



NamPower

Powering the Nation and beyond



**MONITORING REPORT
132 kV Hippo - Omatando
2019 - 2022**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 132 kV Hippo – Omatando powerline transmit power through an overhead line system from Hippo substation at Ruacana Power Station to Omatando substation outside Ongwediva Town. The 132 kV Hippo – Omatando is 175.7 km in length, have concrete monopole structures. In 2019, NamPower obtained an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the Vegetation Management, Ruacana – Omatando along the 132 kV Transmission line.

2. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THE LINES

The most common activities on the lines which is in operation are inspection, maintenance and to lesser extent bush clearing (that is normally not done every year). The inspections and maintenance are conducted to ensure that the line is in good operating condition in order to safeguard the safety of humans, animals and properties as well as to avoid power supply interruption to ensure continuity of supply.

2.1 Inspection and maintenance

The network operations team of NamPower conduct maintenance and inspections on the lines. The method used is to “drive the line from structure to structure”, where each structure and span of conductors and servitudes are inspected to establish all defects on it. The team gathers all necessary information required to plan for and execute maintenance work on each inspected line. The team carry out this work in a manner that insures safety of personnel, environmental protection safeguarding apparatus and maintaining continuity of supply. The inspection also include Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) inspections.

2.2 Bush Clearing

Vegetation growth under powerlines poses a challenge to NamPower’s efforts of ensuring continuity of power supply. Vegetation management is a serious concern as the occurrence of trees and bushes under the powerlines can have a significant effect on the operation and maintenance of the lines. During the reporting year, there was no bush clearing conducted within the servitude of this line with an exception of a few trees which were removed and

trimmed. In order to avoid biodiversity loss, NamPower only clear trees/bushes that are affecting the operation of the line and to maintain safe clearance for the line.



Figure 1: A few trees affecting the line and were trimmed.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.1 Waste Management

During the inspections conducted most part of the line servitude was found clear of litter. It is important to note that all the waste generated during inspections and maintenance are collected in NamPower Vehicle and disposed of at the nearest disposal site or dustbins in the nearest town.



Figure 2: Shows the line servitude free of litter.



Figure 3: Hippo station also clear of litter (picture taken during drone inspection and surveys)

3.2 Fauna and Flora

No animal death incident reported during the reporting period. No major bush clearing activities were conducting during the reporting period. The bush removed/trimmed are few of those that are affecting the safe operation of the line and to allow access to the line. The rest of the vegetation was left undisturbed as shown in figure 4. All lines including the 132kV Hippo – Omatando line are assessed by ecology specialist. The specialist is contracted to conduct ecology and vegetation assessments along various power line servitudes to indicate the environmental and socio-economic sensitive areas that need to be protected and provide recommendations on mitigation measures to be implemented. In addition, in 2021, NamPower through its former NNF NamPower partnership, published a booklet on the identification of protected flora and important habitats under NamPower Transmission lines. The booklets were distributed to district personnel. Awareness session were also provided by an ecologist from Environment & Wildlife Consulting Namibia in 2022.



Figure 4: Showing that vegetation not affecting the line are left undisturbed.



Figure 5: Cover page of the booklet that NamPower published in 2021 through its former partnership project with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)

3.3 Hazardous substances and herbicide application

No herbicide application was conducted on the line since the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) was issued in 2019.

3.4 Sensitive area protection

Sensitive areas such as Oshanas are left undisturbed to ensure that their ecological systems are protected. The employees are sensitized about these areas during inductions and awareness sessions.



Figure 6: Shows an undisturbed pan (Oshana) within the line servitude.

3.5 Communities and stakeholders

NamPower regards its stakeholders as important and commit to ensuring that our activities do not affect the socio – economic activities of the communities. An example is shown in Figure 7 where crops in the mahangu field are left undisturbed. It is also important to note that NamPower launched an electrical safety “Pasop” campaign on the 09th of May in order to sensitize communities and other stakeholders on electrical safety.



Figure 7: Crops in the crop (Mahangu) field left undisturbed.

Pole no.	Deviation to be corrected	Comments	Completed (please tick)
	132 HIPPO – OMATANDO →		
56	1 X OKAMUPEKE TREE	COMPENSATION	
59	2 X THORN TREES	CUT DOWN	
61	LOTS OF THORN BUSHES	CUT DOWN	
116	1 X BESIS TREES	TO BE TRIM	
126	2 X BESIS TREES	TO BE TRIM	
151	1 X THORN TREE	CUT DOWN	
450			

Figure 8: an inspection checklist indicating deviations to be rectified that include compensation as well.



Figure 9: The launch of the NamPower Electrical Safety Campaign “Pasop, stay safe”

4. AWARENESS PROMOTION

Employees are provided with awareness on environmental management. The Oshakati team was provided with the general environmental awareness training in 2018.



SHEW Training attendance register:

Name of the trainer: Martha Nchipira
 Training topic: General Environmental Awareness
 Date of Training: 14 March 2018
Omatongo Substation

Name	Section	Nampower no.	Signature
<u>MW Amosile</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>2050</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>N. Edward</u>	<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>40122</u>	<u>N Edward</u>
<u>N. Mawasa</u>	<u>Oshakati Juba</u>	<u>10020</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Lucia</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>40599</u>	<u>Ndipenda</u>

Picture 10: a Snapshot of the register for the awareness session.

5. CONCLUSION

NamPower commits to provide a safe and healthy working environment in order to ensure the well-being of stakeholders, protect the environment and reduce pollution while ensuring customer satisfaction in fulfilling our Vision, Mission and Objectives. The of the 132kV Hippo – Omatando line and associated infrastructures were operated in a way that promote environmental protection. No fatal flaws were reported during the reporting period. I recommend that the Environmental Clearance Certificate in order to ensure compliance and allow NamPower to perform its mandate in full compliance