

**APPENDIX C8**  
**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE  
SOLAR FIELDS SOLAR PV AND SUN GARDEN SOLAR PV  
FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN  
SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

**DFFE Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2456**

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**MEETING NOTES OF KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP  
HELD ON MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 09H00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

**E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)**

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

**SOLAR FIELDS SOLAR PV AND SUN GARDEN SOLAR PV FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Air Traffic &amp; Navigation Services</b>	
Graham Mondzinger	Obstacle Evaluator
Johan van Schalkwyk	Snr Systems engineer TPQ
<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity Conservation</b>	
Lwande Mbanangana	Deputy Director: Forestry Regulation and Support
<b>Eastern Cape Development Corporation</b>	
Rory Haschick	Sector Manager
<b>Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism</b>	
Alistair McMaster	Environmental
<b>Endangered Wildlife Trust</b>	
Bradley Gibbons	Senior Field Officer
Ian Little	Senior Conservation Manager
<b>Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd</b>	
Nolan Dominick	Service Manager: Eskom Telecommunications
<b>South African Bat Assessment Association</b>	
Eleanor Richardson	Chairperson
<b>South African Civil Aviation Authority</b>	
Lizell Stroh	Obstacle Specialist
Zwelithini Vilakazi	Inspector: PANS-OPS & Cartography
<b>South African Weather Services</b>	
Bernard Petlane	Radar Specialist & Technical Manager
Zamikhaya Magogotya	Radar Specialist
<b>South African Radio Astronomy Observatory</b>	
Thato Nape	
<b>Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd</b>	
Hylton Newcombe	Developer
Kim Brent	Environmental Manager
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>	
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant

**APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were submitted on the calendar invitation:

- Carel Gersbach: Air Traffic & Navigation Services
- Samantha Rolston-Paton: BirdLife South Africa
- Alana Duffel-Canham: CapeNature
- Ncmile Dweni: Department of Water & Sanitation
- Futhi Mathebula: Transnet
- John Geeringh: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

- Xola Swepu: Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism

The list of invitees and the Attendance Record is attached in **Appendix A**.

## PRESENTATION

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

A round of introductions was done whereby the project team introduced themselves to the stakeholders and the stakeholders introduced themselves by informing the project team which Department / Organisation they represent.

Jo-Anne Thomas presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar Photovoltaic (PV) projects;
- the Basic Assessment (BA) and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken; and
- key summary of the results of the various environmental studies undertaken as documented in the BA Reports;
- summary of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and project description for the proposed Western Cluster projects;
- the Basic Assessment (BA) and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken; and
- key summary of the results of the various environmental studies undertaken as documented in the BA Report.

Nicolene concluded the presentation by presenting the Way Forward which included the reminder of the review and comment period for the BA Reports.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B**.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
<b>Nolan Dominic</b>	
It was asked who else from Eskom Environmental is present at the workshop.	Nicolene Venter responded that a number of Eskom employees were invited and that the list of invitees will be shared with Mr Dominic after the meeting.
<b>Lizell Ströh</b>	
What is the height of the proposed power lines?	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that the pylons would be up to 32m.

Question / Comment	Response
	Hylton Newcombe added that the power lines would be 132kV twin-turn dual circuit power line. Generally, a 132kV power line would have a 32m registered servitude but as there would be three (3) power lines the registered servitude would be 100m wide.
<b>Johan van Schalkwyk</b>	
What is the relation to the wind farm as mentioned in the presentation to the solar PV developments?	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that previously the findings of the BA processes undertaken for the Western Cluster of Wind Farms were presented to stakeholders, including that for the Redding Wind Farm. The Redding Wind Farm is immediately adjacent to the Sun Garden and Solaris Fields PV facilities. The power line route for the PV facilities crosses the properties on which the Redding Wind Farm is located.
<b>Lwande Mbananga</b>	
Would a site visit be arranged?	<p>Jo-Anne Thomas requested clarification whether the question relates to the DFFE or the specialists. It was confirmed that the question relates to the DFFE.</p> <p>Jo-Anne Thomas responded that a request for a site visit was not yet received from the DFFE Case Officers and generally such requests are submitted once the final reports have been submitted.</p>
<b>Eleanor Richardson</b>	
Informed the project team that it cannot be stated that there are no bat roosting sites on site as their roosting nests are very small.	Nicolene Venter requested Ms Richardson to read the Bat Report ( <b>Appendix F</b> of the BA Report) to see what the specialist has found and recommend regarding this matter.
<b>Ian Little</b>	
Asked whether a screening report was done?	Jo-Anne Thomas replied that a screening report using the DFFE online screening tool was done for the projects. She added that the results are included in <b>Appendix Q1</b> of the BA Report and informed the specialist studies undertaken for the projects.
<b>Hylton Newcombe</b>	
As a closing statement, Mr Newcombe thanked the attendees for their valuable inputs at the KSW.	

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

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After confirming that there were no further comments or queries, Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that they can submit any further written comments via e-mail, and she reminded the attendees that the commenting period for the BA Reports is ending on Monday, 13 December 2021 and that it would be appreciated if written comments can be received before or on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

She thanked the participants for making time to attend the KSW and for their valuable inputs into the BA and public participation processes.

The workshop was closed at 09h45

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ATNS	Air Traffic & Navigation Services	DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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## APPENDIX A: Attendance Record

Total Number of Participants	18
Meeting Title	SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Invitation to Key Stakeholder Workshop
Meeting Start Time	11/29/2021, 8:49:01 AM
Meeting End Time	11/29/2021, 9:47:05 AM
Meeting Id	f2cada31-a078-4b0f-8cfb-de02e217f2d0
<b>ON-LINE ATTENDEES</b>	
Nicolene Venter	
Jo-Anne Thomas	
Bernard Petlane	
Graham Mondzinger	
Thato Nape	
Alistair McMaster	
Nolan Dominick	
Johan van Schalkwyk	
Zamikhaya Magogotya	
Hylton Newcombe	
Lizell Stroh	
Ian Little	
Bradley Gibbons	
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LWANDE MBANANGA	
Rory Haschick	
Zwelithini Vilakazi	
Eleanor Richardson	
Nomalwande Mbananga	

## Sun Garden PV Facility and Solaris Fields PV Facility, Eastern Cape Province

Key Stakeholder Workshop

Basic Assessment Report

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## AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Meeting conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project description
- BA process
- Results as documented in the BAR
- Way forward

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## MEETING CONDUCT

- Please mute during presentation
- Please type your name in the message box as proof of attendance
- Please hold all questions until after presentation
- Please raise your hand to ask a question

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## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **Sun Garden and Solaris Fields PV Facilities (separate projects)**
- Summary of the **Basic Assessment & Public Participation Process**
- Present summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **Basic Assessment Reports**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final Basic Assessment Reports** to be submitted to the DFFE

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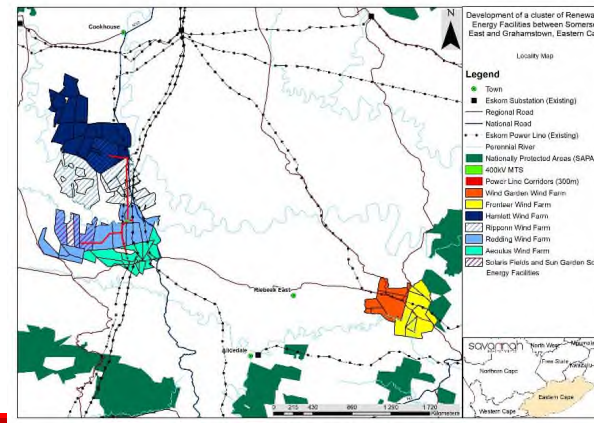
# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Jo-Anne Thomas)



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## COMBINED LOCALITY MAP

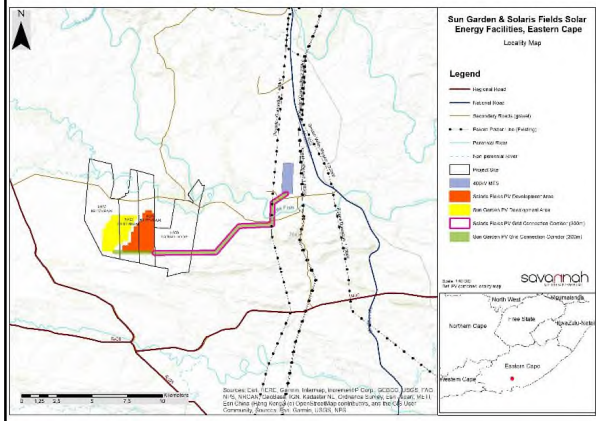


- Cluster of renewable energy projects
- Located between Somerset East and Makhanda, ~36km south of Cookhouse, within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province
- Located in the Cookhouse REDZ and Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridors



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## SOLAR FACILITIES

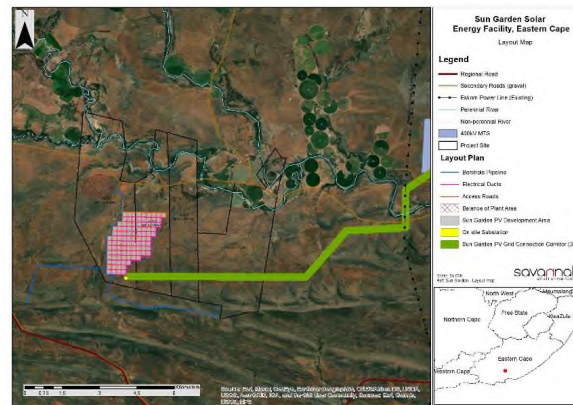


- Projects located on:
  - Portion 9 of the farm Britzkrall No 253, Division of Somerset East
  - Portion 8 (a Portion of Portion 7) of the farm Britzkrall No 253, Division of Somerset East
  - Portion 7 of the farm Britzkrall No 253, Division of Somerset East
  - Portion 1 of farm Bothas Hoop 358, Division of Somerset East



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## PROPOSED LAYOUT – SUN GARDEN PV FACILITY



- Applicant: Sun Garden (Pty) Ltd
- Contracted capacity: 400MW
- Solar PV array
- Inverters and transformers
- Cabling
- 132/33kV on-site collector substation to be connected to a proposed 400kV MTS
- Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop
- Temporary laydown areas
- Access roads
- Water supply pipelines
- Temporary batching plant
- Staff accommodation (temporary)
- Operation and Maintenance buildings



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## RESULTS – DIRECT & INDIRECT IMPACTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Construction Phase	Operation Phase
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Bats	Low	Low
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage (archaeology & palaeontology)	Low	Low
Heritage (Cultural landscape)	High	High
Visual	Low	Medium and Low
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Low

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## RESULTS – CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Specialist Field	Impact Significance (incl. mitigation)	
	Project on its own	Project together with other similar developments
Ecology	Low	Medium
Aquatic Ecology	Low	Medium
Avifauna	Low	Medium
Bats	Low	Medium
Land Use, Soil & Agriculture	Low	Low
Heritage (archaeology & palaeontology)	Medium	Low
Heritage (cultural landscape)	High	High
Visual	Medium	Medium
Socio-Economic	Positive Impacts: High and Medium	Positive Impacts: High and Medium
	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low	Negative Impacts: Medium and Low
Traffic	Low	Low

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## WAY FORWARD (Nicolene Venter)

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## WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports review and comment period: **12 November – 13 December 2021** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DFFE for decision-making
- Registered parties to be notified regarding DFFE decision on projects

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## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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# **COMMUNITY AND OCCUPIERS' CONSULTATION: Western Cluster Wind Farms, Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar Photovoltaics**

## **ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION ON PROPERTIES**

### **FARM ONE: 12/10/2021**

**Landowner: Chris Greeff**

#### **RESPONSES FROM THE LAND OCCUPERS**

The farm workers stated that having wind farms installed on the farm will be an advantage to them, since they only rely on solar energy, which is sometimes not sufficient. For example, sometimes they are forced to sleep early because the stored solar energy runs out while they are still watching television for example. They can't keep frozen food because it easily gets spoiled. There are people who live with their partners on the farms that are not working who might benefit from the jobs that will be created by the construction of the wind turbines. There wasn't any positive interest with the introduction of a Solar system as they currently have it, which they reported to be not sufficient as it relies on sunlight. One of the questions that was asked was whether people who live in the locations near the farms would be eligible to apply for the jobs as most people are not working in their surroundings.

#### **Response by Savannah Environmental:**

It should be noted that the energy generated by the wind and solar projects will be sold to private offtakers. Community members living in the area (including those in close proximity to the sites, Somerset East or Makhanda) would be eligible to apply for job opportunities should the projects be granted Environmental Authorisation and proceed to the construction phase.

### **FARM TWO: 13/10/2021**

**Landowners: Jimmy and Andrew Truter**

#### **RESPONSES FROM THE LAND OCCUPERS:**

Both Jimmy and Andrew use same labourers as it is 1 big farm, separated into two portions. The comments noted are as follows:

1. The land occupiers were concerned about what documents or selection criteria required in order to be employed during the construction of the wind turbines.
2. They also raised a concern of whether there will be enough space for livestock to move around the farm area when the wind farms are installed.
3. Is there any possible danger that the height of the turbines can cause, the height from ground?
4. Are there any dangers of moving near it, what is the safest foot print that a person can be near it?
5. When are they planning to be constructed (possible dates)?
6. Can the family member of the farm employee be considered to work for the upcoming project even if he is residing in any town?
7. Is it only people from Sarah Baartman that are considered?

Response by Savannah Environmental:

1. Depending on the employment available during construction and operations of the proposed projects, local community members would be considered for employment. It is important to note, that employment opportunities would first be offered to those permanent residents in the towns of Somerset East and Makhanda before people from outside the immediate vicinity has been considered for employment. Proof of residence in the area will be required.
2. The wind farm and associated infrastructure will occupy less than 5% of the affected properties. Current land uses can continue on the remainder of the property.
3. There is no danger associated with the height of the turbine blades form the ground. These will be at least 30m above ground level.
4. There is no danger in terms of distance from the turbines.
5. Should the projects be granted Environmental Authorisations, and all financial aspects have been attended to, it is envisaged that construction would commence in mid-2023.
6. Depending on the employment available during construction and operations of the proposed projects, local community members would be considered for employment.
7. Local community members in the nearby towns would be considered first for employment on the projects, depending on the opportunities available and the skills required.

**FARM THREE: 14/10/2021**

**Landowner: Boet Greeff**

RESPONSES FROM THE LAND OCCUPIERS

The farm workers did not have any questions. However, when we asked them if they perhaps know of any people around the farm that are not working, they responded to say there are two women that stay in the farm, who are married to two of the farm workers and are not working. So, this project can be beneficial to them. They also stated that they are happy for the wind farms to be established as the load shedding will be minimal.