

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Proposed Farm Purchase,
Infrastructure (Fences and
Water Supplies) and
Rangeland (Bush Thinning)
Improvement for Enhanced
Livestock Production on Farm
Eindpaal No. 164, about 35
km Northwest of Gobabis in
the Omaheke Region



NOVEMBER 5

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

Title	Background Information Document for the Proposed Farm Infrastructure (Fences and Water Supplies) and Rangeland (Bush Thinning) Improvement for Enhanced Livestock Production	
ECC Application Reference number	APP-002390	
Location	Farm Eindpaal No. 164, about 35 km Northwest of Gobabis in the Omaheke Region	
Proponent	Mrs. Madelize van Zyl 24 Bognor Street, Summerstrand - Port Elizabeth P. O. Box 22458, Windhoek, 9000	
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Approval - Client 2		
Mrs. Madelize van Zyl		25 October 2023
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1. INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Madelize van Zyl (herein referred to as the proponent), is an entrepreneur who ventures in the beef value chain in Southern Africa, and who wishes to acquire, restore the livestock viability of degraded (bush encroached) Farm Eindpaal No. 164 to enhance its potential (carrying capacity) for the sustainable livestock production. Their primary objective, is to adopt best-practice and sustainable bush-thinning approaches that combines both mechanical and application of granular tree and shrubs herbicides i.e. Limpopo 200 GG Herbicide.

Namibia, like many other developing countries in Southern Africa, is dependent on its natural resource base such as agriculture, wildlife-based tourism, and fishing and mining. Agriculture though not the highest contributor to the national GDP (9%), supports by far the largest proportion of the population in the form of both subsistence crop and livestock farming ([Werner, 2001](#)). With only 0.99 % arable land (0.01 devoted to crop farming), the sector comprises of the commercial and communal farming systems and thus the two main types of land tenure regimes ([Lange et al., 1998](#)). The commercial being freehold owned by individual farmers or families while the communal is owned by the state which provides commonage land use rights.

Farm Eindpaal No. 164 is situated approximately 35 km Northwest of Gobabis in the Omaheke Region (see **Figure 1**). The farm is accessible directly via the C30 district road exit north-west of Gobabis in the Summerdown district. Livestock production, has been suspended for the past couple of years as a result of bush-encroachment. The proposed agricultural activity triggers some listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 6 February 2012 that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

The need for the assessment is triggered by the activities of the proposed operations falling under the following category of listed activities (**Table 1**):

Table 1: List of activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

EMA 2007 Legislation	Description of activity	Relevance to the proposed activities
Activity 4	4. The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorization in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.	The clearance of vegetation areas to allow the quarrying activity to take place

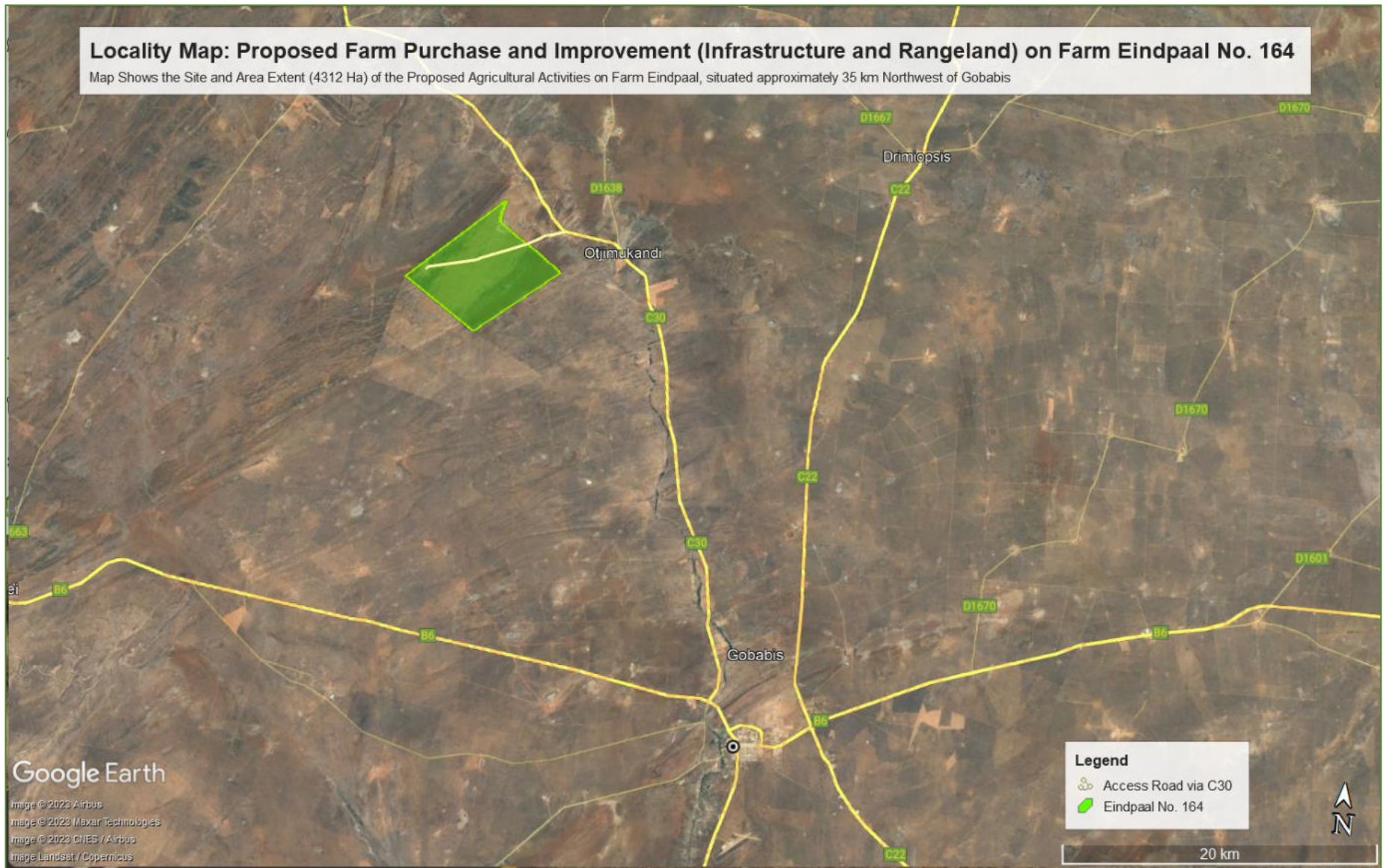


Figure 1: Show the location and area extent (4301 Ha) Farm Eindpaal No. 164, Omaheke Region

2. PURPOSE OF THE BID

- To ensure that the project information provided by the client is correct
- Key aspects pertaining to the Environmental Assessment are identified and raised early-on by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), the Competent Authority as well as Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)
- The BID provides the index for the Environmental Scoping Exercise and EMP (similar to dichotomous keys). In other words, what is important, what should be assessed and how should it should be assessed.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development mainly consist of the following agricultural activities:

- The purchase of the farm from the previous owner, a waiver in this respect has been already obtained from the relevant competent authority through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.
- Land surveying and potential partitioning of the existing three camps into more smaller ones in relation to the sustainable carrying capacity and obtaining of the subsequent approvals
- Upgrading of the existing water infrastructures i.e. boreholes (from windmills pumps to solar pumps, and associate facilities (pipelines, reservoirs and drinking troughs)).
- Enhancement of the grazing pasture, by way of implementing targeted bush-thinning, noting that the farm was previously guarded by veld-fires which destroyed most of the larger tree species - the farm currently infested with a high density of bush-encroachment, particularly *Acacia melifera* and *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* bushes.

Hence, the proponent wishes to apply both mechanical and chemical means of bush thinning in order to enhance the rangeland conditions for better stocking rate and livestock production.

While their operations stimulate diversification in the national economic and development activities, consequently creating employment opportunities and trickling benefits to the larger Namibian population, it poses the minor risk of unprecedented negative environmental impacts.

Potential impacts may vary in terms of scale (locality), magnitude and duration e.g. minor negative impacts in the form of dust and noise pollution especially during the handling (loading and off-loading) will be experienced.

4. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.1. Environmental Requirements under the Environmental Management Act

4.1.1. Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007)

The Environmental Management Act (also referred to as the EMA), stipulates that for each developmental project, which is listed under the EIA regulations, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted.

The aim of the EIA is to identify, assess and ascertain potential environmental impacts that may arise from the proposed activity. According to the EMA, an EIA is a process of identifying, predicting, interpreting and communicating potential impacts to interested and affected parties (I&APs).

The proposed prospecting activity triggers some listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 6 February 2012 that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate (ECC). The triggered activities are shown in table 1.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

An EIA is a process that evaluates the likely environmental and social effects of a proposed project or development, which identifies suitable mitigation for to avoid or minimize the potential Impacts.

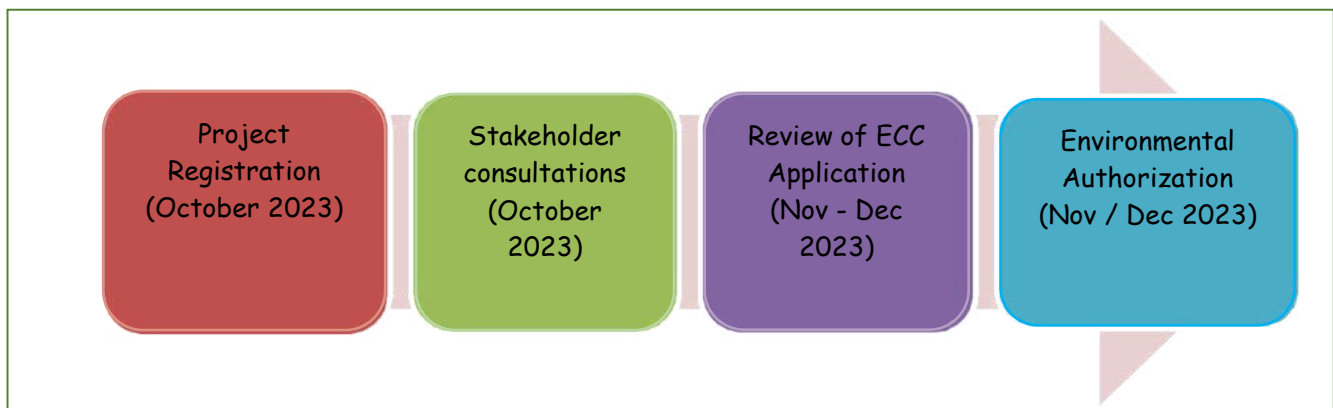


Figure 3: Anticipated Environmental Assessment Timeline

5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES

While the proposed exploration activities stimulate economic development and diversification in order to further create employment opportunities and thus trickling benefits to the larger Namibian population, it also create opportunity for unprecedented negative impacts.

Potential impacts may vary in terms of scale (locality), magnitude and duration e.g. minor short-term negative impacts in the form of reduced ground cover during the thinning phase, and possibly increases evaporation and thus reduced water-table. Below is a summary of the likely positive impacts that will be assessed for the different phases of the proposed exploration activities?

The following is a summary of the likely negative impacts that have been assessed for the different phases of the proposed exploration activities:

- i. Land use (Likely impacts are negligible; the site area is isolated from the distant settlements, and conservation zones).
- ii. Noise (Likely impacts are very low as the site is far from near-by receptors i.e. farmhouses and limited use of high noise-emitting is envisaged).
- iii. Ecological and biodiversity loss (Likely impacts are localized and low).
- iv. Health and safety (Overall likely impacts are low with correct PPE).
- v. Solid and hazardous waste management (Likely impacts are low with a solid waste management plan and minimal hydrocarbon fuel use).
- vi. Socioeconomic (Likely negative impacts are low)

6. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

As stipulated in the EIA Regulations (paragraphs 7 and 21), public consultation is a pre-requisite and forms an integral component of the EIA. Comments made during the consultation should be properly captured and addressed in both the EIA Scoping Report and EMP respectively.

Engaging and consulting with the public (residents, authorities etc.) and organizations that may be affected by, or interested in the proposed development allows for all parties to be informed of the proposals and provides an opportunity for views, opinions and concerns to be registered.

This process benefits the EIA and design development process as the public may provide information that may not be available otherwise, e.g. past experience and local knowledge, and local concerns and can be taken into consideration in the EIA. Engaging and consulting early on in the EIA process minimizes potential complaints and objections, and assists the ECC application process.

7. REGISTRATION AS AN I&AP

Registering as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP) affords you an opportunity to be updated about the project and comment on the project, throughout the EIA process. All registered I&AP's will be provided with the draft scoping and EMP reports.

Your comments and questions are important, will add value to the EIA and will ensure that information that may not be available to the consultant is considered (e.g. past experience, local knowledge etc.).

To register or provide comments about the proposed project, please send an e-mail to: eap.trigen@gmail.com.

COMMENT FORM

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE PROPOSED FARM PURCHASE, INFRASTRUCTURE (FENCES AND WATER SUPPLIES) AND RANGELAND (BUSH THINNING) IMPROVEMENT FOR ENHANCED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ON FARM EINDPAAL NO. 164, ABOUT 35 KM NORTHWEST OF GOBABIS IN THE OMAHEKE REGION

Please submit the comment form via e-mail or post by **30 November 2023**.

Attention: Enviro-Leap Consulting cc
 Email: eap.trigen@gmail.com
 Postal Address: P.O. Box 25874, Windhoek

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION		E-MAIL	
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NO.		FAX NO.	
CELL NO.			

Please list any colleagues/friends or organizations that you feel should also be registered as Interested or Affected Party for the proposed project (with contact details if available).

Name / Organisation	Postal Address	Tel No.	E-mail

1. Please provide your comments below 3, write a formal letter or simply send an e-mail to: eap.trigen@gmail.com

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2. Your comment should not be limited by the space provided & you may submit as many pages, as necessary

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Thank you for the comments