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Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed erection of fencing for the storage and solid waste management at Erf 1125 industrial area mariental, Hardap Region, Namibia.

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Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

Meyer's Recycling is responding to the growing global concern surrounding waste management by envisioning the establishment of an advanced recycling center in Mariental, Hardap Region. The primary goal of this initiative is to champion sustainable waste management practices within the region, strategically working to divert and minimize the volume of waste destined for landfills. This scoping report serves as an initial overview, delineating key considerations for the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will systematically address potential environmental impacts and propose effective mitigating measures.

1.2 Project Description

Meyers Recycling aims to revolutionize waste management in the Hardap region by establishing a comprehensive recycling and waste sorting facility. The project involves erecting fencing to create a confined space for sorting, handling, and storing solid waste collected from both the local community and surrounding areas. As a locally owned recycling and buy-back center, Meyers Recycling seeks to make a significant impact on environmental sustainability in the region. The initiative is unique, representing a first-of-its-kind regional environmental concept. The company plans to serve individuals and extend its services to larger companies in Mariental and the broader region. By fostering a joint venture between the community and sustainability, Meyers Recycling aims to create a model that promotes environmental consciousness. The project addresses the inefficiencies and inconsistencies in waste management observed in the past, with a particular focus on improving communication. The State of Environment Report highlights the substantial waste generation in some parts of the south, emphasizing the need for effective waste management practices. Meyers Recycling seeks to mitigate the environmental and health impacts of waste by promoting recycling as a crucial aspect of their operations

1.3 Project location

Meyers Recycling CC is allocating Eff1125 Industrial Area in Mariental, located east of the railway line in the industrial area. The erf measures 3000m² in extent. The land uses comprise predominantly of business and 1.5km away from residential area and within the brick manufacturer, Livestock Pens and logistic companies.

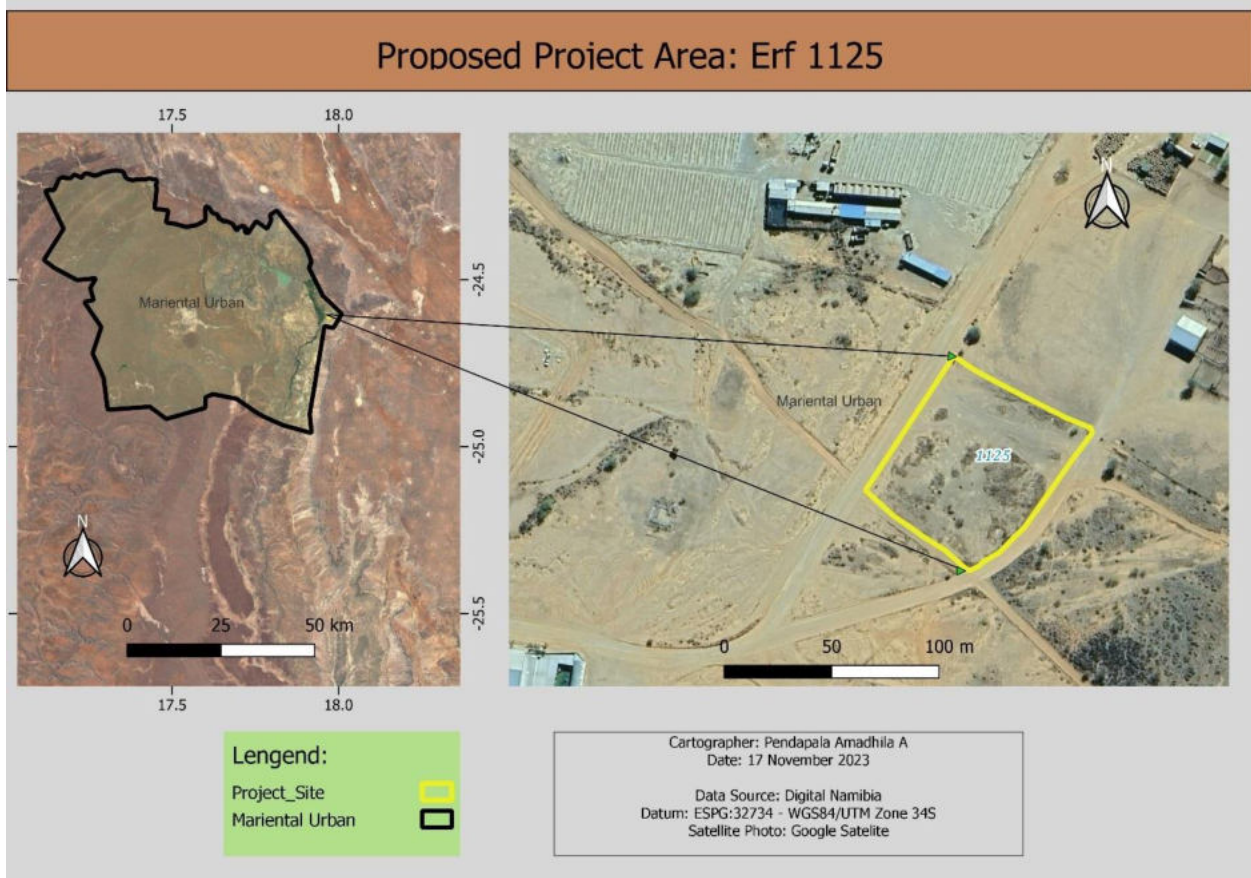


Figure.1 Proposed project area

Methodology

The following methods were used to investigate the potential impacts on the social and natural environment due to the set up and operation of the project.

- Information about the site and its surroundings was obtained from existing secondary information and site visits.
- Neighbors, interested and affected Parties (I&APs) were consulted

Regulatory Framework

Table 1. Legal Frameworks relevant to the project

LEGISLATION/POLICIES	RELEVANT PROVISIONS
<p>The Constitution of the republic of Namibia</p>	<p>There are two clauses contained in the Namibian Constitution that are of particular relevance to sound environmental management practice, viz. articles 91(c) and 95(l). In summary, these refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarding against over-utilisation of biological natural resources; • Limiting over-exploitation of non-renewable resources; • Ensuring ecosystem functionality; • Protecting Namibia’s sense of place and character; • Maintaining biological diversity; and • Pursuing sustainable natural resource use. <p>The above therefore commits the State to actively promote and sustain environmental welfare of the nation by formulating and institutionalising policies to accomplish the abovementioned sustainable development objectives</p>
<p>Namibia Vision 2030</p>	<p>Sustainable Development formed one of the principles that underpin Vision 2030, a policy framework for Namibia’s long-term national development, Vision 2030 states that natural environments are disappearing quickly. Consequently, the solitude, silence and natural beauty that many areas in Namibia provide are becoming sought after commodities and must be regarded as valuable natural assets. Vision 2030 emphasizes the importance of promoting Healthy Living which includes that the majority of Namibians are provided with basic services. The importance of developing Wealth, Livelihood and the Economy is also emphasized by Vision 2030</p>
<p>Environmental Management Act EMA (Act no 7 of 2007)</p>	<p>Section 2 outlines the objective of the Act and the means to achieve that. Section 3 details the principle of Environmental Management</p>
<p>National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia (September 2020)</p>	<p>Since Namibia contributes very little GHG to the atmosphere, mitigation in this National Climate Change Policy will predominantly refer to actions taken to enhance energy efficiency, and promote sustainable low carbon development and sustainable energy through technology and innovations.</p>

Forestry Act no 12 of 2001 Amended act of 2005	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 its resources. Basically, the Act stipulates how forest resources may be used and the responsibilities of the users.
Nature Conservation Ordinance no. 4 of 1975	Chapter 6 provides for legislation regarding the protection of indigenous plants Indigenous and protected plants must be managed within the legal confines.
National Heritage Act no 79 of 1969	The Act is aimed at protecting, conserving and registering places and objects of heritage significance. Any object of Archaeological importance must be reported to the National Heritage Council of Namibia.
Water Resources Management Act of Namibia (2004) (Guideline only)	This act repealed the existing South African Water Act No.54 of 1956 which was used by Namibia. This Act ensures that Namibia's water resources are managed, developed, protected, conserved and used in ways which are consistent with fundamental principles depicted in section 3 of this Act. Part IX regulates the control and protection of groundwater resources. Part XI, titled Water Pollution Control, regulates discharge of effluent by permit. Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
Labour Act no. 11 of 2007	Chapter 2 details the fundamental rights and protections. Chapter 3 deals with the basic conditions of employment.
Public and Environmental Health Act of 2015	This Act (GG 5740) provides a framework for a structured uniform public and environmental health system in Namibia. and to provide for incidental matters. It also provides with respect to matters of public health in Namibia.

Environmental Baseline

4.1 Terrestrial ecology

The site falls within the Nama Karoo biome, which is characterised by Dwarf Shrub Savanna vegetation type. It is known to support a varied assemblage of plant communities, ranging from deciduous shrub vegetation to perennial grasslands and succulent shrubs. The area of interest has little to no vegetation as it's located in an industrial area which is active with moving vehicles and signs of disturbance can be seen in figure 2. Undisturbed vegetation is however also observed within the study area, the the grass cover of about of about 20%, the main species found in the area is dominantly stipaglotis species and sparsely distributed Prosopis and Acasia bushes. No endangered or protected species exists at the project location, and if found the ministry of Environment Tourism and will be notified for safe removal and translocation to nearby botanical area. The spec the project does not pose any threat to the flora found in the area be it during set up phase or operational phase.

Deducing from the Atlas of Namibia, the proposed site is within the area that known to have between 50 to 99 plant species (Mandelsohn et al, 2003). With regards to fauna, it is estimated that at least 51 to 60 reptiles, 61 to 75 mammal and 141 to 170 bird species (breeding residents) are known to or are expected to occur in the project area of which only a very few proportions are endemics. Faunal species diversity is presented in table2 below:



Figure 2: Picture showing the project are, showing disturbance

Table 2. General Fauna Diversity (Atlas of Namibia)

	Diversity	Endemism
Mammal	61-75 species	5-6 species
Scorpion	12-13 species	0 species
Bird	141-170 species	0 species
Reptile	51-60 species	9-12 Species
Frog	8-11species	N/A
Lizards	28-31 species	N/A
Termite	1-6 Genera	N/A

4.2 Climate

Average rainfall: Rainfall in the area is averaged between 200 to 250mm per year

Average evaporation: Evaporation in the area is averaged to be between 2100 to 2400mm per year.

Precipitation: Irregular and highly strong and localized storm events between October and April do occur.

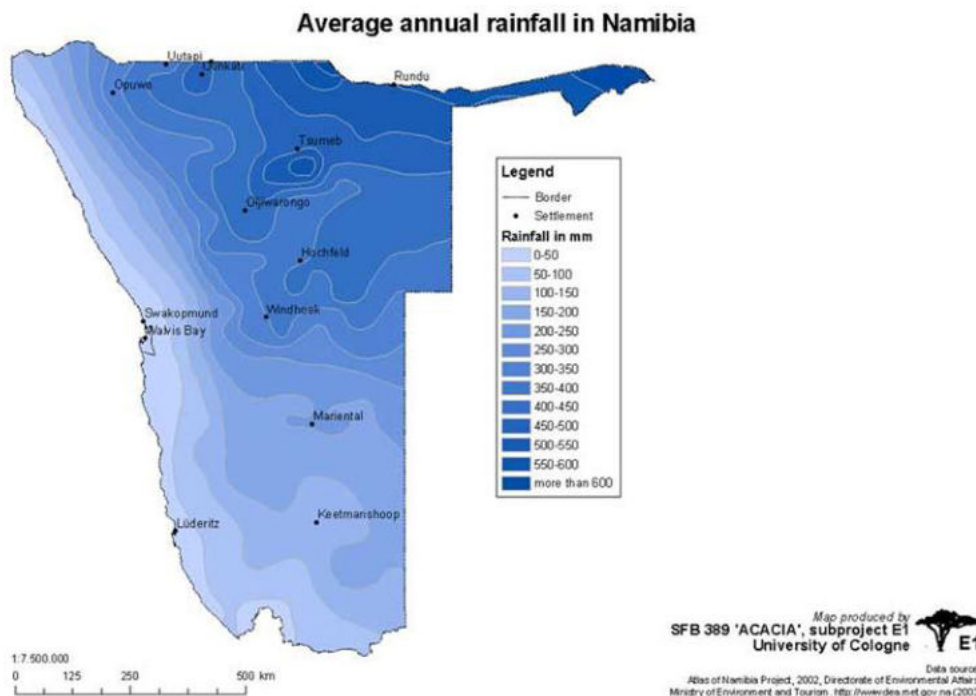


Figure 3: Average Rainfall in Namibia

Water Deficit: Water deficit in the area is averaged to be between 2100 and 2300mm/a

Temperatures: The hot season lasts for 3.6 months, from November 11 to February 28, with an average daily high temperature above 34.4°C. The hottest day of the year is December 26, with an average high of 37.2°C and low of 22.2°C.

The cool season lasts for 2.5 months, from May 26 to August 11, with an average daily high temperature below 26.1°C. The coldest day of the year is July 12, with an average low of 5°C and high of 23.9°C. Wind direction: Wind direction in the area is predominantly northerly. The Mariental area and its surroundings can be classified as a water deficit area with annual evaporations exceeding the mean annual rainfall by far. The aridity of the region causes the water resource to be a scarce commodity and has to be conserved and protected from pollution at all cost.

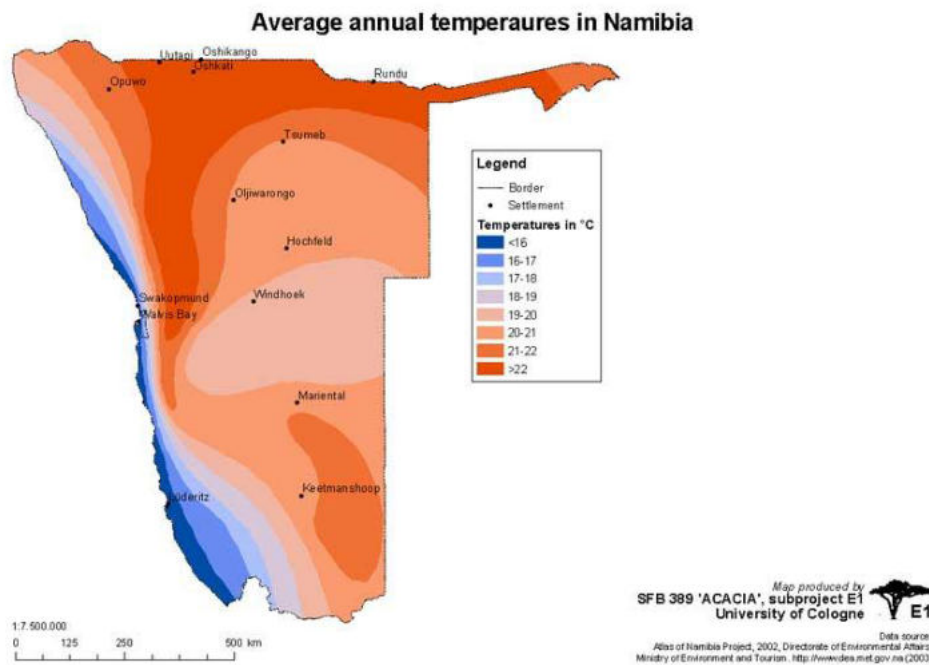


Figure 4: Average Temperature in Namibia

4.3 Topography, Geology and Hydrogeology

The Site is relatively flat to erosive. The Nama Karoo Basin falls within a large, flat lying plateau that dominates the southern Namibia, Sedimentary Rock form the Foundation of the landscape. The Fish River, as well as Lowen and Konkiep rivers drain the landscape, all flowing Southward top the Orange rive. The Nature of the Project will however not produce affluent or hazardous substances that may pollute the rivers, and solid waste will be properly contained and monitored to avoid pollution

4.4 Socio-Economic Aspects

This section provides an overview of socio-economic characteristics of the study area. It provides regional and local information on the, economic activities, population dynamics, vulnerability, and social services currently available in the area.

4.4.1 Regional information

The proposed development is situated in Mariental, in the Hardap Region of Namibia. The total current population is estimated to be 79,507 with 38,935 females and 40,572 males (NSA, 2011). The life expectancy is 53 years for females and 51 years in males (NPC, 2001). The population density in the Hardap Region is 0.7 persons per km². Ninety-one percent of the population living in the Hardap Region over 15 years of age are literate (NPC, 2004). Estimated unemployment rate in Hardap region is 41.9% (NSA, NLFS 2018).

4.4.2 Economic activities

Mariental is a town in south-central Namibia. It is located 221km north of Keetmanshoop and 261km southeast of Windhoek, along the main road B1. Mariental is the administrative centre and capital town of the Hardap Region. The town forms part of the hub for all economic activities in the area and the region at large.

4.4.3 Employment (Job Opportunities)

Unemployment still hampers most of the developing world and Mariental is no exception. The proposed development is likely to increase the job opportunities at the settlement. The Construction phase of the project will provide job opportunities, of which 80% are expected to be unskilled and semi-skilled people and can be sourced from the unemployed labour force of Mariental and the surrounding areas. The principle of maximising local employment creation can be applied by employing locals to erect fencing and also those that will be employed during the operational phase for collection of waste, sorting as well as administration of the buy-back centre.

The local economy of the town is expected to benefit from the project. A percentage of moneys derived from salaries and wages earned by construction workers is likely to be spent at the coastal town. The moneys spent in communities around the project location would create substantial flows of revenue within these communities, thus acting as a catalyst for growth in the local economy. In addition, procurement of materials, goods and services

4.4.4 Tourism

Many tourists that visit the Mariental and the Hardap Region come to enjoy the safari and hunting experiences offered here in the south. In addition, private game farms and conservancies offer protection for wildlife, which then becomes an attraction to tourists and trophy hunters. The area attracts a lot of tourists from all over the world. Excessive waste, dust, noise and vibrations can have negative impacts on the tourism industry in the area, as it can become a nuisance to tourists. Mitigation measures at the site must be put in place to reduce these impacts.

4.4.5 Livelihoods

Livestock farming and formal employment are the main livelihood activities in the Region. Game farming, hunting and ecotourism yield alternative income for some farmers. Nearly half of the population is employed in the private and public sectors. Therefore, making wages and salaries the main source of income for 64% of households in the Region. Pensions constitute the second main source of income for 13% of households, farming make up 7%, cash remittance 7% and non-farming business 4% of the population. The livelihoods of the local community are likely to be positively impacted therefore, predicted to be better than before the formal township establishments. By providing a clean community as well as a change in mindset regarding waste

4.4.6 HIV & Prostitution

Namibia is one of countries affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The HIV prevalence rate Mariental District is 12% (Hardap Region is 8.8%). The spending powers of locals working for envisaged township establishment projects are likely to increase, and this might be a perfect opportunity for sex workers to explore. Migrant labourers from other regions and expatriates are normally vulnerable and may use the services rendered by the sex workers. Should the HIV prevalence increase, the following consequential issues could arise: Reduced workforce in the Hardap Region. Increase in orphans and households headed by children Diversion of income expenditure to medical care. The current rate of 16,624 people per doctor could increase.

4.4.8 Infrastructure & Increased Traffic

The Hardap Region currently has a well-developed infrastructure. Even though Mariental still has gravel roads that need upgrading. The main trunk road which provides a direct link from Windhoek to South Africa passes through Mariental. Plus, the town has an all-weather landing strip for small to medium sized planes. Traffic is not Expected to be affected during Erection of fences and during the operation phase

4.4.9 Poverty Status

According to a survey in 2005, Hardap Region's Human Poverty Index of 25.0 percent is higher than the national average of 24.7 percent. In general, with reference to all indicators (e.g. unemployment, life expectancy rates, access to land, access to safe water and toilet facilities, poverty etc)

Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. Communication with I&APs about the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled;
- A notice was fixed at the Mariental Municipality Notice board as well as Shoprite Notice board as well as the Namibian Newspaper dated () briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs
- After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until 17 November 2023).
- Neighbors within the project area were identified and invited to give their Consent through an invitation letter
- No comments were received from the public on the draft report.

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Figure 5: Advert in The Namibian Newspaper notifying I&APs