

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, DIMENSION STONE AND PRECIOUS METALS, EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) 8816 LOCATED IN OUTJODISTRICT, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA.

#### PUBLIC INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

#### PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID), is to provide basic detailed information about the proposed listed activities and to be shared with all registered potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the public consultation as part of the EIA process. Furthermore, the BID aims to outline the EIA process and public consultation methods to be followed.

Hence, BID aims to provide:

- An overview of proposed exploration activities on **EPL 8816 for base and rare metals, industrial minerals, dimension stone and precious metals, mineral groups.**
- An overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment process; and
- Guidance on how members of public can participate in the EIA process

I&APs comments and concerns are vital to the success of the EIA process and potential public members are encouraged to register and participate.

Please register / complete registration form and submit to SS Consultants CC on or before the **14 July 2023**:

**Attention:** Ms. Anna Nekuta

**Address:** Unit 24, Bougain Villa, Sam Nuuyoma Road, Windhoek, Namibia

**Email:** [admin@ssconsultants.co](mailto:admin@ssconsultants.co)

**Cell:** +264812409124

#### INTRODUCTION

SS CONSULTANTS CC (hereafter referred to as the consultant), an independent mineral resource and environmental consulting company has been appointed by **Seblon Kambwale Hangula** (here after referred to as the Proponent) to undertake an environmental scoping assessment process and obtain an environmental clearance certificate on behalf of the proponent for the proposed mineral exploration activities on **EPL 8816**.

The proposed exploration activities fall in the listed activities under the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 – activities which may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate. Hence the proponent is expected to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Environmental Commissioner prior to the commencing of these exploration activities.

The proposed development is therefore related to the specific listed activities as outlined by relevant sections in the Environmental Management Acts Regulations of 2012:

- *Construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right or other form of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other form of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992 (Section 3.1);*
- *Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not (Section 3.2);*
- *Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities (Section 3.3);*
- *Abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes (Section 8.1).*
- *Manufacturing, storage, handling, or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substances Ordinance, 1974 (Section 9.1).*
- *Any process or activity which requires ..... (Section 9.2).*

## 1. Project Description

EPL 8816 was applied by Mr **Seblon Kambwale Hangula**, on 31 March 2022 of which a notice of preparedness to grant EPL was presented to the proponent by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). To execute any exploration activities within EPL 8816, it is a requirement under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2017) and its 2012 EIA Regulations that the proponent obtains an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). The ECC will allow the owner to conduct exploration activities for base and rare metals, industrial minerals, dimension stone, and precious metals. The project area is made up of one EPL license which may be converted to a mining license (s) if an economically viable deposit is discovered and the licensing requirements are met. The proposed exploration activities will involve both non-invasive and invasive exploration methods. Non-invasive exploration methods usually include remote sensing, geological field mapping, ground geophysical survey and surface soil and rock sampling. whereas invasive exploration methods include techniques such as reverse circulation or diamond drilling and pitting/trenching. Non-invasive exploration activities will be undertaken first in order to define the need for more invasive activities. Should the results from the non-invasive activities be positive the detailed site-specific drilling, trenching, and sampling will be undertaken. The license falls within a well serviced area with infrastructure, such as water, national roads, railways, telephones, petrol stations (Outjo, Kamandjab)) and power line. Thus, the applicant will use the existing water and electrical infrastructure in the area. Utilization of these infrastructure will depend on the agreement reached with other landowners and or community members and all the necessary permits and requirements will be obtained from the necessary authorities. During exploration, various geological consultants and contractors will be appointed during different exploration phases. In addition to this, a geophysics expert will potentially be contracted during exploration to conduct geophysical surveys. Drilling operations will be executed by an appointed registered drilling contractor, and is expected that they will have their own work force (drilling crew). Furthermore, exploration activities on EPL 8816 has a potential for the establishment and operation of a mineral exploration program which will create direct permanent employment and indirect job creation in supporting services. These activities further have the potential for the discovery of an ore deposit of economic potential, which through mineral extraction, benefits the country in terms of employment, wealth and economic development. Employment on the new project will be attractive to the local workforce by virtue of the comparatively high wages offered, which will boost economic growth in the economy of the Kamanjab constituency and surrounding towns, constituencies and the country at large. The nearest populated towns/settlement/village are Fransfontein, Kamandjab, Outjo, Khorixas, Otjikondo and Onguati from which unskilled labour can be sourced from. It is anticipated that the workforce will be housed in temporary site camps or may reside in the nearest towns throughout the exploration program.

## 2. Project Location

EPL **8816** is located 60 km northeast of Khorixas and about 3 kilometers southwest of Otjikondo village in the **Kunene Region**. The project covers an area of 19730.343 hectares and is demarcated by six (6) corner coordinates as shown on Figure 1 below. The EPL overlies partially several commercial farms, notably: Leicester, Saratoga, Oenitzaub, Otjikondo, Gewaagd, Galpan, Klein Tutara, Charon, Miltindes, Beaumontia and Nadas. The EPL can be accessed through the D2 666 road from Otjikondo village, which branches from the main Kamanjab - Outjo C40 road. The location is shown in figure 2.

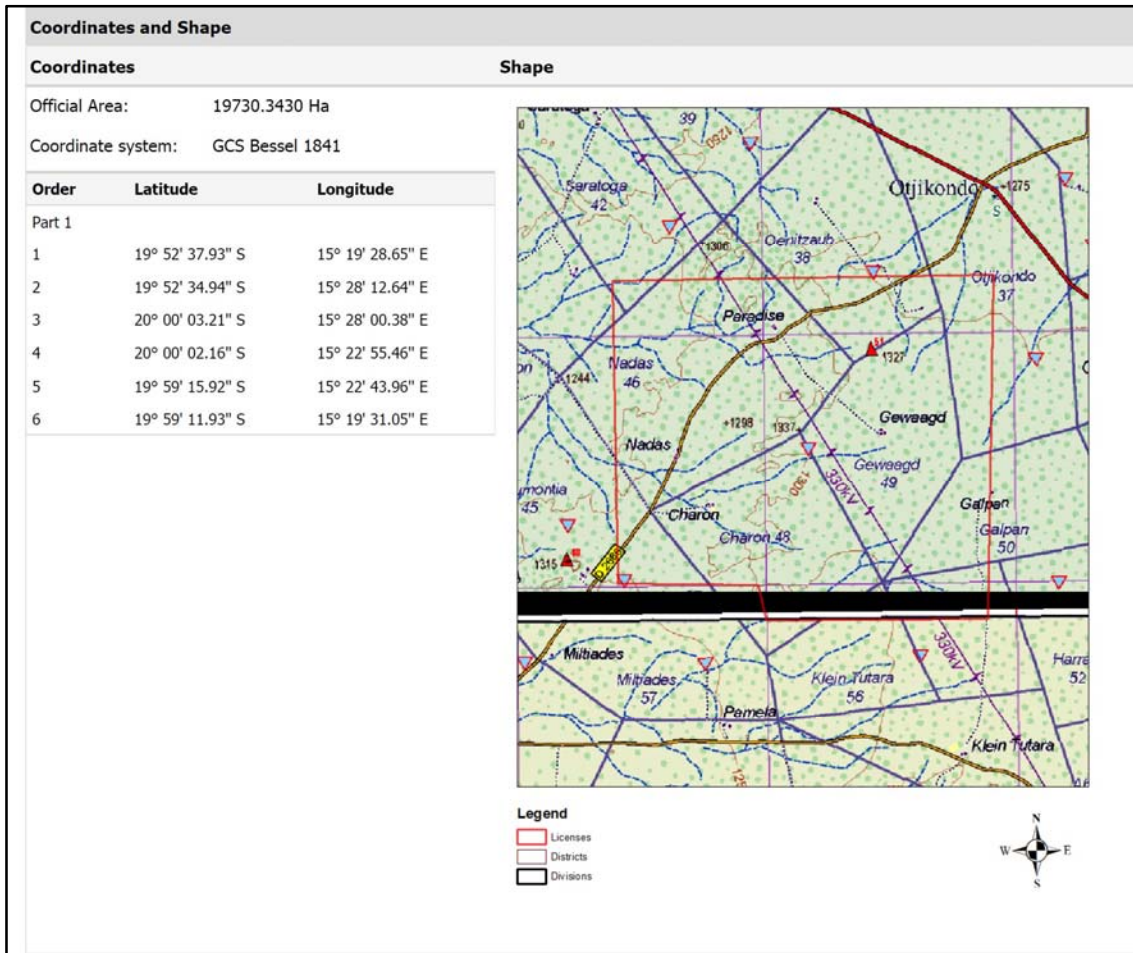
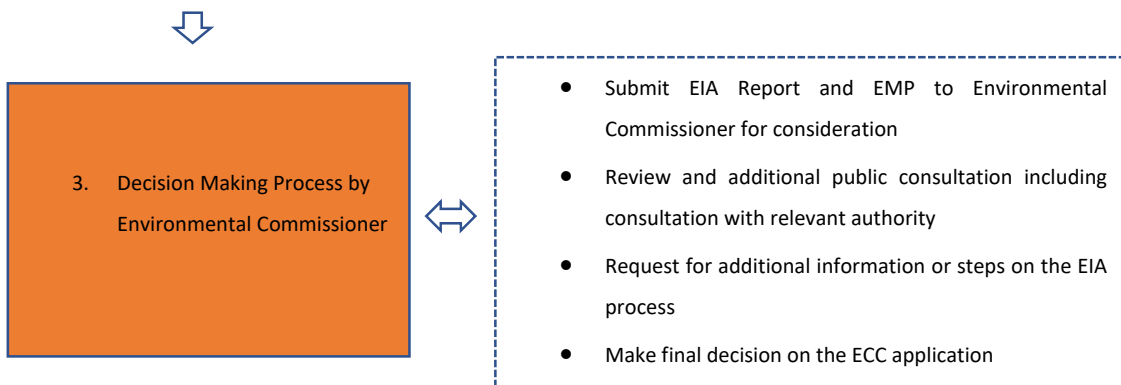


Figure 1: Map depicting the coverage of EPL 8816 and corner coordinates of the license area





#### 4. Potential Impacts

Below are the potential impacts that have been identified from the proposed exploration activities on the license area:

- **Temporary job creation** this is the hiring of workers non-skilled to skilled workers from the area to be involved during the clearing of the fauna and flora in order to access target sites, and to also assist during pitting and trenching as well as drilling and associated exploration works.
- **Impact on vegetation and fauna:** some vegetation may need to be removed to create access roads, pitting and trenching, geophysical lines as well as drilling sites. This may also lead to habitat destruction for some fauna.
- **Traffic safety:** very slow drilling rigs and associated vehicles may compromise traffic safety in the area.
- **Environmental degradation** through different types of waste generated on the site.
- **Soil and water contamination** from chemicals and other substances used in drilling fluids.
- **Noise and dust** generated by pitting and trenching as well as drilling vehicles and activities.
- **Health and safety risks** which may result to workers operating on site.
- **Archaeological and Heritage Impacts** if these sites are located close to the planned exploration area.

#### 5. Public consultation

Public participation is an essential part of any Environmental Assessment process. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) include any person or organization that will be directly or indirectly involved and/or affected by the project.

Registered I&APs will be kept informed of the Public Participation Process throughout the Environmental Assessment process, they will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the EIA reports and documents and, will also receive feedback on how comments have been taken into account, and will be informed of the outcome of the assessment. All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and competent authority by means of the Project Comments and Responses Register (CRR).

Notices for public invitation to participate in the process will still be placed in the local newspaper as well as at strategic public places (notice boards). The date and venue for the public consultation meeting will be communicated.

If you categorize yourself as an I&AP who wishes to receive information regarding the above-mentioned project and/or provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment process, you are hereby invited to register using the form on Page 6. You may also communicate with SS Consultants via email, or telephone to obtain further information or comment on the proposed project.

Contact details:

**Ms. Anna Nekuta**

Environmental Specialist (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

SS Consultant CC

**Physical Address:** Unit 24B, Bougain Villa, Sam Nuuyoma Road, Windhoek, Namibia

**Email:** [admin@ssconsultants.co](mailto:admin@ssconsultants.co)

**Mobile number:** +264 812409124



**REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APs)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, DIMENSION STONE AND PRECIOUS METALS MINERAL GROUPS; EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL No.8816 LOCATED IN OUTJO DISTRICT, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA**

<p><b>Ms. Anna Nekuta</b>          Environmental Specialist (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)</p> <p>SS Consultant Cc  <b>Physical Address:</b> Unit 24, Bougain Villa, Sam Nuuyoma Road, Windhoek, Namibia  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:admin@ssconsultants.co">admin@ssconsultants.co</a>  <b>Cell:</b> +264 812409124</p>			
<b>Title (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof)</b>		<b>Name/Initials</b>	
<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Interested Parties or</b>		<b>Affected Parties?</b>	
<b>Physical Address and or Postal Address</b>			
<b>Tel No:</b>		<b>Cell No:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>			
<b>Comments/Issues/Concerns (Please if the space is not enough, use additional separate sheet)</b>			