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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE
PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON THE EXCLUSIVE
PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) 8015, LOCATED IN KARIBIB AND
OMARURU DISTRICTS, ERONGO REGION.**

Environmental Consultant:

Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Proponent:

Ms Ueriheka Roswitha DeAlmada

JUNE 2023

1 INTRODUCTION

Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (the consultant) has been appointed by Ms Ueriheka Roswitha DeAlmada (the Proponent) to act on their behalf in obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed mineral exploration on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) 8015. The targeted commodities for the proposed prospecting and exploration activities are dimension stones, base & rare metals, industrial minerals, and precious metals. The EPL 8015 is located about 40 km southeast of Uis Settlement in the Erongo Region (Fig 1&2). It can be accessed via the B2 national road, onto the D1930 from the south, or through the C36 or C35 roads onto the D1930 from Uis or D1931 crosscutting both Omaruru and Karibib districts, Erongo Region. The EPL contains portions of the following farms: Harmone, Elim, Vrede, Twyfel, Goeie Geluk and a small portion of Okombahe Reserve.

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is a non-technical document of the Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) which serves the purpose of informing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) / stakeholders of the following:

- Project location;
- Proposed activities of the project;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed;
- How I&APs and/or stakeholders can be involved.

All I&APs and/or stakeholders are hereby encouraged to submit their comments/inputs/concerns on the proposed activities, which can contribute significantly to the EIA and Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EIA and EMP will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) for decision-making.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

In terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 and the EIA Regulations of 2012, the proposed project triggers listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an ECC. As such, an environmental clearance application will be submitted to the competent authorities (MEFT and MME) for decision-making before the commencement of the anticipated project activities.

The listed activities that trigger the proposed project are as follows:

MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES

3.1 The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right,

or other forms of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right, or any other form of authorization in terms of Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.

3.2 *Other forms of mining or extraction of natural resources whether regulated by law or not.*

3.3 *Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.*

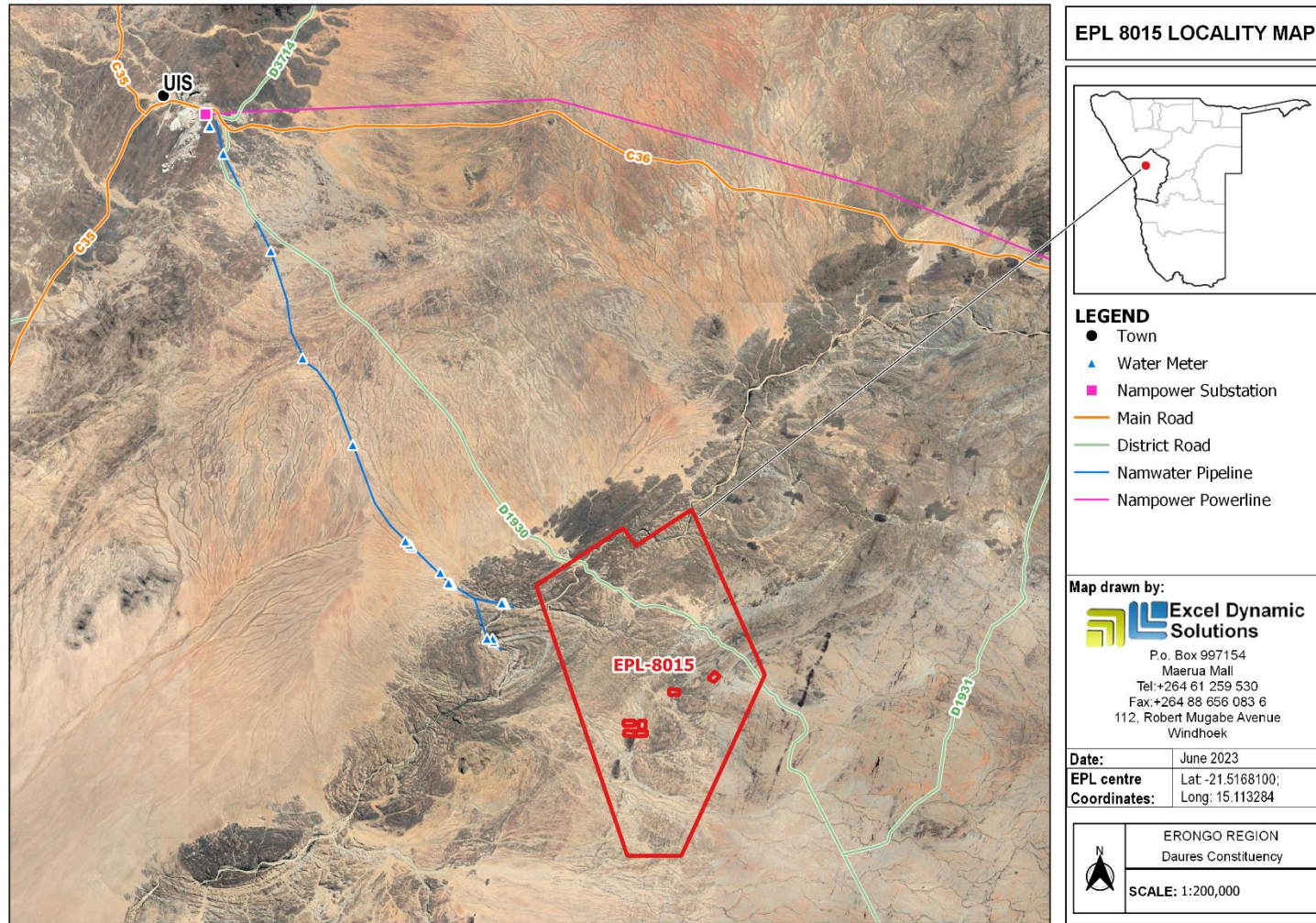


Figure 1 – Locality of EPL 8015 near Uis settlement, Erongo Region

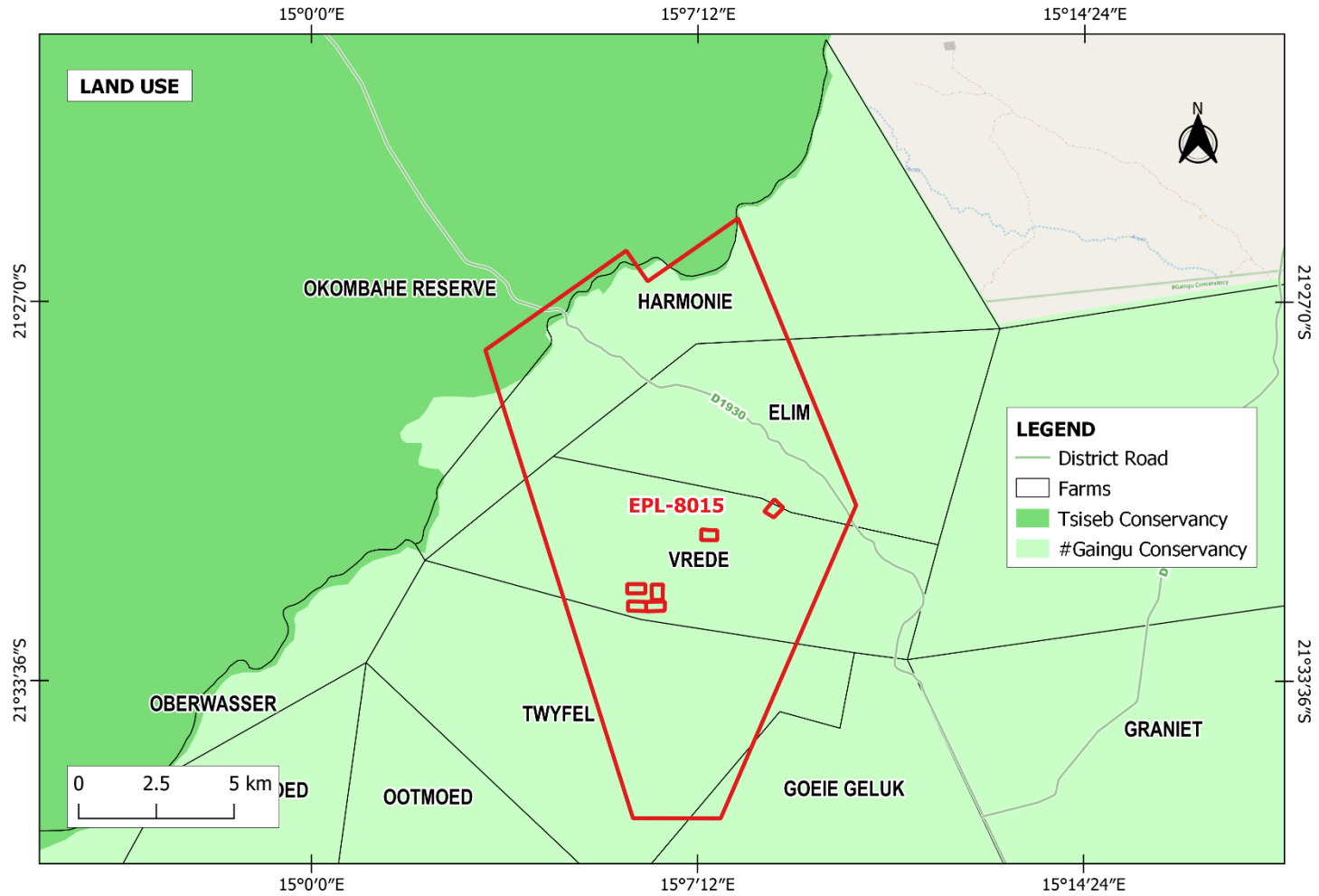


Figure 2 – Farms around the EPL 8015

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mining and quarrying activities contribute significantly to Namibia's economic sector and have triggered an increase in investment in recent prospecting and exploration activities. According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Namibia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to reach 3% by 2024, of which the mining industry is one of the largest contributors. Thus, the Proponent intends to invest in conducting prospecting and exploration activities to delineate mineral deposits of the targeted commodities, as part of the resource development for mining purposes, if it yields feasible results.

The duration of prospecting and exploration activities is anticipated to last for about three years or longer. However, this will entirely depend on various factors, such as turnaround time between exploration data analysis of the targeted commodities to define the drilling program and financial availability or any other unforeseen circumstances (e.g., force majeure such as the COVID-19 pandemic).

The Proponent has interests in prospecting, exploration, mapping, mining, surveying, and exploration drilling, and has identified an opportunity to prospect and explore for dimension stone, base & rare metals, industrial minerals, and precious metals commodities on EPL 8015 near Uis, Erongo Region. The proposed project has the potential for local employment creation, especially, with the current accelerating high youth unemployment rates expected to persist in Namibia in 2023 and beyond, with the youth projected to be around 47.4%. In addition, the proposed activity will contribute to local, regional, national, and international economic growth, thus the Proponent is keen to explore the targeted commodities within the allocated portion of land.

4.1 Project Plan and Activities

The proposed prospecting and exploration activities methods are divided into two (2) categories:

- Phase 1: Non-invasive techniques e.g., desktop study, including satellite data and imagery investigation.
- Phase 2: Invasive techniques e.g., calcrete and soil sampling, trenching, and exploration drilling.

The following exploration activities are anticipated:

- Desktop study of existing data to identify potential prospecting and exploration targets;
- Geological mapping;
- Electromagnetic and geophysical surveys;
- Soil, rock, and calcrete sampling;

- Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond drilling;
- If required, some vegetation may be cleared or thinned to create dirty/bush roads to allow access to the targeted locations, however, existing tracks will be used as far as reasonably practical;
- Decommissioning, final rehabilitation.

4.2 Resources, Services and Infrastructure

The exploration activities will require the following services and infrastructure to progress smoothly:

Human resources and accommodation: It is anticipated that about five (5) – ten (10) people, including skilled and unskilled employees, will be employed on-site during the prospecting and exploration phase and will be accommodated at the nearest available town, settlement, farm or campsite upon agreement with the landowner.

Water supply: Approximately 250 liters of water will be required for the prospecting and exploration activities per day and it will be brought on-site from the nearest town. If required or deemed necessary, or the Proponent finds good groundwater during the exploration activity, the borehole may be used as a water source, provided the permission of the land owner and the appropriate abstraction permit is obtained from the competent authority.

Fuel supply for machinery and equipment: Diesel will be used to power the machinery, equipment and generator when required.

Accessibility and transport: The proposed project site is accessed via the B2 national road, onto the D1930 from the south or through the C36 or C35 roads onto the D 1930 from Uis or D1931 crosscutting both Omaruru and Karibib districts in Erongo Region. If required for project purposes, additional access to dirt roads might be created, as per the agreement with the landowner to access the targeted locations with ease once the exploration program is finalized.

Sewage: If required, a mobile ablution facility will be provided on-site, especially during detailed exploration drilling and wastewater will be removed and transported to the nearest approved disposal facility.

Solid waste: Sufficient jackal-proof waste bins will be provided across the prospecting and exploration sites and they will be emptied – and disposed of at the nearest approved waste disposal facility.

Hazardous waste: Hazardous waste such as fuel/oils will be appropriately stored in a standardized banded container for disposal at an approved facility.

Health and safety: Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to project personnel – with at least a first aid kit available onsite.

Accidental fire outbreaks: Firefighting equipment, including extinguishers, will be readily available in all construction vehicles as well as at the appropriate prospecting and exploration sites.

Equipment, material, machinery and vehicles: at least two (2) 4WD vehicles will be required, a drilling supporting truck, air compressor, drilling fluids stored in manufacturers approved containers, and a generator for power supply, among other supporting equipment, will be essential for the proposed activity during different stages.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The ESA and EMP methodology applied for this project takes into account the provisions of the EIA Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. The overall objective of the ESA is to identify potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project that shall be assessed and provide potential effective mitigation measures for implementation.

The main objectives of this ESA include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of potential impacts associated with the proposed project;
- Consultation with the I&APs and relevant authorities and provide them with an opportunity to participate throughout the ESA process;
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised;
- Compile the ESA report addressing all potential identified issues and impacts;
- Draft an EMP that includes impact management and mitigation measures.

5.1 Potential Impacts

The following pre-identified potential socioeconomic and environmental impacts are anticipated:

Positive impact:

- Employment creation and skills transfer;
- Investment opportunities/infrastructure-related development benefits;
- Increase in local, regional and economic development;
- Improved support for local and regional businesses through the procurement of locally or regionally available goods and services;

- Local income generation through the landowner lease agreement and contribution to the state revenue.

Negative impacts:

- Fauna and flora habitat disturbance and possible poaching;
- Minor air, noise, soil and visual pollution associated with drilling;
- Possible occupational community health and safety risks/hazards;
- Minimal waste pollution;
- Possible groundwater and surface water pollution;
- Possible impact on archaeological or cultural heritage;
- Potential social nuisance and land use conflicts.

Other potential impacts shall be identified as the ESA study progresses and will be incorporated and addressed in the EMP, including concerns/comments raised by the I&APs.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public participation is the cornerstone of the EIA process to ensure that sufficient information is gathered and/or shared transparently with all I&APs as well as stakeholders, including the findings of the ESA reports, during the specified comment periods.

I&APs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social, and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

To comment or receive further information on the proposed project, please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd as an I&AP at the address below and/or complete Table 1.

Contact: Mr Titus Shuuya: Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Tel: +264 (0) 61 259 530

Email: public@edsnamibia.com / tshuuya@edsnamibia.com

Table 1 – Interest and Affected Parties (I&APs) registration form

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM	
FULL NAME:	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION & POSITION:	
POSTAL ADDRESS:	
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:	
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	FAX NUMBER:
CELL PHONE NUMBER:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:
INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT:	
COMMENTS, ISSUES OR QUESTIONS (please use a blank page or space, if required):	