

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN ORANJEMUND

Subdivision and Rezoning of Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165

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

## Activity 5.1 (d) Infrastructure

The rezoning of land from use for nature conservation or zoned open space to any other land use.

## Activity 8.8 Water Resource Developments

Construction and other activities in water courses within flood lines.

## Activity 8.9 Water Resource Developments

Construction and other activities within a catchment area.

## Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure

The construction of Public roads

## Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure

The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where – it is a public road

## 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 Oranjemund.

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 Oranjemund Town Council, hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Subdivision of Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165 into Portion A and the Remainder;**
- **Rezoning of Portion A (a Portion of Portion 16) from "Private Open Space" to "Undetermined" for township establishment purposes;**
- **Need and desirability for township establishments on proposed Portion A (a Portion of Portion 16) of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165;**
- **Registration of a 15 meter right of way servitude over Portion A/16 of the Farm Oranjemund Townlands No 165 in favour of Portion 5;**
- **Registration of a 15 meter right of way servitude over Portion 6 of the Farm Oranjemund Townlands No 165 in favour of the Remainder of Portion 16.**

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

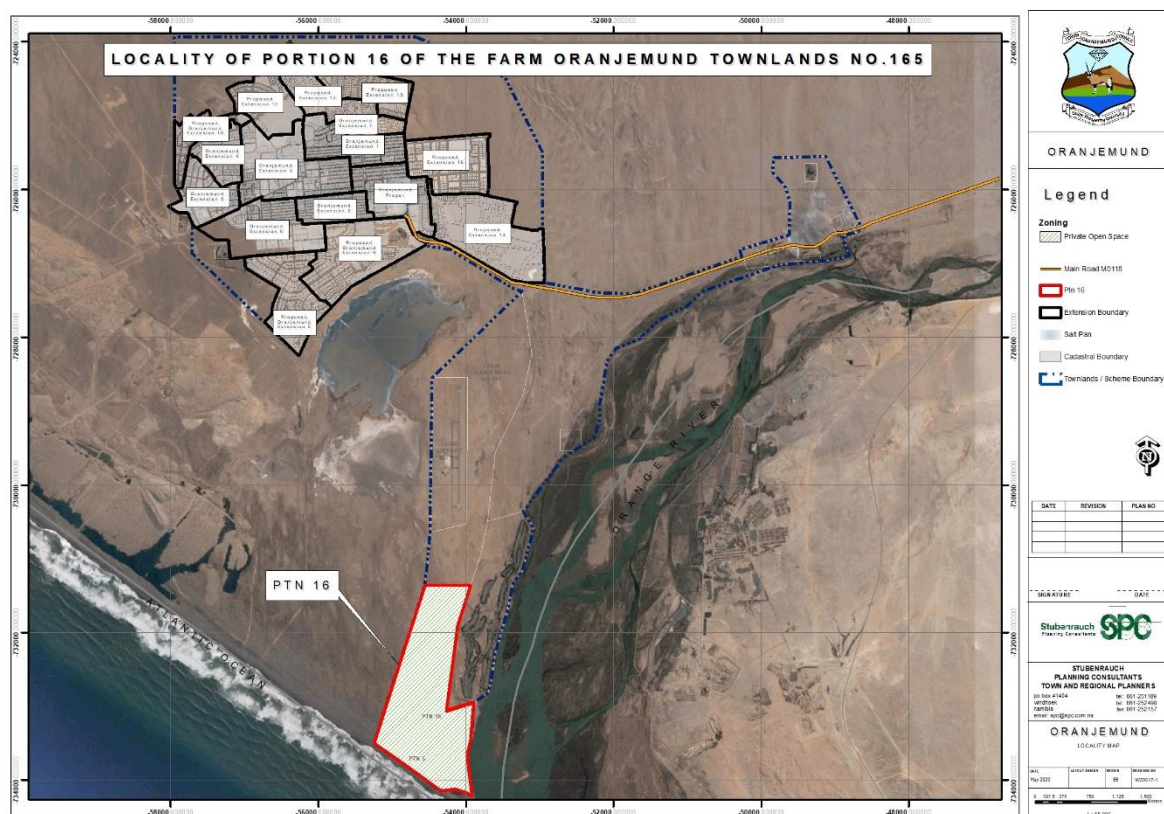
Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation 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

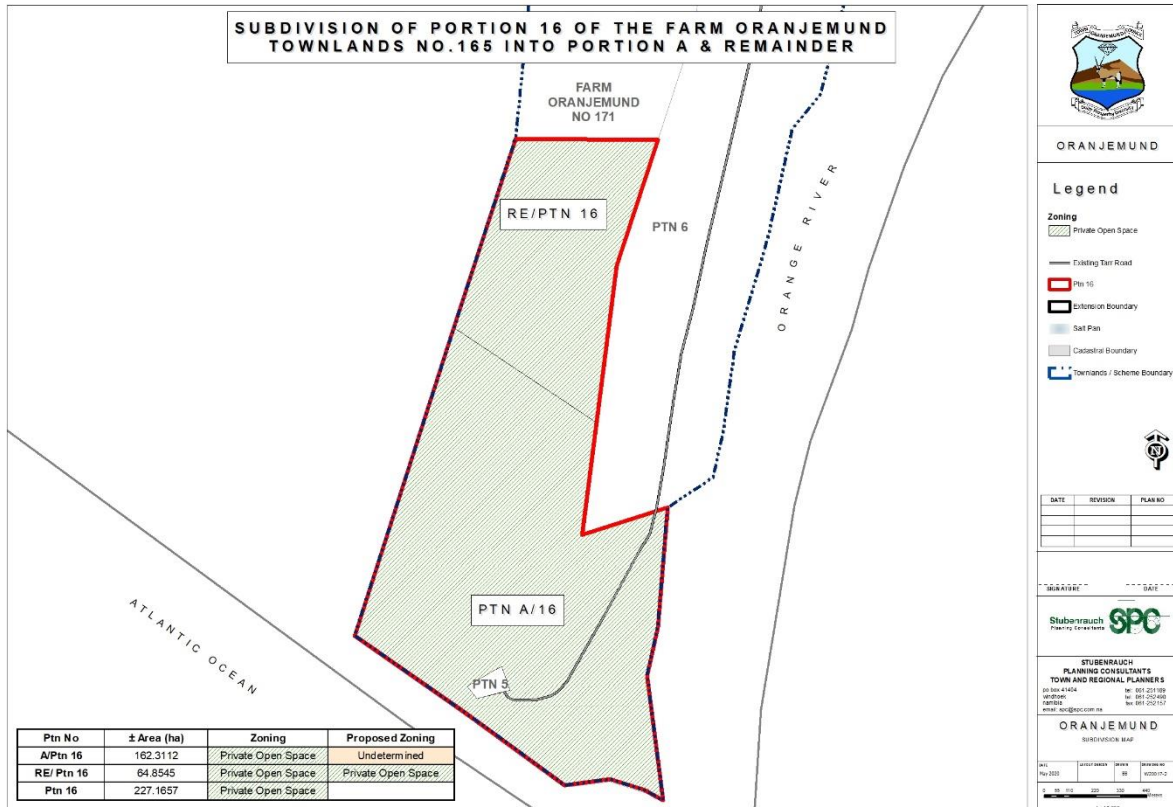
Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165 is situated along the southern border of the Oranjemund local authority/scheme boundary. The subject portion is situated south of the Oranjemund Airport, across the subject portion is the Atlantic Ocean. Please refer to below locality map (Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF PORTION 16 OF THE FARM ORANJEMUND TOWNLANDS NO.165 ORANJEMUND**

### 3.2 Proposed Development

The Proponent intends to subdivide Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No. 165 into Portion A and Remainder (**Figure 2**). Portion A will be rezoned from Private Open Space to Undetermined. The proposed subdivision and rezoning will enable the Town Council to develop a township on the subject site. The Proponent aims to undertake the above-mentioned statutory procedures to avail land for a marina development (to be made available for private investment).



**FIGURE 2: SUBDIVISION PLAN OF PORTION 16 OF THE FARM ORANJEMUND TOWNLANDS NO. 165 INTO PORTION A AND REMAINDER**



**FIGURE 3: AERIAL MAP OF THE SUBDIVISION OF PORTION 16 OF THE FARM ORANJEMUND TOWN AND TOWNLANDS No. 165**

### 3.3 Engineering services and Access Provision

Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165 falls within Oranjemund's scheme boundary and is therefore connected to the municipal reticulation system of the Town Council. It will however be the responsibility of a developer to provide services to developments that will take place on Proposed Portion A.

Access to Portion 16 of the Farm Oranjemund Town and Townlands No.165 is obtained from the existing tar road. The newly created portions will be connected to this existing road network.

## 4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

### 4.1 Overview

Oranjemund is a diamond mining town of 4,000 inhabitants situated in the //Kharas Region of the extreme southwest of Namibia. The town is located on the northern bank of the Orange River mouth at the border to South Africa.

### 4.2 Biophysical Environment

#### 4.2.1 Fauna and Flora

Oranjemund forms part of the Succulent Karoo Biome and the Succulent Steppe vegetation type. Succulent shrubs are the dominant structure found within this vegetation type with sand, gravel and calcrete being the dominant soils in the area. All endemic plant species found within the proposed project area are to be considered to be drought tolerant, drought resistant or succulent. Within the Succulent Karoo Biome there is a great diversity of plants. Thus, the number of protected species within this biome is very large thus making it a very important area in terms of biodiversity in the country (Twenty Namibian Trees, 2011).

The population of wildlife such as the Oryx, jackals, etc. occasionally occurs in the area surrounding Oranjemund. Due to the vegetation type which is not too ideal for grazing, livestock farming is not possible. The area also has high numbers of endemic plants, reptiles and frogs as well as a variety of mammals and other animals (Robertson, Jarvis, Mendelsohn, & Swart, 2012).

## 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 MET
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

#### 4.2.2 Geology and soils

The subject area belongs to the Nama Group geological division. Due to the predominantly horizontal bedding, rocks of the Nama Group tend to weather and erode in layers, resulting in flat plains, with major drainages forming canyons and gorges. Erosion produces rock fragments or clay-size particles and rivers accumulate very little sandy alluvium. The western boundary of the Nama Group is clearly defined as the major escarpment adjacent to the Schwarzrand, while to the east, the escarpment of the Weissrand, made up by younger deposits of the Stampriet basin, forms the natural boundary (Mendelsohn, Jarvis, Roberts & Roberston, 2002).

#### 4.2.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The //Kharas Region is an arid zone with low and erratic rainfall of about 50-100 mm/annum, which can occur in the summer and winter seasons. Oranjemund obtains its local water supply from ground water in an old palaeo-channel of the Orange River just upstream of the town. The coastal zone is underlain by both saline and fresh water shallow aquifers. The former is recharged constantly by the sea and the latter by the river, especially when the river is in high flow (Ministry of Water Agriculture and Forestry, 2011).

#### 4.3 Social Environment

The population of the //Kharas region is reported to be **77,240** people with Oranjemund being approximately **3,908** people (NSA, 2014).

## 5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far should the subject portion become developed:

- **Environmental Degradation:** may result due to the clearance of vegetation for construction of the proposed development.
- **Waste:** During construction, 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 due to the use of machinery and chemicals during construction.
- **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 Oranjemund development. As part of this process 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 site 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 **17 July 2020**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

## 8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

<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:**

<b>Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC)</b> <b>Tel: 061 25 21 57</b> <b>Fax: 061 25 11 89</b> <b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:bronwynn@spc.com.na">bronwynn@spc.com.na</a></b>
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