

Project number	1002100	Meeting date	2022-08-02
Project name	<b>Mogalakwena solar PV plant</b>	Recorded by	<b>ZPX</b>
Meeting/subject	<b>Pre-application Meeting</b>	Total pages	<b>4</b>

Present	Apology	Copy	Name	Organisation	Contact details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reuben Heydenrych	Zutari	Reuben.Heydenrych@zutari.com
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nelanie Cloete	SAS Environmental Group of Companies	nelanie@sasenvgroup.co.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seloba Chuene	LEDET	chuene.selobai@limpopo.gov.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Khumalo	Pele Green Energy	Erick@pelegreenenergy.com
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren Randal	EDF Renewables	Warren.Randall@edf-re.co.za
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Item	Topic
<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of the Meeting</b>
	The virtual meeting was coordinated by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and the applicant to present the proposed application to the LEDET's biodiversity division and to obtain their comments on the application so that the applicant can proceed with the formal application to LEDET.
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
	<p>During the virtual meeting, Mr Reuben Heydenrych explained the need for a new application for Environmental Authorisation (EA). He highlighted the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA of the plant was issued in January 2022.</li> <li>• There was an appeal that was lodged against the development, which was then dismissed</li> <li>• Pele Green Energy (PGE), the developer, is launching a new application because there has been settlement within the authorised project footprint, particularly in the northern part – decreasing developable area.</li> <li>• PGE wants to develop everything in the central portion of the Armoede site, so they need additional area to develop. The northern and southern portions of the Farm Armoede are not proposed to be used.</li> <li>• The only available area for expansion on the central site is a Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA 1) east of the authorised layout (please see <b>Figure 1</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Site Selection Concerns raised by Mr Seloba Chuene</b>

Item	Topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alternative land parcel to extend the developable area</b> - Mr Chuene inquired why development does not take place on the southern side of the Groot Sandsloot River.</li> <li>• <b>Land degradation</b> – Mr Chuene acknowledged that he is aware that the vegetation and the biophysical conditions of the proposed area for expansion is degraded, but he is concerned about the CBA and the biodiversity targets that have to be met by it. He proposed to investigate and advise on the elements, besides vegetation, that make the selected small portion of the CBA for development a CBA; to see if all those variables that they are trying to protect can be protected without reversing their gains.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Response from the Applicant and the EAP</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alternative land parcel to extend the developable area</b> – PGE has noted a number of complications which will be as a result on developing on the southern side of the river: Access being one, since the site is adjacent to the national road N11. This complicates access issues. Should the portion of the Armoede site south of the Groot Sandsloot be used, it would mean that the watercourse would need to be bridged. PGE would prefer to avoid this, due to environmental conditions and risks, and permissions that would be required to carry out such an activity. PGE further advised that it is best to develop the entire plant on a single unbroken piece of land for safety and management reasons.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Response from the specialist</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land degradation</b> – Ms Cloete noted that the bigger CBA was due to a reserve (Witvinger Nature Reserve) south east of the site. She mentioned that the specialists verified if the proposed CBA footprint is still classified as a CBA and if it met all the targets as per classification of the CBA. On balance, it was verified that the proposed portion of the CBA is no longer representative of CBA conditions. If the development does not take place, the portion will continue to degrade and a larger portion of the CBA will be lost. Ms Cloete further explained that the portion that forms part of the Ecological Support Area (ESA) within the authorised footprint has also degraded due to the community moving closer, with resultant grazing and burning in the site.</li> <li>• Ms Cloete explained that the developer has put extensive mitigation measures in place in terms of stormwater management, to combat erosion and siltation of streams, since the area is highly prone to erosion.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Way forward</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Chuene indicated that as LEDET, they will have to do their own ground truthing with regards to the information provided about the CBA.</li> <li>• Mr Chuene emphasised that the applicant should implement mitigation measures that aim to preserve and rehabilitate the existing degraded CBA. It should be a goal to retain the characteristics of the areas and define the biophysical characteristics that make the area a CBA 1.</li> <li>• Mr Chuene advised the applicant to propose interventions that will reverse the degradations that are seen along the stream through rehabilitation and that they should involve the local community.</li> <li>• Overall, Mr Chuene has is supportive of the application by considering the scenarios given above and the project itself, which aims to decrease the carbon footprint and generate electricity in sustainable ways.</li> <li>• Mr Chuene will inform Mr Ngoasheng<sup>1</sup> of the outcome of this meeting and the recommendation to allow the application to continue.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Closing</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zutari to provide draft meeting minutes and maps</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The LEDET case officer for the completed scoping and environmental impact assessment

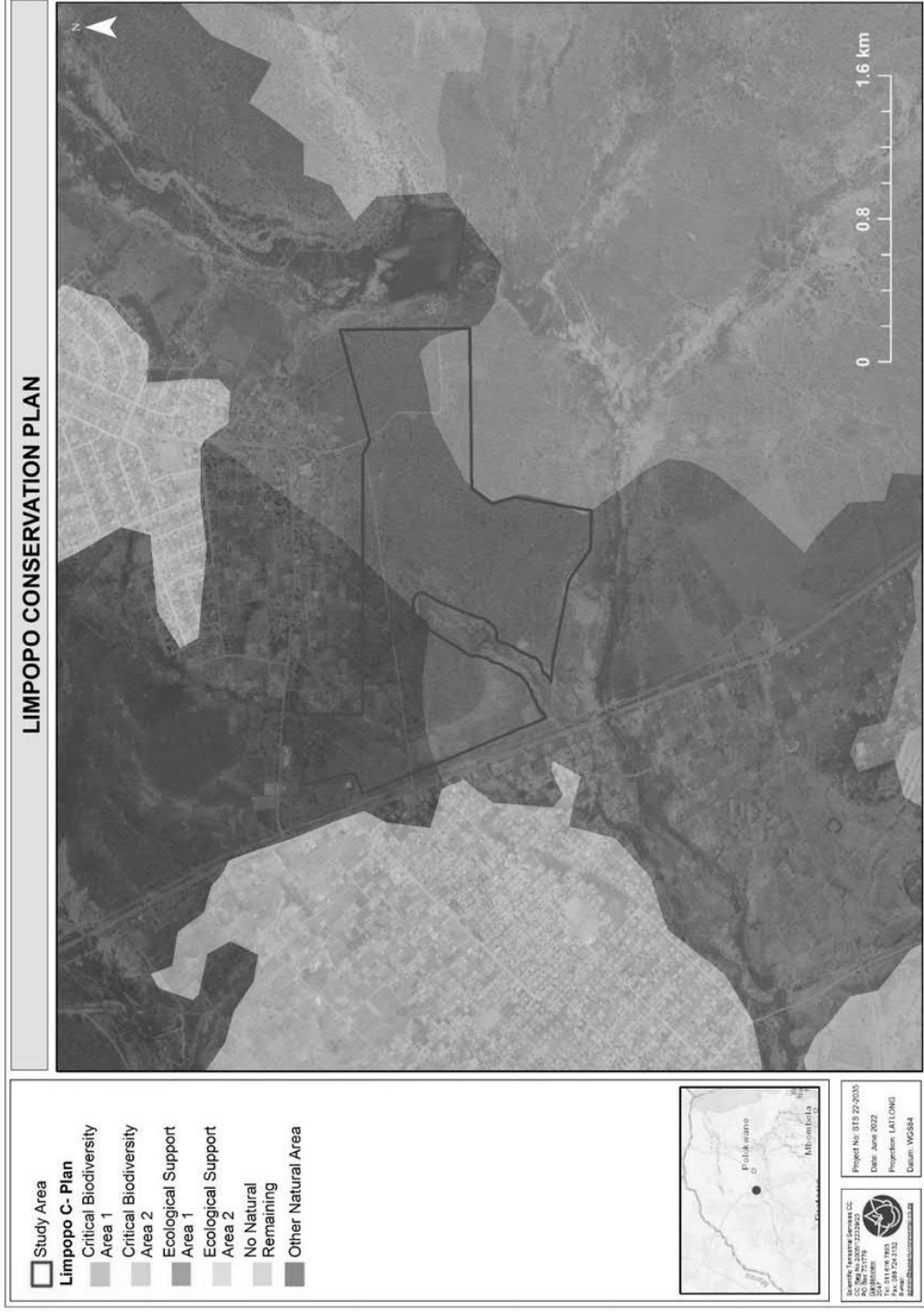


Figure 1: The revised PV facility footprint (combined) in relation to the Limpopo Conservation Plan Version 2 (2018) categories. The red area indicates the CBA.

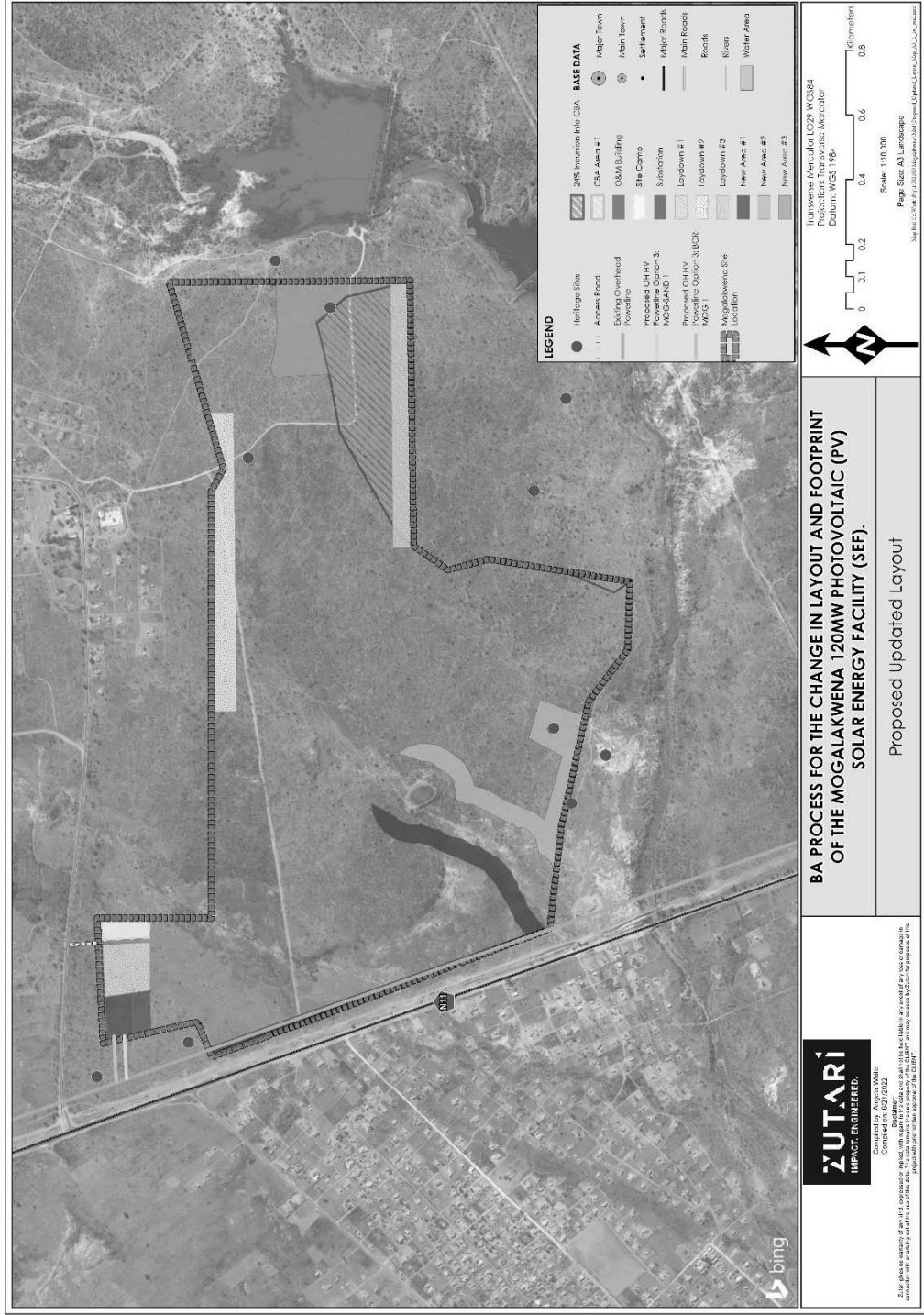


Figure 2: Final layout map of the total combined footprint for the Mogalakwena PV facility. The legend indicates the additional "extended" areas being applied for under this authorisation process.