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APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED KOPANYA SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
BOOYSENDAL PLATINUM (PTY) LTD, NORTH MINE, LIMPOPO
(DMPR Ref No. LP 30/5/1/3/2/1 (188) MR)
GCS Ref. No: 25-0608

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project (the proposed Project), the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process and opportunities to participate and comment on the Draft Reports.

The objectives of this document are to:

- Provide I&APs with background information on the proposed Project;
- Describe the proposed Project and associated infrastructure;
- Outline the environmental application and assessment process being followed; and
- Explain how I&APs can register, obtain further information, raise concerns and submit comments for consideration during the decision-making process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Booysendal Platinum (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to develop the Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic Project (the proposed Project), comprising a utility-scale solar photovoltaic facility of up to 25 megawatts alternating current (MWac) and associated infrastructure at Booysendal North Mine in Limpopo Province. The Project will be located within the existing Booysendal mining right area (DMPR reference number LP 30/5/1/3/2/1 (188) MR).

The Applicant, a subsidiary of Northam Platinum Holdings Limited, proposes to develop the solar photovoltaic facility to support electricity supply to Booysendal North Mine.

The proposed Project will have a generation capacity of up to 25 MWac and is anticipated to comprise approximately 45,000 bifacial solar PV panels mounted on single-axis tracking systems, subject to final design.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Overview of the Proposed Facility

The proposed facility will have a generation capacity of up to 25 MWac and will connect to existing mine electrical infrastructure.

The Project will use bifacial solar PV panels mounted on single-axis trackers to optimise solar exposure. Although the development is within an established mining right area, the proposed footprint includes land that may require vegetation clearance and other environmental mitigation.

Solar PV Arrays and Tracking System

The facility will comprise up to approximately 45,000 bifacial PV panels, each with a typical capacity greater than 600 watts (W), mounted on single-axis tracking systems to optimise energy yield.

The racking and tracking systems will be constructed from steel sections supported by driven piles, reducing the need for extensive concrete foundations and limiting ground disturbance. Panel structures will be designed to accommodate site-specific geotechnical conditions, wind loading, and long-term operational requirements.

Electrical Infrastructure and Grid Connection

The Project will include the following electrical and grid connection infrastructure:

- An overhead power line of up to 132 kV to connect the solar PV facility to existing electrical infrastructure, with two alternative alignments (OHL1 and OHL2) identified for assessment;
- An on-site PV substation to collect and regulate electricity generated by the PV arrays;
- A substation adjacent to the existing Eskom substation; and
- Power transformer stations, inverters and associated electrical infrastructure housed in prefabricated units or electrical houses.

The environmental assessment will consider two overhead power line alignments (OHL1 and OHL2), two access road alternatives (Access Road 1 and Access Road 2), the alternative solar PV site identified during screening, and the no-go alternative. The preferred infrastructure arrangement will be selected following consideration of specialist findings and engineering requirements.

Electricity generated will primarily supply the Booysendal North Mine. Any surplus export will be subject to the final grid connection arrangements.

LOCATION

The proposed Project will be located on the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of the Farm Booysendal No. 43 JT and Portion 2 of the Farm Der Brochen No. 7 JT, within the existing Booysendal North mining right area.

The site is situated within the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The proposed development footprint is approximately 49 hectares. The Project location is shown in Figure 1. The final infrastructure layout, including the overhead power line and access road alignments, will be informed by the environmental assessment.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) establishes the overarching legal framework for environmental management and decision-making in South Africa.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published under Government Notice (GN) R. 982, and the associated Listing Notices identify activities requiring prior Environmental Authorisation (EA) and prescribe the applicable assessment and public participation processes

The proposed Project is being assessed through a S&EIR process. The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) is the competent authority responsible for considering the EA application.

Based on the proposed Project description and environmental screening undertaken to date, the following listed activities are considered potentially applicable:

Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983, as amended)

- Activity 11(i) – development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, where the applicable thresholds and location requirements are met;
- Activities 12(ii)(a) and (c), and 19 – infrastructure development or earthworks within or near watercourses, where the applicable thresholds are met.

Listing Notice 2 (GN R. 984, as amended)

- Activity 1 - development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; and
- Activity 15 - clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985, as amended)

- Activity 4(e)(i)(cc) and (ee) – development of roads in specified geographical areas;
- Activity 12 (e) (i) and (ii) - clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation in specified geographical areas; and
- Activity 14 (ii) (a) (c) (e) (i) (dd) and (ff) – development of infrastructure within the proximity of a watercourse in in specified geographical areas.

The proposed Project will also require authorisations, approvals or compliance processes in terms of:

- The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), in respect of any water uses triggered by the final layout, including potential activities under sections 21(c), (g) and (i), subject to confirmation of the applicable requirements;
- The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), in respect of applicable heritage assessment and approval requirements; and
- Other applicable national or provincial environmental legislation, depending on the

findings of the specialist assessments and final Project layout.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd (GCS) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the environmental assessment and public participation process for the proposed Project.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The DMPR is the competent authority responsible for reviewing and deciding the EA application. Other relevant authorities will also be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Project.

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING PROCESS

The proposed Project is subject to a S&EIR process in terms of the NEMA, and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The S&EIR process comprises two main phases:

- Scoping Phase: Identifies potential environmental impacts, considers feasible alternatives and determines the specialist investigations required. The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for a minimum 30-day public review period before the Final Scoping Report is submitted to the DMPR for consideration.
- EIA Phase: Assesses potential environmental impacts, evaluates development alternatives and identifies mitigation measures. A Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be made available for a minimum 30-day public review period before final submission to the DMPR for decision-making.

SPECIALIST ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The following specialist studies are being undertaken to assess potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed solar PV facility, overhead power lines, access roads and supporting infrastructure:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Assessment: Vegetation, sensitive habitats, protected and threatened plant species and terrestrial fauna.
- Avifaunal Impact Assessment: Bird habitats, species of conservation concern and potential collision and electrocution risks.
- Aquatic Biodiversity and Wetland Assessment: Watercourses, wetlands, drainage features and associated ecological impacts.
- Agricultural and Soil Assessment: Soil characteristics, land capability and agricultural potential.
- Heritage Impact Assessment: Identification and assessment of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed development, including recommendations for their protection and management.
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Assessment of the potential presence of fossils and fossil-bearing geological formations within the development footprint, including recommendations for mitigation and management.
- Visual Impact Assessment: Potential visual impacts on the surrounding landscape and sensitive receptors.

The findings will inform the assessment of alternatives, refinement of the proposed infrastructure layout and development of appropriate environmental management measures.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The purpose of the PPP is to ensure that I&APs, including landowners, surrounding communities, relevant authorities and other stakeholders, are informed of the proposed Project and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment process.

The PPP will be undertaken throughout the Scoping and EIA phases and will include the following activities:

Step 1: Project Announcement and Registration

- Notify relevant authorities, landowners, neighbouring landowners, communities and other potential I&APs of the proposed Project.
- Place newspaper advertisements and site notices announcing the proposed development and opportunities to participate.
- Distribute this BID, including a locality map and registration/comment form.
- Establish and maintain a stakeholder database and record initial comments, concerns and requests for information.

Step 2: Draft Scoping Report Review

- Make the Draft Scoping Report, including the Plan of Study for the EIA (PSEIA), available

for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period.
- Notify registered I&APs and relevant authorities of the review period and where the report can be accessed.
- Make the report available electronically on the GCS website and at designated public review locations.
- Receive and record comments relating to the proposed development, site and infrastructure alternatives, environmental sensitivities and potential impacts.

Step 3: Final Scoping Report
- Consider comments received during the public review period and address them in a Comments and Responses Report (CRR).
- Update the Scoping Report and PSEIA, where necessary.
- Submit the Final Scoping Report and CRR to the DMPR for consideration.

Step 4: Environmental Impact Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement
- Undertake detailed specialist investigations and assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development and alternatives.
- Engage with relevant authorities and stakeholders on matters identified during the Scoping Phase.
- Arrange focused stakeholder meetings, where appropriate, to discuss key environmental and social concerns.
- Incorporate the findings of specialist investigations and stakeholder engagement into the Draft EIR and EMPr.

Step 5: Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Review
- Make the Draft EIR and EMPr available for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period.
- Notify registered I&APs and relevant authorities of the opportunity to review and comment.
- Provide access to the reports electronically and at designated public review locations.
- Record and respond to comments received and incorporate relevant issues into the Final EIR and EMPr.

Step 6: Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Compile the Final EIR, EMPr and updated CRR, reflecting the findings of the environmental assessment and comments received.
- Submit the final documentation to the DMPR for consideration and decision-making.

Step 7: Environmental Authorisation and Appeal Process
- Notify registered I&APs of the DMPR's decision on the EA application.
- Provide information on where the decision and associated conditions may be accessed.
- Inform I&APs of the applicable appeal procedures and timeframes.

All comments received during the PPP will be documented in the CRR, together with responses indicating how the matters raised have been considered during the environmental assessment. The CRR will form part of the environmental reports submitted to the DMPR.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Draft Scoping Report including the PSEIA, will be available for public review and comment from 9 November 2026 to 9 December 2026 at the following locations:

Place	Address
Phasha Royal Kraal	D1392 Road, Phasha Village Steelpoort
Batlokwa Ba Magolego Traditional Authority at Mapodile Thusong Centre	Mapodile Village, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Limpopo
Boeketlong Lodge	5050 Mogoroane, Ga-Moloi, Jane Furse, 1085
Phokwane Clinic	Stand No X1, Phokwane, Nebo, Ngwaritsi, 1059
Maseven Clinic	Maseven Village, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Limpopo
Ngwaabe Home Based Care	Ga-Rantho/Ga-Masha, Ngwaabe area, Limpopo
Chrome Valley Lodge	Tweefontein Farm, Tweefontein Road, Steelpoort, 1133 *Reports are available at this venue Monday to Friday 08h00 to 16h00.*
GCS Website	https://www.gcs-sa.biz/public-documents/

Please submit written comments, questions or concerns to GCS by 9 December 2026, using the contact details provided below.

Comments received will be recorded and considered as part of the S&EIR process. Please include the Project name when corresponding with GCS.

REGISTERING AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

I&APs are invited to register on the Project stakeholder database, review the Draft Scoping Report and PSEIA, and provide comments during the S&EIR process. Registered I&APs will receive relevant Project notifications.

To register as an I&AP or submit comments, return the attached registration and comment form or contact GCS directly. Comments on the Draft Scoping Report and PSEIA must be submitted by 9 December 2026.

Registered I&APs will be notified of subsequent opportunities to review the Draft EIR and EMPr.

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Paula Tolksdorff and Luyanda Macheke
Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726
E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz
Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg

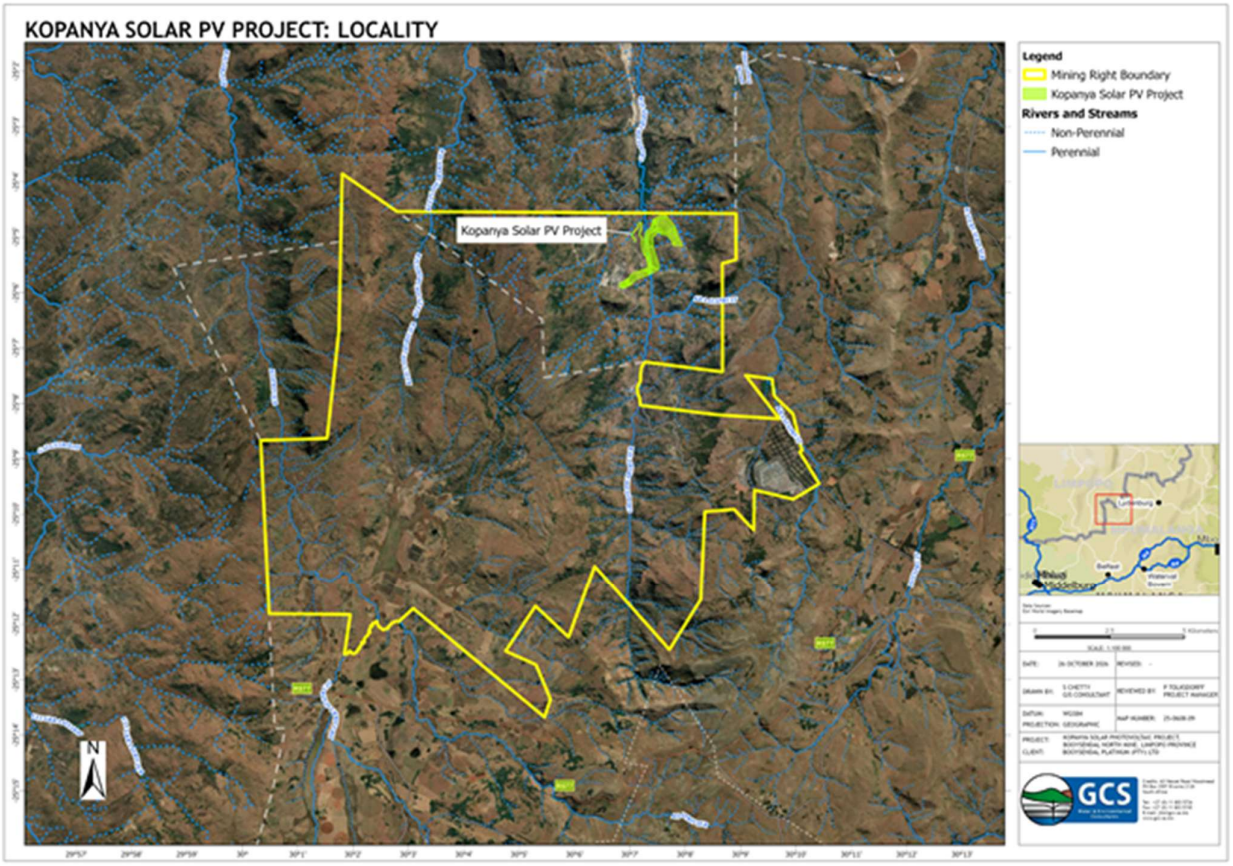


Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Kopanya Solar Photovoltaic Project

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

Registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, e-mail, post or fax). Please register as an I&AP and provide comments by sending this form, or other written correspondence, to the contact details provided below:

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Paula Tolksdorff and Luyanda Macheke
Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726
E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz
Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg, 2128

Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party	Yes		No	
I would like to receive my notifications by	E-mail	SMS	Post	Fax

Please indicate which sector you represent and also provide a name

Government Department	
Municipality	
Community	
Non-Government Organisation	
Business	

If you are a *landowner* or *land occupier*, please indicate which farm(s) and portion(s) you reside on

Landowner	
Land occupier	

Please fill in your contact details below for the Project database

Title, Full Name					
Designation					
Cell phone		Fax		Tel	
E-mail					
Postal Address					

Do you have any specific concerns, issues to raise or general comments that the Applicant or Environmental Assessment Practitioner should consider? Please state below:

In compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPI Act) you are requested to provide consent to GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd (GCS) in utilising your personal information throughout the process. GCS is obliged to use this information only for the purpose of this Project.

Kindly complete the following section, as permission to engage you in respect of the Public Participation Process that will be undertaken for the Project. If there are any other stakeholders, we should include onto the stakeholder database for the Project, please provide their contact details.

Title, Full Name	
Organisation	
Cell phone	
E-mail	

Signature _____ ***Date*** _____