

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**  
**FOR UNDERTAKING EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AND MINING ACTIVITIES FOR BASE AND RARE**  
**METALS & PRECIOUS METALS, WITHIN THE EPL 8027 COVERING A TOTAL AREA OF 19**  
**953.9486 HECTARES IN THE HARDAP REGION, NAMIBIA.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

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The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) about the Environmental Assessment (EA) being undertaken for the establishment of exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia.

The BID also provides an opportunity for I&APs to register for the EIA process and to submit any initial comments or issues regarding the ongoing project.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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The proponent, Topray Investments CC intends to undertake exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia and therefore an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is needed to continue undertaking this listed activity in a sustainable manner.

Topray Investments CC hereafter referred to as the proponent is of the intention to undertake the following activities:

- **Environmental Assessment for the establishment of exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia.**

The objective of the intended Environmental Assessment is thus needed in order to assess the potential social and environmental impacts associated with the establishment of exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia and also to formulate methods of rehabilitation of the quarries once the exploration activities have ceased.

The above is a listed activity in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the following listed activities in **Table 1** were triggered by the proposed project:

**Table 1:** List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

<b>Activity description and No(s):</b>	<b>Description of relevant Activity</b>	<b>The portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity</b>
<b>Activity 3.1</b> (Mining and Quarrying Activities)	The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a licence, right or other form of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right or other form of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.	The proposed project includes the exploration for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals for viable commercial deposits.
<b>Activity 3.2</b> (Mining and Quarrying Activities)	Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.	The proposed project includes the exploration for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals for viable commercial deposits.
<b>Activity 3.3</b> (Mining and Quarrying Activities)	Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation and related activities.	The proposed project includes the exploration for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals for viable commercial deposits.

The proponent commissioned this EA and appointed Healthy Earth Environmental Consultants CC (HEEC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

This Environmental Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the exploration activities.

### 3. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1 Locality

The proponent intends to undertake exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia (GPS Coordinates: - 24.00972222 lat,17.07444444 long) as shown in **Figure 1** for the locality of the EPL 8207 for the exploration activities.

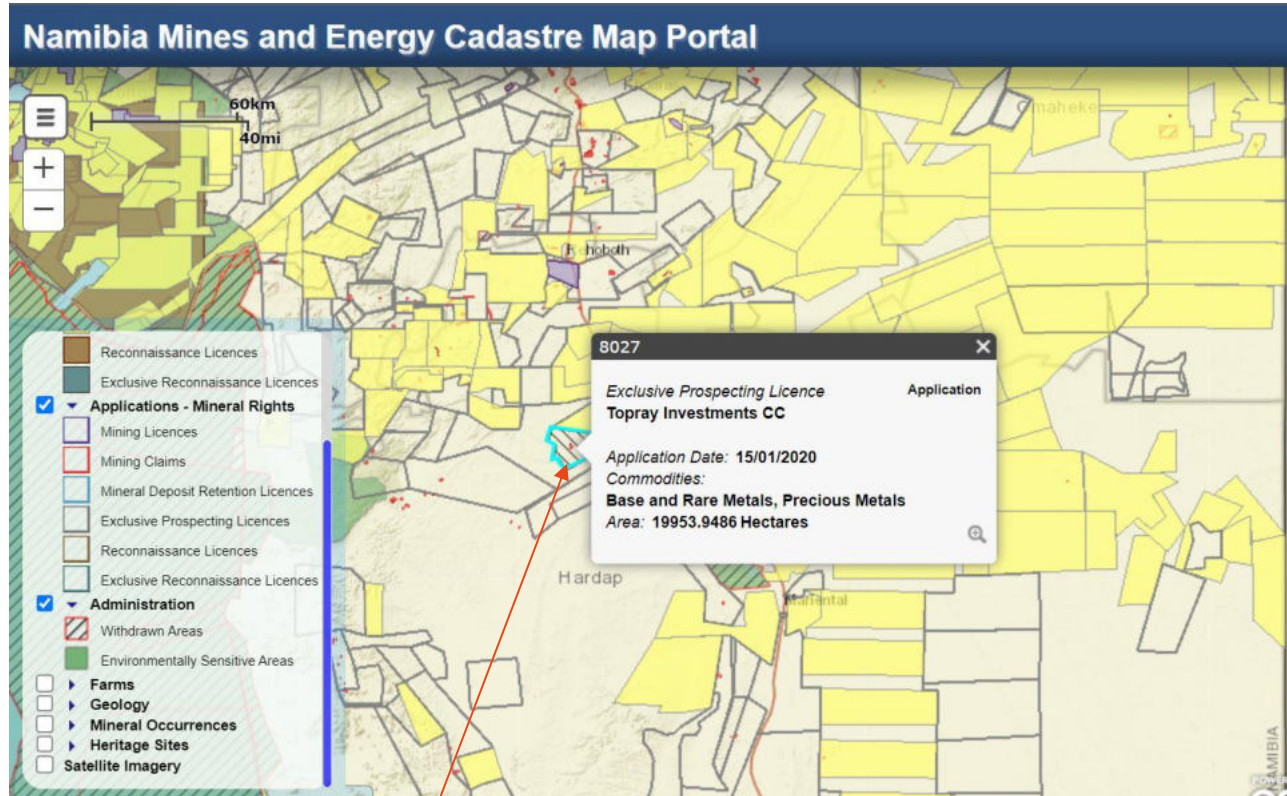


Figure 1: Location of the EPL 8207, situated in the Hardap Region, Namibia (MME portal, 2023) GPS Coordinates: - 24.00972222 lat,17.07444444 long .

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

The project involves conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the establishment of exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia.

Topray Investments CC, hereinafter referred to as the proponent, intends to undertake exploration activities and mining activities for Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals, within the EPL 8027 covering a total area of 19 953.9486 Hectares in the Hardap Region, Namibia, Namibia. EPL 8027 covers Farm Attes No. 470; Farm Schlip No. 472; Farm Schlip and Townlands No. 944 and Farm Kromhoek No. 594 and the target mineral resource is copper.

The proposed exploration activities on EPL 8027 include soil sampling, ground, and airborne geophysical surveys (audio-magneto telluric, induced polarization and magnetic ground surveys), geological mapping, and exploration drilling on selected target areas. Some limited grass clearing will be carried out, for the creation of working areas and access tracks where necessary. Strict environmental guidelines shall be followed while managing all activity sites. Agreements for access will be made with all farmers and owners of privately owned land/farmers that are part of the EPL or might be accessed. The exploration activities will commence as soon as an environmental clearance certificate has been granted by the Environmental Commissioner and activities are expected to be conducted over a 3-year period, which is the duration of the exploration licence. However, the period of each phase of the exploration programme may vary and will be refined as geological information becomes available.

The proposed development provides employment for over 30 people at the active exploration site who are involved in the mining & on/off-loading of the Base and Rare Metals & Precious metals and contributes to the local economy of the nearby towns of Rehoboth & Mariental. The intended Environmental Assessment is needed in order to assess the potential social and environmental impacts associated with the intended exploration activities and also to provide methods of rehabilitation of the quarries once the exploration activities have ceased.

### 4. ENGINEERING SERVICES

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Water for the intended exploration activities and human consumption will be sourced from the borehole to be drilled within the EPL 8027 area. Electricity on the site is not connected to the national grid via the regional distributor Regional Electricity Distributor (RED) as yet and diesel & solar power are used on site and sewage is removed from the site mobile toilets by means of sewer removal vehicle at regular intervals for disposal at the Mariental sewerage ponds. Access to the EPL 8027 site will be obtained using the B1main road from Rehoboth to Mariental and then driving about to site using the existing internal farm access roads.

## 5. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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The EPL 8027 is located within the Karstveld vegetation type of the Acacia Tree-and-shrub Savanna Biome as well as thornbush woodland (Mendelsohn et al., 2002). The vegetation structure in the EPL 8027 can be broadly classified as sparse and is mostly limited to depressions and watercourses where run-off water collects. grassland savannah. The proposed area is regarded as dry farming area with the Kalahari vegetation consisting of sparse trees, shrubs, grass cover and sparse woodlands. The vegetation is mainly acacia trees and shrubs within the savanna biome. Plant endemism is low and do not necessarily exceed ten species. A variety of plant species are seen such as Camel thorn (*Vachellia erioloba*), wild-green hair tree, buffalo thorn tree (*Ziziphus mucronata*), few quiver trees (*Aloe dichotoma*) and *Catophractes alexandri*.

The areas support wildlife population less than 200 and a variety of wild animals such as Kudus (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), Gemsboks (*Oryx gazella*), Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*), caracal (*Caracal caracal*) and Black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*). The farms in and around the EPL area do not have game proof fences, thus wildlife moves freely. The wildlife is used for household consumption only through hunting permits from MEFT. There is no bulk water supply from NamWater to the EPL 8027 area and water for human consumption is fetched at farm boreholes. For operation purposes of the mine machinery to cool it off when crushing the mineral ores water will be sourced at these boreholes.

A more detailed assessment will however be done during this EA process.



## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (DESR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of FESR and EMP
- Preparing the final ESR & EMP and submitting to MEFT & public reviewing via the online portal.
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

### Pre-identified impacts

- Potential ground and surface water pollution;
- Waste Management;
- Loss of biodiversity (flora and (avi)fauna) during mine excavations;
- Noise pollution;
- Potential social nuisance impacts on community members such as theft and poaching of domestic animals roaming onto project site from the surrounding farms;
- Vulnerability to risks arising from climate variability and change.
- Soil erosion and sedimentation
- Traffic impacts
- Dust and noise impacts during exploration
- Archaeological and heritage issues
- Visual impacts of quarries – sense of place.

## 8. REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

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<b>Participant Name:</b>	<b>Organization/Affiliations:</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>

<b>Postal Address:</b>
<b>Comments/Suggestions and Questions:</b>

**Please fill in particulars and return completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:**

**Healthy Earth Environmental Consultants CC (HEEC)**

Mobile: +264 81-572 0258

E-Mail: [askheec@gmail.com](mailto:askheec@gmail.com)



