

A scoping report on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Grape and Citrus Project in Otjomaungu in Kunene Region, Namibia



Report Compiled for:

Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Pty) Ltd

P O Box 29720

Email Address:

Compiled by: Augite Environmental Consulting

909 City Street, Windhoek

Cell number: +264 817069027

Application number: **230712001710**

Project Details :

A scoping report on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Grape and Citrus Project in Otjomaungu in Kunene Region, Namibia

Environmental Management Practitioners

<i>Name of representative of the EAP</i>	<i>Education Qualifications</i>
Kaukurauee Ismael Kanguuehi	PhD, MSc and BSc in Environmental Geochemistry

Client

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position/Role</i>	<i>Address</i>
Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Pty) Ltd	Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Pty) Ltd (Proponent)	UNIT 3, LUTHER STREET, THE VILLAGE, EROS, WINDHOEK
<i>Application Number</i>	230712001710	
<i>Activity</i>	Agricultural Activities	

List of Abbreviations

TERM	DEFINITION
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
RoD.	Record of Decision
EO	Environmental Officer
RE	Resident Engineer
ELO	Environmental Liaison Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
USTs	Underground Storage Tanks

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Overview

The proponent, Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Proprietary) Limited, was provisionally granted land in Otjomaungu village in Epupa Constituency, by the Uukolonkadhi Conservancy. The conservancy has given the piece of land that measures a size of 700 ha for Grape and Citrus plantation projects. Augite Environmental Consulting was appointed by the proponent to undertake an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the mineral exploration project.

Location

The allocated area is located 35 kilometers west of Ruacana, at the local village of Otjamaungu in the Epupa Constituency. The village is accessible along the D3700 gravel road. The coordinates for the centre of the allocated plot are -17.443165°, 14.063891°.

Environmental Assessment Requirements

The Environmental Regulations procedure (GN 30 of 2012) stipulates that no agricultural or plantation activities may be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate. As such, an environmental clearance certificate must be applied for in accordance with regulation 6 of the 2012 environmental regulations. It is imperative that the environmental proponent must conduct a public consultation process in accordance with regulation 21 of the 2012 environmental procedure, produce an environmental scoping report and submit an Environmental Management Plan for the proposed agricultural activities.

Project Alternatives

An alternative to the proposed agricultural activity would be to allocate the land-usage to other income generating activities such as tourism activities. The proposed project will strictly employ locals from nearby towns and settlements.

Introduction

Project Background

The proponent, Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Proprietary) Limited, was provisionally granted land in Otjomaungu village in Epupa Constituency, by the Uukolonkadhi Conservancy. The conservancy has given the piece of land that measures a size of 700 ha for Grape and Citrus plantation projects. An outline of the area is shown in the image below.

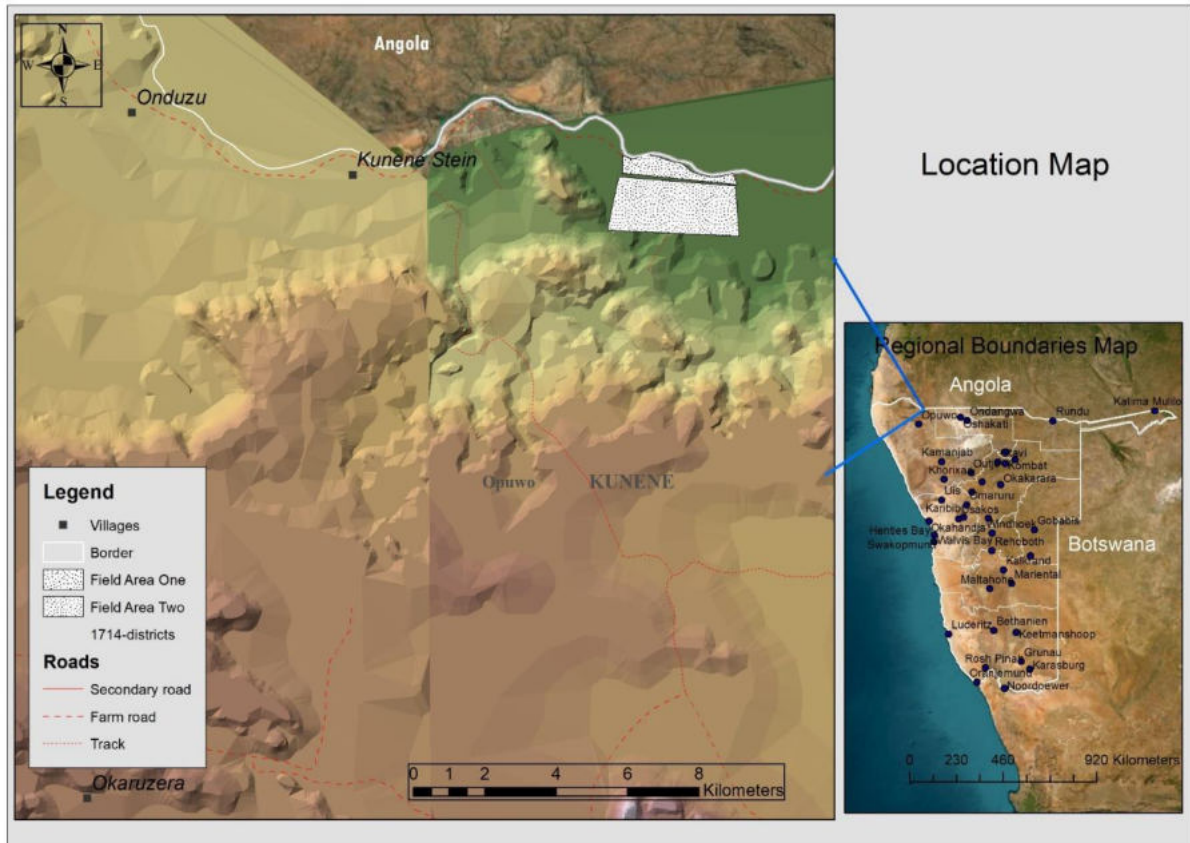


Figure 1. The surrounding roads that connect of the project area to the nearest town which is Ruacana

Agricultural Land Tenure

The allocated land has been granted by the Uukolonkadhi Conservancy, which owns the lands. The agricultural land area is provisionally issued to Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Proprietary) Limited. The size of the allocated agricultural field is **700 Hectares and can be extended to 1000 Hectares**. The land has been granted for agricultural purposes such as the plantation of table grapes, citrus, avocados and many other fresh fruit products.

Kunene Grapes & Citrus et al Pty Ltd is a wholly black owned entity which is legally organized as a proprietary limited within requisite parameters of the Companies Act 28 of 2004 of the

Republic of Namibia. Whilst produce of grapes and citrus takes center stage the concept is openly positioned to flexibly evolve with a diversified portfolio in agribusiness.

The Kunene Grapes & Citrus et al project is dedicated to establishing a sustainable, profitable, and unique agribusiness that will offer considerable amount of employment opportunities to skilled, semi-skilled, ordinarily employable youth of Kunene Region on a permanent and temporary basis.

It's an exciting state-of-the-art investment which would be the first of its kind in northern part of Namibia with a focus on produce of first-class table grapes and citrus, to be marketed and exported to selected local Namibian, South African and international retailers, especially the Netherlands market.

Environmental Consultant

Augite Environmental Consulting cc was appointed by the proponent to undertake an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the mineral exploration project. Augite does not have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in the proposed activity, application or appeal, other than fair remuneration for work performed on this project. The public participation process and report writing was overseen by Dr Kaukurauee Kanguuehi as the EAP. CV's of various role players are annexed to the appendix section of this report.

Proponent of the Proposed Project

The Agricultural land belongs to Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Proprietary) Limited.

Land Holder	Postal Address	Email Address	Contact
Kunene Grapes and Citrus Et Al (Proprietary) Limited	UNIT 3, LUTHER STREET, THE VILLAGE, EROS, WINDHOEK	wushiimi@gmail.com	+264 811 272537

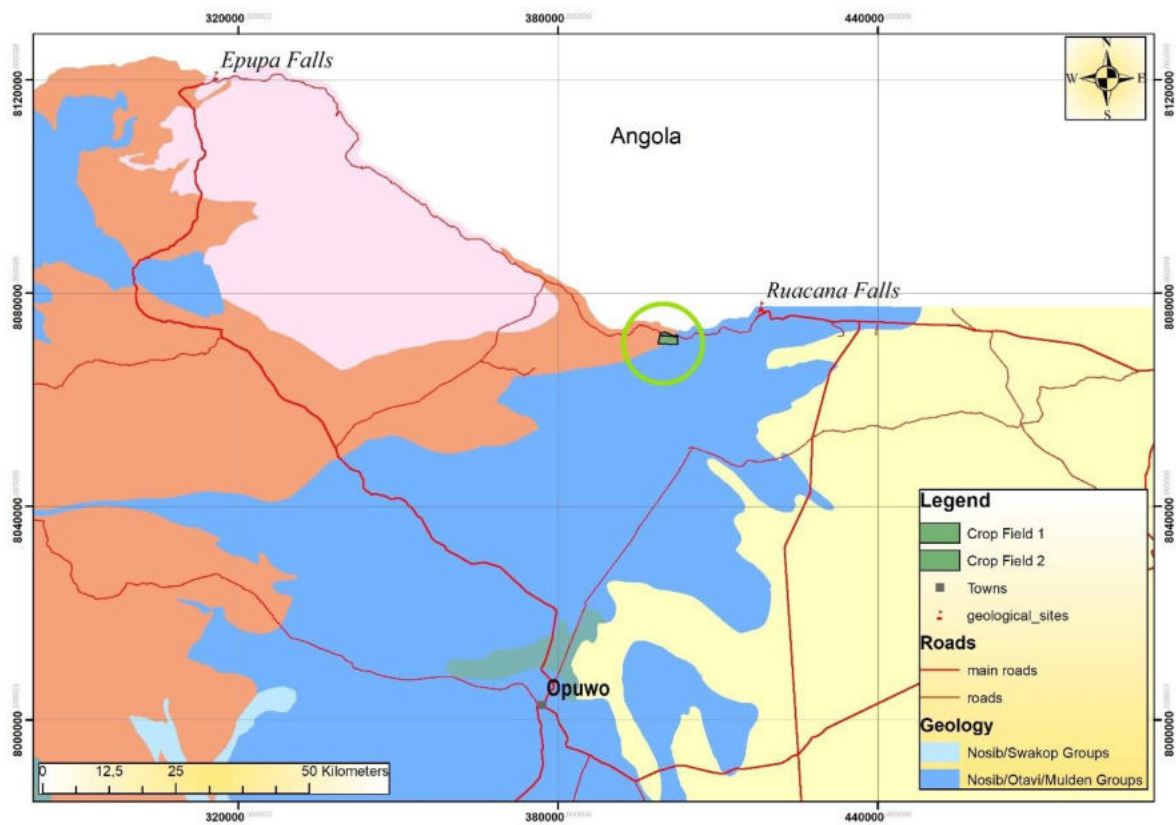


Figure 2. Map showing the surrounding towns.

Project Location

The agricultural fields are some 16 kilometers west of the Ruacana Falls along the D3700 roads. The coordinates for the centre of the licence are -17.443165° , 14.063891° .

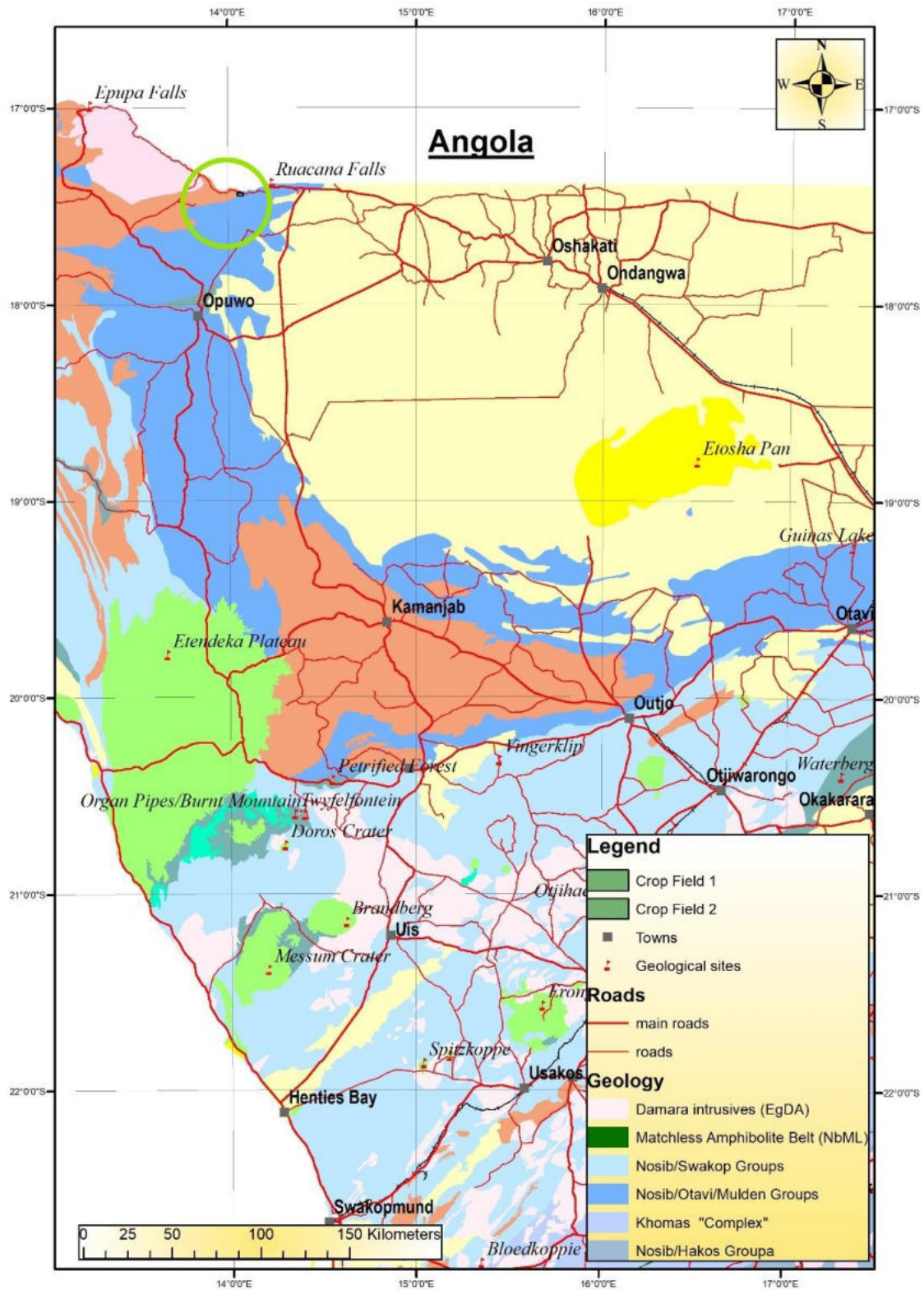


Figure 3. Agricultural area in proportion to where it is located in Namibia.

Infrastructure and Services

Electricity

At this stage, electricity requirements for the project are minimal. The bulk of the power supply to the agricultural site will be sourced from the proponents own generator. The power requirements for the proposed project will be minimal as power will only be required for the following activities:

- Emergency lighting.
- Powering small machinery during the agricultural activities.
- Power supply for temporary office block or container if necessary.

Water supply

The water requirements for the project will be sourced from the Kunene River which is less than 1 kilometre from the agricultural fields. Water containers will be brought on site and utilised whenever necessary. The water will mostly be used for general consumption and cleaning. The water used for watering the crops will be sourced from the Kunene River.

Refuse and Waste Removal

The proponent will negotiate directly with all suppliers of consumables such as grease, oil etc. to remove these materials for disposal once they have been used and need to be discarded. The proponent will provide adequate temporary sanitary facilities and such facilities must be maintained in a hygienic condition. Sewerage will be disposed of in a manner not polluting the environment. The proponent will remove all refuse pertaining to the proponent's activities, domestic or otherwise, from the property. The proponent will undertake environmental rehabilitation, both during and at the conclusion of the agricultural activity operations.

IT systems and Communication

Once the agricultural work has commenced, provision will be made for two-way radios to enable the heavy machinery workers the on-site staff to communicate effectively.

Security and Fencing

Provision has been made for fencing although strict access to and from the agricultural site will be facilitated by personnel.

Buildings

At this stage, no agricultural camps will be set up and so provision will be made for prefabricated containers.

Roads

Access to the mineral exploration sites is limited as there are currently no convenient roads, except for 4x4 tracks.

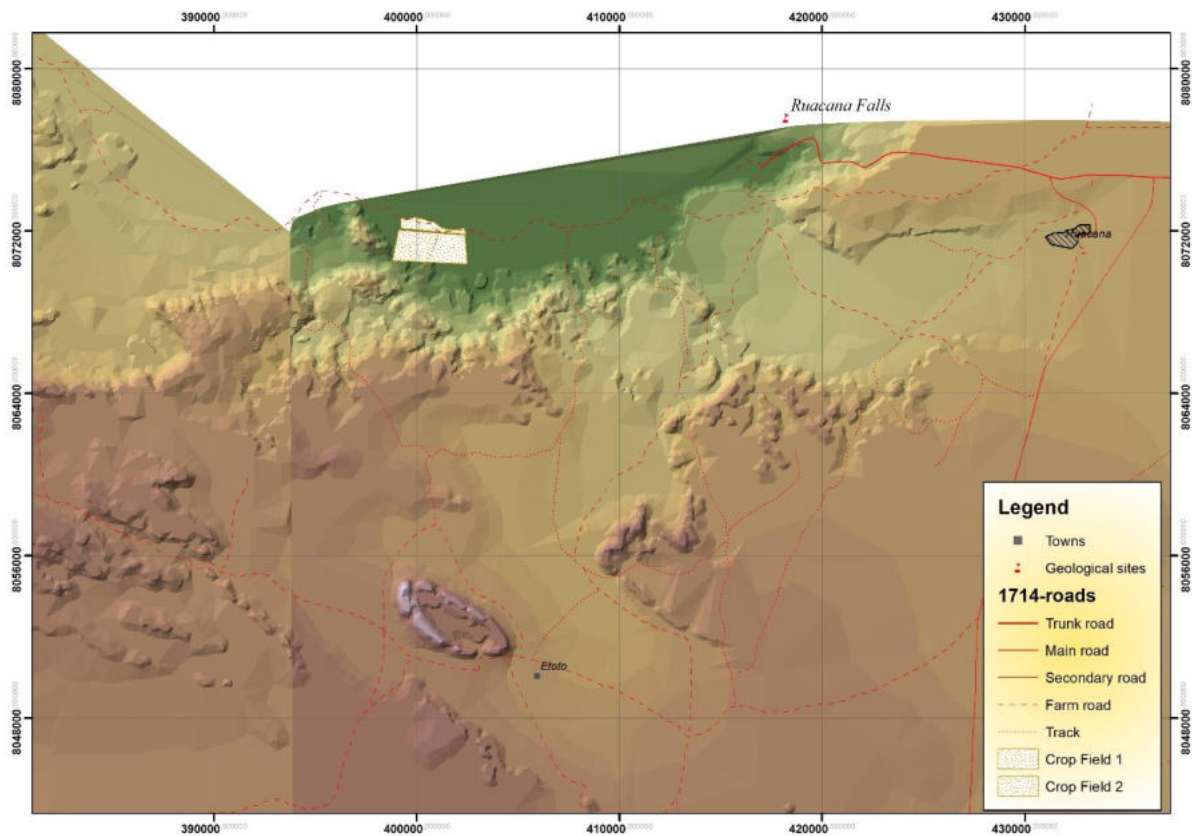


Figure 4. Topographic map showing the existing road network within the agricultural field area

Mobile equipment

The proponent's vehicle fleet will be optimised during the next project phase. Provision will be made 4x4 vehicles and a tractors that will be used for the agricultural activities.

Fuel Distribution, storage, and supply

During the agricultural activities phase, diesel will be delivered to the by road transport and offloaded into the vehicles by offloading pumps.

Storage of Lubrication and Consumables

During the agricultural activities phase, consumables and lubricants will be stored in a designated area within a container. These substances will only be used for mechanical purposes and are assumed to be non-hazardous.

Fire Fighting Provision

Portable fire-extinguishers will be fitted, as required, in vehicles and mobile containers where possible.

Environmental Impact Assessment Requirements

The **Environmental Regulations procedure (GN 30 of 2012)** stipulates that no agricultural activities may be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate. As such, an environmental clearance certificate must be applied for in accordance with regulation 6 of the 2012 environmental regulations. It is imperative that the environmental proponent must conduct a public consultation process in accordance with regulation 21 of the 2012 environmental procedure, produce an environmental scoping report and submit an Environmental Management Plan for the proposed agricultural activities.

Purpose of the Scoping Report

The scoping report is prepared for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the grape and citrus agricultural project is located 35 kilometers west of Ruacana, at the local village of Otjamaungu in the Epupa Constituency. The village is accessible along the D3700 gravel road. Environmental scoping is a critical step in the preparation of an EIA for the proposed grape and citrus agricultural project. The scoping process identifies the issues that are likely to be

most important during the EIA and eliminates those that are of little concern. The scoping process shall be concluded with the establishment of terms of reference for the preparation of an EIA, as set out by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The purpose of this scoping report is to:

- Identify any important environmental issues to be considered before commencing with grape and citrus agricultural project activities on the proposed grape and citrus agricultural project sites.
- To identify appropriate time and space boundaries of the EIA study.
- To identify information required for decision-making.

As such, the key objectives of this scoping study are to:

- Inform the public about the proposed grape and citrus agricultural project activities.
- Identify the main stakeholders, their comments and concerns.
- Define reasonable and practical alternatives to the proposal.
- To establish the terms of reference for an EIA study.

Terms of Reference

The approach and methodology taken was guided by the Environmental Regulations of 2012 and the Terms of Reference (ToR) which were provided by the proponent:

- Identify all legislation and guidelines that have reference to the proposed project.
- Identify existing environmental (both bio-physical and socio-economic) conditions of the area to determine their environmental sensitivity.
- Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant authorities of the details of the proposed development and provide them with a reasonable opportunity to participate during the process.
- Consider the potential environmental and social impacts of the development and assess the significance of the identified impacts.
- Compile a Scoping Report detailing all identified issues and possible impacts, stipulating the way forward and identifying specialist investigations, if required.
- Outline management and mitigation measures in an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to minimize and/or mitigate potentially negative impacts.

- Submit the final scoping report to the competent authority and the Environmental Commissioner.

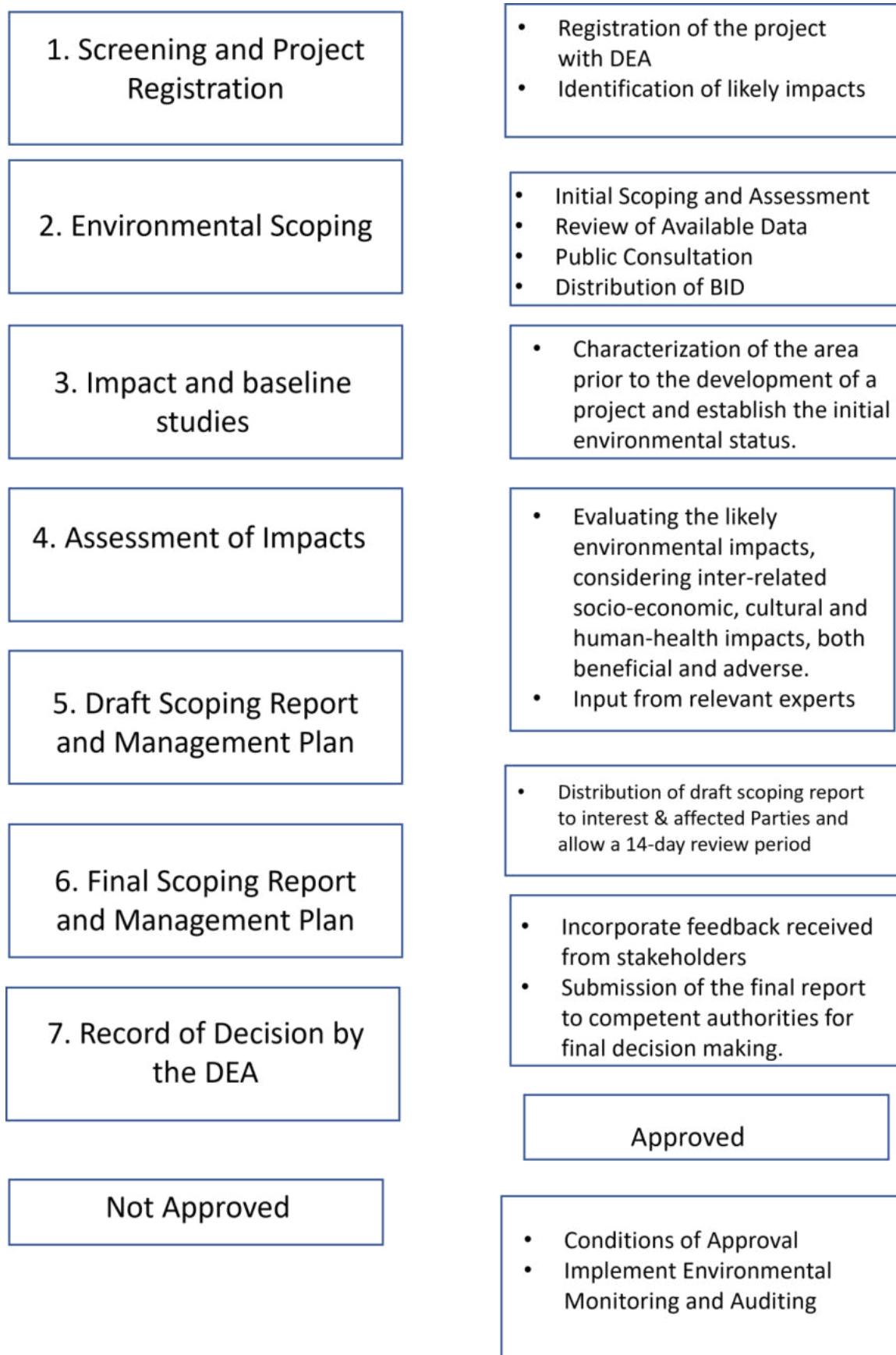


Figure 5. Flowchart of the Environmental Impact Assessment process followed in Namibia.

Environmental Assessment Approach and Methodology

Environmental assessment process in Namibia is governed by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations No. 30 of 2012 gazetted under the Environmental Management Act, (EMA), 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and in line with the provisions of the Cabinet approved Environmental Assessment Policy for Sustainable Development and Environmental Conservation of 1995.

This report has taken into consideration all the requirements for preparation of all the supporting documents and application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate and lodgement of such application to the Environmental Commissioner (EC), Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

The purpose of the Scoping Phase was to communicate the scope of the proposed project to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), to consider project alternatives, to identify the environmental (and social) aspects and potential impacts for further investigation and assessment, and to develop the terms of reference for specialist studies to be conducted in the Impact Assessment Phase if necessary. The steps undertaken during the Scoping Phase are summarised below.

Project Initiation and Screening

The project registered on the online ECC portal (eia.met.gov.na) to provide notification of the commencement of the EIA process and to obtain clarity on the process to be followed.

Initial Scoping Public Participation Process

The objective of the public scoping process was to ensure that interested and affected parties (I&APs) were notified about the proposed project, given a reasonable opportunity to register on the project database and to provide initial comments. Steps that were undertaken during this phase are summarised below:

- **I&AP identification:** A preliminary I&AP database was compiled using the farmers contact details that were obtained from the Ministry of Lands and contact details of other interested and affected parties that were provided by the proponent. Additional

I&APs were added to the database based on responses to the advertisements and notification letters, as well as attendees to the various meetings.

- **Notification letter and Background Information Document (BID):** A notification letter and Background Information Document was distributed for review and comment for a period of 3-4 weeks after commencement of the project.
- **Advertisements and site notice:** Advertisements announcing the proposed project, the availability of the BID, public meetings and the I&AP registration / comment period were placed in two widely distributed newspapers for two consecutive weeks. Site notices were placed on the boundaries of farm fences and on the notice boards of the Regional Council. Over and above the issues raised were incorporated into the scoping report. These submissions were collated and responded to as indicated in the public participation section of the scoping report.

Compilation and Review of Draft Scoping Report (DSR)

The DSR was prepared in compliance with Section 8 of the EIA Regulations of 2012 and incorporated with comments received during the initial Public Participation Process. The DSR was distributed for a 14-day review and comment period.

Final Scoping Report and Completion of the Scoping Phase

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) summarises the following: the legal and policy framework; approach to the EIA and process methodology; the project's need and desirability; proposed project activities; key characteristics of the receiving environment; and key issues of concern that will be further investigated and assessed in the next phase of the EIA. The FSR complies with Section 8 of the EIA Regulations 2012. All written submissions received during the DSR review and comment period will be collated and responded to. The FSR was submitted to the competent authority. In terms of Section 32 of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (No. 7 of 2007), the competent authority is then required to make a recommendation on the acceptance or rejection of the report to Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET): Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), who will make the final decision.

List of Specialist Studies Undertaken

Section 9 (a) of the Environmental Regulations of 2012 requires a disclosure of all the tasks to be undertaken as part of the assessment process, including any specialist to be included if necessary.

The grape and citrus agricultural project has not commenced yet. This means that the proponent has not conducted any surface exploration activities (i.e., geophysical survey, geological mapping, and geochemical sampling) to find anomalies and determine suitable targets which can be tested with drilling. As such, no field specific specialist studies were commissioned by the proponent as no specific target area has been delineated yet. Although specialist studies were deemed unnecessary for this environmental impact assessment due to low intensity and extent of the exploration activities at this stage, a heritage impact assessment study was undertaken for this project. Specialist studies conducted in the area, in previous years, have been reviewed as part of the scoping and assessment process of this project.

After the proponent successfully drills a delineated target, undertakes a feasibility study, and confidently decides to proceed with harvesting, a full environmental impact assessment will be carried out with appropriate site-specific specialist studies on groundwater, air-quality, fauna, flora, archaeology, and avifauna.

Need and Desirability

Need of the Agricultural Project

Agriculture play an important role in the development of a country and an important sector. Namibia is heavily reliant on neighbouring countries such as South Africa for fresh produce of crops such as citrus, apples, avocados and grapes. The major crops produced in Namibia are maize, millet and sorghum. Namibia is one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa and only 2% of Namibia's land receives sufficient rainfall to grow crops. It rains sparingly and varies across many parts of the country. Large portion of the country is known to have poor soil quality with low nutrients which adds to the many obstacles of optimum agriculture production in Namibia. The country's dry climate and arid conditions limits the variety of crop farming.

Namibia has a long tradition of agriculture, and it is one of the most important sectors, with over 70% of the population being directly depended on agriculture. Mining contributes roughly 4% of GDP annually and can expand to 10% in 2019. Income from agricultural production is low due to various reasons including limitation to lucrative markets and lack of high quality seeds that can work well under dry conditions. About 77% of agricultural products are exported while about 23% gets imported. Namibia is able to produce a variety of crops ranging from cereals, fruits and horticulture products. The horticulture covers fresh agricultural produce

including tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, butternuts, beans and groundnuts, dates, grapes, watermelons, melons, citrus and others under irrigations. Cereals crops include maize, pearl millet (mahangu), wheat and sunflower. The most productive vegetable exported to South Africa and Angola is onions.

The Kunene Grapes & Citrus et al project is dedicated to establish a sustainable, profitable and unique agribusiness that will offer considerable amount of employment opportunities to skilled, semi-skilled, ordinarily employable youth of Kunene Region on a permanent and temporary basis.

The agricultural project may assist in helping Namibia attain some of the goals set out in National Development Plans such as the National Development Plans (NDPs) and Vision 2030 strategy. During the development phase, the project will provide employment to at least 20 people from the surrounding towns and settlements. During the agricultural production phase, the produced crops can significantly contribute to social-economic development around the surrounding community.

It's an exciting state-of-the-art investment which would be the first of its kind in northern part of Namibia with a focus on produce of first class table grapes and citrus, to be marketed and exported to selected local Namibian, South African and international retailers, especially the Netherlands market.

Alternatives

During the application of the lease of land for agricultural crop farming, no alternative sites were considered. The proposed allocated site has shown the potential to be near the Kunene River which will be the major source of water.

Agricultural Method Alternatives

The area is poorly vegetated with open grassland and minimal heavy machinery needed to create the agricultural field required. Tractors, plows, harrows, fertilizer spreadsters, seeders, wagons and axes will be the majors tools used in the early stages to create the necessary land. This method is more modern, effective, and environmentally friendly method.

No-Go Alternatives

The no-go alternative will mean that the current land activities such as farming and important vegetation species will not be disturbed, that is, there will not be disturbance of the flora and fauna. However, the no go alternative is not considered since it will lead to negative socio-economic impacts.

Summary of applicable legislation

All agricultural and land rights, related to horticulture and agronomy activities in Namibia, are regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform whereas the environmental regulations are regulated by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The acts that affect the implementation, operation, and management of agronomy and agricultural activities in Namibia are shown below.

Environmental Management Act of 2007

Line Ministry: Ministry of Environment and Tourism

The regulations that accompany this act lists several activities that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate issued in terms of the Act. The act further states that any clearance certificate issued before the commencement of the act (6 February 2012) remains in force for one year. If a person wishes to continue with activities covered by the act, he or she must apply for a new certificate in terms of the Environmental Management Act.

Forest Act, No. 12 of 2001

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

The act regulates the cutting down of trees and reads as follows “To provide for the establishment of a Forestry Council and the appointment of certain officials; to consolidate the laws relating to the management and use of forests and forest produce; to provide for the protection of the environment and control and management of forest trees; to repeal the preservation of Bees and Honey proclamation 1923, preservation of Trees and Forests Ordinance, 1952 and the Forest Act, 1968; and to deal with incidental matters”. The constitution defines the function of the Ombudsman and commits the government to sustainable utilization of Namibia’s natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians and describes the duty to investigate complaints concerning the over-utilization of living natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians and describes the duties to investigate complaints concerning the over-utilization of living natural resources, the irrational exploitation of non-

renewable resources, the degradation and the destruction of ecosystem and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia. Article 95 states that *“the state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting; inter alia policies aimed at maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians both present and future”*.

Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation

To provide for the acquisition of agricultural land by the State for the purposes of land reform and for the allocation of such land to Namibian citizens who do not own or otherwise have the use of any or of adequate agricultural land, and foremost to those Namibian citizens who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices; to vest in the State a preferent right to purchase agricultural land for the purposes of the Act; to provide for the compulsory acquisition of certain agricultural land by the State for the purposes of the Act; to regulate the acquisition of agricultural land by foreign nationals; to establish a Lands Tribunal and determine its jurisdiction; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Water Resources Management Act of 2004

Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

The act provides for the management, protection, development, usage, and conservation of water resources; to provide for the regulation and monitoring of water resources and to provide for incidental matters.

Nature conservation ordinance, ordinance No. 4 of 1975

Line Ministry: Ministry of Environment and Tourism

The Nature Ordinance 4 of 1975 covers game parks and nature reserves, the hunting and protection of wild animals (including reptiles and wild birds), problem animals, fish, and the protection of indigenous plants. It also establishes a nature conservation board. The basic set of regulations under the ordinance is contained in GN 240/1976 (OG 3556). The topics covered in the regulations include tariffs (game parks), regulations relating to game parks, swimming baths, use of boats in game parks, inland fisheries, keeping game and other wild animals in capturing. In addition, the ordinance also regulates game dealers, game skins, protected plants,

birds kept in cages, trophy hunting of hunt-able game, hunting at night, export of game and game meat, sea birds, private game parks, nature reserves, regulations of wildlife associations and registers for coyote getters.

National Heritage Act, 2004 (Act No. 27 of 2004)

Line Ministry/Body: National Heritage Council

The National Heritage Act provides for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects; to establish a National Heritage Council; to establish a National Heritage Register; and to provide for incidental matters.

Petroleum Products and Energy Act No. 13 of 1990

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Mines and Energy

The act regulates the importation and usage of petroleum products. The act reads as “To provide measures for the saving of petroleum products and an economy in the cost of the distribution thereof, and for the maintenance of a price thereof; for control of the furnishing of certain information regarding petroleum products; and for the rendering of services of a particular kind, or services of a particular standard; in connection with motor vehicles; for the establishment of the National Energy Fund and for the utilization thereof; for the establishment of the National Energy Council and the functions thereof; for the imposition of levies on fuel; and to provide for matters incidental thereof”.

Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance 11 of 1976

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Health and Social Services

This ordinance provides for the prevention of air pollution and is affected by the Health Act 21 of 1988. Under this ordinance, the entire area of Namibia, except for East Caprivi, is proclaimed as a controlled area for the purposes of section 4(1) (a) of the ordinance.

Hazardous Substance Ordinance, No. 14 of 1974

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Safety and Security

The ordinance provides for the control of toxic substances. It covers manufacture, sale, use, disposal and dumping as well as import and export. Although the environmental aspects are not explicitly stated, the ordinance provides for the importing, storage and handling.

Namibian Water Corporation (Act 12 of 1997)

Line Ministry/Body: Namibian Water Corporation

The act caters for water rehabilitation of prospecting and mineral exploration areas, environmental impact assessments and for minimising or preventing pollution.

Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015

Line Ministry/Body: Ministry of Health and Social Services provide a framework for a structured uniform public and environmental health system in Namibia; and to provide for incidental matters.

Conclusion

The potential impacts that are anticipated from the proposed project activities were identified, described, and assessed. For the significant adverse (negative) impacts with medium rating, appropriate management and mitigation measures were recommended for implementation by the Proponent, their contractors and project related employees.

The issues and concerns raised by the registered I&APs formed the basis for this report and the Draft EMP. The issues raised were addressed and incorporated into this Report whereby mitigation measures have been provided thereof to avoid and/or minimize their significance on the environmental and social components. Most of the potential impacts were found to be of medium rating significance. With the effective implementation the recommended management and mitigation measures, this will particularly see the reduction in the significance of adverse impacts that cannot be avoided completely (from medium rating to low). To maintain the desirable rating, the implementation of management and mitigation measures should be monitored by the Proponent directly, or their Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is highly recommended. The monitoring of this implementation will not only be done to maintain the reduce impacts' rating or maintain low rating but to also ensure that all potential impacts identified in this study and other impacts that might arise during implementation are properly identified in time and addressed right away too.

It is crucial for the Proponent and their contractors to effectively implement the recommended management and mitigation measures to protect both the biophysical and social environment throughout the project duration. All these would be done with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability while ensuring a smooth and harmonious existence and purpose of the project activities in the community and environment at large.

Recommendations

The Environmental Consultant is confident that the potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project activities can be managed and mitigated by the effective implementation of the recommended management and mitigation measures and with more effort and commitment put on monitoring the implementation of these measures.

It is therefore, recommended that the proposed prospecting and exploration activities be granted an ECC provided that:

- All the management and mitigation measures provided herein are effectively and progressively implemented.