise opportunities for skilled workers. Employment opportunities include safety and security staff, operation and monitoring; and maintenance crew. Maintenance activities will be carried out throughout the lifespan of the project, and will include washing of solar panels, vegetation control, and general maintenance around the agricultural development. The impact is likely to be positive, local to national in extent, long-term, and of medium significance.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study » Information on the exact direct and indirect employment opportunities and skills development opportunities likely to be created during construction			
Recommendations with regards to general field surveys » Site visits and interviews with representatives from local municipality and farming.			

» Site visit and interviews with local farmers

Table 5.9: Assessment of the visual impact and impacts on sense of place

Impact			
Visual and sense of place impacts			
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 pivot development and associated infrastructure.	Low Negative – The project could alter the areas sense of place which could negatively impact on sensitive receptors.	The impact will occur at local level.	None identified at this stage
Description of expected significance of impact			
An area's sense of place is created through the interaction of various characteristics of the environment, including atmosphere, visual resources, aesthetics, climate, lifestyle, culture, and heritage. An area's sense of place is however subjective and largely dependent on the demographics of the population residing within the area and their perceptions regarding trade-offs. For example, while some individuals may prefer not to see any form of infrastructure development, others may be interested in large-scale infrastructure, or engineering projects and consider the impact to be less significant. Such a scenario may be true given that one of the main economic sectors within the area is mining which has altered the landscape from natural to industrial.			
Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study			
Gaps in Knowledge			
» Potential sensitive visual receptors need to be identified as part of the social impact assessment.			
Recommendations with regards to general field surveys			
» Site visit and interviews with local farmers and representatives from local municipality and farming			

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This SIA Scoping level study focused on the collection of data to provide an understanding of the current social environment associated with the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development that is proposed and identifying and assessing social issues and potential social impacts associated with the development of such a nature. The environmental assessment framework for evaluation of impacts at the scoping phase and the relevant criteria was applied to evaluate the significance of the potential impacts and to recommend appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures for the identified impacts. In addition, gaps in knowledge were identified and recommendations made for additional studies in the EIA phase of the process.

A summary of the potential positive and negative impacts identified for the construction and operation phases of the project are presented in Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found.. A summary of the potential positive and negative cumulative social impacts identified for the project is provided in Error! Reference source not found..

Table 6.1: Summary of potential social impacts identified for the construction phase of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Impact	Status	Significance
Positive Impacts		
Creation of direct and indirect employment and skills development opportunities.	Positive	Medium
Economic multiplier effects	Positive	Medium
Negative Impacts		
In-migration of people (non-local workforce and jobseekers).	Negative	Medium
Safety and security impacts	Negative	Medium
Impacts on daily living and movement patterns	Negative	Low
Nuisance impact (noise and dust)	Negative	Low
Visual and sense of place impacts	Negative	Low

Table 6.2: Summary of potential social impacts identified for the operation phase of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development

Impact	Status	Significance
Positive Impacts		
Direct and indirect employment and skills development opportunities	Positive	Medium
Negative Impacts		
Visual and sense of place impacts	Negative	Low

6.1. Key findings and Recommendations

The social impacts identified (including all positive and negative impacts) will be either of a low or medium significance. No negative impacts with a high significance rating have been identified to be associated with the development of the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development. All negative social impacts are within acceptable limits with no impacts considered as unacceptable from a social

perspective. The recommendations proposed for the project are considered to be appropriate and suitable for the mitigation of the negative impacts and the enhancement of the positive impacts.

It is recommended that a full EIA level Social Impact Assessment (SIA) be conducted as part of the EIA phase. Based on the findings of the social impact assessment, the following approach to the EIA Phase studies is proposed:

- » Review comments pertaining to social impacts received from members of the public, key stakeholders, and any organ of state during the public review of the Scoping Report. Where applicable, comments received from the Free State Department of Economic, Small Enterprise, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) on the Final Scoping Report (FSR), which may pertain to social impacts or have relevance to the SIA, will also be reviewed.
- » Collect primary data during a site visit. Interview directly affected and adjacent landowners, and key stakeholders to obtain primary information related to the project site, social environment, and to gain their inputs on the proposed project and its perceived social impact (positive and /or negative).
- » Update the baseline information with information received during the site visit, 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). As far as possible the mitigation hierarchy of "avoid, minimise, and reduce" will be followed in the mitigation of potential negative impacts.
- » Identify any conditions for inclusion in the Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- » Identify any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or EA.
- » Provide a reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the project, and whether the proposed project should be authorised.
- » Prepare a SIA Report for inclusion in the EIA Report to be prepared for the project.
- » Subject the SIA Report prepared for the project for inclusion in the EIA Report to external peer review.

6.2. Conclusion

The proposed JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure is unlikely to result in permanent damaging social impacts. From a social perspective it is concluded that the project could be developed subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures and management actions contained in the report.

7. REFERENCES

- Department of Energy (DoE). (2008). National Energy Act (No. 34 of 2008). Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Energy (DoE). (2011). National Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity 2010-2030. Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Energy (DoE). (2003). White Paper on Renewable Energy. Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). (1998). National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (No. 107 of 1998). Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). (2010). National Climate Change Response Green Paper. Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Justice (DoJ). (1996). The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996). ISBN 978-0-621-39063-6. Republic of South Africa.
- Department of Minerals and Energy (DME). (1998). White Paper on Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa. Republic of South Africa.
- Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS) (2005 – 2014)
- Free State Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS), Revised October 2007
- Free State Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) - Executive Summary (Inception Report)
- Free State Green Economy Strategy (2014)
- Free State Investment Prospectus (2019)
- Interorganizational Committee on Principles and Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment. US Principles and Guidelines – Principals and guidelines for social impact assessment in the USA. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 21(3): 231-250.
- Letsemeng local Municipality 2021-2022 : Integrated Development Plan
- National Development Agency (NDA). (2014). Beyond 10 years of unlocking potential. Available from: http://www.nda.org.za/?option=3&id=1&com_id=198&parent_id=186&com_task=1
- National Planning Commission. (2012). National Development Plan 2030. ISBN: 978-0-621-41180-5. Republic of South Africa.
- Statistics South Africa. (2011). Census 2011 Community Profiles Database. Pretoria.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2002). EIA Training Resource Manual. 2nd Ed. UNEP.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN). (2001). Guidelines for Stakeholders: Participation in Strategic Environmental Management. New York, NY: United Nations.
- Vanclay, F. (2003). Conceptual and methodological advances in Social Impact Assessment. In Vanclay, F. & Becker, H.A. 2003. *The International Handbook for Social Impact Assessment*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.
- Xhariep District Municipality: Integrated Development Plan 201-2017