

1. Introduction to Khauta South Solar PV Project

The Khauta South Solar PV Project, forms part of a 350MW Solar PV Facility Cluster situated near the town of Welkom in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality in the Free State Province.

As part of an extensive Financial close process, the project has undergone a comprehensive Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD), Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), and Human Rights Screening (HuRA) process in line with Equator Principles requirements. As an outcome to this process NOA has undertaken to publicly disclose summaries of the findings of these processes.

2. Environmental & Social Due Diligence (ESDD)

The Khauta South Solar PV Project is classified as Category B—meaning any environmental and social impacts are site-specific and manageable. A comprehensive Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) has been developed for the Project.

The ESDD and its associated ESAP noted the following:

All required bird surveys have been completed, and overhead lines will be fitted with flight diverters and other proven measures to ensure minimal collision risk. No critical habitats were identified, though some natural vegetation will be affected. Additionally a reptile assessment identified a sensitive species outside of the development area but likely within the Area of Influence. An avifaunal and reptile chance find process was developed to guarantee no net loss of individuals, which forms part of the Biodiversity Management Plan which is in place.

For worker safety, the Contractor's health-and-safety plan covers risks such as heat stress, working at height, and site traffic, with clear performance indicators and regular monitoring.

A formal Stakeholder Engagement Plan ensures ongoing communication with nearby communities. Specific engagements will be conducted with informal land users, and landowners, under the transmission corridor to address any livelihood concerns, and a grievance mechanism is already established.

3. Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

The CCRA evaluated projected changes in temperature, precipitation, extreme weather events, and wildfire risk through 2059 using downscaled climate scenarios. Key residual risks include:

- Increased heat stress on equipment

- (Mitigated by appropriate module and inverter specifications and worker protocols)
- Likelihood of more intense storms and hail
 - (Managed via raised substation equipment and hail-rated modules)
- Likely higher wildfire probability
 - (Addressed through site firebreaks and emergency response planning).
- Dust generation under drier conditions
 - (Managed through scheduled cleaning plans.)

Overall, adaptation measures—such as real-time weather monitoring, flood-line studies, and enhanced panel cleaning schedules—ensure resilience, while anticipated operational emissions remain a small fraction of avoided carbon dioxide benefits over the Project’s lifetime .

4. Human Rights Screening (HuRA)

The HuRA followed IFC Performance Standards and UN Guiding Principles to identify potential human-rights concerns. The principal risks include socio-economic pressures from an influx of job seekers (mitigated by a local employment database and ongoing stakeholder liaison), supply-chain labour rights (addressed by updating the Supplier Risk Checklist to include non-discrimination, forced-labour prevention, and periodic supplier audits), and security-related issues (managed through vetted security providers, training on human-rights standards, and community feedback mechanisms). The Project’s grievance mechanism and regular public meetings ensure that information flows freely and concerns are resolved promptly, safeguarding rights to information, fair working conditions, and community safety .

All action items from these assessments will be completed as part of NOAs ongoing Environmental and social Implementation, ongoing monitoring will continue throughout the project’s lifespan.

The full ESDD, CCRA, and HuRA reports are available upon request by contacting NOA’s Environmental & Social team via info@khauta.africa.