

Appendix 7C Proof of Advertisements

GRAAFF-REINET ADVERTISER Thursday 4 July 2019

Ten first-timers take on Mountain Driver parkrun

Paula-Ann Smit

Out of the 63 people who took on the challenging Mountain Drive parkrun on Saturday, 10 ran or walked the route for the first time.

Twelve joggers also managed to clock new person bests.

Ethan Bantom was the first male runner to cross the finish line, with a time of 24:51. Lauren Stanley was first in the women's category, with her time of 30:43.

The female record is held by Alicia Cawood, who recorded a time of 22:50 on 9 March, while the male record is held by Ian Slinger, who recorded a time of 17:01 on 6 April.

Saturday's event was made possible by nine volunteers:

Mike Calitz, Kim Spencer Primic, Lusan Luscombe, Rozelle Köhne, Peter Burdett, Jacqueline Taylor-Freeme, Shirley Spencer, Waune Gradwell and Marna Gerber.





Chirano van Heerden

Chirano now award-winning **SA** umpire

Paula-Ann Smit

A member of the Sarah Baartman Netball Association is now a national level and award-winning umpire.

Chirano van Heerden recently received his South Africa C+ grading. He also received an award for his work as umpire in a national final in Cape Town between teams eThekwini and Harry Gwala.

His association and community are proud of him.

SIVEST **Environmental Division**



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE (3) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES AND BASIC AS-SESSMENTS (BAS) FOR THE ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT AND MIDDELBURG IN THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN CAPE PROVINCES (DEA REFERENCE NUMBERS TO BE ANNOUNCED)

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), under Government Notices R982, R983, R984 and R985 (as amended), notice is hereby given that EDF Renewables (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "EDF") have appointed SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the required EIA, Basic Assessment (BA) and Public Participation processes for the below-mentioned proposed developments.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EDF is proposing to develop three (3) adjacent solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities and associated infrastructure near Noupoort and Middelburg in the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces. The proposed solar PV energy facilities will be known as Mooi Plaats Solar PV, Wonderheuvel Solar PV and Paarde Valley Solar PV. In addition, EDF is proposing to construct three (3) 132kV overhead power lines and associated grid infrastructure (hereafter referred to as "the grid connections"), in order to feed the electricity generated by each solar PV energy facility into the national grid.

In order to accommodate the Department of Energy's (DoE) competitive bidding process for procuring renewable energy from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in South Africa, each solar PV energy facility will require a separate Environmental Authorisation (EA). Additionally, each grid connection will also require a separate EA.

In light of the above, three (3) EIAs (one (1) for each proposed solar PV energy facility) and three (3) BAs (one (1) for each associated grid connection) will be undertaken. Although each solar PV energy facility and the associated grid connection will be assessed separately, a single public participation process is being undertaken for all six (6) proposed applications. The potential environmental impacts associated with all six (6) proposed developments will be assessed during the EIAs and BAs as part of a cumulative impact assessment.

The generation capacity of each solar PV facility and the layout of the PV arrays will be dependent on the outcome of the specialist studies conducted during the EIA process.

PROJECT LOCATION

The three (3) proposed solar PV energy facilities and grid infrastructure projects are located approximately 18km south-west of Noupoort and approximately 21km north-west of Middelburg, in the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces respectively. While both the Mooi Plaats and Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities are located in the Umsobomvu Local Municipality, in the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province, the Paarde Valley Solar PV Energy Facility is located in the In-

xuba Yethemba Local Municipality, in the Chris Hani District Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province.

To register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and/or to obtain additional information, please submit your name, contact details and the interest which you have in the applications to SiVEST as per the details below:

Hlengiwe Ntuli or Stephan Jacobs

SiVEST Environmental Tel: (011) 798 0600 Fax: (011) 803 7272 P O Box 2921

RIVONIA E-mail: stephanj@sivest.co.za / hlengiwen@sivest.co.za / 2128 sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za

Website: www.sivest.co.za

Gimnaste vaar goed

Christo Vermaak

Plaaslike gimnaste het by die South Zonegimnastiekkampioenskappe in Uitenhage die medaljes behoorlik ingeryg.

Die kampioenskappe het van 21 tot 23 Junie plaasgevind.

Wes Kaap, Oos Kaap en Noord Kaap het aan die kampioenskap deelgeneem, wat slegs vir vlak 1 tot 3 artistiese gimnaste bedoel

Gimnaste van Graaff-Reinet en omgewing het as volg presteer:

Vlak 1

Mia Keevy (brons), Alison Orwin (brons), Elani Ferreira (silwer), Carike de Gouveia (brons), Clara Burton (brons), Joslyn Jordaan (silwer), Jana Neetling (silwer), Sophia Louw (silwer), Zoe Hatting (silwer) en Lara Greeff (silwer).

Vlak 2

Janine Coetzer (brons), Ju-Netje le Roux (silwer), Tiaan Fourie (brons), en AJ Cronje (brons).

Marisa Loubser (goud), Anja Loubser (silwer) en Henco van Niekerk (brons).





STATE AUCTION

NO RESERVE

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2019 @ 11H00

VIEWING: 9 July 2019 between 10h00 - 15h00 **VENUE: 2 Fabriek Street, GRAAFF-REINET**

AUCTION LOTS: TRUCKS, TRAILERS, BAKKIES, CARS AND LOOSE ASSETS AUCTION HALL: Alex Laing Hall, Cnr of Mossie & Acasia Street, KROONVALE, GRAAFF-REINET



Auctioneer: Martin Nel 082 771 7947 | info@auction-all.com R5 000 Deposit, proof of residence and copy of ID to register as bidder. **Buyers premium & administration fee's apply** General auction rules applicable. www.auction-all.com

SIVEST

Omgewingsafdeling



OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGS (OIE's) VIR DIE BEOOGDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE DRIE (3) FOTOVOLTAIESE (FV) SONKRAGAANLEGTE EN BASIESE EVALUERINGS (BE's) VIR DIE GEPAARDGAANDE ROOSTERKONNEKSIE-INFRASTRUKTUUR NABY NOUPOORT EN MIDDELBURG IN DIE NOORD- EN 00S-KAAPPROVINSIE (DO-VERWYSINGSNOMMERS MOET NOG AANGEKONDIG WORD)

Ingevolge die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA) (soos gewysig) en die Regulasies op Omgewingsimpakevaluerings (OIE-regulasies), 2014 (soos gewysig), kragtens Staatskennisgewing R982, R983, R984 en R985 (soos gewysig), geskied kennis hiermee dat EDF Renewables (Edms.) Bpk. (hierna "EDF" genoem) SiVEST SA (Edms.) Bpk. aangestel het as die onafhanklike Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (OEP) om die nodige OIE, Basiese Evaluering (BE) en Openbare Deelnameprosesse vir die onderstaande beoogde ontwikkelings te onderneem.

PROJEK BESKRYWING

EDF beoog die ontwikkeling van drie (3) aangrensende fotovoltaiese (FV) sonkragaanlegte en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur naby Noupoort en Middelburg in die Noord- en Oos-Kaapprovinsie. Die beoogde FV-sonkragaanlegte sal die Mooi Plaats FV, Wonderheuvel FV- en Paarde Valley FVsonkragaanleg heet. Voorts beoog EDF ook die oprigting van drie (3) 132 kV oorhoofse kraglyne en gepaardgaande rooster-infrastruktuur (hierna die "roosterkonneksies" genoem) ten einde die krag wat by elk van die FV-sonkragaanlegte opgewek word, by die nasionale kragnet in te voer

Ten einde aan die Departement van Energie (DE) se mededingende bodproses vir die verkryging van hernubare krag van Onafhanklike Kragprodusente (IPP's) in Suid-Afrika te voldoen, sal elk van die FVsonkragaanlegte 'n aparte Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) moet bekom. Elke roosterkonneksie sal ook 'n aparte OM moet bekom

Met inagneming van die bogenoemde, sal drie (3) OIE's (een (1) vir elke beoogde FV-sonkragaanleg) en drie (3) BE's (een (1) vir elke gepaardgaande roosterkonneksie) onderneem word. Hoewel elke FV-sonkragaanleg en die gepaardgaande roosterkonneksie apart geevalueer sal word, sal 'n enkele openbare deelnameproses vir al ses (6) die beoogde aansoeke onderneem word. Die potensiele omgewingsimpakte wat met al ses (6) beoogde ontwikkelings verband hou, sal tydens die OIE's en BE's as deel van 'n kumulatiewe impakevaluering geevalueer word.

Die opwekkingsvermoe van elk van die FV-sonkragaanlegte en die uitleg van die FV-reekse sal afhang van die uitkoms van die spesialisstudies wat tydens die OIE-proses onderneem word.

PROJEK LIGGING

Die drie (3) beoogde FV-sonkragaanleg- en roosterinfrastruktuurprojekte is sowat 18 km suidwes van Noupoort en sowat 21 km noordwes van Middelburg in onderskeidelik die Noord- en Oos-Kaapprovinsie gelee. Hoewel beide die Mooi Plaats en Wonderheuvel FV-sonkragaanlegte in die Umsobomvu Plaaslike Munisipaliteit in die Pixley ka Seme Distriksmunisipaliteit van die Noord-Kaapprovinsie gelee is, is die Paarde Valley FV-sonkragaanleg in die Inxuba Yethemba Plaaslike Munisipaliteit in die Chris Hani Distriksmunisipaliteit van die Oos-Kaapprovinsie gelee.

Om as 'n Belangstellende en/of Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) te registreer en/of om meer inligting te bekom, moet u asseblief u naam, kontakbesonderhede en die belang wat u by die aansoeke het by SiVEST by die onderstaande kontakbesonderhede indien:

Hlengiwe Ntuli of Stephan Jacobs

SiVEST Environmental Posbus 2921

RIVONIA 2128

Tel: 011 798 0600 011 803 7272 Faks:

stephanj@sivest.co.za / hlengiwen@sivest.co.za / E-pos:

sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za

Webwerf: www.sivest.co.za



Appendix 7D Correspondence



Appendix 7D1 Correspondence From Authorities



Appendix 7D2 Correspondence To Authorities



Appendix 7D3
Correspondence
To I&APs



Appendix 7D4 Correspondence FROM I&APs



Appendix 7E Comments and Response Report

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

DEA Reference number: <u>14/12/16/3/3/2/1135</u>

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT (C&RR) – FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (FEIAr)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES / CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS), STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANS OF STATE (OoS) / AUTHORITIES

DECEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2020

Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs), stakeholders and Organs of State (OoS) / Authorities who contributed issues ranging across all sectors of society are recorded in this Comments and Response Report (C&RR). Full record of every issue raised is available from the public participation office and is also included in **Appendix 7D** of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAr).

All comments in the C&RR are verbatim as received. Similar issues raised have been grouped together. The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated. Technical comments made by the project team are not included in the C&RR.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APM Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites

BA Basic Assessment

CBA Critical Biodiversity Area

C&RR Comments and Response Report

DBAR Draft Basic Assessment Report

DEA Department of Environmental Affairs

DEIAr Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

DSR Draft Scoping Report

EA Environmental Authorisation

EAP Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

EMPr Environmental Management Programme

FEIAr Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report

FGM Focus Group Meeting
FSR Final Scoping Report
GN Government Notice

HIA Heritage Impact Assessment

I&APs Interested and/or Affected Parties

Kv ilovolt

NC DRPW Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works **NCPHRA** Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

NID Notice of Intent to Develop

OoS Organs of State

PIA Palaeontological Impact Assessment

PV Photovoltaic

SAHRA South African Heritage Resources Agency

SAHRIS South African Heritage Resources Information System

SARAO South African Radio Astronomy Observatory

SKA Square ilometre Array
WEF Wind Energy Facility

Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)		
Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	1. DEA Comments / Issues	
AC NOWLEDGEMENTOF RECEIPT OF THE NEW	Sabelo Mala a	Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION	Chief Director: Integrated	<u>SiVEST</u>
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS) AND	Environmental Authorisations:	Since the DEA acknowledged having received the Application for
SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF	Department of Environmental	Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Draft Scoping Report (DSR) on
THE WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY	Affairs (DEA)	26 uly 2019, the 90-day timeframe for submission of the Final Scoping
FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR	Letter via email:	Report (FSR) commenced on 26 uly 2019. The EAP has ensured that
NOUPOORT IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE	29 uly 2019	the FSR was submitted within the above-mentioned 90-day
		submission timeframe. The FSR (including all appendices) was
The Department confirms having received the Application for		subsequently submitted to the DEA on 06 September 2019.
Environmental Authorisation and Draft Seeping Report for the		
abovementioned project on 26 uly 2019. You have submitted these		The Public Participation Process has been conducted in accordance
documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment		with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42,43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014,
(EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.		as amended (see Section 8 of FSR for details). All potential Interested
		& Affected Parties (I&APs), stakeholders and Organs of State (OoS) /
Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as		authorities (including the Competent Authority) have been provided
amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties,		with opportunities to comment throughout the EIA process. Once
including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an		submitted to the DEA, the DSR was made available for review and
opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in		comment to all I&APs, stakeholders and OoS / authorities for a 30-day
Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to		period, from 26 uly 2019 to 26 August 2019. All I&APs, stakeholders
the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity		were notified about the availability of the DSR and the 30-day review
to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted		and comment period. All issues raised and comments received to date
to the Competent Authority.		have been provided in Appendix 7D of the FSR. Evidence that all
		identified and relevant authorities have been given an opportunity to
Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as		comment on the proposed development is provided in Table 31 in
amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of		Section 8.8 of the FSR. Attempts were made to contact all key
the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an		stakeholders / organs of state who did not comment on the DSR. Proof
extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation		of this follow-up is also included in Appendix 7I of this FSR. All I&APs,
3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.		stakeholders and OoS / authorities will be provided with an opportunity
		to comment on all reports going forward. In addition, Public and Focus
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental		Group Meetings will be undertaken with I&APs, stakeholders and OoS
Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity		/ authorities during the EIA phase (see Section 8.9 of FSR for details).
may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted		
by the Department.		The EAP will ensure that all of the time-frames prescribed in terms of
		Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) are met.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated uly 2019 and received by the Department on 26 uly 2019, refer:

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

(a) Listed Activities

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov. a/documentslforms.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- The proposed Paarde Valley PV, Mooi Plaats PV and Wonderheuwel PV with associated infrastructure for each development;
- The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above PV facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g.roads (existing and proposed);

Sabelo Mala a
Chief Director: Integrated
Environmental Authorisations:
Department of Environmental
Affairs (DEA)
Letter via email:
26 August 2019

The EAP can confirm that no activity will commence prior to an EA being granted by the DEA.

(a) Listed Activities

- SiVEST will ensure that the relevant listed activities will be applied for, that they are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The relevant listed activities which have been applied for are detailed in Table 6 in Section 3.1.3 of the FSR.
- An updated application form will be submitted in the EIA phase once all the detailed specialist studies are complete and it will be ensured that the listed activities provided in the application form are identical to those provided in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr). The EAP will ensure that the most recent / up-to-date DEA application form template is used.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- A layout map indicating the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility with the associated infrastructure cannot be provided at this stage as the layouts have not yet been determined. A layout map indicating the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility with the associated infrastructure will however be provided in the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAr). A map showing the proposed PV development area in relation to environmental sensitive areas is provided as Figure 50 on in Section 7.1 of the FSR.
- The proposed grid infrastructure for the Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility requires a separate EA and is subject to a separate Basic Assessment (BA) process (DEA Reference Number: To be Allocated), which will be initiated at a later stage (namely when the EIA phase for this proposed development is initiated). As such, a layout map indicating the proposed grid infrastructure will be provided as part of the

- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All no-go areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

(c) Public Participation Process

- Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as Noted is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.

Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR), once the BA process for the associated grid connection infrastructure is initiated. However, should the DEA still require this as part of this EIA, a layout map indicating the proposed grid infrastructure overlain by environmental sensitivities can be provided in the DEIAr. A map indicating all three (3) of the solar PV energy facilities which form part of the greater Umsobomvu PV project, including the proposed grid infrastructure (132kV power line corridors and substations), is provided as **Figure 1** in **Section 1** of the FSR.

- A layout map indicating all supporting on-site infrastructure, e.g. roads (existing and proposed), cannot be provided at this stage as the layouts have not yet been determined. A layout map indicating the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility with all associated and supporting on-site infrastructure (such as existing and proposed roads) will however be provided in the DEIAr. A map showing the proposed PV development area in relation to environmental sensitive areas is provided as Figure 50 in Section 7.1 of the FSR.
- A map indicating the proposed PV development area in relation to the location of sensitive environmental features onsite that will be affected, as well as buffer areas and all "no-go" areas, is provided as Figure 50 in Section 7.1 of the FSR. An updated map indicating the layout of the proposed solar PV energy facility (including associated infrastructure and all supporting on-site infrastructure) in relation to the location of sensitive environmental features (including buffer areas and all "no-go" areas) will be provided in the EIA phase (as part of the DEIAr).
- As mentioned, a layout map indicating the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility with the associated infrastructure cannot be provided at this stage as the layouts have not yet been determined. As such, a layout map indicating the associated infrastructure and all supporting on-

 The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Eastern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities.

(d) **Specialist Assessments**

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a
 detailed description of their methodology, as well as
 indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine
 positions, and all other associated infrastructures that
 they have assessed and are recommending for
 authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

- Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - ➤ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the si e of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative

site infrastructure overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map will be provided in the DEIAr.

A map showing the proposed PV development area in relation to environmental sensitivities is provided as **Figure 50** in **Section 7.1** of the FSR. A cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments within a 35km radius of the Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility application site is provided as **Figure 48** in **Section 6.3** of the FSR.

 The EAP has not made use of Google maps. All maps provided in Appendix 5 of the FSR have been compiled by a qualified GIS specialist (refer to Section 1.4 of FSR) using the ArcGIS software.

(c) Public participation Process

- All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity (including the DEA's Biodiversity Section) have been adequately addressed in the FSR and are included in the Comments and Response Report (C&RR). In addition, the Public Participation Process has been conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42,43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (see Section 8 and Appendix 7 of FSR).
- Issues, comments and concerns raised to date have been captured in the C&RR. The C&RR provides a summary of the issues and concerns raised, as well as responses provided to I&APs, key stakeholders and organs of state. The C&RR has incorporated all historical comments for the proposed development. The C&RR is a separate document from the main report and is in the table format. It should however be noted that there was no Annexure 1 attached to the DEA's DSR comment letter (see Appendix 4 for a copy of the DEA's DSR comment letter). The EAP has refrained from

- impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

General

The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAr. The officials who will comment from the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs must also be invited to the site inspection.

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

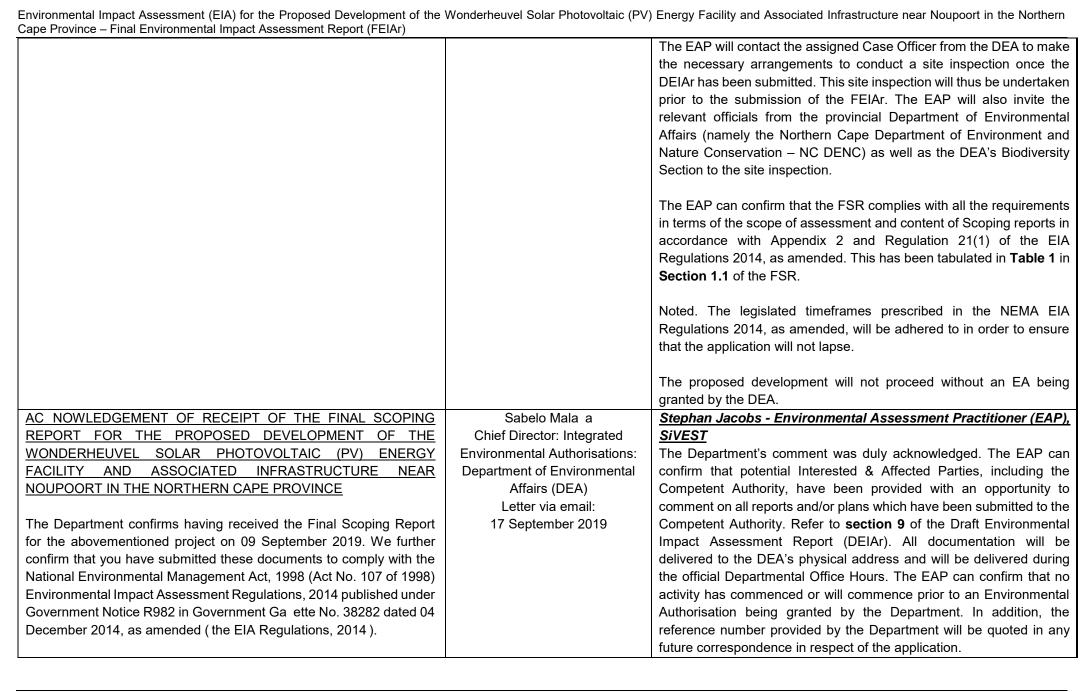
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

- summarising comments and all comments have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly. In addition, the EAP has not made use of responses such as Noted in response to I&APs comments.
- Evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development is provided in Table 31 in Section 8.8 of the FSR. The EAP can confirm that the S A, the Northern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development. It should be noted that attempts were made to contact all key stakeholders / organs of state who did not comment on the DSR (Table 31). Proof of this follow-up is also included in Appendix 7I of the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders has been included in Appendix 7D of the FSR.

(d) Specialist Assessments

- All specialist studies which have been conducted as part of the proposed development have provided detailed descriptions of their methodologies, as well as indications and descriptions of all other associated infrastructure that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation. All specialist studies are provided in Appendix 6 of the FSR. However, since the proposed development involves the construction of a solar PV energy facility, an indication of turbine positions cannot be provided. This would only be applicable for wind energy facility (WEF) developments.
- All specialist studies have provided detailed descriptions of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies have also been conducted in the correct season, and detailed reasons have been provided within the respective specialist reports for why the studies were undertaken during the said periods accordingly. It should be noted that none of the specialists have provided a limitation for conducting the study in the

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel S Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	olar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
	 incorrect season. The specialist studies are provided in Appendix 6 of the FSR. Contradicting specialist recommendations have not been identified. Should the specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP will clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons, and where necessary, include further expert advice. Specialist recommendations have been provided in Section 6 and Section 10.2 of the FSR respectively.
	(e) <u>Cumulative Assessment</u> All similar renewable energy facilities within a 35km radius has been assessed as part of the cumulative assessment (Section 6.3 of FSR).
	Please see each respective specialist assessment attached in Appendix 6 for an assessment of the cumulative impacts. All renewable energy developments within a 35km of the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility application site are shown in Figure 48 and their current application phases is shown in Table 24 .
	Furthermore, the cumulative impact significance rating also informed the need and desirability of the proposed development. Despite the fact that the proposed development site is not located within any of the identified Renewable Energy Development ones (RED s), the proposed development is in line with the national planning vision for wind and solar development in South Africa.
	The findings of the specialist studies undertaken as part of this EIA provide an assessment of both the benefits and potential negative impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility. The findings conclude that there are no environmental fatal flaws that should prevent the proposed development from proceeding.
	<u>General</u>



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the	Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)		-
Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014,		
which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the		
Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment		
on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA		
Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an		
application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such		
reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent		
Authority.		
All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this		
form must be delivered during the official Departmental Office Hours		
which is visible on the Departmental gate.		
EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA		
related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or		
placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted.		
placed in the Bopartmental Fernael Box will not be accepted.		
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental		
Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no		
activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being		
granted by the Department.		
indly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future		
correspondence in respect of the application.		
ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED	Sabelo Mala a	Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS	Chief Director: Integrated	SiVEST
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT WITHIN	Environmental Authorisations:	
THE UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN	Department of Environmental	(a) Listed Activities
CAPE PROVINCE	Affairs (DEA)	(i) An assessment of all impacts for each of the listed
	Letter via email:	activities applied for is provided in section 7 of the DEIAr.
The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental	08 October 2019	Section 7 of the DEIAr and the Draft EMPr (Appendix 8
Impact Assessment dated September 2019 and received by the		of DEIAr) also include proposed mitigation measures for
Department on 09 September 2019, refer.		all the potential identified impacts as well as for the listed
		activities applied for. The relevant listed activities being
The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of		applied for are detailed in Table 8 of section 4.1.3 of the
Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated September 2019		DEIAr.

and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAr:

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iii) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

(b) Public Participation

(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF),the provincial Department of Agriculture, SANRAL, the Umsobomvu Local Municipality, the Pixley a Seme District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Birdlife SA, the Department of Mineral

- (ii) An updated application form will be submitted with the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr) and the EAP will ensure that the listed activities are the same and correct in both the FEIAr and application form. The EAP will also ensure that only the activities which are applicable to the proposed development will be applied for and included in the EIAr and the application form.
- (iii) This EIAr has assesses the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for. The relevant listed activities and respective sub listed activities applied for are detailed in **Table 8** of **section 4.1.3** of the DEIAr.

(b) Public Participation

comments from all relevant stakeholders have been sought throughout the EIA process. All issues raised and comments received throughout the EIA process from Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders / Organs of State (OoS) / authorities have been submitted to the Department and have been adequately addressed in this DEIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various I&APs, and key stakeholders / Organs of State (OoS) / authorities has been included in **Appendix 7D** of the DEIAr. All issues raised and comments received throughout the EIA process from I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities are also included in this Comments and Response Report (C&RR).

It should be noted that comments have been sought from the following key stakeholders / OoS / authorities:

- Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NC DENC);
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF);

- Resources, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.
- (iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended.
- (vi) The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAr.

(c) Alternatives

- Provincial Department of Agriculture (namely DAFF's Provincial Department for the Northern Cape);
- South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL);
- The Umsobomvu Local Municipality;
- The Pixley a Seme District Municipality;
- The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS);
- the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA);
- the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT);
- Birdlife SA,
- Department of Mineral Resources (DMR);
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform; and
- Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA): Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.

Attempts were made to contact all key stakeholders / OoS / authorities who did not comment on the FSR. This is detailed in **Table 37** of the DEIAr. Proof of this follow-up was included in the FSR and is also included in the DEIAr (**section 9.8**), as well as in **Appendix 7I**. It should be noted that onathan Booth of BirdLife SA responded to SiVEST's notification regarding the availability of the DSR and stated that BirdLife SA would not be commenting as an I&AP. Please refer to **Appendix 7D** of the DEAIr for a copy of BirdLife SA's comment in this regard.

(ii) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR and FSR from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS / authorities which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity (including the DEA's Biodiversity Section) have been adequately addressed in the DEIAr and are included in this C&RR. Proof of correspondence with the various I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities has been included in

- (i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.
- (ii) The applicant must determine the need for decommissioning of lines. This information must inform whether there is a need to update the application form and/or to amend the terms of reference for the specialist studies.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAr must provide the four comer coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) The EIAr must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar energy facility; i.e. placing of solar panels and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Power lines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
 - All necessary details regarding all possible locations and si es of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation.
- (iii) A copy of the final preferred route layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;

Appendix 7D of the DEIAr. All issues raised and comments received from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS / authorities have also been summarised in **Table 39** in **section 9.10.1** of the DEIAr.

It should be noted that the registered I&APs, key stakeholders / OoS / authorities were reminded to provide comments. Proof of this is included in **Appendix 7B**. In addition, attempts were made to contact all stakeholders / OoS / authorities who did not comment on the DSR. This is detailed in **Table 37** of the DEIAr. Proof of this follow-up was included in the FSR and is also included in the DEIAr (**section 9.8**), as well as in **Appendix 7I**.

All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DEIAr will be included and adequately addressed in the FEIAr.

Issues, comments and concerns raised to date have been (iii) captured in the C&RR. The C&RR provides a summary of the issues and concerns raised, as well as responses provided to I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities. The C&RR has incorporated all comments received throughout the EIA process for the proposed development. The C&RR is a separate document from the main report and is in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of the DEA's FSR Acceptance Letter (Appendix 4 of DEIAr). It should be noted that the EAP has refrained from summarising comments and all comments have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly. In addition, the EAP has not made use of responses such as Noted in response to I&APs comments.

Please note that the C&RR will be updated with further comments received during the DEIAr's 30-day public

- Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- Substation(s) and/or transformer(s sites including their entire footprint;
- Location of access and service roads;
- Connection routes (including pylon positions to the distribution/transmission network;
- ➤ All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
- Buffer areas:
- Buildings, including accommodation; and
- > All no-go areas.
- (iv) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.

- review and comment period and will also be provided in the FEIAr.
- (iv) The EAP has ensured that comments received from I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities have not been split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission have been responded to individually, as requested. All comments received to date have been responded to (where required) in the C&RR.
- (v) The Public Participation Process has been conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. Please refer to section 9 and Appendix 7 of the DEIAr for details regarding the Public Participation Process which is being conducted.
- (vi) The EAP has made the necessary arrangements with the Department in order to conduct the requested site inspection. The site inspection will take place on 27 November 2019. Muhammad Essop (Assistant Director-Strategic Infrastructure Developments) and Thabile Sangweni (assigned Case Officer) from the DEA were invited to the site inspection and subsequently confirmed their availability. Proof of this is included in **Appendix 4** of the DEIAr. It should be noted Muhammad Essop indicated that he will extend the invitation to the DEA's Biodiversity Section. The site inspection is therefore being undertaken prior to the submission of the FEIAr, as requested.

(c) Alternatives

- (i) A description of each of the preferred alternative type, as well as a detailed motivation on why it is preferred, is included in **section 8** of the DEIAr.
- (ii) Should the proposed development's Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) not be renewed at the end of the operational phase of the proposed development, the proposed development might need to be decommissioned. This would include the

- Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
- Please note that the Department considers a no-go area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the no-go areas.
- Should the specialist definition of no-go area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the no-go area s buffer if applicable.
- All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated. Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the si e of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.

- decommissioning of the medium voltage lines connecting the PV array areas to the substations as well as the overhead lines connecting the substations to the grid (i.e. the 132kV overhead power lines) which are associated with the proposed development. Details regarding the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years is provided in **section 3.2.8** of the report.
- It should be noted that there is no need to amend the terms (iii) of reference for the specialist studies as all specialists assessed the potential impacts associated with decommissioning. This has thus been taken into consideration and investigated. Refer to section 7.2 of the DEAIr for details regarding the assessment of impacts for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development respectively. However, the application form will need to be updated to include Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended), as this activity relates to the decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure. It should be noted that the application form will be updated to include Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended) and will be submitted with the FEIAr, once all relevant triggered activities have been determined. Table 8 in section 4.1.3 of the report has however been updated so long to include Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

(i) The four (4) corner coordinate points for the proposed application site have been provided in the **Key Project Information** section on **pages iii-v** of the report. The coordinates at each bend point for the proposed PV array areas have also been provided, as well as the start, middle and endpoints of all linear activities (namely the internal roads). A summary of all coordinates for the application site and proposed PV array areas are provided in the

- The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAr:

Specialist Study	Company
Agriculture and Soils Impact	ohann Lan
Assessment	
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Chris Van Rooyen
	Consulting
Geotechnical Study	G Afrika
Heritage Impact Assessment	PGS Heritage
Palaeontology Impact	PGS Heritage
Assessment	
Social Impact Assessment	Dr Neville Bews &
	Associates
Surface Water Impact	SiVEST SA
Assessment	
Ecological Impact Assessment	David Hoare
	Consulting
Transportation Impact	SiVEST SA
Assessment	
Visual Impact Assessment	SiVEST SA

(f) General

(iv) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, solar panels and associated infrastructure is to be located.

- **executive summary** as well as in **section 3.1** of the report. In addition, a full list of all coordinates is provided in **Appendix 9A**.
- (ii) The DEIAr has provided a clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar PV energy facility. The placing of modules and all associated infrastructure have also been mapped at an appropriate scale. In addition, the DEIAr has provided a clear description of all associated infrastructure, including internal roads infrastructure, all supporting on-site infrastructure such as laydown areas and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) building sites and all necessary details regarding all possible locations and si es of the proposed on-site substation and collector substations. Please refer to section 3 of the report for technical details regarding the proposed solar PV energy facility (including all associated infrastructure).

A layout map indicating the proposed PV array areas for the solar PV energy facility, including all associated infrastructure (namely on-site and collector substation sites, laydown areas, O&M building sites and internal roads), has been provided in **Figure 53** in **section 8.**2 of the report. **Figure 4** provides a generic example of the typical components of a solar PV module / panel. In addition, all maps compiled by the EAP have been provided in **Appendix 5**.

Please note that the proposed grid infrastructure for the solar PV energy facility requires a separate EA and is subject to a separate BA process (**DEA Reference Number:** To be Allocated), which will be initiated at a later stage (namely when the DEIAr for this proposed development has been submitted). Maps indicating all infrastructure associated with the proposed electrical infrastructure project will be provided as part of the BA

(v) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are requested to submit one (1) full colour hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to the Department and at least one electronic copy (USB of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

process. However, a layout map indicating the proposed power line routing options in relation to the PV array areas and associated infrastructure has been provided in **Appendix 5** (namely the "Project Overview" map). A map indicating all three (3) of the solar PV energy facilities which form part of the greater Umsobomvu PV project, including the proposed grid infrastructure (132kV power line corridors and substations), is provided as **Figure 1** of **section 1**.

(iii) A copy of the final preferred layout map has been provided in **Figure 54** in **section 8.2** of the report, as well as in **Appendix 5**. All available biodiversity information has been used in the finalisation of the layout map, as requested. It should be noted that all sensitive and 'no-go' areas identified as part of the respective specialist assessments were used to inform the location of the PV array areas and all associated infrastructure (including layout alternatives).

The final preferred layout map indicates the following:

- PV array areas;
- > Temporary laydown area footprints;
- O&M building sites;
- Internal roads. It should be noted that due to the extensive si e of the study area, the width of the internal roads cannot be shown at an appropriate scale on the map. Information regarding the width (construction period width and operation period width) of the internal roads is however provided in the executive summary and section 3.2 of the report;
- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers and streams;
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;

invironmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northerr Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	
Super revines Time Environmental impact / second in respect (i Envir	 Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint(s); Location of access and service roads; Buffer areas; and All no-go areas.
	If possible, a layout map indicating all existing infrastructure (especially railway lines and roads) and buildings (including accommodation) on the site will be provided in the FEIAr.
	Please note that the proposed grid infrastructure for the solar PV energy facility requires a separate EA and is subject to a separate BA process (DEA Reference Number: To be Allocated), which will be initiated at a later stage (namely when the DEIAr for this proposed development has been submitted). Maps indicating all infrastructure associated with the proposed electrical infrastructure project will be provided as part of the BA process. However, a layout map indicating connection routes to the distribution / transmission network in relation to the PV array areas and associated infrastructure has been provided in Appendix 5 (namely the "Project Overview" map).
	It should be noted that the following can only be provided once the detailed design has been undertaken (Final design details are yet to be confirmed.): > Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used. > Pylon positions (forms part of infrastructure associated with electrical infrastructure project which is part of a separate BA process which will be initiated at a later stage).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Society Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	plar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
	(iv) A map combining the final layout superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map is provided in Figure 54 in section 8.2. As mentioned, all sensitive and 'no-go' areas identified as part of the respective specialist assessments were used to inform the location of the PV array areas and all associated infrastructure (including layout alternatives). (v) A map combining the final layout superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map is provided in Figure 54 in section 8.2. As mentioned, all sensitive and 'no-go' areas identified as part of the respective specialist assessments were used to inform the location of the PV array areas and all associated infrastructure (including layout alternatives).
	(e) Specialist Assessments (i) All specialist studies which have been conducted as part of the proposed development have provided detailed descriptions of their methodologies, as well as indications and descriptions of all other associated infrastructure that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation. All specialist studies are provided in Appendix 6.
	All specialist studies have provided detailed descriptions of all limitations to their studies, where required. All specialist studies have also been conducted in the correct season, and detailed reasons have been provided within the respective specialist reports for why the studies were undertaken during the said periods accordingly. It should be noted that none of the specialists have provided a limitation for conducting the study in the incorrect season. Section 2 of the report provides all assumptions and limitations to the EIA process and specialist assessments. The specialist studies are provided in Appendix 6.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
	No development will be allowed in the identified no-go areas. It should be noted that all identified sensitive and 'no-go' areas were used to inform the location of the PV array areas and all associated infrastructure, and have been incorporated into the layout design of the preferred site layout (Figure 54).
	The specialists' definition of a 'no-go area (namely ar area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed) did not differ from the Department's definition Should the specialists' definition of a 'no-go area differ from the Departments definition, this will be clearly indicated. The specialists have also indicated the buffers associated with identified no-go and sensitive areas where applicable
	All specialist studies are final and have provided detailed / practical mitigation measures (section 7.2 and section 7.3) for the preferred alternatives and recommendations (section 12). It should be noted that the Transportation specialist has recommended further studies to be completed post-EA (section 12). All specialist studies are provided in Appendix 6.
	Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these have been clearly indicated. In addition the EAP has indicated whether any specific mitigation measures and/or recommendations need to be incorporated into the EA (section 12). All recommended mitigation measures are provided in section 7.2 and have also been summarised in section 12.
	With regards to cumulative impacts (section 7.3): - Clearly defined cumulative impacts (and where possible the si e of the identified impact) have been quantified and indicated (i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaio Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	c (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
	- A detailed process flow has been included in section 7.3 to indicate how the specialists' recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted. - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development have been rated with the significance rating methodology used in the EIA process (section 7.1 and section 7.3). - The significance rating has also informed the need and desirability of the proposed development. - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed has been included. Refer to section 7.3 for details regarding the findings of the cumulative impact assessment.
	 (ii) Contradicting specialist recommendations have not been identified. Should the specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP will clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defendable reasons, and where necessary, include further expert advice. Specialist recommendations have been provided in section 7.2, section 7.3 and section 12.2 of the DEIAr respectively. (iii) All Specialist Assessments provided in the table in the DEA's FSR Acceptance Letter formed part of the EIAr. All scoping phase specialist assessments have been updated for the EIA phase and have formed part of the DEIAr. These assessments will also form part of the FEIAr. All specialist reports have been provided in Appendix 6.
	(f) General

Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEI	(i) Technical details for the proposed facility (including descriptions and/or dimensions) have been provided in
	the executive summary and section 3.2 . This information
	has been provided in a table format (Table 6 and Table
	7). It should be noted that a summary of the technica
	details for the proposed facility according to the sample for
	the minimum information required listed under Annexure
	2 of the DEA's FSR Acceptance Letter has been provided
	in Table 7 of the report.
	(ii) The future plans for the proposed development are deal with in section 3.2.8 of the DEIAr as well as in the Draft
	EMPr (Appendix 8).
	As mentioned, should the proposed development's PPA
	not be renewed at the end of the operational phase of the
	proposed development, the proposed development might
	need to be decommissioned. This would include the
	decommissioning of the medium voltage lines connecting
	the PV array areas to the substations as well as the overhead lines connecting the substations to the grid (i.e.
	the 132kV overhead power lines) which are associated
	with the proposed development. Should the proposed
	development need to be decommissioned, the applican
	will rehabilitate the project site as per the requirements in
	the NEMA Regulations, following the decommissioning o
	the project site. The aim of the decommissioning phase
	would be to return the site to its original pre-construction
	condition. In the unlikely event that decommissioning is
	required (i.e. PPA not renewed, facility becoming outdated
	or the land being required for other purposes), the
	decommissioning phase will be undertaken in line with the
	EMPr and the requirements in the NEMA Regulations, and
	the site will be rehabilitated to its original pre-construction condition.
	Sorial as in

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wond Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	erheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
	However, should the applicant negotiate and sign a furthe PPA, the applicant will re-energise or re-power (re-design and re-fit proposed development to operate for a longe period) the project site. In addition, if needed, the applican will look into the possibility of upgrading the infrastructure to more advanced technologies. It should be noted that the probability of upgrading the infrastructure is quite high should the applicant re-energise or re-power the project site.
	Majority of the components of the solar PV energy facility are considered to be reusable or recyclable. In the even of the proposed development being decommissioned, the components will be reused, recycled or disposed o (where possible) in accordance with the relevan regulatory requirements. Certain PV components may also be traded or sold as there is an active second-hand market for certain PV components. Alternatively, in the event that sale is not possible, certain PV components may be used as scrap metal. It must be noted that the decommissioning phase of the proposed development will also create skilled and unskilled employmen opportunities. (iii) The Surface Water specialist indicated that registration for General Authorisation (GA) can be undertaken where required and agreed with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) (Table 41 in section 12.1). As such registration for GA will be undertaken by the applicant where required and agreed with the DWS, prior to the commencement of construction. Proof of the applicatior for a GA will be submitted at a later stage, when this is undertaken. Should it be identified that a Water Use License (WUL) will be required, this will be applied for by the applicant prior to the commencement of construction Proof of application for a WUL will be submitted at a later stage accordingly, should a WUL be required.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV	/) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
		(iv) The EAP has provided landowner consent forms for all farm portions affected by the proposed development. Landowner consent forms for the affected landowners are provided in Appendix 7H . It should be noted that letters were also compiled in order to notify all landowners about the EIA process. These notification letters were subsequently forwarded to all affected landowners on 19 uly 2019 (Appendix 7H). Table 36 in section 9.3 of this report also provides details regarding the landowners / occupiers who have been contacted and/or notified with regards to the EIA process. (v) A construction and operational phase Draft EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures has been submitted as part of the DEIAr (Appendix 8). A Final EMPr will however be submitted to the DEA for approval with the FEIAr.
		The legislated timeframes prescribed in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be adhered to in order to ensure that the application will not lapse.
		As requested, one (1) full-colour hard copy and one (1) electronic copy (on USB) of the DEIAr have been submitted to the Department accordingly.
		The Department's comment is duly acknowledged. The proposed development will not proceed without an EA being granted by the DEA.
COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS	Sabelo Mala a Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations:	<u>Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SiVEST</u>
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	(a) <u>Listed Activities</u> i. The EAP has ensured that all relevant listed activities have been applied for are specific and that it can be linked to the
The draft Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) dated November 2019 and received by this Department on 22 November 2019 refers.	Letter via email: 06 December 2019	been applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only the applicable activities to the proposed development have been applied for and included in

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

(a) Listed Activities

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov. a/documents/forms.
- iii. The EAP must specify and list the relevant sub regulations for each listed activity.

(b) Public Participation Process

- i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.
- ii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obta1n comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42,43 & 44 of the EtA Regulations 2014, as amended.

the FEIAr and the application form. The relevant listed activities being applied for are detailed in Table 8 in **section 4.1.3** of the FEIAr. It should be noted that an updated application form was submitted with the FEIAr and the EAP has ensured that the listed activities are the same and correct in both the FEIAr and application form.

- i. The activities applied for in the application form are identical to those mentioned in the FEIAr. An updated application form was submitted with the FEIAr and the EAP has ensured that the listed activities are the same and correct in both the FEIAr and application form. The relevant listed activities being applied for are detailed in **Table 8** in **section 4.1.3** of the FEIAr.
- iii. The EAP has specified and listed the relevant sub regulations for each listed activity applied for. The relevant listed activities and respective sub regulations applied for are detailed in **Table 8** in **section 4.1.3** of the FEIAr.

(b) Public Participation

i. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DEIAr from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS / authorities which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity (including the DEFF's Biodiversity Section) have been adequately addressed in this FEIAr and are included in the C&RR. Proof of correspondence with the various I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities has been included in Appendix 7D of the FEIAr. All issues raised and comments received from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS / authorities have also been summarised in Table 39 in section 9.10.1 of the FEIAr.

It should be noted that attempts were made to obtain comments from registered I&APs, key stakeholders / OoS / authorities. I&APs, key stakeholders / OoS / authorities were reminded to provide comments before the end of the relevant 30-day review and comment periods. Proof of this is included

(c) Environmental Management Programme

- i. The EMPr must include a provision to make the following reports available to the Department and applicable competent authority on request: alien/invasive plant management report; plant rescue and protection report; and re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation report, etc.
- ii. In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(d) Cumulative Impact

- i. Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the si e of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest

 i. Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAr. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each in **Appendix 7B**. In addition, attempts were made to contact all stakeholders / OoS / authorities who did not comment on the DEIAr. This is detailed in **Table 37** of the FEIAr. Proof of this follow-up was included in previous reports (DSR, FSR and DEIAr) and is also included in the FEIAr (**section 9.8**), as well as in **Appendix 7I**.

All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DEIAr are included and adequately addressed in the FEIAr.

It should be noted that the Public Participation Process has been conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. Please refer to **section 9** and **Appendix 7** of the FEIAr for details regarding the Public Participation Process which was conducted as part of the EIA process.

ii. Proof of correspondence with the various I&APs and key stakeholders / OoS / authorities has been included in **Appendix 7D** of the FEIAr. All issues raised and comments received from registered I&APs, key stakeholders and OoS / authorities have also been summarised in **Table 39** in **section 9.10.1** of the FEIAr.

As mentioned, the Public Participation Process has been conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. Please refer to **section 9** and **Appendix 7** of the FEIAr for details regarding the Public Participation Process which was conducted as part of the EIA process.

(c) Environmental Management Programme

i. The Draft EMPr incuded as part of this FEIAr (Appendix 8) has been updated to include a provision to make the following

specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).

(f) Undertaking of an Oath

- The Department has noted that the submitted application form has an undertaking under oath or affirmation by EAP. However, the aforementioned oath was not included in the draft EIAr, but rather an appendix of the application form attached to the EIAr. Please note that the final EIAr must also have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.
- ii. Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAr must include: "an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
 - the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
 - (ii) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs:
 - (iii) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
 - (iv) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties"

(g) Details and Expertise of the EAP

i. You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the EIAr, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(h) General

reports available to the Department and applicable competent authority on request:

- alien / invasive plant management report;
- plant rescue and protection report;
- re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation report; and
- any other relevant report(s) the Department and applicable competent authority might require.

Please refer to **section 6.1** of the Draft EMPr for the above-mentioned provision.

ii. The EAP has ensured that the Draft EMPr incuded as part of the FEIAr (Appendix 8) has complied with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. Please refer to section 2 of the Draft EMPr for details regarding how the EMPr has complied with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(d) Cumulative Impact

- i. Cumulative impacts for similar projects within a 35km radius of the proposed development site have been identified and assessed by the respective specialists (section 7.3). The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts has indicated the following (where possible):
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts (and where possible the si e of the identified impact) have been quantified and indicated (i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land).
 - A detailed process flow has been included in section
 7.3 to indicate how the specialists' recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

- i. The preferred Layout Plan with the preferred service routes, existing roads and new roads, and construction camp must be indicated in the final EIAr. A map combining the final Layout Plan superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must also be included in the final EIAr.
- ii. Please ensure that all hardcopy and softcopy maps are clear and legible. Hardcopy maps must be at least A3 si e.
- iii. Please note that the final ElAr must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the seeping report signed on 08 October 2019, and must address a comments contained in the FSR and this letter.
- iv. The ElAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.

You are further reminded that the final EIAr to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAr in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that:

"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority-

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are therefore required to comply with

- Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development have been rated with the significance rating methodology used in the EIA process (section 7.1 and section 7.3).
- The significance rating has also informed the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed has been included.

Refer to **section 7.3** for details regarding the findings of the cumulative impact assessment.

(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest

i. Original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms have been attached to the FEIAr as **Appendix 3**. Original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms have been provided for each specialist study conducted. The forms which are available on Department's website were used.

(f) Undertaking of an Oath

- i. Please be advised that an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP was attached as **Appendix 3** of the DEIAr. Another copy of the undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP has however been attached in **Appendix 3** of the FEIAr again for convenience.
- i. As mentioned above, an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) has however been attached in **Appendix 3** of the FEIAr.

(g) General

 A copy of the final preferred layout map with the locations for the proposed laydown / staging areas and internal access roads has been provided in Figure 54 in section 8.2 of the report, as well as in Appendix 5. This is a final Layout Plan

Regulation 23(1 (b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states:

"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority- (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or, EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

You are requested to submit one (1) full colour hard copy of the EIAr to the Department and at least one electronic copy (USB) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents. indly could the final reports not be submitted in lever arch files, but rather bound ring or glued).

superimposed (overlain) on identified environmental sensitivities. All available biodiversity information has been used in the finalisation of the final preferred layout map. It should be noted that all sensitive and 'no-go' areas identified as part of the respective specialist assessments were used to inform the location of the PV array areas and all associated infrastructure (including layout alternatives). The final preferred layout map indicates the following:

- PV array areas;
- Temporary laydown area footprints;
- O&M building sites;
- Internal roads:
- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers and streams;
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint(s);
- Location of access and service roads;
- Buffer areas; and
- All no-go areas.

It should be noted that the final preferred layout map with the preferred service routes, existing roads and construction camp(s) can only be provided once the detailed design has been undertaken (final design details are yet to be confirmed). An updated final preferred layout map with the preferred service routes, existing roads and construction camp(s) will be submitted to the Department for comment and approval prior to construction commencing.

ii. The EAP has ensured that all hardcopy and softcopy maps are clear and legible. Maps are provided in **Appendix 5** of the FEIAr. Hardcopy maps provided in Appendix 5 are A3 si e, as requested.

I Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
iii. The FEIAr has complied with all conditions of the acceptance of the seeping report signed on 08 October 2019, and has addressed all comments contained in the FSR and this letter. iv. Technical details for the proposed facility (including descriptions and/or dimensions) have been provided in the executive summary and section 3.2. This information has been provided in a table format (Table 6 and Table 7).
The FEIAr which was submitted to the Department has complied with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAr in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Please refer to Table 1 in section 1.1 of the FEIAr.
The EAP has complied with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), accordingly. The FEIAr has been submitted to the competent authority within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report. The DEFF accepted the FSR and Plan of Study (PoS) for the EIA phase and provided comments or Tuesday the 08th of October 2019. The FEIAr was submitted to the DEFF on Thursday the 13th of February 2020.
The EAP has complied with Regulation 23(10(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). There has been no significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPI which changes, or information which was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process.
The Department's comment is duly acknowledged. The EAP has ensured that the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended were met, in order to ensure that the application did not lapse.
The Department's comment is duly acknowledged. The proposed development will not proceed without an EA being granted by the DEFF.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)	Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV	/) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
		The Department's comment is duly acknowledged. One (1) full colour hard copy and one electronic copy (on USB) of the FEIAr (including appendices) has been submitted to the Department. The hard copy reports were not submitted in lever arch files, but were rather bound.
2. Surrou	inding Infrastructure Related Con	nments / Issues
Please find attached Eskom requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure. Please also find attached the Eskom setbacks document that regulates the setback distance for RE plant from Eskom infrastructure. Please send me a M file of the affected properties and proposed Grid connections.	ohn Geeringh Senior Consultant: Environmental Management Eskom Email: 29 uly 2019	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 29 July 2019 Thank you for your email and the attachments. We will ensure that these are forwarded to the applicant for consideration. As requested, please find attached ML/ M files of the affected properties for the respective proposed solar Photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities. Please be advised that the proposed grid connections will be assessed as part of separate Basic Assessment (BA) processes which will only commence at a later stage, and thus the layouts we have at this stage are only preliminary. We will therefore forward you ML/ M files for the grid connections when we commence the BA processes for the grid connections. We will also send you another notification when these BA processes commence. I trust this is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any issues or should you have any queries in this regard. Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SiVEST It should be noted that the conditions / recommendations stipulated in Eskom's requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure document, as well as the setbacks document that regulates the
		setback distance for RE plant from Eskom infrastructure, will be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), where required. The EMPr will be provided as part of the EIA report.
I can just mention we have had interaction with the EDF team regarding this application and I do have a good idea of what is coming in future. I just need to have the actual plans when you are at the point		Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 29 July 2019 Hi ohn,

Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)		
where routes and layouts are determined, so that we can interact if		
necessary. EDF is aware of the setbacks issue and we have discussed		Noted, thank you very much for clarifying. We will make sure that we
it with them previously.		forward you the actual plans when we initiate the BA processes and
		are at the point where routes and layouts are determined.
		,
		Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further
		queries or require any further information from our side.
Please take note of the Obstacle Application process & procedure is	Li ell Stroh	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 29 July
published on http://www.caa.co. a/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-	Obstacle Inspector	2019
•	PANS-OPS Section	
notices.aspx. Also see "Obstacle Application Process" under		Thank you for your email.
"Important Links" on the right hand side of the page which explains the	Air Navigation Services	CiV/CCT will famusard this to the applicant on that they are undertake
process. Also see "Forms" (CA139-27) published under "Important	Department	SiVEST will forward this to the applicant so that they can undertake
Links".	Civil Aviation Authority	the Obstacle Application process as requested.
	Email: 09 September 2019	
When submitting the Obstacle Application Form (CA139-27) please		<u>Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),</u>
attach all the supporting documents you attached to this email.		SIVEST
		The applicant will undertake the Obstacle Application process when
Please contact me should you have any questions regarding this		this is required. The applicant will arrange this with the CAA directly.
matter as we will gladly try to assist.		
3.	Biodiversity Related Comments	/ Issues
COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE	Seoka Lekota	Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
PROPOSED WONDERHEUVEL, PAARDE VALLEY AND MOOI	Control Biodiversity Officer (Gr	<u>SIVEST</u>
PLAATS PHOTOVOLATIC SOLAR FACILITIES, NORTHERN AND	B): Biodiversity Conservation	The comments / recommendations / requests which were submitted by
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCES	Department of Environmental	DEA Biodiversity were duly noted and were forwarded to the applicant
	Affairs	for consideration. These comments / recommendations / requests will
The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated	(DEA)	be adhered to accordingly.
the aforementioned report and its specialist's studies. It was noted that	Letter via email:	
some parts of the site fall within the Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1)	20 August 2019	A Plant Rescue and Protection Plan will be compiled by an ecological
which are in a natural state and developments within these areas are		specialist, as requested, and will be included as part of the EMPr which
not permitted. Hence, substation 4 location is not supported.		will accompany the EIA report. It should be noted that the location for
		substation 4 was subsequently amended so that it falls outside of the
The following recommendations must be submitted as part of the final		CBA1 area. Substation 4 is however still situated within the power line
Scoping & draft EIR:		corridor (part of a separate BA process which will be initiated at a later
The Plant Rescue and Protection Plan compiled by ecological		stage) which was assessed by various specialists. A layout plan
	•	, J ,, ,,
, , ,		overlaid by the environmental sensitivities with the amended
specialist;		overlaid by the environmental sensitivities with the amended substation 4 location is provided as Figure 50 in the FSR. Figure 49

A level to plan every leid by the appringmental consist ities for all		in the FSR shows the preliminary PV development area (including
A layout plan overlaid by the environmental sensitivities for all		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
three PV facilities; with amended substation 4 location;		substation locations) which was considered prior to the submission of
		the FSR. When comparing Figure 49 to Figure 50 it is evident that the
The major impacts due to the proposed development, include habitat		location for substation 4 has been amended to fall outside of the CBA1
destruction and loss of protected plant species. Therefore, in order to		area.
achieve the objective of biodiversity conservation the above		
mentioned recommendations must be adhered to.		Additionally, Mitigation measures will also be put into place and
		incorporated into the EMPr to ensure that the correct processes are
		followed and the protected areas marked and avoided during
		construction and operation.
Many thanks for notifying us of these developments. BirdLife South	onathan Booth	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 28 August
Africa will not be commenting as an Interested and Affected Party	BirdLife	2019
however.	email:	Good Morning onathan,
	28 August 2019	,
		Thank you for your response.
		Noted. Thank you for confirming that BirdLife South Africa will not be
		commenting.
		g.
		Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
		SiVEST
		Despite the fact that BirdLife South Africa stated that they will not be
		commenting as an I&AP, they will continue to receive project related
		correspondence and information (such as reports for commenting)
		throughout the EIA process, should they have any comments and/or
		concerns. They will also be invited to attend the Focus Group Meeting
		, ,
I II the are	anather: Death	(FGM) which will take place during the EIA phase.
Hi there,	onathan Booth BirdLife	Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
BirdLife South Africa has no comment to make on the proposed	Email:	SiVEST
projects.	30 anuary 2020	BirdLife South Africa's comment is duly noted. No response was
projecto.	00 andary 2020	required.
ind regards,		
	Communication Related Commer	nts / Issues
Good morning,	Natasha Higgitt	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 07 June
.		<u>2019</u>
		Good Afternoon Ms/Mrs Higgitt,
	1	,

With regards to the section 38 development application process, only developments that are applied for in terms of section 38(1) of the NRHA require that the relevant Heritage Resources Authority is notified at the earliest phase via a NID document. HWC has a form, however, if an application to SAHRA is submitted via SAHRIS, the SAHRIS application acts as a NID document. Other documents such as project motivation and map etc. can be uploaded as additional documents.

If the application is being conducted in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA, then no NID is required as 38(1) does not apply when a 38(8) process is undertaken. Here we require the BID or announcement letter, the draft BAR and appendices, or the draft scoping with appendices, and draft EIA with appendices to provide comments.

With regards to the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (http://www.nbkb.org. a/), the NCPHRA does not have the authority to provide comments on section 38 application with the exception that if a structure as defined and protected by section 34 is impacted, then the NCPHRA must be consulted for comments. All section 38(1) and 38(8) cases for the Northern Cape are processed by SAHRA via SAHRIS.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority has been assessed to be competent to perform all function of the NHRA and therefore all section 38(1) and 38(8) application in the EC are process by the ECPHRA. They do not use SAHRIS and must be contacted directly. Please see the contact details for Sello Mokhanya (smokhanya@ecphra.org.za).

I hope this is helpful.

Please note that the owner/developer must re-apply for the re oning of the affected land parcels as oning not utili ed, lapse after a period of 3 years.

Heritage Officer: Archaeology,
Palaeontology and Meteorites
(APM) Unit
South African Heritage
Resources Agency (SAHRA)
Email: 07 une 2019

Thank you very much for your response.

The information provided in the email below is noted and greatly appreciated. We will proceed as suggested.

Thank you very much for your assistance. This has been very helpful.

<u>Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SIVEST</u>

SiVEST create a case application for the Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility on SAHRIS and uploaded all necessary documentation. The following Case ID was assigned on SAHRIS for the proposed development: 14145. Proof that a SAHRIS case application was created and that all the required documentation was uploaded is provided in **Appendix 7I** of the FSR. In addition, proof of correspondence from SAHRA is included in **Appendix 7D** of the FSR.

Birtus app
Senior Manager: Corporate
Services
Umsobomvu Local Municipality

<u>Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SiVEST</u>

The comments / recommendations / requests which were submitted by the Umsobomvu Local Municipality were duly noted and were

Cape i Tovince – i mai Environmentai impact Assessment Report (i ElAr)		Ta
	email:	forwarded to the applicant for consideration. These comments /
	20 August 2019	recommendations / requests will be adhered to accordingly. The
		applicant will ensure that re oning of the affected land parcels will be
		re-applied for before construction commences.
Please note that the developments have not been mapped on SAHRIS Case ID 14143 and 14145. Please map them as soon as possible. I will change the status of the cases to DRAFT. Once the developments have been mapped, please change the status of the cases to SUBMITTED.	Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 15 August 2019 Please be advised that SiVEST have mapped the application sites of the respective proposed developments on the SAHRIS Cases (Case ID 14143 and 14145), as requested. In addition, the status of the cases were changed to SUBMITTED, as requested. Please see the screenshots below for proof of this. Once the layouts of the respective
	Email: 15 August 2019	PV facilities have been determined we will update the cases to include
		these accordingly.
Thank you. We do not require the layouts to be mapped on the case.		Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 19 August
Only the application area should be mapped (as already done). The		<u>2019</u>
layout will be available in the EIA report (I assume).		Good Morning Natasha,
		The emails below refer. Noted, thank you for informing us.
V	III D. t	Yes that is correct, the layouts will be available in the EIA report.
Your request does not fall under Western Cape Wayleave Office. Your	Ihlaam Peters	Response from SiVEST_PPP account via email on 27 August 2019
emails were forwarded to ustice Sithole for further investigation	Wayleave officer – Wayleave	Thank you so much.
Email address : <u>usticeS openserve.co. a</u>	Management	Decree of the Ma Oith Life to be a second of
	Openserve	Do you perhaps have Mr Sithole's telephone number?
Contact telephone: 041-4078225	Email: 27 August 2019	Thank you once again.
I would like to register as an I&AP for the projects around the Noupoort-	Alfran o Smit	Response from Hlengiwe Ntuli (SiVEST) via email on 09
Middleburg area.	Interested and/or Affected party	September 2019
	(I&AP)	Thank you so much for your email Alfran o.
I m a local from the area and a SMME owner.	Email: 09 September 2019	
	·	We will add you to the Umsobomvu database and you will receive all
For both the wind energy and the solar energy projects. Hear from you soon.		correspondence pertaining to the projects.

Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)		
		Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
		<u>SiVEST</u>
		Mr. Smit was added to the project database, as requested. Please refer
		to Appendix 7F of the DEIAr for a copy of the entire project database.
Please can you addG7 as an I&AP to the following EIAs I&AP	Veronique Fyfe	Response from Hlengiwe Ntuli (SiVEST) via email on 11
database:	Interested and/or Affected party	September 2019
Umsobomvu PV and Grid and Aletta WEF Amendment.	(I&AP)	
	Project Manager	Thank you for your email. I'll add you as requested.
You can put me down as the contact person with the email address	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty)	
eia g7energies.com	Ltd	Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
	Email: 10 September 2019	<u>SiVEST</u>
		Veronique Fyfe was added to the project database, as requested.
		Please refer to Appendix 7F of the DEIAr for a copy of the entire prject
		database.
I hope you are well.	Sherina Shawe	Stephan Jacobs - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
	Regional Content Researcher	<u>SiVEST</u>
Please may I have a progress update on the following three projects:	Private Projects	A response was not provided as SiVEST were contacted shortly after
Paarde Valley Solar PV Plant	Leads 2 Business	receiving this email and information was provided telephonically. A
Wonderheuwel Solar PV Plant	Email: 20 November 2019	response will however be provided in due course and the I&AP will be
Mooi Plaats Solar PV Plant		provided with an update on the requested projects. Proof of this will be
		provided in the FEIAr.
Good day	Themba Mahenye	Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
	Transnet Freight Rail HB	<u>SiVEST</u>
Please note that these notifications must not be sent to me but rather	Email: 25 November 2019	Mr. Mahenye's comment was duly noted. Ms.Reyana Sallie and
to Ms.Reyana Sallie and Mr.E ekiel Monyamane.		Mr.E ekiel Monyamane were added to the project database and were
		sent project related notifications.
Please could you share a wetransfer or dropbox folder with me with	Veronique Fyfe	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 26
the documents in as many of the documents on the website returned	Interested and/or Affected party	November 2019
the a failed to download message or had no documents in at all.	(I&AP)	Good Morning Veronique,
	Project Manager	
If you could also share a .kml of the area that would be greatly	G7 Renewable Energies (Pty)	Thank you for your email.
appreciated	Ltd	
	Email: 26 November 2019	Thanks for bringing this to our attention. I am out of the office for the
		week, however, I will ask Hlengiwe to assist with this.
		Feel free to contact us should there be any other issues.

Thank you for your assistance.		Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 26
		November 2019
I have received the file from Hlengi already.		Not a problem Veronique. Glad to hear everything was sorted.
Thank you so much.		Let us know if there is anything else you require.
Dear Miss Hlengiwe	Belinda Maliti	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 21 January
	Interested and/or Affected party	<u>2020</u>
I am Belinda from Noupoort I would like to ask for any kind of job in	(I&AP)	Good Morning Belinda,
this project that you will do in Noupoort, my company name is inan	Director	
inkosi trading, I will be very happy to get your response.	Inan Inkosi Trading	Thank you very much for your email.
	Emails: 18 and 21 anuary 2020	
ind regards		Please be advised that SiVEST were appointed as the Independent
		Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the
Belinda		Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes for these projects
		only. This means that we are only responsible for undertaking the
		environmental studies and for obtaining a license (referred to as an
		Environmental Authorisation - EA) from the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to allow the developers
		to construct and operate these projects. SiVEST are not involved in the
		actual construction or operation of the projects and thus can
		unfortunately not assist with potential jobs.
		Also, it might be another 2 or 3 years until they start constructing these
		projects, should they receive their authorisations from the DEFF and
		should they be successful in their "bidding" process (if projects are
		selected as preferred bidders in the next "bid Window"). South Africa
		has a national renewable energy programme where all renewable
		energy developers need to "Bid" their projects that have received
		environmental authorisation (sort of like a tender process). The
		developers have to get all their licenses, permits etc. in order and then
		bid their projects during a "Bid Window". Once the developers have
		"bid" their projects, the government chooses "preferred bidders" who's
		projects can go forth. The developers will then need to go and get
		investors to invest in the projects. Only then can they look at starting construction. This is a rather long process and can take anywhere
		between a year or 2 (or longer) to happen. Please be aware that should
		between a year of 2 (or longer) to nappen. Flease be aware that should

	r Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern
Dear sir My name is Belinda Maliti, my company name is inan inkosi trading, reg no 2014/178165/07, I am the director of the company. My address: 237 klipheuwel Noupoort 5950	the projects not be selected as "preferred bidders" then they will most likely not be constructed. We will however add your company to our project databases (for the respective solar projects) so that you can be kept informed regarding the status of the projects. Please can you kindly provide me with the following information: Full Name; Company; Role at company (i.e. CEO, Manager etc.); Email Address (we will make use of belindamaliti gmail.com); Postal or Residential Address; and Telephone number / Cellphone number. We will send our databases to the developer for these projects so that they can inform the necessary people about job opportunities closer to the time, should these projects be chosen as "preferred bidders" and construction goes ahead. I hope this information helps. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any other queries in this regard or should you require any other information. Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 21 January 2020 Hi Belinda, Noted, thank you very much for providing us with this information. We
Noupoort 5950	Noted, thank you very much for providing us with this information. We will make sure that you are added to the relevant project databases and that you receive all project information going forward.
Cell number 0659138823 ind regards Belinda	Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SiVEST
	Page 39

Thank you for your assistance.		Belinda Maliti was added to the project database, as requested. Please refer to Appendix 7F of the FEIAr for a copy of the entire project database.
Good afternoon,	Natasha Higgitt	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 10 January
Thank you for the notification. Please upload the documents to the relevant SAHRIS applications and change the status of the cases to SUBMITTED.	Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Please be advised that SiVEST have uploaded the necessary documents to the relevant SAHRIS applications (Case ID: 14143 and Case ID: 14145 respectively) and have also changed the status of the cases to "SUBMITTED", as requested.
	Emails: 09 and 10 anuary 2020	Please be advised that since there was a delay in uploading these documents, SiVEST will give you until Monday 20 anuary 2020 (close of business) to submit comments. Please let me know should you require any additional time. With regards to the Paarde Valley Solar PV project, it was advised by SAHRA that the ECPHRA has been assessed to be competent and therefore all section 38(1) and 38(8) applications in the Eastern Cape must be processed by them. SiVEST have thus contacted the ECPHRA directly for this project and have sent them all relevant project related documentation.
		We trust you will find everything in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any issues or should you have any queries.
Good afternoon,		Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 10 January 2020
Thank you for the notification. I will ensure that comments are issued before the 20th.		Not a problem. Noted, thank you very much.
		Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any issues.
Good Afternoon Hlengiwe,	Sherina Shawe Regional Content Researcher	Response from Hlengiwe Ntuli (SiVEST) via email on 13 January 2020
I hope you are well :)	Private Projects Leads 2 Business	Good Day Sherina,
Please may I request either a link where I can download these or perhaps you can email them to me	Email: 13 anuary 2020	The reports as well as the accompanying appendices are available on SiVEST's website: http://www.sivest.co.za/, click on 'Downloads', then browse to the folder '15324 Umsobomvu PV and Grid'.
I look forward to hearing from you, have a super day		

Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr)		
		Let me know if you need anything else.
ind Regards		
Good afternoon,	Natasha Higgitt	Response from Stephan Jacobs (SiVEST) via email on 20 January
	Heritage Officer: Archaeology,	<u>2020</u>
Please note that Final Comments have been issued on SAHRIS Case	Palaeontology and Meteorites	Good Afternoon Natasha,
ID 14143 and 14145. Please see links to the cases below:	(APM) Unit	
	South African Heritage	Thank you for your email.
https://sahris.sahra.org. a/cases/mooi-plaats-solar-pv-eia	Resources Agency (SAHRA)	
https://sahris.sahra.org. a/cases/wonderheuvel-solar-pv-eia		Final comment letters received. Thank you very much for this.
	Email: 20 anuary 2020	
		SiVEST would like to thank you for your active and meaningful
		contribution to the EIA processes.
3	B. Heritage Related Comments / Is	
A letter from SAHRA was provided in response to the Scoping Phase	Natasha Higgitt	Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP),
process for the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility.	Heritage Officer: Archaeology,	SIVEST
	Palaeontology and Meteorites	The comments / recommendations / requests which were submitted by
Final Comment	Unit	SAHRA were duly noted and were forwarded to the applicant for
The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit	South African Heritage	consideration. These comments / recommendations / requests will be
requests that the PIA is revised to provide a map of the identified fossil	Resources Agency (SAHRA)	adhered to accordingly.
in relation to the proposed development footprint.	Letter via SAHRIS: 23 August	
	2019	It should be noted that that the Palaeontological Impact Assessment
Additionally, when the pending Heritage Impact Assessment report is		(PIA) will be revised during the EIA phase to provide a map of the
drafted, the report must clearly separate the results of each		identified fossil in relation to the proposed development footprint. The
development application.		updated PIA will be included in the DEIAr.
SAHRA awaits the revised PIA and pending HIA before further		In addition, the Desktop Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report will
comments are issued. The draft EIA and all appendices must be		be updated in the EIA phase and will clearly separate the results of
submitted at the start of the Public Consultation period in order for		each development application, as requested. The updated HIA report
informed comments to be issued.		will be included in the DEIAr.
		The revised DIA and HIA reports will be unleaded to the CALIDIC asset
Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated		The revised PIA and HIA reports will be uploaded to the SAHRIS case application once they have been completed and SAHRA will be notified
official using the case number quoted above in the case header.		about this accordingly. Additionally, the DEIAr and all appendices will
		be submitted at the start of the Public Consultation period in order for
		informed comments to be issued.
		illionned comments to be issued.

A letter from SAHRA with final comments was provided in response to the EIA process for the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facility.

Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province

Sivest SA (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Wonderheuvel Solar Power (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and associated infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include PV Solar panel field, on-site substations, operation and maintenance buildings, laydown areas, internal roads and fencing.

Ban ai Environmental and PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities, Northern and Eastern Cape.

Only the results of the assessment of the Wonderheuvel PV facility will be discussed below.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup with a small section located in the Tarkastad Subgroup and a smaller section located in the aroo Dolerite Suite. These rocks are

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer: Archaeology,
Palaeontology and Meteorites
Unit
South African Heritage
Resources Agency (SAHRA)
Letter via SAHRIS: 20 anuary
2020

<u>Stephan Jacobs – Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), SiVEST</u>

The comments / recommendations / requests which were submitted by SAHRA were duly noted and were forwarded to the applicant for consideration. These comments / recommendations / requests will be adhered to accordingly.

In addition, the requirements stipulated by SAHRA in the Final Comment Letter dated 20 anuary 2020 were included in the Draft EMPr, where required. These weren't included in the FEIAr as the FEIAr did not have a specific section for mitigation measures / recommendations. The mitigation measures / recommendations provided in **Table 27** of the Impact Rating section of the FEIAr (**section 7**) were specific measures / recommendations from the respective specialist studies and SiVEST did not want to change or add to these without consulting the specialists. The mitigation measures / recommendations provided by SAHRA are however standard measures / recommendations which are covered in the EMPr.

It should be noted that a Final EMPr will be submitted to the Department for final comment and approval before construction commences. This Final EMPr will also be sent to SAHRA for final comment and approval.

The FEIAr which was submitted on 13 February 2020 has subsequently been uploaded to the relevant case application on SAHRIS. It should be noted that the decision regarding the EA Application will be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the relevant SAHRIS Case application, should this be issued.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr) also overlain by uaternary aeolian and superficial deposits. No fossils are evident in the aroo Dolerite Suite, while the Adelaide Subgroup is known to include vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, plant remains and trace fossils. Some vertebrate fossils are known to be present in the Tarkastad Subgroup rocks including fossil fish, millipedes and trace fossils. uaternary group fossils are rare and include mammalian fossils, reptiles, shells, plant remains, stromatolites and trace fossils. One fragmented loose fossil was identified near the Wonderheuvel farmstead from the Adelaide Subgroup. Recommendations provided in the report include the following: It is recommended that a 50 m buffer will be placed around the identified fossil site. It has been identified as Highly Sensitive and No-go area. In the event that construction is necessary in this sensitive area, it is recommended that the fossil be collected by a professional palaeontologist. Preceding excavation of any fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA: A Chance Fossils Finds Procedure has been recommended and provided in the report. Fourie, W. 2019. Heritage Scoping Report: Proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities. Only the results of the assessment of the Wonderheuvel PV facility

will be discussed below.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr) The desktop study identified several sensitive areas where heritage resources may be present within the proposed development area as shown on page 27 of the report. These areas include drainage lines. enclosures, farmsteads and ridges. Heritage resources that may be present include Stone Age resources and colonial buildings. Recommendations provided in the report include the following: Further field truthing through an archaeological walk down and palaeontological study covering the site. The aim of this will be to compile a comprehensive database of heritage sites in the study areas, with the aim of developing a heritage management plan for inclusion in the Environmental Management Plan as derived from the EIA. In an Interim Comment issued on the 23/08/2019, SAHRA requested that the PIA is revised to provide a clear description of the fossils identified and in which development they are located within. Additionally, the pending HIA must clearly separate the results of each development application. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a revised PIA and HIA have been submitted. Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Field Assessment for the proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities, Northern and Eastern Cape. Only the results of the assessment of the Wonderheuvel PV facility will be discussed below. The results of the previous report were repeated in the field assessment report; however, the requested map of the fossil localities was provided. This indicates that the previously discussed fossil

resource is located within a different project footprint.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development of the Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAr) Recommendations provided in the report include the following: • A Chance Fossils Finds Procedure has been recommended and provided in the report. Fourie, W. 2019. Heritage Impact Report: Proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities. Only the results of the assessment of the Wonderheuvel PV facility will be discussed below. A total of three heritage resources were identified within the proposed Wonderheuvel development footprint, which consisted of two circular stone walled enclosures of medium heritage significance and one low density surface scatter of Later Stone Age artefacts of low heritage significance. Recommendations provided in the report include the following: Implementation of a 30 m buffer one around known heritage sites: Development of a Chance Finds Procedure to be included in the EMPr. **Final Comment** The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the proposed

development;

- 38(4)b The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Noncompliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Cape Province – Final Environmental Impact Assessment F	Development of the Wonderheuvel S Report (FEIAr)	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility	and Associated Infrastructure near No	oupoort in the Northern
<u> </u>	. , ,			



Appendix 7F I&AP Database

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT AND MIDDELBURG IN THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN CAPE PROVINCES

EIA Phase I&AP Database

		February 2020
First Name	Last Name	Company
Nicole	Abrahams	SANRAL
Vuyeka	Banisi	Chris Hani District Municipality
Vuyisile	Bene	
Nomandla	Bloem	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
Jonathan	Booth	Birdlife South Africa, Biodiversity Conservation
Thoko	Buthelezi	Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Biodiversity	Conservation	Department of Environmental Affairs
Anel	Croucamp	Agri SA-Eastern Cape
Monde	Desha	
Neil	Erasmus	Leeuw Hoek 61 Ptn 7
Abbott	Erasmus	Paarde Valley 62 Ptn 2
Sam	Fiff	Transnet Freight Rail (Jhb)
Brian	Fisher	Dept of Environment and Nature Conservation
Veronique	Fyfe	G7 Energies
John	Geeringh	Eskom: Transmission
Faunty	Gillmer	Wonder Heuvel 140 Ptn 2 & 4
Morgan	Griffiths	WESSA: National
Dominic	Henry	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Natasha	Higgitt	South African Heritage Resources Agency
Phillip	Hine	SAHRA
Zamile	Kalako	EC Department of Roads & Public Works
Bolekwa	Kama	Department of Water and Sanitation
Andries	Keun	Noupoort Boerevereniging
Colin Douglas	Kingwill	September Kraal 63
Johan	Koegelenberg	SENTECH
Stephnie	Kot	African Clean Energy Developments (ACED)
Rosie	L	
Lourens	Leeuwner	EWT
Seoka	Lekota	Department of Environmental Affairs
lan	Little	EWT
Mxolisi	Malgas	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Belinda	Maliti	
Jacoline	Mans	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Mashudu	Marubini	DAFF Provinical Department
Charlotte	Mashiloane	Umsobomvu Youth Fund
Simphiwe	Masilela	Air Traffic Navigation Services
Sharlene	Matthews	Agri Eastern Cape
Mzolisi	Matutu	Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture
Ayabonga	Mavisiwe	Inxuba Yethemba Municipality
Africa	Maxongo	ECPHRA
Sibonelo	Mbanjwa	Dept of Agriculture, Land Reform, Conservation and Environment
Vuyokazi	Mbanjwa	EC Department of Roads & Public Works
Nondwe	Makkazi	Dept of Economic Development, Env Affairs & Tourism
Sello	Mokhanya	Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Authority
Lerato	Mokhoantle	Department of Water & Sanitation
Lungi	Mondela	Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) - NC
Graham Ezekiel	Mondzinger	Air Traffic Navigation Services
	Monyamane Morobane	Transnet Freight Rail Air Traffic Navigation Services
Johanna Serame	Motlhake	SENTECH
		Umsobomvu Local Municipality
Amos	Mpela Mpotulo	Chris Hani District Municipality
Q Thulani	Msali	Cinis mani district intulicipanty
XW	Msweli	Inxuba Yethemba Municipality
Thulani	Mthombeni	NC Dept of Environment and Nature Conservation
Henning	Myburg	Agri SA: Northern Cape
Andile	Nduna	Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture
Ilze	Nel	Minnaar & De Kok Attorneys
Andre	Neser	Klip Krands 60 Ptn 1
Cira	Ngetu	EC Department of Economic Developmet Environmen Affairs & Tourism
Cira	Ingetu	Le Department of Economic Developmet Environmen Arians & Tourism

Sonwabile	Nkondeshe	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality
Noluvuyo	Nqeno	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
Ihlaam	Peters	Telkom SA (Ltd)
Eustacia	Phillis	Inxuba Yethemba Municipality
R.E.	Pieterse	Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality
Fundiswa	Qumba	Umsobomvu Local Municipality
Samantha	Ralston-Paton	BirdLife South Africa
Jaco	Roelofse	NC Department of Roads & Public Works
Reyana	Sallie	Transnet Freight Rail
Ada	Sammy	Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality
Mzimkhulu Albert	Sestile	Umsobomvu Local Municipality
Sherina	Shawe	Leads 2 Business
Justice	Sithole	Open Serve (Telkom)
Alfranzo	Smit	RIEVE SURVEYS (pty ltd)
Nenekazi	Songxaba	SANRAL - Southern Region
PG	Steyn	Klip Krands 60 Ptn 3 & 4
Lizell	Stroh	SA Civil Aviation Authority
Pieter	Swart	Department of Mineral Resources
Sarel David	Theron	Zaay Fontein 65 REM
Andrew	Timothy	SAHRA (Northern Cape)
Adriaan	Tiplady	Square Kilometre Array
Α	Topham	Department of Sport, Arts & Culture
Marais	Trust	Zaay Fontein 65 Ptn 2
Stanley	Tshitwamulomoni	Department of Environmental Affairs
N	Twalo	Inxuba Yethemba Municipality
Zimkita	Tyala	Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) - EC
Heleen	van den Heever	Telkom (SA) Ltd
Jacobus Andries	van der Merwe	Elands Heuvel 113 Ptn 1
Vivian	van der Merwe	Elands Kloof 135 REM & Leuwe Kop 120 REM
Lindo	Van der Merwe	Noupoort Boerevereniging
Denver	Van Heeden	Dept of Environment and Nature Conservation
Philip	van Lingen	Wonder Heuvel 140 Ptn 1 & Mooi Plaats 122 REM
Sibongile	Victor	
Hendrina	Vorster	Umsobomvu Local Municipality



Appendix 7G Minutes of Meetings



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOI PLAATS (DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND WONDERHEUVEL (DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1135) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) **ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR NOUPOORT IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGS (OIEs) VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE MOOI PLAATS (DOS Verw. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) EN WONDERHEUVEL (DOS Verw. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1135) FOTOVOLTAÏESE (FV)

SONKRAGAANLEGTE NABY NOUPOORT IN DIE NOORD-KAAP PROVINSIE

DATE / DATUM: Tuesday / Dinsdag, 26 November 2019, 14h00

VENUE: Noupoort Combined School Hall / Noupoort Gekombineerde Skoolsaal / Pretorius Street / Pretoriusstraat, Noupoort

FOCUS GROUP MEETING (FGM) / VERGADERING

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		Cell:					
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C			PORT ELIZABETH 6001				
X	sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za	e-mail:	Road Humerail	Wonderheuvel Solar Power (Ptv) Ltd	o d		
K	(082) 325 6062	Cell :	1204 Humerail	(Pty) Ltd and	Project Manager	Sheldon Vandrev	<u> </u>
3		Fax:	Building 5 –	Mooi Disate Solar Dower			
	(041) 506 4900	Tel:	Waterfront Business Park				
SIGNATURE /	CONTACT DETAILS / KONTAKBESONDERHEDE		POSTAL ADDRESS / POSADRES	ORGANISATION (Please do not use acronyms) / ORGANISASIE (Moet asb nie akronieme gebruik nie)	POSITION / POSISIE	NAME & SURNAME / NAAM & VAN	חותבו אותבו



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOI PLAATS Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND WONDERHEUVEL (DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1135) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)
ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR NOUPOORT IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGS (OIEs) VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE MOOI PLAATS (DOS Verw. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) EN WONDERHEUVEL (DOS Verw. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1135) FOTOVOLTAÏESE (FV)

SONKRAGAANLEGTE NABY NOUPOORT IN DIE NOORD-KAAP PROVINSIE

DATE / DATUM: Tuesday / Dinsdag, 26 November 2019, 16h30

VENUE: Noupoort Combined School Hall / Noupoort Gekombineerde Skoolsaal / Pretorius Street / Pretoriusstraat, Noupoort

PUBLIC MEETING / OPENBARE VERGADERING

	stephanj@sivest.co.za	e-mail:			(EAP)		
	072 737 2114	Cell :	2128		Assessment Practitioner		
Jak T	(011) 803 7272	Fax:	P.O. Box 2921 RIVONIA	SiVEST SA (Ptv) Ltd	Environmental	Stephan Jacobs	₹
	(011) 798 0600	Tel:			Environmental		
	liandras@sivest.co.za	Email:					
Scott-Shau	073 658 7955	Cell:	3231		Consultant		ā
80	(033) 347 5762	Fax:	MSUNDUZI	SIVEST SA (Phy) I td	Environmental	Liandra Scott-Shaw	Z
	(033) 347 1600	Tel:	B O B 20.707				
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AD A	(041) 506 4900 (082) 325 6062 sheldon.vandrev@edf-re.co.za DC1985 8504	e-mail:	Business Park Building 5 - Ground Floor 1204 Humerail Road Humerail PORT ELIZABETH 6001 Sterat Alogeoal	Mooi Plaats Solar Power (Pty) Ltd and Wonderheuvel Solar Power (Pty) Ltd Power (Pty) Ltd Port ELIZABETH 6001 Stannuat Construction where points of the port (Pty) Ltd Port	Project Manager	Sheldon Vandrey	No.
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) PROCESSES FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOI PLAATS AND WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MOOI PLAATS SOLAR PV - DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134
WONDERHEUVEL SOLAR PV - DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1135
MOOI PLAATS GRID – DEA Ref No.: To Be Allocated
WONDERHEUVEL GRID – DEA Ref No.: To Be Allocated

FOCUS GROUP MEETING (FGM) / PUBLIC MEETING

A PROFESSIONAL TEAM DELIVERING CREATIVE PROJECT SOLUTIONS



Consulting Engineers • Project Managers • Environmental Consultants • Town and Regional Planners

AGENDA



- Welcome, introduction and apologies
- Purpose and conduct of meeting
- Background to the proposed developments
- Environmental process followed and findings
- Discussion session
- Closure

CONDUCT OF MEETING



- Focus on issues relating to EIA / BA processes
- Equal participation
- Identify yourselves
- Recorder
- Cell phone etiquette

PURPOSE OF MEETING



- To provide an overview of proposed developments
- To provide feedback on findings as documented in the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) / Basic Assessments (BAs) and specialist reports
- Provide an opportunity to raise comments and/or concerns regarding proposed developments
- To record comments, issues and concerns raised

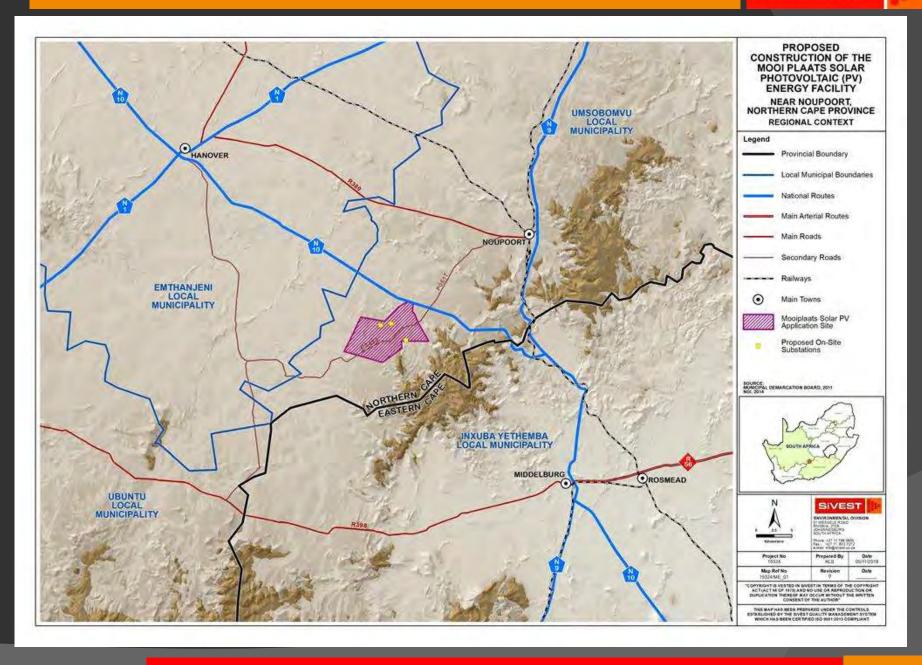
PROJECT OVERVIEW



- What do proposed developments entail?
 - Construction of Mooi Plaats and Wonderheuvel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facilities - max generation capacities of up to 400MW and 480MW respectively
 - Including associated infrastructure:
 - o 1 new on-site and collector substation each part of EIAs and BAs
 - Temporary construction laydown / staging areas 3 for Mooi Plaats
 & 4 for Wonderheuvel
 - Operation & Maintenance (O&M) buildings 3 for Mooi Plaats & 4 for Wonderheuvel
 - o Internal access roads existing roads to be used, where possible
 - 132kV power lines to connect proposed substations to national grid – part of separate BA processes to be initiated at later stage
 - Two (2) of three (3) projects which form part of greater Umsobomvu PV project
- Why is the project being proposed?
 - To generate electricity to feed into national grid
 - Promote use of renewable energy
 - To help meet future energy consumption requirements

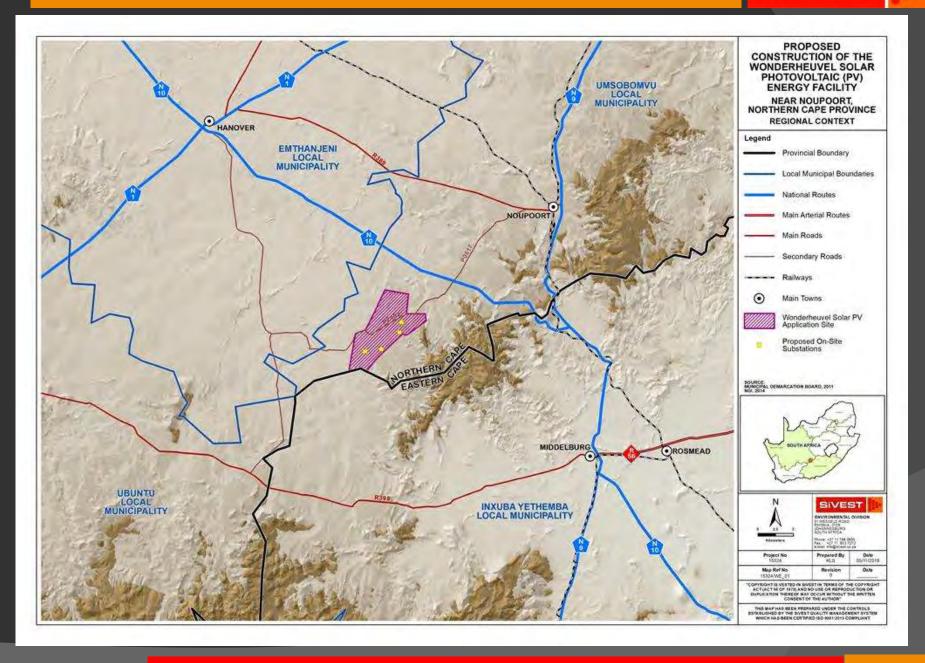
REGIONAL CONTEXT – MOOI PLAATS PV





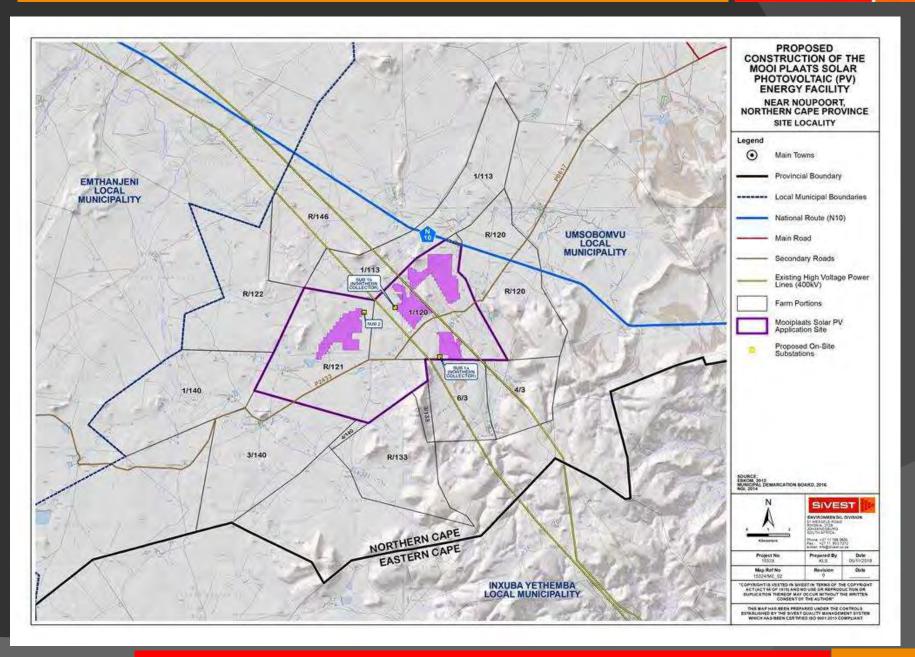
REGIONAL CONTEXT – WONDERHEUVEL PV





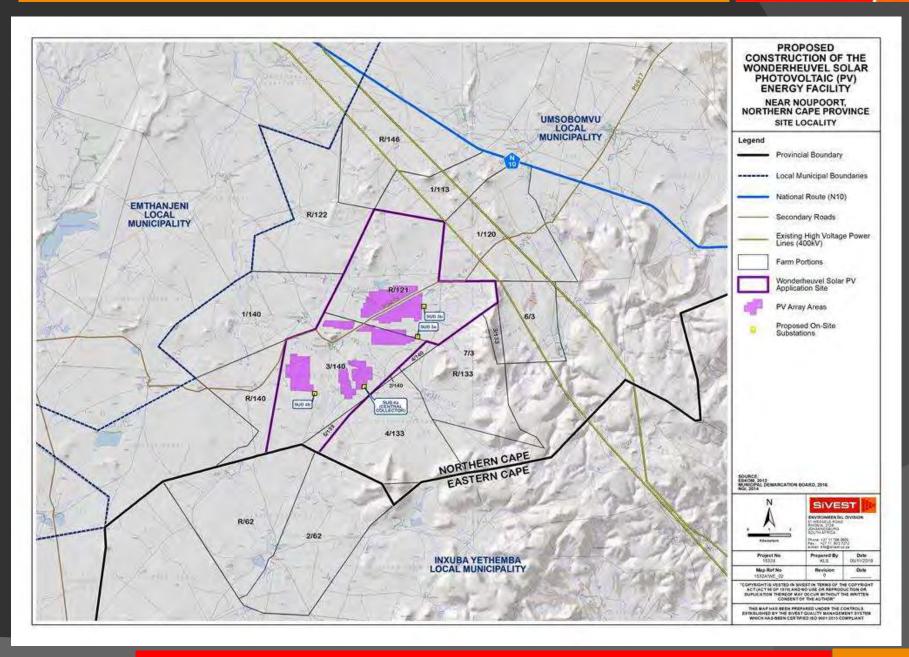
SITE LOCALITY – MOOI PLAATS





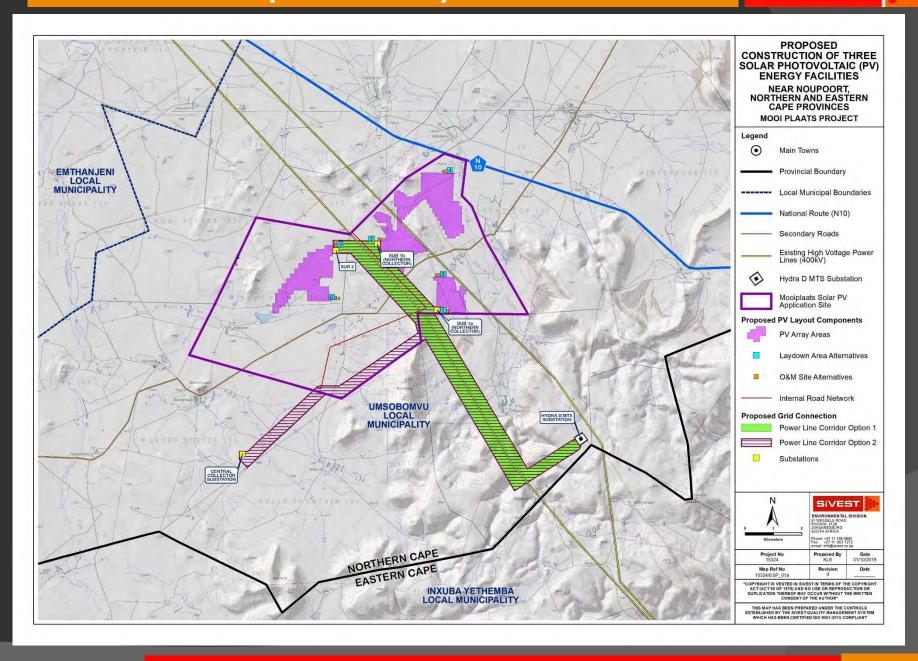
SITE LOCALITY – WONDERHEUVEL





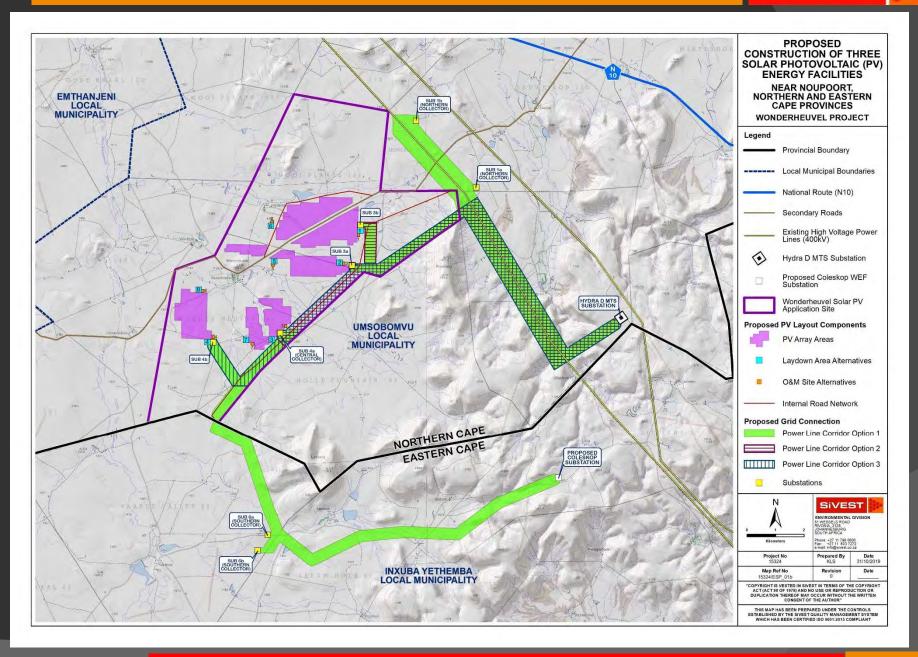
SITE LOCALITY (PV & GRID) – MOOI PLAATS





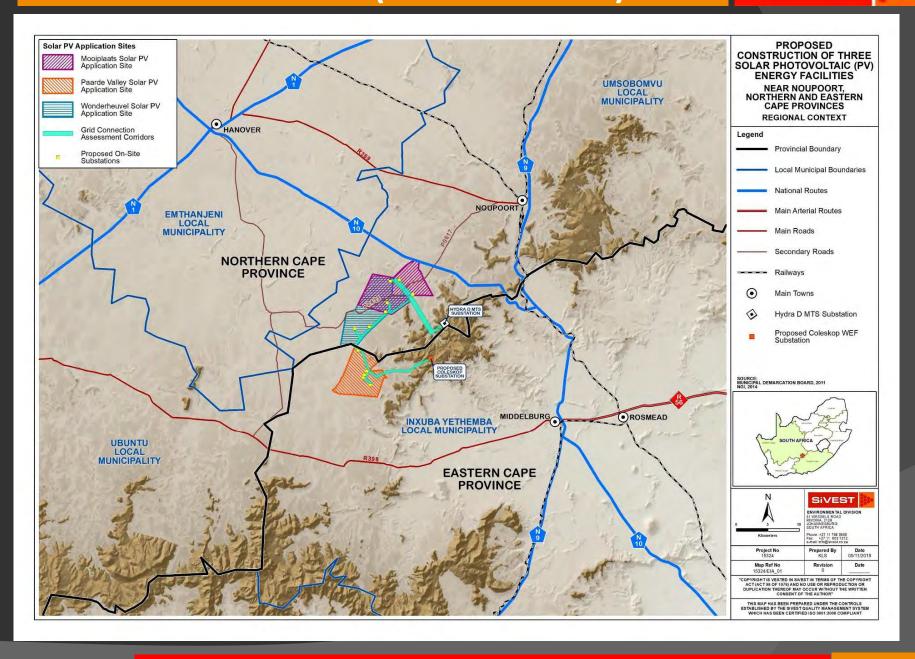
SITE LOCALITY (PV & GRID) – WONDERHEUVEL





REGIONAL CONTEXT (ALL PROJECTS)

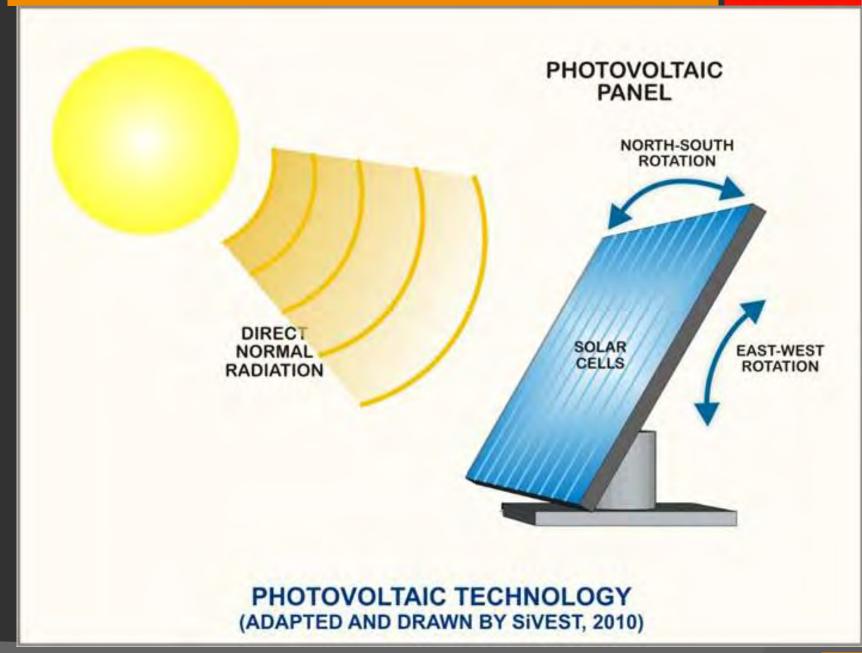




SOLAR PV COMPONENTS

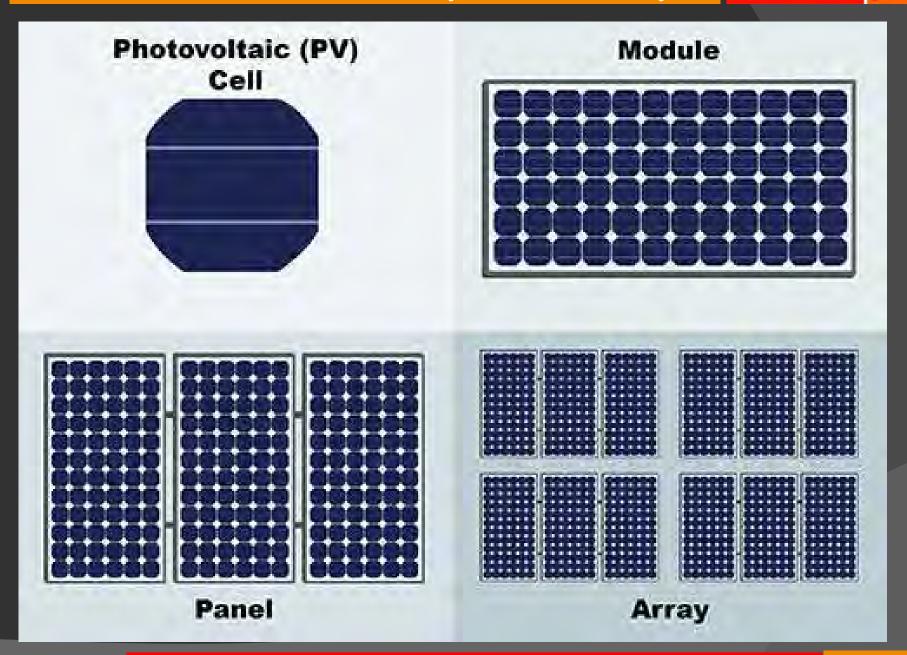






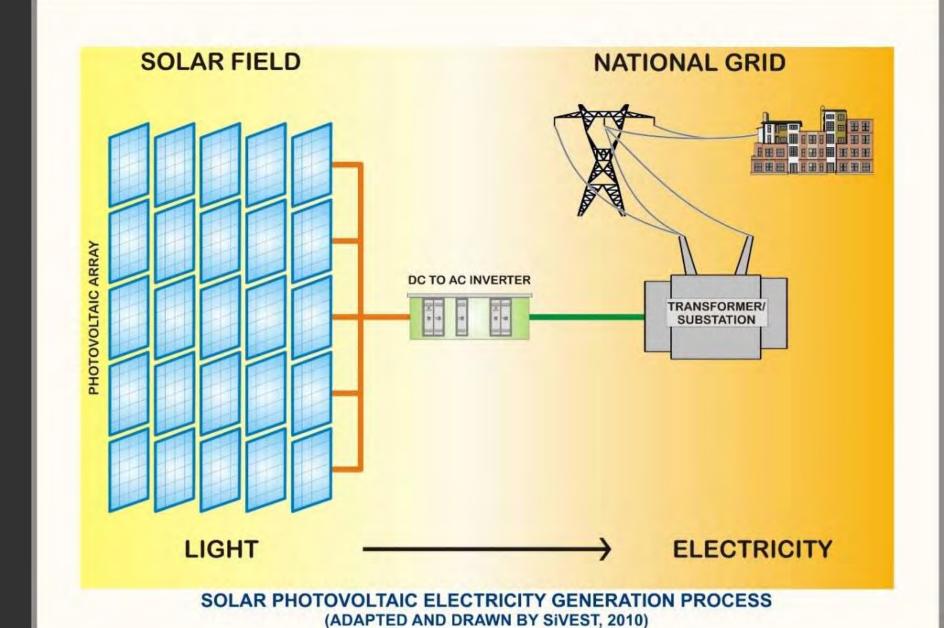
SOLAR PV COMPONENTS (CONTINUED)





ELECTRICITY GENERATION PROCESS





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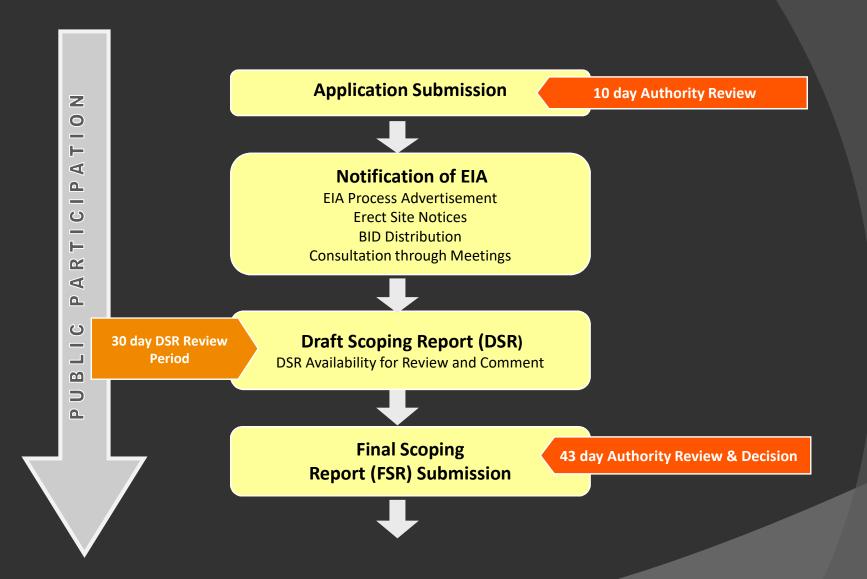
PROJECT OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)



- Who is the independent EAP?
 - SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd
- Why undertake an EIA / BA?
 - Legal requirement
 - Consider environmental impacts and mitigation measures
 - Provide stakeholders/I&APs opportunity to participate
- Who is the applicant?
 - Mooi Plaats Solar Power (Pty) Ltd
 - Wonderheuvel Solar Power (Pty) Ltd
- Who is the decision-making authority?
 - National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

NEMA EIA PROCESS – SCOPING PHASE





NEMA EIA PROCESS – EIA PHASE





Commence with EIA Phase

DSR and Plan of Study for EIA Acceptance **EIA Newsletter Distribution Detailed Specialist Studies Consultation through Meetings**



30 day DEIAr Review Period

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Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAr)

Consultation through Meetings **DEIAr Availability for Review and Comment**



Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIAr) Submission

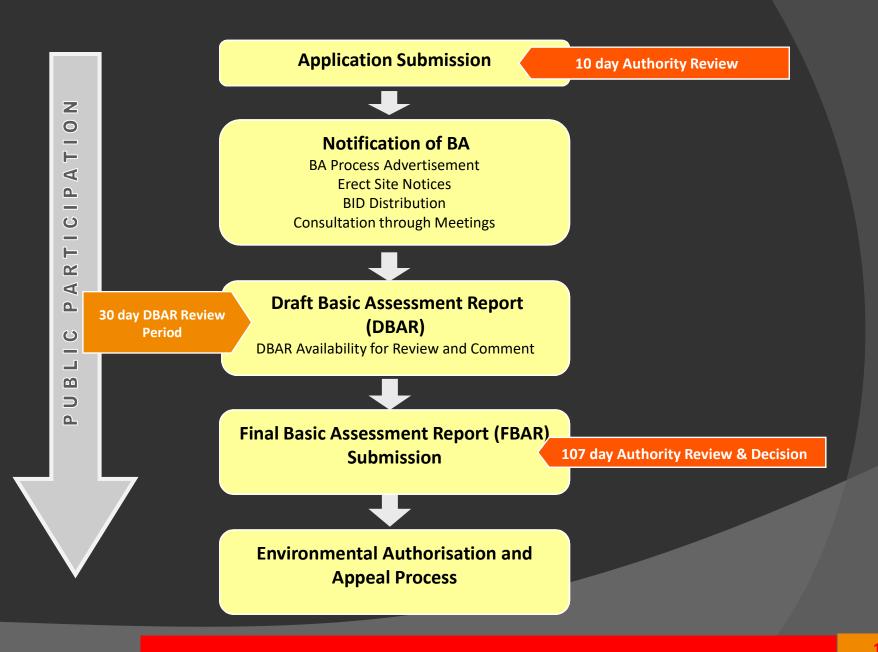
107 day Authority Review & Decision



Environmental Authorisation and Appeal Process

NEMA EIA PROCESS – BA





PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Site Selection and Land Acquisition

EIA / PermittingProcesses

Bid Submission and Selection

Construction and Grid Connection

Due Diligence and Financial Close

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)



ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS



- EIA phases underway. BAs still to be initiated
- However, specialists assessed all Umsobomvu projects (PV & Grid) together in single report
 - Rating of significance of impacts
 - Mitigation Measures / Recommendations (inclusion in EMPr)
 - Compliance with all National legislation
 - Comparative Assessment of Alternatives

Environmental Aspects Assessed

- Agricultural and Soils
- Surface Water
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Avifauna (Birds)
- Geotechnical
- Social
- Visual
- Heritage (including Archaeology & Cultural Landscape)
- Palaeontology
- Transportation

AGRICULTURAL & SOILS (DESKTOP)



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General **Findings**

- Major limitations to agriculture = limited climatic moisture availability (low rainfall), rugged terrain & shallow, rocky soils
- Thus, agricultural use of study area limited to low-intensity grazing only, except for some isolated patches of irrigation land
- 2 potential negative impacts:
 - Loss of agricultural land use
 - Soil erosion and degradation
- 1 potential positive impact:
 - o Increased financial security of farming operations through rental income
- Significance of all impacts kept low by limited agricultural potential of land
- Only parts of study area that do not have low sensitivity are small patches of irrigation. Considered no-go areas

Key **Mitigation**

- Implementation of effective system of stormwater run-off control
- Maintenance of vegetation cover
- Strip, stockpile and re-spread topsoil

Due to low agricultural potential of site, and consequent low to medium, negative agricultural impact, no restrictions relating to agriculture which preclude authorisation and therefore, from agricultural impact point of view, development should be authorised

TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY (FLORA & FAUNA) SIVEST





General **Findings**

- Habitat on-site in largely natural state & in rural environment. Very little transformation or serious degradation on site
- All vegetation types listed as Least Threatened
- CBAs (1&2) and ESAs affected natural vegetation thus has high value for conservation in Province
- Number of plant species occurring on site that are protected according to Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act.
- None of conservation concern, but permit required from Provincial authorities to destroy them
- No plant species occurring on-site or likely to occur on-site that are protected according to NEM:BA
- No protected tree species likely to occur in study area
- Following species considered to have very high, high or medium probability of occurring on-site:
 - Black-footed Cat (Vulnerable)
 - Cape Clawless Otter (Near Threatened)
 - South African Hedgehog (Near Threatened)
 - Grey Rhebok (Near Threatened)
 - White-tailed Rat (Vulnerable)
 - Spectacled Dormouse (Near Threatened)
- Strong evidence to suggest Black-footed Cat and Cape Clawless Otter both definitely occur on-site
- One (1) protected frog species, Giant Bullfrog, could potentially occur on-site

TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY (CONTINUED)





General Findings

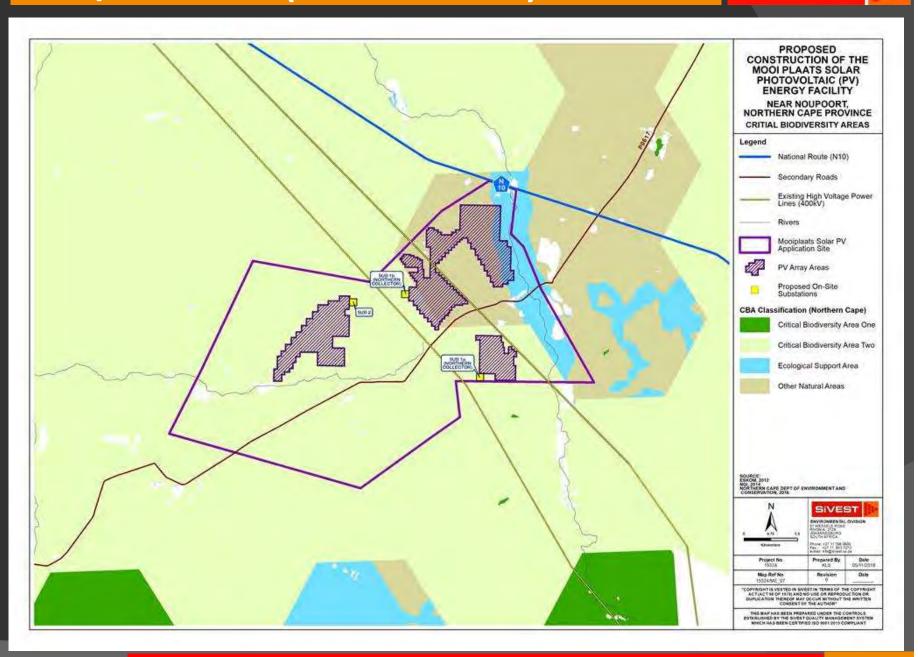
- No reptile species of conservation concern could potentially occur in study area
- All impacts of low significance or can be reduced to low significance with mitigation, with exception of loss of natural vegetation, for which impact remains of medium significance after mitigation

Key Mitigation

- Shifting infrastructure positions to avoid sensitive habitats
- Install appropriate structures at watercourse crossings Minimise vegetation clearing and disturbance
- Formalise rehabilitation programme
- Undertaking pre-construction botanical walk-through survey of footprint of selected options
- Obtaining permits for any protected species that may be affected
- Undertaking search and rescue of plants for which it is appropriate to rescue
- Compile alien plant management plan and undertaking regular monitoring
- Will be residual impacts, primarily on natural habitat, but amount of habitat to be lost insignificant compared to area in hectares of regional vegetation type that occurs on-site
- Residual impacts therefore considered acceptable, on condition local sensitivities of biodiversity importance are avoided
- On this basis, recommended that project be authorised

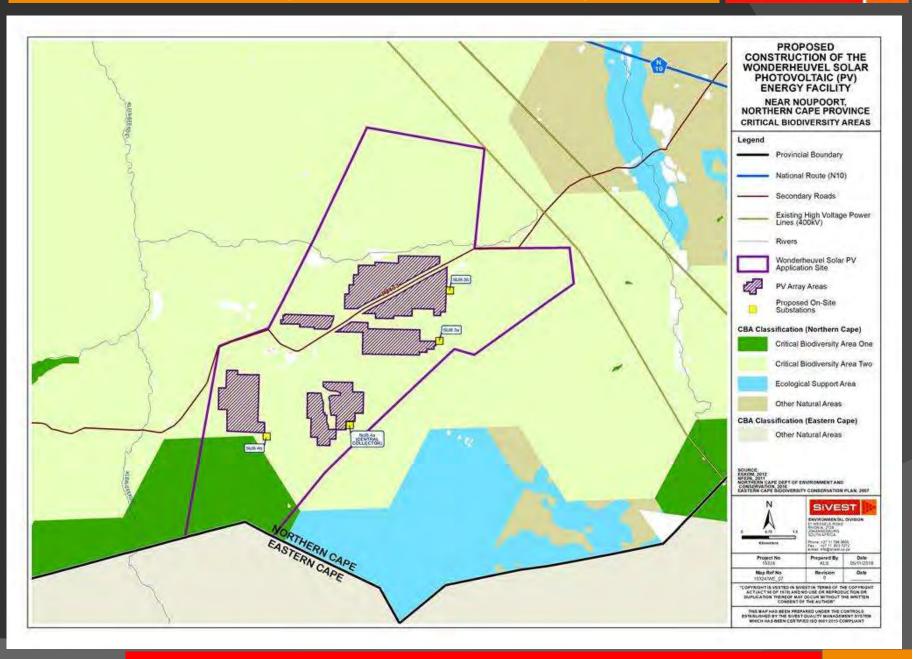
CBA / ESA MAP (MOOI PLAATS)





CBA / ESA MAP (WONDERHEUVEL)





AVIFAUNA (BIRDS)



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Monitoring over six (6) months (monitoring complete)
- PV facilities will have some pre-mitigation impacts at site and local level which will range from Medium to Low
- Impacts of PV facilities during construction expected to be Medium, even after mitigation
- Impacts of PV facilities in operational phase rated as Low premitigation and could be further reduced with appropriate mitigation
- Impacts during decommissioning phase rated as Medium, and will remain Medium after mitigation.
- Cumulative impact of PV facilities within 35km radius rated as Low, both pre- and post-mitigation
- Impacts of grid connections and substations during construction and operation range from High to Low
- Impacts can be mitigated to Medium or Low level with appropriate mitigation
- Cumulative impact of grid connections within 35km radius rated as Medium, but can be reduced to Low with application of appropriate mitigation

AVIFAUNA (CONTINUED)



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

Key Mitigation

- Measures to control noise and dust should be applied
- Maximum use should be made of existing access roads and construction of new roads should be kept to minimum as far as practical
- Single perimeter fence should be used.
- Alternatively, two (2) fences should be at least 4m apart to allow medium to large birds enough space to take off
- Walk-through by avifaunal specialist to assess whether there are any Red Data species, and/or large raptors breeding in vicinity of power line, which could be displaced by construction activities
- Should this be the case, appropriate measures must be put in place to prevent displacement of breeding birds, through timing of activities
- 132kV grid connection should be marked with Bird Flappers for entire length of line
- 500m power line free zone should be implemented around dams and agricultural areas
- Final pole design must be signed off by bird specialist to ensure that a birdfriendly design is used
- From avifaunal impact perspective, there is no objection to proposed development, provided proposed mitigation measures are strictly implemented
- No further monitoring required during operational phase

GEOTECHNICAL (DESKTOP)



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- No fatal flaws that, from geological and geotechnical perspective, would prevent construction
- Potential impacts relate to soils that could be impacted by construction activities
- May be potential for soil erosion, due to removal of vegetation and exposure of soils to elements, during construction
- Impacts found to be of negative Low impact
- While all alternatives considered suitable, Grid Option 1 found to be preferable from geological and geotechnical perspective
- Geological impacts will be similar
- Due to very similar bedrock geology, similar geotechnical conditions expected across all options

Key Mitigation

- Use of berms and drainage channels to direct water away from construction areas where necessary
- Implement groundcover measures to prevent erosion (e.g. keeping as much natural vegetation as possible, straw mulch, erosion control mats etc.)
- Contain and control stormwater flow

Based on minimal negative impacts on geology and soils and recommendations for mitigation measures, recommended that project receives go-ahead from Competent Authority (DEA)

SOCIAL (DESKTOP)



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Most impacts apply over short term to construction phase
- All imapets can be mitigated to within acceptable ranges
- No fatal flaws associated with construction or operation of projects
- Cumulative impacts associated with changes to social environment of region more significant than those attached to projects in isolation
- Negative social impacts of low to moderate significance with most occurring over short term construction phase
- Project has positive element which outweighs negative will contribute towards supply of renewable energy into grid system heavily reliant on coal powered energy generation

Key Mitigation

- Appoint community liaison officer to deal with complaints and grievances from public
- Appoint independent security company to monitor sites
- Ensure workers are exposed to health and HIV/AIDS awareness educational programme within first month of construction
- Develop and implement local procurement policy which prioritises "locals first" to reduce movement of people into area in search of work
- Draw up recruitment policy in conjunction with Community Leaders and Ward Councillors and ensure compliance with policy

Projects form part of national effort to reduce South Africa's carbon emissions and thus carry significant social benefit and are thus supported and should proceed



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Largely natural setting with some pastoral elements
- Developments would alter visual character and contrast significantly with typical land use and/or pattern and form of human elements present across broader study area
- level of contrast however reduced by presence of N10 national route and existing high voltage power lines in northern sector of study area
- Area not typically valued for tourism significance and limited human habitation resulting in relatively few potentially sensitive receptors in area (26 = potentially sensitive, 3 sensitive)
- Receptors not expected to experience high levels of visual impact
- Impacts associated with solar PV facilities and associated grid connection infrastructure of moderate significance
- Impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels provided recommended mitigation measures are implemented

Key Mitigation

- Minimise vegetation clearing and rehabilitate cleared areas as soon as possible
- Retain buffer (approx. 100m wide) of intact natural vegetation along the perimeter of development area and along site boundary
- Where possible, O&M buildings and laydown areas should be consolidated to reduce visual clutter

Given low level of human habitation and relative absence of sensitive receptors, project deemed acceptable from visual impact perspective and EA should be granted



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Field work identified total of 10 areas of heritage significance
- Adjustments to project layouts based on various specialist input resulted in total avoidance of 3 heritage areas
- Remaining 7 sites consist of 3 large, low to medium density scatters of later stone age sites (UMS005,008 and 009)
- 3 sites avoided by slight adjustments in PV array layouts
- 3 sites (UMS004, 006 and 007) = round stone packed enclosures
- UMS004 and 006 will need to be avoided during construction of power grid through implementation of 30m buffer
- 1 site (UMS010) identified as fossil find spot and 50m buffer around fossil bearing material must be implemented - any construction in demarcated area must be monitored by palaeontologist
- Pre-mitigation negative high impact projected but with implementation of management measures impact rating will be reduced to low negative

Key Mitigation

- Implementation of 30m buffers
- Development of chance finds procedures to be included in EMPr
- Implement chance finds procedures
- Request destruction permits from SAHRA, if required

With consideration of position of heritage sensitivities during layout design and implementation of management measures, project will have acceptable low impact on heritage resources and can continue

PALAEONTOLOGY



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Only 2 sites on koppies with fossiliferous outcrops identified
- Although these localities do not currently fall in proposed development sites, sites have been identified as Highly Sensitive and No-go areas
- Thus recommended that 50m buffer be placed around these areas
- In event that construction in sensitive areas is required, recommended that fossils be collected by professional palaeontologist
- Impact on fossil heritage usually negative but could also have positive impact due to discovery of newly uncovered fossil material that would have been unavailable for scientific research
- No further palaeontological heritage studies, ground truthing and/or specialist mitigation required pending discovery of newly discovered fossils

Key Mitigation

- In event fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on surface or exposed by fresh excavations, Chance Find Protocol must be implemented by ECO
- Discoveries ought to be protected (if possible in situ) and ECO must report to SAHRA so that correct mitigation (e.g. recording and collection) can be carried out by palaeontologist
- Preceding excavation of any fossil material, specialist would need to apply for collection permit from SAHRA

No fatal flaws, however, recommended that mitigation measures are included in EMPr and fully implemented

TRANSPORTATION



Mooi Plaats & Wonderheuvel Solar PV Energy Facilities & Associated Grid Connections

General Findings

- Additional ±43 vehicles at peak of construction phase, transporting staff and labour. Typically, trips will be in morning between 6:00 – 7:00 and in afternoons between 16:00 – 17:00
- Heavy construction vehicles and deliveries will contribute additional ±25 vehicle trips / day, typically occurring during 'weekday midday'
- Will equate to ±4 vehicle trips / hour. Additional vehicles will only contribute a small percentage to existing road network
- Abnormal loads will be negligible and therefore will have no major impact
- Cumulative impact of area confirms no significance rating change will be experienced during construction period

Key Mitigation

- Traffic Management Plan be completed prior to construction to form part of Final EMPr
- 1 access point from N10 freeway be used to reduce impact to area
- Appropriate axillary lanes and speed reduction measures to be implemented subsequent to discussions with SANRAL
- Appropriate load permits be obtained from Department of Transport prior to construction (if required)
- Detailed Traffic Impact Study be completed prior to construction with all Renewable Energy parties involved in immediate area

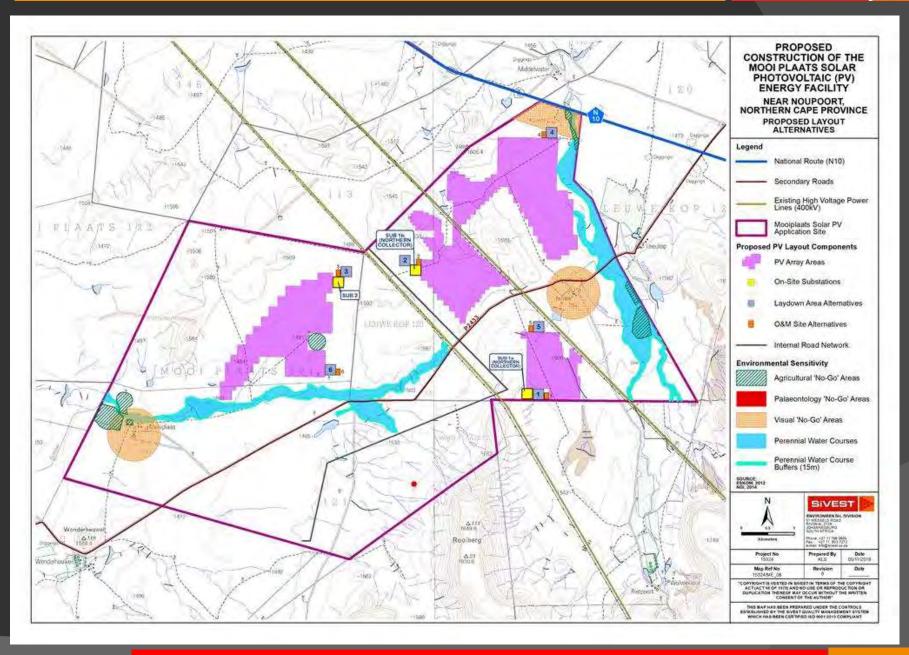
Existing road network can accommodate proposed development, however, recommendations must be considered to mitigate any possible negative impacts



LAYOUT ALTERNATIVES

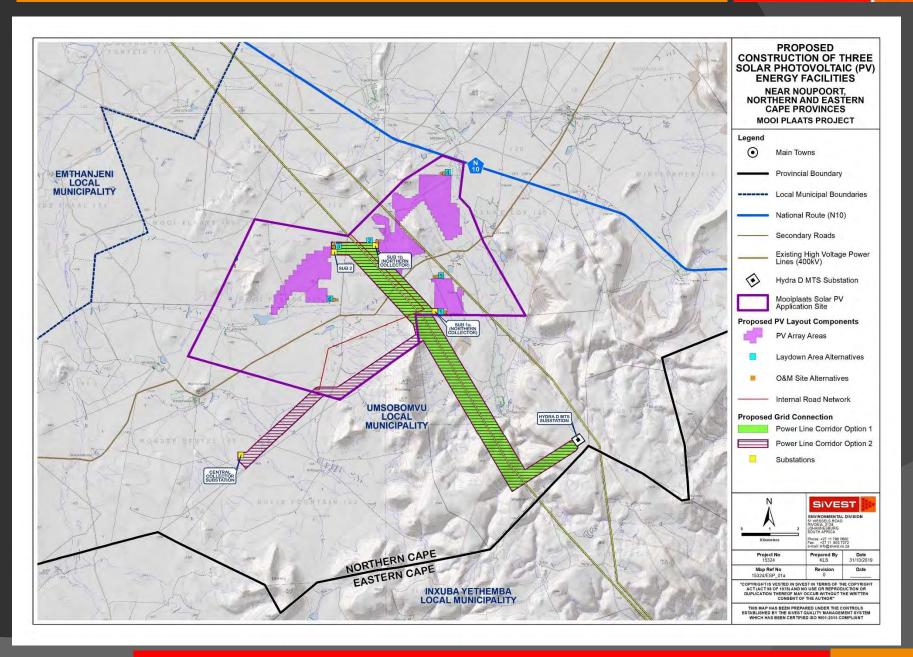
WEF LAYOUT & ALTERNATIVES ASSESSED – MOOI PLAATS





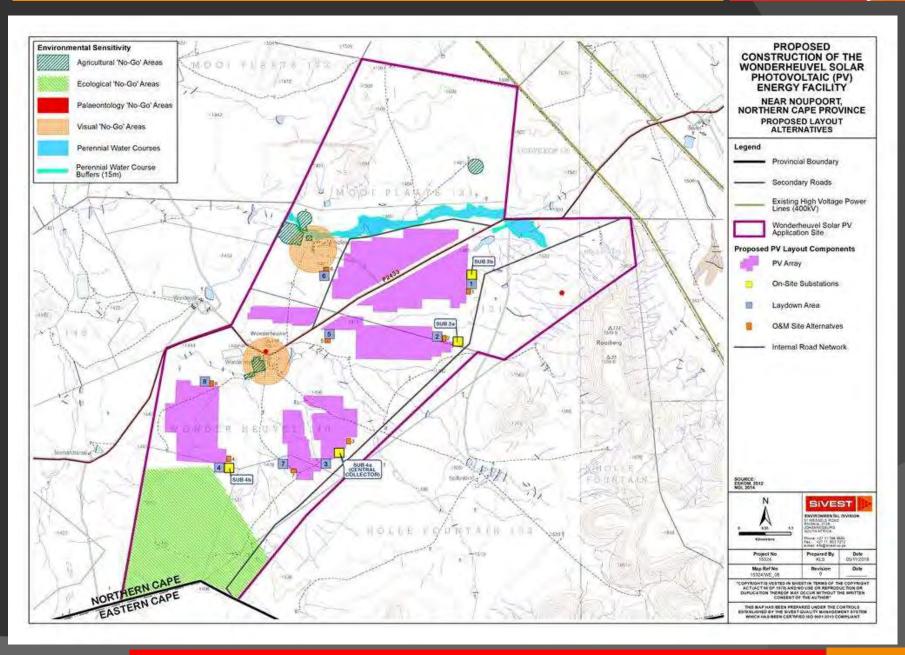
WEF LAYOUT & ALTERNATIVES ASSESSED – MOOI PLAATS





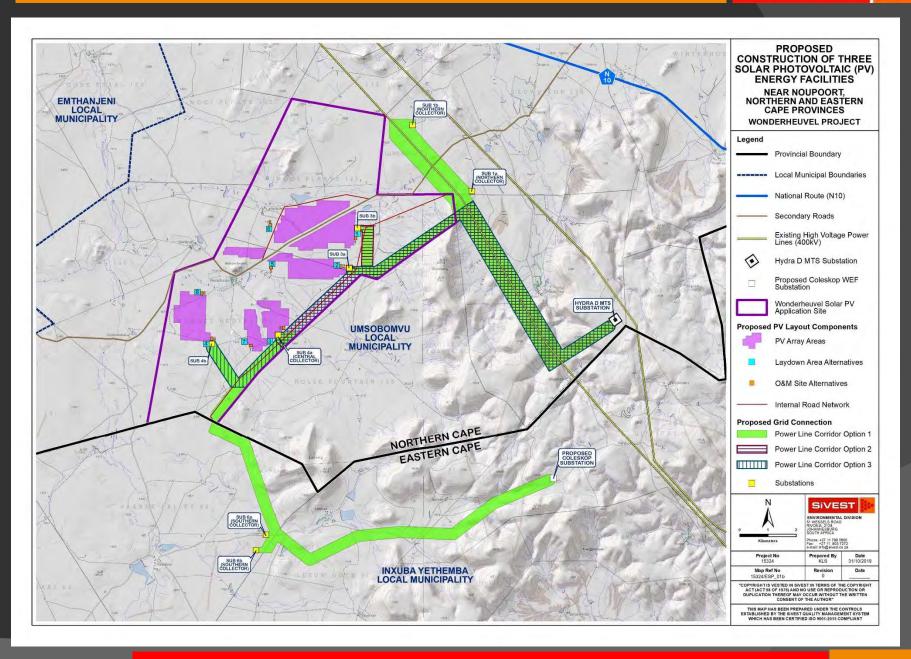
WEF LAYOUT & ALTERNATIVES ASSESSED – WONDERHEUVEL





WEF LAYOUT & ALTERNATIVES ASSESSED – WONDERHEUVEL

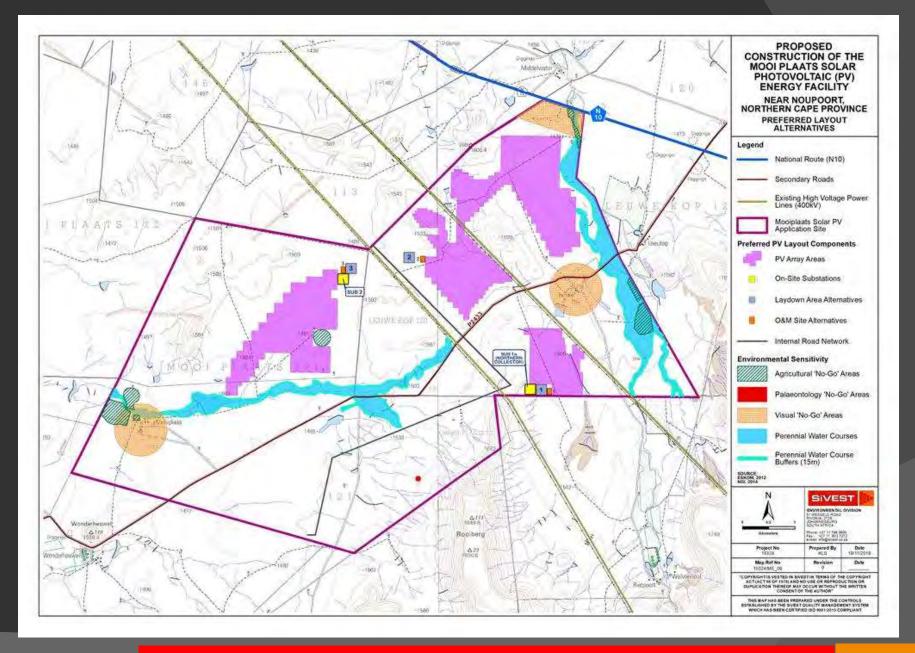




PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES WITH SENSITIVITIES - MOOI PLAATS SIVEST

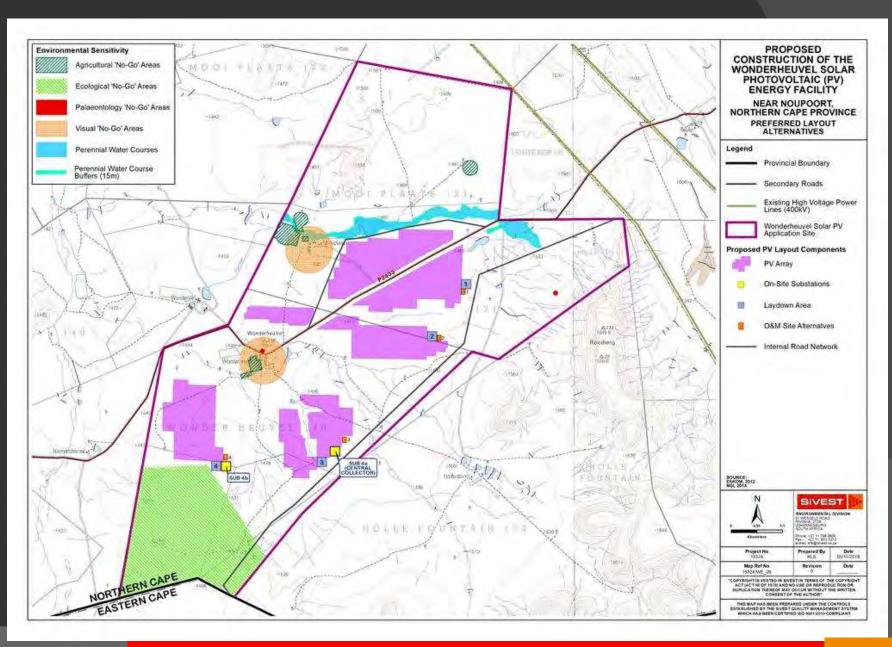






PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES WITH SENSITIVITIES – WONDERHEUVEL







PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - SCOPING PHASE SIVEST





BID Distribution July 2019

EIA Process Advertisement - Graaff-Reinet Advertiser 03 July 2019

DSR Availability

DSR Review Period: 26 July 2019 - 26 August 2019

FSR Submission to DEA

06 September 2019

We are Here

DEA Acceptance of FSR and EIA Plan of Study

08 October 2019

EIA Newsletter

17 October 2019

DEIAr Availability

DEIAr Review Period: 22 November 2019 - 13 January 2020

Focus Group Meeting

26 November 2019

FEIAr Submission to DEA

13 February 2020

Notify I&APs and Appeal Process

June / July 2020



DISCUSSION

CONTACT DETAILS



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