

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN KAMANJAB

Amendment of title conditions of Erf 21, Kamanjab from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes.

List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project.

Activity 5.1 (a) Land Use and Development Activities

The rezoning of land from Residential use to industrial or commercial use.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP’s) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development activities in Kamanjab.

The BID also provides an opportunity for I&APs to register for the EIA process and to submit any initial comments or issues regarding the proposed project.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mr. Joel Iita, hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

a) Amendment of Title Conditions on Erf 21 Kamanjab from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes.

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

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance with the 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 public consultation process for this EIA.

This Environmental Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development activity.

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

Erf 21, Kamanjab is located within the neighbourhood of Kamanjab Proper, as shown in **Figure 1** below. The subject erf measures approximately **1125m²** in extent.

3.2 Ownership and Status Quo

According to the Certificate of Registered Title No. T3422/2016, ownership of Erf 21 Kamanjab vests with Joel lita. Erf 21, Kamanjab which the title condition is to be amended from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes, is currently vacant and underutilised see **Figure 2**.

3.3 Zoning

According to the Conditions of Establishment of the township of Kamanjab, Erf 21 Kamanjab is reserved for “Residential” purposes. Erf 21 Kamanjab is located in an area with erven that are zoned for different mixed land uses. These zonings include “Residential”, “Institutional”, “Business”, “Private Open Space”, “Local Authority” and “Government” erven.

The application for amendment is simply because Kamanjab does not have a zoning scheme, therefore the application is for the amendment of title conditions of Erf 21, Kamanjab.

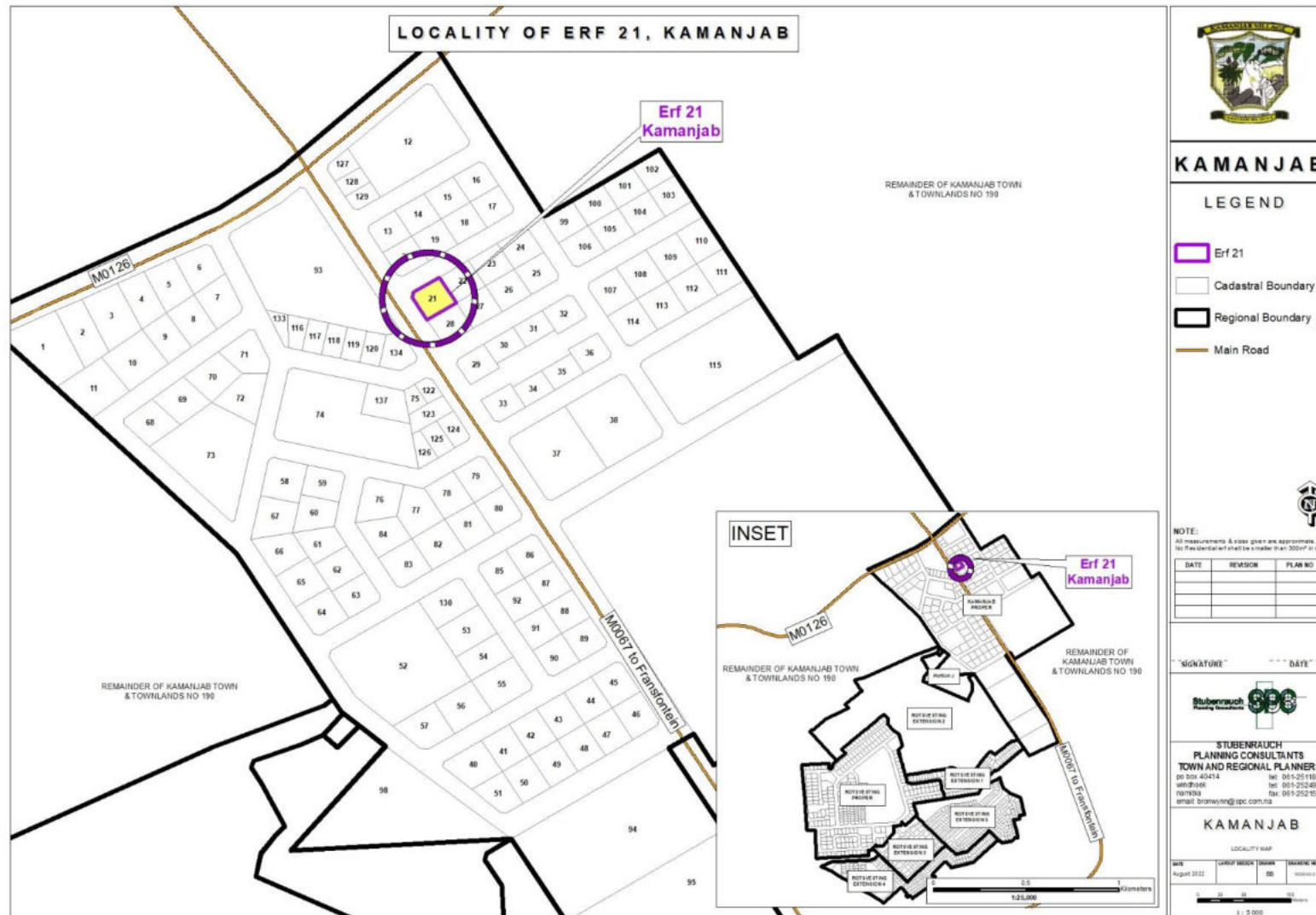


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF ERF 21, KAMANJAB

3.4 Proposed Development

The proponent intends to amend the title conditions of Erf 21, Kamanjab from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes. The erf is surrounded by Residential”, “Institutional”, “Business”, “Private Open Space”, “Local Authority” and “Government” erven. The proposed Amendment of Title Conditions on Erf 21 Kamanjab from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” will enable the owner of Erf 21 to maximize on their property, by developing a structure for office uses. By amending the title conditions and constructing an office or small business on the subject erf, our client will have the opportunity to generate an additional income.

The amendment of the title conditions will ensure maximum utilization of Erf 21, Kamanjab and further encourage investment, economic diversity and promote employment opportunities and avail more services to the Kamanjab community. The proposed Amendment of Title Conditions from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes, would have a positive socio-economic impact on the area as it is a land use that brings employment. It is a much needed title condition, which would add convenience to the residents of the area because of its close proximity to residential erven.

The proposed Amendment of Title Conditions from “Residential” purposes to “Office and Business” purposes, will enable the Kamanjab Village Council to generate additional revenue through rates and taxes. These funds can then be directed towards upgrading municipal service delivery and social facilities.

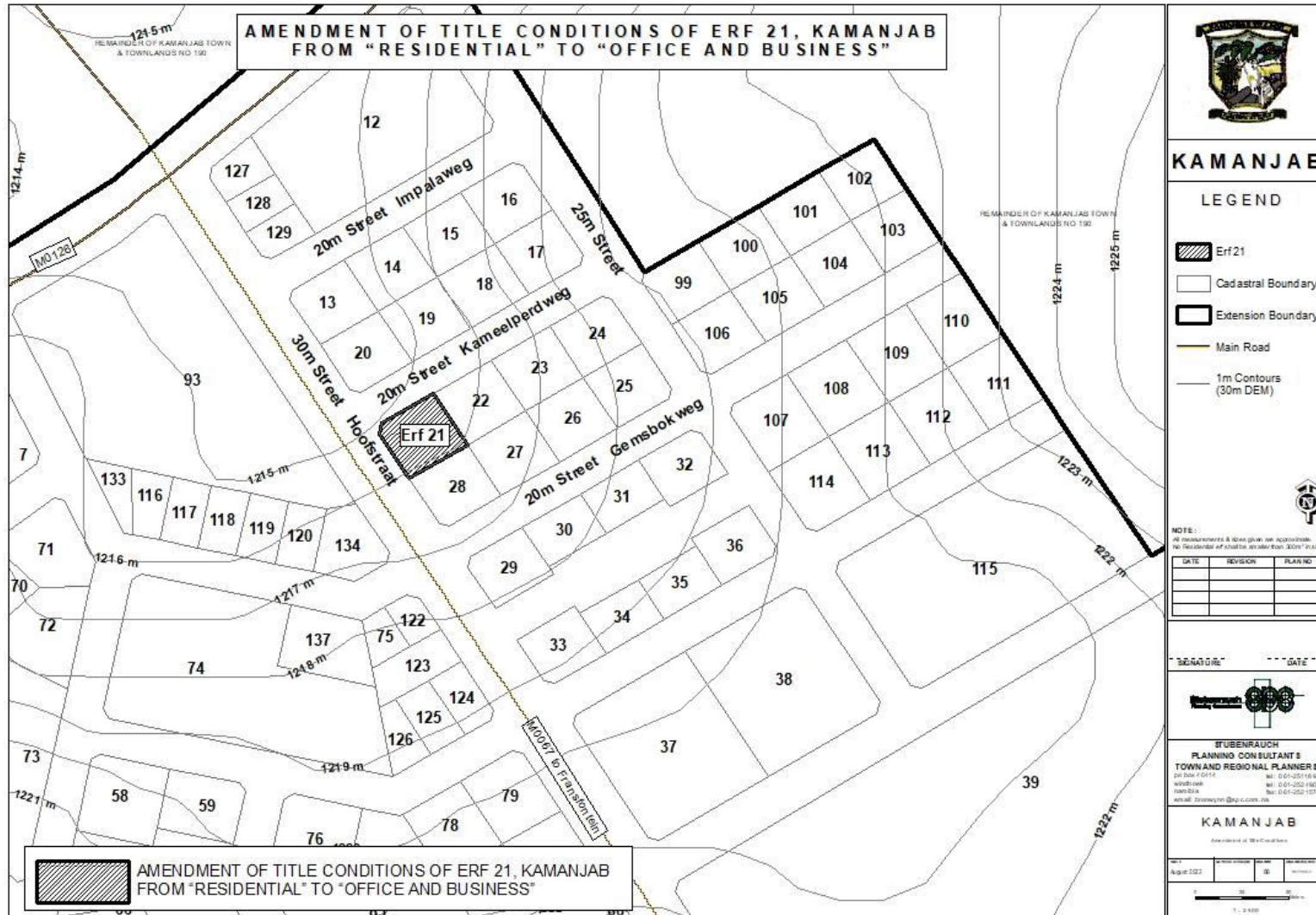


FIGURE 2: AMENDMENT OF TITLE CONDITIONS ON ERF 21 KAMANJAB FROM “RESIDENTIAL” PURPOSES TO “OFFICE AND BUSINESS”

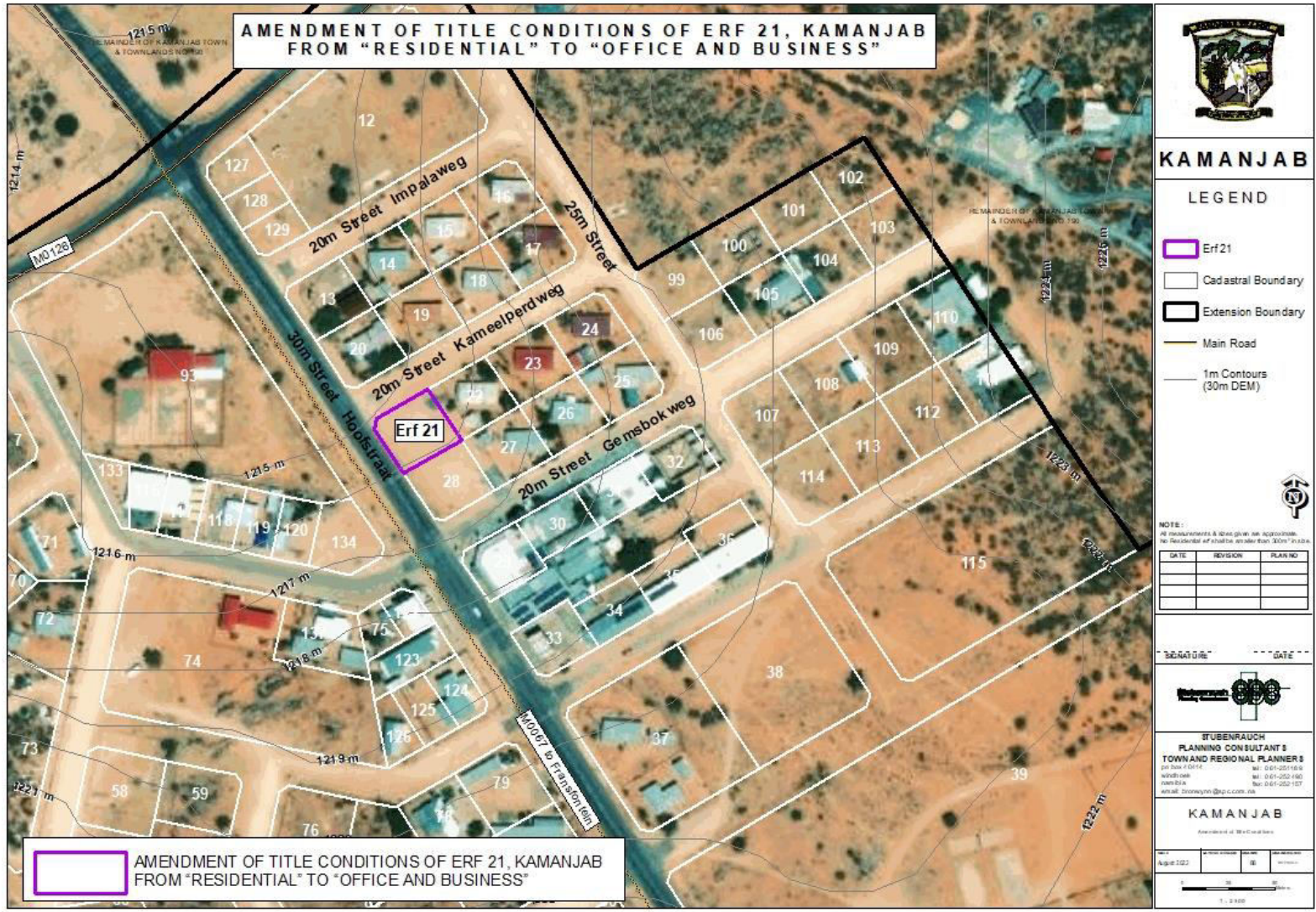


FIGURE 3-3: AERIAL MAP OF ERF 21 KAMANJAB

3.1 Engineering Services

Electricity, Water, and sewer

Currently there is an existing water pipeline running next to the C35 road, connecting Erf 21 Kamanjab to the Kamanjab Water Supply Scheme.

Kamanjab proper is connected to the existing sewer network as well as to the town's electricity network that is supplied by CENORED.

3.2 Access Provision

Access onto Erf 21 Kamanjab is obtained from Kameelperdweg street.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

4.1 Overview

The environmental and social setting of the proposed project area is briefly described in this section. The detailed description of these environmental features will be fully presented in the environmental scoping report.

4.2 Biophysical Environment

4.2.1 Climate

The region is classified as arid to semi-arid with mean annual rainfall ranging from approximately 300mm in the east to less than 100mm in the west. High evaporation rates of around 3000mm per annum coupled with extreme rainfall variability places severe constraints on farming activities. Particularly in the west, agricultural activities are marginal. Temperature variability in the region is similarly high, ranging from below zero to above 40· C.

4.2.2 Fauna and Flora

There are roughly about 4000 species of amphibians worldwide of which over 200 species are present in Southern Africa and 57 in Namibia (Griffin, 1998).

Griffin (1998) articulates that more than 60% of the reptiles found in Namibia are protected by the conservation Ordinance. There are roughly 650 species of birds that have been recorded in Namibia, even though the country's avifauna is comparatively sparse compared to the high rainfall equatorial areas in Africa (Brown & Lawson, 1989). 650 bird species are recorded in Namibia, of which 160 species

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

occur in the area, especially after good rains fall (Christian, 2005). Namibia is well endowed with mammal diversity with around 250 species known to be present within the country (Griffin, 1998). There are currently 14 mammal species which are considered to be endemic to Namibia, including 11 species of rodents and small carnivores which are not well known.

The area is characteristic of the Western Highlands biome and vegetation type. Open woodland Acacia and Mopane trees (*Acacia commiphora* and *Colophospermum mopane*) occur dominantly within the region. The area boasts a plant diversity of between 150 – 299 species (Environmental Resource Management, 2009).

The local community in the region especially the Himba Community use many of the plant resources for food, medicinal and ornamental purposes (Enviro Dynamics, 2013). Trees such as *Commiphora glaucescens* are used for various purposes. Trees in the region which play a vital role in the livelihood of the locals although they are not protected include: *Boscia tomentosa*, *Boscia foetida*, *Catophractes alexandrii*, *Terminalia prunoides*, *Commiphora tenipetiolata* and *Commiphora angolensis* (Enviro Dynamics, 2013).

4.2.3 Geology and soils

The Kunene Regions' geological formations date back to 250 million years (Kunene Regional Council, 2015). The local geology is underlain by basement rocks of the Okapuka Suite, Damaran rocks of the Nosib Group and Alluvium sediments (Nangolo, n.d.). The Okapuka Suite in this area predominantly consists of porphyritic and migmatitic gneisses, and amphibolite. The Nosib Group mainly consists of feldspathic quartzite to arkose" (Nangolo, n.d.).

The rocks of the area around Kamanjab (metasediments and granites of the Huab Complex overlain by volcanic rocks and meta-sediments of the Khoabendus Group) have very little groundwater potential. Another zone of crystalline rocks, classified as granites, gneisses and old volcanic rocks, underlies a more or less triangular area between Otjovasando, Outjo and the confluence of the Huab and Aba Huab rivers. In geological terms this is known as the Kamanjab Inlier and the Khoabendus Formation. The groundwater potential of this rock unit is generally low, to locally moderate; it improves as one goes further east, in the direction of increasing precipitation. The Cuvelai Basin is bordered in the south and west by the surface water divide running from Otavi to Outjo, Kamanjab, Otjovasandu, Otjondeka, Opuwo and Ruacana (Christelis et al., 2011).

4.2.4 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The hydrology of Namibia is characterised by the semiarid to arid climate, and the very limited occurrence of surface waters. In fact, Namibia has no permanent river except for the border rivers Kunene, Okavango, Zambezi and Kwando -Linyanti -Chobe in the north and the Orange River in the south, all of which have their sources outside Namibia, and are shared with other countries. Some 23 % of the water used in Namibia is derived from these rivers, however, most of the country does not have access to this water due to the distances involved.

Much of the Kunene Region falls under the Northern Namib and Kaokoveld groundwater region. The region generally has low groundwater potential. The Kunene River is one of the few permanent rivers

in Namibia. All rivers in the region except for the Kunene are ephemeral. These include the tributaries of the Kunene such as Otjinjange, Omuhongo and Ondoto and the westward flowing ephemeral rivers (from north to south), Nadas, Sechomib, Khumib, Hoarisib, Hoanib, Uniab, Koigab, Huab and Ugab (Ministry of Agriculture Water and Rural Development, 2011).

Perennial Kunene River, ephemeral Otjinjange, Ondusengo, Khumib, Hoarusib, Hoanib, Uniab, Koigab, Huab and Ugab Rivers. Namib and Kaokoveld groundwater basin moderate groundwater potential in the region. The groundwater potential of the shale and mudstone is generally very limited.

4.3 Social Environment

The population of the Kunene region is reported to be 86,856 people with Kamanjab being approximately 8, 441 people (NSA, 2011).

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far should the subject portion become developed:

- **Traffic Impacts:** During construction the movement of construction material to and from site may cause additional traffic. Traffic may also be increased in the area once the areas are fully developed.
- **Disturbance:** During construction the surrounding property owners and community members may be disturbed by the construction activities.
- **Waste:** During construction and operation, waste may be generated on site which would have to be disposed of at an approved landfill site.
- **Ground and surface water impacts:** may be experienced during construction due to the use of machinery and chemicals to construct the roads and services infrastructure as well as during operational activities.
- **Dust and noise** may be generated during construction activities.
- **Visual Impact:** The area is currently mostly undeveloped as such there may thus be a change in visual characteristics of the site once it becomes developed.
- **Employment Creation:** During construction temporary jobs may be created for the construction of the associated services.
- **During operation:** should the proponent expand their business activities this could increase the supply of the services that they offer in the area which could be useful to the market they are supplying their services to.

More potential impacts of the proposed activity will be identified upon consultations with the public and further research on the area.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Kamanjab development. As part of this process communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the site and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

7 ALL STAKEHOLDER/INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)

Public 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 invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list.
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **13 December 2023**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

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

Postal Address:

Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

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

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC)

Tel: 061 25 21 57

Fax: 061 25 11 89

E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na