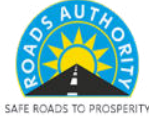


ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: THE UPGRADE TO LOW VOLUME BITUMINOUS SEAL STANDARD OF THE DR3425 NCAUTE TO KARUKUVISA ROAD (87KM) IN THE KAVANGO EAST AND WEST REGIONS, NAMIBIA.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPONENT: ROADS AUTHORITY



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-JUNE/JULY 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Roads Authority of Namibia (the project Proponent) intends to upgrade the 87km DR3425 (Ncaute-Karukuvisa Road) to Low Volume Bituminous Seal Standard in the Kavango East and West Regions. The proposed project will oversee the upgrade of the entire road to accommodate low volume bitumen standard requirements.

It is important to note that road construction and its associated activities, such as materials abstraction are listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) in accordance with the Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy, Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. In this respect, the road upgrade and associated activities require a specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study prior to implementation.

Subsequently, Roads Authority through the DAT Joint Venture (JV) has appointed EnviroPlan Consulting cc to conduct an independent ESIA for the proposed road upgrade project to ascertain potential environmental and social impacts (both positive and negative) and establish how to improve or mitigate these impacts.

The ESIA study will be undertaken based on biophysical and socio-economic baseline investigations relating to the proposed project and all identified impacts will be addressed in an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that meets the requisites of the EMA and its EIA Regulations.

LISTED ACTIVITIES

In consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), the proposed project triggers the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) due to it meeting the thresholds of the following Listed Activities:

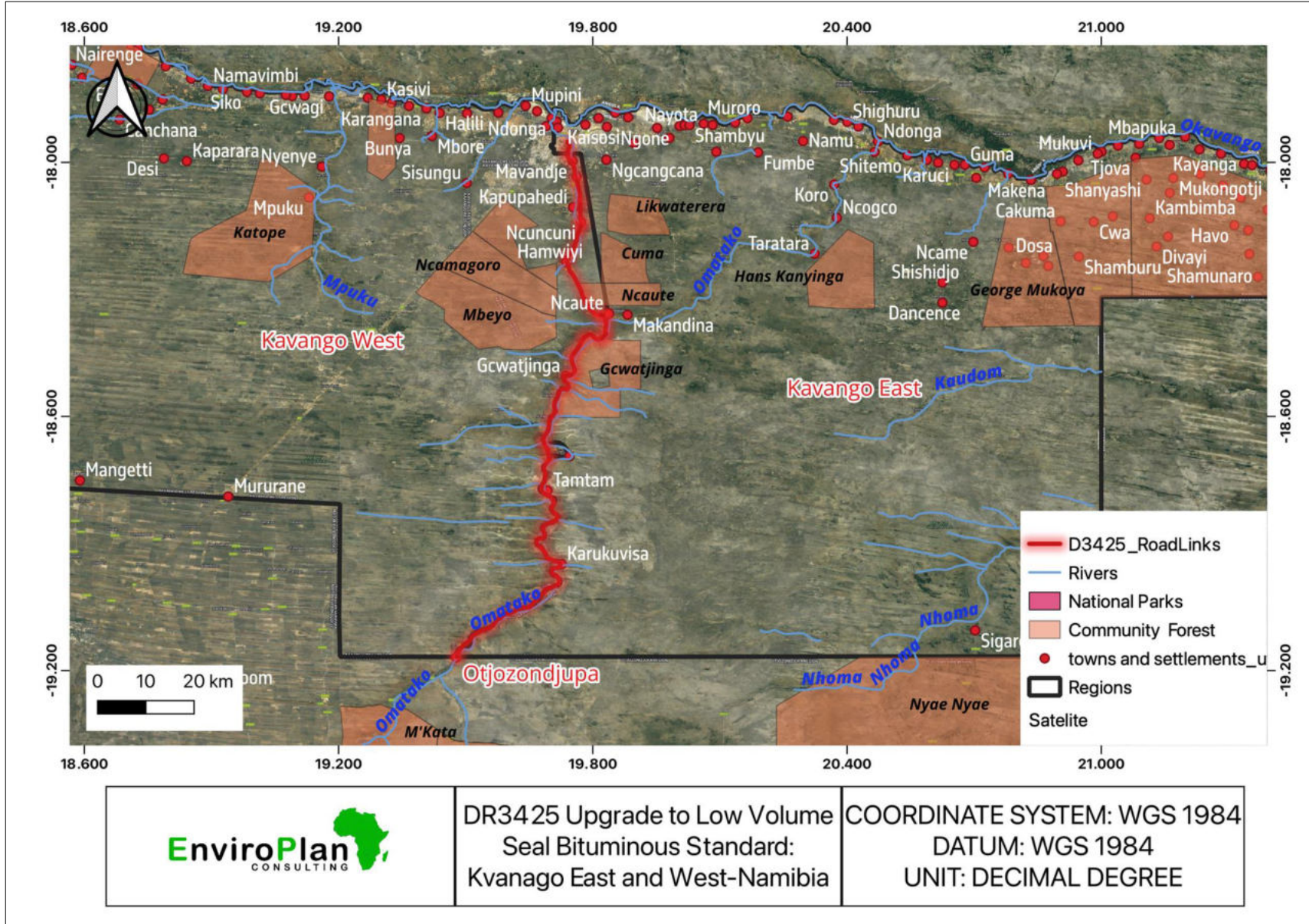
INFRASTRUCTURE: 10.1 The construction of- (b) public roads, **MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES** 3.2 Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not, and

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS 8.1 The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE ESIA PROCESS

- To comply with Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy, EMA with its 2012 EIA Regulations.
- Consult all interested and affected parties such as local communities, traditional leadership, directly affected land owners and local authorities to ensure that their inputs are taken into account.
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by communities, in the Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the ESIA report,
- To set up a grievance redressal system.
- To identify Environmental and Social safeguards and concerns prior to project implementation.
- To assess the significance of issues and concerns raised;
- Review the legal and policy framework and its relevance to this project.
- To determine the environmental and social impacts of the development and assess site suitability.
- To identify all environmental and social sensitivities that may be affected by the proposed development and monitoring requirements during construction thereto.
- Develop a clear, concise and practical Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) which includes recommendations and methods to minimize the identified negative environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- To institute processes for Environmental monitoring and management for compliance to the developed ESMP.

PROJECT LOCALITY



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Activities:

The project involves the upgrading of the existing single-track sandy road; District Road (DR) 3425 stretching from Ncaute Settlement to Karukuvisa Settlement in the Kavango East and West Regions, Namibia.

The DR3425 which starts from Rundu via Ncaute to Karukuvisa follows a south-westerly direction. The proposed road upgrade is approximately 87KM long. The proposed DR3425 will efficiently serve the areas and constituencies along the route, thus providing improved and better access to health centres, schools and public services (growth centres) along the route. The project (road upgrade) will also serve the agricultural and other economic activities along the road.

The upgrading of DR3425 will ease the access of locals and travelers alike to services, farmers to transport farm produce to the market centres such as Ncaute, Rundu, etc. Furthermore, the project (road) upgrade will address the problem of small pipe culverts and low-level water crossing structures and the culverts would be upgraded, and widened to increase their capacity as well as providing additional structures where applicable.

The road upgrade will also address the erosion aspects through the drainage systems to be designed.

During the construction phase the following materials will be required:

Road construction materials from new and existing burrow pits.

Raw water abstraction from nearby water sources and other potential water sources will be determined.

for public meeting, availability of scoping report and decision made by MEFT.

- Attending a consultation as follows:

THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is an integral part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process by providing for a platform to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to obtain information about the proposed project, to review project documentation, to provide input and voice any concerns concerning the project.

Public meetings will be conducted and these meetings will provide an opportunity to comment, ask questions and raise any concerns regarding the project implementation. All comments will be recorded and considered in the Environmental Management Plan that will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for review. In addition, conditions for environmental compliance monitoring will also be derived from the public meeting and stakeholders' recommendations.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

This Public Consultation process forms an important component of the Environmental Assessment process. It is defined in the EIA Regulations (2012), as a "process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, specific matters" (S1).

You can participate through the following:

- Responding to the newspaper adverts, radio announcements and social media notifications

Date and Time	Activity	Venue/Place
04.07.2023, 09h30	Consultative Meeting	Big Karukuvisa Settlement
04.07.2023, 14h00	Consultative Meeting	Ncushe Settlement
05.07.2023, 09h30	Consultative Meeting	Frans Joseph Munango Primary School, Gcwatjinga
05.07.2023, 14h00	Consultative Meeting	Ncaute Settlement

POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	ASSESSMENT TO BE UNDERTAKEN
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	
Land Use Change (Aesthetic value)	Baseline Assessment and Sensitive Receptors Mapping
Impacts on fauna and Flora	Vertebrate fauna (wildlife) and flora (vegetation) baseline assessment.
Impacts on surface and groundwater resources (abstraction, discharge and spillages)	Surface and Groundwater Assessment
Waste generation	Baseline assessment
Culture, heritage and archeological impacts	Baseline assessment
Health and Safety hazards	Baseline assessment
Displacement of properties	Displacement, Resettlement and Compensation Plan
Cumulative impacts of the project Operation	Construction Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Reporting
POSITIVE IMPACTS	
Road infrastructure development	Temporary employment creation
Boost in local economy and investment capacity	Improved traffic safety

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP): To mitigate and/ or enhance the potential impacts of the proposed road upgrade project, a project specific and practical Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed by the environmental consultant.

Environmental Control and Monitoring (ECM): To ensure the strict compliance to the developed ESMP, stakeholder consultation, grievance redressal and community-RA liaison, perioding compliance monitoring, auditing and reporting will be conducted by the environmental consultant, together with the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the contractor.

HOW CAN YOU REACH US?

You can send all your comments and enquiries to:

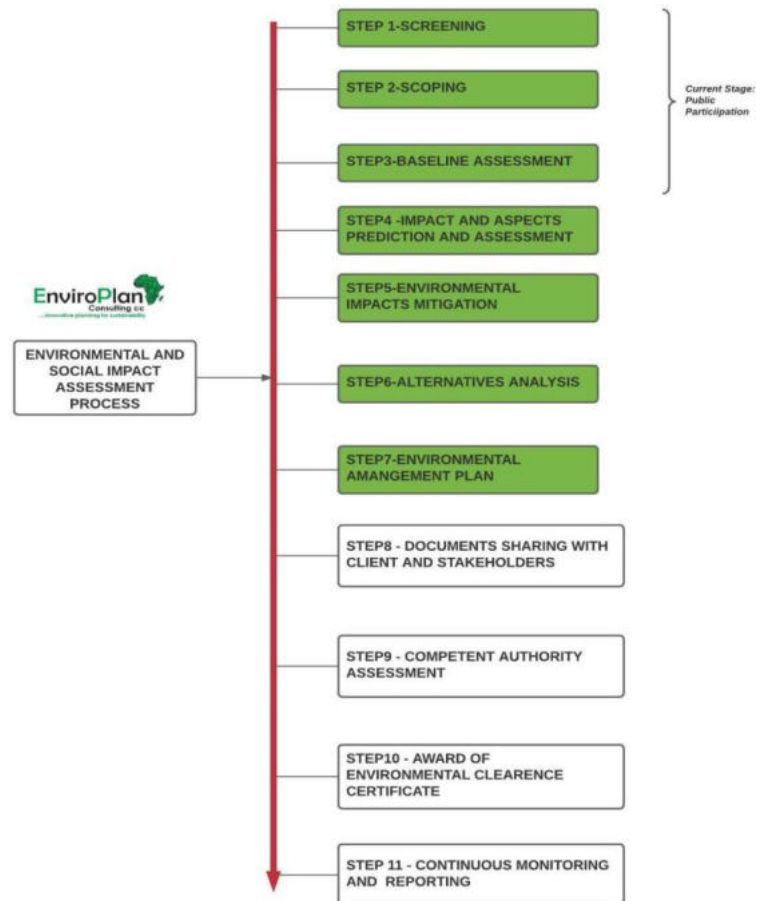
Environmental Consultant

Mr. Tendai Kasinganeti / Ms. Fredrika Shagama (EAPs)
Cell: +264 81 363 4904, Email: info@enviroplanconsult.com

Project Engineer

Mr Tuli Nashidengo
Cell: +264 81 129 5501, Email: tuli@archetypepc.com

THE ESIA PROCESS IN NAMIBIA



REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: THE UPGRADE TO LOW VOLUME BITUMINOUS SEAL STANDARD OF THE DR3425 NCAUTE TO KARUKUVISA ROAD (87KM) IN THE KAVANGO EAST AND WEST REGIONS, NAMIBIA

KINDLY COMPLETE THIS FORM IN DETAIL AND RETURN TO:

EnviroPlan Consulting cc Telephone: +264
81 363 4904 / +264 81 749 9223
Email: info@enviroplanconsult.com

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name & Surname.....
Postal Address.....Email

Town..... Phone Number

Does the proposed project affect you in any way?

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Do you have any points of concern or support regarding the proposed projects?If “yes”, please briefly list these in point format:

YES / NO

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Do you wish this project to proceed?

YES / NO

SIGNATURE:
