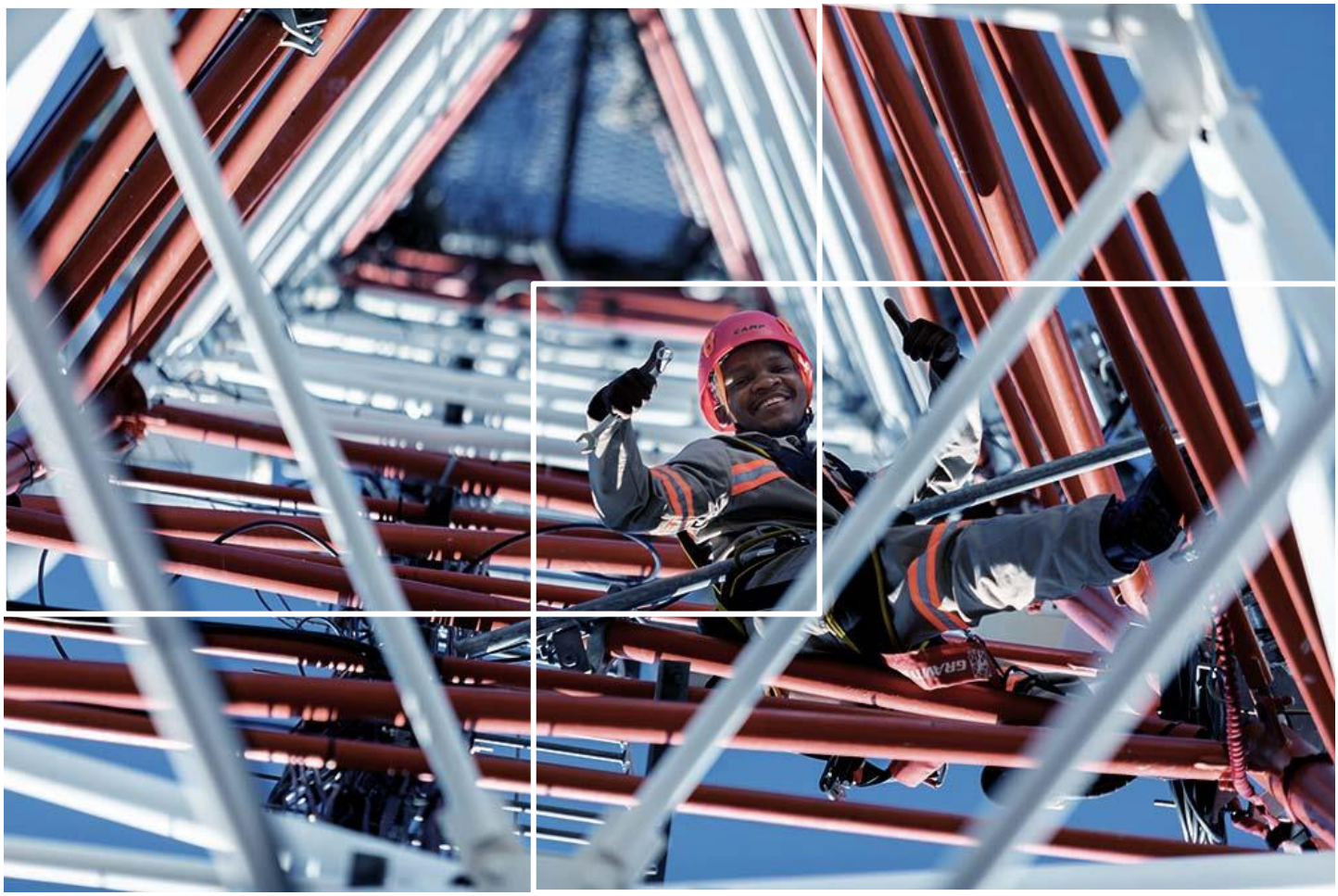

PARATUS
Always Prepared

Submitted to: Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Mr. Robert Archer
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Namibia

BID:

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PARATUS TELECOMMUNICATION (PTY) LTD BASE TRANSCEIVER STATION IN EXTENSION 11 (ERF 2747), HENTIES BAY, NAMIBIA.

PROJECT NUMBER: ECC-45-452-BID-06-A

REPORT VERSION: REV 01

DATE: MAY 2023

Prepared by:

ECC
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name:	Proposed construction of a Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd base transceiver station in Extension 11 (ERF 2747), Henties Bay, Namibia.
Client Company Name:	Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd
Client Name:	Mr. Robert Archer
Ministry Reference:	APP-00
Authors:	Kelly Ochs and Jessica Bezuidenhout
Status of Report:	Draft for client review
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DISCLAIMER

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
BID	background information document
BTS	base transceiver station
DEA	Directorate of Environmental Affairs
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMP	environmental management plan
ESIA	environmental and social impact assessment
I&APs	interested and affected parties
Ltd.	Limited
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
Paratus	Paratus Telecommunications (Pty) Ltd.
Pty	proprietary

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been contracted by Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental impacts assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 2007 and its Regulations. An environmental clearance certificate application will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the EIA process.

All those who register as an I&AP will be kept informed throughout the EIA process. Registration provides a platform for participants to submit comments, concerns, or recommendations regarding the proposed project. This BID includes the following information:

- The proposed project and location
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated
- The alternatives within the project that will be considered and assessed
- How the EIA process works
- The public participation process and how to become involved
- Next steps and the way forward

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is the construction of Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd base transceiver station (BTS) and associated infrastructure that will be located on Extension 11 ERF 2747, Henties Bay, Erongo Region, Namibia. Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "The Proponent"), is the official applicant for the proposed project and environmental clearance application.

In terms of Section 32 (1) of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, ECC has determined that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) is the competent authority for the proposed project. The proposed activity triggers the listed activities as per the Environmental Management Act Regulations. The relevant activities list provided later in the BID.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Base Transceiver Station and associated infrastructure will be located on Extension 11 ERF 2747 (22˚8'26.74" S, 14˚17'45.36" E), on a portion of land measuring 400m^2 in Henties Bay, Erongo Region (Figure 1).

Figure 1- Locality of the proposed project

1.4 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd, (Paratus) is a multinational organisation and Africa's largest infrastructure network offering comprehensive satellite services for almost 20 years. Paratus provides fiber, wireless, satellite and SDWAN solutions that are advanced enough to support customers, ranging from personal use to large enterprises. One of the main goals' of Paratus is to expand their footprint through building and acquiring infrastructure. The construction of the BTS and associated infrastructure will allow Paratus to continue to provide quality connection services to its customers in Namibian regions. The height of the BTS is predicted to be no longer than 30 m. Henties Bay is a small town along the Namibian coast with a population of approximately 10000 and expanding rapidly, showing great potential for socio-economic growth and development within the next 5 years. Currently there is Mobile-LTE, SKY-FI services available to Henties Bay, provided by Paratus. The proposed project will overall enhance and promote effective information and communication services through expanding network coverage and telecommunication services to Henties Bay. Additionally, the proposed project will provide local people with employment opportunities in the construction and maintenance phase.

1.5 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The proposed construction phase will include low-impact and non-intrusive activities. The following are foreseen activities that are to occur in the construction phase of the proposed project:

- Staging area development;
- Minor ground preparation (trenches and levelling) of the site;
- Storage and stockpiling of material for the construction of the tower;
- Construction of the tower;
- installation of cables and wiring;
- Concrete casting; and
- Construction of perimeter fencing and commissioning of transmitters.

1.6 OPERATIONAL PHASE

During the operational phase, the telecommunication infrastructure will require little intervention. Regular inspections will be conducted by the site manager. The telecommunication infrastructure will be maintained by Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd and the municipality of Henties Bay to ensure the longevity of the infrastructure and secure current and future use.

1.7 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

In the case that the proposed telecommunication infrastructure no longer be required, the infrastructure would be decommissioned and removed. Alternatively, and with the agreement of stakeholders, the telecommunication infrastructure could remain for beneficial use by others.

1.8 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed project. In a project such as this, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities will be specific to the site. During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects, e.g. different types of technology or operations and construction methods.

2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EIA for the proposed project is being conducted by ECC and will be undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. The process followed for this EIA is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2

ECC has been contracted by Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EPA) to facilitate the whole EIA process. Prior to the start of the proposed project, an environmental clearance certificate is required in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2007 and the associated EIA Regulations.

A final decision relating to the above-mentioned application will be made by Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT): Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

The related environmental process will include:

1. Screening phase (completed)
2. Scoping phase which includes baseline studies and the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EIA (initiated)
3. Assessment Phase which includes impact prediction and evaluation of alternatives, assigning mitigation measures and developing monitoring and conceptual rehabilitation plans. This phase culminates in the drafting of the EIA report and draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and submission to the appropriate competent authorities

The main objectives of the EIA are to:

a) Provide information describing the proposed construction of the Paratus BTS and associated infrastructure
b) Provide an independent environmental and social assessment of the activities associated with the proposed project
c) Develop management and mitigation measures associated with any identified potential impacts where necessary.

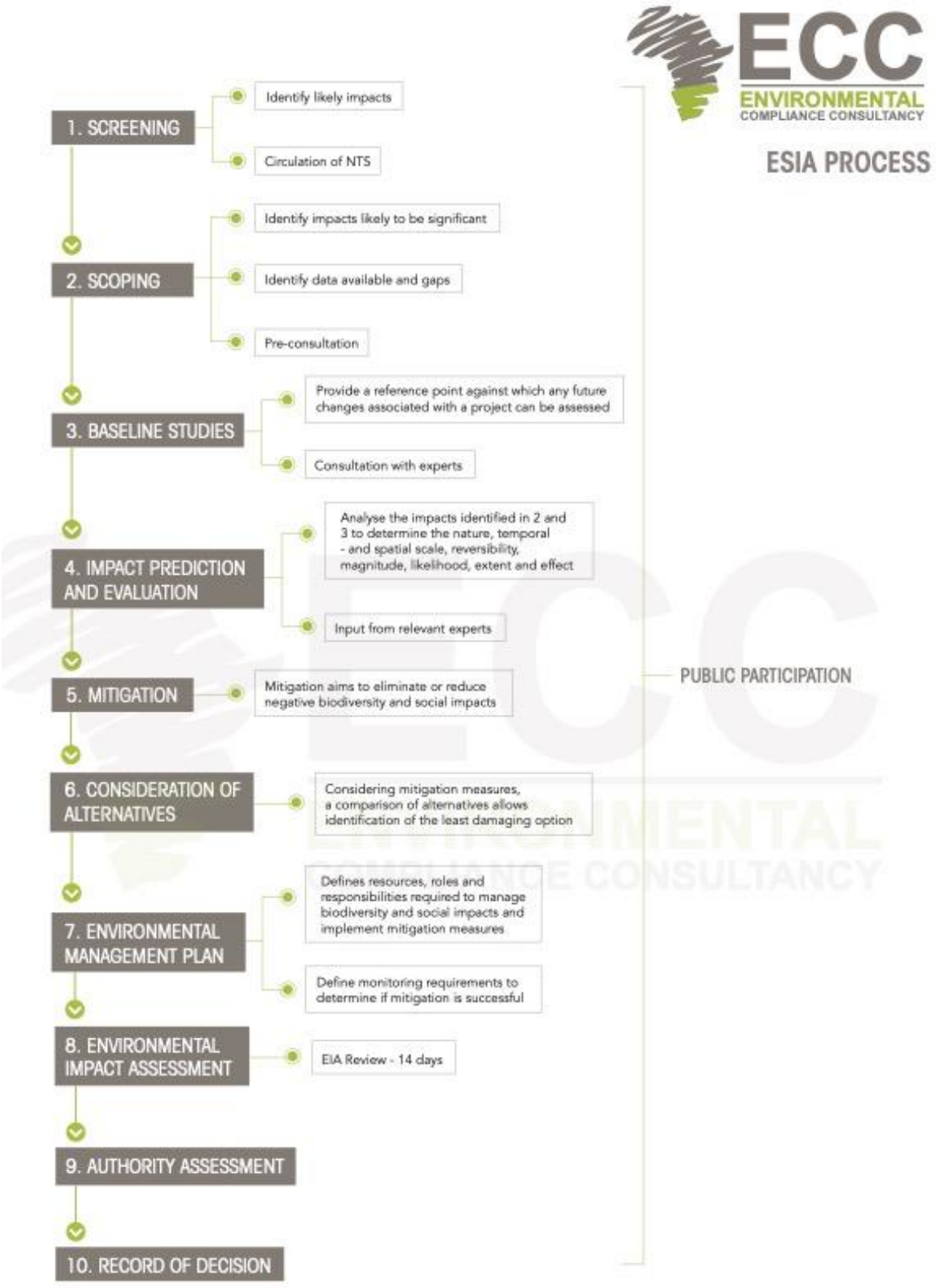

Figure 2 – Flowchart of the environmental and social assessment process

2.1 SCREENING

A review of the planned project was undertaken and the screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1- Listed activities triggered by the proposed project

LISTED ACTIVITY	EIA SCREENING FINDING
10.1. INFRASTRUCTURE (g) Communication networks including towers, telecommunication, and marine telecommunication line and cables.	- The proposed project will include: staging area development, minor ground preparation (trenches and levelling) of the site, storage and stockpiling of material for the construction of the tower, construction of the tower, installation of cables and wiring, concrete casting, construction of perimeter fencing and commissioning of transmitters, Maintenance.

2.2 SCOPING

The scoping phase is directed towards defining the range and nature of anticipated potential impacts that may have significance to the biophysical and social environments at the scale of the proposed operations. The appropriate available data and the literature are identified forming the starting point for assessment of the required baseline and specialist studies that may be required for assessment of the project impacts.

2.3 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information will be obtained through the existing studies.

The EIA will focus on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponents to seek input into the assessment. The baseline studies chapter is broken into three sections, the baseline context, environmental (physical and biological), and social (includes economic).

Desktop studies a well as all available field surveys from the project area will be used to help define the baseline. These studies also give a further indication whether there are any local or regional future developments that could impact the project or vice versa.

Lastly the socio-economic section of the baseline studies helps to gain information on the governance, demographic profile, social stratification (employment, education, crime, infectious disease), occupation and livelihood (economic activities, occupations in study area, employment rates).

2.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The public and key stakeholders receive invitations to register as I&APs. After the presentation of the proposed project and EIA process through he defined public consultation process, a period of time for input will be granted for the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to receive any additional concerns or comments from registered I&AP's. All feedback from the initial public consultation process will be incorporated into the scoping report.

2.5 SCOPING REPORT

The scoping report will be drafted and made available to the registered I&APs for comment before being submitted to the competent authority and MEFT. The scoping report will contain a description of the project and the bio physical and socio-economic environments, the specialist baseline studies, stakeholder engagement report and the terms of reference for the EIA.

2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE

2.6.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The potential social and economic impacts should be considered with due regard to the nature and scale of the proposed operations its location within the ecological, commercial and social environments. The potential environmental and social impacts that have been anticipated may include the following:

- Visual impacts due to construction in residential area
- Avifauna (electromagnetic radiation impacts)
- Community health, safety and security on and off site, e.g. risks during construction, dangers of electromagnetic radiation
- Economic and Socio-economic impacts, e.g. employment opportunities, efficient information and communication services

2.6.2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for the project to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community. The EMP becomes the legally binding commitments upon approval of the EMP and issuing of the environmental clearance certificate. Environmental clearance certificates are issued for a period of 3 years and

renewal is subject to compliance with the provisions and conditions of the environmental clearance certificate.

3 THE WAY FORWARD – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process. It allows you, the public and stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment process as well as aid the planning process for the scoping phase of the defined assessment process. At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Prepare and submit the application for the environmental clearance certificate in the prescribed manner
- Identify relevant key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs
- Carry out a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation 21 of the EMA 2007 including:
    - Distribute the BID for the proposed construction of Paratus Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd base transceiver station project (this document)
    - Advertise the environmental application and call for registration of I&AP's in two national newspapers
    - Open a I&AP register and record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall submitted with the application
- Prepare a scoping report and provide same to registered I&APs for comment
- Submit the scoping report and the I&AP comments to the competent authority and Environmental Commissioner for a record of decision

Your request for registration as an I&AP as well as any comments on the BID or Project must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below. Registration as an I&AP for the project can be completed online on ECCs website on the projects page, or by using this link: https://eccenvironmental.com/projects/

Registration as an I&AP should be submitted on or before 31 May 2023.

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:
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At ECC we make sure all information is easily accessible to the public.
Follow our social pipes online to be kept up to date.