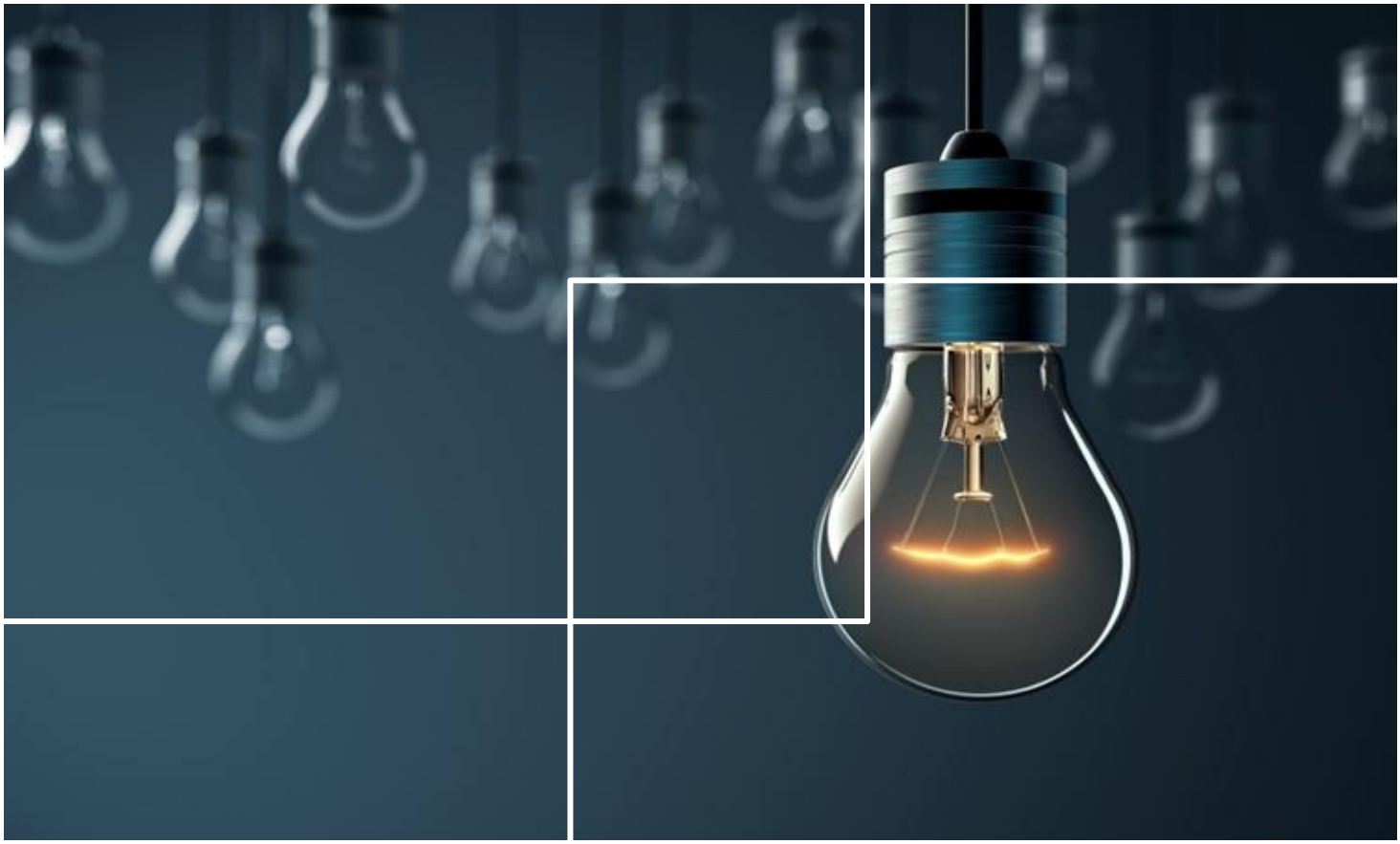

OSINO RESOURCES

NamPower

Submitted to: Osino Gold Exploration and Mining (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Mr Charles Creasy
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REPORT:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED 66 KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE FOR THE TWIN HILLS GOLD PROJECT, ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA.

PROJECT NUMBER: ECC-103-443-BID-03-D

REPORT VERSION: REV 01

DATE: 05 APRIL 2023

Prepared by:

ECC ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name:	Background information document for the proposed 66 kV overhead powerline for the Twin Hills Gold Project, Erongo Region, Namibia.
Client Company Name:	Osino Gold Exploration and Mining (Pty) Ltd
Client Name:	Mr Charles Creasy
Ministry Reference:	APP-TBC
Authors:	Diaan Hoffman and Stephan Bezuidenhout
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ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
BID	Background Information Document
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
EAP	Environmental assessment practitioner
ECB	Electricity Control Board
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
ECC	Environmental clearance certificate
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
HFO	Heavy fuel oil
km	Kilometer
kV	Kilovolts
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
ML	Mining License
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
RoD	Record of Decision

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been contracted by Osino Gold Exploration and Mining (Pty) Ltd (Osino), the Proponent, to conduct an environmental assessment and develop an environmental management plan (EMP) on behalf of Namibia Power Cooperation (NamPower) (Pty) Ltd, for the proposed construction of a 66 kV overhead powerline connecting the Erongo substation with the Twin Hills Gold Project near Karibib, Erongo Region, Namibia. Consistent with the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its associated 2012 regulations, an environmental clearance certificate application will be submitted to the competent authority being the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) to make a Record of Decision (RoD) with regards to the proposed Project.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed Project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the assessment process.

All those who register as an I&AP will be kept informed throughout the process. Registration provides a platform for participants to submit comments, concerns, or recommendations regarding the proposed project. This BID includes the following information:

- The proposed project and location
- The necessity of the Project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated
- The alternatives within the Project that will be considered and assessed
- How the assessment process works
- The public participation process and how to become involved
- Next steps and the way forward

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proponent intends to construct a 66 kV overhead powerline connecting the Erongo substation with the Twin Hills Gold Project.

The proposed Project is located near Karibib in the Erongo region. The proposed 66 kV overhead powerline will be constructed from the Erongo substation to the Twin Hills Gold Project. There are two proposed route options as seen in Figure 1. Option 1 shows the preferred route which is about 20.3 km in length, whereas option 2 shows the alternative route which is about 24.6 km in length. There is also a preferred Twin Hills substation and metering station within the mining licence 238 (ML) and an alternative metering station.

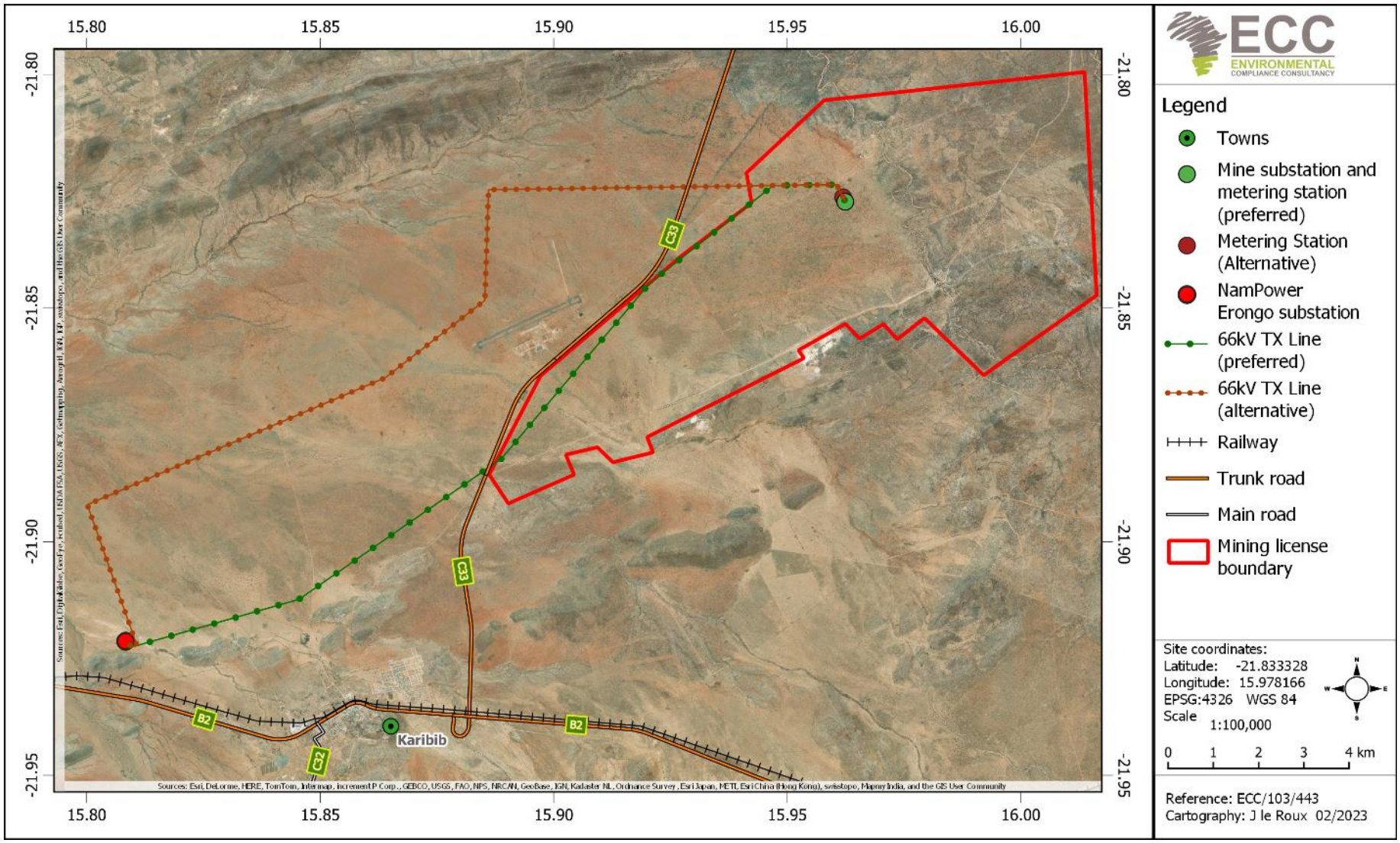

Figure 1 – Proposed 66 kV overhead powerline location

1.3 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The Twin Hills Gold Project received an Environmental clearance certificate to proceed with the Project on ML 238. As a result, the Project will require electricity to operate. The proposed 66 kV overhead powerline will form the initial power supply for the Project and the Proponent is also looking into the possibility of adding renewable energy in the near future.

1.4 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL PHASES

The following are envisioned during the proposed Project:

- Development of the 66 kV overhead powerline from the NamPower Erongo substation to the Twin Hills substation and metering station;
- The overhead powerline and the Twin Hills metering station will be constructed on behalf of NamPower according to their standards and will be handed over to them once completed;
- The Twin Hills substation will be constructed, owned and operated by the Proponent (Osino); and
- NamPower is in the process to develop and planning to construct an Erongo Substation (location as seen in Figure 1) and the Proponent will be responsible to link the overhead powerline to this substation.

1.5 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed Project. In a Project such as this one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed Project. During the assessment, alternatives will consider optimisation and using eco-friendly solutions to reduce potential impacts.

Alternative power sources could include an onsite heavy fuel oil (HFO) / diesel baseload power station/generator. However, a connection to NamPower via an overhead powerline will be more cost-effective and environmentally friendly. Renewable energy will also be considered and could be implemented to complement the NamPower grid connection in the near future.

There is an alternative route for the overhead powerline (option 2) as seen in Figure 1, as well as an alternative location (option 2) for the metering station. The alternative powerline route is approximately 4 km longer.

2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The assessment for the proposed Project is being conducted by ECC and will be undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. The process followed for this assessment is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2.

ECC has been contracted by Osino Gold Exploration and Mining (Pty) Ltd as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EPA) to facilitate the entire assessment process. Prior to the start of the proposed Project, an environmental clearance certificate is required in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2007 and the associated EIA Regulations.

A final decision relating to the above-mentioned application will be made by Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT): Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

The related environmental process will include:

1. Screening phase (completed).
2. Scoping phase which includes baseline and specialist studies.
3. Assessment phase which includes impact prediction and evaluation of alternatives, assigning mitigation measures and developing monitoring and conceptual rehabilitation plans. This phase culminates in the drafting of the assessment report and draft environmental management plan (EMP) and submission to the appropriate competent authorities

The main objectives of the assessment are to:

a) Provide information describing the proposed construction and operational activities;
b) Provide an independent environmental and social assessment of the activities associated with the proposed project; and
c) Develop management and mitigation measures associated with any identified potential impacts where necessary.

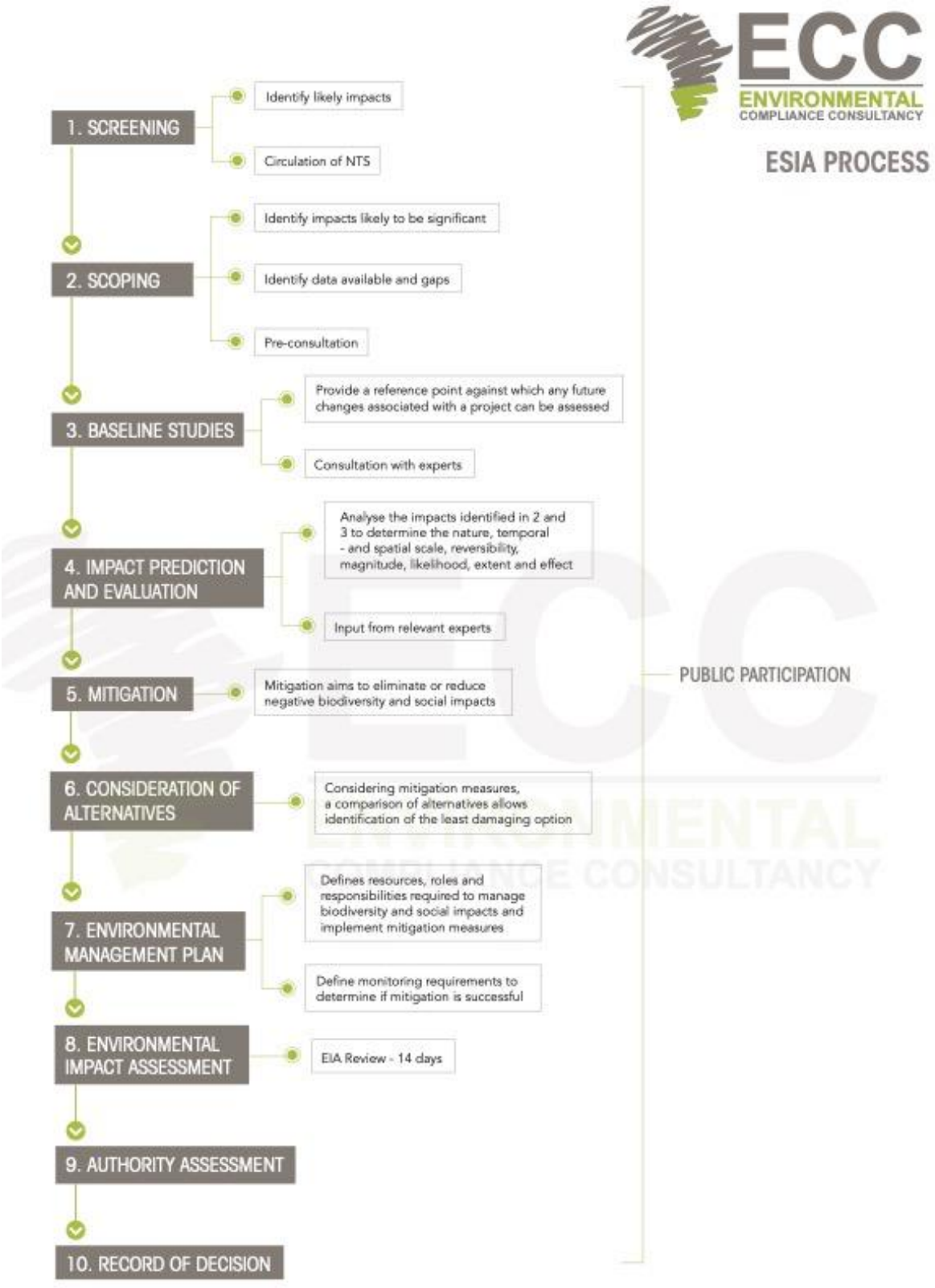

Figure 2 - Flowchart of the environmental and social assessment process

2.1 SCREENING

A review of the planned Project was undertaken and the screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1- Listed activities triggered by the proposed project

LISTED ACTIVITY	EIA SCREENING FINDING
ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES (1.b) The construction of facilities for the transmission and supply of electricity;	• A 66 kV overhead powerline (about 20.3 km in length) will be constructed from the Erongo substation to the proposed Twin Hills substation.
FORESTRY ACTIVITIES (4.) The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, a-forestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorisation in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	• Vegetation will be cleared for the construction of the substation, metering station, overhead powerline and for an access road that will run along the 20.3 km stretch of the powerline.
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (5.3) Construction of veterinary protected area or game proof and international boundary fences.	• A fence will be constructed around the proposed metering station and substation for security purposes.

2.2 SCOPING

The scoping phase is directed towards defining the range and nature of anticipated potential impacts that may have significance to the biophysical and social environments at the scale of the proposed operations. The appropriate available data and the literature are identified forming the starting point for the assessment of the required baseline and specialist studies that may be required for assessment of the Project impacts.

2.3 BASELINE STUDIES

The assessment will focus on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed Project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the Proponents to seek input into the assessment. The baseline studies chapter is broken into three sections, the baseline context, environmental (physical and biological), and social (including economic).

Desktop studies as well as all available field surveys and specialist studies from the Project area will be used to help define the baseline. These studies also give a further indication of whether any local or regional future developments could impact the Project or vice versa.

Lastly, the socio-economic section of the baseline studies helps to gain information on the governance, demographic profile, social stratification (employment, education, infectious disease), occupation and livelihood (economic activities, employment rates) and access to services.

2.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The public and key stakeholders receive invitations to register as I&APs. After the presentation of the proposed Project and assessment process through the defined public consultation process, a period of time for input will be granted for the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to receive any additional concerns or comments from registered I&AP's. All feedback from the initial public consultation process will be incorporated into the scoping report.

2.5 SCOPING REPORT

The scoping report will be drafted and made available to the registered I&APs for comment before being submitted to the competent authority and MEFT. The scoping report will contain a description of the Project and the biophysical and socio-economic environments, the specialist and baseline studies, and a stakeholder engagement section.

2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE

2.6.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The potential social and economic impacts should be considered with due regard to the nature and scale of the proposed operations and its location within the broader ecological, commercial and social environments. The potential environmental and social impacts that have been anticipated may include the following:

- Temporary jobs will be created as a result of the Project;
- Potential to unearth, damage or destroy undiscovered heritage remains;
- Occupational health and safety;
- Potential visual disturbances to nearby landowners;
- Minor disruption to the residents of neighbouring farms, including some potential increase in dust and noise levels during the construction phase;
- Disturbance of soil during the construction phase;
- Potential soil erosion within cleared areas;
- Potential groundwater and soil contamination from chemicals or hydrocarbons spilt during construction;
- Potential avifauna collision risk and eleoctructions with the overhead powerlines (will be assessed through a specialists avifauna study);
- Potential disturbance or displacement of protected or vulnerable species; and
- Waste management.

2.6.2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the proposed Project setting out auditable management actions for the Project to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community. The EMP becomes the legally binding commitment upon approval of the EMP and issuing of the environmental clearance certificate. Environmental clearance certificates are issued for a period of 3 years and renewal is subject to compliance with the provisions and conditions of the environmental clearance certificate.

3 THE WAY FORWARD – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an important part of the assessment process. It allows the public and stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment process as well as aid the planning process for the scoping phase of the defined assessment process. At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Prepare and submit the application for the environmental clearance certificate in the prescribed manner.
- Identify relevant key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs
- Carry out a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation 21 of the EMA 2007 including:
    - Distribute the BID for the proposed 66 kV overhead powerline Project (this document).
    - Advertise the environmental application and call for registration of I&APs in two national newspapers.
    - Open the Project I&AP register and record all comments of I&APs and present both comments and responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report and submitted with the application.
- Prepare a scoping report and provide it to registered I&APs for comment.
- Submit the scoping report and the I&AP comments to the competent authority and Environmental Commissioner for a record of decision.

Your request for registration as an I&AP as well as any comments on the BID or Project must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below. Registration as an I&AP for the project can be completed online on ECCs website on the projects page, or by using this link: https://eccenvironmental.com/download/the-proposed-66kv-overhead-powerline-for-the-twin-hills-gold-project-within-the-erongo-region-namibia/

Registration as an I&AP should be submitted on or before: 30 April 2023.

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:
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