

26 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR PROTECTED TREES, FLORA, FAUNA PERMIT AND FINALISATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) FOR THE PROPOSED KATHU SOLAR PV AUGMENTATION FACILITY ON THE FARM KATHU NO. 465, WITHIN THE GAMAGARA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Zutari (Pty) Ltd (Zutari) hereby gives notice in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, under the National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), that the **Kathu Solar Park (RF) Pty Ltd** (KSP) is applying for the following for the proposed project:

- ▶ Finalisation of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Basic Assessment (BA) process that was authorised on 3 September 2024, to satisfy Condition 15 of the EA.
- ▶ Permits for removal of protected trees, flora and fauna in terms of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 94 of 1998) ("NFA").

On 17 April 2025 to 23 May 2025 the following KSP applications were made available for public comment:

- ▶ Amendment to Condition 16.1 of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) (Reference:14/12/16/3/3/1/2985), granted on 3 September 2024.
- ▶ Finalisation of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Basic Assessment (BA) process that was authorised on the same date, to satisfy Condition 15 of the EA.
- ▶ Permits for removal of protected trees in terms of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 94 of 1998) ("NFA").

However, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) advised that the EMPr can only legally be finalised following the decision on the EA amendment, which was received on 28 May 2025. As such, the EMPr finalisation application had to be withdrawn. Now that the EA amendment decision has been finalised, the EMPr is available once again for a new round of public participation.

Additionally, as a result of the inclusion of a permit for the removal of provincially protected flora and fauna, the application for the removal permit is being made available for public comment in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The application under the NFA [DFFE, Forestry Division] is for the removal of 347 identified protected trees (*Boscia albitrunca* Shepherd trees and *Vachellia erioloba* Camel Thorns) within the authorised project footprint. The Integrated Permit Application (IPA) to the [Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NCDENC)] is for the removal of the following protected species: *Aloe grandidentata*, *Dipcadi* sp. *Lampranthus stipulaceus*, *Sansevieria* sp., *Stapelia* sp. *Boscia albitrunca*, *Glaucidium perlatum*, *Plocepasser mahali* and *Motacilla capensis* within the authorised project footprint.

Zutari has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to finalise the EMPr and to submit it to the competent authority, the DFFE.

The EMPr compiled in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, is available for public comment for a period of 30-days from **Thursday, 26 June 2025 to Monday, 28 July 2025**. The documentation can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.zutari.com/Kathu SPA-public-participation>. A hard copy is available at the site office at the existing KSP facility.



Should you wish to be registered as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) or wish to comment, please do so via the link above. Alternatively, contact the Zutari Public Participation office at:

- **Tel:** +27 12 427 2072
- **Email:** PPP@zutari.com
- **Post:** PO Box 74381, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040

Kindly extend the notice and invitation to comment to any other I&APs you may be aware of.

Yours faithfully

Zinzi Xakayi

Signed by Zinzi Portia Xakayi, Zinzi.Xakayi@zutari.com
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