

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COPPER PROCESSING FACILITY ON PORTION A OF FARM VOLUTEER 106 AT KHORIXAS, KHORIXAS DISTRICT, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) and Stakeholders about the Environmental Assessment (EA) process being undertaken for the proposed establishment and operation of copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106 at Khorixas, Khorixas district, Kunene Region.

The BID provides an opportunity for I&AP's to register for the EA process and to submit any comments or issues regarding the proposed project.

Background Information

SRIMEX Metal and Minerals (Pty) Ltd, hereafter referred to as the proponent is of the intention to undertake the following activities:

- **Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment and operation of a copper processing facility on Portion A of Farm Voluteer 106 at Khorixas, Khorixas district, Kunene Region, Namibia.**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the following listed activities in the table below were triggered by the proposed project:

Table 1: List of triggered activities identified in the EA process applicable to the proposed project.

Activity description and No(s):	Description of relevant Activity	The portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity
Activity 9.1 (Hazardous substance treatment and handling and storage)	The manufacturing, storage, handling or processing of a hazardous substance defined in the Hazardous Substance Ordinance, 1974.	The proposed project includes; manufacturing, storage, handling and processing of copper ore for commercial purposes.
Activity 4 (Forestry Activities)	The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorisation in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	The proposed project includes; clearing a piece of land to construct a copper processing facility.

SRIMEX Metal and Minerals (Pty) Ltd has commissioned this EIA and appointed Environclim Consulting Service to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) with the office of 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 consultation process for this environmental assessment process.

This Environmental Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the establishment and operation of the copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106 at Khorixas, Khorixas district, Kunene Region.

Development Description

Locality

The proposed site is situated on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106 approximately 65 Km east of Khorixas, Khorixas District, Kunene Region (see **Figure 1** below). The proposed site covers an area of 50 Ha and is accessible via an existing track leading into the Farm that branch out of the C39 main road which stretches from Outjo to Khorixas.

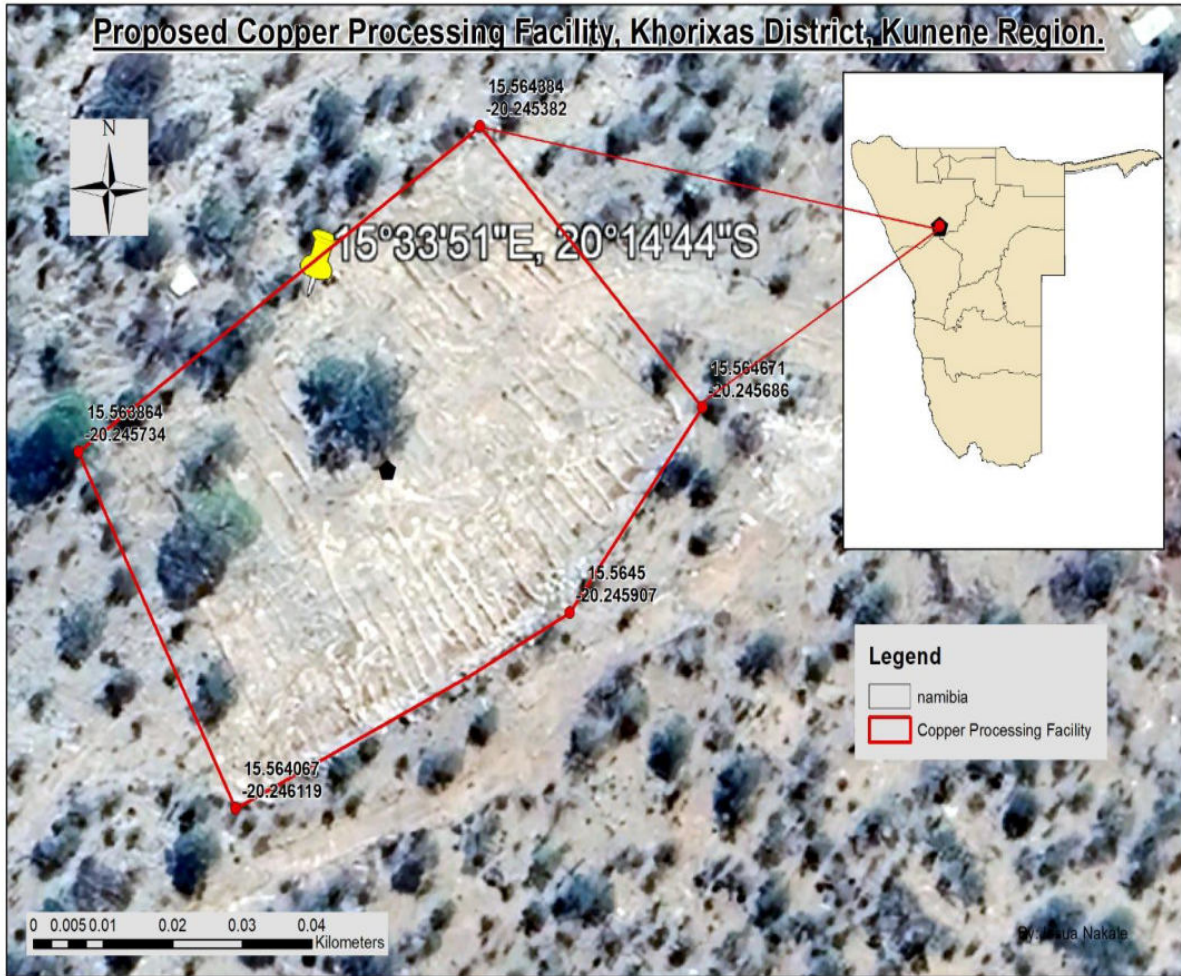


Figure 1: Location of proposed copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Volunteer 106, Khorixas District, Kunene Region (geo-reference point - 15.564167S, 20.245556 E).

Project components

The project involves conducting an Environmental Assessment for the proposed establishment and operation of a copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106. The company intends to establish and operate a copper processing facility that employs the copper ore beneficiation process that includes gravity separation and floatation separation. The process will involve the crushing, grinding, sieving as whereas floatation separator and dewatering. The project will use limited energy and water, about 100 cubic will be used in the production one ton of copper and water will be reused and recycle. There is existing power infrastructure where electricity will be sourced, however, water will be sourced from existing boreholes on the farm that will be rehabilitated and retrofitted. As an effort to support small scale miners the copper ore will be sourced from some of the local small-scale miners with valid mining claims in the vicinity of Khorixas and Kamanjab and if the demand increase, other areas in the region such as Opuwo will be considered.

The planned project will contribute immensely to the economy of the area. The project will employ about 250 people. These will be will includes; machine operator, engineers,

administration and technical and support staff. The lifespan of the project is not yet determined and will rely on the supplies of copper ore to the processing facility. The project is estimated to cost around 300 million Namibian dollars. The proponent will enter into a commercial contract with the farm owner on a long-term leasing agreement with an option to purchase. The proposed project will also enter into a long-term agreement with the Vocational Training Centre that is anticipated to be opened in Khorixas to offer internship opportunities to apprentices doing relevant courses in relation to the project.

The Natural Environment

The proposed area is falling within the western highland characterised by *Colophospermum mopane*, *Catophractes alexandri*, *Acacia (Senegalia) mellifera*, *Acacia (Vachellia) erubescens*, *Terminalia prunioides*, *Zizphus mucronata*, *Croton gratissimus*, *Boscia albitrunca* and *Commiphora sp.* The most visible herb and grasses includes; *Monechma sp.* and *Eragrostis spp.* The area is believed to harbour wildlife resources such as; leopard, cheetah, giraffe, kudu and springbok.

The area has an average annual rainfall of 200 mm – 250 mm. The average minimum temperatures are 4°C - 6°C, whereas the highest average maximum temperature in the area is more than 32°C to 34°C (Mendelsohn, 2003).

Farm Voluteer 106 falls within the Huab Complex. The complex geological formation covers the area that includes; intrusion of schist and flat areas. Mountainous terrain, with granite rock belts with major body of quartz are found in the area.

Environmental Assessment Process;

- Establishing environmental risks of the proposed project
- Establishing mitigation measures
- Preparing the Draft Scoping Environmental Report (DSER) and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft Scoping Environmental Report (DSER) and Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Preparing the final Scoping Environmental Report (DSER) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

Pre-identified impacts

- Potential impact on biodiversity both fauna and flora.
- Potential ground and surface water pollution
- Potential impacts to human health
- Noise pollution
- Dust and noise pollution
- Impact on air quality.
- Visual impact – sense of place
- Waste management
- Vulnerability to risks arising from climate variability and change

Detailed Consultation Process

The Environmental Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed establishment and operation of the copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106 at Khorixas, Khorixas district, Kunene Region. As part of this process the comments and responds forms will be disseminated to all Interested and Affected Parties to further obtain inputs into the project.

Key stakeholder's 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 circulated comment and responds forms
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

A public meeting will be held as detailed below. All registered I&APs are encouraged to attend.

Meeting venue: Community Hall (Ministry of Youth and Sport), Khorixas, Kunene Region

Date: Saturday, 23th September 2023

Time: 10h00

All interested has been scheduled as follows and all registered I&APs are encouraged to attend.

All Interested and Affected Parties are encouraged to participate by providing their comments and suggestions regarding the EA for establishment and operation of copper processing facility on Portion A at Farm Voluteer 106 at Khorixas, Khorixas district, Kunene Region on or before

Friday 06th October 2023. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

Registration and Comments

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:

Postal Address:

Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

Please fill in the particulars and return the completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:

EnvironClim Consulting Services Mobile: +264 815955643 E-Mail: environclim@gmail.com	
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