



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL MINERALS AND PRECIOUS METAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) 8228 LOCATED IN KARASBURG DISTRICT, KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA.

PUBLIC INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide basic detailed information about the proposed listed activities and to be shared with all registered potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the public consultation as part of the EIA process. Furthermore, the BID aims to outline the EIA process and public consultation methods to be followed.

Hence, BID aims to provide:

- An overview of proposed exploration activities on **EPL 8228 for industrial minerals and precious metals group of commodities.**
- An overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment process; and
- Guidance on how members of public can participate in the EIA process.

I&APs comments and concerns are vital to the success of the EIA process and potential public members are encouraged to register and participate.

Please register / complete registration form and submit to SS Consultants CC on or before the **10 November 2023**:

Attention: Ms. Anna Nekuta

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Cell: [+264812409124](tel:+264812409124)

INTRODUCTION

SS CONSULTANTS CC (hereafter referred to as the consultant), an independent mineral resource and environmental consulting company has been appointed by **Ms Lusia Nghitukwa** (here after referred to as the Proponent) to undertake an environmental scoping assessment process and obtain an environmental clearance certificate on behalf of the proponent for the proposed mineral exploration activities on **EPL 8228**.

The proposed exploration activities fall in the listed activities under the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 – activities which may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate. Hence the proponent is expected to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Environmental Commissioner prior to the commencing of these exploration activities.

The proposed development is therefore related to the specific listed activities as outlined by relevant sections in the Environmental Management Acts Regulations of 2012:

- *Construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right or other form of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other form of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992 (Section 3.1);*
- *Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not (Section 3.2);*
- *Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities (Section 3.3);*
- *Abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes (Section 8.1).*
- *Manufacturing, storage, handling, or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substances Ordinance, 1974 (Section 9.1).*
- *Any process or activity which requires(Section 9.2).*

1. Project Description

EPL 8228 was granted to **Ms. Lusia Nghitukwa** by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) on March 30, 2021. In accordance with the Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2017 and its associated 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, anyone seeking to conduct exploration activities within EPL 8228 must obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) within the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). The ECC will enable the license owner to carry out exploration activities focused on industrial minerals and precious metals. The project area is covered by a single EPL license, which has the potential for conversion into a mining license if economically viable mineral deposits are discovered, and all required licensing conditions are met. The proposed exploration activities will involve both non-invasive and invasive methods. Non-invasive methods include remote sensing, geological field mapping, ground geophysical surveys, and surface soil and rock sampling. Invasive techniques involve activities such as reverse circulation or diamond drilling and pitting/trenching. Initially, non-invasive methods will be employed to determine the necessity for more invasive exploration. The project area is situated close to Karasburg Town, with well-developed infrastructure, including access to water, national roads, railways, petrol stations in Grunau and Karasburg, and three-phase electricity from NamPower. The utilization of this infrastructure will be contingent on agreements with landowners and community members, and all requisite permits and requirements will be obtained from relevant authorities. Throughout the exploration process, various geological consultants and contractors will be engaged at different stages. Additionally, a geophysics expert may be contracted to conduct geophysical surveys. Drilling operations will be carried out by a registered drilling contractor, and they are expected to provide their own drilling crew. Moreover, the exploration activities on EPL 8228 have the potential to establish and operate a mineral exploration program, leading to direct permanent employment opportunities and indirect job creation in supporting services. These activities also hold the promise of discovering economically valuable ore deposits, which, through mineral extraction, can contribute to employment, wealth generation, and economic development in the country. The attractive wages offered by the new project are expected to benefit the local workforce, thereby boosting economic growth in the Karasburg East Constituency, nearby towns, constituencies, and the nation as a whole. The towns of Karasburg, Grunau, and Warmbad are the closest populated areas from which unskilled labor can be sourced. Accommodation for the workforce during the exploration program may involve temporary site camps or residing in the nearest towns throughout the exploration program.

2. Project Location

EPL 8228 is located 69 km northeast of Karasburg town in the **Karas Region**. The project covers an area of 19794.6478 hectares and is demarcated by nine (9) corner coordinates as shown in figure 1 below. The main land use of the area within and outside the EPL is private land which is mostly used for goat, sheep, and cattle farming. The EPL partially underlain by eight (8) commercial farms Namely: Fekkluft North, Fekkluft South, Snyriver South, Hudap North, Hudab South, Tigerberg, Nabas, Helder farms.

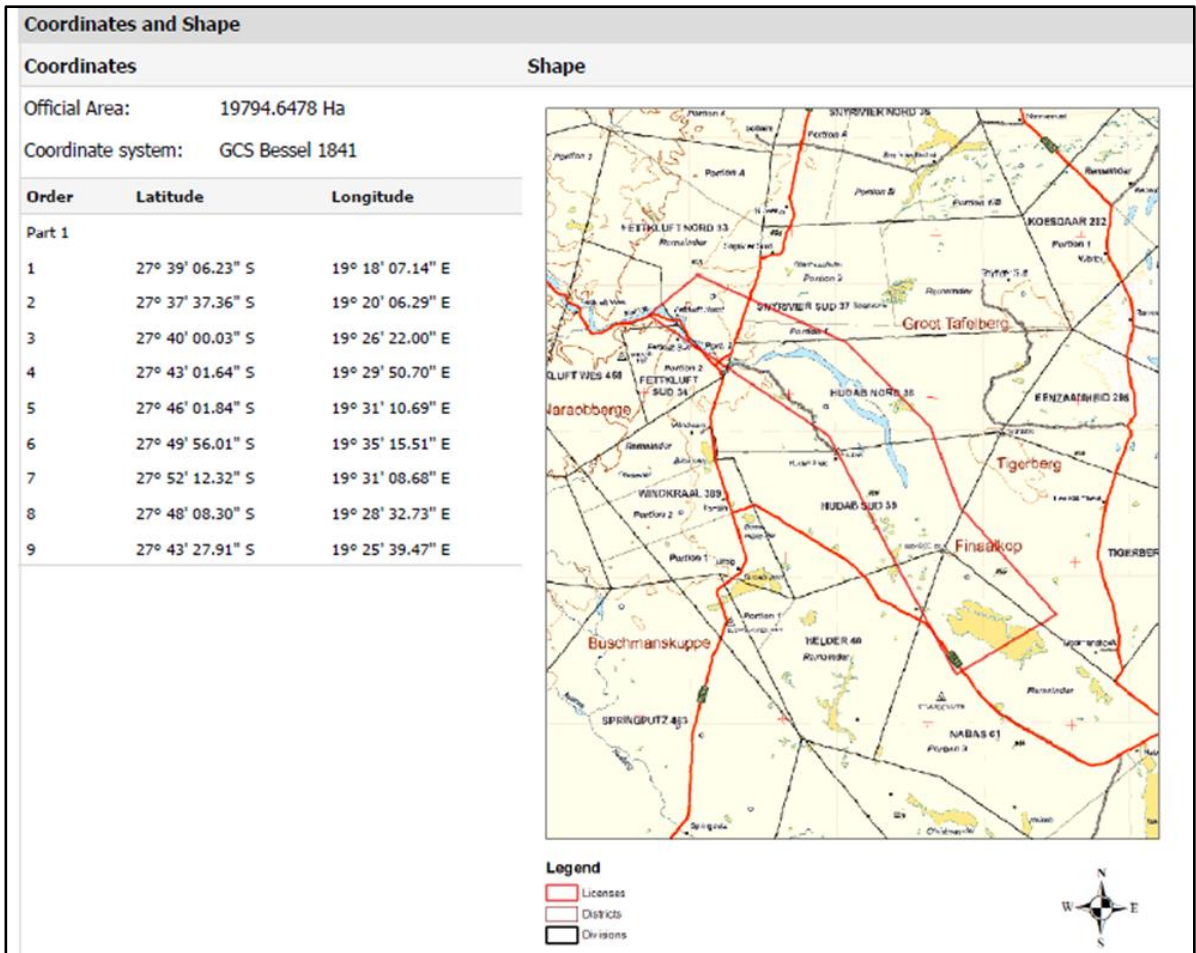


Figure 1: Map depicting the coverage of EPL 8228 and corner coordinates of the license area.

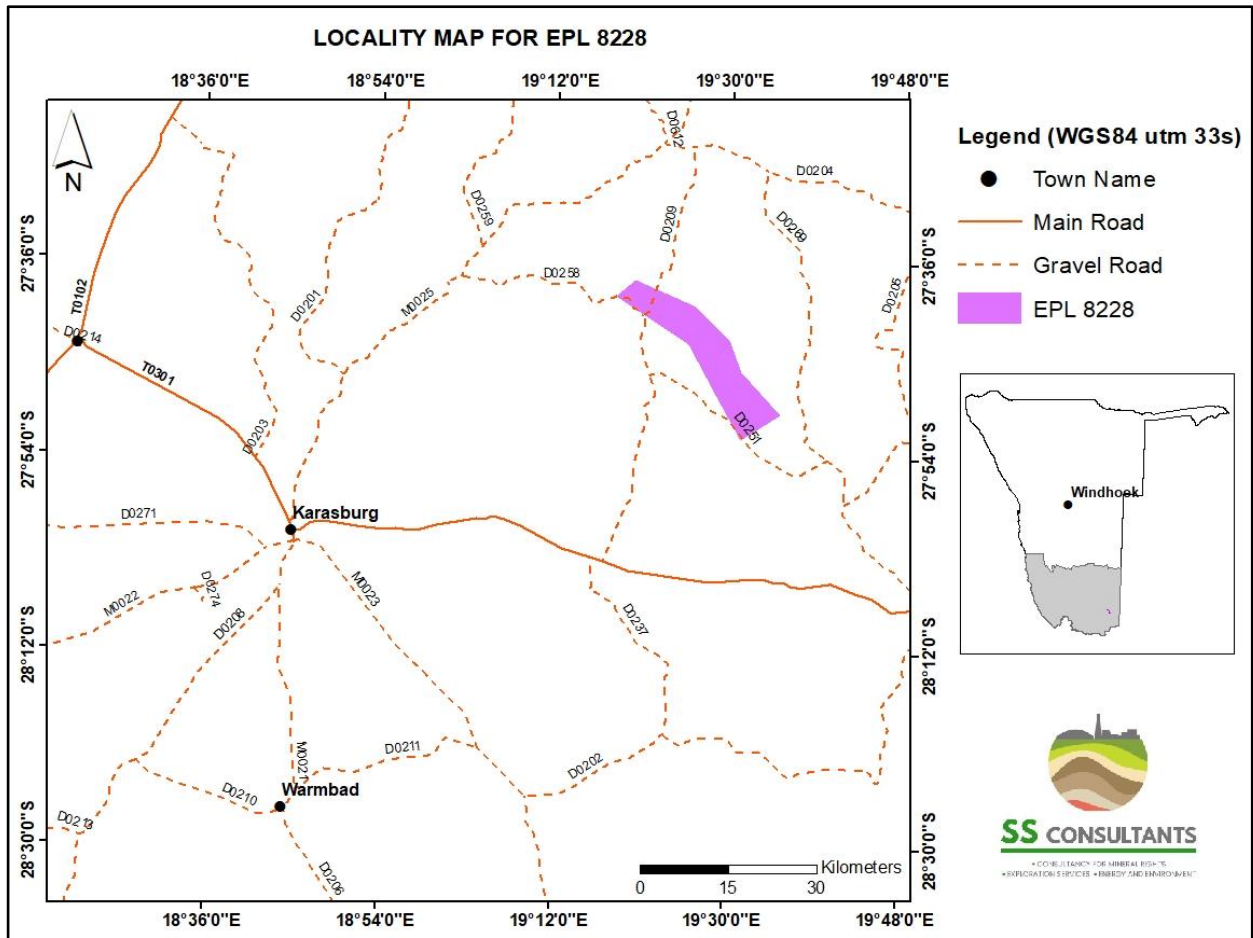
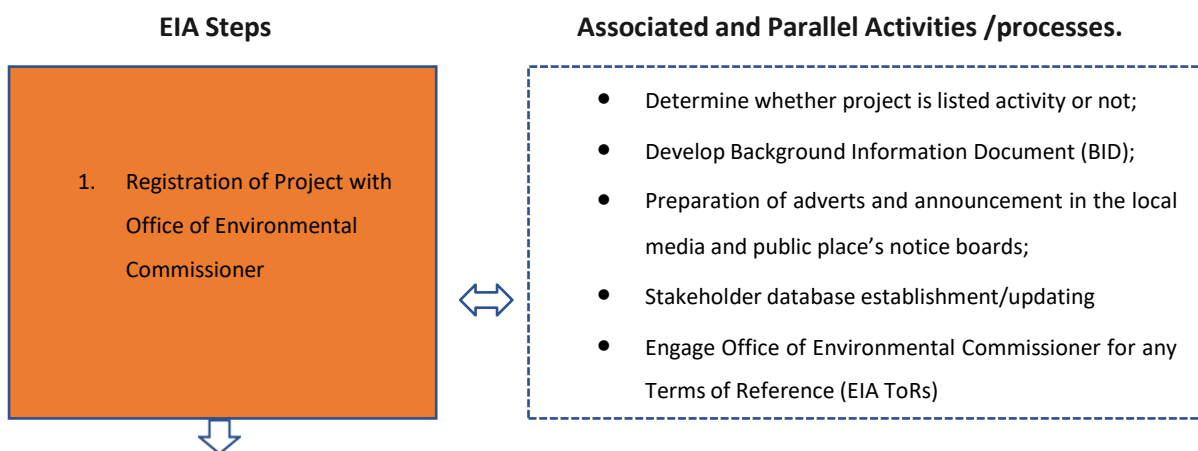
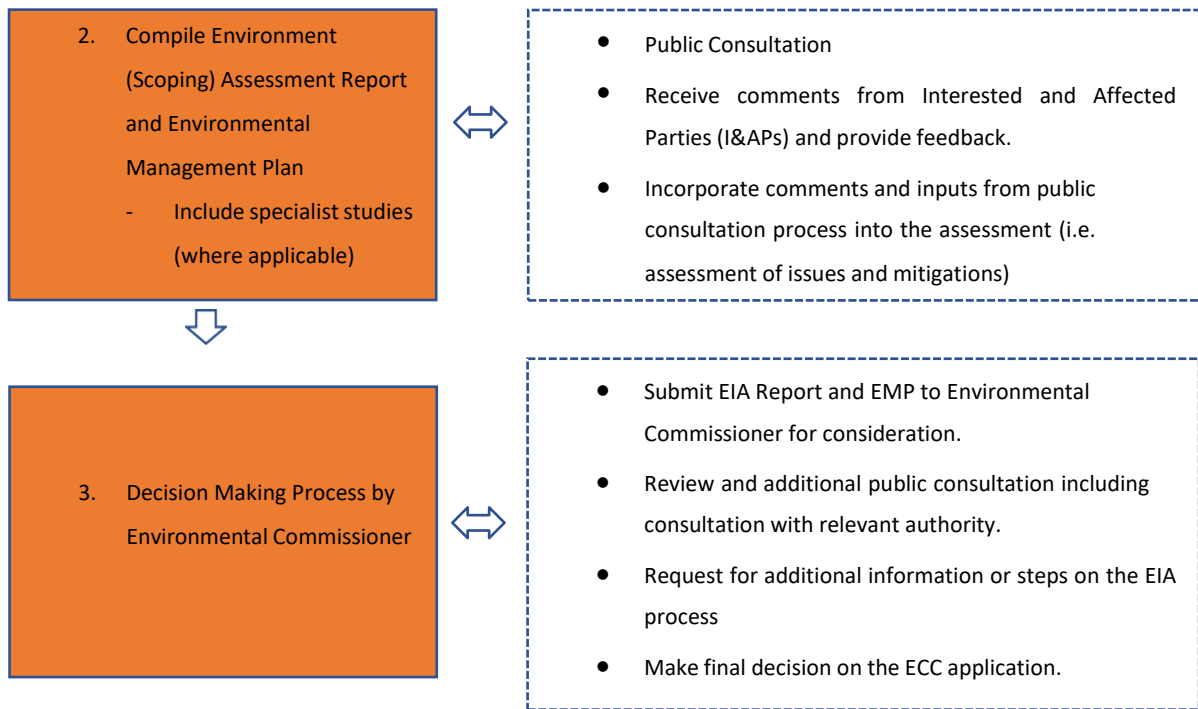


Figure 2: Google image showing the location of EPL 8228, northeast of Karasburg, in the Karas Region.

3. Environmental Impact Assessment process

The EIA process follows the general guideline as outlined in the 2012 EIA regulations of the EMA. The process followed is summarized below.





1. Potential Impacts

Below are the potential impacts that have been identified from the proposed exploration activities on the license area:

- **Temporary job creation** this is the hiring of workers non-skilled to skilled workers from the area to be involved during the clearing of the fauna and flora in order to access target sites, and to also assist during pitting and trenching as well as drilling and associated exploration works.
- **Impact on vegetation and fauna:** some vegetation may need to be removed to create access roads, pitting and trenching, geophysical lines as well as drilling sites. This may also lead to habitat destruction for some fauna.
- **Traffic safety:** very slow drilling rigs and associated vehicles may compromise traffic safety in the area.
- **Environmental degradation** through different types of waste generated on the site.
- **Soil and water contamination** from chemicals and other substances used in drilling fluids.
- **Noise and dust** generated by pitting and trenching as well as drilling vehicles and activities.
- **Health and safety risks** which may result to workers operating on site.

2. Public consultation

Public participation is an essential part of any Environmental Assessment process. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) include any person or organization that will be directly or indirectly involved and/or affected by the project.

Registered I&APs will be kept informed of the Public Participation Process throughout the Environmental Assessment process, they will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the EIA reports and documents and, will also receive feedback on how comments have been taken into account, and will be informed of the outcome of the assessment. All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and competent authority by means of the Project Comments and Responses Register (CRR).

Notices for public invitation to participate in the process will still be placed in the local newspaper as well as at strategic public places (notice boards). The date and venue for the public consultation meeting will be communicated.

If you categorize yourself as an I&AP who wishes to receive information regarding the above-mentioned project and/or provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment process, you are hereby invited to register using the form on Page 7. You may also communicate with SS Consultants via email, or telephone to obtain further information or comment on the proposed project.

Contact details:

Ms. Anna Nekuta

Environmental Specialist (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

SS Consultant CC

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REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APs)

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIALS MINERALS AND
PRECIOUS METALS; EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL No. 8228 LOCATED IN THE KARASBURG DISTRICT,
KARAS REGION, SOUTHERN NAMIBIA**

<p>Ms. Anna Nekuta Environmental Specialist (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)</p> <p>SS Consultant Cc Physical Address: Unit 24, Bougain Villa, Sam Nuuyoma Road, Windhoek, Namibia Email: admin@ssconsultants.co Cell: +264 812409124</p>			
Title (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof)		Name/Initials	
Surname			
Interested Parties or		Affected Parties?	
Physical Address and or Postal Address			
Tel No:		Cell No:	
Email Address:			
Comments/Issues/Concerns (Please if the space is not enough, use additional separate sheet)			