

NamPower

Powering the Nation and beyond



**MONITORING REPORT
66k Okatope – Okongo
2019 - 2022**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 66 kV Ruacana – Opuwo powerline transmit power through an overhead line system from Ruacana substation to Opuwo substation. The 66 kV Ruacana – Opuwo is 83.6 km in length, have wooden H-Pole structures and was constructed in 1992. In 2019, NamPower obtained an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the Vegetation Management on the 66 kV Okatope – Okongo Transmission line servitude.

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 maintenance work include activities such as repairing or replacing line components. This is not only to ensure the smooth operation and functioning of the line but also to prevent the line to collapse and cause animal and human death.



Figure 1: Example of damaged line components which were picked during inspection and were repaired.

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. 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: Bushes/trees not affecting the line left undisturbed.

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.

3.2 Fauna and Flora

No animal death incident reported during the reporting period. No bush clearing activities were conducting during the reporting period. All lines including the 66kV Okatope – Okongo line are assessed by an 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 sessions on the booklet and ecological assessments were also provided by an ecologist from Environment & Wildlife Consulting Namibia in 2022.



Figure 3: 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.

3.4 Sensitive area protection

Care is taken to ensure that there is minimal activities in sensitive areas such as pans (Oshana) to ensure that their ecological systems are protected. No herbicide application is allowed to be applied on any sensitive areas and is clearly stipulated in the EMP. No herbicide application have been conducted on the line. The employees are sensitized about these areas during inductions and awareness sessions.



Figure 4: Showing an ephemeral pan (sensitive area) along the route with no disturbances from line activities.

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. The line servitude is not fenced off and community members still continue to graze their animals freely. Mahangu fields are also left undisturbed as communal farming is common in the area. In addition, NamPower launched an electrical safety “Pasop” campaign on the 09th of May in order to sensitize communities and other stakeholders on electrical safety.




Figure 5: showing the line traversing through a mahangu field and the crops are left undisturbed.



Figure 6: The launch of the NamPower Electrical Safety Campaign “Pasop, stay safe”

4. AWARENESS PROMOTION

Employees are provided with awareness on environmental management. The Okatope – Okongo like is manned by the team at Ongwediva and awareness provided to them in 2018. Below is a snapshot of part of the register of the awareness provided.



SHEW Training attendance register:

Name of the trainer: Martha Nkomo

Training topic: General Environmental Awareness

Date of Training: 14 March 2018
OMatango Substation

Name	Section	Nampower no.	Signature
<u>N.W. 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. Mawansa</u>	<u>Oshakati Juba</u>	<u>10020</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Lucia</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>40599</u>	<u>Ndyenda</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 66kV Okatope – Okongo 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