



**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC**

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AT EPL 5283 BY SKORPION ZINC MINE**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Skorpion Zinc (Pty) Ltd (SZ) intends to conduct mineral explorations at EPL 5283. The proposed mineral exploration will be similar to the one conducted on neighbouring EPL 2229 where the mine currently mine Zinc Ore. The natural / physical environment at EPL 5283 are almost similar to that of EPL 2229 and they are adjacent to one another. As per the requirement of the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 07 of 2007) and its regulations, exploration of minerals should not be carried out without a clearance from the Environmental Commission of Namibia.

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

The proposed developments constitute a number of listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act

- Exploration activities, Mining activities and abstraction of mineral resources;
- Waste Management, treatment, handling & disposal activities;
- Hazardous substances treatment, handling & storage.

Therefore, the proposed exploration activities require Environmental Clearance in terms of the EIA Regulations prior to the commencement of such activities. The proponent commissioned G and K Environmental Consultants, as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP), to undertake the EIA Scoping Exercise for this activity.

## **3. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document, the Background Information Document (BID), is intended to provide information about the EIA being undertaken for the proposed development and provides:

- ✓ An overview of the project;
- ✓ An overview of the legislative context and a description of the manner in which the EIA will be undertaken;
- ✓ An indication of how interested and affected parties (IAPs) may become involved in the project; and



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC

- ✓ Contact details of the consultant to whom IAPs may submit their issues and concerns associated with the projects.

### 4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Skorpion Zinc (Pty) Ltd (SZ) intends to conduct mineral explorations at EPL 5283. The proposed mineral exploration will be similar to the one conducted on neighbouring EPL 2229 where the mine currently mine Zinc Ore. The natural / physical environment at EPL 5283 are almost similar to that of EPL 2229 and they are adjacent to one another.

### 5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The proposed activity will be carried out in an open area within the Sperrgebiet National Park. It is an open veld and currently has no developments on it. There are a number of wildlife on the area and some small plants / shrubs on some parts of the area. The area naturally drains into the wetlands near the boundary that cover most parts of the western and northern parts of the site.

The Environmental Impacts Assessment will:

- Provide a comprehensive description of all components of the project and the work to be undertaken during the project.
- Give an overall assessment of the existing physical and biological environment of the proposed development area.

- Present a socio-economic and cultural evaluation of the proposed development area and its surroundings.
- Identify and assess the potential impact of the project on the surrounding area, particularly as it relates to the cumulative impacts of this project on any existing developments.
- Describe the mitigation measures to be employed during the proposed works.
- Develop Environmental Management Plan.

Some of the envisaged environmental impacts associated with exploration activities are:

- ✓ Aesthetic issues (change of landscape)
- ✓ Clearing of local vegetation
- ✓ Top soil disturbance
- ✓ Habitat disturbance
- ✓ Employment creation
- ✓ Introduction of roadwork's
- ✓ Noise (construction phase)
- ✓ Dust (construction phase)
- ✓ Traffic
- ✓ Effluent and waste generation
- ✓ Waste generation (hazardous)



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC

### 6. THE EIA PROCESS

The proposed activities constitutes a number of listed activities under the EIA Regulations, as promulgated under Section 27(1) and (2)) of the EMA. The EIA Regulations describes the process for the submission of applications for authorization subject to the Scoping and Assessment phases. Following this, the tasks as documented in Regulations of the EIA.

Regulations must be completed as part of the Scoping and Assessment phases of the study. Figure 2 provides a flow diagram which summarizes the EIA process to be undertaken.

- ✓ By attending any feedback meetings, which may be held during the review period. Should you be registered as an I&AP you will be invited to attend these meetings.

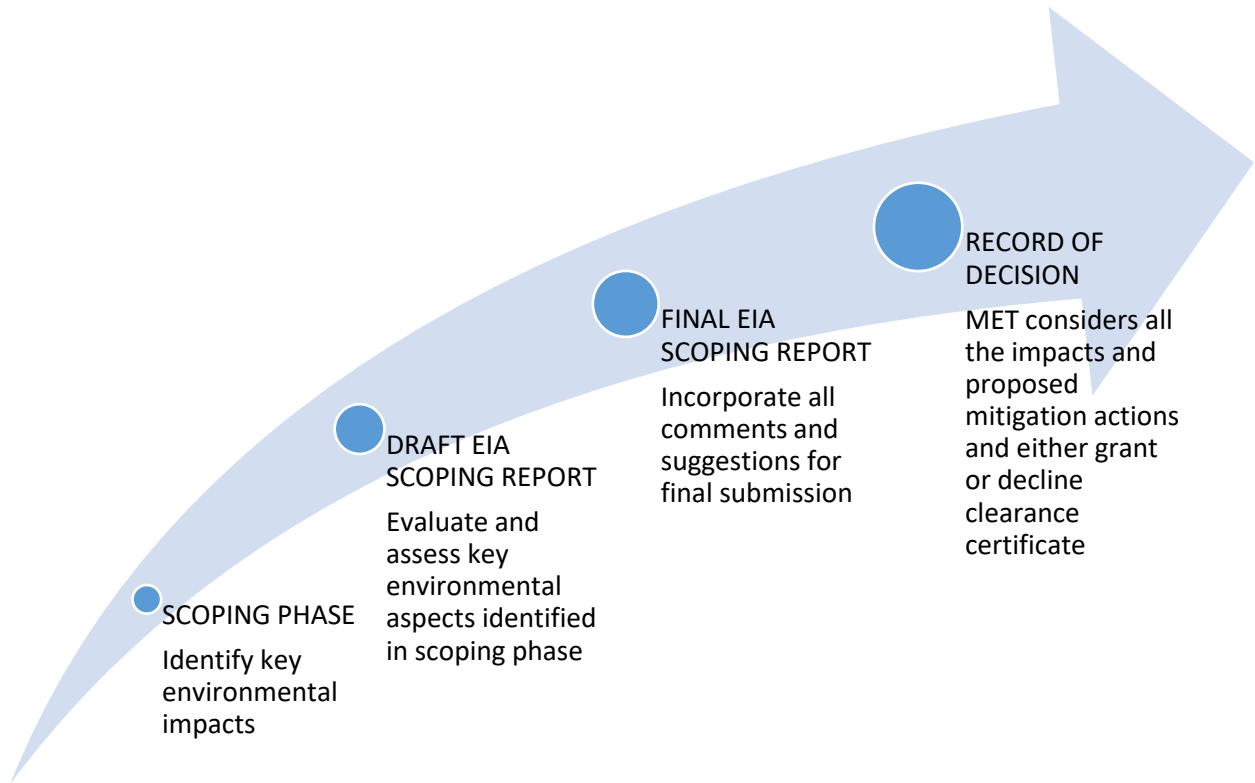
### 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ By registering your interest in the proposed activity with the consultant indicated below.
- ✓ By responding to our invitation for your involvement as advertised in the local newspapers (New Era Newspaper of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 and Republikein of the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 Newspapers).
- ✓ By mailing or faxing your comment form to the consultant indicated below.
- ✓ By telephonically contacting the consultant if you have a query, comment and / or require more information.
- ✓ By reviewing released public information within the prescribed period.

# G & K

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC

Figure 2: The EIA process as per EMA





**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC**

**Environmental Impact Assessment for Exploration Activity at EPL 5283 by Skorpion Zinc Mine.**

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSE FORM**

Please complete and return by Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016:

F. Kapembe at P.O. Box 26328, Windhoek

Tel: +264 (0) 61 22 2408 Fax: +264 88 563 070 Email: [info@gandkenviro.com](mailto:info@gandkenviro.com)

<b>TITLE</b>		<b>FIRST NAME</b>	
<b>INITIALS</b>		<b>SURNAME</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>ADDRESS</b>			
		<b>POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TEL NO.</b>		<b>FAX NO.</b>	
<b>E-MAIL</b>		<b>CELL NO.</b>	
<b>PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE</b> I would like to continue to receive project information (please circle the appropriate block)			
By mail (Hardcopy)	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
By mail (CD, in PDF)	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
By email (in PDF, Zipped)	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b>PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT</b>			
<b>PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS HERE</b>			

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPON**