

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN RUNDU

*For the Subdivision of Erf 1390,
Rundu Extension 4 into Erven "1" to
"11" and Remainder of Erf 1390 and
the creation of the street.*

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

Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure

The construction of Public roads (The proposed project includes the construction of roads)

Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure

The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where – it is a public road; (The proposed project includes the route determination of roads)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development activities in Rundu.

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 proposed project.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Rundu Town Council hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- (a) Subdivision of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 into Erven "1" to "11" and Remainder of Erf 1390;**
- (b) Reservation of Remainder of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 for a "Street"**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the listed activities indicated above were triggered by the proposed project.

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) 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 proposed development activity.

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

The subject Erf 1390 is located in the neighborhood of Rundu Extension 4 as depicted in the in the Locality Map figure 1 below.

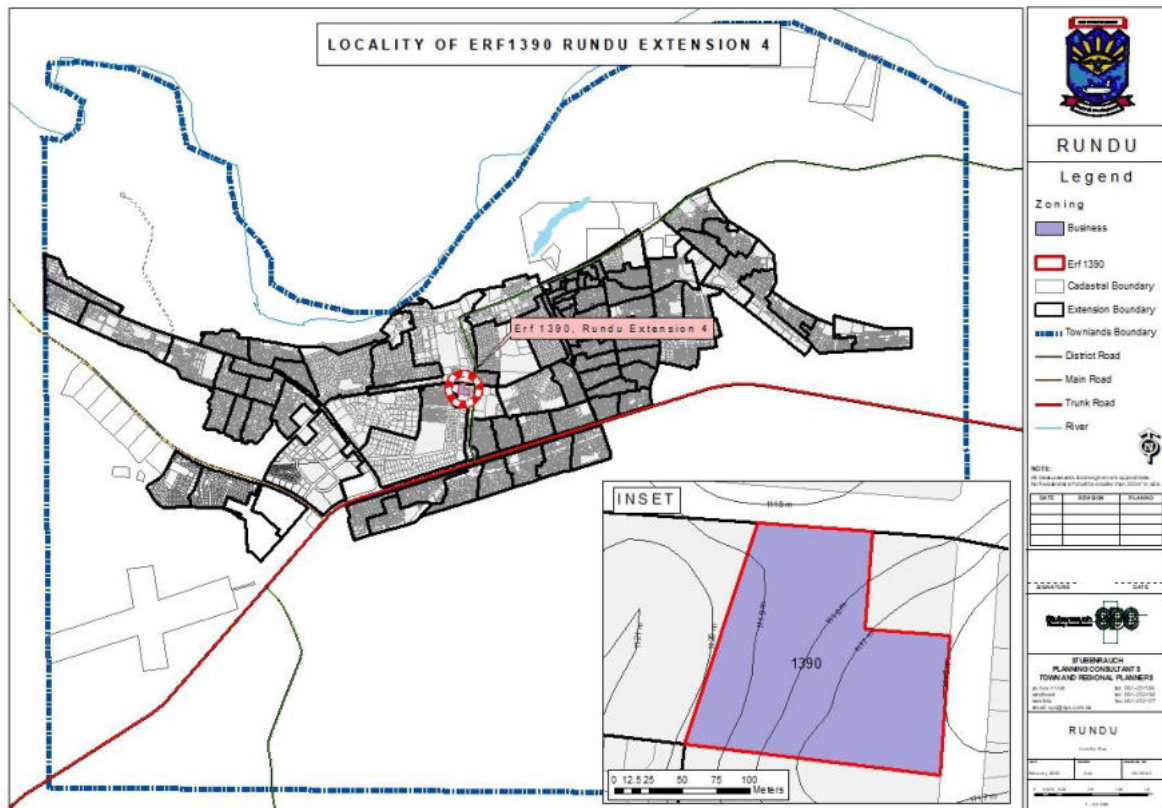


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF ERF 1390 RUNDU EXTENSION 4

3.2 Zoning

The subject Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 is currently zoned for “Business” purposes in accordance with the Rundu Zoning Scheme (then Rundu Town Planning Scheme). The subject erf is situated in a predominantly “Business” area within the central activity corridor of Rundu.

3.3 Ownership

As per the Certificate of Registered Title No. T6109/1999, the ownership of the Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 vests with the Rundu Town Council and it measures 24415 ha in extent.

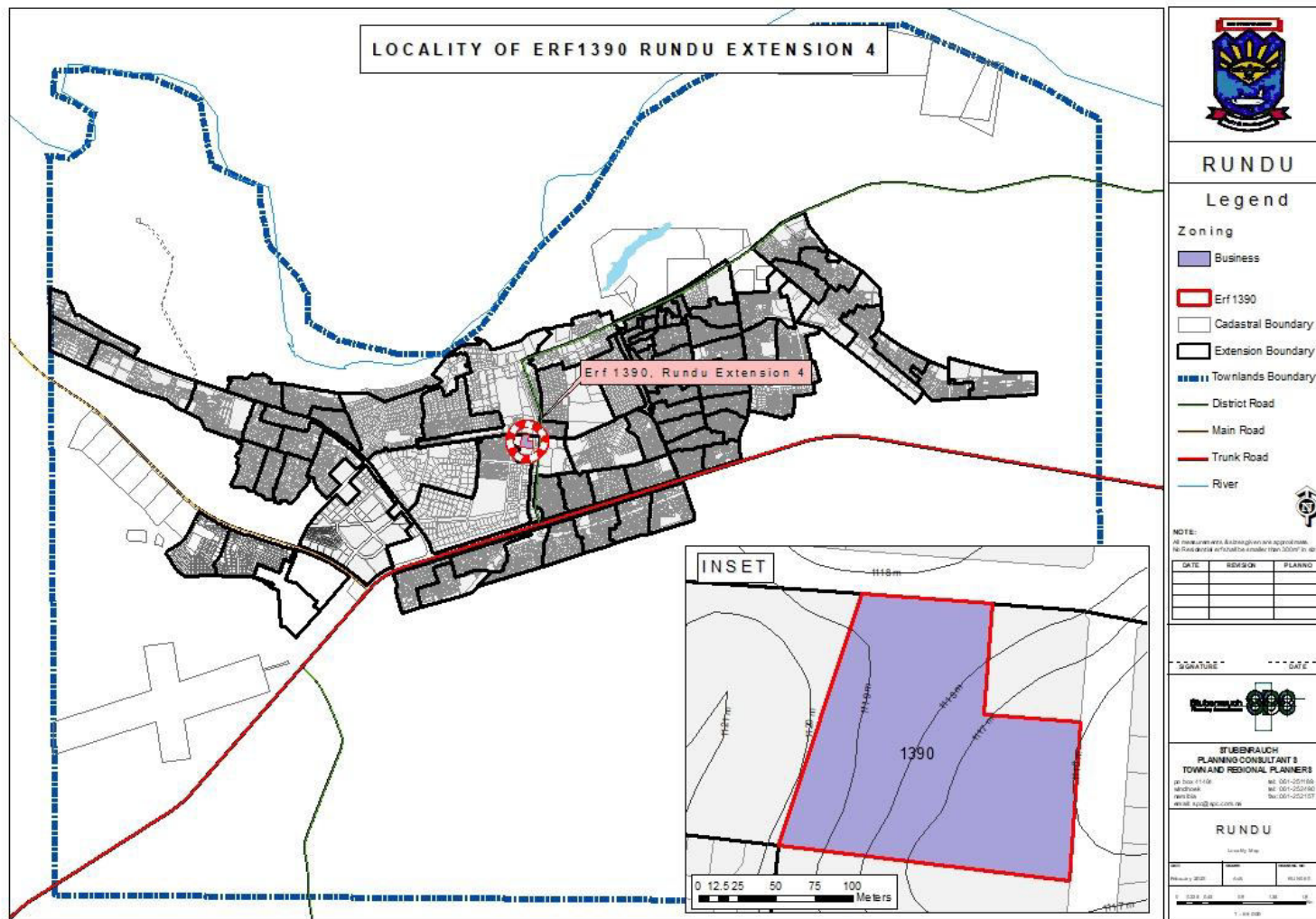


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF ERF 1390 RUNDU EXTENSION 4

3.4 Proposed Development

The aim of the project is to formalize the existing situation on Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 which currently consists of a variety of free-standing business buildings erected on the property. The proponent intends to formalize the existing situation and to locate each individual business on a separate erf with a formal street access. Although there are a few free-standing business erven on site, the subject erf is predominantly vacant with few trees.

There is an encroachment onto the subject Erf. The encroachment of the Leso development onto Erf 1390 Rundu Extension 4 will be accommodated within Proposed Erf "10" of the proposed subdivision layout as attached. It should be noted that the land uses of the newly created erven will not change after the subdivision is approved, unless the owner of the newly created erven will apply for a rezoning at their own costs.

The following steps is to be completed:

- (a) Subdivision of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 into Erven "1" to "11" and Remainder of Erf 1390;**
- (b) Reservation of Remainder of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 for a "Street"**

The proponent proposes to subdivide Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 into 11 erven and the Remainder as seen in Figure 2 and 3 the Remainder will be reserved for a street as seen in Figure 3. The subdivision will retain the current zoning and land use. The 11 smaller erven and the Remainder to be created will allow the Council to sell the "Business" zoned erven to the current owners and thus will create an additional income. Below is the land utilisation table, depicting the apportionment of the land on Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 for the proposed subdivision.

TABLE 1: LAND UTILISATION INDEX

Erf Number	± Size (m ²)	Zoning
Erf 1	839	Business
Erf 2	818	Business
Erf 3	1564	Business
Erf 4	709	Business
Erf 5	4801	Business
Erf 6	1076	Business
Erf 7	393	Business
Erf 8	2308	Business
Erf 9	1137	Business
Erf 10	5915	Business
Erf 11	881	Business
Remainder	3429	Street
Erf 1390	24415	Business

Table B: Subdivision of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 into Erven "A" to "J" and Remainder of Erf 1390

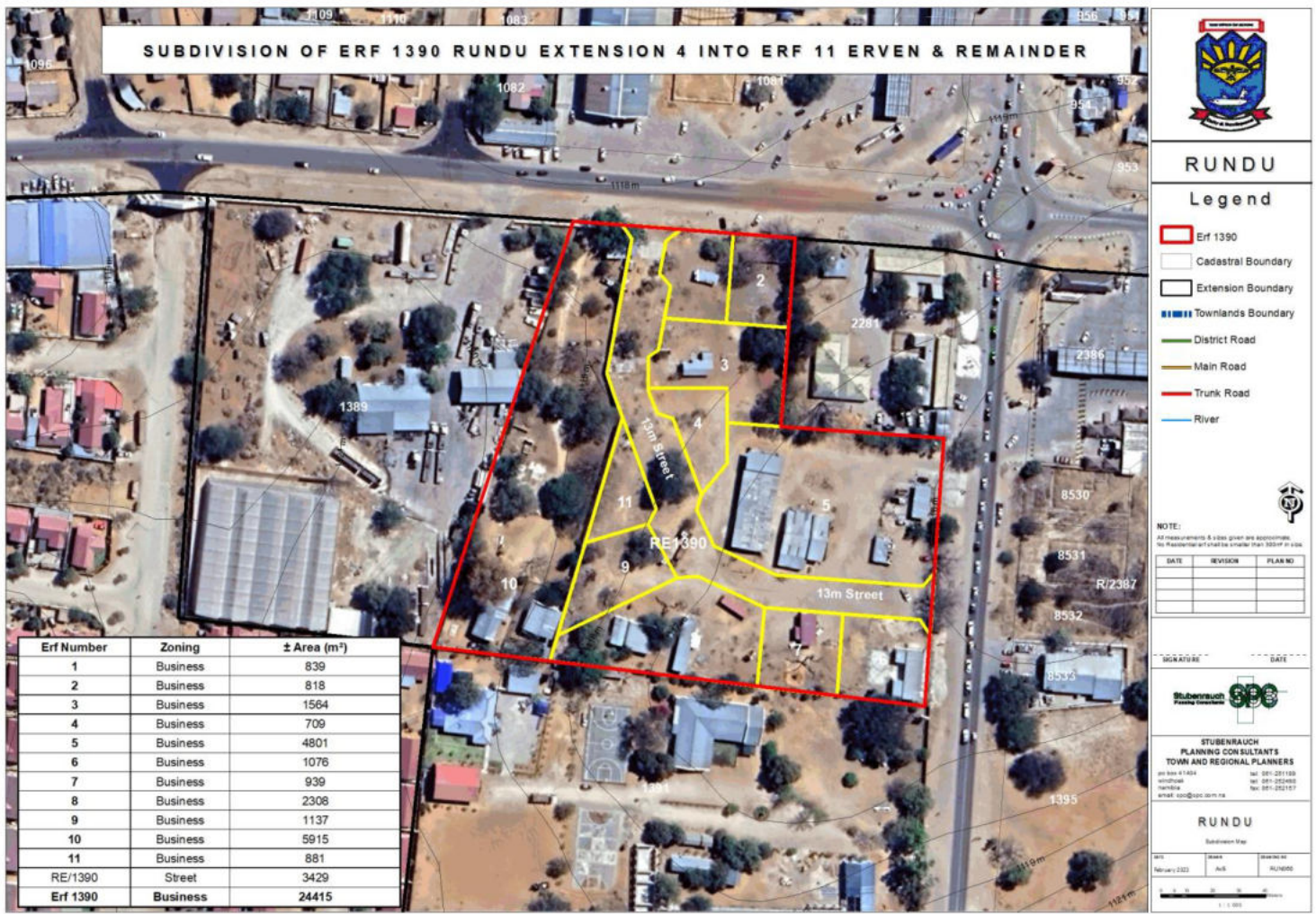


FIGURE 2: LAYOUT MAP OF PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OF ERF 1390 RUNDU EXTENSION 4 INTO 11 ERVEN AND REMAINDER

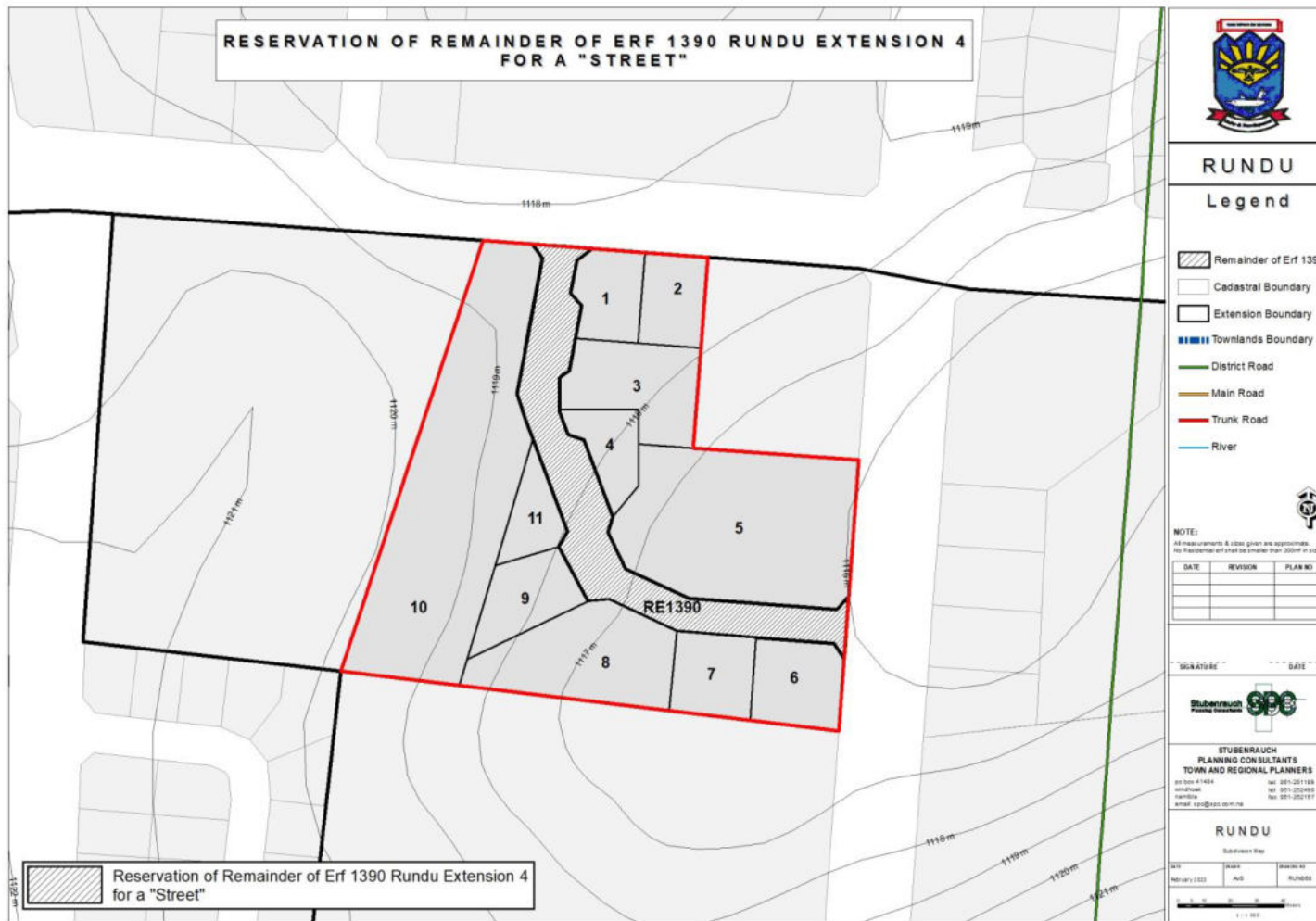


FIGURE 3: RESERVATION OF REMAINDER OF ERF 1390 RUNDU EXTENSION 4 FOR A STREET

4 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE INFORMATION

The environmental and social setting of the proposed project area is briefly described in this section. The detailed description of these environmental features will be fully presented in the environmental scoping report.

4.1 Biophysical Environment

4.1.1 Climate

The climate of Rundu is sub-tropical, tempered by the altitude, with a hot, rainy season from November to March and a long dry season from April to October (Cecchini, 2021). Situated in north-eastern Namibia, the Kavango East Region enjoys generally more rainfall than the rest of the country to the south and west. Annual average rainfall varies between about 450 and 600 mm, with a clear increasing trend from south to north. Rains fall almost entirely in summer, with the months from May to September usually being dry, and the first early rains coming to the region in October and November. Highest rainfalls usually occur in January and February (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, Geocarta Namibia, SAIEA, AHT Group AG, 2015).

The Kavango East is usually warm to hot. Average maximum temperatures are above 30°C for nine months of the year, and average minimums are below 10 °C during the coolest months June, July and August. Temperatures below freezing are occasionally recorded but are rare and are usually only experienced in low-lying valleys such as found along the Kavango River and Omurambas (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, Geocarta Namibia, SAIEA, AHT Group AG, 2015).

The warm dry conditions mean that evaporation is high. Rundu, for example, can expect to receive 590 mm of rain (the annual average), with a potential evaporation of about 2000 mm/a. Wind speeds are generally very low, and in most months, it is completely calm for over half the time.

4.1.2 Topography, Soils and Geology

The Kavango East Region is a gently undulating plain of unconsolidated sands, sloping gradually down northwards to the Kavango River and eastwards to the lowest areas along the river before it enters Botswana (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015). The sandy plain is incised by the Kavango River and other smaller ephemeral river channels, the most prominent one being the Omuramba-Omatako that runs roughly northwards to meet the Kavango River east of Rundu.

Rundu can be defined as predominantly flat with a topographic ridge line sweeping around the north of the town along the edge of the flood plain and turning back into the town as it follows the ephemeral water course (Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, 2013).

4.1.3. Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Surface water in Namibia is generally very limited and regarded as precious resources where they are available all year round. The most important water source in the Kavango East Region is the perennial Kavango River, which is the major source of water for the rural communities concentrated along the river (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015). Boreholes and dug-wells are concentrated along the Kavango River, the Omatako Valley and the main roads from Grootfontein to Rundu (Ministry of Agriculture Water and Rural Development, 2011). In addition, abstraction from the Kavango River provides water to Rundu Town, other smaller towns and agricultural schemes within the region.

4.1.4. Fauna and Flora

The Rundu area falls within the Broadleaved Tree-and-Shrub Savanna Biome. The town of Rundu is situated on the wall of the Kavango River in the Okavango valley. The area is known to be of Namibia's most densely vegetated areas composed of floodplain grasslands and lush woodlands. Broadly speaking, relatively larger deep-rooted trees such as teak and mangetti dominate on deep sands, while shallower soils in valleys support shrubs and grasses of various species.

The larger trees such as kiasat (*Pterocarpus angolensis*), teak (*Baikaea plurijuga*), silver terminalia (*Terminalia sericea*) and red seringa (*Burkea africana*) constitute a valuable resource of timber that is used for furniture, construction, carvings and firewood. A number of species are valued for food, such as false mopane (*Guibourtia coleosperma*), mangetti (*Schinziophyton rautanenii*) and monkey oranges (*Strychnos cocculoides*) – these are important resources for rural livelihoods. Tall grasses in the woodlands are harvested for thatching.

The banks of the Kavango River originally supported forests with distinctive trees such as knobthorn (*Acacia nigrescens*), weeping wattle (*Peltophorum africanum*) and jackalberry (*Diospyros mespiliformis*), and a dense shrubby undergrowth. However much of the riverine forest has disappeared with only a few localised patches of this vegetation type remaining, almost entirely within the protected area of Bwabwata National Park (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015).

Along the river some areas are seasonally inundated with floodplains, where large areas of reeds grow in the river margins when water levels rise. There are also permanently swamped areas (e.g. near the Cuito confluence) with meanders, oxbow lakes and waterlogged floodplains, fringed with papyrus and other reeds and swamp vegetation (Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, 2015).

The Rundu area boasts an overall high terrestrial diversity of plants and animals. Plant diversity is estimated to be between 400 and 499 species. A total of 658 bird species has been recorded in Namibia. Rundu has a bird diversity of between 171 to 200 species. One endemic plant is recorded to occur in the Kavango Valley which is the Ringwood tree, *Maerua schinzii*, which grows along riverbanks and water courses. Protected plants include the African protea (*Protea gaguedi*), the orchid (*Eulophia hereroensis*) and two aloes found specifically in the vicinity of Andara (*Aloe esculenta* and *A. zebrina*) (Bethune, 1991).

4.1 Engineering Services

Water, Electricity, sewer and stormwater

Currently Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 is fully connected to the municipal reticulation system of the Rundu Town Council, which consists of water, electricity and sewer connection. It is the responsibility of the owners to connect their erven to the municipal reticulation system at their own cost.

4.1.1 Access Provision

Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 gains access from Independence Street. The newly created erven will gain access from the proposed internal street with a width of 13m as provided on the subdivision layout. There are 3 on-street parking bays provided within the layout. According to the Rundu Town Planning Scheme (now the Rundu Zoning Scheme), at least one parking bay per 50m² of the total floor space must be provided for a business building, as such, the parking bays provided within the layout measures between 125m² and 171m². The proposed parking bays provides ample parking for the current business buildings as well as the future business buildings.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft EAR and EMP
- Preparing the final EAR & EMP and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far:

- **Traffic Impacts:** During construction the movement of construction material to and from site may cause additional traffic. Traffic may also be increased in the area once the areas are fully developed.
- **Disturbance:** During construction the surrounding property owners and community members may be disturbed by the construction activities.
- **Waste:** During construction and operation, waste may be generated on site which would have to be disposed of at an approved landfill site.
- **Ground and surface water impacts:** may be experienced during construction due to the use of machinery and chemicals to construct the roads and services infrastructure as well as during operational activities.
- **Dust and noise** may be generated during construction activities.
- **Visual Impact:** The area is currently mostly undeveloped as such there may thus be a change in visual characteristics of the site once it becomes developed.
- **Employment Creation:** During construction temporary jobs may be created for the construction of the associated services.

More potential impacts of the proposed activity will be identified upon consultations with the public and further research on the area.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Rundu development. As part of this process a public meeting will be held as follows:

To further obtain inputs into the developments to take place. Communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the sites and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

7 ALL STAKEHOLDER/INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **29 June 2023**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

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

Postal Address:
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

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

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) Tel: 061 25 11 89 Fax: 061 25 21 57 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
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