

14 January 2026

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 20 MEGAWATTS (MW) OF THE SHANKARA SOLAR PLANT & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED IN SHANKARA VILLAGE, NDONGA LINENA CONSTITUENCY, KAVANGO EAST**REGION, NAMIBIA****Date:** 10 January 2026**Time:** 12:20 – 14:00**Venue:** Under the tree

An engagement meeting was scheduled and held with stakeholders and all interested and affected parties regarding the proposed construction and operation of the solar plant and associated infrastructure. The meeting was attended by various stakeholders, including representatives from the local community member, headmen, representative from the proponent and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Practitioner from Savannah Environmental Consulting Services CC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the proposed prospecting activities, facilitate open dialogue, and ensure that all concerns and inputs were documented for consideration in the Environmental Assessment process.

The meeting was opened with welcoming remarks, by the headman after which M s. Mandume Leonard, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) from Savannah Environmental Consulting Services CC, thanked all attendees for making time to participate. He introduced himself, the consulting team, and the project proponent before presenting the meeting agenda, which followed the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, and its 2012 EIA Regulations (Sections 21–24) on public consultation. Copies of the Background Information Document (BID) were distributed to all participants for reference throughout the meeting proceedings, followed by the circulation of the attendance register.

Mr. Leonard explained the purpose of the meeting and provided a brief overview of the proposed project activities as outlined in the BID. He emphasised that the ongoing Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) study and subsequent Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) application are specifically for proposed construction and operation of the solar plant and associated infrastructure located in Osipita. To promote transparency and ensure stakeholder understanding, Mr. Leonard presented the potential positive and negative environmental impacts anticipated from the proposed activities.

Attendees were then given the opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input regarding the proposed project. All comments, questions, and suggestions raised during the meeting were documented and will be incorporated into the meeting minutes, to inform the preparation of the ESA Report and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP). A summary of the key issues and responses is presented in Table 1.

Feedback and Issues raised by the Stakeholders (I&APs)

A summary of main issues and concerns raised during consultation meeting are provided in **Table 1** below.

Here's your content organized neatly in a **table format** 📄

Question / Comment	Answer / Response
1. Could the operation of the solar plant potentially lead to an increase in local temperatures?	Mr. Mandume Leonard : Solar plants harness sunlight and convert it into electricity. They do not emit heat or radiation; instead, they absorb existing solar radiation to generate power. Therefore, the solar plant will not cause a rise in local temperatures, as it does not add extra heat to the environment.
2. I strongly support this solar project, as I believe it will greatly benefit our community.	Mr. ML : Okay, thank you Sir.
3. Will the project only benefit the area or will the people also benefit?	Mr. ML The project's benefits will extend beyond the local area, as the electricity generated will be supplied to NamPower for regional distribution. Additionally, the project will create jobs and stimulate local economic activity, ensuring direct benefits to community members.
4. Will the project include the installation of boreholes?	Mr. ML: The installation of boreholes can be negotiated once approval is secured from the traditional authority. Although boreholes are not essential for the project, they may be considered as a community benefit under the proponent's social responsibility commitments if the need is expressed by the community.
5. Will the construction process involve clearing all vegetation?	Mr. ML: Vegetation removal will be limited strictly to designated construction areas and will require approval from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR). Areas outside the project site will remain untouched to preserve the natural environment and minimize community impacts.

There were no further questions or comments/concerns.



Mr. Leonard thanked everyone for making time to attend the meeting and raising concerns and comment regarding the proposed project. He informed the attendees that the scoping report as well as the environmental management plan will be shared with stakeholders for their review before submission to the competent authority. The meeting was closed and was adjourned at 14h00.