

Social Impact Assessment Categories

The purpose of this chapter is to describe predicted social impacts that the erection of the proposed power line will set off. It is important to bear in mind that social impacts can be positive or negative. This is a complex issue, as what is regarded as positive or negative in terms of community values may change over time. Whether an impact is short term or long term, is also a complex issue, as time scales are to a considerable extent culturally and socially defined. The predicted impacts have been divided into four categories:

- Social impacts originating prior to the erection of the power line. Many of these processes pertain to the concerns and objections raised by key stakeholders regarding the proposed development.
- Social impacts expected to set in during the construction phase.
- Predicted social impacts during the operational phase.
- Social impacts expected during the decommissioning phase, if that should occur.

Under the following categories (7.1 to 7.7), baseline information on the current state of affairs will be provided. Impacts will be identified in each category and mitigation measures suggested. Social impacts do not occur in a vacuum. Many social impacts are dependent on one another or on physical or environmental impacts. Mitigation of social impacts can therefore not be made in a vacuum. Where the social impact is a direct consequence of the development and the developer can mitigate it, it would be recommended in that way. Sometimes the social impact result because of a cumulative effect and can only be mitigated by formal societal structures like the government. This would be indicated as such.

It is recommended that a Community Management and Monitoring Committee (CMMC) be established. This committee would serve as a communication channel between the community and ESKOM. Members of the committee should include representatives from environmental groups, civil society, ward councillors, government departments, construction teams and ESKOM. Such a committee will play an important role in executing the proposed mitigation measures. It is anticipated that most social impacts pertaining to the power line will be experienced in the pre-construction and construction phases, with minimal impacts in the operational and decommissioning phases.

7.1. Health and Social Well-being

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Health and social well being	Death				
	Nutrition				
	Actual health and fertility		√		
	Perceived health				
	Mental health				
	Aspirations for future		√		
	Autonomy				
	Stigmatization				
	Feelings in relation to the project	√			

Health aspects are included from a social perspective and will be expressed in non-medical terminology. The following social impacts are foreseen:

- Actual health and fertility

The perception exist that power lines affect fertility in humans and animals. This will be scientifically examined in the environmental report, but whether scientific proof exists or not, the mere fact that it was mentioned by interested and affected parties qualifies it as a possible impact.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Actual health and fertility	No	Negative	1	5	6	2	24 Low
	Yes	Negative	1	1	2	1	4 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	Scientific studies regarding this possible impact should be studied and the results must be communicated to I&APs.						

- Aspirations for the future

There are a few places in the study area with great tourism potential. Plans has been made to market the area, relying heavily on the sense of place- the isolate and relatively wild and unspoilt nature of these attractions will be spoilt by infrastructure like a power line.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Aspirations for the future	No	Negative	2	5	6	2	26 Low
	Yes	Negative	2	5	4	1	11 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	A Visual Impact Study has been conducted, and its recommendations must be implemented to minimise the impact on the sense of place.						

- Feelings in relation to the project

Feelings in relation to the project might result in the formation of interest groups. Projects often generate uncertainty or fear and sometimes the impacts perceived in

anticipation of the planned intervention can be greater than the impacts ultimately resulting from the intervention. These impacts include uncertainty, annoyance (a feeling/experience such as that due to disruption of life, but which is not necessarily directed at the intervention itself), dissatisfaction due to a failure of the project due to deliver promised benefits, and an experience of moral outrage (such as when a project leads to violation of deeply held moral or religious beliefs). A number of stakeholders voiced their concerns regarding the proposed project. These concerns varied, and will be discussed under relevant sections of the report. A number of concerns have been voiced about the fact that strangers will have to gain access to the farms, the impact on safety from this perspective and the impact of carelessness like an open gate on farming itself. Farmers also expressed dissatisfaction about the impact of a power line crossing their properties and not having access to electricity themselves. This was echoed by community members who have inadequate or weak electricity supply. All community members are not negative about the proposed project. Only the negative impact will be discussed.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Feelings in relation to the project.	No	Negative	1	3	8	4	48 Medium
1.Public dissatisfaction regarding proposed siting of the power line	Yes	Negative	1	2	4	2	14 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	Public should be made aware of their rights and the channels they can utilise to object to the process.						

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Feelings in relation to the project.	No	Negative	1	3	10	4	56 Medium
2. Farms and community do not have access to electricity, but transmission lines cross				4			

	Yes	Negative	1	2	6	3	27 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	ESKOM to inform community about alternatives e.g. self-build schemes. CMMC to approach local municipality to engage in discussions with ESKOM Distribution about possible solutions.						

7.2 Quality of the living environment

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Quality of the living environment	Physical quality		√	√	
	Leisure and recreation opportunities				
	Aesthetic quality		√	√	
	Availability of housing				
	Quality of housing				
	Adequacy of physical infrastructure		√	√	
	Adequacy and access to social infrastructure				
	Personal safety & hazard exposure		√	√	
	Crime & violence		√	√	

The impacts in this section refer to how fit the neighbourhood is to inhabit from a social point of view. Some of the impacts relate directly to the biophysical environment. This concept has both a perceived and actual dimension.

- Quality of the physical environment

Social impacts experienced in the physical environment relates to exposure to dust, noise, risk, odour, vibration, artificial light etc. During the construction phase, there will be a decrease in the quality of the physical environment. Noise levels and traffic will increase as result of the construction activities. Concerns were expressed about the way in which contractors conduct themselves when on site. This relate directly to the physical environment. In an arid area such as the Northern Cape, environmental scars take a long time to heal. If a contractor drive off-road, he might destroy a shrub that takes twenty years to mature and the evidence of his tracks can take years to disappear. Mention was made of red dunes in the area which are particularly sensitive.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Quality of the physical environment	No	Negative	1	1	6	5	40 Medium
1. Noise levels as result of construction. 2. Increase in traffic – noise and volume	Yes	Negative	1	1	2	2	8 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a CMMC to address traffic and construction concerns with Eskom. • Construction traffic off peak times (also related to harvest times and times of transporting livestock) 						

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Quality of the physical environment 3. Contractors driving off-road in ecologically sensitive areas	No	Negative	1	4	8	4	52 Medium
				6			

	Yes	Negative	1	1	2	2	8 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	An Environmental Control Officer must be appointed to ensure contractors conduct themselves in an appropriate way. A fining system, under the custody of the CMMC, must be put in place where those who do not interact with the environment in a respectful way must pay a fine to enable rehabilitation of the afflicted environment.						

- Aesthetic quality

Community members are concerned about the aesthetic impact of the development on the area. A Visual Impact Assessment has been conducted and will make recommendations in this regard.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Aesthetic quality	No	Negative	2	5	8	4	60 High
	Yes	Negative	2	5	2	2	18 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<p>This concern has been addressed in the new design of structures and by the Visual Impact Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour schemes must complement the local environment. • Minimising disturbance to fields and provision of ongoing protection. • Revegetation/rehabilitation of disturbed sites 						

- Adequacy of physical infrastructure

There is a concern amongst community members that the road infrastructure is not adequate if any other route than the one that follows the existing road would be chosen. The Sishen – Saldanha railway line and Telkom lines already traverse the area. Given servitudes and legal requirements regarding the distances these structures must be from each others, a number of farmers are of the opinion that there would be so much infrastructure running across their farms that the physical

farming area would be compromised. The importance of keeping gates closed, especially in livestock farming areas must be reiterated.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Adequacy of physical infrastructure	No	Negative	2	2	8	4	48 Medium
New access and service roads will have to be constructed over agricultural land, if the route adjacent to the existing road is not chosen.	Yes	Negative	2	2	4	2	19 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<p>The community has already expressed concerns about this matter and social interest groups can form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMMC to become involved in liaisons with Eskom about the planning and timeframes of proposed infrastructure. • Route adjacent to existing road to be given favourable consideration. 						

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Adequacy of physical infrastructure	No	Negative	2	2	8	4	48 Medium
Cumulative impact of new line in conjunction with existing infrastructure				8			

	Yes	Negative	2	2	4	2	19 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant role players like Eskom, Telkom and Spornet must meet and consult each other about future planning in the area, and the possibility of sharing existing infrastructure. Existing infrastructure must be utilised as far as reasonably possible. 						

- Personal safety and risk exposure

A number of concerns have been voiced about personal safety and risk exposure. Amongst these are the concern that undesirable people will be attracted to the area, strangers on farms servicing the power lines and fires as a result of possible theft of conductors of transmission lines. The communities are close-knit and because it is such a small community one of the factors making it safe was the fact that everybody knows each other.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Personal safety and risk exposure	No	Negative	1	5	8	3	42 Medium
	Yes	Negative	1	5	4	2	20 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<p>The community has expressed concerns about this matter and social interest groups can form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMMC must work with Eskom to negotiate access to farms for service purposes. Technical investigations about actual risk of fires – results should be made available to farmers. 						

- Crime and violence

Kenhardt has a significantly lower crime rate than Groblershoop (<http://www.saps.gov.za>). In 2004/2005 the most reported crime in Kenhardt and Groblershoop was assault. The rural nature of the area accounts for the stock theft incidences. In both areas there was a slight decrease in crime in 2004/005. Although

the area is seen as a generally safe place, farm murders are a reality in the South African society. Farmers do not feel safe on their own farms, and any strangers are met with suspicion. The idea of construction teams working on their farms and technical teams fixing the power lines is not welcomed by many farmers.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Crime and violence	No	Negative	2	2	8	3	36 Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	1	4	2	14 Low
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESKOM must liaise with the farmer's unions and a protocol for gaining access to farms should be established and distributed to all parties involved. • Construction teams should be clearly identified by wearing uniforms of identification cards that should be exhibited in a visible place on their body. 						

7.3 Economic impacts and material well-being

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Economic impacts and material well- being	Workload				
	Standard of living				
	Economic prosperity and resilience				
	Income		√		
	Property values		√	√	

Employment		√		
Replacement cost of environmental functions		√	√	
Economic dependency				

These impacts relate to the wealth and prosperity of individuals and the community as a whole.

- Income

This impact will be addressed with the discussion on employment.

- Property values

The development might have an impact on property values and resale potential. Servitudes must be acquired by ESKOM. Farmers will receive compensation for their land.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Property values	No	Negative	2	5	8	4	60 High
	Yes	Negative	2	5	6	4	52 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	ESKOM's Land Acquisitions Unit must be in contact with the affected parties throughout the process.						

- Employment

There are high levels of unemployment amongst residents of the area. The demand for especially unskilled labour outnumbers the opportunities by far. In the construction phase a maximum of 40 jobs for unskilled labourers will be available. It is preferable that these jobs must be sourced from local communities, as they might oppose the presence of people from outside, whilst there are skilled individuals inside the community that could fill these positions. An added benefit would be that

using local labour would obviate the need for temporary housing for construction workers. Apart from direct opportunities that will be created, a number of indirect jobs will also be created in the construction phase. In the operational phase, no jobs will be created.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Creation of employment during construction	No	Negative	2	1	8	4	44 Medium
	Yes	Positive	2	1	8	4	44 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	Source labour and resources from local communities.						

- Replacement cost of environmental functions

This refers to the cost of replacing a function that was previously provided by the environment. When the line is erected, farmers will still be able to utilise the area underneath the line and within the servitudes. Other environmental functions relate to visual impacts like the unspoilt vistas and scenic value of the Orange River. These vistas are especially important to potential tourism enterprises.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Loss of agricultural land and attraction of tourists	No	Negative	2	5	6	4	52 Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	5	4	4	44 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult farmers in exact placing of structures • Allow farming activities to continue in servitudes 						

7.4 Cultural Impacts

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Cultural impacts	Change in cultural values				
	Violation of culture				
	Experience of being culturally marginalized				
	Commercial exploitation of culture				
	Loss of local language				
	Loss of natural and cultural heritage			√	√

Cultural impacts include impacts such as the loss of language, loss of cultural heritage or change in the integrity of a culture. South Africa is a multi-cultural society and urbanization has resulted in many of the diverse cultures sacrificing their cultural integrity.

- Loss of natural and cultural heritage

The proposed power lines will add to the process of changing the sense of place. A Heritage Impact Assessment was done to identify areas of heritage importance, of which there are a number in the area. It is anticipated that some natural areas will be impacted on by the lines, and it will be investigated in the Environmental Assessment process.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
The area is losing its traditional sense of place as rural area with broad vistas.	No	Negative	2	5	4	4	44 Medium
				13			

	Yes	Negative	2	5	4	3	33 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	ESKOM and the CMMC must discuss the issue and develop a management plan in order to preserve these resources.						

7.5 Family and community impacts

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Family and community impacts	Alterations in family structure				
	Obligations to family/ancestors				
	Family violence				
	Social networks		√		
	Community connection		√	√	
	Community cohesion				
	Social differentiation and inequity				
	Social tension and violence				

These impacts relate to the family, social networks and the community in general.

- Social networks

This impact relates to the social interaction of household members with other people in the community. A huge portion of the community is very poor and there is a high unemployment rate. An influx of people with disposable income might lead to an increase in prostitution, which can impact on the HIV and unwanted pregnancy rate in the area. There can be a number of spin-offs like alcohol abuse and disintegration of families.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Increase in prostitution, unwanted pregnancies and HIV as a result of influx of people with disposable income.	No	Negative	2	5	6	4	52 Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	5	2	3	27 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMMC must work with municipalities to create awareness on the issues at hand. 						

- Community connection

It is perceived that there is a lot of social capital in the community. Social capital can be defined as a public good comprised of trust among a diverse group of citizens within the same community that facilitates cooperative networks among those citizens (Young Larance, 1996:13). Social capital comprises the abilities, traditions and attitudes that help ensure that a group of people will support each other, respond to challenges in a constructive manner, and innovate. Social capital is traditionally found amongst the farming communities, because these communities are often isolated and members of the communities need to rely on each other in times of need. In poorer communities, survival depends on interdependence. Individuals in lower income groups often do not have the resources to operate as an individual – they need to look out for each other by sharing food, responsibilities and other social assets.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
The community is well connected and working together on a project like this enhances the connected-ness.	No	Positive	2	4	4	3	30 Low
	Yes	Positive	2	4	4	4	40 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	The CMMC might play a role in making members aware of the importance of communities standing together by its mere existence.						

7.6 Institutional, legal, political and equity impacts

Theme	Impact Variable	Phase at which impact is relevant			
		Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Institutional, legal, political and equity impacts	Functioning of government agencies				
	Integrity of government agencies				
	Legal rights				
	Human rights				
	Participation in decision making				
	Access to legal advice				
	Impact equity			√	√

These impacts refer to the capacity of the authorities and other institutions to cope with the workload generated by the proposed interventions.

- Impact equity

Impact equity is related to the fairness of the distribution of impacts across the community. It must be ensured that the people who will benefit from the development must also share in carrying the costs. Of great concern is the fact that the transmission line will cross over a number of farms that do not have access to electricity, and bypass a community that struggles to obtain adequate electrical supplies, but not provide a solution to these local problems. The project will lead to gain on a national level, but the local people who will be impacted on will not benefit from the project.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Those who receive the benefit do not	No	Negative	2	4	4	2	20 Low
carry the costs	Yes	Positive	2	4	6	4	48 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	Benefits must be ploughed back into the community. The CMMC can assist in identifying worthy recipients and ensuring impact equity. ESKOM Transmission must convey the message to ESKOM distribution and aid in empowering the community on all levels, starting with providing information on the correct procedures to follow to obtain the required results.						

7.7 Gender relations

Theme	Impact Variable	Prior to Construction	Construction	Operation	Decommission
Gender relations	Woman's physical integrity				
	Personal autonomy of woman				
	Gendered division of labour		√		
	Access to resources & facilities				
	Political emancipation of woman				

Gender gaps are widespread in access to and control over resources, in economic opportunities, in power and in political voice. Women tend to bear the largest and most direct social impacts, and therefore it is a core social impact issue (Vanclay, 2003:88).

- Gendered division of labour.

The construction industry does not lend itself to employment of women. In the construction phase, women will have less opportunity to become employed.

Issue/ Impact	Corrective measures	Impact					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Women to be excluded from economic opportunities created	No	Negative	2	4	6	3	36 Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	4	4	3	30 Medium
Corrective / Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women must have equal employment opportunities. • Salaries of women must be equal to that of a man doing the same job 						