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ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY



ECC- 43-342-REP-03-D

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR THE
#OAB 8MW WIND FARM
//KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

RENEWAL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

PREPARED FOR:



MARCH 2021

TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

Project Name:	Environmental compliance report the #Oab 8MW wind farm in the //Karas Region, Namibia.
Client Name:	#Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd
Ministry Reference:	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
Authors:	Lovisa Amwele and Jessica Bezuidenhout
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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
HSE	Health Safety and Environment
ECC	Environmental Compliance Consultancy
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering Procurement and Construction
MEFT	Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Since 2010, InnoSun Energy Holding (Pty) Ltd, a Namibian registered company, has been developing a portfolio of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) parks and wind farms to be connected to the Namibian electricity grid. Several sites have been identified, secured, and some are currently operating. InnoSun Energy Holding (Pty) Ltd has created and owns special purpose companies for the development of each of the identified sites in different parts of Namibia.

#Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd (herein referred to as the proponent), which is a subsidiary of InnoSun Energy Holding (Pty) Ltd propose to develop an 8MW wind farm, located next to Sperrgebiet Diamond Mining's Elizabeth Bay (EBay) Mine, Mining Licence (ML) No. 45 Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park near Lüderitz, //Karas Region, Namibia. The proposed wind farm comprises of four (4) turbines of 2MW each with rotor of 93m diameter and 90m tower height. The project is vital to the energy security, sustainable and renewable green energy development for Namibia with potential to greatly support the short and long-term energy needs of EBay Mine and reduce pressures on the national electricity grid, and potentially export power to Southern Africa. Once fully operational, the project will greatly reduce the overall company energy costs, contribute to the possible extension of the life of mine, reduce the company and national carbon footprint and support the efforts aimed at reducing the effects of climate change in Namibia.

The #Oab wind energy project falls within the schedule of listed activities that are subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in line with the national environmental assessment process. The EMP is the binding document to which a clearance certificate is granted to a proponent to carry out a proposed activity. This document is subjected to periodically auditing as the project activities transition from the earliest construction stage to the operation stage. The EMP is audited in order to monitor the progress of the project and ensure that all measures stipulated in the document are met and effectively adhered to as required by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In an event where the project activities alter, the EMP is required to be amended accordingly.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) reports compiled by Risk- Based Solutions cc were submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in October 2016, in order to support the application for an environmental clearance certificate for an 8MW wind farm (APPENDIX C to D). The project was granted an environmental approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) valid for a period of three (3) years on the 20th of July 2018 (APPENDIX A). In terms of the Environmental Management Act. No. 7 of 2007 a renewal application for the project's environmental clearance certificate is required. As part of this application an environmental compliance review of the works undertaken on site and compliance with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is to be submitted to the MEFT.

The development of the project is yet to commence, and no new impacts are expected at all stages of the project apart from those that have been previously identified in the EIA and EMP submitted in 2016. The following is the summary of the activities associated with the preconstruction, construction, operational and rehabilitation stages of the wind farm that could potentially have an impact on man and the environment:

Pre-construction and construction Phases

- Access roads preparation;
- Site/Turbine Locations levelling and preparation;
- Access roads upgrading/construction;
- Foundation preparation;
- Turbines Installations and Mounting;
- Underground Trenching/Overhead Cable;
- Electrical Equipment Installation;
- Testing;
- Fencing around each Turbine (Optionnal);

Operational Phase

- Commissioning – wind energy generation and maintenance (for 25 years);

Decommissioning and closure Phase

- Decommissioning (After 25 Years) / Upgrade of Facility.

DISCLAIMER

Due to the fact that this project has not fully developed, this report has been compiled by means of a desktop study, including the revision of relevant reports and all records made available by the proponent. ECC did not conduct any field verification and therefore rely on the proponent's integrity to uphold conditions specified in the EMP.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) have been appointed by the proponent to apply for their renewal of an environmental clearance certificate for the proposed #Oab wind farm project. The purpose of this environmental compliance report is to document the findings of an environmental compliance audit covering the period from July 2018 to February 2021 which accompanies the renewal application submitted to the MEFT. Due to the fact that the project has not commence apart from the survey exercise that was completed in December 2020 (APPENDIX B), this report does not supersede the previously submitted EMP provided in (APPEDIX C). The summary of commitments contained in the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 is included in Chapter 2.

1.3 PROPOSED RENEWAL AND ACTIVITIES

The location of the turbines will slightly be shifted because the previous proposed locations could potentially lead to numerous bird-turbine mortalities as it is located on various flight paths to and from E-Bay and various other coastal bays and the Lüderitz feeding grounds. The new locations and coordinates for the 4 wind turbines following the survey done in December 2020 are indicated in (APPENDIX B). There are no further new proposed activities for the project that should be considered for this environmental clearance certificate renewal.

1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANCY

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC), a Namibian consultancy registration number 2013/11401, has prepared this report on behalf of the proponent. ECC operates exclusively in the environmental, social, health and safety fields for clients in Namibia in the public and private sector. ECC is independent of the proponent and has no vested or financial interest in the project, except for fair remuneration for professional services rendered.

All compliance and regulatory comments or enquire regarding this document should be forwarded by email or posted to the following address:

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1.5 THE PROPONENT DETAILS

#Oab Wind Energy (Pty) Ltd a subsidiary of InnoSun Energy Holding (Pty) Ltd will operate and run the project. The details of the proponent are provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – THE PROPONENT DETAILS

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Alexandre Matton (Chief Operating Officer)	amatton@innosun.org	+ 264 (0)61 254 700

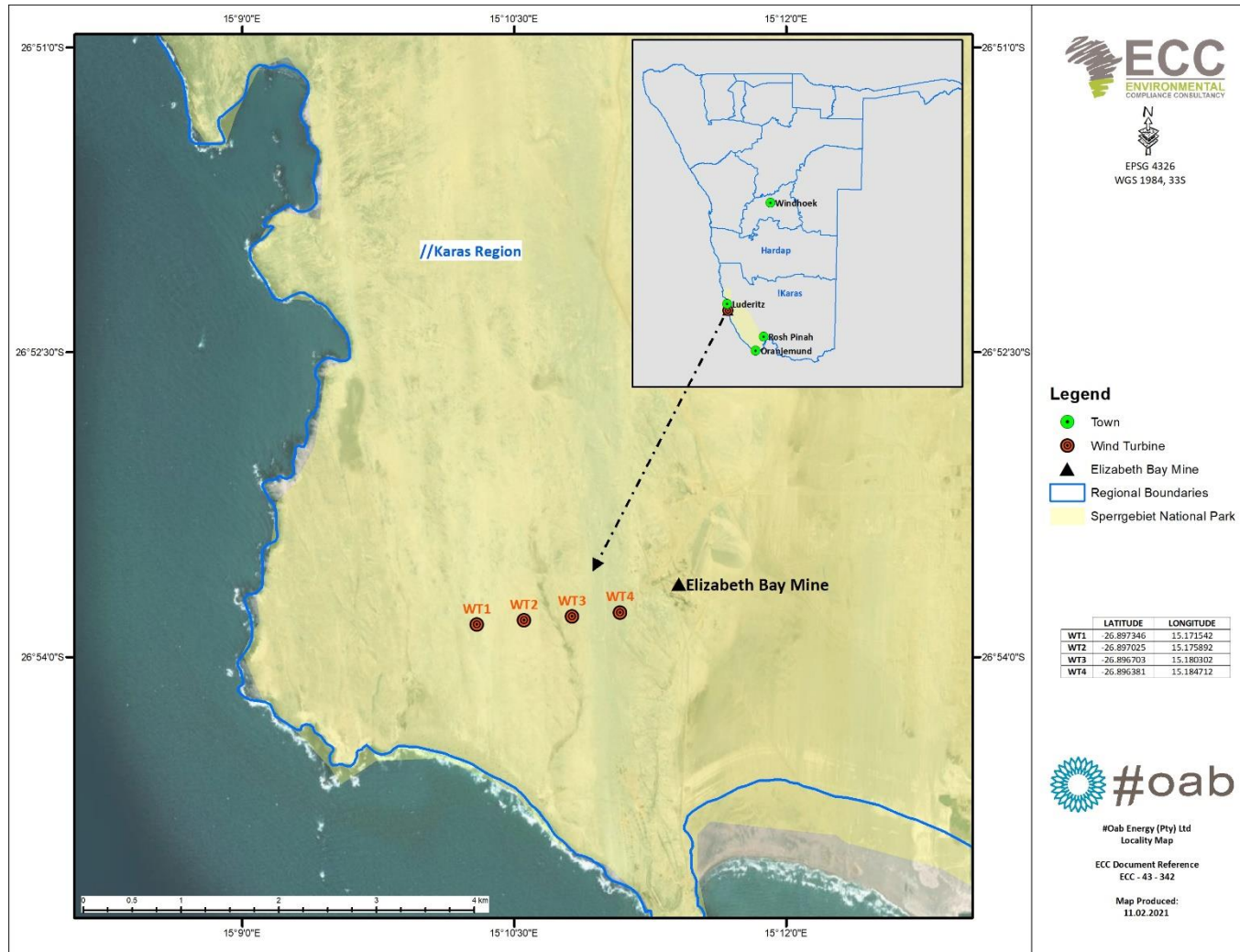


FIGURE 1 - MAP INDICATING THE LOCATION OF PROPOSED #OAB WIND FARM TURBINES

2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT

2.1 SITE INSPECTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has not undertaken a site inspection for this project. This report was conducted through a series of desktop assessments, revision of relevant reports, and verification of owner documentation, and all records made available to ECC.

2.2 EMP SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT STAGES

2.2.1 PLANNING AND DESIGN

Planning and design stage

This phase of the project is not expected to have any direct impacts on the environment and consequently few management control measures are required and/or proposed as outlined in the EMP. The project will consider various layout options to minimise the environmental impacts and all required amenities shall be installed at the established construction camp sites before the main workforce move onto site. The following should be put into consideration:

- Necessary ablution facilities with chemical toilets should be made available at the commencement of the construction camp;
- All site staff should be informed to make use of the supplied ablution facilities and under no circumstances shall indiscriminate sanitary activities be allowed anywhere around the site other than in supplied facilities; and
- Appropriate waste collection bins should be provided by the contractor, and all solid waste collected shall be disposed of at an approved waste facility. Under no circumstances may any form of waste be burnt or buried on site or anywhere other than an approved waste management site.

Access planning and site layout

The proposed project lies within a diamond protected area (Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park), therefore access to the site will require both national park entrances permits and security clearances for all personnel to be able work in a diamond protected area. With regards to access planning and site layout the following should be considered:

- The location of the construction camp must be selected in consultation with EBay Mine operations and all construction sites and camp site areas should be clearly demarcated;
- Construction workers are prohibited from entering areas outside the construction work area;
- The current tailings at EBay Mine could potentially source the construction material, therefore, sourcing of construction materials outside the construction area must be approved by EBay Mine management;
- No wildlife or indigenous vegetation may be harmed or removed unless approved by the HSE officer in conjunction with the necessary permits. Areas where priority plant species are growing must be demarcated as no-go zones;
- Should there be a need for new tracks to be created, the EBay Mine operations should be consulted, and the tracks should be created in such a way to reduce the denuded land and subsequent visual contrast as well as avoiding sensitive areas;0

- In areas where topsoil is excavated, the topsoil shall be stockpiled at a designated site for later use during closure / rehabilitation. Stockpiles must be protected from wind erosion by covering with suitable synthetic material or coarse-grained materials that cannot be lifted easily by wind; and
- All disturbed or cleared areas should be kept clear of alien invasive plants for the duration of the construction and defects notification period.

2.2.2 PRECONSTRUCTION STAGE

The main activities of the preconstruction stage will be the upgrading and/or construction, including rehabilitation, of access road(s) to and from the proposed wind farm development areas. Due to the desert landscape of EBay Wind Farm area, no major site preparations in terms of bush clearing are expected. Table 3.1 of the EMP outlines the framework for the preconstruction stage. The following EMP specific requirements must be fulfilled during the preconstruction stage of the proposed project:

- There should be continuous communication among the proponent, Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor, EBay Mine Management and relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that all parties are informed of the ongoing activities at all times;
- The EPC contractor must adhere to all conditions of the contract including the requirements of the EMP;
- The construction should be carried out taking into consideration the MFET national park access and Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) Diamond security requirements as well as the variability of the local climatic conditions;
- Where existing private roads are in a bad state of repair, such roads' condition shall be documented before they are used for construction purposes. This will allow for easy assessment of any damage to the roads which may result from the construction process. If necessary, some repairs should be done to prevent damage to equipment;
- A project HSE officer should be appointed by the proponent and contractor HSE officer should be appointed by the EPC contractor for successful implementation of the EMP;
- Internal and external environmental inspections and audits should be undertaken during the construction period in order to maintain good control over the construction process. The frequency of these audits should be quarterly; and
- The proponent shall continue with the already undertaken preconstruction long-term fauna and flora monitoring and work with the local hyenas, avifauna and flora experts during the implementation of the preconstruction activities of the proposed Wind Farm.

2.2.3 CONSTRUCTION STAGE

The construction stage of the proposed 8MW EBay wind farm will cover all the activities that supports the installation and development of major structures such as the foundation, towers, transformers, the nacelle (housing), as well as the rotor. The installation of such structures will first require the manufacture / building of the required structures such as the towers, foundation excavation, steel works and concrete casting. The project foundation design will consider tripod rock anchored foundation which uses less concrete than gravity standard foundation. Examples of visual representation of how the planned tripod foundation will look like (Figure 2).



FIGURE 2 - EXAMPLES OF THE TRIPOD FOUNDATION TO BE CONSTRUCTED (Innovent Morocco Project, 2021)

The EMP makes provisions for management of a wider array of activities that will be associated with either manufacturing of the towers overseas and only ship them to Namibia for installation or the near site (Lüderitz Town) manufacturing of towers by only shipping the moulds to Namibia. The following outlines the key summary mitigation measures with respect to birds – turbines, brown hyenas – turbines conflicts and vegetation turbine conflicts. Table 4.1 in the EMP outlines the overall framework for the construction stage of the proposed development:

Recommendations to mitigate potential bird-turbine mortalities:

- Consider the installation of light reflective discs on the rotating components and coating of the rotating components of the turbines with reflective paint to increase visibility;
- Investigate the possibility of installing early “bird warning system” to each turbine which can automatically shut down the turbine when a large bird (or flock) approaches – e.g., camera or radar operated systems;
- The alternative site as provided in the EIA should be the preferred site with the least potential overall impact on the environment, the initial proposed site could potentially lead to numerous bird-turbine mortalities as it is located on various flight paths to from E-Bay and various other coastal bays and the Lüderitz feeding grounds; and
- Implement and fund a long-term monitoring program to determine bird/bat turbine mortalities and alternative mitigations once operational.

Recommendations to mitigate potential brown hyena-turbine conflict:

- Avoid establishing wind turbines and access routes close to known active brown hyena den sites west of the E-Bay plant area;
- Depending on the amount of traffic, they should preferably reach the turbine construction sites from the north, as the main corridor to reach the den site lies in the south between E-Bay ghost town and Green valley den;
- Implement and fund a long-term monitoring program with camera trapping and satellite telemetry to determine brown hyena den site use and turbine disturbances once operational;
- Construction should only take place during daylight hours (peak of denning activity is at dusk and dawn) and a strict speed limit should be enforced and adhered to;
- Blasting only to take place when the den is not active, as the den may collapse and trap and/or kill cubs. If this is not feasible at all, alternative methods have to be discussed with the Brown Hyena Research Project (BHRP) in due time; and
- The cable connecting the turbines to the switch station should not pass through the den area and an alternative route should be considered.

Recommendations to mitigate potential vegetation-turbine conflict:

- The precise location of the proposed wind turbines should be moved slightly one-way or another – i.e., local site selection to favor flora – dependent on local flora to have the least impact on the flora at each site; and
- The alternative site as outline in the EIA should be the preferred site with the least potential overall impact on the environment, the initial proposed site as this area is much more diverse floristically and with lichens being ubiquitous throughout the area.

2.2.4 OPERATIONAL STAGE

Once the construction and installation of the turbines has been completed, only specialised and maintenance workforce will be required to run and maintain the wind farm. #Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd will be responsible for fulfilling the requirements in the EIA and EMP for the operational stage of the proposed 8MW EBay wind farm. A project / Site / HSE Manager / Engineer could be appointed by #Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd to oversee all the site operation as well as management of other site workforce.

During the operational stage the proponent shall continue with the already undertaken preconstruction and construction long-term fauna and flora monitoring during the operational stage of the proposed Wind Farm and work with the local hyenas, avifauna and flora experts. Table 5.1 in the EMP outlines the mitigation measures related to activities of the project during the operational stage.

2.2.5 DECOMMISSIONING/CLOSURE/UPGRADING STAGE

This phase will be implemented as a joint collaboration between the proponent, the local authorities, and other key stakeholders. Specific activities will be contained in a detailed decommissioning and closure plan. The decommissioning/ closure/ upgrading stages of the proposed 8MW EBay Wind Farm will cover all the activities that aim at restoring the site to the state before the Wind Farm was created. The decommissioning and closure stage will only be considered once the Wind Farm has reached its useful life span of 25 years. Although the generation license period is up to 25 years, the license is renewable.

The EMP makes provisions for management of a wider array of activities that will be associated with decommissioning / closure of the proposed EBay Wind Farm. Table 6.1 outlines the EMP framework for the decommissioning and closure stage of the proposed development.

3 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To date, no significant impacts resulting from the proposed development were identified and management and mitigation measures are in place for potential risks. The final selected design of the proposed project will be done in such a way that it is eco-friendly with minimal environmental impacts.

The proponent plans to continue with the project over the next period and it is recommended that the proponent adheres to all environmental legislation and company standards to ensure that best practical environmental protection measures are implemented as the project activities progress.

On this basis, Environmental Compliance Consultancy is of the professional opinion that the renewal for Environmental Clearance Certificate should be granted to the proponent for the activities at the EBay wind farm.

APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE TO BE RENEWED



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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20 July 2018

OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER

The Chief Executive Officer
#Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 86524
Windhoek

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE PROPOSED 8MW WIND FARM AT NAMDEB ELIZABETH BAY (EBAY) MINE, MINING LICENSE (ML) NO. 45 WITH ACCESS ROADS AND POWERLINE TO THE NEARBY SUBSTATION, TSAU//KHAEB (SPERRGEBIET) NATIONAL PARK, LUDERITZ DISTRICT, //KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

The Environmental Management Plan submitted is sufficient as it made provisions of the environmental management concerning the proposed activities. From this perspective regular environmental monitoring and evaluations on environmental performance should be conducted. Targets for improvements should be established and monitored throughout the process.

This Ministry have attached conditions applicable to activities in Proclaimed Protected Areas on subsequent pages to be complied with during the operational phase of the project.

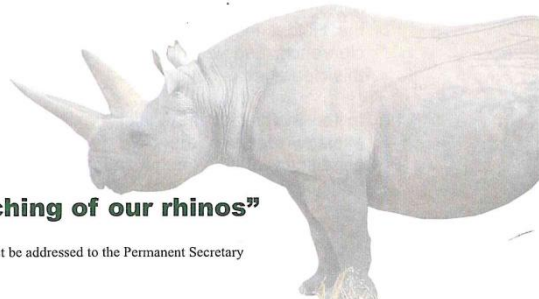
On the basis of the above, this letter serves as an environmental clearance certificate for the project to commence. However, this clearance letter does not in any way hold the Ministry of Environment and Tourism accountable for misleading information, nor any adverse effects that may arise from this project's activities. Instead, full accountability rests with #Oab Energy (Pty) Ltd and his/her consultant.

This environmental clearance is valid for a period of 3 (three) years, from the date of issue unless withdrawn by this office

Yours sincerely,


Teofilus Nghitila

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER



“Stop the poaching of our rhinos”

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Permanent Secretary

Annex 1: Conditions applicable to Environmental Clearances in Proclaimed Protected Areas

1. All provisions of applicable legislation and regulations concerning protected areas apply.
2. This Environmental Clearance shall serve as a contract of agreement between the holder and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, but it does not in any way make the Ministry of Environment and Tourism responsible for any wrong or insufficient information provided, nor any adverse effects that may arise from this project's activities. Instead, full responsibility and accountability rest with the developer and his/her consultants.
3. The Holder of this Environmental Clearance (hereafter referred to as the Holder) assumes full responsibility and liability for the safety and conduct of employees, contractors and/or visitors.
4. The Holder agrees to fully indemnify the Government of the Republic of Namibia in the event that the Government is held liable in respect of any loss, damage or injury sustained to an employee, contractor and/or visitor whilst such employee, contractor and/or visitor is in the Park under the auspices, direction or invitation of the holder.
5. Entry and exit points to the Park as well as the driving routes to be followed in the Park shall be determined by this Ministry in its sole discretion and shall be communicated to the Holder in writing. The Holder shall strictly adhere to the designated entry points, exit points and driving routes.
6. Only existing tracks or roads may be used unless prior approval is obtained from the Ministry.
7. All tracks or roads must be established, constructed and rehabilitated under the supervision of officials designated by the Ministry for this purpose.
8. The Holder shall erect a signboard not smaller than 70 cm in height and 100cm in width, at the major entrance/s to each of its license areas, specifying the number of the license, the duration of its validity and the name of the license holder, and a contact name and number for enquiries.
9. The Holder acknowledges that designated staff of this Ministry may monitor the Park and the activities of the Holder within the park in order to verify adherence to the conditions imposed in this authorization. The Holder undertakes to give its full cooperation to the designated staff in this regard.
10. In the event that an application to renew the clearance is received, the renewal of this clearance is entirely within the discretion of the Ministry and the Holder should entertain no expectation of whatsoever nature in that regard. In this regard, this Ministry accepts no responsibility of whatsoever nature, for any expenditure which the Holder incurs in order to exercise its rights and obligations in terms of this clearance, and which expenditure is rendered redundant or futile in the event that this clearance is not extended.
11. In the event that the Ministry extends the clearance for an additional period, the Ministry reserves the right to impose additional conditions or amend existing conditions of this authorization, and the Holder agrees to be bound by such additional and/or amended conditions.

12. In the case of non-compliance with any of these conditions, the clearance can be terminated by the Ministry at any time by written notice to the holder, including the reasons for such termination. Notice of termination in terms hereof will not detract from any of the Holder's obligations pertaining to the clearance, including the implementation of the environmental management plan and the rehabilitation of disturbed areas or other impacts caused by the Holder.
13. A six monthly report on project progress and environmental management profile, starting from date of commencement of operations, must be submitted by the Holder to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, particularly, the directorates of Environmental Affairs, and Parks and Wildlife Management.
14. Boating, biking, swimming, fishing, hunting, wood gathering or the collection of soil, insects, birds, animals and plants, including the introduction of pets and weapons of all types, are strictly prohibited within the jurisdiction of a protected area.
15. Unless permitted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the operation of an aircraft and the construction of a runway, including any other attempt to harvest natural resources for any form of construction purposes, shall not be allowed in all protected areas. Where the construction of structures is allowed, the design of such structures must be of a temporary nature.
16. There shall be no voluntary disposal of any form of waste in all protected areas of the Republic of Namibia. A suitable waste storage facility must be constructed to serve as a waste retention device prior to transportation out of the protected area.
17. Using the best and affordable methodology, the Holder must ensure that all mining or quarrying and exploratory operations are thoroughly rehabilitated prior to closure of the operation. Wherever possible, the Holder must proceed with the rehabilitation process concurrently with the progression of the project rather than wait until the damage is far beyond the available means of management.
18. All power lines must be fitted with suitable bird diverting devices, and it should be noted that turbines should not be installed within quartz mineral deposits as well as within river tributaries so that plants diversity is protected.
19. The general standard for all rehabilitation processes must at all costs aim at restoring the natural character of the environment to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Such rehabilitation processes shall be inspected and certified satisfactory or unsatisfactory by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Where a certificate of unsatisfactory is issued, the Holder shall be advised to carry-out certain tasks to meet the requirements. Failure to meet the basic rehabilitation requirements shall be regarded by this Ministry as a breach of this contract and of which serious consequences shall follow.
20. The Holder is advised that these conditions shall be reviewed and refined on a regular basis to ensure compliance and sound management of our protected areas. From this perspective, and depending on site specifics and the technical nature of a given project, further conditions shall be attached to guide the operations of such projects.
21. Kindly, note that the project falls within the Tsau/Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park, therefore you are requested to acquire for a lease agreement from Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks before the implementation of the project.

APPENDIX B – #OAB LEASED AREA AND TURBINE BEACON LOCATIONS



POINT I.D	WT1		DATE:	11 – 12 - 2020
COORDINATES	UTM		LO 22/15	
	East	South	Y	X
WT1	517035	7024923	-17106.123	542411.004



POINT I.D	WT2		DATE:	11 – 12 - 2020
COORDINATES	UTM		LO 22/15	
	East	South	Y	X
WT2	517467	7024958	-17538.123	542376.004



POINT I.D	WT3		DATE:	11 – 12 - 2020
COORDINATES	UTM		LO 22/15	
	East	South	Y	X
WT3	517905	7024993	-17976.123	542341.004



POINT I.D	WT4		DATE:	11 – 12 - 2020
COORDINATES	UTM		LO 22/15	
	East	South	Y	X
WT4	518343	7025028	-18414.123	542306.004

APPENDIX C – PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED AND APPROVED EIA

APPENDIX D – PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED AND APPROVED EMP

APPENDIX E – #OAB FIELD – BASED SUMMARY REPORT (JUNE 2018)