

Springbok Solar Power Plant

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2087 & AM2-4

14/12/16/3/3/1/2772 & AM1

Operational Environmental Audit Report



Internal access road between panels.



Prepared by: Chandré de Waard
September 2026

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Operational Environmental Audit Report – September 2026

1. Introduction

Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting was appointed by Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd to undertake an operational audit in terms of the Environmental Authorisation and Environmental Management Program. This audit report is based on a site inspection undertaken on 9th of September 2026.

1.1. Scope, Purpose and Objectives of the Audit

The main objective of the compliance audit was to respond to the need for external compliance auditing. There is no EA or EMPr specification for quarterly operational phase ECO monitoring. The proposed development must comply with the following approved authorisations and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

Document Title	Reference Number	Date of Issue
Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended) for the Development of 150 MW Springbok PV Solar Facility.	DFFE Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2087 AM2 AM3 AM4	25 April 2022 8 August 2023 10 September 2023 8 July 2024
Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended): The Addition of 19.9 ha to the Already Authorised Development Footprint of 280 ha for the Development of 150 MW Springbok Solar Power Plant.	DFFE Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2772 AM1	10 August 2023 27 October 2023
EMPr for the Springbok PV Solar Facility	DFFE Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2087 and AM1	June 2023

1.2. Audit Methodology

The following methodology was employed for this external compliance audit:

1.2.1. Pre Audit Tasks

Review of the various approvals / documents relevant to the development, namely:

- Environmental Authorisation issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE).
- Project Specific EMPr.
- Previous ECO audit reports.
- Spatial data where applicable.

1.2.2. On-Site Audit

A site visit was undertaken on the 9th of September 2026 by Chandré de Waard. The auditor was accompanied by Purdon Muller. The site inspection served to give the auditor insight into on site implementation of the EMPr as well as progress of activities, especially as it relates to the relevant approvals and the various project phases.

1.2.3. Reporting

Compilation of the audit report is based on the information obtained during the audit inspection and subsequent follow-up liaison with the representatives of the holder of the EAs. An electronic copy of this report is issued to the Holder of the EA.

1.3. Assumptions, Limitations and Gaps in Knowledge

- The assumption is made that all information received on which this audit report is based, is accurate and correct. Parties that contributed information to inform this audit were the Holder and Contractors as representatives of the Holder.
- No public consultation was undertaken as part of this audit.
- The auditor had access to all the information necessary to compile this audit report. There are no gaps in knowledge that would suggest any level of uncertainty in the findings of the auditor.

2. Expertise of the Auditor

2.1. Chandré de Waard (Auditor and Author of Audit Report)

Chandré completed an Honours Degree (B.Sc. Hons.) in Environmental Management, and a B.Sc. Degree in Geology and Geography at the North-West University of Potchefstroom. Chandré is a member of the International Association of Impact Assessors of South Africa as well as the Environmental Law Association. Chandré has over ten (10) years of extensive experience in implementation and auditing of Environmental Authorisations (EAs) and Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) in the renewable energy, mining and oil and gas industries.

2.2. Barry Wiesner (Reviewer of Audit Report)

Barry completed a Master's in Philosophy (MPHIL) in Environmental Management at the University of Cape Town. Barry also has a BA majoring in Archaeology and Environmental and Geographical Science and has a Higher Diploma in Education (HDE) from the University of Cape Town. He also has a Bachelor of Theology from the University of South Africa. Barry is a Green Star SA Accredited Professional and a member of the International Association of Impact Assessors. Barry has extensive site experience working as an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) at major construction sites and in conducting Environmental Audits, EIAs, BARs and the compilation of numerous Environmental Management Programs (EMPrs) over the last 24 years.

2.3. Statement of Independence

Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC was appointed to carry out the external compliance audit and compile this resultant Audit Report. Neither Barry Wiesner, nor Chandré de Waard in their private capacity, nor Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC have any material present or contingent interest in the outcome of this report, nor do they have any pecuniary or other interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence. Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC has no beneficial interest in the outcome of this compliance audit, other than reasonable remuneration for work performed in undertaking the audit inspection and compiling this report.

3. Requirements of Appendix 7 of EIA Regulations (2014, as amended)

Although not legally required, this audit report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 7 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. These requirements are included herewith, which contains the minimum content requirements for compliance audit reports.

Regulatory Ref # of Appendix 7	Details of Requirement	Report Section Reference
1	The environmental audit report must provide for recommendations regarding the need to amend the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	N/A - No amendments required at this time.
2 (a) (i)	Report on level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	Sections 5 and 6
2 (a) (ii)	Report on the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan achieves the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr, and closure plan.	Section 5 and 6
2 (b)	Identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity.	N/A - No new impacts identified additional to what has already been identified during the EIA.

Regulatory Ref # of Appendix 7	Details of Requirement	Report Section Reference
2 (c)	Evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	N/A - EMPr effective to manage impacts identified during EIA.
2 (d)	Identify shortcomings in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	N/A - No shortcomings identified during this audit period.
2 (e)	Identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	Section 5 and 6
3 (1) a	An environmental audit report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain details of the— (i) independent person who prepared the environmental audit report; and (ii) expertise of the independent person that compiled the environmental audit report	Section 2
3 (1) b	a declaration that the independent auditor is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;	Section 3
3 (1) c	an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the environmental audit report was prepared;	Section 1.1
3 (1) d	a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the environmental audit report;	Section 1.2
3 (1) e	an indication of the ability of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan to— (i) sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity on an ongoing basis. (ii) sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the closure of the facility; and (iii) ensure compliance with the provisions of environmental authorisation, EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;	Section 5 and 6
3 (1) f	a description of any assumptions made, and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 1.3
3 (1) g	a description of any public consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the environmental audit report;	Section 1.3
3 (1) h	a summary and copies of any comments that were received during any public consultation process; and	N/A
3 (1) i	any other information requested by the competent authority.	No additional requirements are known currently.

4. Document Review

As part of the requirements in the EMPr the following needs to be maintained during the Operational Phase:

Document	✓/X/NA	Comments
Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Plan	✓/X	Provide evidence of the plan.
Stormwater Management Plan	✓/X	Provide evidence of the plan.
Bird Monitoring Program	✓	Monitoring is being implemented by Agreenco.
Recruitment Plan	✓/X	Provide evidence of the plan.
Maintenance Schedule	✓/X	Provide evidence of the maintenance schedules.
Training and Skills Development Programme	✓/X	Provide evidence of the programme.
Waste Management Plan	✓/X	Provide evidence of the plan.
Waste Manifests and Disposal Records	✓/X	Provide evidence of the waste manifests and disposal records.
Method statements for battery cell, electrolyte and battery call / container replacement	NA	BESS facility not yet constructed.
Awareness Training Records	✓/X	Provide evidence of awareness records.
"Green Energy" Awareness Campaign	✓/X	Provide evidence of the campaign
Regular Operational and Maintenance Inspections	✓/X	Provide evidence that regular inspections and maintenance is undertaken.
Bi-Annual Site Inspections	✓	This report is the first External Bi-Annual Inspection.
BESS Facility Inspections	NA	BESS facility not yet constructed.
Resource Usage Tracking Register (Water, Waste, Fuel)	✓/X	Provide updated register of resource use.

5. Results of Compliance Monitoring

5.1. Findings

Refer to the checklists in the Appendices for open items. Additional site photos have been included to provide evidence of the conditions on site. During this audit period the following findings have been noted that required attention.

- Several areas noted where ground squirrels burrow along road verges, cable trenches and combiner boxes. Although the EMPr does not specifically address this, it is recommended that a specialist be

contacted for the best approach in controlling and managing any potential risk to fauna as well as the facility.

- Erosion previously noted has been repaired, however it is recommended that specialist advise on how to best address the erosion concerns on site. Possibly Civil Engineers along with a Hydrologist should assess and map the footprint to determine where change of the stormwater plan and infrastructure is required.
- Equipment from the construction phase is still present at the site camp area and laydown area. This equipment should be removed as soon as possible.
- Vegetation clearance inside the heritage area buffer zone was undertaken for stormwater control. Considering that this is a necessary maintenance activity, it is recommended that a Heritage Specialist be contacted to assist with additional verification that the work for stormwater management can continue, without engagement with SAHRA, or if it is necessary to engage with SAHRA.



Equipment in laydown area to be removed.



Erosion in solar facility to be repaired.



Equipment in construction site camp area to be removed.



Equipment in construction site camp area to be removed.



Fresh burrowing noted at this den.



Vegetation clearance in heritage area buffer zone.

5.2. Non-Compliances

To date, no non-compliance has been issued to the project. Partial compliances are indicated in the checklists in the Appendices.

5.3. Environmental Incidents

To date, no environmental incident has occurred.

5.4. Complaints

To date, no complaints have been lodged.

5.5. Other Findings

5.5.1. Avifauna

The data graphs and conclusions included in this section is as extracted directly from the specialist monitoring reports, and no changes have been made. No update has been provided for the 2026 reporting period.

5.5.1.1. July Monitoring Period

This report represents an interim feedback report detailing the results of the avifaunal monitoring undertaken at the Springbok SPP and associated powerline in 2025. Two out of the 4 monitoring surveys have been completed for the year to date.

No evidence of any bird collision or mortality has been observed within the PV array to date. A single bird carcass was observed under the powerline during the second quarter 2025 survey and is assumed to represent a collision fatality of a Swainson's Spurfowl. The avifaunal community survey undertaken in February 2025 revealed a significant decrease in avifaunal species richness and abundance on site, in line with predictions made during the initial avifaunal assessment informing the EIA.

It is recommended that avifaunal monitoring continue as per the monitoring schedule and protocol. The next monitoring survey is to be undertaken in Quarter 3 of 2025 in the period July-September.

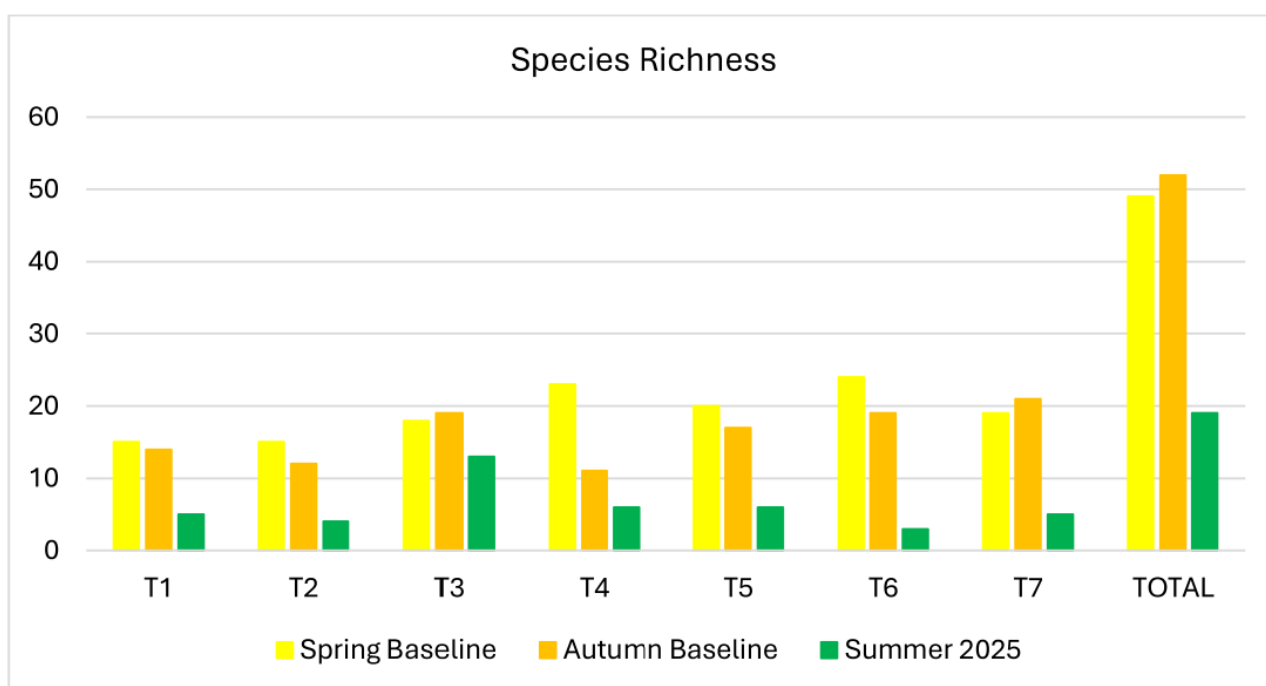


Figure 3-6. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer survey with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of species richness per transect.

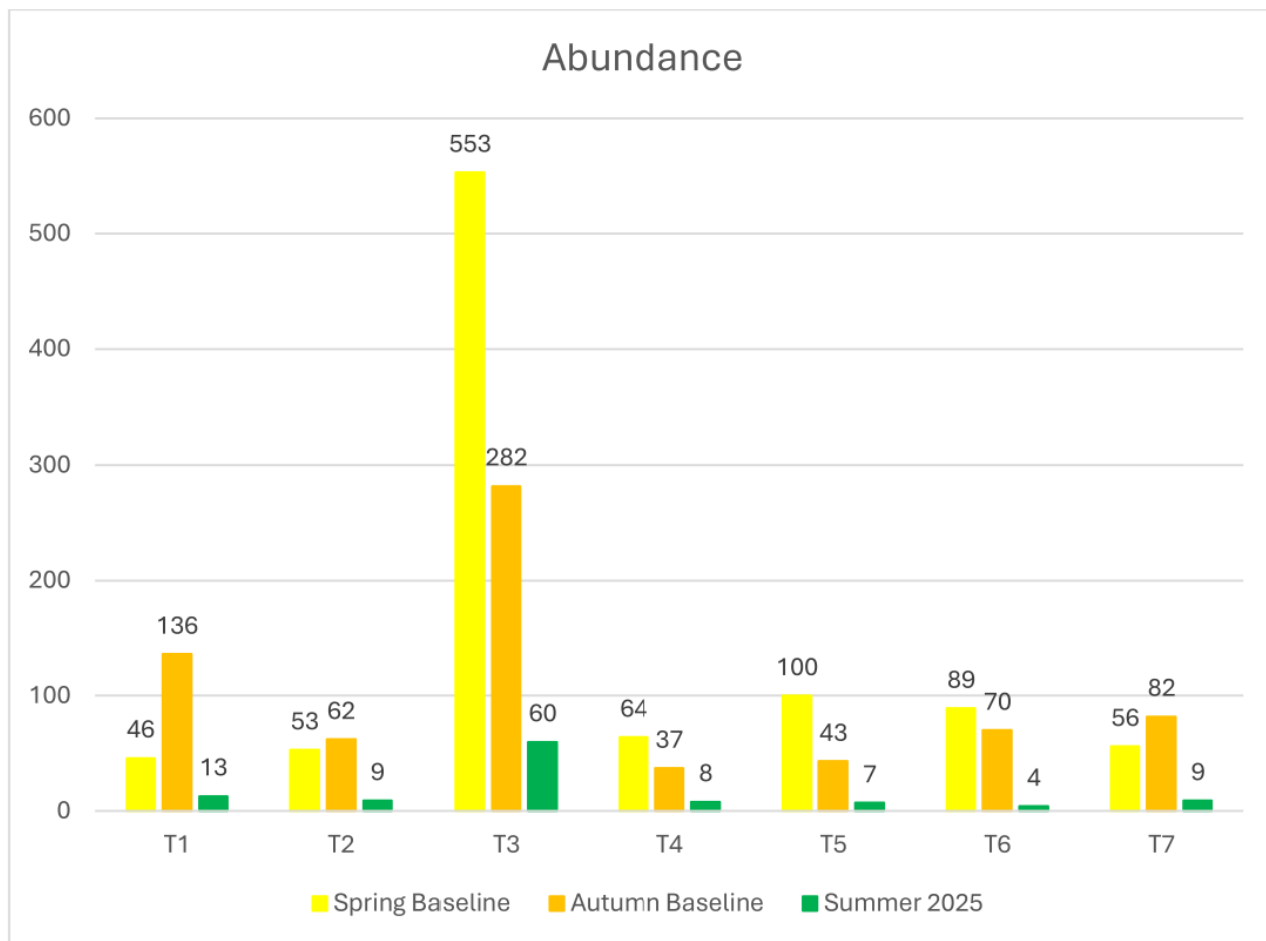


Figure 3-7. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer survey with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of abundance per transect.

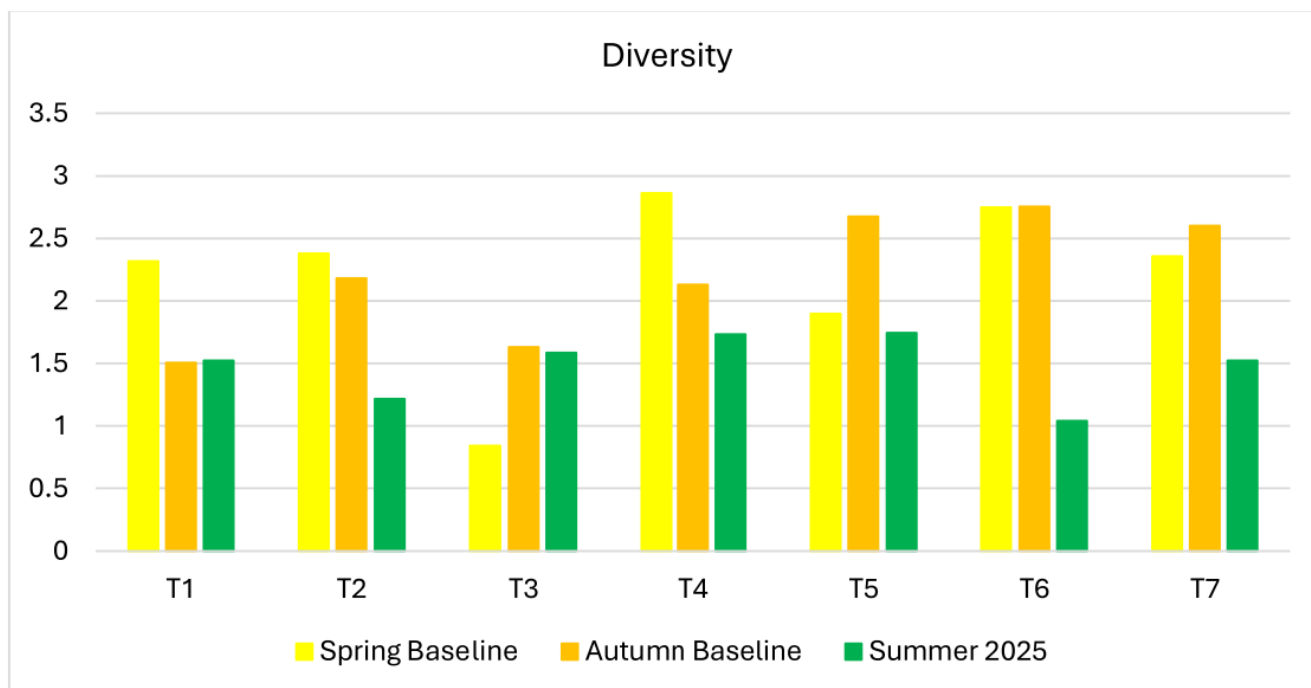


Figure 3-8. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer survey with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of Shannon Wiener diversity index per transect.

5.5.1.2. September Monitoring Period

This report represents an interim feedback report detailing the results of the avifaunal monitoring undertaken at the Springbok SPP and associated powerline in 2025. Three out of the 4 monitoring surveys have been completed for the year to date.

No evidence of any bird collision or mortality has been observed within the PV array to date. A single bird carcass was observed under the powerline during the second quarter 2025 survey and is assumed to represent a collision fatality of a Swainson's Spurfowl. No evidence of any bird collision or mortality has been observed under the powerline during the third quarter 2025 survey. The avifaunal community survey undertaken in February 2025 revealed a significant decrease in avifaunal species richness and abundance on site, in line with predictions made during the initial avifaunal assessment informing the EIA.

The slight increase in overall species richness in the winter monitoring compared to the summer monitoring is encouraging and could be evidence of the bird community showing some recovery after the construction phase disturbances. Future monitoring would give more insight into whether the bird community is recovering and to what extent.

It is recommended that avifaunal monitoring continue as per the monitoring schedule and protocol. The next monitoring survey is to be undertaken in Quarter 4 of 2025 in the period October-December.

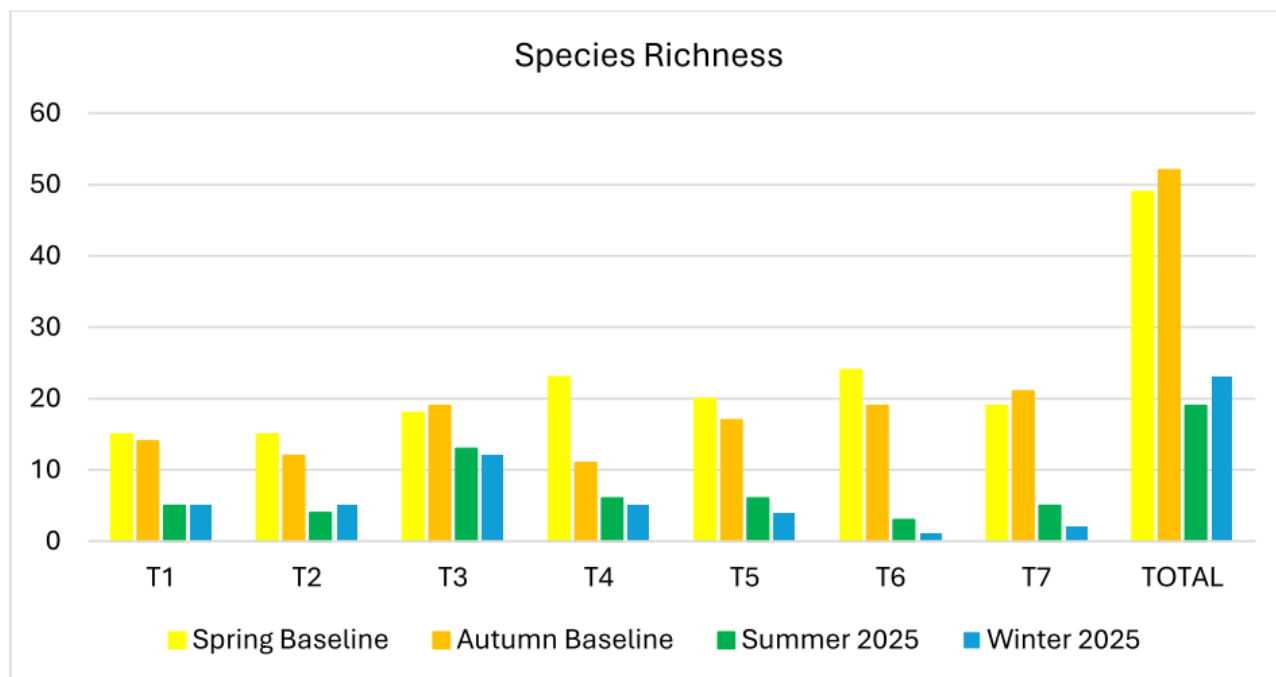


Figure 3-8. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of species richness per transect.

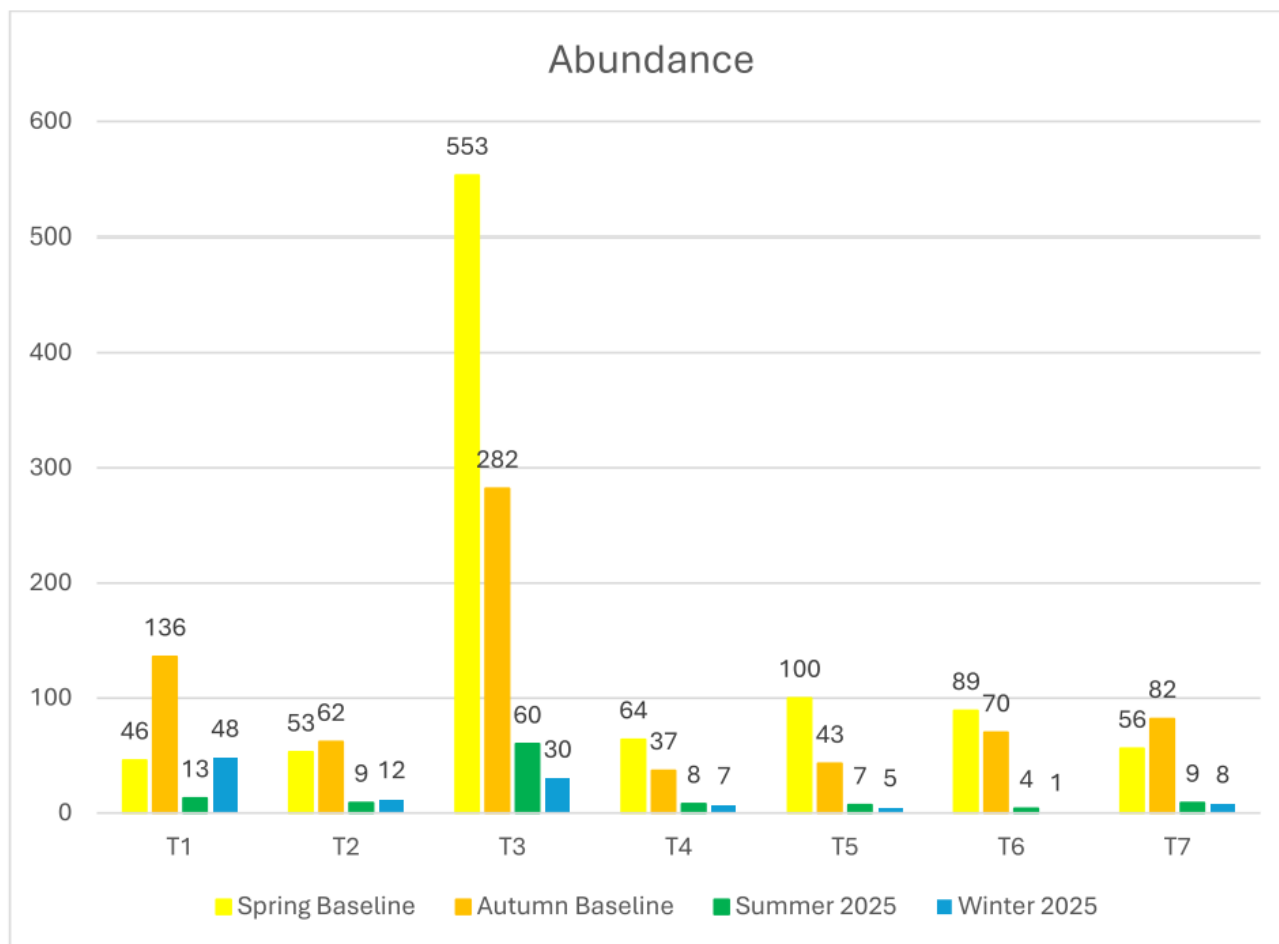


Figure 3-9. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of abundance per transect.

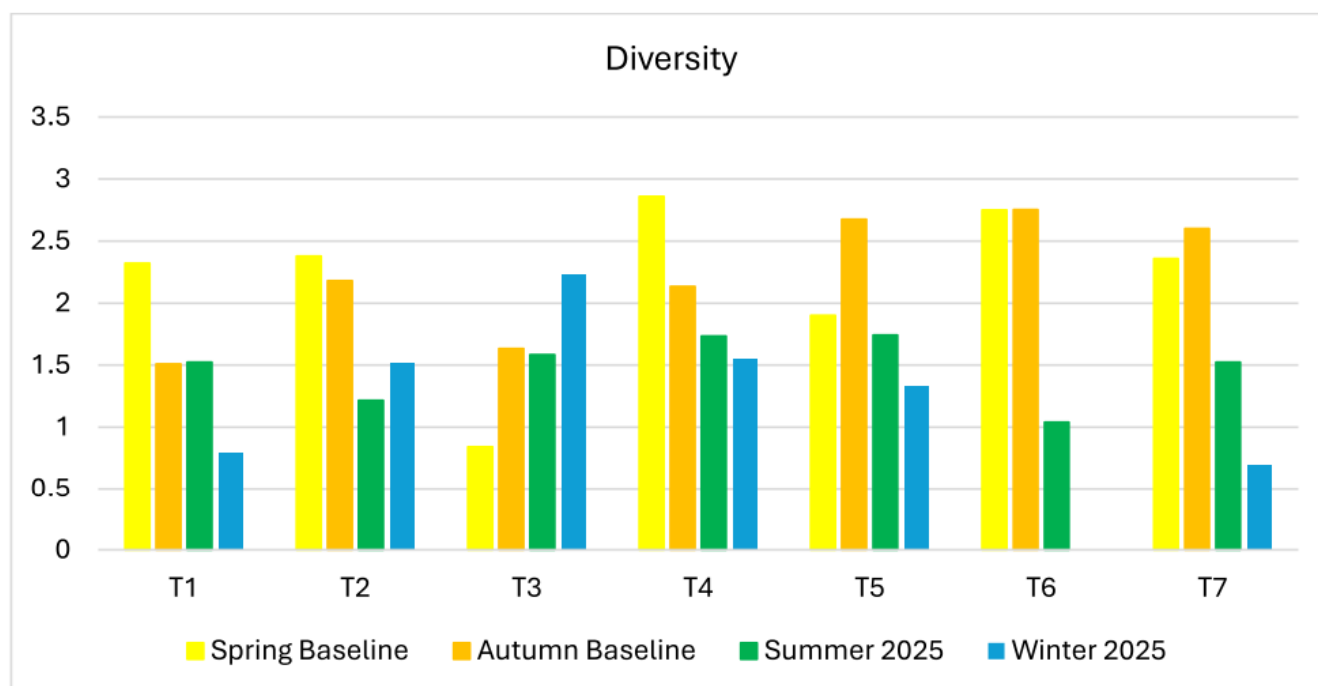


Figure 3-10. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of Shannon Wiener diversity index per transect.

5.5.1.3. December Monitoring Period

This report represents the final feedback report detailing the results of the avifaunal monitoring undertaken at the Springbok SPP and associated powerline in 2025. Four out of 4 monitoring surveys have been completed for the year to date.

No evidence of any bird collision or mortality has been observed within the PV array to date. The avifaunal community survey undertaken in February 2025 revealed a significant decrease in avifaunal species richness and abundance on site, in line with predictions made during the initial avifaunal assessment informing the EIA. Eight bird species of conservation concern (seven NT and one VU) have been observed within the vicinity of the site. Three species of conservation concern were observed at the site during baseline assessments. No species of conservation concern have been observed during the 2025 avifaunal monitoring. One species (Black-winged Kite) is the only species of conservation concern with a high likelihood of still occurring on site.

The slight increase in overall species richness in the winter monitoring compared to the summer monitoring is encouraging and could be evidence of the bird community showing some recovery after the construction phase disturbances but could also be related to seasonal fluctuations and bird movements. Future monitoring would give more insight into whether the bird community is recovering and to what extent. It is recommended that avifaunal monitoring continue as per the monitoring schedule and protocol. Ongoing monitoring requirements extracted from the monitoring protocol (based on EMPR requirements) are as follows:

- From year two, the PV array monitoring can be undertaken annually by a trained site ECO/EO (Environmental Control Officer/Environmental Officer). Initial training to the ECO/EO should be provided by an avifaunal specialist or by another ECO/EO with proven experience in bird mortality monitoring along powerlines.*
- Avifauna community assessment to be completed bi-annually for the first 2 years of operation. (Frequency to be reviewed by avifaunal specialist after 2 years and reduced if impact is limited.)*

*Based on the above, **the next avifaunal monitoring survey must be completed in early 2026** during the summer season (ideally in early February 2026 to allow for direct comparisons with the previous years monitoring data).*

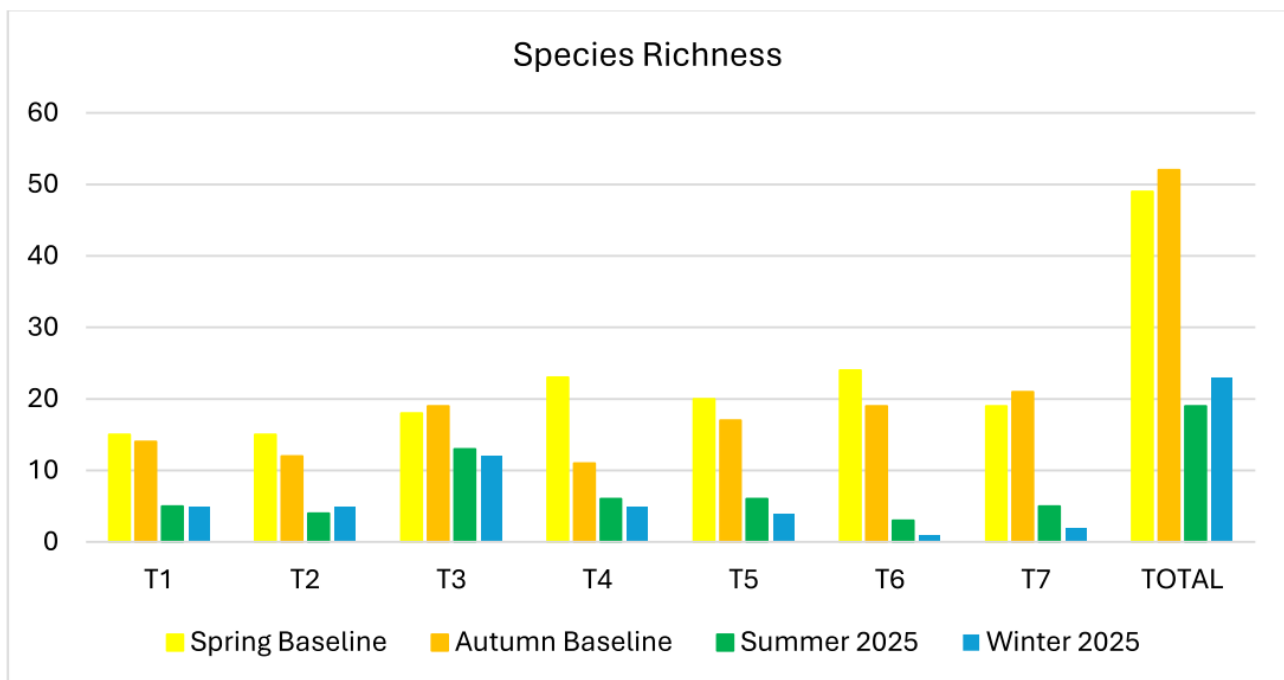


Figure 3-5. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of species richness per transect.

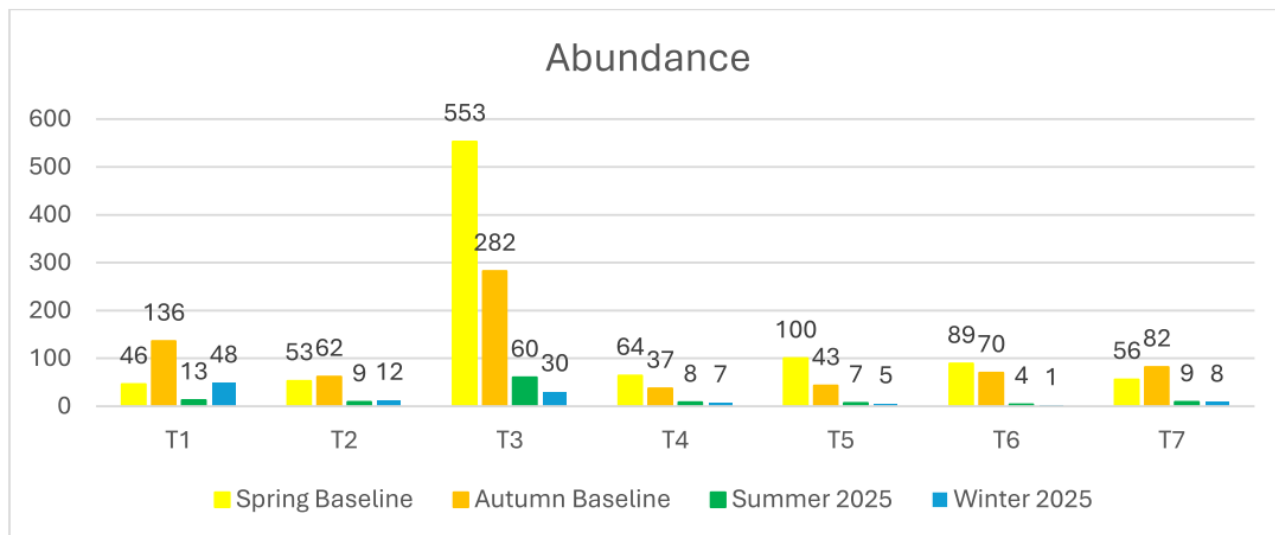


Figure 3-6. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of abundance per transect.

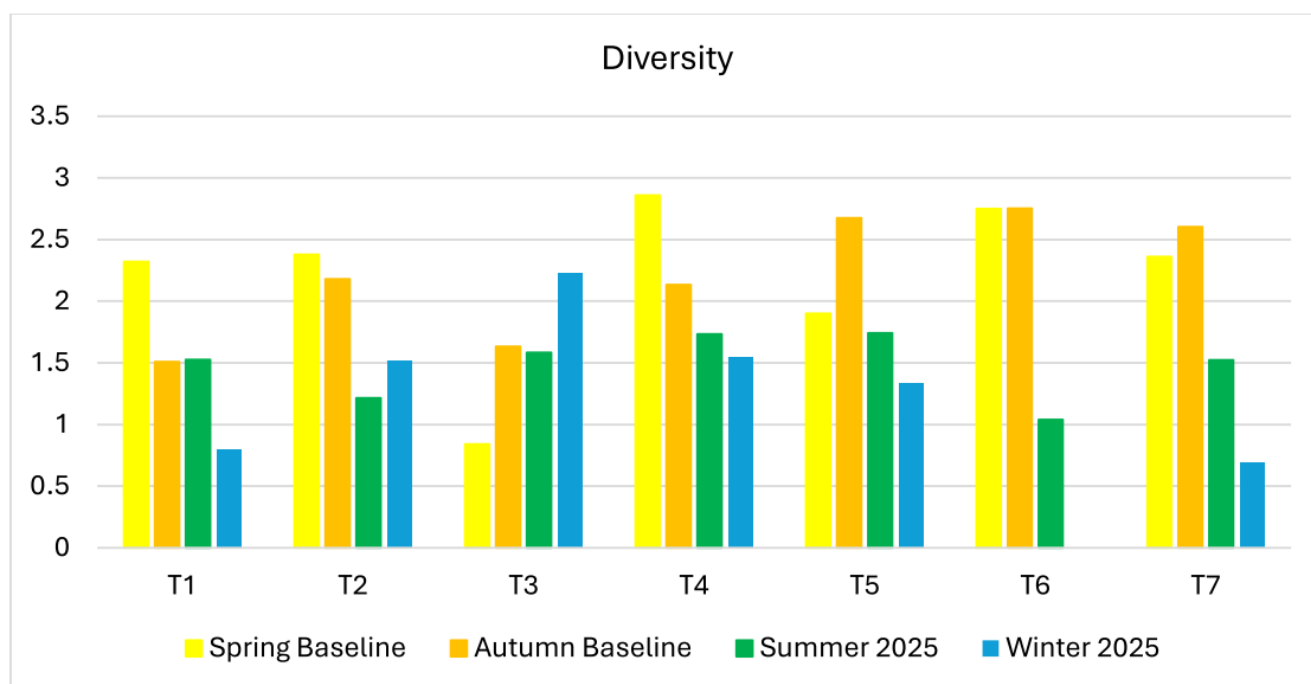


Figure 3-7. Graph comparing the results of the 2025 summer and winter surveys with available baseline data from 2021 in terms of Shannon Wiener diversity index per transect.

5.6. Resource Use

The data reported below is as it has been received directly from the site and the only modification that was undertaken is the format in which it is illustrated below. No data has been received during this audit period.

5.6.1. Water

Updated resource use information to be provided to ECO to illustrate the data in the section of the report.

5.6.2. Waste

Updated resource use information to be provided to ECO to illustrate the data in the section of the report.

5.6.3. Diesel Usage

Updated resource use information to be provided to ECO to illustrate the data in the section of the report.

5.6.4. Carbon Footprint

Updated resource use information to be provided to ECO to illustrate the data in the section of the report.

5.7. *Compliance Summary*

There are no noted non-compliances, and the partial compliance items are indicated under section 5.1 Findings. Erosion in the solar field, equipment removal in the construction site camp and laydown areas, and clearance of vegetation in the heritage site buffer area are among the concerns raised. Refer to the checklists in the appendices below for more details.

5.7.1. EA 2087 Compliance Score

Of the total 48 conditions audited, 21 are applicable. Of the applicable conditions the resulting compliance scores are:

- Compliant - 95%
- Partially Compliant - 5%
- Non-Compliant - 0%

5.7.2. EA 2772 Compliance Score

Of the total 44 conditions audited, 21 are applicable. Of the applicable conditions the resulting compliance scores are:

- Compliant - 95%
- Partially Compliant - 5%
- Non-Compliant - 0%

5.7.3. EMPr Compliance Score

Of the total 151 impact management actions audited, 108 are applicable. Of the applicable actions the resulting compliance scores are:

- Compliant - 64%
- Partially Compliant - 36%
- Non-Compliant - 0%

6. **Adequacy of the EMPr**

Based on the information review and areas inspected at the time of the audit, the EMPr is largely adequate and effective to manage the Operational Phase of the Springbok Solar Plant and associated activities.

7. **Conclusion and Recommendations**

During this site verification audit the site was noted to be well maintained and clean, the appropriate waste management practices are implemented, and a storage area has been constructed for the storage of brush cutters, equipment and hazardous substances like fuel.

The most significant environmental concerns noted during this audit period was erosion small sections of the solar field, the equipment in the construction site camp area that remains to be collected and removed,

and the clearance of vegetation for stormwater control within the heritage site buffer area. Additionally, documentation as required in line with the EMP conditions need to be furnished as proof that those elements of the EMP are being implemented and adhered to on site.

Auditor: Chandré de Waard

Signed: 

Date: 28 September 2026

APPENDIX A: PROJECT COMPLIANCE ACTION REGISTER

Shading Key

Rating	Description
Not Critical	Minimal impact observations with corrective actions to be implemented at an on-going basis.
Minor	Minimal impact observations with corrective actions to be implemented as soon as possible but no later than 30 days.
Major	Medium impact observations with corrective actions to be implemented with 7-14 days.
Critical	High impact observations with corrective actions to be implemented immediately or within 24-48 hours.

Date Issued	ECO Tracking #	EA/EMPr Condition #	Condition or Concerns	Comments or Recommended Action	Rating	Status
03-Mar-2026	#0527	EA 2087 Condition 24	All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	Evidence should be provided that all notifications required under this EA are submitted to the department.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0528	EA 2087 Condition 27	The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.	Evidence should be provided that the audits have been undertaken and that the reports have been submitted to the department.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0529	EA 2087 Condition 28	The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity.	Evidence should be provided that the audit reports have been compiled in line with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0530	EA 2087 Condition 29	Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	Provide evidence that records are accessible on site.	Minor	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0531	EA 2087 Condition 31	A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.	Evidence should be provided the notification informing the department of commencement of the operational phase has been submitted.	Critical	Closed

Date Issued	ECO Tracking #	EA/EMPr Condition #	Condition or Concerns	Comments or Recommended Action	Rating	Status
03-Mar-2026	#0532	EA 2087 Condition 43	A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, must be made available for inspection and copying- 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity; 43.2. to anyone on request; and 43.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.	Provide evidence that copies of EA, EMPr and audit reports are filed on site. Website to be verified.	Minor	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0533	EA 2772 Condition 24	All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	Evidence should be provided that all notifications required under this EA are submitted to the department.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0534	EA 2772 Condition 27	The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.	Evidence should be provided that the audits have been undertaken and that the reports have been submitted to the department.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0535	EA 2772 Condition 28	The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.	Evidence should be provided that the audit reports have been compiled in line with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0536	EA 2772 Condition 29	Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	Provide evidence that records are accessible on site.	Minor	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0537	EA 2772 Condition 31	A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.	Evidence should be provided the notification informing the department of commencement of the operational phase has been submitted.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0538	EA 2772 Condition 39	A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr must be made available for inspection and copying: 39.1. at the site of the authorised activity; 39.2. to anyone on request; and 39.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.	Provide evidence that copies of EA, EMPr and audit reports are filed on site. Website to be verified.	Minor	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0539	EMPr Construction Site Decommissioning	All structures comprising the construction camp are to be removed from site.	Equipment related to construction still remains at the substation and in the construction camp site.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0540	EMPr Construction Site Decommissioning	All areas where temporary services were installed are to be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the ECO.	Septic tank removal to be verified. Vegetation in construction site camp was overgrown, and area could not be accessed at the time of the audit.	Major	Open

Date Issued	ECO Tracking #	EA/EMPr Condition #	Condition or Concerns	Comments or Recommended Action	Rating	Status
03-Mar-2026	#0541	EMPr Construction Site Decommissioning	Rehabilitate and re-vegetate cleared areas with indigenous plant species.	Alien vegetation established in the construction camp and laydown areas.	Non-Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0542	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Regular ground inspection of the power plant must take place to monitor their status.	Provide evidence that the plant is regularly inspected.	Minor	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0543	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	The emergency preparedness plan must be ready for implementation always should an emergency situation arise.	Provide evidence of the emergency preparedness plan.	Critical	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0544	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Specific activities that should be monitored include: • Erosion potential (specifically in and around roads and stormwater discharge points). • Identified problem areas.	Provide evidence that erosion is being monitored and problem areas have been reported for repair. Several areas of erosion were noted along roads during this audit period.	Non-Critical	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0545	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	The stormwater system on the proposed site needs to be regularly maintained to ensure effective working.	Sections of roads that function as part of the stormwater system needs to be repaired.	Major	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0546	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Specific activities that should be monitored include: • Erosion potential (specifically in and around roads and stormwater discharge points). • Stormwater management and design. • Identified problem areas.	Provide evidence that erosion and the stormwater management system is being monitored and problem areas have been reported for repair.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0547	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Inventories should be made of all substances that are potentially hazardous to groundwater, which will be stored, used or transported over the sites. The risk of each substance to the groundwater should be considered.	Provide evidence of the HCS inventory.	Minor	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0548	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	A groundwater monitoring programme (quality and groundwater levels) should be designed and installed for the site. Monitoring boreholes should be securely capped and must be fitted with a suitable sanitary seal to prevent surface water flowing down the outside of the casing. Full construction details of monitoring boreholes must be recorded when they are drilled (e.g. screen and casing lengths, diameters, total depth, etc). Sampling of monitoring boreholes should be done according to recognised standards.	Provide evidence that a groundwater monitoring programme is in place and being implemented.	Non-Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0549	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Continued monitoring and eradication of alien invasive plant species are imperative.	Provide evidence that a A&IPs management plan is in place.	Major	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0550	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Monitoring programme to ensure that rehabilitation efforts are successful to ensure that risks such as erosion and the edge effect are avoided.	Provide evidence of a rehabilitation monitoring programme.	Minor	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0551	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Implement a bird monitoring program (BMP) for the Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd.	Provide evidence of the BMP.	Major	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0552	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Panels to be flat at night, preferably low sheen/matt surfaces, quarterly fatality monitoring.	Provide verification that panels are in the flat position at night.	Minor	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0553	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Quarterly fatality monitoring and record keeping must be undertaken throughout the project life.	Provide evidence that the BMP assesses fatalities on a quarterly basis.	Major	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0554	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Inspect all PV modules at least once a month throughout the year for any nest-building activity.	Provide evidence that modules are inspected for nesting activity.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0555	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Maintenance staff require basic training in order to know what to look for and how to fill in the Bird Incident Forms.	Provide evidence of training of staff to complete the Bird Incident Forms, as well as evidence that such forms are available.	Major	Closed

Date Issued	ECO Tracking #	EA/EMPr Condition #	Condition or Concerns	Comments or Recommended Action	Rating	Status
03-Mar-2026	#0556	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Solid waste must be collected on a regular basis and disposed of at the closest municipal landfill site.	Provide evidence that waste is collected and disposed of at the municipal site, and were hazardous, at the registered landfill site.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0557	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Upon completion of the construction phase, an emergency evacuation plan must be drawn up to ensure the safety of the staff and surrounding land users in the case of an emergency.	Provide evidence of the emergency preparedness plan.	Critical	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0558	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	The PV plant is to be regularly maintained. A maintenance schedule must be drawn up and records of all maintenance kept.	Provide evidence of inspection and maintenance schedules.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0559	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Firefighting equipment in the form of fire hydrants or fire extinguishers must be available on the site. These must be regularly maintained by an appropriate company.	Provide evidence of firefighting equipment on site.	Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0560	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Transformer oil containers must be regularly maintained to ensure that leaks do not occur.	Provide evidence of inspection schedules.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0561	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Immediately report significant spillages and initiate an environmental site assessment for risk assessment and remediation if necessary.	Provide evidence of an Incidents Register and possible historic spillages and follow up procedures.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0562	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Create a "Green Energy" awareness campaign, educating the local community and potentially tourists on the benefits of renewable energy.	Provide evidence of the "Green Energy" awareness campaign educating the local community and potentially tourists on the benefits of renewable energy.	Non-Critical	Closed
03-Mar-2026	#0563	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Local community leaders must be utilised to source labour.	Provide evidence that local labour is appointed where appropriate.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0564	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	The recruitment of skilled labour will follow standard advertising process in national newspapers and interview-based selection.	Provide evidence that skilled labour appointments followed standard advertising process and interview-based selection.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0565	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Record of official complaints by employees to authorities i.e. Labour and Social Security.	Provide evidence of the Complaints or Grievance Mechanism.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0566	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Vocational training programs should be established to promote the development of skills.	Provide evidence of skills development programme.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0567	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Consult with the community to determine their needs. Following a top-down approach without community consultation can result in irrelevant interventions that are disregarded by the community.	Provide evidence of community consultation.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0568	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	A CNA must be conducted to ensure that the LED and social upliftment programmes proposed by the project are meaningful.	Provide evidence that a CNA has been conducted.	Major	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0569	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Ongoing communication and reporting are required to ensure that maximum benefit is obtained from the programmes identified, and to prevent the possibility for such programmes to be misused.	Provide evidence of ongoing communication and reporting with regards to the skills development programme and that these programmes are reviewed regularly.	Critical	Open
03-Mar-2026	#0570	EMPr Operation and Maintenance	Tourists visiting the area should be made aware of South Africa's movement towards renewable energy. This could be implemented by constructing a visitor's centre on the property allocated to the proposed solar farm which should be open to school fieldtrips, the local community, and tourists.	Provide evidence of any such visits and the associated awareness raised.	Non-Critical	Closed

APPENDIX B: PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAP

The images below reflect the conditions on site during the time of the audit, and the map illustrates areas visited during this audit period.

Site Photographs

Waste Management



Waste bins at O&M building.

Access Control and Roads



Access control and F&M treatment at gate.



Access control into facility.



Internal access road.



Internal access road.

Vegetation and Fauna



Vegetation maintained within the solar field.



Vegetation recovery and invasive plant control at old site camp area.



Vegetation maintained within the solar field.



Fresh burrowing noted at animal den.

Sensitive and No-Go Areas



Vegetation clearance inside heritage site buffer area for stormwater control.



Vegetation clearance inside heritage site buffer area for stormwater control.



Vegetation clearance inside heritage site buffer area for stormwater control.

Water Management



Grass planted and stormwater gabions at O&M.



Erosion repaired.



Erosion repaired



RO system.

Infrastructure



O&M area warehouse.



Extra equipment.



Fire bowsers.



Grass planted at O&M area.



Storage area.



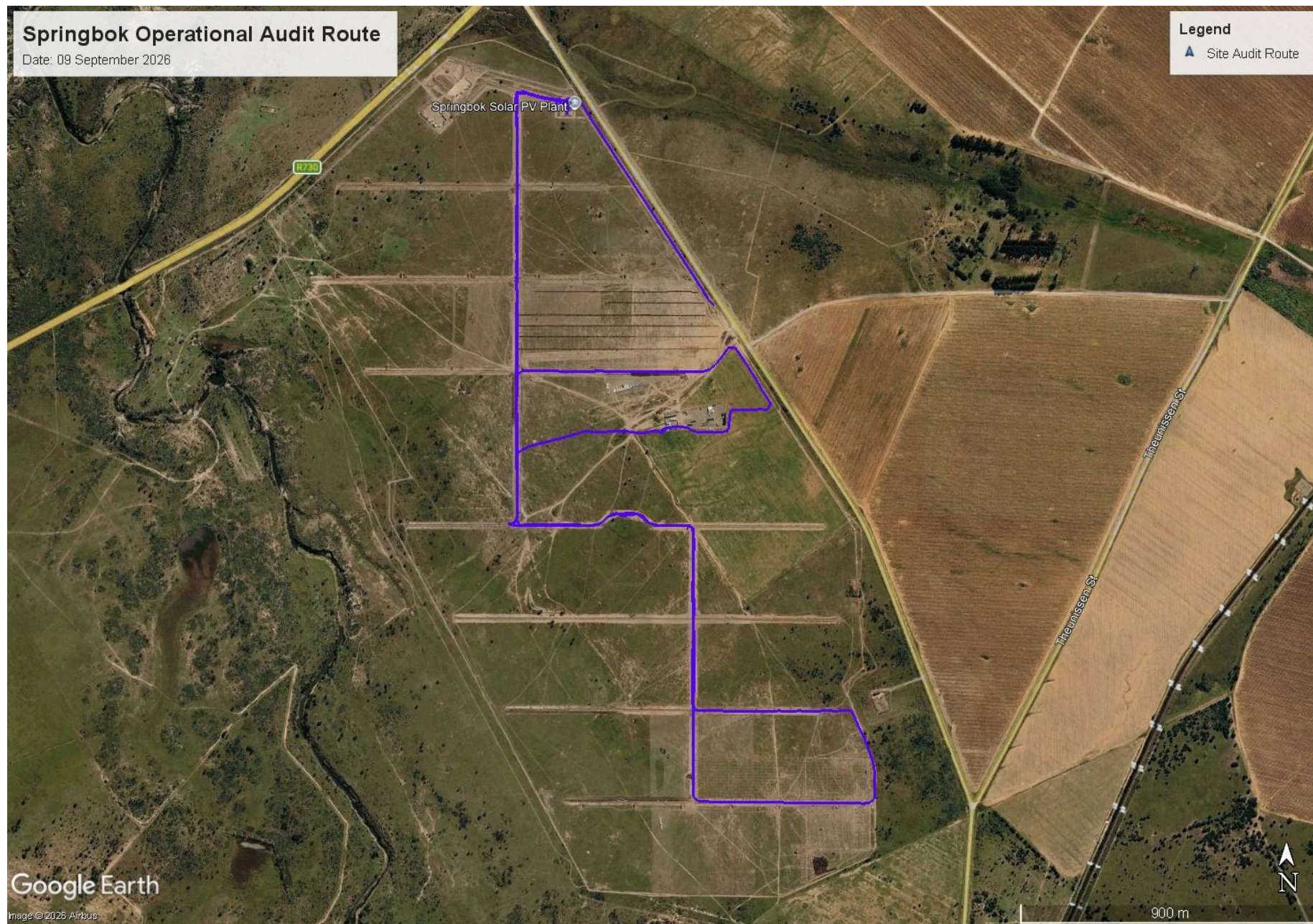
ITS with vegetation recovery around disturbed area.



Maintenance underway.



Substation.



APPENDIX C: CHECKLISTS

EA 14/12/16/3/3/1/2087

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Scope of Authorisation		
Condition 1: The development of a 150MW Springbok Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located on the Farm Weltevrede No. 638 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality in the Free State Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.	✓	Construction phase is completed.
Condition 2: Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.	✓	Construction phase is completed. Facility is now operational.
Condition 3: The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.	✓	On site monitoring continues in line with the EA and EMPr.
Condition 4: The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.	✓	Activities area carried out as per the EA description.
Condition 5: Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.	✓	No changes required during this audit period. Previously required changes have been applied for and approved.
Condition 6: The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.	✓	Amendment for Change of Name submitted and approved.
Condition 7: This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.	✓	Construction commenced in January 2024.
Condition 8: Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.	✓	Construction completed in September 2025.
Condition 9: Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	✓	Construction currently underway and on site monitoring continues.
Notification of Authorisation and Right to Appeal		
Condition 10: The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 11: The notification referred to must - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued. 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request. and 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Commencement of Activity		

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Condition 12: The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Management of the Activity		
Condition 13: The site layout plans as attached as Appendix I - Maps of the EIAR dated 13 December 2021 is approved.	NA	Approval noted. No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 14: The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity submitted as part of the EIAR dated 13 December 2021 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.	✓	Approval noted and compliance monitoring of the approved EMPr is being conducted.
Condition 15: The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.	✓	Approval noted and compliance monitoring of the approved EMPr is being conducted.
Condition 16: Changes to the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.	✓	No changes required during this audit period.
Condition 17: The Department reserves the right to amend the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.	NA	Statement noted. No changes required during this audit period.
Frequency and Process of Updating the EMPr		
Condition 18: The EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required as a result of an audit report.
Condition 19: The updated EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required as a result of an audit report.
Condition 20: The updated EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMP to the Department for approval.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 34.
Condition 21: In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 35.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.		
Condition 22: The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 37.
Monitoring		
Condition 23: The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details: of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
Recording and Reporting to the Department		
Condition 24: All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	✓	The notifications required under this EA are submitted to the department.
Condition 25: The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	NA	This was the first operational phase external audit. Submission of this report to the department will be monitored once the report has been made available to the applicant.
Condition 26: The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	✓	Bi-annual external operational phase audit are being undertaken.
Condition 27: The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within	✓	The audits have been undertaken and the reports have been submitted to the department.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.		
Condition 28: The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity.	✓	The audit reports have been compiled in line with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
Condition 29: Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	✓	Digital copies of records are available on site.
Notification to Authorities		
Condition 30: A written-notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.	NA	Construction phase is completed.
Operation of the Activity		
Condition 31: A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.	✓	Notification submitted on 11 August 2025.
Site Closure and Decommissioning		
Condition 32: Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.	NA	Not applicable to this phase of the project and operations currently underway.
Specific Conditions		
Condition 33: The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 34: Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. Previously identified sensitive areas have been clearly demarcated.
Condition 35: No pylons must be placed within the delineated watercourses and the riparian habitat; however, the pylons may span these features.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 36: All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken according to the EMPr.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 37: Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 38: Cleared alien vegetation must not be dumped on adjacent intact vegetation during clearing but must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 39: Internal access roads must be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams must be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 40: It is recommended that a biodiversity walk-through and obtaining of the relevant fauna and flora permits must be undertaken prior to construction.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 41: An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).	✓	A waste management approach is being implemented on site.
Condition 42: Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped,	✓	No new features were uncovered during construction and the Heritage Site remains fenced off.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
the SAHRA/PHRA must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.		
General		
Condition 43: A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, must be made available for inspection and copying- 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity; 43.2. to anyone on request; and 43.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.	✓/X	Digital copies of EA, EMPr and audit reports are filed on site. Website to be verified.
Condition 44: National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.	NA	Noted.

EA 14/12/16/3/3/1/2772

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Scope of Authorisation		
Condition 1: The addition of 19.9ha to the already authorised development footprint of 280ha for the development of 150MW Springbok Solar Power Plant located on Farm Weltevrede No 638 in Ward 4, within Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.	✓	Construction phase is completed.
Condition 2: Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.	✓	Construction phase is completed. Facility is now operational.
Condition 3: The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.	✓	On site monitoring continues in line with the EA and EMPr.
Condition 4: The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.	✓	Activities area carried out as per the EA description.
Condition 5: Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.	✓	No changes required during this audit period. Previously required changes have been applied for and approved.
Condition 6: The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.	✓	Amendment for Change of Name submitted and approved.
Condition 7: This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur	✓	Construction commenced in January 2024.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.		
Condition 8: Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.	✓	Construction completed in September 2025.
Condition 9: Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	✓	Construction currently underway and on site monitoring continues.
Notification of Authorisation and Right to Appeal		
Condition 10: The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 11: The notification referred to must - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued. 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request. and 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Commencement of Activity		
Condition 12: The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Management of the Activity		
Condition 13: The site layout plans as attached as Appendix H — layout Maps of the BAR dated 23 June 2023 is approved.	NA	Approval noted. No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 14: The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated 23 June 2023 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.	✓	Approval noted and compliance monitoring of the approved EMPr is being conducted.
Condition 15: The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. it shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.	✓	Approval noted and compliance monitoring of the approved EMPr is being conducted.
Condition 16: Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.	✓	No changes required during this audit period.
Condition 17: The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the basic assessment be discovered.	NA	Statement noted. No changes required during this audit period.
Frequency and Process of Updating the EMPr		
Condition 18: The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required as a result of an audit report.
Condition 19: The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required as a result of an audit report.
Condition 20: The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 34.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Condition 21: In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 35.
Condition 22: The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.	NA	Noted. No updates to the EMPr required in terms of Regulation 37.
Monitoring		
Condition 23: The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details: of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. An ECO was appointed for the construction phase of the project.
Recording and Reporting to the Department		
Condition 24: All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	✓	The notifications required under this EA are submitted to the department.
Condition 25: The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	NA	This was the first operational phase external audit. Submission of this report to the department will be monitored once the report has been made available to the applicant.
Condition 26: The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	✓	Bi-annual external operational phase audit are being undertaken.
Condition 27: The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.	✓	The audits have been undertaken and the reports have been submitted to the department.
Condition 28: The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.	✓	The audit reports have been compiled in line with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
Condition 29: Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	✓	Digital copies of records are available on site.

Condition	✓/X/NA	Comment
Notification to Authorities		
Condition 30: A written-notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.	NA	Construction phase is completed.
Operation of the Activity		
Condition 31: A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.	✓	Notification submitted on 11 August 2025.
Site Closure and Decommissioning		
Condition 32: Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.	NA	Not applicable to this phase of the project and operations currently underway.
Specific Conditions		
Condition 33: The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 34: The approved additional land must not exceed 19.9ha.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 35: Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational. Previously identified sensitive areas have been clearly demarcated.
Condition 36: Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures as specified in the final BAR dated 23 June 2023 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.	NA	No construction activities are being executed, and the facility is now operational.
Condition 37: An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).	✓	A waste management approach is being implemented on site.
Condition 38: Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the SAHRA/PHRA must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.	✓	No new features were uncovered during construction and the Heritage Site remains fenced off.
General		
Condition 39: A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr must be made available for inspection and copying: 39.1. at the site of the authorised activity; 39.2. to anyone on request; and 39.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.	✓/X	Digital copies of EA, EMPr and audit reports are filed on site. Website to be verified.
Condition 40: National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.	NA	Noted.

Operational EMPr Checklist

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
Construction Site Decommissioning		
Removal of Equipment		
1. All structures comprising the construction camp are to be removed from site.	X	Equipment related to construction still remains at the substation and in the construction camp site.
2. The area that previously housed the construction camp is to be checked for spills of substances such as oil, paint, etc, and these shall be cleaned up.	✓	All noted spillages have been cleared.
3. All hardened surfaces within the construction camp area should be ripped, all imported materials removed, and the area shall be top soiled and regressed using the guidelines set out in the re-vegetation that forms part of this document.	✓	Vegetation is recovering in the previous site camp areas.
Temporary Services		
1. The Contractor must arrange the cancellation of all temporary services.	✓	All temporary services have been cancelled.
2. Temporary roads must be closed and access across these, blocked.	✓	No temporary roads were created.
3. All areas where temporary services were installed are to be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the ECO.	✓	Septic tank has been removed.
Associated Infrastructure		
1. Surfaces are to be checked for waste products from activities such as concreting or asphaltting and cleared in a manner approved by the Engineer.	✓	No waste products visible in the construction site camp area.
2. All surfaces hardened due to construction activities are to be ripped and imported material thereon removed.	✓	Vegetation is recovering in the previous site camp areas.
3. All rubble is to be removed from the site to an approved disposal site as approved by the Engineer. Burying of rubble on site is prohibited.	✓	Building rubble has been removed from site.
4. The site is to be cleared of all litter.	✓	Site has been cleared of litter.
5. Fences, barriers and demarcations associated with the construction phase are to be removed from the site unless stipulated otherwise by the Engineer.	✓	Fences, barriers and demarcations have been removed.
6. All residual stockpiles must be removed to spoil or spread on site as directed by the Engineer.	✓	All spoil has been removed from site.
7. All leftover building materials must be returned to the depot or removed from the site.	✓	All building materials have been removed.
8. The Contractor must repair any damage that the construction works has caused to neighbouring properties, specifically, but not limited to, damage caused by poor stormwater management.	✓	No damages have been reported.
Rehabilitation Plan		
Rehabilitate and re-vegetate cleared areas with indigenous plant species.	✓	Alien vegetation previously noted in the construction camp and laydown areas has been cleared.
Operation and Maintenance		
Maintenance		
1. All applicable standards, legislation, policies and procedures must be adhered to during operation.	NA	Noted. These aspects are addressed by the practical implementation of the EMPr.
2. Regular ground inspection of the power plant must take place to monitor their status.	✓/X	Provide evidence that the plant is regularly inspected.
3. Regular inspection of Battery Management System including the inert fire system.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
Replacement of Solar Panels as Part of the Maintenance Process		
1. Materials and panels are to be stored within the previously disturbed construction laydown area. No disturbance of areas outside of these areas should occur.	✓	Laydown are utilised during construction is utilised for any additional storage.
2. Full clean-up of all materials must be undertaken after the removal and replacement of the solar panel arrays and associated infrastructure is complete, and disturbed areas appropriately rehabilitated.	✓	No panel replacements have been necessary during this audit period.

Impact Management Actions		Compliance Results	
		✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
3. Most of the materials used for solar panel systems can be recycled. The majority of the glass and semiconductor materials can be recovered and re-used or recycled. Recyclable materials must be transported off-site by truck and managed at appropriate facilities in accordance with relevant waste management regulations. No waste materials may be left on-site.		✓	No panel replacements have been necessary during this audit period and as such no waste related to panel replacements have been generated.
4. Waste material which cannot be recycled shall be disposed of at an appropriately licensed waste disposal site or as required by the relevant legislation.		✓	No panel replacements have been necessary during this audit period and as such no waste related to panel replacements have been generated.
Public Awareness			
The emergency preparedness plan must be ready for implementation always should an emergency situation arise.		✓/X	Provide evidence of the emergency preparedness plan.
Soil Erosion and Geology			
Soil Erosion			
1. To avoid soil erosion, it will be a good practice to design stormwater canals into which the water from the panels can be channelled. These canals should reduce the speed of the water and allow the water to drain slowly onto the land.		✓	Minimal erosion is noted within the solar field.
2. Another important measure is to avoid stripping land surfaces of existing vegetation by only allowing vehicles to travel on existing roads and not create new roads.		✓	Vegetation covers the solar field.
3. Facilitate re-vegetation of denuded areas throughout the site.		✓	Rehabilitation was implemented and vegetation recovered appropriately.
4. Undertake a periodic (bi-annual) site inspection to record the progress of all areas that require re-vegetation.		✓	First bi-annual audit undertaken in March 2026.
5. If an activity will mechanically disturb the soil below surface in any way, then any available topsoil should first be stripped from the entire surface to be disturbed and stockpiled for re-spreading during rehabilitation. During rehabilitation, the stockpiled topsoil must be evenly spread over the entire disturbed surface.		NA	No mechanical works executed that requires topsoil to be stripped.
Monitoring and Reporting			
Specific activities that should be monitored include: • Erosion potential (specifically in and around roads and stormwater discharge points). • Identified problem areas.		✓/X	Provide evidence that erosion is being monitored and problem areas have been reported for repair. Several areas of erosion were noted along roads during this audit period.
Geology			
1. Surface drainage should be provided to prevent water ponding.		✓	No ponding was noted during this audit period.
2. Bulk infrastructure should be designed by a specialist.		✓	Bulk infrastructure was designed by specialist.
Surface and Groundwater			
Surface Water			
1. Correct drainage of the site should ensure that contaminants do not impact upon the riparian areas of the Vaal River.		NA	No surface water impact can occur from the activities of Springbok at the Vaal River is not near the site, and around 100 km away.
2. The stormwater system on the proposed site needs to be regularly maintained to ensure effective working.		✓/X	Sections of roads that function as part of the stormwater system needs to be repaired.
Monitoring and Reporting			
Specific activities that should be monitored include: • Erosion potential (specifically in and around roads and stormwater discharge points). • Stormwater management and design. • Identified problem areas.		✓/X	Provide evidence that erosion and the stormwater management system is being monitored and problem areas have been reported for repair.
Site Specific Mitigation Measures for Surface Water			
1. Development and implementation of an adequate stormwater management plan to be designed by an appropriate engineer.		✓	Stormwater management plan was developed and constructed during the construction phase.
2. The stormwater management plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows.		✓	Stormwater management plan was developed and constructed during the construction phase.

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
3. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of stormwater run-off.	✓	Gabions and stormwater cut off berms have been installed on site.
Site Specific Mitigation Measures for Groundwater		
1. Inventories should be made of all substances that are potentially hazardous to groundwater, which will be stored, used or transported over the sites. The risk of each substance to the groundwater should be considered.	✓/X	Provide evidence of the HCS inventory.
2. All areas in which substances potentially hazardous to groundwater are stored, loaded, worked with or disposed of should be securely bunded (impermeable floor and sides) to prevent accidental discharge to groundwater.	✓	An appropriate HCS storage area is in place.
3. A groundwater monitoring programme (quality and groundwater levels) should be designed and installed for the site. Monitoring boreholes should be securely capped and must be fitted with a suitable sanitary seal to prevent surface water flowing down the outside of the casing. Full construction details of monitoring boreholes must be recorded when they are drilled (e.g. screen and casing lengths, diameters, total depth, etc). Sampling of monitoring boreholes should be done according to recognised standards.	✓/X	Provide evidence that a groundwater monitoring programme is in place and being implemented.
Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)		
Vegetation		
1. Indigenous vegetation must be maintained, and all exotics removed as they appear and disposed of appropriately.	✓	Vegetation recovery is mostly indigenous vegetation.
2. Re-vegetation of the disturbed site is aimed at approximating as near as possible to the natural vegetative conditions prevailing prior to construction.	✓	Vegetation covers the solar field and previously disturbed site camp.
3. Vegetative re-establishment shall, as far as possible, make use of indigenous or locally occurring plant varieties.	✓	Vegetation recovery is mostly indigenous vegetation.
4. Continued monitoring and eradication of alien invasive plant species are imperative.	✓/X	Provide evidence that a A&IPs management plan is in place.
5. Rehabilitation must be executed in such a manner that surface run-off will not cause erosion of disturbed areas during and following rehabilitation.	✓	No erosion noted on rehabilitated areas.
Other Fauna		
No faunal species must be harmed by maintenance staff during any routine maintenance at the development.	✓	No faunal incidents reported during this audit period.
Site Specific Mitigation Measures		
1. Six monthly checks of the area should take place for the emergence of invader species.	✓/X	Provide evidence that a A&IPs management plan is in place.
2. Mitigation measures mentioned for the construction phase above must be implemented for any maintenance of the development that may be undertaken during the operation phase.	✓/X	Provide evidence that a A&IPs management plan is in place.
3. Correct rehabilitation with locally indigenous species.	✓	Vegetation recovery is mostly indigenous vegetation.
4. Monitoring programme to ensure that rehabilitation efforts are successful to ensure that risks such as erosion and the edge effect are avoided.	✓/X	Provide evidence of a rehabilitation monitoring programme.
5. Constant maintenance of the area to ensure re-colonisation of floral species.	✓	Vegetation recovery is appropriate.
6. Regular removal of alien species which may jeopardise the proliferation of indigenous species.	✓/X	Alien vegetation established in the construction camp and laydown areas.
7. Regular maintenance of bird flappers and guards must be undertaken.	NA	OHL is under the operation and control of Eskom.
Avifauna		
Displacement, Disturbance, Collisions with Panels and Powerline and Electrocutation		
1. Implement a bird monitoring program (BMP) for the Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd.	✓	A BMP is in place and being implemented by Agreenco.
2. Limit ongoing human activity to the minimum required for ongoing operation.	✓	Access to the site is strictly controlled.
3. Control noise to minimum.	✓	Minimal noise emissions during operational phase.
4. Rehabilitate with indigenous vegetation.	✓	Vegetation recovery is mostly indigenous vegetation.
5. Retain indigenous vegetation throughout as much as possible.	✓	Vegetation recovery is mostly indigenous vegetation.
6. Limit roadways and vehicle speeds.	✓	Low speed signs are posted on access roads.

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
7. Panels to be flat at night, preferably low sheen/matt surfaces, quarterly fatality monitoring.	✓/X	Provide verification that panels are in the flat position at night.
8. Quarterly fatality monitoring and record keeping must be undertaken throughout the project life.	✓/X	Although a BMP is in place, the documents are not accessible to verify if this requirement is being met.
Nesting on Site		
1. Avoid the use of lattice-type structures in order to minimise perching and nesting opportunities.	✓	No nests noted during this audit period.
2. Minimise standing water.	✓	No ponding was noted during this audit period.
3. Inspect all PV modules at least once a month throughout the year for any nest-building activity.	✓/X	Provide evidence that modules are inspected for nesting activity.
4. Maintenance staff require basic training in order to know what to look for and how to fill in the Bird Incident Forms.	✓	Training has been provided.
Waste Management		
Recycling and Litter Management		
1. The site should be kept clear of litter at all times.	✓	No litter noted on site during this audit period.
2. Solid waste separation and recycling must take place for the duration of the operational phase for the development.	✓	Waste separation is undertaken at the main operational building area.
3. All waste must be removed promptly to ensure that it does not attract vermin or produce odours.	✓	Waste area was well maintained at the time of the audit.
4. In house treatment procedures must be followed strictly.	NA	No waste treatment takes place on site.
5. Solid waste must be collected on a regular basis and disposed of at the closest municipal landfill site.	✓/X	Provide evidence that waste is collected and disposed of at the municipal site, and were hazardous, at the registered landfill site.
6. Package treatment plant must be regularly serviced.	NA	No package treatment plant on site.
7. No solid waste may be burned or buried on site or disposed of by any other method on site.	✓	No burning of waste is permitted on site.
8. Broken or old batteries or components of the PV plant must be stored in a demarcated area in quarantine for the shortest period possible until it can be collected and taken to a special chemical waste facility.	✓	No broken components noted during this audit period.
9. Once the batteries become obsolescent, either due to the facility decommissioning or the batteries reaching their useful design life and require replacement, the used batteries will be broken down and recycled as far as possible and unrecoverable wastes disposed of through appropriate channels.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
Health and Safety		
Emergency Evacuation Plan		
Upon completion of the construction phase, an emergency evacuation plan must be drawn up to ensure the safety of the staff and surrounding land users in the case of an emergency.	✓/X	Provide evidence of the emergency preparedness plan.
Maintenance		
The PV plant is to be regularly maintained. A maintenance schedule must be drawn up and records of all maintenance kept.	✓/X	Provide evidence of inspection and maintenance schedules.
Fire Safety		
Firefighting equipment in the form of fire hydrants or fire extinguishers must be available on the site. These must be regularly maintained by an appropriate company.	✓/X	Provide evidence of firefighting equipment on site.
Storage and Handling of Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods		
1. Transformer oil containers must be regularly maintained to ensure that leaks do not occur.	✓/X	Provide evidence of inspection schedules.
2. A spill kit needs to be kept on site to address any unforeseen spillages.	✓	Spill kit is available on site.
3. Transport of all hazardous substances must be in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓	Minimal HCS are stored on site.
4. The bund wall surrounding the transformer oil containers must be regularly maintained to ensure that any spills are completely contained.	✓	ITS stations are self-bunded units.
5. Disposal of waste must be in accordance with relevant legislative requirements, including the use of licensed contractors.	✓/X	Provide evidence that waste is collected and disposed of at the municipal site, and were hazardous, at the registered landfill site.

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
6. Hazardous waste (including hydrocarbons) and general waste must be stored and disposed of separately.	✓	Waste streams are separated on site.
7. Develop and adhere to a procedure for the safe handling of battery cells during the undertaking of maintenance activities.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
8. Ensure that service providers dispose of used batteries properly by requesting and retaining receipts for disposal/refurbishment.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
9. Immediately report significant spillages and initiate an environmental site assessment for risk assessment and remediation if necessary.	✓/X	Provide evidence of an Incidents Register and possible historic spillages and follow up procedures.
10. Emergency response arrangements and systems, such as foam pourers, firefighting systems and cooperation with emergency responders must be implemented. Preventive measures could include maintenance procedures to prevent the occurrence of loss of containment, as well as strict control of ignition sources and other measures which may be required according to standards such as those prescribed by the South African National Standards System.	✓/X	Provide evidence of firefighting equipment on site.
Risks Associated with the BESS		
Gas Release with Subsequent Fire and Explosion		
1. The battery management system (BMS) is essential to the safety and performance of the entire ESS system: it has a controlling and monitoring function, hence its specifications and functions need to be checked, tested and validated. Controlling and monitoring the state of charge (SoC) of the battery cell through its parameters (current, voltage, temperature) during charging and discharging is a critical function based on which functional safety for fault protection is designed.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
2. In order to ensure normal operation, optimum power output and service life, the system will require cooling at high temperatures and heating in cold weather.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
3. The BESS should be located away from critical buildings or equipment. Where spatial separation is not possible, provide exterior protection such as a passive thermal barrier, or active fire protection such as drenchers. An appropriate distance must be maintained between containers to safeguard against propagation.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
4. Install battery and battery management systems/electrical switch gear in separate rooms.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
5. Put battery and battery management systems/electrical switch gear in separate rooms, with fire resistive construction (two-hour fire rated) to adequately cut-off the room from surrounding exposures.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
6. Provide signage on site specifying how electrical and chemical fires should be dealt with by first responders, and the potential risks to first responders (e.g. toxic fumes). Provide suitable firefighting equipment on site.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
7. Provide fire-rated compartmentation and adequate separation between battery units.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
8. Provide adequate fire doors that are maintained in the closed position and equipped with automatic closure mechanisms. Where insulated metal panels (IMPs) are used, these must contain a mineral wool core and be installed in accordance with the terms of their approval. Only non-combustible IMPs should be installed.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
9. Ensure proper management of cable/service penetrations. Cable penetrations must be adequately sealed to meet the fire resistance of the compartment (two-hour fire resistance rating). Heating, ventilation and air conditioning ducts must have fire dampers provided that automatically close on activation of the fire alarm. Establish a permit to access system to manage changes to service or cable penetrations under an audited system.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
10. Extensive monitoring of the battery states such as voltage, temperature, current etc. as well as redundant monitoring and control in terms of a fail-safe battery-management-system (BMS) is crucial for a safe operation of BESS. Maintenance and inspection schedules must be set up. The BMS, the inverter control unit and the BESS supervisory control and data	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
acquisition (SCADA) system must closely monitor the BESS. If one of these fails, the BESS needs to be shut down.		
11. Automatic fire detection must be in place, with early warning smoke detection or very early warning highly sensitive smoke detection. The system design must include continuous remote monitoring.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
12. Consider automatic fire sprinklers and water mist for active fire protection.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
13. To ensure that BESS remain at an acceptable risk level, owners and operators of both permanent or portable BESS must follow design standards and best practices, regularly maintain the system's equipment (as well as safety systems and related equipment), train personnel, and communicate with local emergency responders on the storage system's hazards.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
Appropriate Operation and Maintenance of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)		
1. Compile (and adhere to) a procedure for the safe handling of the battery cells.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
2. Ensure that battery supplier user guides, safety specifications and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are filed on site at all times.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
3. Operate, maintain and monitor the BESS as per the supplier specifications.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
4. Compile method statements for approval by the Technical/SHEQ Manager for battery cell, electrolyte and battery call / container replacement. Maintain the method statements on site.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
5. Ensure that all maintenance contractors / staff are familiar with the supplier's specifications.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
6. Provide signage on site specifying the types of batteries in use and the risk of exposure to hazardous material and electric shock.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
7. Maintain strict access control to the battery storage area.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
8. Undertake regular visual checks of the BESS equipment to identify signs of damage or leaks.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
9. Provide environmental awareness training to all personnel on site. Training should include a discussion of: • Potential impact of electrolyte spills on groundwater. • Suitable disposal of waste and effluent. • How incidents and suggestions for improvement can be reported.	NA	BESS Facility not yet constructed.
Visual Impact		
Maintenance and Lighting		
1. Vegetation cover (i.e., either natural or cultivated) immediately adjacent to the development footprint must be maintained.	✓	Vegetation recovery is appropriate.
2. Maintenance and good housekeeping of the power plant must be undertaken.	✓	The plant was in a neat condition during this audit period.
3. Lighting must be kept to a minimum and restricted to low level, downward facing lights to reduce light spill.	✓	Operational lights are downturned.
4. Lighting must be inward and downward pointing to reduce glare in surrounding areas.	✓	Operational lights are downturned.
5. Security lighting should make use of down-lights to minimise light spill, and motion detectors where possible so that lighting at night is minimised.	✓	Lights at the security check point are inside the office building.
6. Mitigation of lighting impacts includes the pro-active design, planning and specification lighting for the facility by a lighting engineer.	NA	Construction phase is completed and the facility is now operational.
7. Where sensitive visual receptors are likely to be affected (e.g., residents of homesteads in close proximity to the power plant), it is recommended that the developer enter into negotiations with property owners regarding the potential screening of visual impacts at the receptor site. This may entail the planting of vegetation or trees. Visual screening has been found to be most effective when placed at the receptor itself.	NA	Construction phase is completed and the facility is now operational. Required negotiations were made prior to and during the construction phase.
8. Similar screening (e.g., vegetation barriers or vegetation berms) may be considered along boundaries of the power plant that is adjacent to roads, mitigating the potential visual impact on observers travelling along the road.	✓	Screening has been implemented where possible.

Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
9. Rehabilitated areas must be monitored for rehabilitation failure and remedial action must be implemented as and when required.	✓	No remedial action required on rehabilitated areas.
10. Roads must be maintained to eliminate erosion and suppress dust.	✓/X	Road maintenance required due to erosion after heavy rainfall.
11. Create a "Green Energy" awareness campaign, educating the local community and potentially tourists on the benefits of renewable energy.	✓	A "Green Energy" awareness campaign was conducted educating the local community and potentially tourists on the benefits of renewable energy.
12. Regular maintenance of exteriors and associated infrastructure must be undertaken. Maintain general appearance of the facility as a whole.	✓	Overall appearance of the facility was well maintained during this audit period.
Employment		
Labour		
Training of labourers to benefit individuals beyond completion of the project.	✓	On the job training and skills development was undertaken during the construction phase.
Recruitment Plan		
1. Recruitment must comply with national employment and labour laws.	✓	Recruitment is in line with national employment and labour laws.
2. The Project Manager must ensure that all staff working on the proposed project are in possession of a South African Identity Card or a relevant work permit.	NA	Construction phase is complete and the facility is operational.
3. Ensure adequate advertising in the project community areas, local papers for skilled labour.	NA	Construction phase is complete and the facility is operational.
4. Local community leaders must be utilised to source labour.	✓/X	Provide evidence that local labour is appointed where appropriate.
5. The recruitment process must be equitable and transparent. A concerted effort will be made to guard against nepotism and/or any form of favouritism during the process.	✓	Recruitment is in line with national employment and labour laws.
6. The recruitment of skilled labour will follow standard advertising process in national newspapers and interview-based selection.	✓/X	Provide evidence that skilled labour appointments followed standard advertising process and interview-based selection.
7. Record of official complaints by employees to authorities i.e. Labour and Social Security.	✓/X	Provide evidence of the Complaints or Grievance Mechanism.
8. Where feasible, efforts should be made to employ local contractors that are compliant with Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) criteria.	NA	Construction phase is complete and the facility is operational.
9. The recruitment selection process must seek to promote gender equality and the employment of women wherever possible.	✓	Recruitment is in line with national employment and labour laws.
10. Establish, maintain a healthy worker-management relationship.	NA	Noted.
11. It is recommended that local employment policy is adopted to maximise the opportunities made available to the local community.	NA	Construction phase is complete and the facility is operational.
12. Vocational training programs should be established to promote the development of skills.	✓/X	Provide evidence of skills development programme.
Grievance Mechanism		
1. A grievance mechanism as part of the management system should be established.	✓/X	Provide evidence of the Complaints or Grievance Mechanism.
2. The grievance procedure does not replace normal manager-employee dialogue but is another open form of communication.	NA	Noted.
3. The procedure should assist employees to resolve grievance situations quickly and effectively in order to restore harmonious working conditions for all employees.	NA	Noted.
4. Management is responsible for listening and responding to all employee concerns raised through this procedure.	NA	Noted.
5. In all cases, matters will be dealt with in as confidential a manner as possible.	NA	Noted.
Social Environment		
Corporate Social Investment		
1. Consult with the community to determine their needs. Following a top-down approach without community consultation can result in irrelevant interventions that are disregarded by the community.	✓/X	Provide evidence of community consultation.
2. Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd should implement a training and skills development programme for locals during the first 5 years of the operational phase. The aim of the programme should be to maximise the number of South African's and locals employed during the operational phase of the project.	✓/X	Provide evidence of skills development programme.

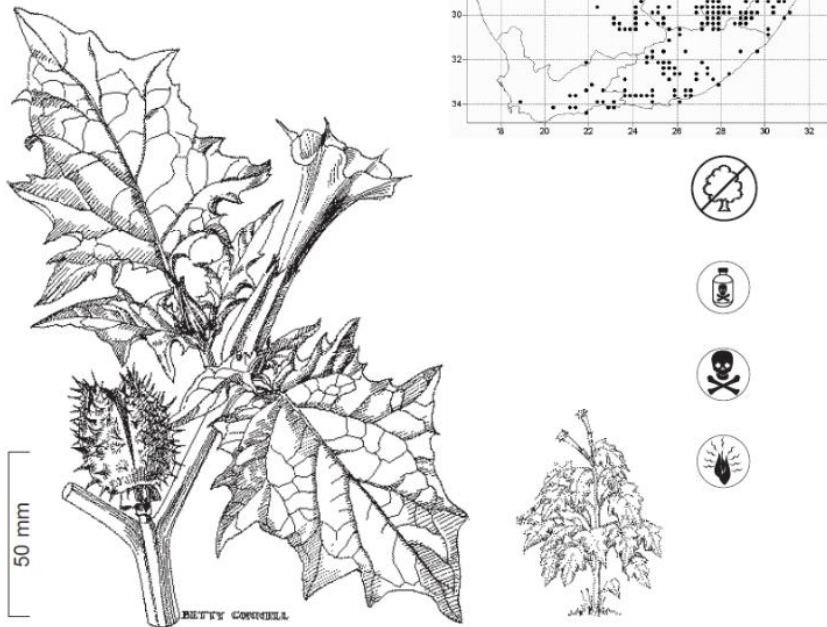
Impact Management Actions	Compliance Results	
	✓/X/NA	Comments/ Findings/ Recommendations
3. A CNA must be conducted to ensure that the LED and social upliftment programmes proposed by the project are meaningful.	✓/X	Provide evidence that a CNA has been conducted.
4. Ongoing communication and reporting are required to ensure that maximum benefit is obtained from the programmes identified, and to prevent the possibility for such programmes to be misused.	✓/X	Provide evidence of ongoing communication and reporting with regards to the skills development programme.
5. The programmes should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are best suited to the needs of the community at the time (bearing in mind that these are likely to change over time).	✓/X	Provide evidence that these programmes are reviewed regularly.
Sence of Place and Tourism		
1. Job opportunities should be afforded to local individuals as far as possible to enhance their sense of place.	✓	Opportunities are advertised online and within the local community.
2. Tourists visiting the area should be made aware of South Africa's movement towards renewable energy. This could be implemented by constructing a visitor's centre on the property allocated to the proposed solar farm which should be open to school fieldtrips, the local community, and tourists.	✓/X	Provide evidence of any such visits and the associated awareness raised.
Heritage Resources		
Mitigation of the Impact that the New Development may have on Potential Archaeological Artifacts on the Site		
1. The contractors and workers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction activities.	✓	Heritage site remains fenced off and was fenced off before construction took place near the area.
2. Should any heritage artefacts be exposed during excavation, work on the area where the artefacts were discovered, shall cease immediately and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) shall be notified as soon as possible.	✓	No new features have been uncovered during the construction phase.
3. All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the ECO will advise the necessary actions to be taken;	✓	No new features have been uncovered during the construction phase.
4. Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site; and	✓	No new features have been uncovered during the construction phase.
5. Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the NHRA, Section 51(1). A person or entity, e.g. the ECO, should be tasked to take responsibility for the heritage sites and held accountable for any damage.	NA	Construction phase is completed and the facility is now operational.

APPENDIX D: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Datura stramonium L.

common thorn apple
gewone stinkblaar

Family Solanaceae



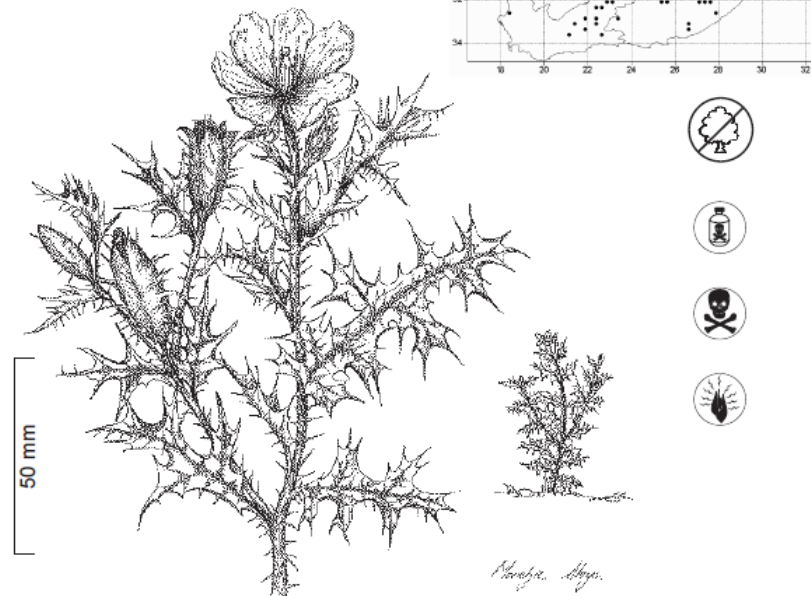
Description: Erect, subherbaceous annual up to 1.5 m high; stems sparsely hairy to glabrous, green, brown or purple. **Leaves:** Dark green or purple, paler below, ovate, up to 200 mm long, on long petioles, sparsely hairy, veins prominent, margins coarsely and irregularly toothed or lobed, bad-smelling. **Flowers:** White, mauve or purplish, narrowly funnel-shaped up to 100 mm long, October–March (–all year). **Fruits:** Brown, hardened capsules, ± erect, ovoid, up to 50 mm long x 30 mm wide, covered with slender spines up to 10 mm long. **Invades:** Wasteland, cultivated lands, roadsides, riverbanks, riverbeds. **Origin:** Tropical America. **Invasive status:** Ruderal, agrestal and special effect weed (competitive in watercourses, poisonous, irritant). **Declared weed. Herbicide registration. Poisonous:** Whole plant, seeds. **Irritant:** Skin (leaves, flowers, fruit).

Argemone mexicana L. & *A. ochroleuca* Sweet subsp. *ochroleuca* (= *A. subfusiformis* G.B. Ownbey)

yellow- & white-flowered Mexican poppies
geelblom & witblom bloudissels

Family Papaveraceae

Photo 11

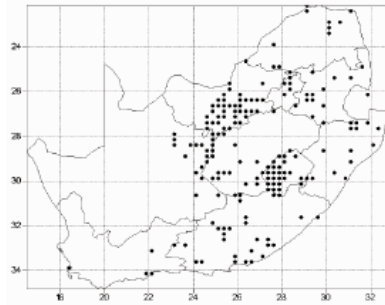
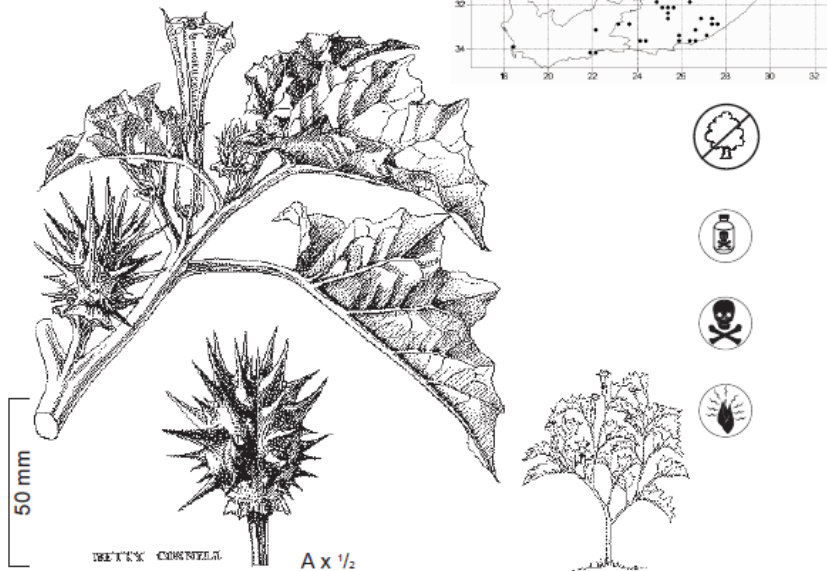


Description: Annual, very spiny herbs up to 0.9 m high; stems exude a yellow sap when cut. **Leaves:** Grey or bluish-green, with prominent white veins, spiny; up to 150 mm x 60 mm. **Flowers:** Bright yellow (*A. mexicana*) and pale yellow or creamy white (*A. ochroleuca*), September–January (–all year). **Fruits:** Spiny capsules, ovoid (*A. mexicana*) to oblong (*A. ochroleuca*), green turning brown, up to 50 mm long, splitting into five lobes and releasing numerous small black seeds. **Invade:** Roadsides, wasteland, abandoned lands, cultivated lands, riverbanks, riverbeds; *A. mexicana* is confined to coastal KwaZulu-Natal and lowveld of Mpumalanga and N Province. **Origin:** C America (Mexico). **Invasive status:** Ruderals & agrestals; special effect weeds (competitive in watercourses, poisonous, irritant). **Declared weeds. Herbicide registration. Poisonous. Irritant:** Skin (sap, spines).

***Datura ferox* L.**

large thorn apple
grootstinkblaar

Family Solanaceae



Description: Erect, subherbaceous annual up to 1.5 m high; stems sparsely hairy to glabrous, pale green. **Leaves:** Dark green above, paler below, ovate, up to 200 mm long, on long petioles; sparsely hairy, margins coarsely and irregularly toothed or lobed, veins prominent, bad-smelling. **Flowers:** White, solitary, narrowly funnel-shaped, up to 65 mm long, October–March. **Fruits:** Brown, hardened capsules (A), ± erect, ovoid, up to 70 mm long x 60 mm wide, covered with stout, spreading spines up to 30 mm long. **Invades:** Wasteland, cultivated lands, roadsides, riverbanks, riverbeds. **Origin:** Probably tropical America. **Invasive status:** Ruderal, agrestal and special effect weed (competitive in watercourses, poisonous, irritant). **Declared weed.** **Herbicide registration.** **Poisonous:** Whole plant, seeds. **Irritant:** Skin (leaves, flowers, fruits).