

# Proposed development of the Mutsho Solar PV 4 Energy Facility and associated EGI near Musina, Limpopo

Our Ref: 19160



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 19160

Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022

Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

### In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

### Proposed development of the Mutsho Solar PV 4 Energy Facility and associated EGI near Musina, Limpopo

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Mutsho Power (Pty) Ltd to undertake an environmental assessment as part of a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

Mutsho Power is proposing four (4) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facilities which will be 1285 ha in extent, and located on the farm farm Vrienden 589 MS. Each of the facilities will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW, a single 100x100m BESS, and Electrical Grid Infrastructure comprising a 132kV onsite substation (for the entire 4 x 100MW project), and a 132kV double circuit overhead power line from the onsite substation to the Nzhelele Substation to enable the connection of the four (4) Solar PV Energy Facilities to the national grid for the evacuation of the generated power. This particular case is for the Solar PV 4 facility. This application is related to cases 19157, 19158, 19159.

A Background Information Document was been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting. The 2017 HIA and PIA studies for the Mutsho Coal Power Station (Case ID 11558, <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/mutsho-power-project>) as well as the Heritage Screener by CTS Heritage.

Butler, E. July 2017. Palaeontological impact assessment of the proposed development of the new coal-fired power plant and associated infrastructure near Makhado, Limpopo province.

The author undertook a survey of the available geological literature of the region proposed for the Mutsho Power Project development. The development footprint on the farm Du Toit 563 is underlain by

# Proposed development of the Mutsho Solar PV 4 Energy Facility and associated EGI near Musina, Limpopo

Our Ref: 19160



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 19160

Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022

Page No: 2

undifferentiated Permo-Triassic sediments of the Karoo Basin (Karoo Supergroup); Sediments of the Tshipise and Tuli Sedimentary Basin and Solitude Formation, which are of high to Very High palaeontological sensitivity. The farm Vrienden is underlain by undifferentiated Permo-Triassic Sediments of the Karoo Basin (Karoo Supergroup); Sediments of the Tshipise and Tuli Sedimentary Basin and Solitude Formation, which are of high to Very High palaeontological sensitivity. It is also underlain by Archaean Granite-Gneiss Basement rocks of the Beit Bridge Igneous Complex and unfossiliferous metamorphic rocks of the Malala Drift Suite, Gumbu Group, which are of Very Low palaeontological sensitivity. There were no fossiliferous rock outcrops observed in the field survey. Therefore, the author determines that the overall palaeontological sensitivity for this development can be considered low, and the impact the power station will have on the fossil heritage of the area is determined to be low. Furthermore the author recommended chance finds procedures to be included in the construction management plan.

Smuts, K. July 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed New Mutsho Power Project, near Makhado.

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed development area after a desktop analysis and they identified some isolated stone tools, and some lower and upper grinding stones in the area currently used for cultivation. All identified heritage resources on the surface are considered of low significance. The likelihood of further heritage resources apart from palaeontological resources being uncovered during construction is low.

Lavin, J. May 2022. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the Cluster East PV Facilities near Makhado.

The study area has been surveyed 3 times (Silidi and Pikirayi, 2013 and CTS Heritage, 2016 and 2018) and identified 6 sites named (Vrienden 1-6) and another 13 sites named (Mopane 031 to 37; Mopane 011 to 015) that will not be impacted by the proposed development activities. Only site Vrienden 4 requires a bufferzone of 30m to prevent any damage to the site. The overall heritage sensitivity for the farm Vrienden 589 is considered to be low. The author further recommends that a field based Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Renewable Facilities.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) notes the recommendation provided in the Heritage Screener and endorses this recommendation.

The study area has both moderate and negligible palaeontological significance. In addition to the

# Proposed development of the Mutsho Solar PV 4 Energy Facility and associated EGI near Musina, Limpopo

Our Ref: 19160



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 19160

Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022

Page No: 3

recommendation provided in the Heritage Screener, the SAHRA requires an updated desktop assessment of impacts on palaeontological resources by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. This may be an addendum to the existing Palaeontological Impact Assessment or stand alone report as determined by the appointed palaeontologist.

SAHRA awaits the submission of the HIA report undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, desktop PIA study, the VIA to the case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/602218>

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

# Proposed development of the Mutsho Solar PV 4 Energy Facility and associated EGI near Musina, Limpopo

Our Ref: 19160



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 19160

Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022

Page No: 4

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.